

BOOKNEWS from

ISSN 1056-5655, © The Poisoned Pen, Ltd.
Volume 28, Number 6
May Booknews 2016
sales@poisonedpen.com tel (888)560-9919
http://poisonedpen.com

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



A MAGICAL MAY...

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

TUESDAY MAY 3 7:00 PM

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

WEDNESDAY MAY 4 7:00 PM Outlaws!

LS Hilton sign [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)

THURSDAY MAY 5 7:00 PM Outlander!

Diana Gabaldon and KC Dyer sign [Finding Fraser](#) (Berkley \$15)
Only books by either author purchased at this event can be Signed

SATURDAY MAY 7 1:00 PM

COZY CON Giveaways and treats

Paul Charles signs [St. Ernan's Blues](#) (Dufour \$29) Inspector Starrett
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)

TUESDAY MAY 10 7:00 PM

Ace Atkins signs [Robert B Parker's Slow Burn](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Spenser

SATURDAY MAY 14 10:30 AM

Coffee & Crime discusses Charles Finch's [The September Society](#) (\$15.99), the second Charles Lenox Victorian mystery

TUESDAY MAY 17 7:00 PM

Nevada Barr signs [Boar Island](#) (St Martins \$26.99) Anna Pigeon
Come with a special postcard created for our copies

WEDNESDAY MAY 18 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime Club discusses Richard Price's [The Whites](#) (\$16)

THURSDAY MAY 19 7:00 PM

Dan Fesperman signs [The Letter Writer](#) (Knopf \$26.95) WWII
Alex Grecian signs [Lost and Gone Forever](#) (Putnam \$26.95)
Scotland Yard Murder Squad #5

FRIDAY MAY 20 7:00 PM

SciFi Book Club discusses Jaye Wells' [Dirty Magic](#) (\$15)

SATURDAY MAY 21 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger discusses Thomas Perry's first Jane Whitefield, [Vanishing Act](#) (\$7.99)

SATURDAY MAY 21 3:00 PM Longmire

Craig Johnson signs [The Highwayman](#) (Viking \$20) Walt Longmire
Our copies come with a Wyoming Speeding Ticket
Johnson also appears at The Museum of the West at 12:30 PM

MONDAY MAY 23 7:00 PM

Gini Koch signs [Camp Alien](#) (Daw \$7.99) Alien Novels #13

TUESDAY MAY 24 7:00 PM

Michael McGarrity signs [The Last Ranch](#) (Dutton \$28.95) American West Trilogy #3

WEDNESDAY MAY 25 7:00 PM A Palmer Family Trio

Daniel Palmer signs [Mercy](#) (St Martins \$27.99), in father Michael's tradition
Matthew Palmer signs [The Wolf of Sarajevo](#) (Putnam \$27.95) International Suspense

THURSDAY MAY 26 7:00 PM Thrillers!

Boyd Morrison interviews **Steve Hamilton**
Steve Hamilton signs [The Second Life of Nick Mason](#) (Putnam \$26) Thriller Club Pick
Morrison signs [Piranha](#) (\$9.99) Oregon Files

FRIDAY MAY 27 7:00 PM

James Sallis and Three Legged Dog play

SUNDAY MAY 29 1:00 PM

John Hart signs [Redemption Road](#) (St Martins \$27.99)

MONDAY MAY 30 CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

TUESDAY MAY 31

No event, but on sale date for Clive Cussler/Grant Blackwood. [The Emperor's Revenge](#) (Putnam \$29), signed by both authors

WEDNESDAY JUNE 1 7:00 PM SciFi Party

A large group of sci-fi/fantasy stars gathers at The Pen to sign and socialize

Host: Kevin Hearne. Confirmed: **Brandon Sanderson, Pierce Brown, Beth Cato, Adam Christopher, Ryan Dalton, Leanna Renee Hieber, Jason Hough, Mary Robinette Kowal, Tom Leveen, Michael Martinez, VE Schwab, Scott Sigler, Michael J. Sullivan, Sam Sykes, Dan Wells, Django Wexler**

EVENT BOOKS

Atkins, Ace. [Robert B Parker's Slow Burn](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Atkins is settling into Spenser, displaying assured dialogue peppered with Parker-brand humor and introducing a narrative where we hear from the perps from the get-go. The fire at a boarded-up Catholic church raged hot and fast, lighting up Boston's South End and killing three firefighters who were trapped in the inferno. A year later, as the city prepares to honor their sacrifice, there are still no answers about how the deadly fire started. Most at the department believe it was just a simple accident: faulty wiring in a century-old building. But Boston firefighter Jack McGee, who lost his best friend in the blaze, suspects arson. McGee is convinced department investigators aren't sufficiently connected to the city's lowlifes to get a handle on who's behind the blaze—so he takes the case to Spenser. Spenser quickly learns not only that McGee might be right, but that the fire might be linked to a rash of new arsons, spreading through the city, burning faster and hotter every night. Spenser, Hawk, and his apprentice Sixkill follow the trail of fires to Boston's underworld ... 5th in Atkins' Spensers; order them [here](#).

Barr, Nevada. [Boar Island](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Publication day so ask for a dated copy. Anna Pigeon may be growing older but she can still sustain both emotional and physical knocks. An assignment to act as Chief Ranger at Maine's Acadia National Park coincides with the desire of her paraplegic friend Heath Jarrod to remove her adopted teenager Elizabeth from near-suicidal despair over a vicious internet bullying campaign conducted by some troll. Elizabeth fears it's her former best-friend and next-door neighbor, adding to the hurt. So the women plus Heath Aunt Gwenn all remove to a Maine and into a house on a cliff at tiny Boar Island near the park. But the stalker follows them east. And a brutal murder goes down when Anna has barely arrived at Acadia. Heath, learning to use a costly and exhausting exoskeleton is dismayed to discover she and Elizabeth aren't alone on the otherwise deserted island. And so.... Some of Barr's most vibrant writing brings you straight into this narrative. The publisher has created a special postcard from Boar Island to lay into our copies of this book which delivers not only a surprising story but superb writing. You can read this without having read any of the earlier Pigeons although it will be a spoiler for [Destroyer Angel](#) (\$9.99) if you haven't yet devoured it. Barr's superb, Edgar-winning series and other books can all be ordered [here](#).

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.

Charles, Paul. [St. Ernan's Blues](#) (Dufour \$29). A lone building on a small island off Ireland's Donegal coast, St Ernan's is politely known as a "retirement home" for priests. The exiled residents are guilty of such serious offenses as entrepreneurship, criticizing the church, or getting too friendly with the flock. But things take a turn when Fr. Matthew McKaye is found dead in the kitchen, a pot of potatoes boiling on the range. Has one of these isolated outcasts committed murder? Starrett soon discovers that ten clergy alone on an island can concoct a great deal of mischief. Long-buried grievances are awakened by the ghosts of Starrett's seminarian past, and though Starrett excels at untangling facts from speculation, this investigation is going to require all the procedural discipline he can muster. "Charles makes Starrett's third case leisurely, literate, ingenious, improbable, and as old-fashioned as the idea that priests are pillars of private morality."—*Kirkus Reviews*

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 projects 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.

Dyer, KC. [Finding Fraser](#) (Berkley \$15). On the cusp of thirty, Emma Sheridan is desperately in need of a change. After a string of failed relationships, she can admit that no man has ever lived up to her idea of perfection: the Scottish fictional star of romantic fantasies the world over—James Alexander Malcolm MacKenzie Fraser. Her ideal man might be ripped from the pages of a book, but Emma hopes that by making one life-altering decision she might be able to turn fiction into fact. After selling all her worldly possessions, Emma takes off for Scotland with nothing but her burgeoning travel blog to confide in. But as she scours the country's rolling green hills and crumbling castles, Emma discovers that in searching for her own Jamie Fraser, she just might find herself. "Jamie Fraser would be Deeply Grati^{fi}ed at having inspired such a charmingly funny, poignant story—and so am I."—Diana Gabaldon. "I loved this book. It transported me to a Scotland I wished I'd grown up in. Everything about it is a delight, and it's all authentic—the environment, the characters, the dialogue and the sheer enjoyment of it all."—Jack Whyte

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! **Our May Hardboiled Crime Pick.** Fesperman, winner of the John Creasey and Ian Fleming Steel Daggers and the Hammett Prize, has earlier books you can order [here](#).

Grecian, Alex. [Lost and Gone Forever](#) (Putnam \$26.95) picks up a year after the events of 2015's [The Harvest Man](#) (\$16), which ended with Day's abduction by none other than Jack the Ripper. The Ripper, who remains unidentified, is on a mission of revenge after escaping from the Karstphanomen, a society of prominent men, whose members caught him asleep over the corpse of a prostitute and then confined and tortured him. The Ripper is also playing mind games with Day, allowing him his freedom after the policeman no longer remembers who he is. Day struggles to stay alive on the streets of London, while his close friend and former colleague, Nevil Hammersmith, has opened a private enquiry agency whose sole goal is to find him. Order all five Scotland Yard Murder Squad investigations [here](#).

Hamilton, Steve. [The Second Life of Nick Mason](#) (Putnam \$26). John Charles reviews this start to a new series by Edgar-winner Hamilton: When Nick Mason entered the Illinois State Penitentiary, he was scheduled to serve 25 years to life for his crimes. Thanks to fellow inmate Darius Cole, Nick is walking out with a clean record after spending only five years behind bars. Not only is Nick free, Darius has lined up a lucrative job as an assistant manager at one of his restaurants in Chicago, and he is letting Nick live in his palatial home in Lincoln Park West. The only thing Nick has to do in return is immediately answer the cell phone given to him by one of Darius' business associates when it rings and reply "yes" to whatever he is asked to do. Nick soon discovers he has traded one kind of prison for another. I must admit I was totally sucked into this book, which is nothing like the traditional and cozy mysteries I usually read. Don't plan on getting any sleep once you begin Hamilton's latest superior thriller since the book's fast-paced, high adrenaline plot races along like one of the souped-up classic cars Nick loves to drive.

Harris, CS. [When Falcons Fall](#) (NAL \$25.95). I live for each chapter in Harris' Regency series. The plots are nail-biters but it's the characters who leap right off the page and seize your throat and your heart. At the core lies an unending search for identity—and not just for Sebastian. The history is nifty, too. Ayleswick-on-Teme, 1813. Sebastian St. Cyr, Viscount Devlin, has come to this seemingly peaceful Shropshire village to honor a slain friend and on a quest to learn more about his own ancestry. But when the body of a lovely widow is found on the banks of the River Teme, a bottle of laudanum at her side, the village's inexperienced new magistrate turns to St. Cyr for help. Almost immediately, Sebastian realizes that Emma Chance did not, in truth, take her own life. Less easy to discern is exactly how she died, and why. And who Emma really was. Also troubling are the machinations of Lucien Bonaparte, the estranged brother of the megalomaniac French Emperor Napoleon. Held captive under the British government's watchful eye, the younger Bonaparte is restless, ambitious, and treacherous. This series demands you read it in order so please get started by ordering the books [here](#).

Hart, John. [Redemption Road](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Pat Conroy may be no more, but the spirit of the Southern Gothic lives on in two-time Edgar winner Hart who has produced his first novel in five years. What we have is a serial killer operating around a mid-size North Carolina city and a veteran homicide officer, too driven by her job, who faces suspension and charges for gunning down a perp while freeing a young girl captive. Plus there's a former cop about to be released for a killing he may not have committed and the victim's son on a collision course to exact revenge. The May Indie Next Pick: "Hart weaves several plotlines together in this masterful crime novel: the former cop serving hard time for a crime he didn't commit; the son who awaits his mother's killer's release while planning revenge; the girl whose brutal attackers were tortured and assassinated; and Liz, the cop at the heart of all of these stories who is, herself, wanted by the police. Like the best crime dramas, there are characters to love, characters to hate, outcomes to root for, and a resolution that readers will not foresee. This book should put John Hart on every reader's radar." Order Hart's earlier novels [here](#).

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.

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 in the planned trilogy. The Indie Next Pick for a First Mystery Club Pick: "Get ready to tear through this hedonistic and refreshingly sex-positive thriller that hits all the right notes. Hilton sets her amoral heroine, Judith, amidst the shallow elegance of the European art world. While Judith is deeply enamored with the lifestyles of the rich and famous, she is also a razor-sharp critic of bad taste and human softness, sniffing out and exploiting male weakness with gusto. She is utterly void of empathy, yet oddly sympathetic. I'll be recommending this novel to everyone I know with a strong constitution and an appreciation for intensity!" The *PW* Starred Review for this First Mystery Club Pick adds: "As Judith assumes and sheds identities as effortlessly as her Louboutins during a twisty series of increasingly treacherous escapades (several X-rated), Hilton artfully conjures a glossy world where just about everything—and everyone—has its price."

Johnson, Craig. [The Highwayman](#) (Viking \$20). Wyoming's scenic Wind River Canyon provides the setting for this atmospheric Walt Longmire novella, an update, according to Johnson in the acknowledgments, of a Charles Dickens ghost

story, “The Signal-Man.” For three months, Rosey Wayman, a Highway Patrol officer, has been on duty in the canyon, and on some nights, she receives a distress call on her radio: “officer needing assistance.” Rosey, who’s due for a psychiatric evaluation, thinks the call is from Bobby Womack—a patrolman who perished nearly 50 years earlier while trying to stop a runaway fuel tanker in a canyon tunnel. Longmire, the sheriff of Absaroka County, and his sidekick, Henry Standing Bear, assume there has to be a natural explanation, but in their search for the truth they learn some surprising things about Bobby and the long-ago theft of a cache of Morgan silver dollars. You don’t have to be a fan of Longmire, the hit Netflix series, to appreciate this clever tale. Order all the Longmires [here](#).

Kaehler, Tammy. [Red Flags](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Kaehler’s exciting, pedal-to-metal fourth Kate Reilly mystery takes the race car driver to Long Beach to compete with her team in the Grand Prix. It’s her first race with a new sponsor that’s also funding an IndyCar test drive and a ride in next year’s Indy 500—along with future possibilities in NASCAR. The downside? New sponsor Frame Savings is owned by her family, and its management, outside of her long-estranged father, is unfriendly to her...even rivalrous. This escalates when her arrival coincides with a murder. Her cousin Billy is found dead, with Kate’s card in his pocket. The cops want to know why. Grand Prix sponsors and race organizers—eager to keep racing’s image clean—want Kate to investigate. Doubting she can solve another murder, especially that of a relative she despised, Kate reluctantly agrees. Inevitably, the field of suspects includes the family. *Red Flags* is a thriller, Dick Francis style, if racing on a different kind of track. Like Francis, Kaehler textures the story with issues that beset professional sports figures, like training, sponsorship, and coping with celebrity. Kate’s gig coaching a gorgeous and talented actress for a celebrity race brings Kate into the orbit of Hollywood’s hottest bachelor. Soon she’s dodging unwelcome paparazzi. Her ballooning media exposure goes national, testing her composure and forcing her to get ahead of the stories—whether critical or flattering. Yet Kate is actively seeking media attention for more breast cancer awareness. I love the way Kaehler tackles the question—Why would a race car driver be mixed up in crime so often?—head on. Among the great reviews (other than my own) is this from *PW*: “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.” [Click here](#) to order Kate’s first three high-speed investigations.

Koch, Gini. [Camp Alien](#) (Daw \$7.99) Alien Novels #13. The President and First Lady, aka Jeff and Kitty Katt-Martini, don’t get any downtime once the Mastermind has been revealed to the world. Not only do they have myriad high-level government positions to fill, but the scrutiny and pressure on this Administration has gone into overdrive. The sudden reappearance of a long-forgotten adversary turns out to be the tip of the iceberg. New robots and androids attacking, old enemies making new alliances, and new aliens with interesting abilities almost overshadow the fact that the U.S. still has to host a peace summit at Camp David between Israel and Iraq. It’s clear that while the Mastermind may be down, there are plenty of others ready to

take his place—and all that stands between them and success are Kitty and Company. Kidnappings, rescues, creepy hideouts, a hidden black site, and a domestic dispute that could end Jeff and Kitty’s marriage are nothing compared to finding not one but two hidden labs where dangerous and deadly things are brewing.

