

BOOKNEWS from

ISSN 1056-5655, © The Poisoned Pen, Ltd.

Volume 28, Number 5

April Booknews 2016

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More of Our Spring Fling...

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

FRIDAY APRIL 1 7:00 PM

Jana Bommersbach signs [Funeral Hotdish](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95)

SATURDAY APRIL 2:00 PM

Brian Staveley signs [The Last Mortal Bond](#) (Tor \$28.99) Chronicle of the Unhewn Throne #3

Sam Sykes signs [Mortal Tally](#) (Orbit \$16) Bring Down Heaven #2

SUNDAY APRIL 3 2:00 PM

Anne Perry signs [Treachery at Lancaster Gate](#) (Ballantine \$28) The Pitts

WEDNESDAY APRIL 6 2:00 PM

Tessa Arlen signs [Death Sits Down to Dinner](#) (St Martins \$25.99) Countess Montfort #2

THURSDAY APRIL 7 7:00 PM

Stuart Woods signs [Family Jewels](#) (Putnam \$28) Stone Barrington #37

SATURDAY APRIL 9 10:30 AM

Coffee and Crime discusses Rex Stout—share your favorite Nero Wolfe

SATURDAY APRIL 9 1:00 PM A Mrs. Hudson Tea Party Plus a fashion show with models, plus a fashion plate insert for every book,

Laurie R. King signs [The Murder of Mary Russell](#) (Bantam \$27)

MONDAY APRIL 11 7:00 PM

Steve Berry signs [The 14th Colony](#) (St Martins \$27.99) Cotton Malone

Comes with an insert depicting an 18th Century book of the Society of the Cincinnati

TUESDAY APRIL 12 7:00 PM

David Taylor signs [Night Work](#) (Forge \$25.99) Michael Cassidy #2

FRIDAY APRIL 15 7:00 PM

The Scifi/Fantasy Club discusses Robert Jackson Bennett's [City of Stairs](#) (\$15)

SATURDAY APRIL 16 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger discusses Benjamin Black's [Christine Falls](#) (\$16), the first for 1950s Dublin Coroner Quirk

TUESDAY APRIL 19 7:00 PM

James Rollins and Grant Blackwood sign [War Hawk](#) (Morrow \$27.99) Tucker Wayne #2

Comes with special collectible linked to the dog Kane created just for The Pen's launch party for this book

THURSDAY APRIL 21 7:00 PM

Matthew Quirk signs [Cold Barrel Zero](#) (Mulholland \$26) April Thriller Pick

Michael Robotham via Skype

TUESDAY APRIL 26 7:00 PM A Cookie Potluck! Bring your entry to share

John Sandford in conversation with Douglas Preston

Sandford signs [Extreme Prey](#) (Putnam \$28.95) Lucas Davenport #26

Our copies come with an exclusive, specially designed campaign button, "Lucas Davenport for President..." as befits an election year Davenport thriller

WEDNESDAY APRIL 27 7:00 PM

Andrew Case signs [The Big Fear](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95)

Matt Coyle signs [Yesterday's Echo](#) (\$16) Rick Cahill

THURSDAY APRIL 28 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime discusses WR Burnett, [Vanity Row](#) (\$20.95)

FRIDAY APRIL 29 7:00 PM

James Sallis and Three-Legged Dog Band

TUESDAY MAY 3 7:00 PM

Renee Patrick signs [Design for Dying](#) (Forge \$24.99) 1930s Hollywood with Edith Head

WEDNESDAY MAY 4 7:00 PM

LS Hilton signs [Maestra](#) (Putnam \$27) First Mystery Pick

Camille Perri signs [The Assistants](#) (Putnam \$25) Modern Firsts Pick

THURSDAY MAY 5 2:00 PM

Robyn Carr signs [What We Find](#) (Mira \$26.99)

SATURDAY MAY 7 1:00 PM COZY CON

Free. Come and enjoy food and giveaways

Hannah Dennison signs [A Killer Ball at Honeychurch Hall](#) (St Martins \$24.99)

CS Harris signs [When Falcons Fall](#) (NAL \$25.95)

Cameron Harvey signs [The Evidence Room](#) (St Martins \$25.99)

Tammy Kaehler signs [Red Flags](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95)

Annette Mahon signs [Slay Bells](#) (Five Star \$25.95)

Jenn McKinlay [Vanilla Beaned](#) (Berkley \$7.99)

Paige Shelton signs [The Cracked Spine](#) (St Martins \$25.99)

EVENT BOOKS

⌘Arlen, Tessa. [Death Sits Down to Dinner](#) (St Martins \$25.99). A second delightful Edwardian mannered, and nuanced, investigation conducted by Lady Clementine Elizabeth Talbot, Countess of Montfort and her housekeeper, Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson, this time in London where at a dinner party celebrating the controversial Winston Churchill's 39th birthday, a guest is left in the dining room skewered in the ribs. There are many undercurrents flowing, gossip and scandal, politics. This delightful series, falling slightly later than Tasha Alexander's Lady Emily Mysteries, is the way Downton people should behave and is a perfect companion to those who enjoyed the series. Lesa Holstine, our talented new blogger, has posted a 2-part interview with Tessa for you. Read it [HERE](#). The series debuted as our February 2015 British Crime Club Pick with [Death of a Dishonorable Gentleman](#) (\$25.99), a 2016 Agatha Award Nominee as well.

Berry, Steve. [The 14th Colony](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Perfect for this election year. Berry asks, "what if both the president and the vice president elects were to die before taking the oath of office?" Is there a hole in the Constitution's succession plan? Shot down over Siberia, how can Cotton Malone answer the question? And what might be the role of the The Society of Cincinnati, America's oldest home-grown fraternal organization? And has the US considered Canada, not once but more, to be its 14th Colony? This is Berry's best in ages, wrapping an exciting thriller around an excellent analysis of the wind-down of the Cold War into the Russia of the 1990s and today, a look outward at our neighbor to the north in its strategic and commercial importance, and reviewing the US Constitution. Plus more. Highly recommended. We're adding an insert, a visual of the Society's book described so well by Berry in this excellent thriller. [Click here](#) to order earlier Cotton Malones.

Bommersbach, Jana. [Funeral Hotdish](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Seeing Sammy the Bull Gravano strut through a Phoenix restaurant shocks investigative reporter Joya Bonner. The notorious Mafia hitman—nineteen murders—and FBI snitch—testimony sent Godfather John Gotti to prison—is hidden in the federal Witness Protection Program, yet he's now a successful drug lord. His products travel national highways with tragic results for Joya's Midwest hometown, where grief turns to revenge, violence, and murder. By chasing the biggest scoop of her career, Joya risks her job, her love, and her life to see if Sammy can be stopped. Also in trade paperback: [Funeral Hotdish](#) (\$15.95). Don't overlook Jana's first fiction, [Cattle Kate](#) (\$15.95), highly praised by CJ Box, and her classic investigation of [The Trunk Murderess: Winnie Ruth Judd](#) (\$16.95).

Carr, Robyn. [What We Find](#) (Mira \$26.99) follows a neurosurgeon who retreats to a rural Colorado town. John Charles reviews: Desperately needing a break from all the professional and personal challenges life has thrown at her, Denver neurosurgeon Maggie Sullivan decides to take a complete break from everything and heads to Sullivan's Crossing to spend some time with her father Sully. However, once Maggie arrives in the small town in the Colorado Rockies, her plans for some quiet downtime are upended when Sully suffers a heart attack. Fortunately, Sully undergoes a successful bypass operation, but taking care of both

the store and Sully is going to be a big commitment for Maggie. Can she trust Cal Jones, who is camping nearby before tackling the Continental Divide Trail, to help out with everything? In her compelling hardcover debut for MIRA, Carr tackles some tough emotional subjects with a deft literary touch as her protagonist navigates life's twists and turns with the help of friends and family.

Case, Andrew. [The Big Fear](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). A NY bookseller reviews a book about cops and corruption and, linking to Poisoned Pen Press author Triss Stein and a forthcoming mystery set at the Brooklyn Navy Yard: "It's August in New York, and the steaming garbage littering the streets isn't the only thing that stinks. Civilian investigator Leonard Mitchell can keep his job as the new head of the Department to Investigate Misconduct and Corruption only by successfully prosecuting veteran cop Ralph Mulino. Detective Mulino shot an armed man on a dark night; he didn't know the man was a fellow cop. Now, to keep his badge and his freedom, he has to make his case to the investigator. Soon murder and sabotage force the two into an uneasy partnership to uncover the truth and protect the city they are both sworn to serve." Their quest travels them, and us, through some evocative scenes. First in what I hope is a series.

Coyle, Matt. [Yesterday's Echo](#) (\$16). Rick Cahill was never convicted of his wife's murder, but he was never exonerated either. Not by the police. Not by the media. Not even by himself. Eight years later, police suspicion and his own guilt remain over his responsibility in his wife's death. When he meets Melody Malana, a beautiful yet secretive TV reporter, he sees a chance to love again. When she is arrested for murder and asks Rick for help, the former cop says no, but the rest of him says yes and he grasps at a chance for redemption. But Rick's attempt to help turns terribly wrong, and he becomes a suspect in the murder and the target of a police manhunt. On the run, Rick encounters desperate people who'll kill to keep their pasts buried. Before Rick can save himself and bring down a murderer, he must confront the truth about his own past and untangle his feeling for a woman he can never fully trust.

Hilton, LS. [Maestra](#) (Putnam \$27). The evolution of Judith as she metamorphoses from powerless employee at a famed London auction house to ruthless player in the high-end international scene is compelling—and her story ends on a cliff hanger that promises (much) more.... "Glamorous, edgy, decadent (like rich but somewhat bitter dark chocolate), erotic, and irresistible. The book is a gift for readers who delight in vengeful female protagonists." — *Booklist* starred review. "A deliciously Highsmithian thriller... As Judith assumes and sheds identities as effortlessly as her Louboutins during a twisty series of increasingly treacherous escapades, Hilton artfully conjures a glossy world where just about everything—and everyone—has its price." — *PW* starred review. I add that once Judith's character is established—sex is the way she most feels alive in a loner's life—you might skip over the later scenes. **A First Mystery Pick, the first in a planned trilogy that will rock some of you.** Never let it be said we aren't about edgy! Power and sex, lots of both; and Hilton easily equals Stuart Woods in time spent with the 1%. Pubs April 19, Signed May 4 here.

King, Laurie R. [The Murder of Mary Russell](#) (Bantam \$28). From the *Booklist* Starred Review: "...there's blood on the floor of Russell and Holmes' house in Sussex, thanks to the appearance of Samuel Hudson, the son of the couple's longtime housekeeper, Mrs. Hudson. Perhaps to readers' surprise, the focus of this novel is that same Mrs. Hudson, who, in the original Conan Doyle stories as well as in the earlier installments in King's series, has spent most of her time making tea and bringing in the mail. Now we learn about her suspect background as well as her tangled relationship with Holmes. It's a well-crafted tale with occasional interruptions that unravel Mary's fate. In a triumph of plotting, King also incorporates characters and information from an original Holmes story, "The Adventure of the Gloria Scott".... Fans, always hungry to know more personal details about King's iteration of Sherlock Holmes and his world, will get a few more delicious tidbits this time around." Here's more fun: King has written a digital novella you can download and read beforehand: "The Marriage of Mary Russell." I have read a print version and it's in the works for it and other short pieces to publish in a print collection this fall including the long awaited (by me, anyway) story called "Stately Holmes."

Patrick, Renee. [Design for Dying](#) Forge \$24.99). Los Angeles, 1937. Lillian Frost has traded dreams of stardom for security as a department store salesgirl . . . until she discovers she's a suspect in the murder of her former roommate, Ruby Carroll. Ruby was gorgeous and fun with few boundaries, and tenaciously ambitious. This party girl died wearing a gown she had stolen from the wardrobe department at Paramount Pictures, domain of Edith Head who has yet to win the first of her 8 Oscars.... Why? Full of Hollywood without the decadence and violence in so many novels set there. Not a cozy either. Pubs April 19, signed May 3.

Perri, Camille. [The Assistants](#) (Putnam \$25). For fun, our **April Modern Firsts Club Pick**, signed May 4. There's a crime, or crimes, at its core but it's more like *The Devil Wore Prada* with a billionaire guy rather than a bitchy boss, and a con his underpaid, debt-loaded, and desperate assistant Tina Fontana stumbles into at Titan Corporation, the giant media conglomerate headed by Robert Barlow, CEO. Some may think Michael Bloomberg here (surely not Summer Redstone...yuck). It all begins when a technical error in submitting one of Robert's travel and entertainment expense reports opens an opportunity for Tina to...well, to keep what's mere pocket change for Robert. It's dishonest, it's a rule breaker and she's a rule player, but it's also a life-changer—she can pay off the entire balance of her student loan, maybe one day find a place to live that isn't a hole in the wall. Naturally Tina's transgression does not go undiscovered. And other assistants living with the same crushing debt and dim future, and even fewer scruples, force her to let them in. Before you know it.... I like this for the picture it paints of young women forging some kind of career path in cut-throat New York, the giant difference it paints between that 1% on the Street, or in any mega corporation, and the people employed there. And... it's fun.

Perry, Anne. [Treachery at Lancaster Gate](#) (Ballantine \$28). When an explosion in London kills two policemen and seriously injures three more, many believe that anarchists are the culprits. But Thomas Pitt, commander of Special Branch, knows the city's radical groups well enough to suspect that someone with decidedly more personal motives lit the deadly fuse. As he investigates

the source of the fatal blast, Pitt is stunned to discover that the bombing was a calculated strike against the ranks of law enforcement. But still more shocking revelations wait at higher levels of society and government.... Order the extensive Pitt [backlist here](#) and admire the evolution of this long-running Victorian series that explores so many facets of London's landscape and culture along with Pitts' cases. **And check our new blog for Lesa's interview with Anne!**

Quirk, Matthew. [Cold Barrel Zero](#) (Morrow \$26). Quirk's [The 500](#) (\$15.99), a 2012 FMC Pick, was a real rocket ride, somewhat in the spirit of Gregg Hurwitz's [Orphan X](#) (St Martins Signed \$25). It's now in development as "a major motion picture," Hollywood speak for "maybe a movie." Here Quirk is now with former combat medic Tom Byrne whose vacation in SoCal is interrupted when the FBI hauls him in for questioning and multiple felony charges. "Thriller Award-winner Quirk (*The 500*) goes flat-out explosive in this superior military adventure novel. Ex-Marine John Hayes has assembled a team of special ops agents who have been put on a U.S. government kill list by mistake. In an effort to obtain evidence that will exonerate them, they pull off a spectacular armored car hijacking, seizing a mysterious 1,300-pound crate shipped from the Emirates to Los Angeles. Meanwhile, Thomas Byrne, a former combat medic who served with Hayes, is vacationing in Southern California when he's arrested on trumped-up charges and brought to meet Colonel Riggs, who's in charge of the military task force to capture Hayes. Byrne has no idea whether to trust Riggs or his old buddy Hayes, with whom he later connects. The explanation for all the mayhem rests in a war crime that Hayes supposedly committed, but as usual with this author, facts are slippery and doubts abound. There's plenty of cool cutting-edge technology, but in the end it comes down to action, and the riveting battle scenes are among the best in the business. Readers will look forward to seeing more of the skilled and deadly John Hayes."—*PW* Starred Review for our **April Thriller Club Pick**. Order Quirk's earlier thrillers [here](#).

Rollins, James/Grant Blackwood. [War Hawk](#) (Morrow \$27.99). The second for former Army Ranger Tucker Wayne and his war dog Kane begins when a former army colleague asks Tucker for protection. She's on the run from brutal assassins hunting her and her son. To keep them safe, Tucker must solve an old crime, a murder, on a quest that takes them from the haunted ruins of a plantation in the deep South to the beachheads of a savage civil war in Trinidad—in fact, all the way back to an actual event of WWII. Meet Tucker and Kane first in [The Kill Switch](#) (\$9.99). Blackwood returns to The Pen in June with a new [Tom Clancy: Duty and Honor](#) (Putnam \$29) thriller.

