

BOOKNEWS from

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Join Us In June ...

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

WEDNESDAY JUNE 1 7:00 PM SciFi Rocks!

Elevedgedden: A Party (with free timed tickets)
There will be no formal program or book signing but authors will be happy to visit and sign

Hosted by Kevin Hearne, Pierce Brown, Patrick Rothfuss, Brandon Sanderson, Scott Sigler

with Beth Cato, Adam Christopher, Ryan Dalton, Leanna Renee Hieber, Jason Hough, Mary Robinette Kowal, Tom Leveen, Michael Martinez, Brian McClellan, VE Schwab, Michael J. Sullivan, Sam Sykes, Dan Wells, Django Wexler

TUESDAY JUNE 7 7:00 PM

Christine Carbo signs [Mortal Fall](#) (Atria \$16)
J. Todd Scott signs [The Far Empty](#) (Putnam \$27) First Mystery Pick

SATURDAY JUNE 11 10:30 AM

Coffee and Crime meets with Laura Bradford to discuss [A Churn for the Worst](#) (\$7.99)

SATURDAY JUNE 11 2:00 PM

Laura Bradford signs [Éclair and Present Danger](#) (Berkley \$7.99)
Kate Carlisle signs [Books of a Feather](#) (Berkley \$25) Bibliophile Mystery #10
Paige Shelton signs [The Cracked Spine](#) (St Martins \$25.99)

TUESDAY JUNE 14 7:00 PM

Bryon Quertermous signs [Riot Load](#) (Polis \$14.95) Dominick Prince #2

WEDNESDAY JUNE 15 7:00 PM

J.T. Ellison signs [Field of Graves](#) (Mira \$26.99)
Heather Gudenkauf signs [Missing Pieces](#) (Mira \$26.99)

THURSDAY JUNE 16 7:00 PM with Anne Wilson

Grant Blackwood signs [Tom Clancy Duty and Honor](#) (Putnam \$29)
Whitney Terrell signs [The Good Lieutenant](#) (Farrar \$26) Modern Firsts Club Pick. Watch a [video here](#)

FRIDAY JUNE 17 7:00 PM

The SciFi Book Club discussed Anne Leckie's [Ancillary Justice](#) (\$16)

SATURDAY JUNE 18 10:30 AM

Croak and Dagger discusses Margaret Mzushima's [Killing Trail](#) (\$14.99)

SATURDAY JUNE 18 2:00 PM

Cara Black signs [Murder on the Quai](#) (Soho \$27.95) Aimée LeDuc

TUESDAY JUNE 21 7:00 PM

Rachel Howzell Hall signs [Trail of Echoes](#) (Forge \$25.99)
Gina Wohlsdorf signs [Security](#) (Algonquin \$25.95) First Mystery Pick

THURSDAY JUNE 23 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime discusses Elmore Leonard's [Swag](#) (\$14.99)

FRIDAY JUNE 24 7:00 PM

James Sallis signs [Willnot](#) (Bloomsbury \$26)
Followed by a session with the Three-Legged Dog Band

SATURDAY JUNE 25 7:00 PM

Doubletree Resort, 5401 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85250
This is a ticketed event, but books can be ordered in the usual way for those not attending
Diana Gabaldon and Theresa Carle-Sanders sign [Outlander Kitchen, The Official Outlander Companion Cookbook](#) (Random \$35). No personalizations can be made.
Our copies come with a special recipe card not included in the book
To buy tickets @\$40 each, [click here](#). Details of the event will be found at that URL

MONDAY JUNE 27 7:00 PM

Brad Thor signs [Foreign Agent](#) (Atria \$27.99) Scot Harvath

TUESDAY JUNE 28 7:00 PM

Ben Coes signs [First Strike](#) (St Martins \$26.99) Dewey Andreas
Stephen Coonts signs [Liberty's Last Stand](#) (Regnery \$27.99) Jake Grafton
Brian Keene signs [Pressure](#) (St Martins \$25.99)
Weston Ochse signs [Grunt Traitor](#) (\$7.99)

WEDNESDAY JUNE 29 7:00 PM Bruno!

Martin Walker signs [Fatal Pursuit](#) (Knopf \$25.95) Bruno, Chief of Police
Our copies will come with an image of the lost Bugatti Type 57 automobile and the recipe for a mouthwatering dish as prepared by Bruno

THURSDAY JUNE 30

Brad Taylor signs [Ghosts of War](#) (Dutton \$27) Pike Logan #10

SATURDAY JULY 2 2:00 PM

Beatriz Williams signs [A Certain Age](#) (Harper \$26.99) Gatsby's New York in a story inspired by *Der Rosenkavalier*

CLOSED JULY 4

EVENT BOOKS

Black, Cara. [Murder on the Quai](#) (Soho \$27.95). Though a prequel there is much that is fresh, plus a strong plot. November, 1989: Aimée Leduc is in her first year of college at Paris's preeminent medical school. She lives in a 17th-century apartment that overlooks the Seine with her father, who runs the family detective agency. Meet her at the outset of her 15 cases. *PW* reviews, "a prequel that tells the intriguing story of Aimée's debut as a detective. When Aimée's father, Jean-Claude, travels to Germany on business around the time of the fall of the Berlin Wall, he leaves Aimée, a first-year medical student who's struggling with academic failure and her boyfriend leaving her for another woman, temporarily in charge of the family-owned detective agency in Paris. Elise Pelletier, who claims to be Jean-Claude's second cousin, brings Aimée her first case. Elise wants to find the woman whose name and phone number were on a matchbook in the pocket of her own father, Bruno, who was discovered tied and bound with a bullet in his head under the Pont des Invalides. As Aimée investigates, she becomes enmeshed in the murky history of the murder of four German soldiers in Vichy, France, during WWII. Series fans will enjoy learning more about Aimée's mysterious past." And, I add, how she met René and her puppy plus the history of her mother as turned up by Jean-Claude. Order all the LeDucs [here](#).

Blackwood, Grant. [Tom Clancy: Duty and Honor](#) (Putnam \$29). Even though he's on forced leave from the clandestine intelligence group known as The Campus, Jack Ryan, Jr., still finds himself caught in the crosshairs after an attempt on his life is thwarted when he turns the tables on his would-be dispatcher. Convinced that the attack is linked to his recent covert actions with the convalescing Iranian national Ysabel Kashini, Jack sets out to find out who wants him dead, and why. Using clues found on the now dead assassin, Jack pursues the investigation, following a growing trail of corpses to the European Union's premier private security firm. Order Blackwood's earlier Jack Ryan, Jr., thrillers [here](#).

Bradford, Laura. [Éclair and Present Danger](#) (Berkley \$7.99). With her rent rising faster than her pie crust, bakery owner Winnie Johnson had hoped to be rescued by an inheritance from her wealthy friend and neighbor Gertrude Redenbacher. Instead all she inherits is the widow's hostile hissing tabby, Lovey, and a vintage ambulance, restored by Gertrude's late husband. As her dream crumbles, Winnie makes her final delivery—a peach pie to an elderly widower. But she finds Bart Wagner lying on his kitchen floor, smothered by a pillow. To comfort her frightened and grieving neighbors, Winnie comes to the rescue with her baked goods—and an idea is born: dessert delivery via her ambulance and a new business called the Emergency Dessert Squad. When she's not speeding to the scenes of dessert emergencies, Winnie is also racing to track down Bart's killer. First in the Emergency Dessert Squad Mysteries. "A tasty, twisty tale full of felonies and flavor! Laura Bradford cooks up a delightful cast of characters led by clever amateur sleuth and dessert rescuer Winnie Johnson. The plot is delicious and moves at a swift pace, keeping the reader guessing while frantically turning the pages as Winnie tries to solve the murder of an old friend and make sure that his killer gets his just desserts."—Jenn McKinlay

Carle-Sanders, Theresa. [Outlander Kitchen, The Official Outlander Companion Cookbook](#) (Random \$35). **With an Introduction by Diana Gabaldon who also signs our copies.** You will get a bonus recipe with our copies that is not found in the book.

Carbo, Christine. [Mortal Fall](#) (Atria \$16). Karen reviews: When the body of wildlife biologist, Paul Sedgewick, is found at the bottom of a sheer cliff in Glacier National Park, it looks like either an accident or, possibly, a suicide. But, police officer, Monty Harris is not buying either explanation. Paul was too experienced and dedicated to his family and craft for either possibility. Paul's study of the diminishing wolverine population had met with resistance from the local population and the lack of funding from government. When another body is found, it is not clear whether or not the deaths are related. Monty is convinced, without any real evidence, that the two deaths are connected. His meticulous investigation uncovers events from his own past that come together in adding pieces to the puzzle. Monty seeks solace in the peace and beauty of the park as his own family history explains, and complicates, the solution to the crimes. Carbo does a terrific job of describing the Glacier Park environment with concerns of how climate change is contributing to the disappearing glaciers and, consequently, effects on the ecosystem. Begin with [Wild Inside](#) (\$16).

Carlisle, Kate. [Books of a Feather](#) (Berkley \$25). San Francisco book-restoration expert Brooklyn Wainwright's friend Ian runs the Covington Library, which is hosting an exhibit featuring John James Audubon's massive masterpiece, *Birds of America*, currently on loan from an Arab sheik. During the gala celebrating the book, she is approached by Jared Mulrooney, the president of the National Birdwatchers Society, who urgently needs Brooklyn's skilled hands to repair a less high-profile book of Audubon drawings that's fallen victim to spilled wine. At the same party, Brooklyn is flying high after she's asked to refurbish and appraise a rare copy of Poor Richard's Almanac. But everything runs afoul later that evening when Mulrooney's body is discovered in the library. Rumors fly about a motive for murder. Perhaps Mulrooney wanted to sink his claws into the pricey Audubon book, but Brooklyn believes the man died fighting off a daring thief. Soon more troubles ruffle Brooklyn's feathers.... Order Carlisle's earlier bibliophile mysteries [here](#).