McGarrity, Michael. [The Last Ranch](#) (Dutton \$28.95) concludes the New Mexico ranching family [American West Trilogy](#) after *Hard Country* and *Badlands* from the author of the Kevin Kearny mysteries. When Matthew Kerney returns to his ranch in the beautiful San Andres Mountains after serving in Sicily during World War II, he must not only fight to recover physically and emotionally from a devastating war injury, but he must also battle attempts by the U.S. Army to seize control of his land for expanded weapons testing. Forced off public grazing lands, banned from gathering his cattle on high mountain pastures, and confronted by military police guarding a high security army post on the northern reaches of the range, Matt finds himself at the center of a heavy-handed government land-grab. The reasons behind this surge of secrecy and control become clear when Matt witnesses the boiling, blinding explosion of the first atom bomb at Trinity Site. As he struggles with an aging, stove-up father no longer able to carry a heavy load at the ranch, an ex-convict intent on killing him, and a failing relationship with a woman he dearly loves, Matt must draw upon all his mental and physical resources to keep his world—and the people in it—from collapsing.

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. Where better than Vegas? 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. Order the first 7 in the Cupcake Bakery series [here](#).

Palmer, Daniel. [Mercy](#) (St Martins \$27.99). The *PW* Starred Review for an author whose work I think is fabulous in suspense and who is now writing in the tradition of his father Michael. “Boston doctor Julie Devereux, a divorced mother and the heroine of this outstanding second posthumous collaboration (after 2015’s *Trauma*) between Daniel Palmer and his father, Michael (1942–2013), is on the verge of marrying the love of her life, Sam Talbot. But everything changes when Sam is left a quadriplegic after a motorcycle accident. Sam’s requests that Julie let him die place her in an especially difficult spot, as she has been a passionate advocate of death with dignity. Tragically, just as Sam begins to be receptive to a support group for the paralyzed, he dies from a heart attack. Baffled by this turn of events, Julie turns sleuth, only to find that something disturbing is going on at her hospital, something the reader has known since the prologue, which depicts an unnamed doctor administering a fatal dose of medication to a patient he considers to have “no business living.” Ample, plausible twists combined with well-developed characters add up to a superior thriller that grapples with the ethics of euthanasia.” Order Daniel’s earlier suspense [here](#).

Palmer, Matthew. [The Wolf of Sarajevo](#) (Putnam \$27.95). From his First Mystery Pick *The American Mission* to this his third, Palmer has blended his 25-years Foreign Service *mojo* with his family's literary skills. The Balkans provide the setting for Palmer's meticulously crafted third international thriller. His new fan Karen of our staff reviews: Palmer has told a non-stop thriller encompassing a barbaric history that refuses to die, a love story, and players with similar goals, but different agendas. Eric and Sarah attempt to combine diplomatic and political approaches, stretching the processes and procedures of their agencies, for the greater good. For Eric, he made a choice twenty years ago that resulted in the death of his friend and is unaware of how the consequence of that decision has motivated him in his attempt to avoid another Balkan war. Sarah, his former lover, looks for avoiding another war but has added to that goal one of power and control. The underlying agendas, between those in charge and those with more altruistic goals drive a suspense that never wanes. The reader is given lessons in human behavior, how history repeats itself, and the resourceful, creative talents that can be brought to the table. This is one of those "I don't want to put down" titles. Well written, engaging characters, sometimes stating an amazing grasp of the obvious, insight to machinations of diplomacy, and the crippling capacity of political structures so prevalent in many governments. Order Matt's books [here](#).

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. For a wonderful, longer review, please read the April Book Notes by John Charles. He says, in part, "Lillian is a terrific new sleuth with an addictively acerbic sense of wit (I can just picture Rosalind Russell playing her), and combined with the cool, competent Edith Head (who won 8 Academy Awards over the course of her long career), they make the perfect detective team. I gobbled up this wonderfully entertaining debut which is chockfull of entertaining tidbits about the Golden Age of Hollywood."

Perri, Camille. [The Assistants](#) (Putnam \$25). 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. "Never mind that poking fun at executive assistants and their bosses is like kicking dinosaur bones—the era of EAs is all but over since every future CEO kid with a cell phone can auto-load his own calendar and smart-pay his expenses. Nor does Perri ask why young liberal arts majors choose to take on huge student debts and live in one of the country's most expensive cities. Her raucous set-up is too sweet to quibble over details. Rather, we

should just sit back and let a smart, funny writer entertain." — Bruce Jacobs on a **Modern Firsts Club Pick**.

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

Armstrong, Kelley. [City of the Lost](#) (St Martins \$27). Best known for her books set in the supernatural Otherworld universe, Canadian Armstrong introduces homicide detective Casey Duncan, who's haunted by a violent crime she once committed. Duncan's best friend, Diana Berry, also has a traumatic past: an abusive ex-husband determined to find her. After the latest beating, Diana persuades Duncan to go on the run with her once more—this time to the self-sustaining town of Rockton in the wilds of Canada's Yukon Territory, a place managed and financed by investors for people seeking refuge. Rockton's sheriff, a native to the town, is reluctant to let the two women join the community, but Duncan's skills as a detective are needed to investigate a series of gruesome murders. Duncan finds that some residents have made it to Rockton under false pretenses—and are more dangerous than anyone imagined, perhaps more dangerous than being driven out into the woods that abuts the town. This unusual set-up demands a suspension of disbelief. . . and remember, Rockton isn't Three Pines!

⌘Atherton, Nancy. [Aunt Dimity and the Buried Treasure](#) (Viking \$25.95) is the 21st paranormal cozy featuring Lori Shepherd highlights the benefits and hazards of uncovering the past. In the attic of her house in the Cotswolds village of Finch, Lori comes across a gold bracelet inlaid with garnets that must have belonged to her ghostly aunt, Dimity Westwood. This discovery prompts Dimity to tell the story of a post-WWII misunderstanding with a man she knew only as Badger; she asks Lori to try to locate Badger, even though he would be almost 90 years old. Reluctantly, Lori agrees to visit Dimity's old stomping grounds in London, where she encounters three pensioners known as the Battle of Britain boys, who put her on the right trail. Meanwhile, "metal detectorist" James Hobson arrives in Finch, causing a stir with his hobby. The use of a metal detector by various villagers produces objects that reveal things better left hidden. Atherton smoothly blends history, village life, and the otherworldly.

Axelrod, Steven. [Nantucket Grand](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Axelrod's characters span the spectrum from homey and nice to proudly nasty. Fans of Spencer Fleming's Russ Van Alstyne and Frederick Ramsay's Ike Schwartz will enjoy Henry's literary leanings and dogged determination to protect his island and its residents."—*PW*. And, I add, those of Chris Knopf. "An intricate chain of crimes set off during Nantucket's avowedly quiet season leaves the shrewd poet/police chief little time for versification. When Jared Bromley tries to return a biology textbook to the

object of his adoration, his classmate Alana Trikilis, he sees her leaving her house with another boy. Worried that she's being taken by force, he follows the two to a supposedly uninhabited cottage at the east end of Nantucket and ends up rescuing Alana from a dangerous situation. Daisy DeHart, the school psychologist Jared sees inside the cottage, has been recruiting girls for porn movies, and Alana has gone there hoping to help Jill Phelan, another high school girl who's caught up in the ring. The other people inside the cottage are so menacing that Alana and Jared don't dare tell the police. But the NPD chief, LA transplant Henry Kennis, is pulled in when Jill overdoses on a new kind of drug...Then Oscar Graham's body is found floating in a salt marsh, the one holdout in a family land sale is murdered, and an obsession turned to mania threatens to rend Nantucket. A beautiful island made ugly by class warfare makes a convincing backdrop for Chief Kennis' third case."—*Kirkus Reviews*. Unsigned paperback edition: [Nantucket Grand](#) (\$15.95). Order all three Kennis mysteries [here](#).

Backman, Ove. [Britt-Marie Was Here](#) (Atria \$26). The Indie Next Pick: "Backman's incomparable novels celebrate and revolve around unlikely protagonists: a curmudgeonly widower in [A Man Called Ove](#) (\$16); a girl on the autism spectrum in [My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You a Story](#) (\$16); and now, Britt-Marie, an order-obsessed, cleanliness-loving woman of a certain age. Having left her two-timing husband, Britt-Marie takes a job in the small, depressed town of Borg, and magic begins to happen. *Britt-Marie Was Here* is another warm-hearted delight!" Library Reads for May adds: "Britt-Marie is a woman who is used to her life being organized. But when she leaves her cheating spouse and takes a temporary job as caretaker of the recreation center in the tiny town of Borg, her life changes in unpredictable ways. With its wonderful cast of oddball characters and sly sense of humor, this novel is sure to capture readers' hearts. Highly recommended."

Belfer, Lauren. [And After the Fire](#) (Harper \$28). Another **Modern Firsts Club Pick** earns some awesome reviews: "An intellectual thriller and a beautiful love story. What if you came into possession of an historical artifact with the power to alter history and change the world? Sure to establish Belfer as a fearless, provocative writer. Impossible to put down." — Sara Gruen. "A remarkably suspenseful story, a literary thriller in the tradition of A.S. Byatt's *Possession*." — *Kirkus Reviews*. "[A] compelling blend of fact and fiction... Based on impressive research, this remarkable novel spans centuries and continents, touching finally on the Holocaust and serving as a paean to Bach's music while acknowledging the composer's expressed hatred of Jews." — *Booklist Starred Review*. "Blending the gorgeousness of Bach and the horror of anti-Semitism over several centuries should make for unsettling contemplation, and readers of Belfer's... know that the author will be meticulous with both fact and fiction." — *Library Journal*

✦Billingham, Mark. [Die of Shame](#) (LittleBrown \$32.99). It's interesting that Bingham goes with shame as a push in our so confessional age. Every Monday evening, six people gather in a smart North London house to talk about shame. A respected doctor, a well-heeled housewife, a young male prostitute... they could not be more different. All they have in common is a history of addiction. But when one of the group is murdered, it quickly becomes apparent that someone else in that circle is responsible.

The investigation is hampered by the strict confidentiality that binds these individuals and their therapist together, which makes things difficult for Detective Inspector Nicola Tanner, a woman who can appreciate the desire to keep personal matters private. If she is to find the killer, she will need to use less obvious means. The question is: What could be shameful enough to cost someone his life?

✦Carey, MR. [Fellside](#) (Orbit UK \$39). **Our May SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick**. As the prosecution presented it, the evidence was clear: Jess and her boyfriend, John, both heroin addicts, had fought. Jess, high and out of her mind with anger, set the apartment ablaze with the intent to kill her boyfriend. He escaped, she was rescued from the flames in the depths of an opiate fog, and Alex was the fire's only victim. 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, begging her for help. She didn't kill him, he says, but she can find out who did. M.R. Carey's (The Girl with All the Gifts) prose is elegant and streamlined, with occasional lush imagery bubbling up out of the darkness. *Fellside* is dark, much darker than many thrillers that feature more brutal crimes or more explicitly evil villains, but its appeal lies in its unflinching depiction of powerlessness

Cavanagh, Steve. [The Defense](#) (Flatiron \$25.99). **A First Mystery Club Pick**. 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... Readers will have no trouble suspending disbelief." The bombs are truly terrifying as is the total ruthlessness on display. Fred Ramsay writes of the Russian Bratva, product of the 1990s post *glasnost*, in July's *Danger Woman*, as does Steve Berry in April's *The 14th Colony*—this is reinforcement.

✦Cleave, Chris. [Everyone Brave Is Forgiven](#) (Simon & Schuster \$26). Cleave draws from his grandparents' courtship amid the ravages of World War II in London and Malta to tell the story of Mary North, the idealistic 18-year-old daughter of an ambitious politician and his aristocratic wife. When war breaks out, Mary dreams of being a spy, but is assigned to teach school. It is a position below her station but she becomes passionate about her students. When the children are evacuated to the English countryside, Mary persuades Tom, an education administrator, to give her a class of forgotten children to teach—those who are handicapped, or black, or who refuse to leave or are rejected by their host families. The experience awakens in her indignation

at the casual racism and elitism of her peers, and sparks a love affair with Tom, who has decided to remain in London to teach while his best friend and flat mate, Alistair, enlists. Tom is sweet and dependable but no match for Mary's spirited convictions, setting up a triangle. Here is a strikingly honest look at the changes that war creates on a country's landscape and its people, reflected in the progressive style of the narrative. Bit by bit, we are privy to each character's transformation. The Indie Next Pick: "Storytelling at its finest. Ranging from the decimated streets of London after the Nazi blitz in World War II to the barren island of Malta under siege, Cleave's mastery is to introduce readers to characters in the midst of chaos who will bring humanity to the sordid landscape of war. A book that will leave you both laughing and crying on the same page, *Everyone Brave Is Forgiven* reminds readers about the power of a novel in telling the fascinating stories of everyday people living in extraordinary times." Clearly the mad success of 2015's *All the Light You Cannot See*, a Modern Firsts Club Pick, is inspiring other authors to create stories springing from the 1930s and the war as well as from WWI.

Connolly, John. [A 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. 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.

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....?

Cussler, Clive/Grant Blackwood. [The Emperor's Revenge](#) (Putnam \$29 Signed by Both Authors). **On sale May 31.** Oregon Files #2 with this team. Juan Cabrillo and the crew of the Oregon face their toughest challenge yet when a violent bank heist during the Monaco Grand Prix decimates the Corporation's accounts. To get the money back, Juan joins forces with an old friend from his days in the CIA so they can track down a rogue hacker and a ruthless former Ukrainian naval officer. It is only after the hunt begins that the enormity of the plan comes into focus: the bank theft is just the first step in a plot that will result in the deaths of millions and bring the world's economies to a standstill. The catalyst for the scheme? A stunning document stolen during Napoleon's disastrous invasion of Russia. But two hundred years later, it may be the thing that brings Europe to its knees. Morrison began writing the Oregon series last year with [Piranha](#) (\$9.99; \$28.95).

DeLillo, Don. [Zero K](#) (Scribner \$26). One of the Starred Reviews: "DeLillo's 17th novel features a man arriving at a strange, remote compound (we are told the nearest city is

Bishkek)—a set-up similar to a few other DeLillo books, *Mao II* and *Ratner's Star* among them. This time, the protagonist is Jeffrey Lockhart, who is joining his billionaire father, Ross, to say good-bye to Ross's second wife (and Jeffrey's stepmother), Artis. The compound is the home of the Convergence, a scientific endeavor that preserves people indefinitely; in Artis' case, it's until there's a cure for her ailing health. But as with any novel by DeLillo, our preeminent brain-needler, the plot is window dressing for his preoccupations: obsessive sallies into death, information, and all kinds of other things. Longtime readers will not be surprised that there's a two-page rumination on mannequins. But a few components elevate *Zero K*, which is among DeLillo's finest work. And his focus and curiosity have moved far into the future: much of this novel's (and Ross's) attention is paid to humankind's relationship and responsibility to what's to come. What's left behind and forgotten is the present, here represented by Jeffrey, the son whom Ross abandoned when he was 13. DeLillo sneaks a heartbreaking story of a son attempting to reconnect with his father into his thought-provoking novel."

Erdrich, Louise. [LaRose](#) (Harper \$27.99). The May Indie Next Pick: "When a hunting accident results in the death of his neighbor's son, Landreaux Iron follows native tradition and offers his own son, LaRose, to the bereaved family. Thus begins a powerful story of anger, love, hurt, and joy among a group of families and neighbors living in a small community in the North Dakota hinterland. Erdrich's luminous prose captures each character's struggle to overcome their worst impulses—whether it's a handicapped man's long-nurtured quest for revenge, or the pain of a mother withholding her love from her daughter—and reaches into the distant past to reveal the story of the young boy's namesake, the original LaRose. Muted on the surface, but with a heart that beats strong, Erdrich's latest novel is a book to be treasured."