Sandford, John. [Extreme Prey](#) (Putnam \$28.95). Lucas Davenport, at loose ends (no worries, he's got an exciting new future coming), no longer at Minnesota's BCA, agrees to check out a situation for his friend the outgoing governor who is cranking up a campaign of his own—but not for President. The governor's been hearing whispers, odd bits, on the campaign trail in Iowa that suggest a crazy or crazies, homegrown, are planning something stupid. And horrible. The governor's passed this info along, but he has more trust in Lucas than anyone. Lucas agrees. Little does he know... there are crazies, and then crazies! And there's a convergence at the end in the kind of public event all the safety experts warn you not to attend these days.... **Our copies**

come with a nifty Campaign Button:” Lucas Davenport for President,” as befits a story centered upon an election. Note: Sandford will be hosted by Douglas Preston for this book launch. At which time we will tape a Livestream with Preston and Child for their May Gideon Crew since Preston will be out of the country May 17. [Click here](#) to order the first 25 Prey thrillers—and the Virgil Flowers.

Staveley, Brian. [The Last Mortal Bond](#) (Tor \$28.99) Chronicle of the Unhewn Throne #3. “A complex and richly detailed world filled with elite soldier-assassins, mystic warrior monks, serpentine politics, and ancient secrets.” —*Library Journal* Starred Review of an exciting series. Here is Book Three in the Chronicle of the Unhewn Throne which began with *The Emperors’ Blades* and continues in *The Providence of Fire* where war engulfs the empire. “No one is wholly good or wholly bad, and sometimes, even when protagonists have reached the very limits of their strength to earn their happy endings, there is no happy ending available, no matter how deserving they are of such a thing. A deeply satisfying but bleak, dark work; its only illumination are flashes of high tragedy and perhaps the glimmers of a realistic but not far-ranging hope.” —*Kirkus* Starred Review. Order earlier Staveleys [here](#).

Sykes, Sam. [Mortal Tally](#) (Orbit \$16). Sykes presents the second in his Bring Down Heaven epic fantasy series after [The City Stained Red](#) (\$16). Cier’Djaal, once the crowning glory of the civilized world, has gone from a city to a battlefield and a battlefield to a graveyard. Foreign armies clash relentlessly on streets laden with the bodies of innocents caught in the crossfire. Cultists and thieves wage shadow wars, tribal armies foment trouble outside the city’s walls, and haughty aristocrats watch the world burn from on high. As his companions struggle to keep the city from destroying itself, Lenk travels to the Forbidden East in search of the demon who caused it all. But even as he pursues Khoth-Kapira, dark whispers plague his thoughts. Khoth-Kapira promises him a world free of war where Lenk can put down his sword at last. And Lenk finds it hard not to listen. When gods are deaf, demons will speak.

Taylor, David. [Night Work](#) (Forge \$25.99). Detective Mike Cassidy’s [Night Life](#) (\$15.99) is up for a 2016 Edgar. Here is the sequel. Michael Cassidy, a New York cop plagued by dreams that sometimes come true, escorts a prisoner accused of murder to Havana on the cusp of Fidel Castro’s successful revolution against the Batista dictatorship. After delivering the man to La Cabaña prison and rescuing Dylan McCue, a Russian KGB agent and his now-married former lover, from her scheduled execution, Cassidy returns to New York and retreats into the comforts of alcohol and sex. The arrival of Fidel Castro in New York three months later complicates the cop’s life once more. Cassidy’s investigation of a young man’s murder in Central Park is interrupted when he is assigned to Castro’s protective detail. Castro has many enemies. American mobsters who have been run out of Havana, businessmen who worry about their investments in Cuba, and members of Batista’s secret police all want him dead. Cassidy is already investigating one murder. Can he prevent another?

Woods, Stuart. [Family Jewels](#) (Putnam \$28). This is a terrific chapter in the kind of male fantasy that makes up the Stone Barringtons, full of great houses, private planes, killer cars, hot women with career skills too, politicians and the powerful...

definitely the 1%. What makes this one outstanding is the razzle-dazzle around a necklace made for Adele Bloch Bauer, the stunning subject of the famous Klimt portrait called *Woman in Gold* (rent the Helen Mirren movie before you read Woods’ book). But that’s not all—there’s a murder and worse. This Stone Barrington sports “Tony trappings, colorful characters, and a magnificent MacGuffin... Dry-witted dialogue keeps the tone light and drives this glossy, modern take on the classic detective story.”—*PW*. [Click here](#) to order the earlier Barringtons.

COZY CON BOOKS

✚Dennison, Hannah. [A Killer Ball at Honeychurch Hall](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Dennison’s 3rd English manor house charmer indulges her passion for such homes, home restoration like Elizabethan plastering (burst pipe, collapsed ceiling, no funds to fix), and the English Civil War. Antiques appraiser Kat Stanford, now residing at the manor and coming to terms with her widowed mother’s secret life as a hit romance novelist with offshore bank accounts, now has to come to terms with Mum’s unorthodox childhood as part of a touring tribe of entertainers who summered at Honeychurch Hall. Add in a priest hole, a game of Smee, and a treasure hunt and you have... fun. Begin with [Murder at Honeychurch Hall](#) (\$15.99). *Deadly Desires at Honeychurch Hall* will be an October paperback.

✚Harris, CS. [When Falcons Fall](#) (NAL \$25.95). 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 village. The presence in the area of Napoleon Bonaparte’s renegade brother Lucien enhances the intricate murder puzzle. Real history and excellent fiction, perfect! [Click here](#) to order this entire fabulous series.

Harvey, Cameron. [The Evidence Room](#) (St Martins \$25.99). John Charles reviews: Twenty years ago, Aurora Atchinson’s mother Raylene’s body was found on the banks of the bayou. Local residents figured Raylene’s murderer (whom everyone believed to be Aurora’s father) took pity on Aurora, and that is why she was left on the doorstep of the local mini mart. Ever since that day, Aurora hasn’t been back to her hometown of Cooper’s Bayou, but now she must return home to Florida to settle her grandfather’s estate. When Aurora discovers that her father may have been innocent, she finds herself working with local cop Josh Hudson as they sift through the past to find out what really happened that night. Compelling characters, a wonderfully atmospheric sense of place, and a strong literary voice add up to

a winning combination in Harvey's terrific debut, which should appeal to fans of Margaret Maron's Deborah Knott mysteries.

Kaehler, Tammy. [Red Flags](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Dragged into her 4th investigation by the murder of her loathed cousin Billy, part of the family bank team, and navigating a new social scene (with movie stars), Kate Reilly really wants to focus instead on the Long Beach Grand Prix. She's so not used to paparazzi... but is with murders and treachery. Multiple plots merge excitingly on the personal and professional level. See Our April Trade Paper-back Picks for more. [Click here](#) to order the first 3 Kates.

Mahon, Annette. [Slay Bells](#) (Five Star \$25.95). Christmas is approaching, but it doesn't look like a good one for the St. Rose parishioners. First, Kathy Romelli and her son are murdered in their home. Before the Quilting Bee can recover from that devastating loss, Clare is frightened half to death by an attempted carjacking. Is it related to the thefts of items from parked cars also plaguing the area? And what about the parishioner charged with creating a Ponzi scheme? Just as the Quilting Bee members think they have discovered the culprit, their favorite suspect is found dead of an apparent suicide. And amid all the mayhem, the parish's resident Mr. and Mrs. Santa are rallying the Senior Guild members to participate in a Secret Santa luncheon and gift exchange. Maggie is wishing for quiet sessions discussing holiday gifts and recipes, not puzzling out murder cases. Will the Quilting Bee ever discover what happened to Kathy and her son? Why, you may ask, is a Christmas book out so late and the answer is that Five Star Publishing shuffled dates because it is discontinuing its mystery line.

McKinlay, Jenn. [Vanilla Beaned](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Melanie Cooper and Angie DeLaura are taking a gamble by opening their first franchise of the Fairy Tale Cupcakes Bakery, so where better to hit the jackpot than in Vegas? Business manager Tate Harper has lined up a meeting with Holly Hartzmark, a former showgirl who's looking to bring Mel and Angie's sweet treats to Sin City, but Mel isn't so sure she's ready to hand her recipes over to a complete stranger—especially one as brash as Holly. But after the potential bakery location gets blown up, Mel begins seeing another side to Holly—one that reminds her very much of herself. Determined to help a kindred spirit, Mel sets out to discover who is trying to keep the bakery from cashing in. 8th in the Cupcake Bakery Mysteries inspired by the Sprinkles right here in Scottsdale. Delicious! Order them [all here](#).

Shelton, Paige. [The Cracked Spine](#) (St Martins \$25.99) introduces Delaney Nichols, who answers an employment ad after losing her museum job in Wichita, Kansas and ends up accepting a position at The Cracked Spine, a bookstore in Edinburgh, Scotland. The owner, Edwin MacAlister, belongs to a secretive little group of wealthy collectors and sellers known as the Fleshmarket Batch, named for the meat market that once existed nearby. Should be a book lover's dream, no? But after a priceless artifact goes missing and her boss's druggie sister gets murdered, it's clear that this new job is more than just books and manuscripts. First in the Scottish Bookshop Mysteries. Good news: Paige is now a metro Phoenix resident.

SIGNED BOOKS

Albert, Susan Wittig. [Blood Orange](#) (Berkley \$28). It's mid-April in Pecan Springs, Texas, where China Bayles is renting her guest cottage to Kelly Kaufman, who needs a temporary place

to live as she contends with a very acrimonious divorce from her husband Rich. One nasty point of dispute is her part ownership of the Comanche Creek Brewing Company, which she is refusing to sell. At the same time, as a nurse employed by a local hospice, Kelly has discovered instances of suspicious practices and suspects that a patient was murdered. Kelly's knowledge could be dangerous, and she wants China's advice. On her way to meet, Kelly is forced off the road and critically injured, putting her in a medically induced coma, leaving China with several puzzles to solve on her own. [Click here](#) for earlier China cases.

Baldacci, David. [The Last Mile](#) (Grand Central \$30). In the sequel to 2015's *Memory Man*, the FBI persuades Amos Decker—a former professional football player, whose career-ending injury left him with some unusual abilities, including an almost perfect memory—to join a new unit that combines special agents and “civilians with special skills” to reopen select cold cases. Decker advocates for a case that appears resolved. Former college football standout Melvin Mars is reprieved minutes from his execution after another convict on death row, Charles Montgomery, confesses to murdering Mars's parents in their Texas home more than 20 years earlier. Decker feels an affinity for Mars, since the two played against each other once, and Decker also lost family members to a killer. His strong feelings prevail, and his unit looks into whether Montgomery is being truthful and why he waited so long to come forward.

Beverly, Bill. [Dodgers](#) (Crown \$26). Patrick's **April Hardboiled Club Pick** is so good you First Mystery fans who like a walk on the dark side should grab it too. He reviews: “One of the most powerful and important debuts I've read in a long time. The book starts out in South Central LA, where East, a fifteen year old kid, works as a head lookout for one of his uncle's drug houses. When a major police bust occurs on his watch, East takes the responsibility for it, which in his world could mean a bullet, but he is given the chance to redeem himself by murdering a key witness to an upcoming case. Only problem is, the guy's fled to Wisconsin. So East and three other teenage gang bangers (including East's street-hardened 13-year old brother Ty), are given a van, some money, and a map and ordered to hit the road. The result is a road novel unlike any you've ever read before. Removed from their very narrow universe, these kids are thrown out into a country that isn't ready for them. Can they escape a fate that seems predestined? Beverly is such an insightful writer, and this is such a damn fine book that I'm shocked it's his debut!”

Brennan, Allison. [Poisonous](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Teen-aged Internet bully Ivy Lake fell off a cliff and few people cared ... except her mentally-challenged eighteen-year-old step-brother, Tommy. He loved her in spite of her cruelty. He's distraught and doesn't understand why his blended family is falling apart. Neither do the cops... a year later. And then... On sale April 12. Brennan is not doing a live event but will be by in person to add inscriptions if you preorder by April 7.

Carey, M.R. [Fellside](#) (Orbit UK \$39). A red hot thriller that will make our **May SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick**. Fellside is a maximum security prison on the edge of the Yorkshire moors. It's not the kind of place you'd want to end up. But it's where Jess Moulson could be spending the rest of her life. How did this happen? Alex Beech was 10 years old, and home alone when his apartment building caught fire. The coroner's report was conclusive: death by smoke inhalation, his body gruesomely if predictably distorted

by the raging fire that melted the plastic playhouse where he sought shelter in the final moments of his life. Within days of the fire, the police and the public have come to the conclusion that his death was no accident. Alex was an unintended murder victim, and Jess Moulson, his downstairs neighbor, is the one who killed him. Tragedy hunted Jess from the start. Unable to remember the events of that night, Jess becomes so convinced of her own guilt that she decides to kill herself, refusing food for weeks on end as she wastes away in the Fellside prison infirmary. As Jess's body atrophies and her vital functions weaken, Alex begins to visit. He wanders through her dreams, begging her for help. She didn't kill him, he says, but she can find out who did. Will she listen? Carey's previous novel *The Girl with All the Gifts* was a word-of-mouth bestseller and is soon to be a major motion picture based on his own screenplay. Under the name Mike Carey he has written for both DC and Marvel, including critically acclaimed runs on *X-Men* and *Fantastic Four*. Also Unsigned: [Fellside](#) (Orbit \$27).

Cavanagh, Steve. [The Defense](#) (Flatiron \$27). **This May book will be a First Mystery Club Pick. As the author is coming from Ireland to sign it the time to order it if you are not in the club is now.** Here's the Starred *PW* review: "Irish author Cavanagh's stellar debut provides everything a reader could ask for in a thriller—nail-biting suspense, a Russian nesting doll of a plot, and an original and compelling lead. Con-artist-turned-defense-attorney Eddie Flynn must pull off a miracle to save the life of his 10-year-old daughter, Amy, who's being held hostage by brutal gang leader Olek Volchek. Volchek is about to stand trial for murder in Manhattan for ordering the hit of a subordinate. In addition to taking over representing Volchek, Eddie must smuggle a bomb into the courtroom to be planted under the witness chair in time to blow up the government's key witness against the mobster. Eddie decides to pretend to cooperate in order to buy time until he can rescue Amy. Even if he were to do the unthinkable and murder the witness, he knows Volchek will kill him and Amy anyway. Cavanagh makes Eddie's wide range of talents completely plausible, starting with an impressive and withering cross-examination, with little prep time, of a handwriting expert who matched Volchek's handwriting with an incriminating note. Readers will have no trouble suspending disbelief."

Connolly, John. [Time of Torment](#) (Hodder \$36). Here comes another amazing Charlie Parker. Jerome Burnel was once a hero. He intervened to prevent multiple killings and in doing so damned himself. His life was torn apart. He was imprisoned, brutalized. But in his final days, with the hunters circling, he tells his story to private detective Charlie Parker. He speaks of the girl who was marked for death but was saved, of the ones who tormented him, and an entity that hides in a ruined stockade. Parker is not like other men. He died, and was reborn. He is ready to wage war. Now he will descend upon a strange, isolated community called the Cut, and face down a force of men who rule by terror, intimidation, and murder. All in the name of the being they serve.

Also from Connolly, with Jennifer Ridyard: [Dominion](#) (Headline \$40). The third thrilling Chronicles of the Invaders adventure finds Syl Hellais and Paul Kerr having traveled through Derith, the mysterious wormhole from which no one has ever returned. Trapped in a dimension beyond their own, will they emerge to discover a universe that has moved on without them as Civil War rages among the Illyri....?

Davis, Lindsey. [Graveyard of the Hesperides](#) (Hodder \$45). Flavia Alba #4. Manlius Faustus decides it is time he had a proper job, which Flavia Alba can only applaud. When he goes into the family business and starts renovating a bar, it can only be a matter of time (for this is a crime novel) before bodies start turning up. Does every low dive in ancient Rome have a longtime missing barmaid? Not to mention other buried bones that are destined to hold up the aedile's project – bones that were clearly not put there by the landlord's dog. Helped and hindered by members of the vigiles, Alba braces herself for a week of fast food among even faster bar staff, as she tackles the difficult task of solving a decade-old murder, not to mention learning what happened to that dog. She is less delighted by her lover's second idea: that to demonstrate their happy union publicly they should have a formal wedding. Her teenaged sisters think it a brilliant wheeze. Julia and Favonia throw themselves into planning the event regardless of cost and propriety, even bringing back Genius, the cook who can't cook. For Alba it is a race against time to solve her case before she has to set aside her disgruntlement and put on the saffron veil like a happy bride. Meanwhile everyone is unaware of just how electrifying the gods will make this ceremony. [Click here](#) for earlier Falco family investigations.