Coes, Ben. [First Strike](#) (St Martins \$26.99 June 28). Several years in the past, Mark Raditz, the deputy U.S. secretary of defense, decided to invest \$2 billion from a secret fund in Tristan Nazir, a jihadist who wanted to create a Muslim state based on the American political system, in the hope that Nazir will bring some stability to the Middle East. That gamble backfired, as Nazir ended up the leader of ISIS. Things get even worse for Raditz in the present when Nazir takes Raditz's ex-wife and daughter hostage and demands a massive resupply of weapons in return for their safety. Meanwhile, Dewey goes on a perilous mission inside Syria to hook up with an American consulate official; the official is in touch with a highly placed source within ISIS who claims that the terrorist group has been funded and armed by the U.S. Fans of the *Die Hard* movie franchise will enjoy the swift pacing and escalating threats.

Coonts, Stephen. [Liberty's Last Stand](#) (Regnery \$27.99). Author/military historian Barrett Tillman reviews: "Stephen Coonts and his protagonist Jake Grafton were Vietnam War naval aviators who launched their literary career in 1986. Since *Flight of the Intruder* they have continued accelerating in ten more Grafton novels. Now, Grafton is head of the CIA facing a chilling threat. President Barry Soetero uses terrorist actions to declare martial law, dismiss Congress, squash dissent, and imprison political opponents. One is Grafton, tortured to "confess" plotting against the regime. Grafton's invaluable asset is agent Tommy Carmellini, hero of five novels himself. But before Carmellini can attempt a rescue, events spin out of control. Texas secedes; the U.S. military is divided; rebels hijack a nuclear submarine—and then things get interesting. Coonts fans will recognize a master at his game. Intricately plotted with a wealth of characters, "LLS" is deeply layered. Coonts addresses political, cultural, military, and legal aspects with equal facility, leaving readers to wonder: What's next?"

Ellison, JT. [Field of Graves](#) (Mira \$26.99). John Charles reviews: Having a serial killer targeting your female students is not exactly the kind of publicity Vanderbilt University needs. So, of course, when the first body of a pretty, blond coed is found on the steps of the Parthenon, Taylor Jackson, a Homicide Lieutenant with the Nashville Metro Criminal Investigation Unit, knows she has a limited amount of time to find murderer before all political hell breaks loose. Fortunately, Taylor knows she has a crack team – including her best friend medical examiner Dr. Samantha Owens – backing her up on the case. Unfortunately, Taylor's boss wants her to add another member to the group: FBI profiler Dr. John Baldwin. On leave from his position in DC, Baldwin has been hitting the bottle pretty hard to battle the guilt that haunts him from his last case. While Taylor isn't thrilled with the idea of working with Baldwin, she does know a thing or two about tackling personal demons, so she decides to give him a chance. Because to be honest, Taylor can use every bit of help she can get if she wants to catch this clever killer. Ellison won an International Thriller Writers award in 2010 and she currently co-authors the "Brit in the FBI" series with Catherine Coulter. *Field of Graves* is chockfull of suspenseful plot twists, realistically flawed characters, and plenty of fascinating procedural and forensic details. Since the book is actually a prequel to Ellison's "Taylor Jackson" series so it also provides an excellent opportunity for readers, who are fans of Tess Gerritsen, Karin Slaughter, and Kathy Reichs, to get on board with this thrilling series. "The characters' humanity and the gut-wrenching problems they face in life-and-death situations put Ellison in the top rank of romantic suspense novelists."—PW Starred Review. *LJ* adds, "Followers of this series will relish the revelations of how Ellison's protagonists first connected. New readers of this page-turning, suspenseful thriller, will want to catch up on the author's other books."

Gudenkauf, Heather. [Missing Pieces](#) (Mira \$26.99). John Charles reviews: How much did Sarah Quinlan's husband Jack really love her if he never told her the truth about her past? After his aunt Julia takes a nasty tumble down a staircase and lands in the hospital, Sarah travels with Jack back to his hometown of Penny Gate. Jack always told Sarah that his parents had been killed in an automobile accident, but once Sarah arrives in the small town in Iowa, she soon discovers Jack's mother was murdered. Much to Sarah's shock, this isn't the first lie Jack has told to

her, and as she tries to put the missing pieces of his life together, Sarah begins to wonder exactly what kind of a man she married. Gudenkauf's first book, *The Weight of Silence*, was an Edgar nominee when it first came out a few years back, and her latest spine-tingling novel of suspense is equally good. *Missing Pieces* is expertly plotted, skillfully paced, and the icing on the cake is the beautifully rendered bucolic setting, which only makes the omnipresent air of danger that pervades the story all the more chilling. If you miss those wonderful early novels of domestic suspense by Mary Higgins Clark like *A Cry in the Night*, *When the Bough Breaks*, and *A Stranger is Watching*, Gudenkauf delivers exactly those same kind of nerve-jangling thrills in a flawlessly executed story.

Hall, Rachel Howzell. [Trail of Echoes](#) (Forge \$25.99). 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 (after 2015's *Skies of Ash*), 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.

Keene, Brian. [Pressure](#) (St Martins \$25.99). "Scientists discover a widening abyss in the sea bottom. Free diving specialists discover a massive horror welling up from the depths. Biological horror and technological terror collide in Brian Keene's pulse-pounding *Pressure*, a monstrous mystery of pure imagination and chilling science on the verge of swallowing the world. My kind of thriller!" –Warren Fahy

Quertermous, Byron. [Riot Load](#) (Polis \$14.95). Medical administrative assistant Dominick Prince explains, "The woman who saved my ass from jail," his friend Lindsey Buckingham, "had a weird crush on my wife's brother the bounty hunter who, before he was murdered by a serial killer obsessed with baseball and my training as a writer, deposited a sperm sample at the cancer center where he was secretly being treated for prostate cancer." Lindsey is determined to have the baby of that bounty hunter, Titus Wade, and demands that Dominick steal the frozen semen from his workplace, which just happens to be the Detroit State University Cancer Center. He decides to recruit the Carter brothers, fellow employees, for the delicate heist, only to have them demand \$100,000 for their help. When the Carters take the wrong sample, the revelation of that donor's identity leads to more than a few violent deaths. Fans of gonzo noir will find a lot to like.

Sallis, James. [Willnot](#) (Bloomsbury \$26). "Patrick says, "It's hard to write about Sallis' books without just stumbling over superlatives. For a long time my favorite book was *The Eye of the Cricket*, then it became *Death Will Have Your Eyes*, then more recently, *The Killer is Dying*. At the moment, it is *Willnot*, which, by the way, is a fine place to start if you've never read Sallis'

work. Just buy it; you'll thank us for it later." I add that Sallis' most commercially successful novel is *Drive* which became the Ryan Gosling movie. The *PW* Starred Review: "The discovery of a mass grave in the woods outside present-day Willnot, a small Southern town, opens this sly, nuanced tale from Sallis, author of *Drive* and many novels and stories. Lamar Hale, Willnot's indefatigable general practitioner and surgeon, investigates. Meanwhile, Bobby Lowndes, a troubled young combat vet whom Hale treated years before, suddenly appears back in his hometown. Lowndes' intentions are unclear, and his ghostly presence is unsettling, especially when the FBI arrives in Willnot on his trail. Things get really eerie when Lowndes is shot by an unknown sniper, and he promptly walks out of the hospital and disappears. Sallis is without peer when it comes to interweaving seemingly disparate narrative threads, and his work consistently challenges readers to question their assumptions about themselves and other people."

Scott, J. Todd. [The Far Empty](#) (Putnam \$27). Patrick reviews: "Debut novelist and veteran DEA agent Scott sets a high bar for himself with this complex, ambitious crime epic. Scott's story opens with the discovery of a skeleton on an isolated stretch of ranch land outside Murfee, a small Texas border town. The responding officer is newly-minted Sheriff's Deputy Chris Cherry, a local high school football star recently returned home after a devastating injury destroyed his chances at an NFL career. Despite attempts by fellow officers to dissuade him, Cherry becomes obsessed with investigating what he believes to be a homicide. His boss, Stanford 'Judge' Ross is a cold, violent and ruthless who keeps his seventeen year-old son on a tight leash following the disappearance of the boy's mother. Caleb Ross believes that his father killed his mother and secretly pledges to prove it, aided by his beautiful classmate, America Reynosa (whose uncle also mysteriously vanished). Add to the mix a young teacher newly arrived in Murfee with some secrets of her own and you've got one hell of a story. With the skill of a seasoned pro, Scott takes command of these multiple plot lines and nuanced characters, and his evocation of the New West is not to be missed." "J. Todd Scott's *The Far Empty* is so good I wish I'd written it. The poetic and bloody ground of west Texas has given birth to a powerful new voice in contemporary western crime fiction." —Craig Johnson. "Federal agent Scott's knowledge of the border country of West Texas is on fine display in his outstanding debut. Scott's skills as a storyteller are impressive, and his tale of an ambitious young lawman has echoes of the movie *Shane* and the books of Cormac McCarthy."—*PW* Starred Review for a **First Mystery Pick**.

Taylor, Brad. [Ghosts of War](#) (Dutton \$27). Wow, the 10th Pike Logan is a tribute to the talent and productivity of Taylor, a boon to fans of military thrillers written with style and from experience. Simon Migonuv, the head of a Russian organized crime syndicate, is summoned to Vladimir Putin's Black Sea estate, where he attends a meeting with the Russian president and four executives of Gazprom, the world's largest oil company. On Putin's orders, security men smother the Gazprom executives for their failure to stop the Ukrainians from working on a gas line that would make their country no longer reliant on Russia for energy. Fearing for his life, Migonuv agrees to do what he can to provoke a war in Europe, including shooting down an American aircraft. Standing in the way of that calamity are Pike, a member of a discredited

covert U.S. antiterrorist unit known as Taskforce, and his allies, including Shoshana, an Israeli assassin who snaps out of a catatonic state after a prompt from Pike to remember the Pumpkin King from Tim Burton's movie *The Nightmare Before Christmas*.