Estleman, Loren D. [Cape Hell](#) (Forge \$27). U. S. Deputy Page Murdock is ordered by Federal Judge Harlan A. Blackthorne to Cape Hell, Mexico, to verify a report that former Confederate Captain Oscar Childress is raising an army to take over Mexico City—and then intends to turn north to rekindle the Civil War. Childress, it seems, has the weapons, wealth, and moral compass to do it. Unable to talk himself out of the mission, Murdock heads south on a steam train named El Espanto—The Ghost. With only Hector Cansado, an engineer who can't be trusted and Joseph, a Native American fireman with a few secrets of his own, Murdock hurtles through the murderous desert of a foreign land toward a man bent on wholesale massacre...unless Murdock can stop him. This is some of virtuoso Estleman's best prose, spare, razor-sharp, full bore.

Hall, Rachel Howzell. [Trail of Echoes](#) (Forge \$25.99). Signed June 21. When the body of 13-year-old Chanita Lords turns up in a duffel bag in a park early in Hall's suspenseful third mystery featuring LAPD homicide detective Elouise "Lou" Norton, Lou and her partner, Colin Taggart, initially focus on a sex offender who's a neighbor of the victim in the housing projects, but it's soon obvious things are not quite what they seem. In the sprawling Los Angeles cityscape, racial tensions still run deep, and the dogged Lou, who grew up in the same projects as Chanita, is careful never to forget where she was raised and

how far she's come. She's also witty, and the banter between her and Colin brings some welcome levity to the dark deeds they're investigating. Meanwhile, recently divorced Lou is getting used to being single, and her father, who left her when she was a kid, reenters her life. Readers weary of the dour, pessimistic detectives so common to genre can relate to Lou. Those hungry for chills will be satisfied as the action builds to a surprising, terrifying climax. Order the two earlier Lou Nortons [here](#).

✂Harris, Joanne. [Different Class](#) (Doubleday \$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.

Hewson, David. [Little Sister](#) (Pan \$35). Kim and Mia Timmers were just eleven years old when their family was killed. The sisters were accused of murdering the lead singer of a world-famous pop band in the Dutch fishing village of Volendam, believing him to be responsible for their family's deaths. The evidence seemed irrefutable at the time and the sisters were imprisoned in Marken, a local psychiatric institution. Now, ten years later, they are due for release. Pieter Vos, a detective with the Amsterdam police, is given cause to re-open the case when the girls disappear along with the nurse responsible for escorting them to a halfway house. When the nurse's corpse washes up on the beach at Marken, it becomes apparent that the institution holds the key to the investigation. And it seems that Vos' boss, De Groot, has something to hide which is relevant to the case. Then, the case takes an unexpected turn when it becomes clear that someone is posing as Little Jo – Kim and Mia's other sister – who was supposedly murdered along with their parents ten years ago.... Follows *The House of Dolls* and *The Wrong Girl*.

Hill, Joe. [The Fireman](#) (Harper \$28.99). Hill drops by to sign our stock of his chilling novel about a worldwide pandemic of spontaneous combustion that threatens to reduce civilization to ashes and a band of improbable heroes who battle to save it, led by one powerful and enigmatic man known as the Fireman. The May Library Reads recommendation: "No one really knows where the deadly Dragonscale spore originated but many theories abound. The most likely is that as the planet heats up, the spore is released into the atmosphere. Harper Willows is a young, pregnant nurse who risks her own health to tend to others. This is her story and I loved it! This is one of the most creative takes on apocalyptic literature that I have read and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Highly recommended for all Hill and King fans."

✂Iggulden, Conn. [Ravenspur: Rise of the Tudors](#) (Joseph \$42). The final chapter in the War of the Roses series, not Game of Thrones which mirrors the conflict, but the actual history made into fiction. Order the whole Wars of the Roses series [here](#).

✂James, Peter. [Love You Dead](#) (Pan \$45). Roy Grace #12. An ugly duckling as a child, Jodie Bentley had two dreams in life – to be beautiful and rich. She's achieved the first, with a little help from a plastic surgeon, and now she's working hard on the second. Her philosophy on money is simple: you can either earn it or marry it. Marrying is easy, it's getting rid of the husband afterwards that's harder, that takes real skill. But hey, practice makes perfect. Detective Superintendent Roy Grace is feeling the pressure from his superiors, his previous case is still giving him sleepless nights, there have been major developments with his missing wife Sandy, and an old adversary is back. But worse than all of this, he now believes a Black Widow is operating in his city. One with a venomous mind . . . and venomous skills. Soon Grace comes to the frightening realization that he may have underestimated just how dangerous this lady is.

Kepler, Lars. [Stalker](#) (Collins \$36). Joona Linna #5. A video-clip is sent to the National Criminal Investigation Department. Someone has secretly filmed a woman through her window from the garden. The next day she is found dead after a frenzied knife-attack. The police receive a second film of another unknown woman. There is no way of identifying her before time runs out. When her husband finds her he is so traumatized that he cleans the whole house and puts her to bed. He may have seen a vital clue, but is in such an extreme state of shock that the police are unable to question him. Psychiatrist Erik Maria Bark is called in to hypnotize him – but what the man tells him under hypnosis leads Erik to start lying to the police. If the lights are on, a stalker can see you from outside. But if the lights are off, you can't see a stalker who is already inside the house.

Leon, Donna. [The Waters of Eternal Youth](#) (Heinemann UK \$43). Brunetti is investigating a cold case by request of the grand Contessa Lando-Continui, a friend of Brunetti's mother-in-law. Fifteen years ago the Contessa's teenage granddaughter, Manuela, was found drowning in a canal. She was rescued from the canal at the last moment but in many ways it was too late; she suffered severe brain damage and life was never the same again. Once a passionate horse rider, Manuela, now aged 30, cannot remember the accident, or her beloved horse, and lives trapped in an eternal youth. The Contessa, unconvinced that this was an accident, implores Brunetti to find the culprit she believes was responsible for ruining Manuela's life. Out of a mixture of curiosity, pity, and a willingness to fulfill the wishes of a loving grandmother, Brunetti reopens the case, much to the annoyance of his employer. But once he starts to investigate, Brunetti finds a murky past and a dark story at its heart. The 25th Brunetti is awash in the rhythms and concerns of contemporary Venetian life, from historical preservation, to housing, to new waves of African migrants.

Lippman, Laura. [Wilde Lake](#) (Harper \$26.99). Luisa "Lu" Brant is the newly elected—and first female—state's attorney of Howard County, Maryland, a job in which her widower father famously served. Fiercely intelligent and ambitious, she sees an opportunity to make her name by trying a mentally disturbed drifter accused of beating a woman to death in her home. It's not the kind of case that makes headlines, but peaceful Howard County doesn't see many homicides. As Lu prepares for the trial, the case dredges up painful memories, reminding her small but tight-knit family of the night when her brother, AJ, saved his best friend at the cost of another man's life. Only eighteen,

AJ was cleared by a grand jury. Now, Lu wonders if the events of 1980 happened as she remembers them. What details might have been withheld from her when she was a child? The more she learns about the case, the more questions arise. May Library Reads adds: “As Lu, the newly elected state’s attorney in Howard County, prepares for a trial of a woman found murdered in her apartment, she begins to uncover secrets from her past. Bringing her back to the night her brother saved a life at the cost of another, Lu begins to question everything she’s known about the events and her childhood. Lippman’s newest standalone is sure to be another hit, perfect for mystery fans.” Filled with surprises and so our **May Surprise Me! Club Pick**.

Mukherjee, Abir. [A Rising Man](#) (Harvill \$35). Captain Sam Wyndham, former Scotland Yard detective, is a new arrival to Calcutta. Desperately seeking a fresh start after his experiences during the Great War, Wyndham has been recruited to head up a new post in the police force. But with barely a moment to acclimatize to his new life or to deal with the ghosts who still haunt him and his fling with opium, Wyndham is caught up in a murder investigation that will take him into the dark underbelly of the British Raj. A senior official has been murdered, and a note left in his mouth warns the British to quit India: or else. With rising political dissent and the stability of the Raj under threat, Wyndham and his two new colleagues – arrogant Inspector Digby and British-educated, but Indian-born Sergeant Banerjee, one of the few Indians to be recruited into the new CID – embark on an investigation that will take them from the luxurious parlors of wealthy British traders to the seedy opium dens of the city. The start of an atmospheric and enticing new historical crime series. **Our History/Mystery Club Pick and a gem in so many ways... many of which relate to our world today.**

O’Nan, Stewart. [City of Secrets](#) (Penguin \$22). **Note: Signed books are not confirmed as I write this. Please check our website to do so.** A moral thriller, noirish and a deeply felt novel of intrigue and identify against the backdrop of the Jewish underground resistance in Jerusalem after the Second World War. In 1945, with no homes to return to, Jewish refugees by the tens of thousands set out for Palestine. Those who made it were hunted as illegals by the British mandatory authorities there and relied on the underground to shelter them; taking fake names, they blended with the population, joining the wildly different factions fighting for the independence of Israel. *City of Secrets* follows one survivor, Brand, as he tries to regain himself after losing everyone he’s ever loved. Now driving a taxi provided—like his new identity—by the underground, he navigates the twisting streets of Jerusalem as well as the overlapping, sometimes deadly loyalties of the resistance. Alone, haunted by memories, he tries to become again the man he was before the war—honest, strong, capable of moral choice. He falls in love with Eva, a fellow survivor and member of his cell, reclaims his faith, and commits himself to the revolution, accepting secret missions which grow more and more dangerous even as he begins to suspect he’s being used by their cell’s dashing leader, Asher. By the time Brand understands the truth, it’s too late, and the tragedy that ensues changes history. For ages 18+.

✦Parsons, Tony. [The Hanging Club](#) (Century \$32). A band of vigilante executioners roam London’s hot summer nights, abducting evil men and hanging them by the neck until dead. As the bodies pile up and riots explode across the sweltering city,

DC Max Wolfe hunts a gang of killers who many believe to be heroes. Dana Stabenow and I are wild about Parsons and Max; this is his third police procedural.

Parris, SJ. [Conspiracy](#) (Collins \$36). 1585. Heretic-turned-spy Giordano Bruno arrives in Paris to find a city on the edge of catastrophe. King Henri III lives in fear of a coup by the Duke of Guise and his fanatical Catholic League, and another massacre on the streets. When Bruno’s old rival, Father Paul Lefèvre is found murdered, Bruno is drawn into a dangerous web of religious politics and court intrigue. And watching over his shoulder is the King’s mother, Catherine de Medici, with her harem of beautiful spies. When murder strikes at the heart of the Palace, Bruno finds himself on the trail of a killer who is protecting a terrible secret affecting the royal houses of England and France. 5th in a fine historical series comparable to the work of CJ Sansom.

Preston, Douglas/Lincoln Child. [Beyond the Ice Limit](#) (Grand Central \$27). On sale May 17. Comes with author photo signed by both for the May 17 “launch” via Livestream with both this time around. Gideon Crew #4 revisits characters that first appeared 16 years ago in their fan-favorite, [The Ice Limit](#) (\$7.99). “This engrossing, refreshingly fast-paced thriller showcases their “stellar writing” (Associated Press) and unpredictable plot lines. Five years ago, the mysterious and inscrutable head of Effective Engineering Solutions, Eli Glinn, led a mission to recover a gigantic meteorite—the largest ever discovered—from a remote island off the coast of South America. The mission ended in disaster when their ship, the *Rolvaag*, foundered in a vicious storm in the Antarctic waters and broke apart, sinking-along with its unique cargo—to the ocean floor. One hundred and eight crew members perished, and Eli Glinn was left paralyzed. The tragedy revealed something truly terrifying: the meteorite they tried to retrieve was not, in fact, simply a rock. Instead, it was a complex organism from the deep reaches of space. Now, that organism has implanted itself in the sea bed two miles below the surface—and it is growing. If it is not destroyed, the planet will be doomed. There is only one hope: for Glinn and his team to annihilate it, a task which requires Gideon’s expertise with nuclear weapons. But as Gideon and his colleagues soon discover, the “meteorite” has a mind of its own—and it has no intention of going quietly...

Pronzini, Bill. [Zigzag](#) (Forge \$27). Two brand-new novellas and two reprinted short stories test the semiretired Nameless Detective’s ability to close cases—and the gentle reader’s taste for new wine in old bottles. This has been a long-running series consistently delivering quality crime fiction.

Russo, Richard. [Everybody’s Fool](#) (Knopf \$27.95) The May Indie Next Pick: “While any new book from Richard Russo is a cause for celebration, to have one that revisits the characters from a beloved classic feels like a gift from the literary gods. *Everybody’s Fool* returns to North Bath, New York, the setting for Russo’s breakout novel from 1993, *Nobody’s Fool*. No one writes better about the quirks, petty jealousies, hard times, humor, and heartbreak of small town America. *Everybody’s Fool* is good old fashioned storytelling at its finest!”

✦Shaw, William. [The Birdwatchers](#) (Quercus \$32). Police Sergeant William South has a reason for not wanting to be on the murder investigation. He is a murderer himself. But the victim was his only friend; like him, a passionate birdwatcher. South is warily partnered with the strong-willed Detective Sergeant

Alexandra Cupidi, newly recruited to the Kent coast from London. Together they find the body, violently beaten, forced inside a wooden chest. Only rage could kill a man like this. South knows it. But soon – too soon – they find a suspect: Donnie Fraser, a drifter from Northern Ireland. His presence in Kent disturbs William – because he knew him as a boy. If the past is catching up with him, South wants to meet it head on. For even as he desperately investigates the connections, he knows there is no crime, however duplicitous or cruel, that can compare to the great lie of his childhood. Moving from the storm-lashed, bird-wheeling skies of the Kent Coast to the wordless war of the Troubles, *The Birdwatcher* is a crime novel of unusual suspense.

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."

✚Taylor, Andrew. [The Ashes of London](#) (Collins \$36). London, September 1666. The Great Fire rages through the city, consuming everything in its path. Even the impregnable cathedral of St. Paul's is engulfed in flames and reduced to ruins. Among the crowds watching its destruction is James Marwood, son of a disgraced printer, and reluctant government informer. In the aftermath of the fire, a semi-mummified body is discovered in the ashes of St. Paul's, in a tomb that should have been empty. The man's body has been mutilated and his thumbs have been tied behind his back. Under orders from the government, Marwood is tasked with hunting down the killer across the devastated city. But at a time of dangerous internal dissent and the threat of foreign invasion, Marwood finds his investigation leads him into treacherous waters – and across the path of a determined, beautiful and vengeful young woman.

BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSICS

Burton, Miles. [Death in the Tunnel](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). On a dark November evening, Sir Wilfred Saxonby is travelling alone in the 5 o'clock train from Cannon Street, in a locked compartment. The train slows and stops inside a tunnel; and by the time it emerges again minutes later, Sir Wilfred has been shot dead, his heart pierced by a single bullet. Suicide seems to be the answer, even though no reason can be found. Inspector Arnold of Scotland Yard thinks again when he learns that a mysterious red light in the tunnel caused the train to slow down. Finding himself

stumped by the puzzle, Arnold consults his friend Desmond Merrion, a wealthy amateur expert in criminology. To Merrion it seems that the dead man fell victim to a complex conspiracy—but the investigators are puzzled about the conspirators' motives, as well as their identities. "This offering in the British Library Crime Classics series (which reissues out-of-print mysteries from the Golden Age of crime fiction, between WWI and WWII) is part of a popular subgenre of the time, called the 'railway murder mystery.' Who knew railroad timetables and tunnel gradients could make for so much suspense?" –*Booklist*.

Rowland, John. [Murder in the Museum](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). 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, after all, would have cause to murder a retired academic whose life was devoted to Elizabethan literature? Inspector Shelley's suspicions are aroused when he finds a packet of poisoned sugared almonds in the dead man's pocket; and a motive becomes clearer when he discovers 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 connection 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.