Fesperman, Dan. [The Letter Writer](#) (Knopf \$26.95). I've always read Fesperman's brilliant espionage novels as historicals but here he actually writes one. It begins: "The first thing Woodrow Cain sees when he steps off the train in New York City on February 9, 1942, is smoke from an ocean liner in flames in the harbor. It's the *Normandie*, and word on the street is that it was burned by German saboteurs." The disgraced Cain, fleeing his life as a police officer in a small North Carolina town, abandoned by his wife and in turn leaving behind a daughter, then gets a job at the NYPD and in one fateful moment meets one Danzinger. Who is this man? He is a professional writer of letters for illiterate immigrants on the city's Lower East Side. And he seems to know more than he's telling about a body that's found floating in the Hudson. But...there's more! Out in April, Signed May 19 with Alex Grecian.

Grissom, Kathleen. [Glory Over Everything](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99). The author of the *New York Times* bestseller and book club favorite *The Kitchen House* continues the story of Jamie Pyke, son of both a slave and master of Tall Oakes, whose deadly secret compels him to undertake a treacherous journey through the Underground Railroad." Everyone moving through these pages, especially James Pyke, established in this story as a durable character of American fiction, is tangled in a great web of secrets too important to keep and too dangerous to tell. Grissom has done the near-impossible: she has kept the tension alive, tension that doesn't let up until the final page." –Jacqueline Mitchard

✶Harris, Joanne. [Different Class](#) (Doubleday UK \$43). After thirty years at St Oswald's Grammar in North Yorkshire, Latin master Roy Straitley has seen all kinds of boys come and go. Each class has its clowns, its rebels, its underdogs, its 'Brodie' boys who, whilst of course he doesn't have favorites, hold a special place in an old teacher's heart. But every so often there's a boy who doesn't fit the mould. A troublemaker. A boy with hidden shadows inside. With insolvency and academic failure looming, a new broom has arrived at the venerable school, bringing Powerpoint, sharp suits and even sixth form girls to the dusty corridors. But while Straitley does his sardonic best to resist this

march to the future, a shadow from his past is stirring. A boy who even twenty years on haunts his teacher's dreams. A boy capable of bad things. Harris' [Gentleman and Players](#) (\$15.99) from 2005 is genius and also set at St. Oswald's with Straitley.

Havill, Steven. [Come Dark](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Posadas County, NM, is hit by a confluence of odd events: taggers at NightWork, the astronomical theme park up on the Mesa, the disappearance of a housewife/young mother from a superstore parking lot, and the murder of the popular high school volley ball coach. The 21st in one of my favorite series, one which highlights the Southwest's special culture.

Kane, Ben. [Hunting the Eagles](#) (Preface \$34). Five long years have passed since the annihilation of three Roman legions in the wilds of Germania. Varus, the general who led the ill-fated army, is long dead and the bones of his 15,000 legionaries moulder in the forests. But not all the Romans were slain in the ambush. Centurion Tullus, a seasoned veteran, survived and now he lives for revenge upon the tribal chieftain Arminius, who masterminded the ambush. Tullus will stop at nothing to kill his bitterest enemy, or to recover his legion's lost Eagle. At first, fortune seems to be with the Romans. Germanicus, the general appointed to lead punitive campaigns against the tribes, is resourceful and courageous. His armies are vast, dwarfing those of the enemy and the initial clashes are won by the legions. Yet Arminius is far from defeated. Charismatic and determined, he gathers together thousands of warriors for a second time. Stalking Germanicus' forces day and night, they watch and wait for the perfect moment to strike. Can Tullus prevent another disaster? And will he ever recover his legion's Eagle? The Eagle is a symbol of potency similar to the symbol found in Matt Begley's modern thriller [Overwatch Signed](#) (\$26), a March First Mystery Pick/

Leon, Donna. [The Waters of Eternal Youth](#) (Heinemann \$43). Leon has done a brilliant job with her 25th Guido Brunetti Venetian crime novel. Among its many virtues is the suspense of whether a crime has actually been committed. We start out with a cold case if so: 15 years ago a young girl fell into one of the city's canals and did not quite drown. There's her aristocratic if cold grandmother who as Brunetti's mother-in-law's best friend hooks him on the story. Then there's the horse, called Petunia. The heartbreak. The callousness and the caring. I can't say enough good things about this exceptional novel which both breaks your heart and uplifts it. We have a Signed US edition (tip-ins); [The Waters of Eternal Youth](#) (Grove \$26). I collect this award-winning series in the UK editions myself. [Click here to order them all.](#)

Magson, Adrian. [Hard Cover](#) (Severn \$46). Here is The Watchman's 3rd thriller for you. "Deep cover" specialist Marc Portman is in Russia providing covert back-up to wealthy Russian businessman Leonid Tzorekov. A former KGB officer sympathetic to the West, Tzorekov has close links with Vladimir Putin and is planning to use his influence with the President to improve relations between Russia, the USA and the European Union. However, there are those with vested interests in maintaining hostilities: powerful men who will go to any lengths to ensure the proposed meeting does not take place. The Watchman's role is to run security, evaluate risks and, where necessary, provide hard cover by taking more direct action and fighting back. When the

assignment takes an unexpected turn, Portman has no choice but to take the hard cover option... We have a very few of Watchman #2: [Close Quarters Signed](#) (\$45).

Miské, Karim. [Arab Jazz](#) (Quercus \$26.99). "When Ahmed Taroundat, a troubled young man, discovers the murder of his neighbor Laura Vignole, the carefully sheltered life he has built for himself over the years crumbles. Ahmed lives in the 19th Arrondissement of Paris, where the children of Jehovah's Witnesses, Orthodox Jews, and fundamentalist Muslims can be friends. It's a hip neighborhood featuring great food and charming bars. However, as detectives Rachel Kupferstein and Jean Hamelot investigate Laura's gruesome death, the charm of the community becomes a façade for bad behavior and a frightening new drug. Miské's first novel, which won the English Pen Award, redefines noir at its darkest. As the bodies pile up and the number of suspects increases, Ahmed and the French police face a daunting task. Is anyone innocent in the arrondissement? Is anyone sane? How can the flow of this terrifying drug be stemmed? Miské's ability to keep his readers on the edge of their seats and the way he handles an intricate plot without a misstep has created an amazing page-turner."—*LJ* Starred Review for a book we are snagging because the author is doing a French Embassy event. So, a **First Mystery Club Pick**, and rare.

Page, Katherine. [The Body in the Wardrobe](#) (Harper \$27). Wow, this is caterer Faith Fairchild #23. Page has been writing them almost as long as we've opened The Pen! And bonus—like the Tina Whittle mystery below, this chapter takes us to Savannah, Georgia, home of scrumptious food (and pirates, though not in this book!). Faith pairs up with attorney Sophie Maxwell, last seen in [The Body in the Birches](#) (\$7.99) and now a newlywed living in the historic district with husband Will. It's not going well. First there's the body. Worse for Sophie, no one believes the body she knows she saw is real. Will is spending an awful lot of time in Atlanta on a case he claims is urgent, and she's been tasked with house hunting for them with his former sweetheart, who Sophie can't help but suspect wishes Sophie would return to her Yankee roots! As for Faith, with teenage Amy being bullied by mean girls and husband Tom contemplating a major life change that will affect all the Fairchilds, Faith is eager for distraction in the form of some sleuthing. In between discussions of newlywed *agita*, surprising Savannah customs, and, of course, fabulous low country food. Fun! A great gift for Mom whose day is May 8. [Click here](#) to buy all the Fairchilds.

Pearson, Ridley. [Kingdom Keepers: The Return Book Two, Legacy of Secrets](#) (Disney \$20). When five present-day teenagers known as the Kingdom Keepers find themselves thrown into a past that would make anyone envious, things don't exactly work out the way they'd hoped. Finn, Charlene, Maybeck, Willa, and Philby open a door into a place and a time when the legend of the Disney parks is just starting. They are there, in 1955, to retrieve Walt Disney's infamous pen that once saved the parks as we know them. But like all things Disney, nothing is as it seems. The early days of the Tower of Terror, the origin of the Overtakers (Disney villains), and the real power of magic unfold in an unexpected series of events that propel both the Keepers and Disney itself into a darkness no one saw coming. Along the way, the Keepers visit Walt Disney's hilltop home, Disneyland's opening day and reception, and find themselves separated from friends

sixty years away. The three Fairlies, young women in Disney's School of Imagineering, girls with astonishing powers of their own, have unmasked a long-buried secret that threatens the lives of their friends as well as everything Walt Disney worked for. This book is chasing Ridley cross country and will be in The Pen at the end of April.

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.

Rubenholt, Hallie. [The French Lesson](#) (Doubleday \$35). It's Paris, 1792. So dangerous, even to Henrietta, an Englishwoman living there alone. Then there is Grace, a former mistress. And Agnes, the current mistress who will stop at nothing to keep her place at the palace. But even Agnes cannot anticipate how this deadly triangle engaged in a power play will...play out. Dark, and stylish and sinister judging by the guillotine displayed on the dust cover.

✚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* (\$6.99) and [Death in Devon](#) (\$32).

Scottoline, Lisa. [Most Wanted](#) (St Martins \$29). Leave it to Lisa to imagine such a scenario. An infertile couple, the Nilssons, worn out with trying to conceive and the near death of their sex life, decides to use a sperm donor. Going on-line they pick Donor 3319. Blond. Distinctive blue eyes. Tall. Medical student. Perfect. Two months later, Christine is happily pregnant. A type A, she's focused. And then one day watching the news she sees a man being arrested for a series of brutal murders. A man she is sure is Donor 3319! Is her baby going to have a serial killer for a father? Lisa's relentless drive drives the story but really, what would you do in such a situation?

Smith, Dominic. [The Last Painting of Sara De Vos](#) (Farrar \$26). "Gliding gracefully from grungy 1950s Brooklyn to the lucent interiors of Golden Age Holland and the sun-splashed streets of contemporary Sydney, the novel links the lives of two troubled, enigmatic, and hugely talented young women, one of them an artist, the other, her forger. A page-turning book with much to say about the pain and exhilaration of art and life." —Geraldine Brook on our **April Surprise Me Pick** which, like Susan Vreeland's classic *Girl in Hyacinth Blue*, traces the sole surviving work of a gifted Dutch painter. The painting is fictional since no work of the actual artist survives. Definitely for fans of *The Goldfinch*. **And for fun, you can listen to a podcast by Smith by [clicking here](#).**

Sund, Axel. [The Crow Girl](#) (Harvill \$40). It starts with just one body – tortured, mummified and then discarded. Its discovery reveals a nightmare world of hidden lives as a Stockholm cop teams up with a psychotherapist to track a serial killer. Scandinavian noir indeed. I will verify if this UK edition is also the full trilogy. Here's the *PW* review of the US edition: "Horrors abound in the pseudonymous Sund's scathing first in a trilogy that rips asunder the appearance of Sweden's contemporary welfare state to reveal just about every conceivable human crime—including torture, pedophilia, and child abuse and trafficking. Det. Supt. Jeanette Kihlberg, who's soul-sick from 20 years supporting her artist husband and early-teen son as a Stockholm police officer, and her solid colleague, Jens Hurtig, investigate an apparent serial killing spree that leaves bodies of homeless boys, drugged and mutilated, across the city. Soon Jeanette becomes romantically involved with Sofia Zetterlund, a psychotherapist with her own dark secrets, including a succession of multiple personalities, headed by the mysterious Victoria Bergman, who becomes the central figure of this challenging multifaceted descent into the abyss of evil and madness. Sund is the pen name of the Swedish writing duo Jerker Eriksson and Håkan Axlander Sundquist." The Unsigned US edition publishes in June from Knopf.

✚Tyler, LC. [Cat Among the Herrings](#) (Allison \$42). Robin Pagham is dead – drowned in a sailing accident. The reaction of everyone in the village on hearing this tragic news is that Robin must have been drunk. After all, that was what he did best – that and drug dealing and breaking his former girlfriend's nose, with a bit of TV acting on the side. Surprisingly, newspaper reports of the inquest state that no alcohol was found in Robin's blood. It was accidental death, with no clear cause. At the funeral however Robin's latest girlfriend – to whom he has just got engaged – stands up and, lifting back her veil, announces that somebody in the congregation has murdered Robin and that she's going to have their arse. Although estranged, Elsie and Ethelred begin simultaneous investigations into Robin's death – as ever with some comical results.

Whittle, Tina. [Reckoning and Ruin](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Savannah has a Gothic element all its own which Whittle infuses into a gripping story taking Tai Randolph deeply back into her roots. We begin in Atlanta where Tai's vicious cousin Jasper has stretched his shady arm out from jail brandishing a lawsuit."It's not really surprising: Tai's boyfriend, a former SWAT officer, was instrumental in putting Jasper in jail. But Jasper has a plan to get himself out as soon as possible, and it seems to involve hurting a lot of people, including, perhaps, Tai's boyfriend or even Tai herself. So Tai heads back to her hometown of Savannah, where

she's forced to confront her own dark past and the family she worked so hard to leave behind. The focus is on character here: Tai, her troubled boyfriend, her disreputable family. The story is smartly constructed, but it's the people—portrayed with subtlety and depth—who keep us glued to the page.”—*Booklist*. [Click here](#) to order the earlier Whittles, all wonderful as well as atmospheric, filled with history, and dealing with personality changes relating to brain issues in a compassionate yet sharply analytical way.

BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSICS

Rowland (1907-1984) was a publisher, journalist, civil servant and Unitarian minister whose detective novels have long been neglected

Rowland, John. [Calamity in Kent](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). The “locked room mystery” is a staple of traditional detective fiction, and here gets a variation: a locked carriage in a seaside cliff railway. This “impossible crime” begins when the operator locks the empty carriage one evening; when he returns to work next morning, a dead body is inside—a man who has been stabbed in the back. Jimmy London, a newspaper reporter, is first on the scene. He is quick on the trail for clues and agrees to pool his knowledge with Inspector Shelley of Scotland Yard, who is holidaying in the area. Mistrustful of the plodding local policeman, Inspector Beech, the two men launch their own investigation into the most baffling locked-room mystery, a case that could reignite Jimmy's flagging career, but one that exposes him to great danger.

Rowland, John. [Murder in the Museum](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). The second Inspector Shelley mystery begins when Professor Julius Arnell breathes his last in the hushed atmosphere of the British Museum Reading Room. It looks like death from natural causes. Who would have cause to murder a retired academic whose life was devoted to Elizabethan literature? But Inspector Shelley's suspicions are aroused when he finds a packet of poisoned sugared almonds in the dead man's pocket. Then he uncovers Arnell's connection to a Texan oil millionaire. Soon another man plunges hundreds of feet into a reservoir on a Yorkshire moor. What can be the link between two deaths so different, and so widely separated? The mild-mannered museum visitor Henry Fairhurst adds his detective talents to Inspector Shelley's own, and together they set about solving one of the most baffling cases Shelley has ever encountered.

MORE OF AGELESS AUSTEN

Bebris, Carrie. [Suspicion at Sanditon](#) (\$15.99). See Our April Trade Paperback Picks below....

Sittenfeld, Curtis. [Eligible](#) (Random \$28). The Indie Next Pick: “It is a universally acknowledged truth that a retelling of *Pride and Prejudice* must be cleverly written and wickedly funny. Sittenfeld has accomplished that and more with her fantastic new novel. The Bennet sisters have been transported to modern day Cincinnati. Jane is a yoga instructor, Liz, a writer for a women's magazine, Lydia and Kitty do nothing but work out, and Mary spends most of her time in her room. The two older sisters live in New York, but have come home to check on Mr. Bennet who is recovering from a heart attack. The storyline is one that will be familiar to most Austen readers, but with some extremely funny twists.” If you missed PD James' [Death Comes to Pemberley](#) (\$15), now's the time to add a murderous twist to what comes after....

Smith, Alexander McCall. [Emma: A Modern Retelling](#) (\$15). The third volume in HarperCollins's series of Jane Austen reboots, this title follows Joanna Trollope's *Sense and Sensibility* and Val McDermid's *Northanger Abbey*. Smith asks, how would the characters in Jane Austen's *Emma* fare in a world of texts, emails, sperm donors, and casual hook-ups? He presents Emma warts and all, as did Austen, an Emma newly minted as an interior designer. I like Val McDermid's update of [Northanger Abbey](#) (\$15).