Terrell, Whitney. [The Good Lieutenant](#) (Farrar \$26). Author Anne Wilson, an Annapolis graduate and Navy veteran, hosts Terrell on June 16 and says this about our **July Modern Firsts Club Pick**: "Whitney Terrell writes *The Good Lieutenant* with brutal honesty. We follow Lieutenant Emma Fowler and her all-male platoon in a story that unfolds backwards, Memento style, from an explosive and tragic beginning. Using this ingenious literary construct, Terrell pulls us in as we watch the changes in Emma—more naïve, more innocent, the further she moves from the Iraq War—in a heartbreaking tale of human loss, needless suffering, and the absurdities of war." The *PW* Starred Review. "Terrell's audacious new novel begins with a literal bang as a U.S. Army patrol in Iraq goes terribly wrong for Lt. Emma Fowler, who is present as her secret lover, Lt. Dixon Pulowski, is critically wounded in an explosion while attempting to recover the corpse of a kidnapped sergeant. The narrative moves in reverse chronological order from there, to show the events before the botched operation, depicting the previous op that got the sergeant abducted at Muthanna intersection, an IED explosion at the same intersection that cost the lives of two soldiers earlier, a bad call made by the colonel who declared the intersection safe, and Fowler's stateside training, where she begins her love affair with Pulowski. Although this backward conceit has been used before, as in the Christopher Nolan film *Memento* and the Harold Pinter play *Betrayal*, it works particularly well in this story, which employs the structure to critique the follies of the Iraq War and the adamant nature of the military mind-set. Terrell shows us how soldiers think and address one another with a stinging combination of military argot and pop culture references. The book's last line echoes the title of one of the first novels about modern warfare, Thomas Boyd's *Through the Wheat* (1923), to which this novel is an entirely worthy successor." Our **July Modern Firsts Pick**.

Thor, Brad. [Foreign Agent](#) (Atria \$27.99 June 27). The surge of terrorism in Europe and Russia's aggression prompt a story that while completely contemporary could well be from the days of the Cold War. When an off-the-books CIA op in Syria targeting a key ISIS figure, its Director of Social Media, is ambushed, all signs point to a leak in Brussels providing info guiding the attackers who inflict horrific, videoed carnage on the Americans. Harvath, a former Navy SEAL with extensive intelligence experience, provides the agency and the President with complete deniability if he's working for a private company. Harvath it was who had pinpointed the failed mission's target. A target himself now of the inevitable blame game, he goes after the leak and uncovers another player, a rogue bent on forcing America's hand into a confrontation that will benefit Russia. More attacks occur and edge to DC which suggests that the full picture is larger and dirtier than it first appeared. Thor writes well of the role of private as well as political agendas when crafting his action thrillers.

Walker, Martin. [Fatal Pursuit](#) (Knopf \$25.95). The Bugatti Type 57 Atlantic was called the most beautiful car of all time. Only four of them were ever built. A California museum paid \$37 million for one; Ralph Lauren bought another; a third was smashed by a train at a level crossing. The fourth disappeared in France during World War 2. It was the car used by British racing

ace, William Grover Williams, twice winner of the French and Monaco Grand Prix, who became an undercover agent in Occupied France. The latest adventure in the Bruno series of mystery novels starts from this true story. Two young men, both racing drivers with a passion for antique cars, compete to find new clues as to the car's hiding place in the Périgord region of France where Bruno is the local chief of police. When a local researcher turns up dead on Bruno's patch, and French intelligence starts investigating the use of classic car sales to launder money for funding Islamic terrorism, Bruno finds himself once more caught up in a case that reaches far beyond his small town and its people. Nothing interrupts me when I dive into the Dordogne/Périgord region with the people, dogs, and horses that have come so alive in Walker's magical series.

Williams, Beatriz. [A Certain Age](#) (Harper \$26.99). As the freedom of the Jazz Age transforms New York City, the iridescent Mrs. Theresa Marshall of Fifth Avenue and Southampton, Long Island, has done the unthinkable: she's fallen in love with her young paramour, Captain Octavian Rofrano, a handsome aviator and hero of the Great War. An intense and deeply honorable man, Octavian is devoted to the beautiful socialite of a certain age and wants to marry her. While times are changing and she does adore the Boy, divorce for a woman of Theresa's wealth and social standing is out of the question, and there is no need; she has an understanding with Sylvo, her generous and well-respected philanderer husband. But their relationship subtly shifts when her bachelor brother, Ox, decides to tie the knot with the sweet younger daughter of a newly wealthy inventor. Engaging a longstanding family tradition, Theresa enlists the Boy to act as her brother's cavalier, presenting the family's diamond rose ring to Ox's intended, Miss Sophie Fortescue—and to check into the background of the little-known Fortescue family. When Octavian meets Sophie, he falls under the spell of the pretty ingénue, even as he uncovers a shocking family secret. As the love triangle of Theresa, Octavian, and Sophie progresses, it transforms into a saga of divided loyalties, dangerous revelations, and surprising twists that will lead to a shocking transgression. *A Certain Age* is a beguiling reinterpretation of Richard Strauss's comic opera *Der Rosenkavalier*, set against the sweeping decadence of Gatsby's New York.

Wohlsdorf, Gina. [Security](#) (Algonquin \$25.95 June 21). **A First Mystery Club Pick.** Karen Shaver writes, "What a great book! This was a treat—loved the characters, the never-ending suspense, the change in format, the love story. I picked it up every chance I had. Manderley Resort, a new, luxurious, exclusive development, is opening in a few days. The staff is busy checking out the well-appointed suites, the menu, elegant table settings, and the unprecedented security system. There is an elusive narrator of this story, and it becomes apparent that staff members are being eliminated with alarming and brutal efficiency. The sophisticated security system seems to play both "hero and villain". This new author has told a tale abundant in non-stop suspense, unanticipated turns and twists, and includes a love story. The occasional change in format adds to, rather than detracts from, the quality of the writing and pace of the story. I recommend it to anyone looking for a new, exciting writer who is "experimental enough to push the readers' envelope without going to so far as to lose mainstream appeal." A Starred Review adds: "It's a testament to Wohlsdorf's skill that she successfully negotiates the numerous

tonal shifts between the unfolding Grand Guignol splatterfest and Tessa and Brian's rekindling passion. Readers will gradually discover an even more emotionally affecting story as the action races to the moving climax."

A *Booklist* Starred Review adds, "...a flawless literary refresh of giallo devices, completed with a masked-and-gloved killer; long, sharp knives; screaming, lingerie-clad victims; and twists aplenty – oh, get ready for the twists. Security is perfectly tuned for blockbuster status: scary, gory, kinky, and experimental enough to push readers' envelopes without going so far as to lose mainstream appeal. They don't make a hotel big enough to house all the people who will want to read this, and soon, as in Manderley, all eyes will be on Wohlsdorf."

COSTUME PORN

That's what the wardrobe worn by the stars of Australia's Miss Fisher series based on the mysteries by Kerry Greenwood starring Phryne Fisher is called. And there is an exhibition opening in New South Wales featuring them. You can get [a glimpse of it here](#). If you have not read this amusing, charming series you can order it [here](#) and you can watch Miss Fisher in the US via Acorn or other vendors.

SIGNED BOOKS

✚Bolton, Sharon. [Daisy in Chains](#) (Random UK \$34). Famous killers have fan clubs. Hamish Wolfe is no different. Locked up for the rest of his life for the abduction and murder of three young women, he gets countless adoring letters every day. He's handsome, charismatic and very persuasive. His admirers are convinced he's innocent, and that he's the man of their dreams. Maggie Rose is different. Reclusive and enigmatic; a successful lawyer and bestselling true-crime writer, she only takes on cases that she can win. Hamish wants her as his lawyer, he wants her to change his fate. She thinks she's immune to the charms of a man like this. But maybe not this time... Amazing twist at the end.

✚Booth, Stephen. [Secrets of Death](#) (LittleBrown \$42). Residents of the Peak District are used to tourists descending on its soaring hills and brooding valleys. However, this summer brings a different kind of visitor to the idyllic landscape, leaving behind bodies and secrets. A series of suicides throughout the Peaks throws Detective Inspector Ben Cooper and his team in Derbyshire's E Division into a race against time to find a connection to these seemingly random acts – with no way of predicting where the next body will turn up. Meanwhile, in Nottingham Detective Sergeant Diane Fry finds a key witness has vanished... But what are the mysterious Secrets of Death?

✚Brett, Simon, ed. [The Sinking Admiral](#) (Collins \$35). 'The Admiral' is a pub in the Suffolk seaside village of Crabwell, The Admiral Byng. 'The Admiral' is also the nickname of its landlord, Geoffrey Horatio Fitzsimmons, as well as the name of the landlord's dinghy. None of them are as buoyant as they should be, for the pub is threatened with closure due to falling takings. Tempers are already frayed due to the arrival of a television documentary team when Fitzsimmons is found dead in his tethered boat. The villagers assume a simple case of suicide and fear that their debt-ridden pub will now sink without trace. The journalists seem determined to finish the job by raking up old skeletons, but they weren't banking on the fact that this story has been written by 14 extremely competitive crime writers – arch bamboozlers who will stop at nothing to save a good pub. *The Sinking Admiral*,

edited by the Detection Club's outgoing President – author and broadcaster Simon Brett, OBE – continues a tradition established by the Detection Club's founders in 1931 when Dorothy L. Sayers, Agatha Christie, Freeman Wills Crofts and eleven other esteemed authors wrote *The Floating Admiral*, a 'collaborative novel' to challenge themselves, fox their readers and help to pay for the Club's running costs. Now, 85 years later, 14 of today's leading crime writers have repeated this unique game of literary consequences. Signed by Simon Brett, Peter Lovesey, Michael Ridpath, L.C. Tyler, David Roberts.

✠Callaghan, Helen. [Dear Amy](#) (Joseph \$34). Margot Lewis is the agony aunt for *The Cambridge Examiner*. Her advice column, Dear Amy, gets all kinds of letters – but none like the one she's just received: *Dear Amy, I don't know where I am. I've been kidnapped and am being held prisoner by a strange man. I'm afraid he'll kill me. Please help me soon, Bethan Avery.* Bethan Avery has been missing for years. This is surely some cruel hoax. But, as more letters arrive, they contain information that was never made public. How is this happening? Answering this question will cost Margot everything . . . A debut.