Out in late May: Burton, Miles. [The Secret of High Eldersham](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). First published in 1930, this gem "evokes a time when stouthearted chaps did their duty for king and country, and the village had only one telephone. When Samuel Whitehead, the landlord of a pub in the remote English hamlet of High Eldersham, is found stabbed to death in his hostelry, baffled Det. Insp. Robert Young calls on his old chum Desmond Merrion, "a bachelor of independent and very considerable means" and "a living encyclopedia upon all manner of obscure subjects," to help him unravel the mystery. The cast includes suspicious yokels, nervous aristocrats, uppity servants, and puzzled policemen. Beautiful and plucky Mavis Owerton, who's being courted by one of High Eldersham's wealthier inhabitants, catches more than Merrion's eye. This book marks the first appearance of amateur sleuth Merrion, who went on to feature in nearly 60 novels from Burton (1884–1964)." —*PW*

OUR MAY TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

Arango, Sascha. [The Truth and Other Lies](#) (\$16). On the surface, Henry Hayden seems like someone you could like, or even admire. A famous bestselling author who appears a modest everyman. A loving, devoted husband even though he could have any woman he desires. A generous friend and coworker. But Henry Hayden is a construction, a mask. Then a mistake makes his façade crumble. Now not only are the police after Henry, but his past—which he has painstakingly kept hidden—threatens to catch up with him as well. Henry is an ingenious man and he works out an ingenious plan. He weaves lies, truths, and half-truths into a story that might help him survive. But bit by bit the noose still tightens. The *PW* Starred Review: "German scriptwriter Arango's exceptional first novel, a highly entertaining thriller... Henry never wrote one word—Martha did, allowing him to take credit as long as her authorial role remained a secret. Henry's carefully constructed world is in danger when Betty becomes pregnant. His decision to take

drastic action results in an accidental death. Dodging the police inquiry and an old acquaintance determined to expose his erratic past, Henry takes charge of his own fate. Wry humor punctuates this insightful look at a soulless man.” We have a few signed UK firsts of this First Mystery Club Pick, one of my favorites of 2015: [The Truth and Other Lies](#) (\$36)

✎Atherton, Nancy. [Aunt Dimity and the Summer King](#) (\$14). Finch has always been a magical sort of village, not unlike Louise Penny’s Three Pines. Lori Shepherd, her lawyer husband Bill, and their twins have long lived in Finch, lately joined by Bill’s retired father, a Boston widower, lawyer too. But Willis, Sr., is now affianced to the dismay of the single village women, and his two sisters, aka the harpies, are coming from Boston to the wedding. Lori and Bill, happy with the birth of baby Bess, know this means it’s time for Lori to reengage with village life. She’s soon shocked to see four cottages standing empty, and questions what’s the deal with the leasing agent? But a chance walk down an unfrequented path and an encounter with the owner of an estate at its end changes up life in Finch. He’s an eccentric, elderly inventor called Arthur Hargreaves, aka the Summer King. Why does he have detailed maps of Finch in his library? The challenges of motherhood rival those of sleuthing in this gentle story.

Connell, John A. [Ruins of War](#) (\$16). Winter 1945. Seven months after the Nazi defeat, Munich is in ruins. Mason Collins—a former Chicago homicide detective, U.S. soldier, and prisoner of war—is now a U.S. Army criminal investigator in the American Zone of Occupation. It’s his job to enforce the law in a place where order has been obliterated. And his job just became much more dangerous. A killer is stalking the devastated city—one who has knowledge of human anatomy, enacts mysterious rituals with his prey, and seems to pick victims at random. Relying on his wits and instincts, Mason must venture places where his own life is put at risk: from interrogation rooms with unrepentant Nazi war criminals to penetrating the U.S. Army’s own black market. What Mason doesn’t know is that the killer he’s chasing is stalking him, too... A standout debut for fans of Joseph Kanon, David Downing, Alan Furst, Philip Kerr. We have Signed firsts of the sequel: [Spoils of Victory](#) (\$27).

Connelly, Michael. [The Crossing](#) (\$15.99). Detective Harry Bosch has retired from the LAPD, but his half-brother, defense attorney Mickey Haller, needs his help. A woman has been brutally murdered in her bed and all evidence points to Haller’s client, a former gang member turned family man. Though the murder rap seems ironclad, Mickey is sure it’s a setup. Bosch doesn’t want anything to do with crossing the aisle to work for the defense. He feels it will undo all the good he’s done in his thirty years as a homicide cop. But Mickey promises to let the chips fall where they may. If Harry proves that his client did it, under the rules of discovery, they are obliged to turn over the evidence to the prosecution. Though it goes against all his instincts, Bosch reluctantly takes the case—his 20th!

Cooley, MP. [Flame Out](#) (\$14.99). Former FBI special agent June Lyon, having survived the events of [Ice Shear](#) (\$14.99), is now serving on the Hopewell Falls PD. It’s a Rust Belt town full of abandoned factories that line the Mohawk River just before it joins the Hudson, a town where her much-loved father was Chief of Police and is able to look after her little daughter Lucy

while June works, June’s husband Kevin having died from cancer three years earlier. Hopewell Falls is home to a big Ukrainian immigrant community, refugees from Stalin, one member being June’s partner Dave Batko. When June barely saves a woman from burning to death in the old Sleep-Tite clothing factory, and then a mummified body is found in a sealed barrel behind a fake wall in the destroyed factory’s basement, Dave’s volatile family become major players. I am intrigued by the Ukrainian culture and cuisine, by the plot which while not completely believable all hangs together, by the vivid characters, and by the sheer force of June who not only hangs tough while making some tough choices but gives promise of excellent things to come.

Cotterill, Colin. [Six and a Half Deadly Sins](#) (\$14.95). Laos, 1978: Dr. Siri Paiboun, a 72-year-old medical doctor, has unwillingly been appointed the national coroner of the new socialist Laos. His lab is underfunded, his boss is incompetent, and his support staff is quirky, to say the least. But Siri’s sense of humor gets him through his often frustrating days. When the body of the wife of a prominent politician comes through his morgue, Siri has reason to suspect the woman has been murdered. To get to the truth, Siri and his team face government secrets, spying neighbors, Hmong shamans, botched romances, and other deadly dangers as his new job puts him in a unique position to identify the dead—and their killers. In this his 6th investigation, everyone is heading north. Dr. Siri & Daeng are pursuing a trail of clues including a dismembered finger sewn into the hem of a Laophasin skirt. Inspector Phosy goes to arbitrate a village dispute and ends up insulting a warlord. Constable Civilai goes to prevent a little war with China—what’s that project underway? And whose funeral is it at the end of the book? If you never read the first Dr. Siri, [The Coroner’s Lunch](#) (\$9.99), winner of the Independent Mystery Bookseller’s Dilys Award, a First Mystery Club Pick, and one of my favorite first novels. There’s humor, but Dr. Siri’s work, while accounting for the role of superstition as well as science, is cutting edge.

✎Grey, Iona. [Letters to the Lost](#) (\$15.99). Late on a frozen February evening, a young woman is running through the streets of London. Having fled from her abusive boyfriend and with nowhere to go, Jess stumbles onto a forgotten lane where a small, clearly unlivable old house offers her best chance of shelter for the night. The next morning, a mysterious letter arrives and when she can’t help but open it, she finds herself drawn inexorably into the story of two lovers from another time. In London 1942, Stella meets Dan, a US airman, quite by accident, but there is no denying the impossible, unstoppable attraction that draws them together. Dan is a B-17 pilot flying his bomber into Europe from a British airbase; his odds of survival are one in five. In the midst of such uncertainty, the one thing they hold onto is the letters they write to each other. Fate is unkind and they are separated. Jess becomes determined to find out what happened to them. Her hope, inspired by a love so powerful it spans a lifetime, will lead her to find a startling redemption in her own life. “Grey’s engaging, poignant, and romantic debut treats readers to an absorbing story within a story. Her detailed narrative chronicles the lives of these intriguing characters while fluidly travelling from past to present. The author’s subtle depiction of social and moral intolerances of the past and the gentle hand of fate that guides this tale makes her novel an excellent choice for fans of Beatrice Williams, Jon Clinch, Lauren Willig.” –LJ Starred Review

Harvey, Michael. [The Governor's Wife](#) (\$16). You will recognize from the get go that Harvey's twisty new story for Chicago PI Michael Kelly, once a priest and still a kind of Good Shepherd, is rooted in the reality of Illinois politics and its imprisoned former governor Rod Blagojevich. As Harvey says, what if...? It's been two years since disgraced Illinois governor Ray Perry disappeared from a federal courthouse in Chicago moments after being sentenced to 37 years in prison on corruption charges. Kelly is sitting in his office when he gets an anonymous e-mail offering to pay him nearly a quarter of a million dollars if he will find Perry, no questions asked. Kelly's investigation begins with the woman Ray Perry left behind—his wife, Marie. Ostracized by her former friends and hounded by the feds, Marie tells Kelly she has no idea where her husband is. Like everyone else, Kelly doesn't believe her. As he hunts for her husband, and turns over even more corruption, Chicago style, Kelly begins to unwind Marie Perry's past. What he finds is a woman who turns out to be even more intriguing than her husband. This complex story plays out in offbeat ways trademarked by Harvey. To order his earlier ace books, [click here](#).

Johnson, Craig. [Dry Bones](#) (\$16). When Jen, the largest, most complete Tyrannosaurus Rex skeleton ever found, surfaces in Sherriff Walt Longmire's jurisdiction, it appears to be a windfall for the High Plains Dinosaur Museum—until Danny Lone Elk, the Cheyenne rancher on whose property the remains were discovered, turns up dead, floating face down in a turtle pond. With millions of dollars at stake, a number of groups step forward to claim her, including Danny's family, the tribe, and the federal government. As Wyoming's Acting Deputy Attorney and a cadre of FBI officers descend on the town, Walt is determined to find out who would benefit from Danny's death, enlisting old friends Lucian Connolly and Omar Rhoades, along with Dog and best friend Henry Standing Bear, to trawl the vast Lone Elk ranch looking for answers to a sixty-five million year old cold case that's heating up fast.. [Click here](#) to order earlier Longmires.

Pearl, Matthew. [The Last Bookaneer](#) (\$16). Last May's Indie Next Pick for that month's Modern Firsts Club Pick, an ingenious literary caper (plus real history of Robert Louis Stevenson, his wife, and his time in Samoa): "An adventure, a mystery, an historical fiction — this exciting read defies categorization. With quirky and engaging characters who are at once villains, crooks, and heroes, along with exotic locations, literary figures, fast-paced action, and a surprise ending, this novel has something for everyone. Changing copyright laws spell the end of the line for career book thieves and spies, and a race against time and competitors makes for a story that is hard to put down." A Starred Review adds, "The author imagines the life of 19th-century manuscript thieves called bookaneers, who unscrupulously published others' novels on their own, thereby depriving authors of their financial due. It is Pearl's contention that a historical 1890s international copyright agreement would soon put an end to this illegal practice, and he imaginatively conjures up two such bookaneers who embark on one last mission, traveling to Samoa to steal a dying Robert Louis Stevenson's final manuscript, *The Shovels of Newton French*.. The race is on to take Stevenson's purloined manuscript and return with it to New York before the new law goes into effect. But standing in the way of literary glory are cannibals, incarceration, German colonials, and a betrayal from beyond the grave. Pearl gives the bookaneers a lively fictitious history."

Stewart, Amy. [Girl Waits with Gun](#) (\$14.95). "This historical novel by the bestselling author of *The Drunken Botanist* stars an unforgettable, not-to-be-messed-with heroine – one of the nation's first female deputy sheriffs. It all begins circa 1910 when an earnest request entangles a family with the town thug. The rest is kickass history."—*Marie Claire*. "Constance Kopp sounds like the creation of a master crime writer. At nearly 6 feet tall, Constance is a formidable character who can pack heat, deliver a zinger and catch a criminal without missing a beat. Based on the little-known story of the real Constance Kopp, one of America's first female deputy sheriffs, the novel is an entertaining and enlightening story of how far one woman will go to protect her family." —*Washington Post*

Vatsal, Radha. [A Front Page Affair](#) (Sourcebooks \$14.99). Our **May History Paperback Pick** set in 1915 New York is a "lively and well-researched debut introducing a charming historical series and an appealing fish-out-of-water sleuth who seeks independence and a career in an age when most women are bent on getting married, particularly to titled Englishmen. Devotees of Rhys Bowen's mysteries will enjoy making the acquaintance of Miss Weeks." — *LJ Starred Review*. Capability Weeks is stuck writing society gossip and fashion over on the Ladies Page under a martinet, longing for real journalism. Then the *Lusitania* is sunk and someone shoots at JP Morgan at his mansion and a man is found murdered in a barn while Kitty is covering a society picnic. "The fascinating historical details add flair to this thoroughly engaging mystery starring an intelligent amateur sleuth reminiscent of Rhys Bowen's Molly Murphy. Vatsal's debut will leave readers eager for Kitty's next adventure." — *Booklist*

CLASSIC NOIRS REISSUED BY STARK HOUSE

Blackwood, Algernon. [The Human Chord / The Centaur](#) (\$19.95). Two early novels by this monumental writer of supernatural fiction. "[*The Centaur*] was to be the favorite among [Blackwood's] novels, because it best represented all that he was trying to achieve...It is unlike any other work in the field of supernatural or mystical fiction.

Braly, Malcolm. [False Starts: A Memoir of San Quentin and Other Prisons](#) (\$17.95). After getting arrested for petty burglary as a teenager, Braly couldn't get a break and spent much of his life behind bars. This is his searing autobiography, from the author of *Shake Him Till He Rattles* and *On the Yard*. Includes a new introduction by Rick Ollerman. And [Felony Tank](#) (\$9.99). Seventeen-year-old Doug is in the wrong place at the wrong time and ends up in jail. What happens next could only have been written by the author of *It's Cold Out There*.

Chase, James Hadley. [No Orchids for Miss Blandish / Twelve Chinamen and a Woman](#) (\$19.95). The original unexpurgated versions of two of the most violent mid-century gangster novels ever published. "A brilliant piece of writing, with hardly a word wasted or a false note anywhere."—George Orwell, "Raffles and Miss Blandish." Includes an informative introduction by John Fraser.

Dixon, HV. [Cry Blood / Killer in Silk](#) (\$20.95). A man's friends turn on him when he is unjustly accused of a crime in *Cry Blood*, and in *Killer in Silk*, an alcoholic writer is taken in by a woman who may have murdered her husband. "A lot of the ingredients that made *Double Indemnity* so impressive." —*New Yorker*. Includes a new introduction by Donald S. Napoli.

Flora, Fletcher. [Leaver Her to Hell / Let Me Kill You Sweetheart / Take Me Home](#) (\$21.95). Three acerbic noir novels: an unconventional private eye novel, a murder mystery set in a small Midwestern town, and the story of a writer who falls in love with a troubled young lesbian. Includes a new introduction by Bill Pronzini.

SOME SCIFI/FANTASY

Bledsoe, Alex. [Long Black Curl](#) (Tor \$15.99). Tufa Novels #3. I really liked Bledsoe's [Wisp of a Thing](#) (\$15.99), second in this series. Here is the third. In all the time the Tufa existed, only two have ever been exiled: Bo-Kate Wisby and her lover, Jefferson Powell. They were cast out, stripped of their ability to make music, and cursed to never be able to find their way back to Needsville. Their crime? A love that crossed the boundary of the two Tufa tribes, resulting in the death of several people. Somehow, Bo-Kate has found her way back. She intends to take over both tribes, which means eliminating both Rockhouse Hicks and Mandalay Harris. Bo-Kate has a secret weapon: Byron Harley, a rockabilly singer known as the "Hillbilly Hercules" for his immense size and strength, and who has passed the last sixty years trapped in a bubble of faery time. He's ready to take revenge on any Tufa he finds. The only one who can stop Bo-Kate is Jefferson Powell. Released from the curse and summoned back to Cloud County, even he isn't sure what will happen when they finally meet.