Wilson, Kim. [At Home with Jane Austen](#) (Abbeville Press \$29.95). With a Foreword by Mary Guyatt, Curator of Jane Austen's House Museum at Chawton, the cottage where Jane spent her last years before her death in Winchester. Lovely photos, lots of text, a delightful companion to browse. What could be better for Mom than an Austen treat for her special day May 8? Plus you can add in the Stephanie Barron Jane Austen series of stylish, suspenseful mysteries. [Click here](#) to order.

OUR APRIL TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

⌘Bebris, Carrie. [Suspicion at Sanditon](#) (\$15.99). Fitzwilliam and Elizabeth Darcy journey to Sanditon, the setting and title of Jane Austen's final work. There they, along with their friend Miss Charlotte Heywood, encounter an array of eccentric inhabitants that includes: Mr. Thomas Parker, an enthusiast determined to develop the quiet coastal village into a popular seabathing resort; Sir Edward Denham, an impoverished baronet with more sensibility than sense; and Lady Denham, a childless, twice-widowed dowager with a fortune to bequeath and a flight of distant relations circling for a place in her will. When Lady Denham goes missing, most assume one of her would-be heirs has grown impatient. But when other ladies disappear one by one, is it possible a serial kidnapper lurks in Sanditon, or is an even more sinister force at work? Mr. and Mrs. Darcy find themselves drawn into a frantic effort to discover what has happened to the missing women. All things Austen remain the rage along with, this month, all things Bronte given the 200th anniversary of Charlotte's birth. But alas most of the earlier Bebris Austens are out of print or expensive Print on Demands.

Blake, James Carlos. [House of Wolfe](#) (\$14). Ace Atkins says, “...a complex kidnapping tale, brings to mind Faulkner's storytelling in *As I Lay Dying* with the grittiness and realism of Cormac McCarthy's border tales. Brilliant and uncompromising, Blake again proves why he's one of the best writers working today.” Patrick adds, “In Blake's masterly third Border Noir a female member of the American branch of the Wolfe family (a large clan of outlaws who operate numerous legitimate businesses and deal in illegal arms on both sides of the U.S./Mexican border) finds herself in big trouble. In Mexico City, kidnappers led by El Galán, an up-and-coming gangster intent on making a name for himself, abduct college-age Jessie Juliet Wolfe, along with an entire 10-person wedding party, and demand payment of a \$5 million ransom within 24 hours. With aid from Los Jaguaros, as the Mexican Blake family's criminal network is known, Rudy Max Wolfe, a cousin of Jessie's, and Charlie Fortune, another cousin, hope to slip into Mexico undetected and rescue Jessie, but of course everything goes to hell quickly....” [Click here](#) to order the first two Border Noirs.

Bolton, Sharon. [Little Black Lies](#) (\$16.99). The Falklands have fallen out the news since Britain waged war with Argentina over them. I've visited these lonely islands in the South Atlantic twice;

the Falklands are British in culture with a rugged Scottish landscape, heavy on birds (penguins... rockhoppers), sheep, and a marine economy supporting its communities. So when three children go missing one by one from a small village, we're in a version of a British village mystery by one of the most imaginative (and chilling) rising stars of crime fiction. Bolton gives us three points of view: Caitlin, Rachel, and Collum. Caitlin has suffered devastating losses: her two young sons in an accident of which we learn more over time, and her husband who divorced and married a new wife and has a new baby. Rachel, Caitlin's best friend from childhood, cause of the fatal accident, is married with children, but can't move on. Collum, a Scot who came to the islands as a soldier in the war, suffers from PTSD. He was Caitlin's lover at the time her sons died and he too, is more or less frozen. All three narrators are lost and grieving, none of them trusts anyone, least of all themselves. Accustomed to living in an idyllic community, fear and anger escalate among the locals. And so, as the investigation into the missing boys (who curiously resemble each other) unfolds, as secrets are gradually revealed and confessions made, is resolution reached? This skillful author saves one last stunning surprise for the end. Bolton is one of my favorite rising British stars and while this book has a different landscape it is essentially a British mystery in its culture. Order her earlier [books here](#).

Corby, Gary. [Death Ex Machina](#) (\$15.95). I gave, and now give, this 2015 hardcover in Corby's series a rave. *PW* agrees, awarding a Starred Review: "In Australian author Corby's superior fifth whodunit set in ancient Greece, the city of Athens is preparing to host the Great Dionysia, "the largest and most important arts festival in the world." But the success of the event is in doubt after a series of accidents on the set of Sophocles' play *Sisyphus*. The cast members believe this is the work of a ghost. Pericles, the city's most powerful man, asks Nicolaos, his inquiry agent, to get rid of the ghost. Unfortunately, not long after Nico arranges for an exorcism ritual, one of the actors is murdered, suspended from the machine designed to hold the character of Thanatos, the god of death, in midair during the performance. Under pressure to find the killer quickly as the festival start date looms, Nico resorts to a clever and amusing ploy to buy more time. Corby again manages to effortlessly integrate laugh-out-loud humor into a fairly clued puzzle." The sequel, [The Singer from Memphis](#) (Soho \$26.95), is out in May. [Click here](#) for the whole series.

✂Grecian, Alex. [The Harvest Man](#) (\$16). When London discovered that Jack the Ripper was back, it sent Scotland Yard's Murder Squad into chaos. But now it is even worse. There are two of them. When the Harvest Man begins killing, carving people's faces off their skulls, the men of the Yard know they need Inspector Walter Day to find him before more families are murdered. Meanwhile, Saucy Jack is playing his own games—and when the two killers come together, the men of the Yard may never be the same...for sure. Grecian signs the sequel [Lost and Gone Forever](#) (Putnam \$26.95) for us on May 19 (with Dan Fesperman).

Hall, Rachel Howzell. [Skies of Ash](#) (\$15.99). *Library Journal* reports, "Still reeling from the emotional discovery of her sister Victoria's long-buried remains and unmasking her killer in 2014's [Land of Shadows](#) (\$15.99), LAPD Detective Elouise Norton welcomes the distraction of a big case. She gets that and more when a house fire kills Juliet Chatman and her two children, 12-year-old Cody and eight-year-old Chloe. Husband Christopher, allegedly at work during the early morning blaze, arrives home

as firefighters try to extinguish the flames and must be physically restrained. Lou immediately suspects Christopher, though her new partner, Colin Taggart, argues that there's little evidence to support her theory. As Lou peels back the layers of the Chatmans' seemingly perfect life, the veneer of happiness quickly falls away: financial woes loomed large; Juliet was miserable, possibly even suicidal; and Cody had a penchant for bullying and setting fires. Most of the Chatmans' friends staunchly believe the fire was an accident, but Lou knows in her bones it was murder. The genre needs more strong, black female heroines like Lou." Hall signs a 3rd for Detective Norton on June 21: [Trail of Echoes](#) (Forge \$25.99). Patrick joins me in recommending this excellent series.

Kaehler, Tammy. [Red Flags](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). See Event Books. Here are a couple more reviews to underline the quality of Kaehler's work. "In the fourth in this character-driven series, Kaehler complements its exploration of Kate's problems and triumphs with a better mystery and plenty of suspects you love to hate."—*Kirkus Reviews*. "Kaehler keeps the suspense high as she shifts among Kate's turbulent history with her father and his family, the investigation of Billy's murder, the Hollywood scene, and the anticipatory buildup to the big race...everyone will root for Kate, a strong, likable heroine, all the way to the finish line."—*PW*. [Click here](#) to order Kate's first three high-speed investigations which I compare to the work of Dick Francis if on a different race track.

Palmer, Matthew. [Secrets of State](#) (\$16). Palmer, one of the late Michael Palmer's two author sons, draws on his 20+ years in the US Foreign Service to craft his second (also his first) thriller. "Recently retired State Department officer Sam Trainor, the hero of Palmer's exciting second thriller, has bounced around the subcontinent of South Asia during his 25-year career until retiring and taking a job with Argus Systems, a contractor supplying intelligence and analysis of South Asia to the CIA. While reading top-secret intel on his computer, Sam stumbles on an NSA report of a phone call involving Vanalika Chandra, the political counselor at the Indian embassy in Washington, D.C., with whom he's having an affair. The substance of the call concerns a clandestine project whose purpose is to drive India and Pakistan into a nuclear war. As Sam follows this lead, the bodies begin to fall. After a group of terrorists steal a Pakistani nuclear warhead, Sam finds himself in a race to find and defuse the bomb before it destroys an entire city. Readers will be pleased that the ending suggests Sam will be back." I am, for sure. Palmer's debut [The American Mission](#) (\$9.99) was a 2014 First Mystery Club Pick, Palmer signs his next thriller here May 25 with his brother Daniel who is continuing the work of their father, Michael.

Ripley, WL. [Storme Warning](#) (Brash \$12.99). Rob discovered the Ripleys from Brash Books, a new smaller publisher mostly doing reprints but here, an original novel in paperback, and fell hard for the voice. He compares it to Parker. I agree and so here is our **April Fresh Fiction Pick**. Former Dallas Cowboys ace Wyatt Storme is done with all that. He lives quietly in his remote Ozarks cabins, but good luck to that for someone like him. Chick Easton, a hard-drinking, shockingly lethal, ex-CIA agent, and serious bro, requests Storme back him up when he's hired by a the director of a big budget Western to protect a bad-boy movie star who is, deservedly, receiving death threats. Worse, the direc-

tor wants to reshoot the star's scenes on Storme's land. Storme is right to be reluctant for, among other problems gunning his way is a sociopathic mob enforcer that he once put in both traction and prison. But that's not the worst of it, or the biggest surprise. Happily Brash has republished the earlier Storme's too: [click here](#) to order.

✚Scott, Gavin. [The Age of Treachery](#) (Titan \$14.95). We are experiencing a tidal wave of WWII books, especially from England. This one is not only a smashing adventure with a big of a Christie plot but is steeped in intriguing bits of lesser known history and a sweep of all sorts of major literary (and Norwegian) post-war figures as most of the action takes place in an Oxford College. It reads to me like an Alastair Maclean adventure. I can't say "go for it" more than that, so this first Duncan Forrester Mystery is our **April British Crime Club Pick**. Forrester is back in a freezing 1946 January at his old college, Barnard, as a Junior Research Fellow in Archaeology. Still in his late twenties, he's tired, depressed, grieving for his lost love Barbara, killed in the war, and just bone tired. What peace he's mustered is shattered after a dinner at High Table and a reading of an ancient saga at the Master's home culminates in the murder of a hated colleague who is found dead outside in the snow, stabbed and pushed, no hurled, through a glass window. One of Forrester's closest friends is arrested so our man at Oxford reluctantly begins to question the investigation, and to participate. And somehow an ancient Viking manuscript seems to be part of it, perhaps owned by a German spy. Forrester journeys to London, Berlin, and up to the Norway fjords and back, using his wartime skills as well as his academic. There's a touch of Bletchley here. I can't wait for the sequel. Think Colin Dexter, David Downing, and Joseph Kanon as well as MacLean. "References to J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis ground this book firmly in the postwar period in Oxford. Forrester has to cast aside his PTSD and rely on the skills developed from his espionage experience to ferret out the culprit and motive. A dashing new hero has been born; recommend for readers of Jack Higgins and Joseph Kanon." —*Library Journal* Starred Review

✚Sykes, S D. [Plague Land](#) (\$15.95). The UK hardcover caught my eye and became a 2014 History/Mystery Pick. I'm delighted it's now available in paperback. We're in 1350 Kent where the plague is not the only killer and a callow youth, Oswald de Lacy, who may not be who he thinks he is, is caught up in hysteria and murder. The *NY Times* writes, "It's no fun reading a medieval mystery if it isn't steeped in filth, squalor and pestilence. S. D. Sykes gets right to the point in *Plague Land*, which serves it all up in vivid detail...she also devises a clever plot to test Oswald's mettle, pitting the rational thinking he learned at a monastery against the superstitions of his age." "Set in 1350, British author Sykes's debut provides everything a reader would want in a historical mystery: a gripping plot, vivid language, living and breathing characters, and an immersive depiction of the past... From the opening line, 'If I preserve but one memory at my own death, it shall be the burning of the dog-headed beast,' Sykes grabs the reader by the throat." —*PW* Starred Review. And Jeffery Deaver recommends, likening Sykes to "a medieval CJ Sansom." We still have a few signed 1sts of the sequel, [The Butcher Bird](#) (\$42) and the Unsigned US edition, now out, is [The Butcher Bird](#) (\$25.95).

Walker, Martin. [The Children Return](#) (\$15.95). Bruno, the St Denis charmer and Chief of Police, is already busy with a case when the body of an undercover French Muslim cop is found in the woods, a man who called Bruno for help only hours before. But Bruno's sometime boss and rival, the Brigadier, doesn't see this investigation as a priority—there are bigger issues at stake. Bruno has other ideas. Meanwhile, a Muslim youth named Sami turns up at a French army base in Afghanistan hoping to get home to St Denis. One of Bruno's old army comrades helps to smuggle Sami back to France, but the FBI aren't far behind. Then an American woman appears in St Denis with a warrant for Sami's extradition. Bruno must unravel these multiple mysteries, amidst pressure from his bosses. My favorite is The Mayor. This astonishing book with its multi-faceted view of the crisis facing France and Europe is more than an absorbing (and delightful) read; it's compelling and insightful. [Click here](#) to order all the Brunos. Walker returns to sign a new Bruno, [Fatal Pursuit](#) (Knopf \$25.95), his 9th, on June 28. [Click here](#) to order all of our bestselling crime paperback series.

✚Ware, Ruth. [In a Dark, Dark Wood](#) (\$16). Despite the bestseller status and acclaim for this British debut in the Trust No One Vein (ie, in the train of Paula Hawkins), I thought it fell apart after an intriguing beginning. I don't always agree with popular opinion. So I quote you this Review from *Kirkus* which straddles both sides of the fence: "Ware's debut, a reclusive crime writer reunites with a long-lost friend during a weekend hen party that goes horribly wrong. When Leonora Shaw wakes up in the hospital with memory gaps and a head wound, one of the first questions she asks is, 'What have I done?'" Through flashbacks, Ware slowly unspools the mystery, setting a truly spooky scene as six relative strangers gather at the isolated Glass House, celebrating the upcoming marriage of Nora's former friend Clare Cavendish, with whom she had lost touch 10 years before. Nora, sensitive and skittish and nursing some great secret about her past and her lost friendship with Clare, wants nothing more than to leave, but she feels trapped by curiosity, guilt, and obligation to Flo, the woman who planned the weekend and takes any complication as a personal affront. In classic Agatha Christie fashion, the first half of the novel is masterful in the slow build of suspense. Clearly, something is very wrong, but it's unclear whether it's Nora, Clare, Flo, or some outside intruder who is responsible for the chills and the deepening unease. Unfortunately, as Nora's memory returns, the truth and the climax ultimately disappoint, and Nora's timidity and secrecy become frustrating. The final reveal is pretty predictable. However, the success of the first half of the novel does speak to Ware's ability to spin a good yarn."

NEW BOOKS

Begley, Louis. [Kill and Be Killed](#) (NAL \$25.95). Begley introduced former Marine officer Jack Dana, now a novelist, in [Killer, Come Hither](#) (\$16) where he went after the real-and, it turned out, sinister—story of how his beloved Uncle Harry died. Jack identified billionaire Abner Brown as the architect of Harry's demise. And fell hard for Kerry, the lawyer who helped him but then dumped him after Jack's bloody confrontation with Harry's assassin. What Jack wants now is to win Kerry back, and take down Brown. But suddenly Kerry loses her life in circumstances that contradict the woman Jack knew. It's more fuel to hunt down Brown. And he will have the help of the glamorous, enigmatic Heidi Krohn, Kerry's BFF. And have to face down one of his fel-

low Marines who has a violent agenda of his own. This duology is a bit of a departure for Begley: “Louis Begley’s award-winning fiction usually takes on bad behavior among the well-bred and prosperous. *Killer, Come Hither* ratchets up the intrigue—and the evil.”—*The Wall Street Journal*

Bowen, Rhys. [Oh, Danny Boy](#) (\$15.99). A reissue for Molly Murphy.