Cline, Emma. [The Girls](#) (Random \$27). *PW* Stars this **First Mystery Club Pick** which explores the uncanny appeal of a religious cult for girls seeking refuge from moral uncertainty. It's 1969. Unhappy teenager Evie Boyd is sucked into a Charles-Manson-like cult, seduced by the blessed-out feral girls in the commune leader's entourage. Lonely and insecure, Evie follows them like a stray to the farm, where they live in squalor, and tries to ignore undercurrents of violence and sexual abuse."Yet she's painfully aware that she is fascinated by girls, awkward with boys, and overlooked by her divorced parents, who are preoccupied with their own relationships. When Evie meets Suzanne Parker, she finds in the 19-year-old grifter an assurance she herself lacks. Suzanne lives at a derelict ranch with the followers of charismatic failed musician Russell Hadrick, who extols selflessness and sexual freedom. Soon, Evie—grateful for Russell's attention, the sense of family the group offers, and Suzanne's seductive presence—is swept into their chaotic existence. As the mood at the ranch turns dark, her choices become riskier. . . . Its similarities to the Manson story and crimes notwithstanding, *The Girls* is less about one night of violence than about the harm we can do, to ourselves and others, in our hunger for belonging and acceptance."

Here is what Cline says: "I grew up witnessing the leftovers of the sixties that are very much in evidence in my hometown [of Sonoma, California]. I was always fascinated with both the idealism and the darker side of that idealism, especially how it manifested many decades later. This book was a way I could engage with those California mythologies, especially through the lens of girlhood. I didn't care about the familiar trope of a sociopathic leader and his mindless followers, and this book was a reaction against that flat narrative of something like the Manson murders. That's when the book became clearer to me — when I realized I didn't have to write about the familiar players, but that it might be more interesting to explore it from the position of someone on the outskirts. Coming at it sideways, through a character on the periphery, allowed for a more truthful engagement with a cultural myth that has already been so well digested."

Cronin, Justin. [City of Mirrors](#) (Random \$28). Here are some raves for our **June SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick**. "Justin Cronin's Passage trilogy is remarkable for the unremitting drive of its narrative, for the breathtaking sweep of its imagined future, and for the clear lucidity of its language. *The City of Mirrors* is a thrilling finale to a trilogy that will stand as one of the great achievements in American fantasy fiction."—Stephen King. "Superb. This conclusion to bestseller Cronin's apocalyptic thriller trilogy ends with all of the heartbreak, joy, and unexpected twists of fate that events in [The Passage](#) and [The Twelve](#) (\$16 each) foreordained."—*Publishers Weekly* Starred Review. "Not only does this title bring the series to a thrilling and satisfying conclusion, but it also exhibits Cronin's moving exploration of love as both a destructive force and an elemental need, elevating this work among its dystopian peers."—*Library Journal* Starred Review. It's a beautiful thing when worthwhile authors achieve every ambition they tackle; when writers leap every one of the hurdles they set. With the completion of the Passage Trilogy in the vast, intricate and compelling *The City of Mirrors*, Justin Cronin has done all that. *The City of Mirrors* continues the story of a vampiric virus that has ravaged the United States, and probably the rest of civilization, leaving only isolated pockets of survivors, a new society sprouting up delicately, like a daisy under the concrete. *The Twelve*, a particularly menacing mutation of those infected, have been defeated but a greater threat awaits—Zero, who created them, lurks in a haunted metropolis, ready to battle Amy, "the girl from nowhere," and her intrepid followers. The way the story plays out is both surprising and apt, full of heartbreaking loss and subtle grace notes of joy that will echo in the readers mind. Cronin has rewarded readers of the Passage Trilogy with an action-packed thriller that stretches the length of the country and beyond, and follows the main characters through decades of shifting alliances and intricate plans as novel moves toward its grand conclusion. The propulsive narrative never flags, and for every intricate action set piece, Cronin gives astutely wrought moments of well-delivered intimacy."—Donald Powell

✠Cumming, Charles. [A Divided Spy](#) (Collins \$34). From the winner of the CWA Ian Fleming Steel Dagger 2012 for Best Thriller of the Year comes a gripping story. Thomas Kell thought he was done with spying. A former MI6 officer, he devoted his life to the Service, but it has left him with nothing but grief and a simmering anger against the Kremlin. Then Kell is offered an unexpected chance at revenge. Taking the law into his own hands, he embarks on a mission to recruit a top Russian spy who is in possession of a terrifying secret. As Kell tracks his man from Moscow to London, he finds himself in a high stakes game of cat and mouse in which it becomes increasingly difficult to know who is playing whom. As the mission reaches boiling point, the threat of a catastrophic terrorist attack looms over Britain. Kell is faced with an impossible choice. Loyalty to MI6 – or to his own conscience?

Doiron, Paul. [The Widowmaker](#) (St Martins \$28). Amber Langstrom is beautiful, damaged, and hiding a secret with a link to Maine Game Warden Mike Bowditch's past. She claims her son Adam is a wrongfully convicted sex offender who has vanished from a brutal work camp in the high timber around the Widowmaker Ski Resort. She also claims that Adam Langstrom is the illegitimate son of Jack Bowditch, Mike's dead and diabolical father whose actions nearly destroyed Mike and his career. After trying so hard to put his troubled past behind him, Mike is

reluctant to revisit the wild country of his childhood and again confront his father's history of violence. But Amber's desperation and his own need to know the truth make it hard for him to refuse her pleas for help. Fighting his own impulsive behavior and wounded in a scuffle with an angry tweaker, Mike agrees to check into Adam. You can't help but feel compassion for a boy whose life was ruined by teenage sex, or for Mike's lover Stacey who has to face horrendous loss. But in this one my heart goes out to the wolfdog Shadow, a magnificent creature totally at risk through no fault of his own. It's his story that powers this thriller, an excellent read for fans of Nevada Barr and CJ Box.

Doughty, Louise. [Black Water](#) (Faber \$32). John Harper lies awake at night in an isolated hut on an Indonesian island, listening to the rain on the roof and believing his life may be in danger. But he is less afraid of what is going to happen than of something he's already done. In a local town, he meets Rita, a woman with her own troubled history. They begin an affair – but can he allow himself to get involved when he knows this might put her at risk? Moving between Europe during the cold war, California and the Civil Rights struggle, and Indonesia during the massacres of 1965 and the decades of military dictatorship that follow, *Black Water* is an epic novel that explores some of the darkest events of recent world history through the story of one troubled man.

Easley, Warren C. [Not Dead Enough](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Our **June Thriller Club Pick** scores with Anne Hillerman who writes, "Masterfully crafted, this tale of greed, deception and revenge has an added benefit—the stunningly beautiful descriptions of the lush landscape of Oregon's Columbia River country. Easley's characters bring enough complex complications to keep you reading long after regular bedtime." And with Dana Stabenow. And with me for its deep delve into the glorious Columbia River Gorge and native culture. It "...opens in 1957, with Native American Nelson Queah fighting the creation of the real-life Dalles Dam on the Columbia River, which will divert salmon migration flows—and fishing livelihoods—away from his village. Easley skillfully blends fact and fiction in this tale of cultural conflict, politics, and murder with a likable hero at its heart."—*PW*. Also in trade paperback: [Not Dead Enough](#) (\$15.95). Recommended to Tony Hillerman, CJ Box, Dana Stabenow, and Keith McCafferty fans.

Evanovich, Janet. [The Pursuit: A Fox and O'Hare Novel](#) (Bantam \$28). Comes with Signed bookplates by Lee Goldberg, co-author. And a special sticker included. Nicolas Fox, international con man, thief, and one of the top ten fugitives on the FBI's most-wanted list, has been kidnapped from a beachfront retreat in Hawaii. What the kidnapper doesn't know is that Nick Fox has been secretly working for the FBI. It isn't long before Nick's covert partner, Special Agent Kate O'Hare, is in hot pursuit of the crook who stole her con man. The trail leads to Belgium, France, and Italy, and pits Nick and Kate against their deadliest adversary yet: Dragan Kovic, an ex-Serbian military officer. He's plotting a crime that will net him billions...and cost thousands of American lives. Luckily they have the help of an eccentric out-of-work actor, a bandit who does his best work in the sewers, and Kate's dad, Jake.

☞Fremantle, Elizabeth. [The Girl in the Glass Tower](#) (Joseph \$36). The word treason is on everyone's lips. Arbella Stuart, niece to Mary, Queen of Scots and presumed successor to Elizabeth I, has

spent her youth behind the towering windows of Hardwick Hall. As presumed successor to the throne, her isolation should mean protection – but those close to the crown are never safe. Aemilia Lanyer – writer and poet – enjoys an independence denied to Arbella. Their paths should never cross. But when Arbella enlists Aemilia's help in a bid for freedom, she risks more than her own future. Ensnared in another woman's desperate schemes, Aemilia must tread carefully or share her terrible fate . . .

Furst, Alan. [A Hero of France](#) (Knopf \$29). "A master of the historical spy novel, Furst scores again with his 14th suspense story after *Midnight in Europe*. This excellent spy thriller is set in Paris, March to August 1941, with the French Resistance movement covertly opposing the German occupation of the City of Light, early in World War II. Mathieu runs a Resistance cell that helps downed British airmen escape to Spain, always operating under the threat of exposure, betrayal, and arrest. Mathieu and the men and women of his cell are watchful and careful with their trust, for the Vichy police and the German Gestapo are sneaky, efficient, and brutal. The cell is small and well-organized, aided by an ethnology professor, a shady nightclub owner, a regal society matron, a Jewish schoolteacher, a female aristocrat, and a teenage girl. Their clandestine operations are very successful, attracting the unwelcome attention of a mysterious British spy, "a citizen of the shadows," a French communist agent, a blackmailing underworld thug, and the most dangerous adversary of all, a German police inspector, Otto Broehm, sent specifically to Paris to destroy Mathieu's cell. The inspector is a thorough planner, creating a clever, careful scheme to penetrate Mathieu's cell. Mathieu must navigate or neutralize all these threats, resulting in a tense, well-crafted tale of courage, sacrifice, and wartime espionage."—*PW* Boxed and Starred Review for our **June History/Mystery Club Pick**.