Haig, Francesca. [The Map of Bones](#) (Gallery \$24.99). Four hundred years in the future, the Earth has turned primitive following a nuclear fire that has laid waste to civilization and nature. Though the radiation fallout has ended, for some unknowable reason every person is born with a twin. Of each pair, one is an Alpha—physically perfect in every way; and the other an Omega—burdened with deformity, small or large. With the Council ruling an apartheid-like society, Omegas are branded and ostracized while the Alphas have gathered the world's sparse resources for themselves. Though proclaiming their superiority, for all their effort, Alphas cannot escape one harsh fact: whenever one twin dies, so does the other. Cass is a rare Omega, one burdened with psychic foresight. While her twin, Zach, gains power on the Alpha Council, she dares to dream the most dangerous dream of all: equality. For daring to envision a world in which Alphas and Omegas live side-by-side as equals. Book Two in The Fire Sermon trilogy, a richly imagined post-apocalyptic series by award-winning poet Francesca Haig. "Readers who enjoy the Hunger Games series, Pierce Brown's *Red Rising*, and like-minded dystopian literature will enjoy this." —LJ Starred Review

Howard, Kat. [Roses and Rot](#) (Saga \$24.99). There are various artists' retreats scattered around the US and the world. Rob and I visited the grounds of Yaddo when we were in Saratoga, NY, two years ago. Melete however is out of the ordinary—way out, as sisters Imogen, a writer who grew up reading fairy tales and hoping her mother would die so she could gain a stepmother (for none could be as cruel), and Marin, a dancer discover. They can't believe they can leave home for the elite post-grad arts program at Melete. Imogen thinks it might be living a fairy tale... and so it turns out to be. But think on the Brothers Grimm—fairy tales are not benign and it takes some guts for mortals to survive them. This debut quite won my heart.

Ward, JR. [The Beast](#) (NAL \$28). Nothing is as it used to be for the Black Dagger Brotherhood. After avoiding war with the Shadows, alliances have shifted and lines have been drawn. The slayers of the Lessening Society are stronger than ever, preying on human weakness to acquire more money, more weapons, more power. But as the Brotherhood readies for an all-out attack on them, one of their own fights a battle within himself... "Intimate, evocative...the last quarter or so of *The Beast* had me breathing fast, furiously flipping pages. Emotional surprises and plot twists signal big things to come as this consistently compelling and exciting series evolves. This immersive, introspective yet rousing next installment will leave you clamoring for more." —USAToday.com

Wells, Jaye. [Dirty Magic](#) (Orbit \$15). Our May 20 SciFi Fantasy Discussion Club book gets this rave from bestseller Vicki Pettersson: "Jaye Wells raises the urban fantasy bar with a hard-boiled series debut as unique and surprising as the creatures and characters peopling it. Kate Prospero is charged with policing the Cauldron, a magical world so fully realized, and so gritty, it gets under your nails. Wells is known for deftly weaving non-stop action with no-holds barred humor, but the unique and deeply drawn relationships are the real alchemy here. *Dirty Magic* showcases seasoned pro, Wells, at the top of her game, and establishes newcomer Kate Prospero as the urban fantasy heroine to beat."

Zelazny, Roger. [Jack of Shadows](#) (Chicago Review Press \$15.99). A Rediscovered Classic. In a world half of light, half of darkness, where science and magic strive for dominance, there dwells a magical being who is friendly with neither side. Jack, of the realm of shadows, is a thief who is unjustly punished. So he embarks on a vendetta. He wanders through strange realms, encountering witches, vampires, and, finally, his worst enemy: the Lord of Bats. He consults his friend Morningstar, a great dark angel. He is pursued by a monstrous creature called the Borshin. But to reveal any more would be to spoil some of the mindboggling surprises Jack of Shadows has in store. First published in 1971 and long out-of-print.

NEW BOOKS

☞Ace, Cathy. [The Corpse with the Garnet Face](#) (\$14.95). We met this charming Canadian at our International Crime Night on Feb. 24. The seventh book in her Cait Morgan series finds the eccentric Welsh criminologist-sleuth accompanying her husband Bud to Amsterdam to try to unravel a puzzling situation. To Bud's surprise, he discovers he has a long-lost uncle, Jonas, who's met an untimely death. Bud's mother assures him Jonas was a bad child, but, from beyond the grave, Uncle Jonas begs his nephew to visit the city he adopted as his home to delve into the life he built for himself there, founded on his passion for art. With an old iron key as their only clue, Cait and Bud travel to Amsterdam to solve the cryptic message left by Jonas—and to honor the final wishes of a long-lost relative.

Ben-David, Mish. [Forbidden Love in St Petersburg](#) (Overlook \$27.95). "Former Mossad agent Ben-David makes the most of his professional expertise to craft a complex and moving story of a reluctant operative's attempts to return to a normal life. When Yogev Ben-Ari was recruited into the Mossad, he organized operations against enemies of Israel, such as a Syrian negotiating with North Korea to acquire chemical weapons. To his dismay,

he soon becomes more than just a planner and observer when he's designated to pull the trigger on a target in Hong Kong. That shift, and the deceptions it entails, causes tremendous tensions in his marriage, already affected by the time he must spend away from his wife, childhood sweetheart Orit; the two of them are desperately trying to conceive a child. The narrative effectively toggles between that relationship and one that Yogevev begins with a Russian woman during an assignment in St. Petersburg. Convincing tradecraft, coupled with a plausible look at the inner life of a spy with a license to kill, will remind readers of the best of John le Carré."—*PW* Starred Review

Boyd, William. [Sweet Caress](#) (\$17). "As recounted in this powerful new novel by the multiaward-winning Boyd, Amory Clay was born during England's Edwardian era and spent her entire extraordinary life defying conventions. Introduced to the power of the camera by her photographer uncle, she quickly grew bored shooting high-society events. By the time she was in her 20s, a photo shoot in an after-hours German strip club caused an international scandal, got her arrested, and launched her career as a serious photographer. A few years later, she was badly beaten by the Blackshirts in the London street riots of 1936. Amory's passion for her work and the men in her life who influenced her achievements brought her to the battlefields of World War II, where she met her husband. Settling down with him on his Scottish estate was the beginning of a whole new chapter, abounding with tragedies and challenges. The authenticity of Boyd's research, the mix of historical events and real-life figures such as Hannelore Hahn and Margaret Bourke-White with pure literary invention, as well as the captivating photos that illustrate this sweeping, glorious novel will confound readers into believing that this bold, brilliant woman photographer did have a place in history. Simply stunning."—*LJ* Starred Review

Brown, Rita Mae. [Tall Tail](#) (Bantam \$27). Crozet, Virginia, sleuth Mary Minor "Harry" Haristeen is driving along one summer day when a sudden squall sweeps in and she is nearly run off the road by a red car which then swerves into a ditch. On examination the driver is dead behind the wheel. She proves to be nurse Barbara Leader, the caregiver for ailing 96-year-old Samuel Holloway, a former Virginia governor. The subsequent discovery of a lethal drug in Barbara's system intensifies concern about the former governor's safety for Susan Tucker, Harry's friend and Holloway's granddaughter. The political ambitions of Holloway's state senator grandson, Edward Cunningham, who's Susan's cousin, complicate matters. Flashbacks to the 18th century illustrate episodes of abuse and cruelty that may have significance in the present, where a break-in at a website developer deepens the puzzle. The charm of this book is a Corgi called Piglet but as Piglet is 18th Century details appear mostly in an Afterword.

Carofiglio, Giancarlo. [A Fine Line](#) (Bitter Lemon \$14.95). Carofiglio's fifth Guido Guerrieri novel edges gracefully over the line from legal thriller into the realm of Paul Auster, as much a series of philosophical musings on life as a mystery. Guerrieri, a middle-aged lawyer in Bari, Italy, who spends more time eating well than drinking these days, hires attractive PI Annapaola Doria, a former freelance crime reporter, to help him defend a judge, Pierluigi Larocca, who's charged with corruption. But the case against Larocca is incidental to Guerrieri's thoughts on getting

older, his witty observations of his colleagues (a legal trainee has the "expression of a psychotic pigeon"), and his struggle with his attraction to Annapaola. It's a combination that works because of Guerrieri's strong narrative voice and wry sense of humor. 5th in the Judge Guido Guerrieri series.

☒Casey, Jane. [After the Fire](#) (St Martins \$25.99). One of the best British series going is that of Maeve Kerrigan, a London homicide detective whose prickly personality—and those of her colleagues—adds robust layers of conflict to the complex investigations her squad undertakes. In this 5th for Maeve, Casey begins with letting us into the lives of a number of people in Murchison Tower, one of the high rises making up the Maudling Estate housing project. It's not the sort of place anyone would live by choice and it's a perfect place to hide say three trafficked sex workers, or warehouse an elderly widow, or an abused wife, or conduct a scandalous affair, or.... A fire breaks out on the 10th and 11th floors, burning hot and fast and upending the lives of the residents, ending those of three of them. But one of the dead turns out to have been murdered, killed before he died. And most of the residents harbor secrets they are reluctant to give up. And there's the job for Maeve and her fellow coppers when they take over the story: sort out the accidents from the crimes. Meanwhile she's still battling her persistent stalker Swain who has an uncanny ability to monitor her. I recommend this whole series you can order [here](#).

Clark, Marcia. [Blood Defense](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95). The OJ TV series has focused new attention on Clark. But here she skips the prosecutorial role and goes back to her roots as a criminal defense attorney in a novel that is gutsy with no sugar coating. "Clark kicks off a promising new series with this top-notch whodunit leavened with gallows humor. LAPD Det. Dale Pearson turns to Samantha Brinkman, a gifted criminal defense attorney who's struggling to make ends meet, when he's charged with a sensational double homicide. Chloe Monahan, a near-superstar actress who overcame a drug addiction to resurrect her career, and her roommate, Paige Avner, were fatally stabbed in their apartment. The police originally believed that the burglar who hit the residence some months earlier was responsible, but they abandoned this idea when they learned that Pearson, who investigated the burglary, was dating Chloe—and was heard arguing with her shortly before her death. Samantha accepts the high-profile case, despite her skepticism that Pearson is being straight with her. Clark sprinkles jaw-dropping surprises throughout and impressively pulls off a shocker that lesser writers can only envy."—*PW* Starred Review. There appears to be a simultaneous paperback edition too: [Blood Defense](#) (\$15.99).

Clark, Mary Higgins. [As Time Goes By](#) (SimonSchuster \$26.99). I missed telling you about this new book by today's Queen of Suspense wherein a news reporter tries to find her birth mother just as she is assigned to cover the high-profile trial of a woman accused of murdering her wealthy husband.

☒Cleverly, Barbara. [Diana's Altar](#) (Soho \$26.95). It's Cambridge, 1933, All Hallow's Eve. Doctor Adelaide Hartest, fresh from a death bed scene at the mansion of Sir Gregory Pertinax where a young woman called a housekeeper but clearly a high-end prostitute has died of arsenic poisoning, stops at the old All Hallow's Church where she finds a man dying of a knife to the gut. Suicide, he claims before he goes. His name brings

in Scotland Yard and Assistant Commissioner Joe Sandilands who has both asked Adelaide to marry him and tangled with Superintendent Adam Hunnyton of the local squad. Hunnyton is known to Joe as a thorough rogue. And so is Sir Gregory. But much more is to come involving... this is Cambridge, remember... secrets and communists and worse. There is a fascinating historical note from the author at the end. This excellent series begins with Joe serving in India and keeps moving the clock forward. Order it here.

Connolly, John. [Wolf in winter](#) (\$16); [Wrath of Angels](#) (\$16). Trade paperback reissues of two Charlie Parker novels. The latest is [A Time of Torment Signed](#) (Hodder \$36). See Signed Books.

Corby, Gary. [The Singer from Memphis](#) (Soho \$26.95). Here is a very funny and historically sound adventure for Nicolaos, the only private investigator in ancient Athens—perfect for those who enjoy Steven Saylor’s recent books for the Young Gordianus set in Egypt. Nicolaos, on assignment from Pericles, discovers that helping an author with his book research can be very dangerous. The would-be author is a young and naïf Herodotus who wishes to produce a memorable book. So he has hired Nico and his priestess wife, Diotima, to accompany him to Egypt to research that ancient country’s history. Pericles sees this as a way to plant Nicolaos as an Athenian secret agent in Egypt which is in the throes of a rebellion against its overlord, the Persian Empire. Pirates infest the sea route. Three different armies roam the Egyptian countryside. The river is full of crocodiles. There’s an heir to the last Pharaoh who lacks credentials. Everywhere Nico turns, there’s a secret agent ready to kill him—two, actually, one Spartan, the other Persian. Plus he can’t find a decent cup of wine anywhere in a country that lives on beer. And...there’s a treasure hunt. I love this whole series which you can order and read [here](#).

✦Cumming, Laura. [The Vanishing Velazquez: A 19th Century Bookseller’s Obsession with a Lost Masterpiece](#) (Scribner \$28). Hapless Victorians, bizarre royal courts, and incisive art criticism all feature prominently in Cumming’s lively account of a small-time bookseller who acquired a portrait of King Charles I of England and made it his lifelong mission to determine who painted it. After purchasing the painting at liquidation auction in 1845, the bookseller, John Snare, develops a complex theory that the portrait, despite being credited to a famous Flemish painter, is actually the work of Diego Velázquez, the 17th-century Spanish artist. Snare begins to publicize his theory through an exhibit at his shop and then at a hotel in Edinburgh, where the painting subsequently seized and declared stolen property. An absurd trial concerning the authorship and ownership of the painting ensues; meanwhile, the bankrupt bookseller abandons his family and flees America with his treasure in hand. Snare’s story is noteworthy for its downward spiral, the power of class over credibility, and much more. Truly a morality tale.

Farrow, John. [Seven Days Dead](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Farrow (pen name of Canadian literary legend Trevor Ferguson) presents his second for retired Quebec detective Emile Cinq-Mars. And he has created a character so purely mean that the mind boggles. You can only be glad that ancient and ill Alfred Orrocks is dead. And on the night a mighty storm and tide bear down on the Bay of Fundy and outward. But his monstrous deeds live on further warping the lives of those who lie on Grand Manan island, an isolated scrag off the coast of Maine where, by chance, Cinq-

Mars and his wife are taking their first ever summer vacation and somewhat baffled but what to do when they have, in fact, nothing to do. Until Alfred dies, and the body of Reverend Lescavage is discovered tied to a tree by twine, and gutted. Farrow spares you no details about bodily parts and functions in the narrative. Dark suppressed secrets mushroom up as Cinq-Mars ends up in the case, revealing his conclusions in a kind of Nero-Wolfe-in-the-study scenario that spares no character. Meet him first in *The Storm Murders*.

Finnegan, William. [Barbarian Days](#) (\$17). The winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Biography/Autobiography delivers on all levels making it an outstanding gift for Father’s Day, Graduation, or just summer reading. You can read a long review of the books and the surfing life [HERE](#) in *Entertainment Weekly*.

Goldenbaum, Sal. [Murder at Lambswool Farm](#) (NAL \$24.95). Late summer blooms in beautiful Sea Harbor, Massachusetts, and while a harvest thrives, Izzy Chambers Perry and the other Seaside Knitters need to sharpen their sleuthing skills. Seaside Knitter Birdie Favazza has long loved knitting, but lately she’s taken on a new challenge—making a family farm operational again. With help from friends, Lambswool Farm is now up and running, with thriving crops and grazing sheep. In addition, the farm will host rustic, six-course prix fixe dinners plated by local chefs and served on a gorgeous restored harvest table, decorated to perfection with colorful knitted vegetables crafted by Izzy Chambers Perry, her aunt Nell, and the other Seaside Knitters. But on the night of the first meal, everything spins out of control when one of the guests, Seaside Harbor’s family physician, becomes fatally ill.... New in paperback: [A Finely Knit Murder](#) (\$15).