Brennan, Marie. [In the Labyrinth of Drakes](#) (Tor \$25.99). Even those who take no interest in the field of dragon naturalism have heard of Lady Trent’s expedition to the inhospitable deserts of Akhia. Her discoveries there are the stuff of romantic legend, catapulting her from scholarly obscurity to worldwide fame. The details of her personal life during that time are hardly less private, having provided fodder for gossips in several countries. As is so often the case in the career of this illustrious woman, the public story is far from complete. In this, the fourth volume of her memoirs, Lady Trent relates how she acquired her position with the Royal Scirling Army; how foreign saboteurs imperiled both her work and her well-being; and how her determined pursuit of knowledge took her into the deepest reaches of the Labyrinth of Drakes, where the chance action of a dragon set the stage for her greatest achievement yet. [Click here](#) to order the earlier Lady Trents, such fun. Brennan signed the 3rd one for us at The Pen.

⌘Calkins, Susanna. [A Death along the River Fleet](#) (St Martins \$25.99). I have liked this series set in London after the Great Fire wherein ladies maid Lucy Campion, losing her mistress, evolves into a printer’s apprentice. She loves the work which sends her out selling product in the city’s streets. And now, one freezing, misty morning, just before Easter, she sees a figure crossing Holborn Bridge over the murky waters of the River Fleet. It’s a Wilkie Collins moment—the young woman is clad only in a blood-splashed white nightdress. She’s barely able to speak and she has no clue how she got there. And the story rolls on from there. It’s not my favorite but it’s a natural progression for the series. Here’s a fun fact about Calkins: A former pirate, she once served on the *Golden Hinde*—a museum replica of Sir Frances Drake’s ship—now dry docked in the Thames. She’s writing in Chicago these days. [Click here](#) to order her books.

Carter, MJ. [The Infidel Stain](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Jeremiah Blake and Captain William Avery have left the army and returned to 1840 England. Blake, a working-class jack-of-all-trades, has re-invented himself as a private investigator, easily mingling on the mean London streets. Avery, however, is struggling to adapt to the life of a gentleman in Devon, so he eagerly answers Blake’s call for assistance in an investigation. Lord Allington, firmly religious but widely charitable, uses his fame and fortune to aid London’s most destitute. Allington has learned of the gruesome murders of several printers, to which the police have turned a blind eye in spite of the clear similarities among the mutilated bodies. He hires Blake who in turn coopts Avery. The two men are quickly drawn into the seamy underbelly of the printing world, uncovering ties to pornography and sedition. Avery’s naïve, genteel worldview is especially disrupted by the shocking secrets they begin to uncover.

In an interview, Carter says, “I think transitional periods are intrinsically compelling—there’s an inherent friction as one period gives way to another. Some are left behind, some find it hard to adapt, and the new is both exciting and full of unforeseen

consequences. I find the first 13 years of Queen Victoria’s reign (1837-1850) particularly fascinating. In the space of just a few years, horse and cart gave way to railways; letters to telegraph. London became the biggest city and the biggest trading centre the world had ever seen. There are lots of great things to write about: London journalism and its gutter roots; politics and sex; foreigners in London—from the Irish to Karl Marx; the amazing corruption and bank failures and bubbles of the mid-1840s. And the cultural climate changed too: the rowdier, less polite and socially more easy-going Georgian era gave way to the more prudish, less tolerant, preachy, money-oriented Victorian one. There were winners, and a lot of losers, especially among the poor. People were worried that the world was changing too fast. I think there are fascinating parallels with the last 15 years, with the Internet and the growth of the global economy. I always knew I wanted to put my detective (or inquiry agent, as he’s called) in London and write about Britain in the 1840s. Then I discovered the Thugs and the question of what they really were, and what the British did to them in India, and I really wanted to write about that...” So she did—first, in [The Strangler Vine](#) (\$16), the book up for a 2016 Edgar for Best First Novel and a 2015 First Mystery Club Pick.

Charles, Christopher. [Exiled](#) (LittleBrown \$26). This one will resonate with fans of *Breaking Bad* given its cast, the drugs, and the New Mexico setting. Charles (actually Chris Narozny of *Jonah Man*) introduced former NYC narcotics cop Wes Raney who developed a habit, and made bad decisions in the crack-and-crime-ridden streets of the city in the 1980s that led to his disgrace and exit about 15 years back. He’s now the sole homicide investigator covering a 200-mile stretch of high desert. Solitude is his salvation, salving in part the loss of his family, but it ends when a deal gone wrong results in a triple murder. Staged in a locked underground bunker, it brings Raney’s past down on him with a vengeance....

Chevalier, Tracy. [At the Edge of the Orchard](#) (Viking, \$27). *PW* finds Chevalier’s 8th novel to be “a compelling showcase of 19th-century American pioneering spirit in which a family from Connecticut struggles to establish an apple orchard in the swamplands of Ohio. James Goodenough can trace his family and his beloved Golden Pippin apples back to England, though he seeks his own future away from his family’s farm. The story of his adventure going west unfolds from his point of view as well as from that of Sadie, his contentious wife, a tough woman with a wild libido and a hankering for applejack. True-life figure John Chapman (aka Johnny Appleseed) plays a role in the Goodenoughs’ fortunes, as does British plant collector William Lobb, who becomes a key figure to James and Sadie’s youngest son, Robert, when circumstances force him to flee Ohio and make his own life on the West Coast. Against a backdrop of family travails in Ohio and personal revelations in California come intriguing facts about apples, such as their division into “eaters” and “spitters” (used for apple cider and applejack), as well as how American pine trees, redwoods, and Sequoias were painstakingly introduced to England. The author’s insightful observations about domestic life and the pull of relationships bring depth to a family story that inevitably comes full circle in a most satisfying way.”

Clare, Cassandra. [Lady Midnight](#) (SimonSchuster \$17.99). The Dark Artifices #1 kicks off a new YA series, a sequel to the internationally bestselling *Mortal Instruments* series and featuring the Los Angeles Shadowhunters. It’s been five years since the events of *City of Heavenly Fire* that brought the Shadowhunters

to the brink of oblivion. Emma Carstairs is no longer a child in mourning, but a young woman bent on discovering what killed her parents and avenging her losses. Together with her parabatai Julian Blackthorn, Emma must learn to trust her head and her heart as she investigates a demonic plot that stretches across Los Angeles, from the Sunset Strip to the enchanted sea that pounds the beaches of Santa Monica. If only her heart didn't lead her in treacherous directions... Making things even more complicated, Julian's brother Mark—who was captured by the faeries five years ago—has been returned as a bargaining chip. The faeries are desperate to find out who is murdering their kind—and they need the Shadowhunters' help to do it. But time works differently in faerie, so Mark has barely aged and doesn't recognize his family. Can he ever truly return to them? Will the faeries really allow it?

Coben, Harlan. [The Magical Fantastical Fridge](#) (Penguin \$17.99). It's family dinner night, and Walden would like to be anywhere other than the kitchen in the middle of chores. Suddenly his wish is granted: He is magically swooped into one of his own drawings on the fridge, and finds himself on a one-of-a-kind adventure. After battling a crayon monster, he catches a plane ride into an old photo, escapes a troop of monkeys by cannon balling into an aquarium ticket, survives an ice-maker earthquake, and more. Kids will love studying the dynamic, comic-book-inspired illustrations in this zany, surprise-filled journey illustrated by the clever Leah Tinari.

Crawford, Susan. [The Other Widow](#) (Harper \$26.99). From the author of [The Pocket Wife](#) (\$15.99), a new Trust No One suspense story. At the center is Dorrie who is sleeping with Joe, her married boss at Home Runs Renovations. As they meet to break up one snowy night in Boston, Joe's old car skids on the icy street, they crash, his air bag fails... Joe is dead. Dorrie manages to exit the car and the scene but leaves a glove behind. Maggie Brennan, an insurance investigator, calls this suspicious and also a possible suicide. If not homicide. The three narrators, Dorrie, Maggie, and Joe's widow Karen, tell us what happened but never really dig into character. Still, there's a surprise twist to enjoy. Lisa Gardner readers will like this.

✎Duncan, Elizabeth J. [Murder on the Hour](#) (St Martins \$25.99). A picturesque Welsh town like Llanelen is charming to visit. It's humming along at the advent of antiques Cymru, a regional take on a UK *Antiques Roadshow*, and a chance to dig out all those treasures from the attic for evaluation. Everyone loves the idea of striking it rich. On the day of the taping, a local, reclusive sheep farmer called Haydn bring along an old long-case clock while a neighbor he's admired for years, Catrin, turns up with a cherished handmade quilt. Who knew these two actions would leave Catrin dead? And once again propel spa owner Penny Brannigan, a Canadian long settled in Wales, into an unlikely investigation? [Click here](#) for Penny's earlier books.

✎Dunmore, Helen. [Exposure](#) (Grove \$25). There is such a wealth of espionage stories this spring, mostly rooted in the 20th Century. Here it's London, 1960, with the Cold War heated up and two longtime colleagues, Giles Holloway and Simon Callington, facing a disastrous dilemma over a missing, top-secret file. It grows more complex with Simon's wife Lily buries a briefcase containing the file at the bottom of the garden, thinking she is protecting her family. Instead, the dangers of exposure escalate!

I almost made this the British Crime Club Pick for April but I became besotted with Scott's *The Age of Treachery*—see Our April Trade Paperback Picks—instead. You who like fine British fiction should latch onto this latest from the esteemed Dunmore, a winner of the Orange Prize and other acclaim.

✎Dutton, Danielle. [Margaret the First](#) (Catapult \$15.95). This lovely paperback with its jewel of a cover and flaps is wildly original in its narrative yet focuses on an extraordinary woman of the 17th Century. There's no actual mystery in it—Margaret, Duchess of Cavendish, lived through the English Civil War mostly exiled in France and the Netherlands, no espionage—but I picked it for our **April History Paperback Club** as a delight. The Indie Next Pick underscores my pleasure in the book: “Dutton's novel takes the already extraordinary life of Margaret Cavendish—17th century natural philosopher, author of *The Blazing World*, and Duchess of Newcastle—and transforms it into a stunning work of historical fiction. With women in the sciences a hot issue today, *Margaret the First* satisfies a craving for women's writing, women's voices, and women's stories, painting a portrait of a sensitive, thoughtful woman hungry not just for praise and recognition, but acknowledgment, affirmation, and validation... a triumph!” Equally interesting is her husband William Cavendish who married her at 50 and lived into his 80s.

Estleman, Loren. [Desperate Detroit and Stories of Other Dire Places](#) (Adams \$24.99). Previously published in a host of magazines and anthologies, with a new Preface and introductions to the stories written by virtuoso Estleman especially for this collection, these 18 tales feature gangsters, private eyes, psychotic killers, hit men, feuding families, prostitutes, prizefighters, bodyguards, corrupt cops, the walking dead, and ordinary people driven by desperation to commit acts of violence.

Faye, Lyndsay. [Fatal Flame](#) (\$16). No one in 1840s New York likes fires, but Copper Star Timothy Wilde least of all. So when an arsonist with an agenda begins threatening Alderman Robert Symmes, a corrupt and powerful leader high in the Tammany Hall ranks, Wilde isn't thrilled to be involved. His reservations escalate further when his brother Valentine announces that he'll be running against Symmes in the upcoming election, making both himself and Timothy a host of powerful enemies. Meanwhile, the love of Wilde's life, Mercy Underhill, unexpectedly shows up on his doorstep and takes under her wing a starving orphan with a tenuous grasp on reality. It soon becomes clear that this wisp of a girl may be the key to stopping those who have been setting fire to buildings across the city—if only they can understand her cryptic descriptions and find out what she knows. [Click here](#) to order the first two Wildes.

Feinstein, John. [The Legends Club](#) (Doubleday \$27.95). The riveting inside story of college basketball's fiercest rivalry among three coaching legends—University of North Carolina's Dean Smith, Duke's Mike Krzyzewski, and North Carolina State's Jim Valvano—by the king of college basketball writers,

Ferrante, Elena. [Frantumaglia: Bits and Pieces](#) (Europa \$15). Apart from her literary chops, the real excitement about Ferrante is, who is she? A very carefully concealed identity is in play for an author who's rising to become a classic on the Neapolitan scene with her intricate novels. [Click here](#) to order them.

Fletcher, Jessica/aka Donald Bain. [Murder, She Wrote: Design for Murder](#) (NAL \$23.95). Jessica is in Manhattan to attend the

debut of a new designer. Formerly Sandy Black of Cabot Cove, the young man has reinvented himself as Xandr Ebon, and is introducing his evening wear collection to the public and—more important—to the industry’s powers-that-be: the stylists, the magazine editors, the buyers, and the wealthy clientele who can make or break him. At the show, the glitz and glamour are dazzling until a young model—a novice, taking her first walk down the runway—shockingly collapses and dies. Natural causes? Perhaps. But when another model is found dead, a famous cover girl and darling of the paparazzi, the fashion world gets nervous. Two models. Two deaths. Their only connection? Xandr Ebon. #45 in this cozy series.

Goldsborough, R. [Stop the Presses!](#) (Mysterious \$14.99). After a hiatus that went on too long, I’m delighted that Goldsborough is once again writing the Nero Wolfe series. “Outstanding....Goldsborough again demonstrates an impressive ability to emulate Rex Stout’s narrative voice.” —*Publishers Weekly* Starred Review. The focus here is on one of the few men Wolfe respects, Lon Cohen of the *New York Gazette*, who requests Wolfe’s aid when someone apparently wants to kill the paper’s gossip columnist Cameron Clay. Death threats are not unusual for Clay...but these might actually be real. Order other Goldsboroughs [here](#).

Goldstein, Paul. [Secret Justice](#) (Ankerwycke \$26.95). A new Supreme Court justice must cast the deciding vote in a case that, in its moral implications, mirrors the justice’s own deepest secret. It is, first and foremost, a novel of ideas, a legal thriller that derives its page-turning tension not from chase scenes or other action set pieces, but rather from the moral decisions and debates the central character, Justice Richard Davenport, puts himself through as he considers two cases that touch upon a family secret that threatens to expose him to his enemies in the Senate and on the Supreme Court (not to mention the White House) and alter the court of Davenport’s career forever. Stanford University’s Goldstein is the author of three fabulous legal thrillers: *First Mystery Club Pick*, *Errors and Omissions*, which relates to the Blacklist and the movie *Trumbo*; *A Patent Lie*; and *Havana Requiem* which won the 2013 Harper Lee Award. The Lillick Professor of Law unsurprisingly has chosen a new publishing venture of the American Bar Association for this his fourth novel which he says takes the Supreme Court “seriously rather than as (just) a playground for mayhem and murder.” Interesting timing that it arrives in the midst of the disgraceful turn of events around confirming a new Justice. Politicians don’t get to rewrite the Constitution to suit themselves.

Gonzales, Manuel. [The Regional Office is Under Attack](#) (Riverhead \$27.95). Some books I just can’t get to. This debut is one. A subterranean superhero organization under attack by its own rogue operatives. The Regional Office,” a shadowy organization operating under the cover of an extreme-travel concierge service for wealthy clients. The firm’s equally murky mission is to protect the world from evil forces using Oracles seemingly plucked wholesale from Philip K. Dick’s “Minority Report” and homegrown female assassins who wouldn’t be out of place in *The Matrix*. The action of the assault centers on two women: Rose, who leads a team of traitorous operatives in attacking the venerable institution, and agency executive Sarah, who fiercely defends her office with speed, strength, and a badass mechanical arm. There’s also something of a love story buried beneath all the

chaos, involving Rose’s mentor, Henry, and the woman for whom he abandons his allegiance to the Regional Office. But stripped down to its essentials, the novel is a hyperkinetic sci-fi set piece along the lines of *Die Hard* seeded with paranormal elements cribbed from half a dozen other franchises and the absent-parent grudges that fuel any number of teen novels.”—*Kirkus Reviews*. “The Regional Office really IS under attack! This is not metaphor! It is a wry and propulsive work of inventive fiction by a terrific young writer! Read it!” —Jess Walter. “A winged creation, and absolutely marvelous. Gonzales keeps turning the kaleidoscope to reveal the strangest, darkest, and most beautiful dimensions of human love, and the conversion of mechanical fury into living strength.”—Karen Russell

Grady, James. [Six Days of the Condor](#) (\$13.99). Back in print, the novel that inspired the Robert Redford film. Sandwiches save Ronald Malcolm’s life. On the day that gunmen pay a visit to the American Literary Historical Society, he’s out at lunch. The Society is actually a backwater of the Central Intelligence Agency, where Malcolm and a few other bookworms comb mystery novels for clues that might unlock real-life diplomatic questions. One of his colleagues has learned something he wasn’t meant to know. A sinister conspiracy has penetrated the CIA, and the gunmen are its representatives. After massacring the office, they learn of Malcolm—a loose end that needs to be dealt with. Malcolm—codename Condor—calls his handlers at the Agency hoping for a safe haven, but draws another attempt on his life instead. With no one left to trust, he goes on the run.