☞Gregory, Susanna. [A Grave Concern](#) (LittleBrown \$50). Identifying the murderer of the Chancellor of the University is not the only challenge facing physician Matthew Bartholomew. Many of his patients have been made worse by the ministrations of a 'surgeon' recently arrived from Nottingham, his sister is being rooked by the mason she has commissioned to build her husband's tomb, and his friend, Brother Michael, has been offered a Bishopric which will cause him to leave Cambridge. Brother Michael, keen to leave the University in good order, is determined that the new Chancellor will be a man of his choosing. The number of contenders putting themselves forward for election threatens to get out of control, then more deaths in mysterious circumstances make it appear that someone is taking extreme measures to manipulate the competition. With passions running high and a bold killer at large, both Bartholomew and Brother Michael fear the very future of the University is at stake.

Gyasi, Yaa. [Homegoing](#) (Knopf \$26.95) Our **June Modern Firsts Club Pick** is a *Roots* for the 21st Century. It traces three centuries in Ghana and along the way becomes an astonishing American story. Awesome! In 18th century Ghana, the lives of two half-sisters, Effia and Esi, diverge in drastically different directions. While Effia is married to an Englishman and lives in the Cape Coast Castle, Esi is sold into the slave trade and imprisoned in the same castle's dungeons. From there, half of the novel follows Esi and her descendants through hundreds of years of American history, as the other half focuses on Effia's descen-

dants as they struggle through centuries of warfare, colonization and the slave trade in Ghana. Rarely does a grand, sweeping epic plumb interior lives so thoroughly. “Gyasi’s characters are so fully realized, so elegantly carved—very often I found myself longing to hear more. Craft is essential given the task Gyasi sets for herself—drawing not just a lineage of two sisters, but two related peoples. . . . I think I needed to read a book like this to remember what is possible. I think I needed to remember what happens when you pair a gifted literary mind to an epic task.”—Ta-Nehisi Coates on one of summer’s most praised books.

Hill, Joe. [The Fireman](#) (Harper \$28.99). Joe Hill’s great strength as a horror writer has always been his ability to play out finely observed interpersonal and emotional conflicts within the constructs of the genre. In *Nos4a2* and his comic *Locke and Key*, Hill showcased his skill at putting highly developed, likable characters through the wringer without seeming sadistic or capricious. His fourth novel, *The Fireman*, expands the scope of his world building, but maintains the same, almost perverse level of compassion for characters that Hill constructs only to relentlessly pull apart. It is perhaps unavoidable that *The Fireman* will be compared with Hill’s famous father Stephen King’s magnum opus *The Stand* or Justin Cronin’s trilogy, reviewed above. Hill too constructs an apocalyptic epic that depicts modern society falling apart in the face of a devastating plague. The culprit is Draco Incendia Trychophyton, a fungal infection that characters colloquially refer to as Dragonscale for the oddly beautiful scale-like patterns the fungus forms on infected skin. The ‘scale also has the unfortunate side effect of burning the host alive. “Hill’s depiction of a world staggered by an epidemic of spontaneous combustion feels fresh and strange and is rendered with haunting beauty.”—*NY Times Book Review*

Hutton, Paul Andrew. [The Apache Wars](#) (Crown \$30). Patrick reviews: “The success of recent bestselling western histories such as Gwynne’s brilliant *Empire of the Summer Moon* and Drury and Clavin’s *The Heart of Everything That is: The Untold Story of Red Cloud* has helped to pave the way for long overdue reappraisals of iconic western figures such as Quanah Parker, Sitting Bull, and Crazy Bull. Hutton’s new book, a lively and compelling account of the decades-long Apache Wars, is an indispensable addition to the extensive accounts of the period done by Ed Sweeney, Dan Thrapp and others. Hutton offers sane, even-handed capsule summaries of familiar events (at least, to Apache War nerds like me) and puts everything together in context, along with lots of fascinating new research materials and background on Mickey Free, The Apache Kid, Massai, Lozen and other difficult figures shrouded in myth. Paul has been kind enough to sign some copies for us, and we hope to do a proper event with him soon.”

Jones, Chris Morgan. [The Searcher](#) (Mantle \$39). Isaac Hammer is under arrest. The police have proof that his company, a private London intelligence agency, has broken a dozen laws – tapping phones, hacking emails, bribing police – and now he must face the consequences. But this wasn’t Hammer’s work, or his style. This was all Ben Webster, and now Webster is missing. Released from custody, Hammer heads to Webster’s house to persuade his old colleague to give himself up. But Webster isn’t there; he’s in Tbilisi, and his wife hasn’t heard from him in days. Hammer has no choice but to break bail to bring back the wanted man. In Georgia, every step he takes is watched by policemen, spies and

gangsters. Someone out there, Hammer soon realizes, is ready to kill him and everyone dear to him to stop him stumbling towards the truth. . . . Morgan’s *Agent of Deceit* was a 2011 First Mystery Club Pick.

Limon, Martin. [Ping-Pong Heart](#) (Soho \$26.95 SIGNED JULY 12). “At the start of Limón’s compelling 11th novel set in 1970s South Korea featuring U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division agents George Sueño and Ernie Bascom, Major Frederick Schultz makes an official complaint, accusing a prostitute, Jo Kyong-ja, of taking his money without providing the agreed-upon services. When Sueño and Bascom question Jo, she denies the allegation and claims that Schultz was upset when he was unable to perform. Shortly after that interview, someone roughs up Jo, and a few weeks later, Schultz, the logical suspect in that assault, turns up dead himself, the victim of a knifing in a back alley behind a Seoul nightclub. Complicating the murder inquiry is the involvement of the South Korean police and the unsettling revelation that Schultz was doing classified work involving the review of potential irregularities in the running of a military intelligence unit. Major developments in the lives of Limón’s leads complement the intricate whodunit.”—*PW Starred Review*

McCafferty, Keith. [Buffalo Jump Blues](#) (Viking \$26 SIGNED JULY 9). “At the start of McCafferty’s absorbing fifth Montana-set Sean Stranahan mystery, something causes 11 bison to jump off the Palisades cliffs. Nearby, Sheriff Martha Ettinger and Deputy Harold Little Feather discover the corpse of a Native American man who was disemboweled, shot with an arrow, and left to die. Down at the local mermaid bar, performer Ida Evening Star hires fly-fishing private eye Stranahan to track down her childhood sweetheart, John Running Boy, whom she thinks may be in town. The cases intersect, and the investigators join forces when it’s determined the bison were driven to their deaths during a reenactment of an ancient hunting ritual in which Running Boy likely participated. . . . McCafferty’s entertaining tale, which shines a light on the government’s slaughter of migrating bison, is sure to please advocates for change in current U.S. wildlife management policy.”—*PW*

McKenzie, CB. [Burn What Will Burn](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Despite having plenty of family money, Bob Reynolds, the narrator of this offbeat novel, seeks refuge in an old rundown home in Rushing, Arkansas, to avoid the Houston police, who suspect he might have been responsible for the recent fatal drowning of his wife in their bathtub. Bob, happily a loner in this isolated small town, has his serenity disturbed when he discovers a man’s body in Little Piney Creek near his property. Bob reports the matter to Sheriff Baxter, only to find that the sheriff is familiar with his past and distrustful of his character and sanity. Suddenly, Bob is embroiled in the murder investigation. I found the story hard to follow but marvel at how one small place can embrace such a collection of lowlifes. Or maybe it is an effect of the place itself. . . . McKenzie’s [Bad Country](#) (\$15.99) was a very big, Edgar-nominated, Tony Hillerman Prize-winning 2014 First Mystery Club Pick.

Meltzer, Brad. [The House of Secrets](#) (Grand Central \$28). Bestseller Meltzer (*The Fifth Assassin*) and Tod Goldberg (*Gangsterland*) launch a series with a conspiracy-laden spy novel that’s at its best when it’s gleefully cutting the legs out from the genre’s tropes. When Hazel Nash was six years old, her father taught her:

mysteries need to be solved. He should know. Hazel's father is Jack Nash, the host of America's favorite conspiracy TV show, *The House of Secrets*. Even as a child, she loved hearing her dad's tall tales, especially the one about a leather book belonging to Benedict Arnold that was hidden in a corpse. Now, years later, Hazel wakes up in the hospital and remembers nothing, not even her own name. She's told she's been in a car accident that killed her father and injured her brother. But she can't remember any of it, because of her own traumatic brain injury. Then a man from the FBI shows up, asking questions about her dad—and about his connection to the corpse of a man found with an object stuffed into his chest: a priceless book that belonged to Benedict Arnold. Back at her house, Hazel finds guns that she doesn't remember owning. On her forehead, she sees scars from fights she can't recall. Most important, the more Hazel digs, the less she likes the person she seems to have been. Trying to put together the puzzle pieces of her past and present, Hazel Nash needs to figure out who killed this man—and how the book wound up in his chest. The answer will tell her the truth about her father, what he was really doing for the government—and who Hazel really is.