✦Griffiths, Elly. [The Woman in Blue](#) (Houghton \$25). So when Cathbad, the self-styled druid, stepped out of the cottage where he was cat-sitting to chase that determined feline and saw a shimmering figure of a woman in white robes and a flowing blue cloak by a tombstone, was it a vision of the Virgin? Alas, the next morning the body of a beautiful young woman in a nightgown (white) and robe (blue) is found in a ditch nigh to Walsingham and Cambridgeshire DI Harry Nelson and his team embark upon a murder investigation. Inevitably this sucks in archaeologist Ruth Galloway, mother of Harry’s daughter (he’s married to Michelle and has two grown daughters already), and so another dance among the cast of this delightful and intelligent series begins as Easter draws near along with a group of women priests meeting in the area. Read all of the Ruth Galloways in order to avoid spoilers. Order them [here](#).

Haines, Carolyn. [Rock-A-Bye Bones](#) (St Martins \$25.99). I like the early books in this series very much but I wore out on the endless romantic bust-ups for Sarah Beth Delany. This reviewer apparently shares my frustration: “The appearance of a newborn baby girl on private eye Sarah Booth Delaney’s doorstep early one morning kicks off Haines’s busy 16th cozy set in Zinnia, Miss. Sarah’s fellow detective, Tinkie Richmond, offers to care for the baby until the mother is found, but the search for the mother becomes a search for a killer as well after the young man who delivered the baby to Sarah turns up murdered. Meanwhile, Tinkie names the baby Libby and buys her clothes and equipment worthy of a princess. Predictably, Sarah is concerned about what Tinkie’s response will be when—and if—Libby’s mother is

located. Sarah's three suitors are soon involved in the excitement, and her ghostly friend, Jitty, keeps reminding her that she isn't getting younger. Is it possible Sarah will finally choose one of her beaux?" The ticking clock here if you can apply one to a cozy is whether doing so gives her time to have that baby Jitty is determined Sarah Booth will bear.

✠Harrod-Eagles, Cynthia. [Keep the Home Fires Burning](#) (\$16). The war was not 'over by Christmas' after all and as 1915 begins, the Hunters begin to settle into wartime life. Diana, the eldest Hunter daughter, sees her fiancé off to the Front but doesn't expect such coldness from her future mother-in-law. David's battalion is almost ready to be sent to the Front, but how will Beattie's fragile peace of mind endure? Below stairs, Ethel, the under housemaid, is tired of having her beaux go off to war so she deliberately sets her sights on a man who works on the railway, believing he won't be allowed to volunteer. Eric turns out to be decent, honest and he genuinely cares about Ethel—is this the man who could give her a new life? Lord Francis Powerscourt #2, a new series.

Hirahara, Naomi. [Sayonara Slam](#) (Prospect \$16). It is 2009 and Korea is playing Japan in the World Baseball Classic at L.A.'s Dodger Stadium, but a sportswriter is murdered before the first pitch is thrown. Delving into baseball and World War II, Edgar Award winner Hirahara's latest Mas Arai adventure delivers a distinct perspective on the long history between Japan and Korea. Calling him "LA's most unassuming and underestimated amateur sleuth," *Kirkus* reviews: "Though much about the day keeps nagging at Mas he's content to let it lie until he receives a strange offer from Yuki, a young Japanese woman who worked for Itai in their homeland. She hires Mas as a translator and driver—a cover story she sticks to in the ensuing days—but her real purpose is investigating Itai's death. Incriminating information Itai had on a whole raft of Japanese players makes them de facto suspects. The investigation unfolds at a busy personal time for Mas, who's contemplating cohabitation with his girlfriend, Genessee, and worrying about his daughter, Mari, and his grandson, Takeo, in light of Lloyd's less-than-dependable history. The case itself triggers complex memories of Mas' World War II years. A major break in the case comes from an unlikely source: some graffiti on a bathroom wall. Written with heart, depth, and pace, Hirahara's sixth case is hard to put down."

Honda, Tetsuya. [Silent Dead](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Karen reviews: When a body, wrapped in plastic comes to light, it shows indications of torture and brutality. Thus begins an investigation that, ultimately, uncovers a well hidden activity, deep in the underground of Tokyo. Before all is said and done, there are eleven more bodies disposed of in the same manner. Enter, Lieutenant Reiko Himekawa of the Tokyo Metropolitan Police's Homicide Division. Reiko is young, did not arrive at this station through any kind of influence or money, just hard work. She is a scarred human being, but acknowledged as good with investigation, operating on intuition that often proves accurate. Frequently she is paired with Hiromitsu Ioka, wise cracking, annoying and obviously adoring of Reiko. Her challenge is two-fold – the interagency competition resulting in a lack of sharing information, often to the detriment of solving the crime and Kensaku Katsumata, another squad leader otherwise known as "Stubby". He's an angry man who dislikes Reiko and her approach to solving a crime. He's also not too keen on a young

woman in such a high position. He sees things as black and white and intuition does not fit his model. This is the beginning of a series by an author who is popular in Japan and is headed for both the small and big screen. The characters are intriguing, the suspense intense and fast-paced. The story is not for the faint of heart as it can be graphic, but I think it is well worth the read. I'm looking forward to the next installment with these characters and the writer's talent in keeping the reader engaged.

Johansen, Iris. [Hide Away](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Sculptor Eve Duncan and her live-in lover and former FBI agent, Joe Quinn, agree to bring 11-year-old Cara Delany from Carmel, California, to their Atlanta home for her protection from a Mexican drug lord seeking retaliation on a rival gang leader. With Cara's enemies on the move, Eve, her protective instincts in full gear, decides that their best chance of survival is to get out of the country. She turns to her daughter, Jane MacGuire, for help. For years, Jane has been avoiding pressure to find a treasure thought to be buried in Scotland—but she's finally succumbed to John MacDuff's pleas to track it down. Eve and Cara join Jane in the remote Highlands, but soon realize that nowhere is far enough away from the ruthless predators who are on their trail.

Kaehler, Tammy. [Red Flags](#) (\$15.95). To add to my review under Event Books: "The author has a sprightly, engaging style...Kate is a charming heroine in an unusual career. Readers looking for a new amateur-sleuth series—especially those who find the car-racing frame intriguing—should definitely check out the Kate Reilly mysteries. —*Booklist*

Kessler, Kate. [It Takes Ones](#) (Red Hook \$14.99). The first in a series where a criminal psychologist called Audrey Harte returns home after seven years and less than 24 hours later, her best friend is murdered. Which means Audrey is both the prime suspect in Maggie's murder and the only person who can solve the case. Which goes in a truly unexpected direction. Think of this as somewhat genre-bending: a criminal psychologist with murderous skeletons in her own closet and ones she has to unearth she'd rather not. A superior effort, and one with a sequel already in the works called *The One Who Got Away*.

Kubica, Mary. [Don't You Cry](#) (Mira \$26.99). Karen reviews: The setting is a small, decaying town in the Midwest. Esther Vaughan has disappeared without a word to anyone, including her roommate, Quinn. There is no indication as to where she has gone, but there are two mysterious letters left behind with no hint of what the messages mean. At the same time, Alex Gallo, a dishwasher in a restaurant, is mystified and intrigued with a young woman who enters their town, sits in a booth by the window, drinking coffee. Alex had a promising future with an offer of a full college scholarship, but chose to live with and, support, his alcoholic father. His other caretaking responsibilities include bringing meals to the town agoraphobic, Ingrid, sparing her the challenge of leaving her home. Add to this a psychiatrist, the discovery of another missing woman, and the man who loves her. The clues are revealed and the puzzle completed. Kubica received high praise from several reviewers for her book [Pretty Baby](#) (\$15.99). In this current title, I did not sense any inviting suspense and had little interest in the characters. This isn't my kind of book, which might explain my take on it. Fans of Kubica may think differently". And in fact, one does. Lisa Scottoline writes: "This riveting psychological thriller had me turning the pages at warp-speed and kept me rooting for its heroine..."

The plot twists and turns more than *Single White Female* on steroids, and both women characters are crafted with emotional intelligence and extraordinary talent.”

✠Lagercrantz, David. [The Fall of Man in Wilmslow](#) (Knopf \$26.95). The Swedish writer carrying on the Stieg Larsson Lisbeth Salander series writes his own book focused on brilliant British mathematician and homosexual Alan Turing. It’s June 8, 1954. Several English nationals have defected to the USSR, while a witch hunt for homosexuals rages across Britain. In these circumstances, no one is surprised when a mathematician by the name of Alan Turing is found dead in his home in the sleepy suburb of Wilmslow. It is widely assumed that he has committed suicide, unable to cope with the humiliation of a criminal conviction for gross indecency. But a young detective constable, Leonard Corell, who once dreamed of a career in higher mathematics, suspects greater forces are involved. Still in stock: 5 Signed UK firsts, [The Fall of Man in Wilmslow](#) (\$46).

Leblanc, Perrine. [The Lake](#) (Anansi \$15.95). “This slim novel, which deftly blends murder, mystery, romance, and a coming-of-age story, is a testament to the talent of the author. Alexis and Mina are both misfits living in the Acadian village of Malabour, Quebec, where three young women are murdered in one year, their bodies fished out of the village’s icy lake. For Alexis, the murders have meant the death of a love that might have been: he was in love with Geneviève, the first woman murdered. For Mina, a young woman who knows too much but can’t speak out, the murders become a terrible secret, difficult to bear. Both must leave Malabour before reckoning with all that happened. Leblanc’s debut novel, *L’homme blanc*, won the 2011 Canadian Governor General’s Award for French-language fiction. Her second is equally ambitious, with shifting points of view and spare, poetic prose. This style is occasionally problematic for the plot, leaving some unanswered questions that can be distracting for the reader, but ultimately, it is from the work’s sparseness that the novel draws its beauty.”—*PW* Starred Review

Leonard, Peter. [Unknown Remains](#) (Counterpoint \$25). Elmore’s son is not the first author to imagine a scenario where someone took surviving the 9/11 destruction of the towers into a chance to play dead and reboot a life. This would be Jack McCann, a Wall Street high-flyer accustomed to winning all with his charm and sales technique. But Jack was there because he crept in to pick up funds he’s stolen from an elderly trusting client before his boss could not just fire him but lower the legal boom. His unfortunate “widow” Diane, a woman who loves Jack and thought all was well in her world, not only is hit by grief but rapidly by the news she’s broke, betrayed, and “owes” \$750,000 to some kind of mob. Shocked by not broken, Diane (with a Beretta kept tucked into her handbag) wrings information from Jack’s best buddy, confronts Jack’s lover, resists the “grief counselor” who won’t go away, refuses to pay up (if she could from Jack’s life insurance), and navigates a sudden new life. This swiftly paced story moves from one narrator to another and makes a thoroughly enjoyable book in the Leonard style.

Maberry, Jonathan. [Kill Switch](#) (\$16.99). Terrorists have acquired a terrible new weapon that can crash the power grid and plunge America into a new dark age. A coordinated attack is planned to shut out all lights and emergency services to ten major cities. Planes will fall, hospitals will go dark, no help will come. And

in that terrible darkness, a dreadful plague will be released. If the lights go off, nothing can stop the bioweapon from killing millions. Capt. Joe Ledger of the Department of Military Sciences has to head off a disaster of apocalyptic proportions in his 8th adventure. “Maberry evokes Lovecraftian elements and modern-day thriller tropes to craft a fast-paced tale that incorporates an a wide array of conspiracy theories, fringe culture motifs, and Cold War weird science into a sort of kitchen-sink affair that shouldn’t work nearly as well as it does. The sheer intensity of the story takes a heavy toll on Ledger and his team, leaving it anyone’s guess where Maberry will take readers next.”

MacBride, Stuart. [In the Cold Dark Ground](#) (Harper \$25.99). Sergeant Logan McRae’s missing-persons investigation has just turned up a body in the woods – naked, hands tied behind its back, and a bin bag duct-taped over its head. The Major Investigation Team charges up from Aberdeen, under the beady eye of Logan’s ex-boss Detective Chief Inspector Steel. And, as usual, she wants him to do her job for her. But it’s not going to be easy: a new Superintendent is on her way up from the Serious Organized Crime Task Force, hell-bent on making Logan’s life miserable; Professional Standards are gunning for Steel; and Wee Hamish Mowat, head of Aberdeen’s criminal underbelly, is dying – leaving rival gangs from all over the UK eying his territory. “Ferocious and funny.”—Val McDermid.

Mackay, Malcolm. [The Night the Rich Men Burned](#) (Morrow \$26). And in the spirit of MacBride, this new one from Mackay, who takes his gritty game to Glasgow. Oliver Peterkinney and Alex Glass, two friends from Glasgow’s desperate fringes, become involved in one of the city’s darkest and most dangerous trades: debt collection. While one rises quickly through the ranks, the other falls prey to the industry’s addictive lifestyle, accumulating steep debts of his own. Meanwhile, the three most powerful rivals in the business—Marty Jones, ruthless pimp; Potty Cruickshank, member of the old guard; and Billy Patterson, brutal newcomer—vie for prominence. And now Peterkinney, young and darkly ambitious, is beginning to make himself known. Before long, violence will spill out onto the streets, as those at the top make deadly attempts to out-manuever one another for a bigger share of the spoils. Peterkinney and Glass will find themselves at the very center of this war....

✠Mackintosh, Clare. [I Let You Go](#) (Berkley \$25.95). **Our British Crime Club Pick** for May not only delivers several surprises, it takes you into the remote Welsh countryside and into an unusual sense of community. The author is in command of her narrative both in plot and style. The May Library Reads Pick adds, “Five-year-old Jacob is killed in a hit and run, an event that leaves his young single mother totally shattered and sends the police in search of the driver. Jenna Gray flees to Wales to mourn the loss of her son and recover from her past. As the anniversary of Jacob’s still unsolved death approaches, a tip to police results in an arrest and a very different picture of events begins to emerge. This self-assured debut combines jaw-dropping moments with complex, believable characters and an ending that is hard to see coming.”

Martini, Steve. [Blood Flag](#) (Harper \$27.99). Paul Madriani and Harry Hinds, made surprisingly rich by their last case, have a new client: Emma Brauer, a woman accused in the “mercy killing” of her aged father, Robert Brauer. Insisting she’s innocent, Emma tells Paul about a package sent to her father

shortly before he entered the hospital. Bequeathed to him by a member of his unit from World War II, the box contains a key and a slip of paper. Emma fears that this package is connected to her father's death. When Paul's young assistant Sofia is murdered, Madriani is blindsided by the realization that Emma's fears are well-grounded. Digging into Robert's military history, Madriani discovers that other members of the Army unit Robert served with have recently died—under similarly suspicious circumstances.... 14th in the Madriani series.

McCrumb, Sharyn. [Prayers the Devil Answers](#) (Atria \$25.99). A prophetic mountain game called the Dumb Supper, devised to design whom young women will marry, sets the stage for a new Ballad Novel. I have not yet read it so I can only report that Ellie and Albert are unassuming mountain folk trying to survive in a sleepy Tennessee town after the end of the First World War. After coming down from the mountain settlement, away from their families, at the promise of steady work, Albert quickly finds himself elected sheriff of their small hamlet—a position of respect and a path to acceptance. Ellie is proud of him, but she's not used to the town folk and maintains her mountain ways. Unfortunately, she has to make do and get used to town quickly after Albert dies of pneumonia and she is appointed to finish his term as sheriff. Meanwhile Celia, the girl who accidentally broke the Dumb Supper spell and is cursed, gets involved with an artist painting a mural for the post office.