Hallinan, Timothy. [King Maybe](#) (Soho \$25.95). Tracy of our staff reviews: I originally thought that Hallinan’s excellent Junior Bender series was a more lighthearted read than his Thailand set Poke Rafferty books but each progressive Junior Bender book has become a little darker and this newest title continues that trend. Junior Bender, despite being a thief, has a very sturdy moral compass which, in this novel, is really put to the test. Junior’s initial stamp heist gets him involved with a Hollywood producer named King Maybe. King Maybe has slippery business practices and attempts to blackmail Junior into a scheme to “hide” assets prior to a divorce from his young starlet wife. In addition to trying to extricate himself from King Maybe, Junior has to deal with a romantic crisis with the girlfriend he knows too little about, the angry stamp collector from his heist, and a heartbroken daughter. Hallinan manages to incorporate all these plot points into a beautifully written and engrossing novel. I loved this book.” Winner of the 2015 Left Coast Crime Most Humorous Mystery Award, burglar Junior Bender, the clown prince of crime fiction. Hallinan is spending the entire spring in Bangkok working on Poke Rafferty so no signed books.

Hammer, Joshua. [The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu](#) (Atria \$26). An excellent and picaresque true story unfolds. Think of it as a literary *Oceans Eleven*. In the 1980s a young adventurer and collector for a government library journeyed across the Sahara and along the Niger River on a quest: to track down and salvage tens of thousands of ancient Islamic and secular texts that had fallen into obscurity but were immensely valuable, culturally if nothing else. Abdel Kader Haidra, really a mild-mannered archivist from the storied city of Timbuktu, organized a dangerous op. His team spirited all 350,000 volumes out of the city, thus rescuing them from Al Qaeda. How prescient. If only he’d been able to time travel forward to Syria, no?

This stirring book should be enjoyed alongside a delightful adventure by Vasudev Murthy set in the same little-known territory and also involving not only manuscripts but the legendary travel writers Marco Polo and Ibn Battuta: [Sherlock Holmes, The Missing Years: Timbuktu](#) (\$26.95 or \$15.95), a story of where Holmes and Watson went during the post-Reichenbach Falls years told in parallel times/adventures.

Hand, Elizabeth. [Hard Light](#) (St Martins \$25.99). There are few kick-ass noir heroines more potent than Hand's Cass Neary, a free-lance, roaming photographer with more than one passport, a drug and drink habit, a love affair with her Konika SLR, and lover of solitude. In her third blazing encounter with crime, Cass arrives in North London from Reykjavik and a series of cult murders, there to reunite with her long-lost lover Quinn O'Boyle. Quinn is wanted by Interpol and the Russian mob, mad, bad, and dangerous to know. But he doesn't show and Cass, sensing peril, goes on the run, encountering instead of Quinn a body. It's that of Poppy, a former punk rocker. It's hard to imagine what comes next....

Harris, Gregory. [The Dalwich Desecration](#) (Kensington \$15). Murder in the monastery. Those who enjoyed Louise Penny's [The Beautiful Mystery](#) (\$15.99) will recognize some familiarities in Whitmore Abbey and its men, and in some themes developed. But this is Victorian with Colin Pendragon and Ethan Pruitt, a gay partnership in life and sleuthing. They travel from metro London to rural Sussex at the request of Colin's diplomat father to inquire into the horrible death of the abbot who was slaughtered in his cell. The monks push the idea that the killer came from outside, say the village, but the inquiry shows not much chance of it despite some surprising links between outsiders and insiders here....

Hay, Ashley. [The Railwayman's Wife](#) (Atria \$26). Here we are in the lovely coastal Australian town of Thirroul, the inspiration behind DH Lawrence's *Kangaroo*, in the eerie aftermath of WWII. Anikka Lahclan is a newly widowed mother who accepts a job at the Railway Institute's library where she hopes to find some solace in her new life. She's not the only one trying to chase dreams through books. Roy McKinnon found poetry in the carnage but has now lost hope. Frank Draper is wracked with guilt over failures in his medical treatments of those emerging from war to freedom. All three discover how hard it is to tell endings and beginnings apart, and how important it is to love yourself. The Brisbane author is well known at home and now will be here.

Hearn, Lian. [Emperor of the Eight Islands](#): (Farrar \$14). The medieval has always fascinated me, no more so than in feudal Japan which Hearn so fabulously chronicled in her *Tales of the Otori*. In fact, Laurie R. King and my husband Rob and I chased some of its legends across the island of Shikoku to the famous vine bridges woven as escape routes during the constant feuds. Hearn now begins a new series with the first in *The Tale of Shikanoko* with two more publishing later in 2016. A future lord is dispossessed of his birthrights by a scheming uncle (hmm... sounds like *Hamlet?*) and a mountain sorcerer plays a role....

Hockensmith, Steve/Lisa Falco. [Give the Devil His Due](#) (Midnight Ink \$14.99). I missed the first 3 Tarot Mysteries by this pair. Sorry. Reformed con artist-turned-tarot reader Alanis McLachlan gets paid for predicting the future. Too bad she couldn't see all the trouble in hers. First a figure from her troubled past returns to drag her back into the dark world of scams and thievery she

thought she'd left behind. Then her on-again off-again romance with hunky teacher Victor Castellanos hits the skids when a surprising new suitor sweeps into town and tries to sweep Alanis off her feet. And then there's the little matter of the client who gets an ominous reading from Alanis . . . and is promptly murdered. Hockensmith won a zillion awards for his series that began with First Mystery Pick *Holmes on the Range*.

Kadrey, Richard. [The Everything Box](#) (Harper \$24.99). The prolific author of the Sandman Slim series starts something new in the supernatural with a darkly humorous story (think Christopher Moore) involving a doomsday gizmo, baddies working to bypass its owner, and a clever thief who must steal it back. Go from 2000 B to 2015 where Coop specializes in purloining magical objects.... Kadrey joins us in July with a new Sandman Slim so you can get this signed then.

Kelly, Martha Hall. [Lilac Girls](#) (Ballantine \$26). Another aspect of WWII powers a debut about three women who are set on a collision course from New York, Poland, and Germany that lands them together in Ravensbruck, the notorious Nazi camp for women only where dire medical experiments are part of the horrors.

Klavan, Andrew. [Werewolf Cop](#) (\$15.95). Zach Adams is one of the best detectives in the country. Nicknamed Cowboy, he's a soft-spoken homicide detective known for his integrity and courage under fire. He serves on a federal task force that has a single mission: to hunt down Dominic Abend, a European gangster who has taken over the American underworld. In a centuries-old forest under a full moon, a beast assaults Zach, cursing him forever. In the aftermath, he is transformed into something horrible. Now, the good cop has innocent blood on his hands. How can he crack this killing if the evil is inside him? "*Werewolf Cop* moves like freight train—a classic white-knuckled police procedural with the chills of a midnight horror movie, and the best kind of old-fashioned hero at the center. I loved it." —Joseph FINDER

Knoll, Jessica. [The Luckiest Girl Alive](#) (\$15.99). The May 2015 Indie Next Pick: "Ani FaNelli has worked hard to become the girl who succeeded. She has the right job, the right clothes, the right address, and even Mr. Right. It doesn't matter that it only works on the surface; the appearance is what will protect you when the truth comes out. Knoll has created a distinctly fierce and driven main character whose past is defined by a particularly modern kind of tragedy. The details are slowly revealed as Ani maneuvers her way up through the lingering trauma of this devastating teenage experience. I was caught up in an exciting mixture of suspicion, pity, and admiration for Ani, as Knoll explores whether that which does not kill us might make us stronger, and if the scars can ever fade away."

Lebow, Laura. [Sent to the Devil](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Travel to Vienna, 1788, where court Poet Lorenzo Da Ponte is wrapping up his libretto for the premiere of Mozart's new opera *Don Giovanni* after its huge opening success in Prague at the Estates Theater. Emperor Joseph is however away prosecuting an unpopular war against the Turks and protestors on both sides roil the city. Da Ponte, just wanting to work and enjoy life, is distracted by a series of coded notes from an unknown hand that make no sense to him. Then his old friend Alois, a retired priest, is murdered, found with strange symbols carved into his forehead. And his killing was not the first.... Intrigue at court, at the opera, perfect for a man like Da Ponte.

Levien, David. [Signature Kill](#) (\$15.95). This is the 4th for Frank Behr, Indianapolis PI. And he's down-on-his luck, nearly broke. Even if it's a no-win case, he PI can't afford to ignore the \$100,000 reward offered by widow Kerry Gibbons whose wayward daughter Kendra has been missing for months—and advertised on bill boards. Meanwhile there is the dead body of a young woman found dismembered on the street. Behr senses the sadist and the missing Kendra cases may be linked. Be prepared for gruesome in this serial killer thriller.

Locke, Attica. [Pleasantville](#) (\$15.99). [Black Water Rising](#) (\$14.99), published under Dennis Lehane's imprint, introduced lawyer Jay Porter. It's been 15 years since that career-defining case for the environmentalist against Cole Oil, and now Porter's broke—and tired, thanks to an endless string of appeals. His latest case—representing Pleasantville in the wake of a chemical fire—is dragging on, shaking his confidence and raising doubts about him within this upwardly mobile black community on Houston's north side. Though Jay still believes in doing what's right, he is done fighting other people's battles. Once he has his piece of the settlement, the single father is going to devote himself to what matters most—his children. His plans are abruptly derailed when a female campaign volunteer vanishes on the night of Houston's 1996 mayoral election, throwing an already contentious campaign into chaos. The accused is none other than the nephew and campaign manager of one of the leading candidates—a scion of a prominent local clan.

Love, Alison. [The Girl from the Paradise Ballroom](#) (Crown \$15). And yet another story drawing on the turmoil of WWII. An excellent feature here is Love's portrait of the Italian immigrants to Edwardian and later London, their role as accordion players in the streets, their ties back to Italy growing Fascist, and what the looming war and its presence does to a pair of lovers. Antonio, the Italian, a struggling singer, meets Olivia, a rebellious dance hall hostess, at the seedy Paradise Ballroom. She in time marries his wealthy new patron and fears he'll reveal her secrets, but that's just the start of a tale maturing in 1947 building on the many difficult choices and clashes of both class and nationalities for its cast. Love avoids clichés and faces realities as she awakes us to links I never had considered.

Macdonald, Helen. [H is for Hawk](#) (\$16). This is one of my favorite 2015 books and up for an American Booksellers Nonfiction Award. The book opens doors to the British countryside and indeed hawks and other birds, but it also explores what molded writers like TH White and JRR Tolkien (from which you can extrapolate to Agatha Christie). I add that if you are a CJ Box fan or if you have not yet read his latest and No. 1 bestseller [Off the Grid Signed](#) (Putnam \$26.95) with its fabulous falcons and the dangerous, enigmatic falconer Nate Romanowski, this may inspire you.

Macdonald, Ross. [Ross Macdonald: Three Novels of the Early 1960s](#) (Library of America \$35). *The Zebra-Striped Hearse*; *The Chill*; *The Far Side of the Dollar*.

Macleod, Torquil. [Midnight in Malmö](#) (McNider & Grace \$14.95). 4th in the Inspector Anita Sundström Mysteries offered by a small publisher and of interest surely to fans of the late Henning Mankell. After a woman is stabbed to death while jogging in Malmö's main park, Inspector Sundström finds herself unofficially investigating a case that has its roots in a 1917 chance meeting

in the Swedish town.

Masterman, Becky. [Fear the Darkness](#) (\$15.99). Tucson's Masterman took us all by storm with [Rage Against the Dying](#) (\$15.95) introducing aging FBI Agent Brigid Quinn, a woman who gives and takes no quarter. Plus it had terrific Southwest flavor. Brigid is now ready to put those harsh events behind her and build a new life as a PI and upping her martial arts skills by teaching self-defense at a Tucson women's shelter. Then her sister-in-law dies and Brigid takes in her niece Gemma, an unsettling girl, but family is family. And she agrees to take a case brought by a local couple who have suffered the death of their son. Nothing in this mix turns out to be simple....

McPherson, Catriona. [Quiet Neighbors](#) (Midnight Ink \$24.99). *PW* awards this standalone suspense by Scottish author McPherson, up for a 2016 Edgar, a Starred Review: "In this outstanding standalone, Lowell Glen's house cum bookstore, Lowland Glen Books, in Wigtown, Scotland, becomes a haven first for Jude, a librarian who has run away from her personal problems in London; and then for pregnant 19-year-old Eddy Preston, who shows up from Ireland and claims that Lowell is her dad from a casual affair. Nosy, dotty Marion Hewston, who lives in the bungalow at the bottom of Lowell's garden, tells of the period 20 years earlier when Lowell kept an open house for frequent visitors, as background to her version of Eddy's birth. Meanwhile, Jude moves into the cottage of the late Todd Jolly, whose library contains books with insightful jottings hinting at a darker mystery and suspicious deaths in Wigtown's past. Jude's probing questions lead to threats, then actions that will change all their lives. McPherson's literary observations are delightful, her quirky collection of characters intriguing, and the unfolding mystery highly satisfying."

McCreight, Kimberly. [Where They Found Her](#) (\$15.99). The author of bestseller *Reconstructing Amelia* doesn't move me much. At the end of a long winter in sophisticated if small Ridgedale, NJ, the body of a newborn is discovered in the woods near the A-list university campus. No one can identify the baby or how she got there. Freelance journalist and recent Ridgedale transplant Molly Anderson is surprised with an assignment to the story, a high risk one for her since she recently lost her own baby. But worse is to come.... In this genre, "the very worst crimes are committed against those we love."

Mitzner, Adam. [The Girl from Home](#) (Gallery\$26). There's a story arc to the legal or financial thriller that begins when the guy or gal is true master of the universe—and then topples with a crash and has to rebuild a life both professional and, usually, personal. Jonathan Caine is a currency wizard with a trophy wife, a penthouse condo with a view of the Statue of Liberty, a determination to own a Hamptons home on the ocean—he wants what he wants when he wants it—when his world comes crashing down, spiraling him into a relentless fall from grace. Devastated, divorced, he returns to his New Jersey hometown to care for his ailing father in assisted living, and crashes in the family home. At his 25th high school reunion (often painful) he reconnects with former prom queen Jacqueline Williams and learns her hard story. Both have made mistakes, misconstrued their lives and partners. Jonathan is determined to learn from his mistakes, but is he capable of complete transformation? Maybe prison will do it?

Morfoot, Peter. [Impure Blood: A Captain Darac Mystery](#) (Titan \$14.95). *Alors, nous visitons Nice ici*. Adding to this spring's crime fiction bonanza on the Riviera is a book set in the heat of a summer in Nice where as the city's leg of the Tour de France is organizing, a man is found murdered in the midst of prayers by Muslims assembling on scraps of cardboard and cloth in a street scene for they have no formal mosque. The man was not praying. In fact, he was not a Muslim. And Darac and his Brigade Criminelle, Lieutenants "Bonbon" Busquet and Roland Granot, Yvonne Flaco and Max Perand, not only uncover a steadily lengthening list of suspects but perhaps a terrorist threat to the Tour, if unlikely, and a kidnapping. The roots of the crime are truly deep. I recommend this one as a fan of Michael Dibdin, Andrea Camilleri, and Fred Vargas... plus who could forget Maigret?

Mosley, Walter. [And Sometimes I Wonder About You](#) (\$15). Patrick reviews: "I've always been a big Mosley fan, and 56 year-old detective, boxer and overall hardass Leonid McGill has gotta be one of the most satisfying protagonists in crime fiction today. He's always ass-deep in personal issues, which seems to keep his as equally busy as his caseload. This time out, our old school hero does his best to operate in a modern world that annoys the hell out of him. His wife is in a mental ward after a suicide attempt, his relationship with his mistress has cooled, his son is off working on his own cases, etc. McGill gets sucked into a sordid case involving an old-money family, while still trying to track down his father, who remains in the wind... This complex net of drama is pulled together by Mosley's superb storytelling, which is, as always, a joy to read."