Miranda, Megan. [All the Missing Girls](#) (SimonSchuster \$25 SIGNED July 14). Female friendship is a central theme in YA author Miranda's adult debut with this "fiendishly plotted thriller. Family business brings Philadelphia prep school counselor Nicolette "Nic" Farrell back to her hometown of Cooley Ridge, N.C., a place still fraught with the unsolved disappearance of her best friend, Corinne Prescott, right after their high school graduation a decade earlier. Nic unexpectedly finds herself still attracted to high school sweetheart Tyler, whose current girlfriend, Annaleise Carter, disappears the day after Annaleise texted police with questions about Corinne's case. As Nic struggles to figure out what really happened to Corinne, who her demented father claims to have seen, she must also face some bitter truths—about her provocative BFF and herself. Miranda convincingly conjures a haunted setting that serves as a character in its own right, but what really makes this roller-coaster so memorable is her inspired use of reverse chronology [the story unfolds over 15 days in reverse chronological order], so that each chapter steps further back in time, dramatically shifting the reader's perspective."—*PW* Starred Review

Mosley. [Charcoal Joe](#) (Doubleday \$26.95). Picking up where *Rose Gold* left off in L.A. in the late 1960s, Ezekiel "Easy" Rawlins finds his life in transition. He's ready to—finally—propose to his girlfriend, Bonnie Shay, and start a life together. And he's taken the money he got from the *Rose Gold* case and has, together with two partners, started a new detective agency. But, inevitably, a case gets in the way: Easy's friend Mouse introduces him to Rufus Tyler, a very old man everyone calls Charcoal Joe. Joe's friend's son, Seymour (young, bright, top of his class at Stanford), has been arrested and charged with the murder of a white man from Redondo Beach. Rufus tells Easy he will pay and pay well to see his nephew exonerated, but seeing as how Seymour was literally found standing over the man's dead body at his cabin home and the racially charged motives behind it, that might prove to be a tall order "Fasten your seat belts. It's time for another simmering tour of Los Angeles, this time in 1968, with Ezekiel "Easy" Rawlins serving once more as the unwilling guide. Read Mosley...for his matchless ability to present mosaic worlds in which even the most minor characters arrive burning with their own unquenchable stories."—*Kirkus Reviews*

O'Nan, Stewart. [City of Secrets](#) (Penguin \$22). 1945 marked not just the end of the war but a flood of Jewish refugees, tens of thousands of them, setting out for Palestine where wildly different factions were fighting for the independence of Israel. Among those taking false names and working to blend in in order to fight is Brand. Having lost everyone he loved, especially his wife, he's driving a taxi under a new identity, both provided by the underground. He wants to be the man he was before the war, able to make moral choices. And he falls in love with fellow survivor and cell member Eva, accepting missions that grow more dangerous. Is the cell's dashing leader Asher using him? If only Brand could understand what's really going on in time.... Lean and beautifully crafted. Readers of *Exodus* will gain new perspectives.

Palmer, Daniel. [Forgive Me](#) (Kensington \$25). I'm a big fan of Palmer's suspense which is not only crafty and surprising but stylish. At DeRose & Associates Private Investigators in Virginia, Angie DeRose strives to find and rescue endangered runaways—work that stands in stark contrast to her own safe, idyllic childhood. But in the wake of her mother's sudden death, Angie makes a life-altering discovery. Hidden among the mementos in her parents' attic is a photograph of a little girl, with a code and a hand-written message on the back: "May God forgive me." Angie has no idea what it means or how to explain other questionable items among her mother's possessions. Her father claims to know nothing. Bryce Taggart, the US Marshal working with her agency, agrees to help Angie learn the fate of the girl in the photograph. But the lies she and Bryce unearth will bring her past and present together with terrifying force. And everything she cherishes will be threatened by the repercussions of one long-ago choice....

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. A band of vigilante executioners roam London's hot summer nights, abducting evil men and hanging them by the neck until dead. 3rd in the DCI Max Wolfe novels much praised by Dana Stabenow and me.

Rowley, Steven. [Lily and the Octopus](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99). Who do you trust the most? Who loves you unreservedly? That would be your dog. Definitely for Rowley who turns the pain of losing the dachshund and the pain of his loneliness into a kind of memoir/novel narrated by a Ted Flask of LA. So when Lily displays what he calls an "octopus" on her head—she's quite an old girl now—how will he cope? How will he fight for her? And should he? Ted's is a fierce love, one not willing to let go. The June Library Read Pick adds, "Rowley has lovingly captured what it is like to be totally invested in caring for another life, another heart. This book is a true gift for anyone who has experienced the loss of a dog, but especially for those of us who have nursed a beloved dog through an illness even though you both knew it was going to be a losing battle. A special bond is formed there, and the story of Lily and Ted illustrates it so perfectly."

✠Runcie, James. [Sidney Chambers and the Dangers of Temptation](#) (Bloomsbury \$36). Archdeacon Sidney Chambers is beginning to think that the life of a full-time priest (and part-time detective) is not easy. So when a bewitching divorcee in a mink coat interrupts Sidney's family lunch asking him to help locate her missing son, he hopes it will be an open and shut case. The last thing he expects is to be dragged into the mysterious workings of a sinister cult, or to find himself tangled up in another

murder investigation. But, as always, the village of Grantchester is not as peaceful as it seems. From the theft of an heirloom to an ominous case of blackmail, Sidney is once again rushed off his feet in this eagerly anticipated fifth installment in the Grantchester Mysteries series composed of six linked stories.

Swinson, David. [The Second Girl](#) (Mulholland \$26). Patrick makes the **June Hardboiled Crime Club Pick** from an auspicious, and gleefully amoral, series debut: “*You’d be surprised at what most of us are capable of*,” says Frank Marr, the protagonist of David Swinson’s impressive debut. Marr, a celebrated DC detective, cleared more cases than anyone else but took his retirement a few years early, the official reason being exhaustion due to job stress. His closely guarded secret is that Marr has been a ‘functioning’ drug addict for a long time. Now working as a private investigator for a defense attorney, Marr steps into some serious business when he breaks into a known drug house intending to re-up his own dwindling supplies but finds a naked teenage girl, bound and gagged in an upstairs bathroom. His reptile brain cries out ‘drugs first, girl second’ but his sanity momentarily prevails and he somehow manages to get the girl out and sells his old police colleagues a story that convinces them. But then the parents of a second missing girl approach Marr and he is forced to take the case. Will he be able to find her before his devastating addiction overcomes him? Swinson is the real deal and this is one tough, uncompromising novel. Not to be missed.”

Tremayne, SK. [The Fire Child](#) (Collins \$34). When Rachel marries dark, handsome David, everything seems to fall into place. Swept from single life in London to the beautiful Carnhallow House in Cornwall, she gains wealth, love, and an affectionate stepson, Jamie. But then Jamie’s behavior changes, and Rachel’s perfect life begins to unravel. He makes disturbing predictions, claiming to be haunted by the specter of his late mother – David’s previous wife. Is this Jamie’s way of punishing Rachel, or is he far more traumatized than she thought? As Rachel starts digging into the past, she begins to grow suspicious of her husband. Why is he so reluctant to discuss Jamie’s outbursts? And what exactly happened to cause his ex-wife’s untimely death, less than two years ago? As summer slips away and December looms, Rachel begins to fear there might be truth in Jamie’s words: ‘You will be dead by Christmas.’ Tremayne debuted with a big bestseller with [The Ice Twins](#) (\$14.99).

Tyler, Anne. [Vinegar Girl](#) (Crown \$25). Recruited to write in Hogarth’s Shakespeare series updates, the Pulitzer Prize winner goes with *Kiss Me, Kate*—ie, *The Taming of the Shrew*. Kate is stuck in a life taking care of her absent-minded professor father and her sister, Bunny. When her father suggests a marriage of convenience in order to secure a green card for his lab assistant Pyotr, Kate is shocked. This is a sweet and humorous story about two people, who don’t quite fit in, finding each other. I’ve always thought the 1953 musical *KMK* to be glorious, with Keenan Wynn at his best, and a delight for me years ago was to meet Ann Miller who lived retired in Carefree/Cave Creek and discuss her incredible dancing in the role of Lois Lane/Bianca.

Walker, Martin. [Fatal Pursuit UK](#) (Quercus \$36). For those who collect the British edition. See Event Books for the new Bruno, Chief of Police, treat. This series remains our bestselling trade paperbacks ever.

BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSIC

Burton, Miles. [The Secret of High Eldersham](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). “First published in 1930, this entry in the British Library Crime Classics series 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*

Due in mid July:

Brandon, John. [A Scream in Soho](#) (\$12.95). DI McCarthy works a case during the blackouts of the Second World War in this seedy part of London. Speaking of seedy Soho, I can’t recommend highly enough Pip Granger’s [Not All Tarts Are Apple](#) (\$16), a charmer of a mystery told by a small girl who, like the boy in Mark Haddon’s [The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time](#) (\$14.95), does not fully understand the adult world that surrounds her.

Forrester, Andrew. [The Female Detective](#) (\$12.95). From 1864 with Miss Gladden a precursor to Miss Marple or Mma Ramotswe.

DEAN STREET PRESS CLASSIC CRIMES

This British publisher has reissued 8 by Basil Thomson. Originally published between 1933 and 1937, the novels follow the fictional successes of a Scotland Yard detective in what was, in real life, the Yard’s most celebrated era. Richardson solves case after case in London and the English countryside, on more than one occasion also popping over to France in pursuit of the elusive clue and the satisfying solution. What gives these engaging and enjoyable mysteries added frisson is that Basil Thomson was the head of the C.I.D., and Assistant Commissioner of Scotland Yard, for eight years. He was thus uniquely placed to exploit the methods of the criminal justice system in his fiction—which was both admired by Dorothy L. Sayers and served as inspiration to Ian Fleming during World War II. All the novels feature a new introduction by crime novelist and genre historian Martin Edward. You can browse them [HERE](#) and order (\$15.99 each). We will fill orders on demand.

BRASH BOOKS

The full range of this new publisher’s titles is now on our website. Most are reprints of note but there is some original fiction. Do Browse [HERE](#) and order.

OUR JUNE TRADE PAPERBACK ICKS

Bannalec, Jean-Luc. [Death in Brittany](#) (\$15.99). Can’t make it to Europe this summer? All is not lost, this intriguing novel sweeps you to the picturesque coast of Brittany, a French province rooted in the Celtic (Tristan and Iseult) with millennia of a fishing and boating culture (two tiny islands off the coast of Canada make up a part of this province). The ancient and paint-worthy village of Pont-Aven played host to Gauguin and a cluster of other artists

in the late 19th Century, their center the Hotel Central. And today the hotel's legendary owner, 91-year-old Pierre-Louis Penec, is found murdered. The case falls to Commissaire Georges Dupin, a Parisian-born caffeine junkie who's been exiled to the region. Stubborn and relentlessly curious, he pokes at the web of secrecy that clouds Pont-Aven's quaint image and his murder investigation as well as resisting pressure to close it down. The sequel comes out the end of June: [Murder on Brittany Shores](#) (St Martins \$24.99).