McFate, Sean. [Shadow War](#) (Harper \$25.99). Written with Brett Witter, coauthor of such bestsellers as *The Monuments Men*, this debut holds “Plenty of drama and a realistic view of political intrigue, and McFate really shines with lines that ring with authenticity. ...he clearly knows the realities of the mercenary's trade.”—*Kirkus*. Which this short bio explains. Dr. McFate is an expert in international relations and war, a former paratrooper and officer in the U.S. Army's storied 82nd Airborne Division. After his military service, McFate became a private military contractor, operating mostly in Africa. So his non-stop narrative revolves around mercenaries working for a contractor called Apollo which, as the opener in the Libyan Desert buying arms from Tuaregs shows, has done a deal with oil guys in Houston. But Brad Winters, the totally amoral Apollo honcho, has no loyalty, no patriotism, no moral compass, and so his men are just pawns to him in an ever-shifting game of loyalties, alliances, and goals. At stake: tipping the balance of power between Russia and the US—in Apollo's favor. Tom Locke is the mercenary lead in the field, in fact fielding what Apollo throws at him. He has a team. Their new goal is a black op in the Ukraine. Locke's got this one but he can't foresee Winters' deceptions or the damage that a former lover, war correspondent Alie MacFarlane, will impulsively precipitate. The conclusion sets up Locke for at least one more round. Recommended for fans of military fiction.

Moore, Christopher. [Secondhand Souls](#) (\$15.99). Something really strange is happening in the City by the Bay. People are dying, but their souls are not being collected. Someone—or something—is stealing them and no one knows where they are going, or why, but it has something to do with that big orange bridge. Death Merchant Charlie Asher is just as flummoxed as everyone else. He's trapped in the body of a fourteen-inch-tall “meat puppet” waiting for his Buddhist nun girlfriend, Audrey, to find him a suitable new body to play host. To get to the bottom of this abomination, a motley crew of heroes will band together. And then....

Morgan, CE. [The Sport of Kings](#) (Farrar \$27). “Horse racing and breeding, evolution, race, love, family dynamics and America's historical past are a few of the subjects and issues that Morgan bravely, confidently, and intelligently explores with a poetic and lyrical sensibility. The result is a gorgeous and engaging novel that is sobering, important, and unforgettable. In addition to her singular vision and style, Morgan combines some of the intense power of the landscape as mindscape of Thomas Wolfe, the dramaturgy and myth-mining of Eugene O'Neill, the deep focus and rigor of Richard Powers, the transcendent beauty of Vollmann's best prose, and the strong spiritual commitment of Marilynne Robinson. *The Sport of Kings* unfolds dramatically into an exquisite work of classic American literature.”

☞Moyes, Jojo. [Me Before You](#) (\$16). A poignant story about an ordinary young woman whose universe if her tiny village takes a badly needed job with a former Master of the Universe put in a wheel chair by an accident. He's unwilling to accept this and so has plans. To her surprise, Louisa comes to care for him enough to show him life is still worth living while he senses that something in her past has made her fearful. Do not expect an easy romantic resolution for a story that will open in movie theaters on June 3.

Orenduff, J Michael. [The Pot Thief Who Studied Georgia O'Keeffe](#) (Open Road \$14.99). Hubie Schuze is a pottery geek. He loves digging in the desert for ancient ceramics and crafting copies of artifacts with his own hands. When he's not engaged with clay, Hubie is usually absorbed in reading a book, often a classic. His sidekick in sleuthing is Susannah Inchaustigui, a descendant of one of New Mexico's Basque ranching families. She's two decades younger than Hubie and everything he is not—brash, garrulous, and unrestrained. Their bond is based on a mutual appreciation of margaritas, good food, old movies, and the fact that they both have relationship issues. In this 7th outing, Hubie learns of a buyer looking for a pot made by the Tompiro people. Schuze thinks he can find one on the prohibited, heavily guarded White Sands Missile Range. With the aid of friend and accomplice Susannah Inchaustigui, he manages to get into the target area and find a valuable pot, but he's forced to bury it and leave the area without it. Schuze concocts an elaborate plan to retrieve the pot, only to find it gone. The real pot and at least one fake tantalize a bewildering number of collectors, one of whom becomes a murder victim....

Patterson, James/Maxine Petro. [15th Affair](#) (LittleBrown \$28). As she settles into motherhood and a happy marriage, Lindsay Boxer thinks she has found domestic bliss. But when a beautiful, alluring blonde woman with links to the CIA disappears from the scene of a brutal murder at a downtown luxury hotel, Lindsay's life begins to unravel. Before she can track down the woman for questioning, a plane crash plunges San Francisco into chaos and Lindsay's husband Joe vanishes. The deeper she digs, the more Lindsay suspects that Joe shares a secret past with the mystery blonde.... New in paperback: [Cross Justice](#) (\$15.99)

Patterson, James, ed. [Thriller: Stories to Keep You Up All Night](#) (\$15.99). The first short story collection ever dedicated strictly to thrillers, and the first publication from International Thriller Writers, Inc. Included within this monster 576-page compilation are 30 stories from a jaw-dropping gathering of the genre's biggest stars (and all ITW members): Gayle Lynds,

John Lescroart, Lee Child, Eric Van Lustbader, David Morrell, Michael Palmer, James Rollins and Steve Berry, to name just a few. These anthologies are written as fundraisers for ITW so it can support its work with authors. Originally published as a hardcover in 2006, it contains the origin story of ITW which happened right here at a Poisoned Pen conference at the Arizona Biltmore that July.

Philbrick, Nathaniel. [Valiant Ambition](#) (Viking \$30). George Washington, Benedict Arnold, and the Fate of the American Revolution. In the fall of 1776, the Continental Army suffered a devastating defeat and Washington evacuated New York. Three weeks later, Arnold held out against the British naval advance down Lake Champlain. And four years later, Arnold has fled to London. One man holds his faith in the revolution, the other loses his. This is another reminder how unbelievably lucky we were in George Washington.

☞Pulley, Natasha. [The Watchmaker of Filigree Street](#) (\$16). A 2015 History/Mystery Club Pick in UK hardcover. 1883. Thaniel Steepleton returns home to his tiny London apartment to find a gold pocket watch on his pillow. Six months later, the mysterious timepiece saves his life, drawing him away from a blast that destroys Scotland Yard. At last, he goes in search of its maker, Keita Mori, a kind, lonely immigrant from Japan. Although Mori seems harmless, a chain of unexplainable events soon suggests he must be hiding something. When Grace Carrow, an Oxford physicist, unwittingly interferes, Thaniel is torn between opposing loyalties. The *NY Times* reviewer finds the book “makes immensely pleasurable reading. Pulley’s prose is strong and energetic, with a wry edge, and even the most minor characters are drawn precisely. They’re anchored in an 1880s London that’s solid and complex, with nods to the political and social issues of the day. The chapters set in Japan give a well-researched glimpse of a country recovering from civil war, caught between fealty to tradition and a growing infatuation with the West...*The Watchmaker of Filigree Street* might be compared to one of Mori’s clockwork birds: intricate, charming and altogether surprising.”

Riggs, Cynthia. [Bloodroot: A Martha’s Vineyard Mystery](#) (St Martins \$25.99). It’s just another day at the dentist’s office for 92-year-old poet Victoria Trumbull when fellow patient, wealthy Mrs. Wilmington, dies. It’s an unfortunate, though seemingly not murderous incident, but the receptionist is hysterical, so one of the dental assistants offers to drive her home. But after making a quick pit stop, he finds her body floating in the harbor. With the police shorthanded due to an upcoming presidential visit, it’s up to Victoria to take on the case. As she wrestles with her ex-son-in-law, a \$3 million will, and a deadly dental clinic, Mrs. Trumbull discovers that nothing in the case is quite what it seems. 12th in series so you realize that Victoria is not aging in real time...

☞Robb, Candace. [The Service of the Dead](#) (Norton \$25.95). Set in York in 1399, this series launch from Robb works better as a historical novel than a mystery. Richard II’s decision to forfeit Henry Bolingbroke’s inheritance raises the prospect of a civil war. Against this backdrop, Kate Clifford, who operates a guesthouse, is put in a difficult position by the real-life mayor of York, William Frost, a cousin of hers. Kate was expecting William and a lady friend to use one of her rooms for a discreet rendezvous, but instead, the mayor persuaded her housekeeper to accommodate a stranger and a well-known prostitute. The deception would have been a trivial one had the unknown man

not been strangled. When Kate confronts William, he refuses to identify the corpse, though he agrees to dispose of the remains to avoid a scandal. Kate’s search for the man’s identity and killer is prosaic, but the novel resonates with its compelling portrayal of an England on the brink of crisis.

☞Robinson, Peter. [Innocent Graves](#) (\$14.99). Reissue of the 8th Chief Inspector Alan Banks.

Santos, Fernanda. [The Fire Line](#) (Flatiron Books \$25.99) offers an account of the Granite Mountain Hot Shots based in Prescott and the deadly fire that took their lives as well as the investigation that followed.

Sharp, Zoe. [Road Kill](#); [Second Shot](#) (Felony & Mayhem \$14.95 each). Reissues of two Charlie Fox thrillers. The second brings the English bodyguard to the States, not a good venue for her. Bang!

☞Sheridan, Sara. [Brighton Belle](#) (Kensington \$25.). Brighton may be the beat of Peter James in his contemporary bestsellers with Superintendent Roy Grace, this first in a fresh, charming, and darkly plotted series with Mirabelle Bevan, killing time and grief working at a debt collection agency, is going to rule the 1950s city in crime fiction. Some of this evokes the feeling of the “Robert Galbraiths,” some that of James’Runcie’s Grantchester Mysteries (love the TV adaptation). And there’s a bit of *Foyle’s War*, the post-war ones, too. Mirabelle actually served in the war under spymaster Jack, her lover. Tragically Jack unexpectedly died so it’s his wife whom he had hardly seen for ten years and not Mirabelle who’s the official widow. Deprived of her life with Jack, Mirabelle is barely going through the motions of living, working with Big Ben McGuigan, when she follows up a routine loan to a Romana, a Hungarian refugee. And just like that, Mirabelle becomes involved in a complex murder case and her life pivots in many ways. Recommended!

Seay, Martin. [The Mirror Thief](#) (Melville \$27.95). “A remarkable novel—magical, sweeping, epic, and monstrous.—Douglas Preston. *The Mirror Thief* calls to mind David Mitchell and Umberto Eco in its mix of entertainment and literary bravado. The core story is set in Venice in the sixteenth century, when the famed makers of Venetian glass were perfecting one of the old world’s most wondrous inventions: the mirror. An object of glittering yet fearful fascination—was it reflecting simple reality, or something more spiritually revealing?—the Venetian mirrors were state of the art technology, and subject to industrial espionage by desirous sultans and royals world-wide. But for any of the development team to leave the island was a crime punishable by death. One man, however—a world-weary war hero with nothing to lose—has a scheme he thinks will allow him to outwit the city’s terrifying enforcers of the edict, the ominous Council of Ten... Meanwhile, in two other Venices—Venice Beach, California, circa 1958, and the Venice casino in Las Vegas, circa today—two other schemers launch similarly dangerous plans to get away with a secret... All three stories will weave together.

Simenon, George. [Felicie](#) (Penguin \$12). Peg Leg Lapie, a crusty old sailor, is found mysteriously murdered in a most incongruous setting: a picturesque cottage near Paris, where he lived attended only by his young housekeeper, Felicie. But Lapie was not alone Maitre, chief inspector of the Paris police, is sure of it... 25th in the Penguin Maitre Series.

✧ Swift, Graham. [Mothering Sunday](#) (Knopf \$22.95). Set in 1924, in an England still reeling from the loss of young men to the Great War, this elegiac tale offers a haunting portrait of lives in a world in transition. Its events unfold from the viewpoint of Jane Fairchild, a 22-year-old maid at the Berkshire estate Beechwood. On the titular day—a Sunday before Easter that the aristocracy traditionally give their help off to visit their families—Jane bikes to neighboring Upleigh for a final fling with Paul Sheringham, her wealthy lover for the past five years, who is soon to marry into another blue blood family. No one can anticipate that the day will end abruptly with a devastating tragedy—and, for Jane, an epiphany that marks the start of a future as rich and rewarding as it is unforeseen. “The story lingers on the immediate aftermath of Jane and Paul’s tryst and Swift invests its every detail—the order in which Paul hastily dons formal attire to lunch with his fiancée and their families, the casualness with which Jane explores his estate home in the nude—with gravity and symbolic weight. His depiction of a fragile caste clinging to traditions that define their sense of noblesse oblige while struggling to bear the era’s crushing burden of “accumulated loss and grief” is poignant and moving—as is his intimation of a brilliant personal destiny that rises from the ashes of a tragically bygone social order.”—*PW* Starred Review

Tata, A.J. [Three Minutes to Midnight](#) (Kensington \$25). Croatian Indian Jake Mahegan leads a knockdown, non-stop action thriller where murderous past deeds collide with domestic terrorism and underground fracking as an unorthodox weapons delivery system. It begins with the kidnapping of an Army Reserve officer on U.S. soil. Name: Captain Maeve Cassidy. Profession: Geologist specializing in natural gas drilling and fracturing. Mission: classified. Abducted less than twenty-four hours upon her return from Afghanistan, Cassidy’s disappearance from a Fort Bragg compound is more than a security breach. It is the first stage of a large-scale domestic attack that few Americans could imagine—or survive... “Mahegan stands out from the crowd of usual thriller heroes, avoiding the clichéd trope of the mystical American Indian warrior. Vivid descriptions of close-quarters combat are detailed enough to be instructional, and Tata keeps the story twisting to the rousing final pages.”—*PW* Starred Review

Tesh, Jane. [Evil Turns](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). In the small North Carolina town of Celosia, private investigator (and former beauty queen) Madeline Maclin is called into service when a young man’s body is found in a local vineyard, covered with occult symbols. Could that mysterious death be connected to the group of women who years ago formed the Darkrose Coven, which they maintained was done all in fun to honor a character from the popular Pagan Desires books and movies? Or might the present-day young women of Celosia be involved—those who secretly revived the Darkrose Coven, and its signifying tattoo, after it had been disbanded back in the Seventies? As the townspeople totally focus on Celosia’s approaching Centennial, the various factions involved in staging a celebratory outdoor drama about Celosia’s founding begin to wage war with each other. And then the body of Harold Stover is found, whose voice had been the loudest about blocking the production on grounds of its exorbitant cost. Intrigue unfolds as Celosia prepares for its centennial. The Women’s Improvement Society, led by wealthy, obnoxious Amanda Price, plans to create an outdoor musical drama, *Flower of the South*, extolling Emmaline Ross, one of the state’s first

vintners. 5th in the Madeline Maclin series. Also in hardcover: Tesh, Jane. [Evil Turns](#) (\$26.95).

Thompson, Victoria. [Murder in Morningside Heights](#) (Berkley \$25.95). Former police sergeant Frank Malloy and his wife work to adjust to life in New York high society. After spending his first few weeks as a private detective by investigating infidelities of the wealthy, Frank has a more serious case at hand. Abigail Northrup of Tarrytown, New York, was her parents’ pride and joy. After graduating from a prestigious women’s college in Morningside Heights, she took a job there as an instructor. She also joined the ranks of the New Women, ladies planning for a life without a husband in which they make their own decisions and make a difference in the world. Unfortunately, her murder ended all that. When the police declare the incident a random attack and refuse to investigate further, Abigail’s parents request Frank’s help. Of course, he’ll need Sarah’s assistance as she’s more familiar with the world of academia, and it will be far easier for her to interview the female professors....

✧Tinniswood, Adrian. [The Long Weekend](#) (Basic Books \$30). Life in the English Country House 1918-1939. Catnip to fans of *Downton Abbey*. As WWI drew to a close, change reverberated through the halls of England’s country homes. As the sun set slowly on the British Empire, the shadows lengthened on the lawns of a thousand stately homes. In *The Long Weekend*, historian Adrian Tinniswood introduces us to the tumultuous, scandalous and glamorous history of English country houses during the years between World Wars

Tremblay, Paul. [Head Full of Ghosts](#) (\$14.99). *PW* awards this one of its infrequent and coveted Starred Reviews: “Is the protagonist of this book a demon-possessed victim or a clever, manipulative teen? This savvy tale of horror tantalizingly keeps the reader waiting for an answer. When 14-year-old Marjorie Barrett begins behaving as though she’s demonically possessed, her Massachusetts family starts a reality-based television show, *The Possession*, to earn the money they desperately need to keep their household together. But is Marjorie really channeling a creature of supernatural evil, or is she just good at Internet research, which keeps her one step ahead of her gullible parents and doctors? Marjorie’s younger sister, Meredith, who is recounting these events 15 years after her family’s ordeal, even wonders whether it’s possible for Marjorie “to be both possessed by a demon and faking it too.” Tremblay paints a believable portrait of a family in extremis, but at the same time he slyly suggests that in a culture where the wall between reality and acting has eroded, even the make believe might seem credible. Whether psychological or supernatural, this is a work of deviously subtle horror.