✚Myerson, Julie. [The Stopped Heart](#) (Harper \$15.99). I wish I'd been able to read an early copy of this well-reviewed tale of suspense. Meanwhile.... Suffolk, England: During a vicious storm, a redheaded stranger appears outside a farmer's cottage. The family takes him in—but he has no intention of leaving. One hundred and fifty years later, a devastating tragedy prompts Mary and her husband to start a new life in the countryside. They move into a small cottage, drawn to its beautiful, overgrown garden. The house has been empty for years, but it's remote, quiet, different—exactly what they need. Then it begins: children whispering, footsteps, a young man with red hair wandering through the orchard. As the stranger insinuates himself deeper into the farmer's family, and also into the affections of the eldest daughter, Mary's own sense of unease grows. She feels the past and present intertwining ever more tightly, but is grief twisting her mind? Or is the cottage, haunted by the horrific events of more than a century ago, not quite the rural sanctuary it seems?

Neuvel, Sylvain. [Sleeping Giants](#) (Ballantine \$26). The Indie Next Pick: *Sleeping Giants* reads like a military dossier, interview after interview given with the serious intent of laying out a scientific tale of discovered history that will change everyone's lives forever. At the age of 10, Rose falls through a hole in the ground and lands in a large metal hand that had been buried. Seventeen years later, she is on the research team that seeks answers to the relic's source and the meaning behind its existence. Is it a weapon? Is it a threat to humanity? Or is it simply a mystery that will remain unsolved? Whatever it is, readers will enjoy this Prometheus-like look into our distant past and the excitement of forecasting the potential future of the human race."

Packer, Ann. [The Children's Crusade](#) (\$16). The 2015 Indie Next Pick: "Doctor Bill Blair and his wife, Penny, built a home in a wooded area of California that would later be known as Silicon Valley. It was a time full of hope for the future, but 10 years and four children later Penny has grown resentful of her role as a wife and mother. She finds solace in art, but at a great cost to her family. Thirty years later, the lives of the three oldest Blair children are in upheaval yet again when their youngest brother, the black sheep of the family, returns to the family home and forces them all to confront their past and face their future. Packer's emotionally gripping story asks just how much our adult lives are determined by the events of our childhood."

Paul, Bart. [Cheatgrass](#) (Skyhorse \$24.99). [Under Tower Peak](#) (\$14.95) was acclaimed by the *Wall Street Journal* as one of the Ten Best Mysteries of 2013. Now Tommy Smith, the Iraq War vet and former Eastern Sierra packer, is home from war after re-upping for a tour in Afghanistan. When his old friend Dave Cathcart disappears from his ranch, Tommy answers the call to help find him. What he learns is that his love for Dave's daughter, his old flame Sarah Cathcart, has never died, but the country where he grew up is undergoing change. Stockmen are selling off water rights to the highest bidder, rendering ranches barren and the community bitter, as drugs and a dangerous new element have moved in. When Sarah confides that her husband, a smooth-talking entrepreneur, has lost her trust and may not be all he seems, Tommy begins to investigate. Soon another disappearance leads to a gruesome discovery, and a brutal sequence of events takes Sarah and Tommy to old haunts in the high country, where once again he will need to call on his sniper's skills to save them both and to rescue her missing father. I like this hard-hitting story which is bad but not breaking bad... and is yet another novel this spring to focus on water rights and drought in the West.

Preston, Lisa. [Orchids and Stone](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). It's all too easy to be a bystander in today's life where people whip out cell phones and/or guns and the legal system batters Good Samaritans. So when independent Daphne Mayfield who took up life as a roofer to escape the pain and trauma that haunts her seeks a break from Seattle life and chronic overwork with a walk in the Peace Park and encounters an elderly woman being captured and led off by her son, it's easy to think, dementia, and let it go. But somehow Daphne senses the old lady may really be the victim of... what? She can't let it go no matter what her live-in guy of ten years (with two kids) and what her friends say. No matter what the cop warns? With each increasingly bold intervention, she's involving herself in someone else's crisis and her own life is growing more dangerous until she's not just fighting for a stranger's life, she may be forced to fight for her own. Daphne is a truly amazing character and Preston's debut is executed with assurance and style.

Quarte, Kwei. [Gold of Our Fathers](#) (Soho \$26.95). Darko Dawson of the Ghana Police Service has just been promoted to Chief Inspector. He's enjoying the celebrations, and the small salary bump, when comes the "no free lunch" news. His boss is transferring him from the capital at Accra to Obusai in the remote Ashanti region which has become notorious for the illegal exploitation of its gold mines. And worse, the station is a shambles with an office full of uncatalogued evidence and cold case files and weighed down by low morale. It only needs the body of a Chinese, a mine owner, to be unearthed from his own quarry to

test Darko's skills and resolve. Plus he's pitted against offenders "too big to fail"—meaning too rich. An intelligent and well-crafted series. [Click here](#) to order all the Darkos which I have recommended to you before.

Redondo, Dolores. [The Invisible Guardian](#) (Atria \$24.99). I'm a sucker for travel and where more intriguing than Basque Country? An international #1 bestseller now brought by the San Sebastian-born author to America, it shows us a place engulfed in mythology and superstition where a series of truly eerie murders is entangled with the pagan beliefs of the community. Making it hard for homicide inspector Amaia Salazar, already facing dredging up secrets in the hometown and family she's forced to revisit to investigate the death of a teenage girl found violated on a riverbank, to function. Lines blur... are what appear to be escalating crimes the work of a serial killer with a bizarre ritual, or that of a creature known as the Basajaun, the Invisible Guardian?

Reilly, Matthew. [The Tournament](#) (Gallery \$16). In 1546 the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman called The Magnificent issued a challenge to every king in Europe. The tournament? Chess. A contest to determine the world champion. In England, the court's champion is the esteemed scholar Roger Ascham. Seeing a chance to enlighten the mind of a student, Ascham invites Elizabeth Tudor, a brilliant young woman not yet consumed by royal duties in Henry VIII's court, into the journey (OK, this is fiction on a grandly imagined level: in truth there is no chance of this happening, but it's fun to imagine). Yet on the opening night of the tournament, a powerful guest of the Sultan is murdered. Soon, barbaric deaths, diplomatic corruption, and unimaginable depravity—sexual and otherwise—unfold before Elizabeth's and Ascham's eyes. The pair soon realizes that the real chess game is being played within the court itself...and its most treacherous element is that a stranger in a strange land is only as safe as her host is gracious.

Richards, Justin. [Blood Red City](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Unleashing his skills trained writing Dr. Who, Richards continues with The Never War. It is "hidden under the destruction that is World War II. Colonel Brinkman and his team at Station Z are tasked with unearthing what's behind the alien offensive they know is coming, but their understanding is thin at best. The Vrill have become adept at hiding underground, and their infected human creatures—the Übermensch—can survive weapons that would kill a normal person. But uncover more about the Vrill they must, as the Nazis begin their own research into using the Vrill technology that could win the war—and maybe the world itself. Hunting ancient artifacts, teaming with the Greek resistance, and searching for answers sends the Station Z team across Europe. Richards's latest (after *The Suicide Exhibition*) gives a fresh face to the glut of World War II stories currently on the shelves. This is alternate history at its best, pitting the nuances of the time with futuristic species and intelligence."—*Library Journal*

Rindell, Suzann. [The Three-Martini Lunch](#) (Putnam \$27). This second by the author of 2013 First Mystery Pick [The Other Typist](#) (\$16) is not crime fiction but a kind of morality tale set during the Beat era. In 1958, Greenwich Village buzzes with beatniks, jazz clubs, and new ideas—the ideal spot for three ambitious young people to meet. Cliff Nelson, the son of a successful book editor, is convinced he's the next Kerouac, if only his father would notice. Eden Katz dreams of being an editor but is shocked

when she encounters roadblocks to that ambition. And Miles Tillman, a talented black writer from Harlem, seeks to learn the truth about his father's past, finding love in the process. Though different from one another, all three share a common goal: to succeed in the competitive and uncompromising world of book publishing. As they reach for what they want, they learn they must live with the consequences of their choices

✎Robotham, Michael. [Close Your Eyes](#) (Mulholland \$26). Robotham continues to torture clinical psychologist Joseph O'Loughlin. Ten years ago Joe was diagnosed with Parkinson's. A reactive one-night stand severed his marriage. He lives apart from his beloved wife and two kids, one of whom, the daughter, is now getting ready for college. The wife suggests Joe spend the summer in the family home. And then another mother, and a teenage girl, are found foully murdered in a remote West Country farmhouse and Joe is drawn into the investigation by the grandstanding idiocies of a former student trading on Joe's reputation and calling himself "The Mindhunter." This idiot not only leaks details of the police investigation, jeopardizing it, but stirs up the media by doing so to the media. Joe discovers a link to a series of brutal attacks involving women carved up with the Letter A. And that's only the beginning of what he faces... "...the best Michael Robotham novel yet. Once I reached the last 100 pages, it really was impossible to put down."—Stephen King. "Robotham turns in a tightly written story that's flawlessly plotted...Robotham's writing is so smooth and his characters so well-drawn... Robotham's crime thrillers are at the top of the genre's food chain."—*Kirkus Reviews* Starred. The author joins us by Skype from Australia on April 21 to discuss his work. [Click here](#) to order Joe's earlier cases.

Rovelli, Carlo. [Seven Brief Lessons on Physics](#) (Penguin \$18). "These essays arrive like shots of espresso, which you can consume the way the Italians do, quickly and while standing up. As slim as a volume of poetry, Mr. Rovelli's book also has that tantalizing quality that good books of poems have; it artfully hints at meanings beyond its immediate scope... [The] book is a roll call of the scientists who have taken us so far, from Einstein and Niels Bohr through Werner Heisenberg and Stephen Hawking. Like us and everything else in our universe, they emerged from one small, dense hot cloud. These men's intellects simply burned a bit brighter. The lessons in Mr. Rovelli's book, as elegiac as they are incisive, do them justice."—*The NY Times*

Ryan, Hank Phillippi. [Face Time](#) (Forge \$27.99). In her second investigation, veteran TV newswoman Charlotte McNally has explosive evidence to free an innocent woman from prison. Good. The bad is that this information sets Charlotte—and someone she loves—up as the killer's next target. It appears there is a simultaneous trade paperback edition too: [Face Time](#) (\$15.99).

Scholastic Inc. [Harry Potter, Magical Places and Characters: Coloring Book #3](#) (\$15.99). For ages 8+. Grab your adult coloring book from our collection here and do some family fun time. Explore the many places and characters of the Harry Potter films through the magic of color. From the enchanted ceiling of the Great Hall at Hogwarts to the garish tones of the Dursley's living room, this deluxe coloring book is filled with intricate images that bring fan-favorite wizarding locales to life.

✎Sheridan, Sara. [Brighton Belle](#) (Kensington \$25). I'm going to read this one but meanwhile here's the publisher's copy: Former

Secret Service operative Mirabelle Bevan becomes embroiled in a new kind of intrigue. 1951: In the popular seaside town of Brighton, it's time for Mirabelle Bevan to move beyond her tumultuous wartime years and start anew. Accepting a job at a debt collection agency seems a step toward a more tranquil life. But as she follows up on a routine loan to Romana Laszlo, a pregnant Hungarian refugee who's recently come off the train from London, Mirabelle's instincts for spotting deception are stirred when the woman is reported dead, along with her unborn child. After encountering a social-climbing doctor with a sudden influx of wealth and Romana's sister, who seems far from bereaved and doesn't sound Hungarian, Mirabelle decides to dig deeper into the suspicious circumstances surrounding the death. Aided by her feisty sidekick—a fellow office worker named Vesta Churchill (“no relation to Winston,” as she explains)—Mirabelle unravels a web of evil that stretches from the Brighton beachfront to the darkest corners of Europe.

Simenon, George. [Inspector Cadaver](#) (Penguin \$12). 24th in the Penguin republication of Inspector Maigret's cases. Here when a friend's brother-in-law is accused of murdering his daughter's lover, Maigret arrives in a small French town to help and is plunged into an atmosphere of animosity. He soon finds himself tangled up in a case that may ruin the very people whom he has come to aid and must face an old enemy—an ex-police officer nicknamed “Inspector Cadaver”—who seems to be doing everything in his power to obstruct Maigret's progress.

Smith, Lachlan. [Panther's Prey](#) (Grove \$24). After working to free his father from prison in [Fox Is Framed](#) (\$15), Leo Maxwell has now left private practice and is working as a public defender in San Francisco. He and his co-counsel Jordan Walker are in the midst of trial, brilliantly defending Randall Rodriguez, a mentally ill homeless man whom they contend falsely confessed to the rape of a young San Francisco socialite. After their client is acquitted, Leo and Jordan fall into an intense relationship—until Jordan is found brutally raped and murdered in her apartment. Leo, the last person known to have seen her alive, is the natural suspect, and the police are eager for payback after the Rodriguez case. The story takes a shocking turn when Leo and Jordan's freshly acquitted client walks into the police station and offers to confess to Jordan's murder.

Taylor, Andrew. [The Silent Boy](#) (\$15.99). Taylor is a most elegant writer. I've loved all his work including his brilliant *The American Boy* (US title, *An Unpardonable Crime*), a tour de force rooted in the early life of Edgar Allan Poe. Now he moves to Paris, 1792. Terror reigns as the city writhes in the grip of revolution. The streets run with blood as thousands lose their heads to the guillotine. Edward Savill, working in London as agent for a wealthy American, receives word that his estranged wife Augusta has been killed in France. She leaves behind ten-year-old Charles, who is brought to England to Charnwood Court, a house in the country leased by a group of émigré refugees. Savill is sent to retrieve the boy, though it proves easier to reach Charnwood than to leave. And only when Savill arrives there does he discover that Charles is mute. “Taylor is a wonder; once again he marries flawlessly integrated historical detail (revolutionary France conjured as vividly as in Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*) and a knotty and involving mystery as strong as anything in the historical crime fiction field.”—*The Financial Times*

Tolkien, JRR. [The Story of Kullervo](#) (Houghton \$25). A new edition of an early short story—which dates to the years 1912–1916—offers a taste of fantasies to come and makes a nifty little companion to Scott's *The Age of Treachery*, our British Crime Club Pick this month found in Our April Trade Paperback Picks, where Tolkien wanders in and out of college, Oxford, and his work, often ragged by CS Lewis.

Tremayne, SK. [The Ice Twins](#) (\$14.99). If you've ever fantasized about living on a remote, beautiful island, say off Scotland, you will love the descriptions in this psychological suspense story. Plus the idea of “flipping” an old lighthouse as an investment, a property with incredibly valuable views, is up to the minute, no? A year after one of their identical twin daughters, Lydia, dies in an accident, Angus and Sarah Moorcroft move to the tiny Scottish island Angus inherited from his grandmother, hoping to put together the pieces of their shattered lives. But when their surviving daughter, Kirstie, claims they have mistaken her identity—that she, in fact, is Lydia—their world comes crashing down once again. As winter encroaches, Angus is forced to travel away from the island for work, Sarah is feeling isolated, and Kirstie (or is it Lydia?) is growing more disturbed. When a violent storm leaves Sarah and her daughter stranded, the shock opens up what happened the day one twin died. Once again, despite the on-going overturning of conventional attitudes about sex, we see that there is no more devastating trigger to disaster than adultery. And unsurprisingly, the “domestic suspense” train propelled by *Gone Girl* and *The Girl on the Train* inspires an author. Londoner “Tremayne” is a bestselling novelist and award-winning travel writer, and a regular contributor to newspapers and magazines

✎Upson, Nicola. [London Rain](#) (Harper \$15.99). Many of you know Josephine Tey from her magnificent mystery classics, books I cut my teeth on like *Daughter of Time*, *The Franchise Affair*, and *Brat Farrar*! Upson has reimagined the Scottish playwright/novelist as a sleuth—with increasing success I think. So it's London, 1937. Following the gloomy days of the abdication of King Edward VIII, the entire city is elated to welcome King George. Just one of the many planned festivities for the historic coronation is a BBC radio adaptation of *Queen of Scots*, and the original playwright, Josephine Tey, has been invited to sit in on rehearsals. Soon, however, Josephine gets wrapped up in another sort of drama. The lead actress has been sleeping with Britain's most venerable newsman, Anthony Beresford—and his humiliated wife happens to work in the building. The sordid affair seems to reach its bloody climax when Beresford is shot to death in his broadcasting booth at the deafening height of the coronation ceremony. Josephine's dear friend, Detective Chief Inspector Archie Penrose, has the case wrapped up before long. But when a second, seemingly related murder throws Penrose for a loop, it falls to Josephine to unravel a web of betrayal, jealousy, and long-held secrets... caught all the while in a love triangle of her own making.