✂Cartmel, Andrew. [The Vinyl Detective Mysteries – Written in Dead Wax](#) (Titan \$14.95). Our Fresh Fiction Pick for June is something different and really fun. I like what the *Kirkus* Starred Review says about collectors: “A London record hunter finds himself hunted when he's hired to track down a rare jazz LP in the first installment of this new series. The unnamed hero, who bills himself as the Vinyl Detective, lives in a London council flat with his twin kittens, making a hand-to-mouth existence by scouring charity shops, flea markets, and record fairs, counting on vendors who have no idea of the value of what they're hawking and selling his discoveries at a higher price online. For a fee, he takes on a dedicated search. When a young woman working for an unnamed boss approaches him to find the final LP issued by a small 1950s LA jazz label, he takes the job only to find himself a few steps ahead of a murderous pair of fellow searchers leaving a trail of bodies in their wake. Perhaps the novel's neatest trick is that it avoids the persnickety quality that, in real life, can make collectors such a trial to be around. The hero's preference for vinyl is about a dedication to music, not fetishism. And unlike some of his fellow collectors, he's not a hermit. It's not a stretch that women find this affable fellow attractive. The book is much more a ramble than a pursuit.”

Clark, Martin. [The Jezebel Remedy](#) (\$16). Lisa and Joe Stone, lawyers (she was Law Review), partners, and 20 years man and wife, practice in Henry County, Virginia, a not so prosperous area. Their caseload is seldom glamorous, more the stuff of daily living, domestic disputes, personal injury work, some wills and estates. Their cantankerous client Lettie VanSandt sucks up a ridiculous amount of time with her constant will modifications, but then she dies in a freakish fire that the local law rules was the result of Lettie cooking meth. Lettie left a handwritten will, superseding one she'd recently drawn, making Joe her sole beneficiary and executor. And that's the start of a scenario of conspiracies, slippery ethical choices, a rising murder investigation, and for Lisa, a need to shield Joe from a truly stupid mistake as his career, and hers, and everything, hangs in the balance. Don't miss this one.

✂Cogman, Genevieve. [The Invisible Library](#) (NAL \$15). Collecting books can be dangerous as this fun, time-traveling, fantasy adventure debut illustrates. One thing any Librarian will tell you: the truth is much stranger than fiction... Irene is a professional spy for the mysterious Library, a shadowy organization that collects important works of fiction from all of the different realities. Most recently, she and her enigmatic assistant Kai have been sent to an alternative London. Their mission: Retrieve a particularly dangerous book. The problem: By the time they arrive, it's already been stolen. London's underground factions are prepared to fight to the death to find the tome before Irene and Kai do, a problem compounded by the fact that this world is chaos-infested—the laws of nature bent to allow supernatural creatures and

unpredictable magic to run rampant. To make matters worse, Kai is hiding something—secrets that could be just as volatile as the chaos-filled world itself. Now Irene is caught in a puzzling web of deadly danger, conflicting clues, and sinister secret societies. And failure is not an option—because it isn't just Irene's reputation at stake, it's the nature of reality itself... Reminiscent of the works of Diana Wynne Jones and Neil Gaiman, Cogman's novel is a true treat to read.

Gentill, Sulari. [A Few Right Thinking Men](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). The first installment of the Rowland Sinclair series finds the artist and amateur sleuth looking into the murder of his own uncle. “The book is set in the 1930s, an oft-used period by mystery writers. It does share some literary DNA with Kerry Greenwood's Phryne Fisher series—an independently wealthy protagonist, an Australian setting, a roughly similar chronological setting—but it would be a mistake to shrug the book off as a Greenwood wanna-be. Gentill took a rather circuitous route to becoming a writer, studying astrophysics and then going into the law, but she writes as though she were born to it: gracefully, with a sharp eye for details in characterization and dialogue, and with an ability to keep us guessing about where, exactly, the story is headed. As series-launching novels go, this one is especially successful: the plot effectively plays Sinclair's aristocratic bearing and involvement in the arts against the Depression setting, fraught with radical politics, both of which he becomes involved in as he turns sleuth. And Sinclair himself is a delight: wining us over completely and making us feel as though he's an old friend.”—*Booklist* Starred Review for our History Paperback Pick. [A Few Right Thinking Men](#) (\$26.95) comes in hardcover, too, but unsigned as the author lives in Australia's Blue Mountains. Authors like Anne Perry and Michael Robotham have fallen in love with Gentill whose second in series, *A Decline in Profits*, publishes in December.

Graham, Scott. [Yellowstone Standoff](#) (Torrey House \$14.95). Graham's intriguing third National Park mystery takes archeologist Chuck Bender; his wife, Janelle Ortega; and his two young stepdaughters, Carmelita and Rosalita, to the Turret Patrol Cabin in the Thorofare region, “the highest and coldest forested part” of Yellowstone. There they join a contentious group of 40 researchers, including meteorologists, geologists, wolf experts, grizzly bear experts, and two drone operators, who are dealing with such phenomena as global warming, an increase in the number of small tremors, and an odd pairing of a wolf and a grizzly. The threatening behavior of the park's predators is worrisome enough, and then the discovery of a murdered researcher lifts threats to a whole new level. Graham, an avid outdoorsman and amateur archeologist, does a fine job detailing the various and competing demands made on National Parks by the public, scientists, and bureaucrats.

Lindsay, Jeff. [Dexter is Dead](#) (\$15.95). The concept of a vigilante serial killer working as a blood splatter tech in South Beach inspired a TV series. And now it's drawing to a close with this final chapter. It opens as Dexter finds himself imprisoned in the Turner Guildford Knight Correctional Facility after being discovered *in flagrante sanguine* with the bodies of his wife Rita, famous actor Robert Chase, and Dexter's 12-year-old adopted daughter Astor (the actual killer of pedophile Chase). Plus Dexter's lover Jackie is dead, killed by Chase while Dexter hunted him. A mess that can only escalate. Can Dexter's sister Deborah, a cop, deal with

this? Or will his salvation, if any, lie with his demented brother Brian? But wait, there must be more players in the game, and a bigger game in motion, one that might lead to Dexter's demise.... Order the full range of Dexters [here](#).

McCafferty, Keith. [Crazy Mountain Kiss](#) (\$15). The 4th for Sean Stranahan is dark, dangerous, devious, and off the wall, akin to Box or Craig Johnson but verging towards James Crumley crossed with James Lee Burke. Reviews besides mine are terrific. *PW* Star: "The death of a young Montana rodeo star propels McCafferty's terrific fourth mystery featuring artist, fly-fisherman, and occasional PI Sean Stranahan. When 16-year-old Cinderella "Cindy" Huntington is found dead in the chimney of a Forest Service cabin, it's unclear if foul play is involved, but Cindy's mother, Etta, hires Sean to do some digging. This means Sean will have to work with Sheriff Martha Ettinger, and things are tense between them since she recently called a halt to their romance. However, they undeniably make a good team, and what seems to be a straightforward death soon proves to be anything but. This is a must for fans of eclectic mysteries in which the setting is just as important as the characters." "McCafferty does a marvelous job of manipulating mood, moving from light to dark... [*Crazy Mountain Kiss*] is the best McCafferty novel yet, and it's a must for Craig Johnson and C. J. Box fans."—*Booklist* Starred Review. Order Stranahan's 3 earlier awesome investigations [here](#).

Panowich, Brian. [Bull Mountain](#) (\$16). The July 2015 Indie Next Pick for a 2015 First Mystery Club Pick: "Set in the mountainous region of northern Georgia and reminiscent of *Winter's Bone* by Daniel Woodrell, this debut is a potent tale about land and lineage, love and loyalty, livelihood and the law, and life itself. Panowich's words are fresh and clean, hard and dirty; he knows what he is writing about. The book's first chapter — a short story in its own right — is worth the price of admission to Bull Mountain. Climb on up and enjoy the view. Just watch your step!" And CJ Box adds, "Brian Panowich had me at the first word of his spectacular debut novel, 'Family,' and he held me until the very last page. *Bull Mountain* is a sprawling, gritty, violent, tribal inter-generational crime epic with a deeply rooted sense of place and an gut-punch ending I didn't see coming."

Rosenfelt, David. [Who Let the Dog Out](#) (\$15.99). Andy Carpenter is now married to former Patterson, NJ cop Laurie who works as his private investigator. And they've adopted a young son, Ricky who, to Andy's dismay, shows little promise as a future baseball great. Life is happily slow until Willie Miller, Andy's partner in a dog rescue operation called the Tara Foundation after Andy's beloved Golden Retriever, calls with news the alarm has gone off there. The burglar has stolen just one item, a newly rescued dog called Cheyenne. As each Tara dog is fitted with a GPS-tracking collar, Andy and Willie trace Cheyenne to a house in downtown Patterson where they find Cheyenne next to a gruesomely murdered body. Is the victim the thief? If so, who hired him to steal Cheyenne, and why?

Roy, Lori. [Let Me Die in His Footsteps](#) (\$16). On a dark Kentucky night in 1952 exactly halfway between her fifteenth and sixteenth birthdays, Annie Holleran crosses into forbidden territory. Everyone knows Hollerans don't go near Baines, not since Joseph Carl was buried two decades before, but, armed with a silver-handled flashlight, Annie runs through her family's lavender fields toward the well on the Baines' place. At the stroke

of midnight, she gazes into the water in search of her future. Not finding what she had hoped for, she turns from the well and when the body she sees there in the moonlight is discovered come morning, Annie will have much to explain and a past to account for. It was 1936, and there were seven Baine boys. That year, Annie's aunt, Juna Crowley, with her black eyes and her long blond hair, came of age. Before Juna, Joseph Carl had been the best of all the Baine brothers. But then he looked into Juna's eyes and they made him do things that cost innocent people their lives. Sheriff Irlene Fulkerson saw justice served—or did she? As the lavender harvest approaches and she comes of age, Annie's dread mounts and Juna comes home again.... "Young love, Southern folklore, family feuds, and crimes of passion... Roy describes life on a lavender farm in rural Kentucky in vivid detail, and the mystery of what happened years ago will keep readers engaged until the end." —*LJ*. This author's voice is not for me but she keeps winning Edgar Awards so give her a try.