Viets, Elaine. [The Art of Murder](#) (NAL \$24.95). These Dead End Job Mysteries are fun. While touring gorgeous Bonnet House, a mansion-turned-museum, Ft. Lauderdale PI Helen Hawthorne and her friend Margery observe a painting class and note an up-and-coming artist. When they later see Annabel drink raspberry tea and expire from nicotine poisoning, Helen is hired to canvas the crime scene—undercover, of course. Sketchy suspects lurk in the victim’s bohemian past. Was the promising painter killed by her jealous husband? Her best friend? A rival using her artful wiles? With her husband Phil busy setting a trap for a gold thief, it’s up to Helen to crack this one.

✂Walters, Louise. [Mrs. Sinclair's Suitcase](#) (\$16). Roberta, a lonely 34-year-old, works at The New and Old Bookshop in England. When she finds a letter inside her centenarian grandmother's battered old suitcase that hints at a dark secret, her understanding of her family's history is completely upturned. Running alongside Roberta's narrative is that of her grandmother, Dorothy, as a 40-year-old childless woman desperate for motherhood during the early years of World War II. After a chance encounter with a Polish war pilot, Dorothy believes she's finally found happiness, but instead she is faced with a dilemma so monumental, the consequences affect her granddaughter decades later. And so, the parallel stories of Roberta and Dorothy unravel over the course of 80 years as they both make their own ways through secrets, lies, sacrifices, and love.

Weaver, Tim. [Chasing the Dead](#) (Penguin \$16). Mary Towne's son, Alex, went missing six years ago. Five years later he finally turned up—as a corpse in a car wreck. Missing persons investigator David Raker doesn't want the work: it's clearly a sad but hopeless case of mistaken identity brought to him by a woman unable to let go of her son. But haunted by a loss of his own, he reluctantly agrees. As Raker digs deeper, he discovers that Alex's life was not the innocent one his mother believed. Buried in his past are secrets that were never meant to be found....

✂Wilde, Darcie. [A Useful Woman](#) (Berkley \$15). A new entry into the world of Jane Austen introduces resourceful Rosalind Thorne, daughter of a baronet and a minor heiress who needs to earn her way when her father abandons the family. Luckily she has the entrée to some of London society's most influential women and she begins to manage their affairs. Then the wastrel Jasper Aimesworth is found dead at Almack's, the ballroom where the patronesses can make or break women, particularly young women wishful of making their bows and catching beaux. This will never do. Then further scandalous behaviors ensue including a very clever forgery scheme. I liked this with one caveat: anyone going to write about the aristocracy really has to learn their titles and modes of address, or find an editor or copy editor who does. For example, one would never call the Countess Lieven "Your Grace," a title reserved for a duchess.

OUR MAY MASS MARKET PAPERBACK PICKS

Bridge, Kathleen. [Hearse and Gardens](#) (Berkley \$7.99) *Hamptons Home and Garden Mystery* #2. While helping her friend inventory the huge estate of a wealthy art broker, Hamptons interior designer Meg stumbles upon the remains of the broker's long-lost son who went missing 20 years earlier along with his father's Warhol paintings and decides to solve this cold case. As the author of a nonfiction guide to paper antiques as well as being an antiques dealer herself, Bridge brings plenty of real-life experience to her writing.

Castillo, Linda. [After the Storm](#) (\$7.99) *Kate Burkholder* #7. Attempting to identify human remains that are uncovered by a tornado, Chief of Police Kate Burkholder discovers that the person had been murdered and was tied to a family's long-hidden secrets. *LJ* said "Series fans as well as first-time readers will be enthralled by this compelling and atmospheric mystery set in the heart of Amish country."

Cussler, Clive/Boyd Morrison. [Piranha](#) (\$9.99) *Oregon Files* #10. Covertly recreating the 1902 sinking of a ship on which a

German scientist was on the brink of an astonishing breakthrough, Cabrillo and his team are targeted by an assassin before learning that a traitorous weapons designer has finished the scientist's work *PW* concluded with this statement "But this is a Cussler thriller, so action scenarios take second place to a blockbuster concept, in this case giant glowing green crystals in a secret cave that power a "neutrino telescope" capable of seeing anything, anywhere on the planet. Series fans will have a lot of fun."

Finder, Joseph. [The Fixer](#) (\$9.99). Forced to move to the ramshackle home of his youth after a career setback, Rick Hoffman begins a laborious renovation only to make a discovery that threatens his life and challenges everything he thought he knew about his late father. *Kirkus* gave this thumbs up saying "Finder returns with another thriller that will have you shaking your head over the protagonist's actions but still turning the pages to find out what happens next."

Hart, Carolyn G. [Don't Go Home](#) (\$7.99) *Death on Demand* #25. A celebration for former Broward's Rock resident Alex Griffith and the release of his latest novel is overshadowed by a newspaper story about the writer's plan to expose the real-life people behind his characters prompting someone to silence the author and leaving Annie Darling with another murder to solve. *PW* was a fan of the latest by Hart concluding with "descriptions of the sultry climate and island life enhance the smart whodunit plot."

✂Holt, Hazel. [Mrs. Malory and Death Is a Word](#) (NAL \$7.99) *Mrs. Malory* #21. When her friend, Eva, who was compiling a book of her late husband's unpublished works of journalism—dangerous stories from around the world from Libya to Afghanistan—dies under mysterious circumstances, Sheila must discover if there is a killer among the residents of their charming Devon countryside. Holt was a friend as well as the official biographer of the late British author Barbara Pym, and her Mrs. Malory mysteries really are the quintessential British cozies.

Mathews, Francine. [Death in the Off-Season](#) (\$9.99) *Merry Folger* #1. When Rusty Mason, scion of one of Nantucket's oldest and wealthiest families, is found dead in a flooded cranberry bog one foggy fall night, thirty-two-year-old detective Meredith Folger is faced with her first murder case. Rusty had been absent from the country for over a decade—ever since he was indicted for securities fraud. No one expected him to show up on Nantucket that night. No one, that is, except his killer. Mathews' first mystery is finally back in print for fans who may have missed it when it first came out back in the 1990s. And she has revised it.

Palmer, Daniel. [Constant Fear](#) (\$9.99). A Doomsday prepper/private school custodian must rescue his genius hacker son, who is caught by a brutal drug cartel for electronically siphoning off their funds. *PW*'s take included this comment "extraordinary character development and more than a few bombshell plot twists will keep readers turning the pages until the contrived ending."

Sandford, John. [Gathering Prey](#) (\$9.99) *Prey* #25. When his adopted daughter's friend reports that someone has been killing off a circle of nomadic panhandlers, Lucas travels to North Dakota, where he encounters a dangerously violent subculture. *PW* conclude their rave review with "Sandford handles the drawn-out action with his usual artful combination of suspense and humor."

Slaughter, Kari. [Pretty Girls](#) (\$9.99). Estranged for years after the disappearance of their sister, trophy wife Claire and struggling single mom Lydia are reunited by the murder of Claire's husband and investigate decades of family secrets to discover the truth. *LJ* was just one of the major review sources that loved this saying "Slaughter's stand-alone novel packs a heck of a wallop, and while it's a powerful thriller, it's also a deft look into a family forced to confront horrific tragedy. Slaughter's longtime fans will be thrilled. New readers will be hooked on this twisted tale from page one."

NEW IN MASS MARKET PAPERBACK

Alten, Steve. [Vostok](#) (Tor \$9.99). Marine biologist Zachary Wallace and two other scientists journey over thirteen thousand feet under the Antarctic ice at Lake Vostok only to find ancient life forms long believed to be extinct.

Atkins, Ace. [Robert B Parker's Kickback](#) (\$9.99) Spencer #44. When her teenage son and other kids are imprisoned for misdemeanors, a woman hires private investigator Spenser to find the truth behind a corrupt judge's unusually hard sentencing practices for minors.

Black, David. [Fast Shuffle](#) (\$9.99). Used car salesman Harry Dickinson's quixotic attempts at being a private detective have the local police annoyed, and his relatives worried about his mental stability, so nobody will believe him when his investigations turn up a murder.

Bond, Larry. [Lash-Up](#) (Tor \$9.99). When China provokes a military crisis and shoots down GPS satellites, a team of soldier-scientists races against time to build and launch armed spacecraft to defend America's remaining satellites and protect the world from space weapons.

Bova, Ben. [Power Surge](#) (\$8.99). Dr. Jake Ross, the science advisor to a newly elected freshman senator, must figure out how Washington really works when his comprehensive energy plan runs afoul of special interests, cynical bureaucrats, and a powerful U.S. senator.

Brown, Rita Mae. [Tail Gait](#) (\$7.99) Mrs. Murphy #23. When a popular University of Virginia history professor is found murdered, Harry and her furry entourage disregard the confession of a homeless alum and look for clues in the victim's research about Virginia's revolutionary past.

Christopher, Adam. [Elementary: Blood and Ink](#) (Titan \$7.99). After the CFO of a secretive NYC hedge fund is murdered, Sherlock Holmes and Joan Watson discover a link between the victim and a charismatic touring management guru with a checkered past. Based on the hit TV series.

Clarke, Richard. [Pinnacle Event](#) (\$9.99). Five simultaneous murders on three continents during the 2016 presidential election trigger an international hunt to identify who has come into the possession of five nuclear weapons and who they are targeting.

Cochran, Peg. [Berry the Hatchet](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Cranberry Cove #2. Monica Albertson is baking cranberry goodies by the dozen and shopkeepers of Cranberry Cove are decking out their storefronts for the first annual Winter Walk—an event dreamed up by the mayor to bring visitors to the town during a normally dead time of year. But it's the mayor who turns up dead during the grand opening ceremony, which means Monica must put down her oven mitts and put on her sleuthing cap in order to find out who wanted the mayor put on ice permanently.

Couch, Dick. [Tom Clancy's Op-Center: Into the Fire](#) (St Martins \$9.99). When the USS Milwaukee is attacked by the North Koreans, the Op-Center initiates a sensitive operation to rescue the survivors, a mission made more crucial following the discovery of a secret pact between China and North Korea.

Coughlin, Jack. [Night of the Cobra](#) (\$9.99). Marine sniper Kyle Swanson journeys to Somalia to confront a vengeful warlord and rescue the terrorist-soldier grandson of a teacher who once saved Swanson's life.

Donally, Claire. [Catch As Cat Can](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Sunny and Shadow #5. Former reporter Sunny Coolidge, with the help of her boyfriend, Chief Investigator Will Price, must get seafood shop owner Neil Garret off the hook when he is accused of murder before the case goes belly up.

Estleman, Loren. [Journey of the Dead and the Undertaker's Wife](#) (\$9.99). Two novels in one from the Spur Award winner who writes in all genres. "Journey of the Dead," in which Pat Garrett pays a terrible emotional price after killing Billy the Kid, and "The Undertaker's Wife," in which Lucy, an undertaker's wife, reflects on the tragedies that shaped their marriage, revealing a love that can transcend death

Fluke, Joanne. [Eyes](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Losing everything after the sudden death of her fiancé, Alan, Connie Wilson comes up with a plan to stay close to Alan forever, leaving a trail of bodies in her wake as she tries to stay one step ahead of a detective who is determined to save her. Originally published in the early 1990s as Christ Hunter.

Haines, Carolyn. [Bone to Be Wild](#) (\$7.99) Southern Belle #15. Sara Booth Delaney investigates when a blues musician and former fling has his life threatened prior to hosting a Halloween ball in New Orleans.

Harris, Sherry. [All Murders Final!](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Garage Sale #3. When her virtual online garage sale takes a deadly turn, resulting in the murder of a client, Sarah Winston is forced to turn to her ex, Chief of Police C. J. Hooker, for help in finding a killer before someone else ends up wearing a toe tag.

Hechtman, Betty. [Seams Like Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Crochet #10. When the discovery of a dead body interferes with the opening of a series of crafting classes called Yarn University, Molly, along with the Tarzana Hookers, must unravel the clues to solve this mystery.

Hiebert, Michael. [Dream with Little Angels](#) (Kensington \$9.99). Twelve years earlier, the town of Alvin, Alabama, lost another of its daughters, her lifeless body eventually found beneath a willow tree. Abe Teal wasn't even born then. Now his life will never be the same when two more girls go missing and his mother Leah, the town's sole detective, tackles the case.

Kelly, Diane. [Against the Paw](#) (St Martins \$7.99) Megan Luz #4. While trying to find a convicted burglar who has broken his parole, rookie cop Megan Luz, along with Sergeant Brigit, her K-9 partner, must stop a Neighborhood Watch group on Peeping Tom patrol before they take the law into their own hands.

Logan, Kylie. [Irish Stewed](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Ethnic Eats #1. To save her aunt's run-down greasy spoon in Hubbard, Ohio, Laurel Inwood cooks up a plan involving daily specials featuring ethnic cuisine, but must first solve the murder of a local reporter who was found slumped over a table with a receipt spike in his back.

Maxwell, Edith. [Farmed and Dangerous](#) (Kensington \$7.99)

Local Foods #4. Struggling through a harsh Massachusetts winter that is threatening her organic farm, Cam Flaherty is wrongly implicated for the poisoning death of an unpopular local.

McDermott, Andy. [The Revelation Code](#) (Bantam \$9.99) Nina

Wilde & Eddie Chase #11. When Nina Wilde is kidnapped by the “Prophet,” who needs her expert archeological skills, she is forced to hunt down a series of ancient stone figures across the world while waiting for her husband Eddie Chase to rescue her before the world meets its prophesized end. Sounds like we are in Steve Berry/James Rollins territory here.

McHugh, Mary. [Bossa Novas, Bikinis, and Bad Ends](#)

(Kensington \$7.99) Happy Hoofers #4. Kicking off Carnival by entertaining the patrons at the most elegant hotel in Rio de Janeiro, the Happy Hoofers trade-in their dancing shoes and become samba-loving sleuths when their exotic Brazilian companion is found dead in her room, without a clue as to what killed her.

Parra, Nancy J. [Newlywed Dead](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Perfect

Proposals #3. When a bartender at her sister’s wedding drops dead from a lethal nightcap, Pepper Pomeroy, determined to discover who would want to kill a virtual stranger at a county club wedding reception, must outsmart a clever killer who is wedded to the idea of murder.

Smith, Karen Rose. [The Silence of the Lamps](#) (Kensington

\$7.99) Home Staging #5. When her sister’s catering rival is found bludgeoned to death by one of his grandmother’s antique Tiffany lamps, home stager Caprice De Luca must shed some light on the real killer to clear her sister’s name.

Smith, Wilbur. [Golden Lion: A Novel of Heroes](#) (\$9.99)

Courtneys #14. Twenty years after his father’s execution, Hal pursues his efforts to exact revenge, while trying to secure his fortunes and protect his growing family.

Tanenbaum, Robert. [Trap](#) (\$9.99) Butch Karp #27. Investigating

an explosion at an East Harlem school that has caused numerous deaths and injuries, Karp and Ciampi discover links to a mysterious serial arsonist and a teacher’s union president who would protest New York City’s charter school movement.

Thompson, Victoria. [Murder on Amsterdam Avenue](#) (\$7.99)

Gaslight #17. Mourning the passing of a family friend who has succumbed to a mysterious disease, Sarah and Frank work around their wedding preparations to unravel a web of secrets while exposing a Civil War-era crime and a present-day threat.

Thor, Brad. [Code of Conduct](#) (\$9.99) Scot Harvath #14. Doing

a favor for a friend, counterterrorism operative Scot Harvath undertakes an assignment navigating international intrigue and political gamesmanship and facing the worst fears in the espionage world.