Urrea, Luis Alberto. [The Water Museum: Stories](#) (\$15.99). This collection includes the Edgar-award winning “Amapola” and his now-classic “Bid Farewell to Her Many Horses,” which had the honor of being chosen for NPR's “Selected Shorts” not once but twice. Suffused with wanderlust, compassion, and no small amount of rock and roll... Note: “Amapola” was written for [Phoenix Noir](#) (\$15.95), the volume in the Akashic urban noir series edited by Patrick Millikin of our staff (still in print, still with Urrea's story therein).

Vachss, Andrew. [Drawing Dead](#) (\$15). Even the deadliest gangs in Chicagoland fear the Cross Crew, and carefully avoid their cinderblock bunker headquarters: Red 71 is well known as the last place you'd want to go . . . unless you're willing to risk it being the last place you ever go. As Cross catches the scent of a far-reaching conspiracy, he realizes that it all connects to an unexplained event in his past: a massacre from which he emerged inexplicably unscathed, save for the blue mark on his face that pulses when danger is near. That scar has been throbbing more frequently of late.... If he's reading the signs accurately, Cross might find himself again facing a terrible menace.... Vachss, doing something a bit different.

Vidal, Gore. [Thieves Fall Out](#) (\$9.95). I can understand the pull of publishing a Vidal from 1953 written as "Cameron Kay" but never reissued under Vidal's name. And there was a reason. It doesn't make it as historical fiction, or even pulp. I like the idea of a down-on-his-luck American hitting Cairo and willing to smuggle out an ancient relic while revolution is brewing, but despite its portrait of Egypt in turmoil this is dated...and boring.

Vidich, Paul. [An Honorable Man](#) (Atria \$24). So we're back in the Cold War again this month, this time in 1953 DC. McCarthyism is raging and Stalin's death signals a power vacuum in the Soviet Union. And the CIA is reeling from clear evidence of a double agent selling secrets to the Soviets, compromising missions round the world, facilitating assassinations and curtailing goals. The Director knows the mole's code name is Protocol. George Mueller would be perfect to help nail the traitor. Yale-educated, experienced in Eastern Europe, an op so dedicated he's sacrificed his marriage. But Mueller has secrets of his own, secrets that may bring suspicion ruinously to his door. Vidich reminds me of Joe Kanon in his work. "This looks like the launch of a great career in spy fiction." —*Booklist* Starred Review. "A moody debut spy novel inspired by real events...Dead-on Cold War fiction. Noir to the bone." —*Kirkus Reviews*

Warner, Benjamin. [Thirst](#) (Bloomsbury \$26). What would you do if all the water that wasn't bottled suddenly disappeared? In this tense debut thriller, Benjamin Warner, creative writing instructor at Towson University in Maryland, takes this premise and spins a fast-paced story about Eddie Chapman and his wife, Laura. After being stuck in a traffic jam for hours on his way home from work, Eddie can no longer wait for the police and ambulances to arrive. His phone is dead, so he has no way to call home, where he knows Laura will be waiting and worrying about him. Having run track in college, Eddie thinks he has the stamina to run the eight or nine miles to his house, so he abandons his car and sets off. He encounters clusters of people along the way, standing on the highway and then on the town's streets. They are all experiencing the same problems: no cell service, no electricity and no responses from any of the powers that be—police, ambulances, the power company or the water company. Worse yet, there's no water in anyone's taps.... Warner gives us a beautiful portrayal of a couple desperate for water, or anything that might quench their thirst, as they fade in and out of consciousness due to dehydration. The author does a stellar job of depicting the chaos that would ensue if water suddenly disappeared, with no explanations as to how or why it vanished or when it might return. The ways that strangers and neighbors alike respond to the crisis are reminiscent of moments in history when blackouts have stopped a city from functioning, and the way that the Chapmans respond

to the primeval need to drink is horrific and realistic at the same time. Make sure a tall glass of something cold is nearby when before enjoying *Thirst*. —Lee E. Carl. This is an obvious choice to read with Paolo Bacigalupi's [The Water Knife](#) (\$16), just out in paperback and highly recommended by us all.

White, Randy Wayne. [Florida Firefight](#) (\$12.99). A reissue of the first thriller in the Hawker series by White. A man holds twelve children hostage at gunpoint. Across the street, James Hawker dangles from a skyscraper, watching the terrorist through a sniper's scope. Hawker has a shot, and he wants to take it, but the police brass says no. By the time he gets permission, it will be far too late. The terrorist opens fire, killing two of the children before Hawker can take him out. When the smoke clears, the madman is dead, and Hawker's career is toast. No longer a cop, he's about to become America's deadliest defender. The father of one of the murdered children hires Hawker as a private vigilante, and gives him an unlimited bankroll to wage a nationwide fight against organized crime. The first battle will be fought in Florida, where drug smugglers have taken root like a cancer.

Yocum, Robin. [A Brilliant Death](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). A Midwestern mystery, atmospheric and making a loving tribute to the Ohio River valley. Travis Baron was an infant when his mother Amanda disappeared in a tragic boating accident, made the more so that 1953 Ohio night by word she was out screwing with a lover. After the accident and the subsequent publicity, Travis's father scoured the house of all evidence that Amanda Baron had ever lived, and her name was never to be uttered around him. Now in high school, Travis yearns to know more about his mother. With the help of his best friend, Mitch Malone, Travis begins a search for the truth about the mother he never knew. The two boys find an unlikely ally: an alcoholic former detective who served time for falsifying evidence. Although his reputation is in tatters, the information the detective provides about the death of Amanda Baron is indisputable—and dangerous. Nearly two decades after her death, Travis and Mitch piece together a puzzle lost to the dark waters of the Ohio River.

APRIL MASS MARKET PICKS

Adams, Ellery. [Breach of Crust](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Charmed Pie Shoppe #4. When she finds the body of Beatrice Burbank, the president of the high-society Camellia Club, floating in Lake Havenwood during their annual retreat, baker Ella Mae, who was hired to teach the members the tasty tricks of her trade, wonders what she's gotten herself mixed up in. If you like your cozy mysteries seasoned with a generous pinch of magic, the latest from Adams will be a sweet treat.

Burton, Mary. [Vulnerable](#) (Kensington \$9.99) Forensic technician Georgia Morgan teams up with homicide detective Jake Bishop to investigate a cold case that left two teens dead—and a third one traumatized and with no memory of the incident. Burton really knows how to jangle a reader's nerves, and if you enjoy authors like Lisa Jackson or Nora Roberts and haven't yet discovered Burton, you will definitely want to add her to your reading list.

Child, Lee. [Make Me](#) (\$9.99) Jack Reacher #20. *Why is this town called Mother's Rest?* That's all Reacher wants to know. But no one will tell him. It's a tiny place hidden in a thousand square miles of wheat fields, with a railroad stop, and sullen and watchful people, and a worried woman named Michelle Chang, who

mistakes him for someone else: her missing partner in a private investigation she thinks must have started small and then turned lethal. *PW* concluded their review by saying “The investigation takes the two from Mother’s Rest to Chicago, Arizona, Los Angeles, Silicon Valley—and to the Internet’s netherworld, the “Deep Web.” What they discover is beyond gruesome and almost beyond belief—it’s decidedly not for the faint of heart—but Child’s complete command of the story makes this thriller work brilliantly.”

Crawford, Isis. [A Catered Mother’s Day](#) (\$7.99) *Mysteries with Recipes* #11. It’s Mother’s Day in sleepy Longely, New York, and this year, catering sisters Bernie and Libby Simmons help a friend—who happens to be an overworked and underappreciated mom—go to extreme lengths to teach her family a lesson. But when a prank turns deadly, the Simmons sisters will have to cook up a plan to clear their pal’s name... *LJ* gobbled up Crawford’s latest mystery saying “The 11th title in Crawford’s charming culinary series (after *A Catered Fourth of July*) concocts the perfect recipe of family dynamics, tasty food, and fun. Diane Mott Davidson and Jerrilyn Farmer fans will find this delightful.”

Furlong, Susan. [Rest in Peach](#) (Berkley \$7.99) *Georgia Peach* #2. When the much-despised mother of the spoiled teenage Peach Queen is found murdered, Nola Mae Harper, who is coordinating both the cotillion dinner and the grand opening of her new shop, must prove that her friend, Ginny, is innocent of the crime by drawing out the real killer. Furlong’s new series is equal parts Southern sass and cozy charm.

Gates, Eva. [Reading Up a Storm](#) (NAL \$7.99) *Lighthouse Library* #3. The librarian at Bodie Island’s Lighthouse Library, Lucy Richardson, after a shipwrecked seafarer dies a few days after washing ashore, is once again roped into a murder investigation and must navigate a sea of suspects, all of whom had motives to kill the deceased.

Lee, Patrick. [Signal: A Sam Dryden Novel](#) (\$9.99) *Sam Dryden* #2. Joining a former colleague who needs help rescuing four kidnapped girls, Sam Dryden discovers that his friend has been secretly working to develop a world-changing technology that murderous adversaries would claim for their own agendas. *LJ*’s reviewer (like Pat King here at the bookstore) loved Lee’s latest concluding with “Lee’s thriller featuring a loner hero compares to Lee Child’s “Jack Reacher” series but with the added kick of technology. Readers will wait with bated breath for the next Dryden adventure.”

McKinlay, Jenn. [Vanilla Beaned Signed](#) (Berkley \$7.99) *Cupcake Bakery* #8. When they arrive in Las Vegas to open their first franchise of the Fairy Tale Cupcakes Bakery, Melanie Cooper and Angie DeLaura aren’t sure about turning their recipes over to brash former showgirl Holly Harzmark until a saboteur with a sweet tooth and a penchant for murder brings out a side of Holly that they both can relate to. Jenn will be one of the authors featured at the Poisoned Pen’s Cozy Con on Saturday May 7th.

Stevens, Chevy. [Always Watching](#) (\$7.99). In the lockdown ward of a psychiatric hospital, Dr. Nadine Lavoie is in her element. She has the tools to help people, and she has the desire-healing broken families is what she lives for. But Nadine doesn’t want to look too closely at her own past because there are whole chunks of her life that are black holes. When a distraught woman is brought into the Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit after a suicide attempt, Nadine

gently coaxes her story out of her—and learns of some troubling parallels with her own life. Steven’s first book *Still Missing* won the International Thriller Writer’s Award for best debut, and *LJ* had this to say about *Always Watching* “Stevens also knows how to shock without being graphic. Another winner from a thriller author whose reputation will only continue to grow.”

Unger, Lisa. [Crazy Love You](#) (\$7.99) Enjoying a successful career with his best friend Priss, a destructive friend who helped him escape bullies in childhood, Ian fears for his life when she becomes irrationally angry about Ian’s new relationship. Unger’s latest is definitely the kind of suspense novel that will have you double-checking to see that you have locked all the doors of your home. *LJ* concluded their review with “fans of mystery and suspense, along with Unger aficionados, will enjoy this imaginative tale, which may be the author’s best work yet.”

NEW IN MASS MARKET PAPERBACK

If the publisher is given the book is a paperback original

Albert, Susan W. [Bittersweet](#) (\$7.99) *China Bayles* #24. Planning to spend the Thanksgiving holiday on her mother’s ranch-turned-birdwatcher’s retreat, China learns that her mother’s divorcee helper has died in a suspicious accident that is tied to the murder of a local veterinarian.

Archer, Connie. [A Clue in the Stew](#) (Berkley \$7.99) *Soup Lover’s* #5. When she hosts an event with a famous author, small-town soup shop owner Lucky Jamieson is unprepared for the trouble that boils over when a colorful cast of characters descend on the town resulting in a murder that is linked to another recent unsolved crime.

Brown, Duffy. [Braking for Bodies](#) (Berkley \$7.99) *Cycle Path* #2. Starting a new life in Mackinac Island where she works at the local bike shop, Los Angeles transplant Evie Bloomfield finds herself cycling through her past when, after an old friend comes to the island, her former editor of a sleazy rag, who arrived unexpectedly, is found dead.

Burdette, Lucy. [Killer Takeout](#) (NAL \$7.99) *Food Critic* #7. While writing a piece on the mobile eateries at Key West’s weeklong Mardi Gras festival, food critic Hayley Snow discovers that murder is on the menu when her friend, the recently elected Queen of Fantasy Fest, is accused of knocking out her competition—permanently.

Cantrell, Janet. [Fat Cat Takes the Cake](#) (Berkley \$7.99) *Fat Cat* #3. When Ron North, a former classmate, throws a high school reunion to gather support for his mayoral campaign, and then winds up dead, Chase Oliver must clear her friend Julie’s name when she stands accused of murdering this man, who had been creepily obsessed with her.

Casey, Elizabeth. [Needle and Dread](#) (Penguin \$7.99) *Southern Sewing Circle* #11. To make her new sewing shop a success, Rose sponsors a series of do-it-yourself weekends for sewing enthusiasts, but her plan is unraveled by the murder of an argumentative guest and it is up to Tori and the gang to piece together the clues before Rose’s life is ripped apart at the seams.

Clark, Mary Higgins. [The Melody Lingers on](#) (\$7.99) A beloved aunt’s agreement to help her niece with college essays reawakens past secrets about the night a grandparent was murdered, an event that compels the woman to investigate a treasured music box to uncover the truth.

Collins, Kate. [Moss Hysteria](#) (NAL \$7.99) Flower Shop #18. When their idyllic new community is suddenly uprooted by murder, flower shop owner Abby Knight and her new husband, Marco, must weed through the suspects to catch a killer who is one bad seed.

Dyer-Seeley, Kate. [Silenced in the Surf](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Pacific Northwest #4. When she stumbles upon the dead body of Justin Cruise, a celebrity windsurfer—and a huge jerk—reporter Meg Reed, covering the King of the Hook event for Portland's Northwest Extreme magazine, must dive right in to solve the crime and keep a killer off balance.

Eastman, Dawn. [An Unhappy Medium](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Family Fortune #4. All of Crystal Haven, Michigan, is psyching up to participate in a Zombie Fun Run organized by Clyde Fortune's nephew Seth, but Clyde is fretful about the undead festivities. For one thing, her sister, Grace, has unexpectedly returned to town after fifteen years. For another, Clyde has the nagging feeling that something is about to go wrong...

Evanovich, Jane. [Wicked Charms](#) (\$8.99) Diesel #3. Lizzy's culinary efforts at Dazzles Bakery are put on hold once again when she embarks on a new mystery with Diesel involving the protection of the Seven Stones of Power.

Flower, Amanda. [Crime and Poetry](#) (NAL \$7.99) Magical Bookshop #1. Returning home to Cascade Springs, New York, to help her Grandmother Daisy run her magical store, Charming Books, where the books literally fly off the shelves, Violet Waverly must clear Daisy's name when the body of a dead man is found clutching a book from her shop.

Hearon, Leigh. [Reining in Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Carson Stables #1. After rehabilitating a thoroughbred that was injured in a suspicious auto accident, horse trainer Annie Carson is happy to deliver the healthy animal to Hilda Colbert, only to find that the neurotic and controlling horse owner is dead.

Hollis, Lee. [Death of a Bacon Heiress](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Food and Cocktails #7. For food-and-cocktails columnist Hayley Powell, an invitation to do a cooking demo on one of daytime's most popular talk shows turns sour when a posh bacon heiress winds up dead.

Le Carré, John. [Night Manager \(TV Tie-In Edition\)](#) (\$9.99) A spy known as Thomas, working for British Intelligence, attempts to infiltrate the entourage of Roper, an Englishman fitting together the pieces for a monumental arms-for-cocaine deal in this re-release of the classic espionage novel by Le Carré first published in 1993 and now the source for a new AMC miniseries. Susan, the newest addition to the Poisoned Pen staff, is a big fan of Le Carré.

Watterson, Kate. [Fractured](#) (\$7.99) Ellie MacIntosh #4. Detective Ellie MacIntosh investigates what she believes is the work of a serial killer, while her partner, Jason Santiago, wrestles with making a non-platonic move on her.

Woods, Stuart. [Naked Greed](#) (\$9.99) Stone Barrington #34. Who knew beer making and distribution could cause so much trouble? Stone Barrington finds out when he rescues a prominent brewery owner from two rogue policemen.