Tucker, Neely. [Murder DC](#) (\$16). *Washington Post* journalist Tucker dazzled me with his second for DC reporter Sully Carter. This powerful urban noir—definitely for readers of Pelecanos—not only digs into the politics and powerful of our capital but into its African-American elite and history as well. The scion of one such Black family is found dead in the Potomac near the Bend. Sully has kept tabs on clusters of victims in the quadrants radiating out from the Capitol: the unsolved crimes (all male victims) form a "deluge across the Anacostia, in Southeast DC. What was floaterman, William Sanders Ellison, doing that made him one of them? The cops can't find a lead. The politicians want Sully to stop poking. But he thinks there is more to this than a drug deal gone bad or domestic tragedy. So he digs deeper, being the kind of guy who, when challenged, bucks. Sully's debut in [The Ways of the Dead](#) (\$16) was a 2014 First Mystery Club Pick.

Winslow, Don. [The Cartel](#) (\$16.95). A 2015 bestseller wins the 2016 *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize as well as rave reviews all around. "Winslow's drug war version of *The Godfather*... A big, sprawling, ultimately stunning crime tableau... A magnum opus... Don Winslow is to the Mexican drug wars what James Ellroy is to L.A. Noir." —Janet Maslin, *The NY Times*. While best read after [The Power of the Dog](#) (\$15.95), *The Cartel* stands on its own.

SOME SCIFI & FANTASY

✂Cogman, Genevieve. [The Invisible Library](#) (NAL \$15). Collecting books can be dangerous as this fun, time-traveling, fantasy adventure debut illustrates. Library Reads for June writes:

"Directed by powerful librarians, agents roam alternate realities searching out special volumes for their mysterious library's collections. Irene is a spy for the library but something is a little off about her current mission; there's something strange about her new assistant that she can't quite put her finger on and worse, the requested volume has already been stolen. Cogman's engaging characters and a most intriguing imagined world are sure to delight readers, especially bibliophiles." See our June Trade Paperback Picks for more.

Gaiman, Neil. [The View from the Cheap Seats](#) (Harper \$26.99) brings together for the first time ever more than sixty pieces of his outstanding nonfiction. This cornucopia explores a broad range of interests and topics, including (but not limited to): authors past and present; music; storytelling; comics; bookshops; travel; fairy tales; America; inspiration; libraries; ghosts; and the

title piece, at turns touching and self-deprecating, which recounts the author's experiences at the 2010 Academy Awards in Hollywood. New in paperback: [Neverwhere: Author's Preferred Text](#) (\$15.99). Richard Mayhew is a young man with a good heart and an ordinary life, which is changed forever when he stops to help a girl he finds bleeding on a London sidewalk. His small act of kindness propels him into a world he never dreamed existed...

Green, Simon R. [Dr DOA: A Secret Histories Novel](#) (NAL \$27). The name is Drood, Eddie Drood, also known as Shaman Bond. My family has been safeguarding humanity for generations, facing the hidden horrors of the world so you can sleep at night and remain oblivious to the existence of the monstrous nightmares that walk and stalk among us. Speaking of predatory night terrors, there is a man who gets away with murder. A man who specializes in removing the problems from other people's lives, by killing the people who cause those problems. He operates from the darkest shadows of the hidden world, coming and going unseen. No-one knows who he is, just his *nomme du muerte*: Dr. DOA. Somehow, this demented doc poisoned me.....

Humphrey, Claire. [Spells of Blood and Kin: A Dark Fantasy](#) (St Martins \$25.99) "is a fascinating take on urban fantasy, with complex, beautifully-drawn characters that defy stereotypes and stayed with me long after I finished reading." —Cassandra Rose Clark

Kay, Guy Gavriel. [Children of Earth and Sky](#) (NAL \$27). World Fantasy Award winner Kay is known for boundary-pushing, genre-defying stories set in fictional realms that borrow from real historical periods. Here he brings readers into a richly layered and detailed world inspired by Renaissance Europe. Danica dreams of retribution against those who killed her family, but an incident during a shipboard raid forces her to leave Senjan for Dubrava's hostile court life. Leonora, who desired freedom so much she agreed to spy for Seressa, a foreign government, finds her own position jeopardized when her escort is killed in the raid. Along with others, they try to navigate an unpredictable political landscape. It all allows Kaye to explore themes of family and power and independence.

Lawrence, Mark. [The Wheel of Osheim \(The Red Queen's War\)](#) (Ace \$27). All the horrors of Hell stand between Snorri Ver Snagason and the rescue of his family, if indeed the dead can be rescued. For Jalan Kendeth, getting back out alive and with Loki's key is all that matters. Loki's creation can open any lock, any door, and it may also be the key to Jalan's fortune back in the living world. Jalan plans to return to the three W's that have been the core of his idle and debauched life: wine, women, and wagering. Fate however has other plans, larger plans. The Wheel of Osheim is turning ever faster, and it will crack the world unless it's stopped....

✎Mieville, China. [Three Moments of an Explosion](#): (\$16). Named one of the Best books of the year by *The Washington Post* • NPR • *The Guardian* • *Kirkus Reviews*. London awakes one morning to find itself besieged by a sky full of floating icebergs. Destroyed oil rigs, mysteriously reborn, clamber from the sea and onto the land, driven by an obscure purpose. An anatomy student cuts open a cadaver to discover impossibly intricate designs carved into a corpse's bones—designs clearly present from birth, bearing mute testimony to... what? Of such concepts and unforgettable images are made the 28 stories in this collection—many published here for the first time.

✎Novik, Naomi. [League of Dragons](#) (Ballantine \$28). Here is the conclusion to this wonderful fantasy. Napoleon's invasion of Russia has been roundly thwarted. But even as Capt. William Laurence and the dragon Temeraire pursue the retreating enemy through an unforgiving winter, Napoleon is raising a new force, and he'll soon have enough men and dragons to resume the offensive. While the emperor regroups, the allies have an opportunity to strike first and defeat him once and for all—if internal struggles and petty squabbles don't tear them apart. Aware of his weakened position, Napoleon has promised the dragons of every country—and the ferals, loyal only to themselves—vast new rights and powers if they fight under his banner. It is an offer eagerly embraced from Asia to Africa—and even by England, whose dragons have long rankled at their disrespectful treatment. But Laurence and his faithful dragon soon discover that the wily Napoleon has one more gambit at the ready—one that that may win him the war, and the world.

Pratchett, Terry. [The Long Cosmos](#) (Harper \$25.99). 2070-71. Nearly six decades after Step Day, a new society continues to evolve on the Long Earth. The Next—the hyper-intelligent post-humans—realize that the missive contains instructions for kick-starting the development of an immense artificial intelligence known as The Machine. But to build this computer the size of an Earth continent, they must obtain help from the more populous and still industrious worlds of mankind. Meanwhile, on a trek in the High Meggers, Joshua Valienté is saved from death when a troll band discovers him. Living among the trolls as he recovers, Joshua learns something profound about life and its purpose in the Long Earth.... A collaboration between the late Sir Terry and Stephen Baxter.

Sykes, Sam. [An Affinity for Steel: The Complete Aeon's Gate Trilogy Signed](#) (Orbit \$19.99). There are only a few productive things a man can do once he picks up a sword. And the very lowest of these is to become an adventurer, like Lenk and his companions. For the right price, no deed is too dirty, no task is too dangerous, no foe too ferocious. Not even a demon. From wars ancient and terrible, wounds are bleeding. From seas deep and fathomless, demons are rising. From the mouth of hell, the Kraken Queen is calling. And all that stands between the damned and the mortal world are a pack of degenerates and the steel they carry.

Tucker, Todd. [Polaris](#) (St Martins \$25.99). One day in the not-too-distant future, Pete Hamlin regains consciousness deep inside the nuclear submarine Polaris. He's got a gun in his hand, a fire raging outside his door, and a dead man at his feet. And amnesia. With the ship in the middle of a mutiny, Pete has no idea what side he's on. He finds the ship is now commanded by the beautiful but volatile Hana Moody. She's locked the former captain, Finn McCallister, inside a steel trunk, accusing him of treason. To save himself and discover the truth, Pete must journey with Polaris back to a forlorn piece of rock in the middle of a dangerous ocean: Eris Island. To get there he must fight murderous shipmates, a swarm of bomb-dropping drones, and a plague that is attacking everyone on both sides of a battle that Pete barely understands....

NEW BOOKS

Amend, Allison. [Enchanted Islands](#) (Doubleday \$26.95). John Charles will review this in the June BookNotes. Meanwhile I can

say this is a beguiling tale of intrigue and adventure in the Galápagos Islands inspired by the mid-century memoirs of Frances Conway, an independent American woman born in 1882 whose path takes her far from her native Minnesota. In WWII Frances works as a secretary for the Office of Naval Intelligence. There she is introduced to Ainslie Conway, an intelligence operator ten years her junior. When it's arranged for Frances and Ainslie to marry and carry out a mission on the Galápagos Islands, the couple's identities—already hidden from each other—are further buried under their new cover stories. No longer a lonely spinster, Frances is about to begin the most fascinating and intrigue-filled years of her life. Amid active volcanoes, forbidding wildlife and flora, and unfriendly neighbors, Ainslie and Frances carve out a life for themselves. But the secrets they harbor from their enemies and from each other may be their undoing. "Secrets, lies, and spies on a faraway island. The real-life Frances and Ainslie Conway spent years before, during, and after World War II on the Galápagos Islands, recording their unusual adventure in two memoirs that have inspired Amend's pleasurable new novel."—*Kirkus*

✎Arlidge, M J. [Liar, Liar](#) (Penguin \$15). I quote *PW* here to show that I do not always agree with Starred Reviews. In fact I am totally unable to warm up to this series; don't like Grace and found the arsonists in this book unconvincing in their motives. Arlidge strikes me as one of the many working the whole "Girl on the Train" kind of suspense trope in search of a new blockbuster or riding the coattails thereof. "Arlidge's fourth novel featuring Southampton DI Helen Grace is so good that it will send new readers scrambling to catch up with the earlier books in the series. On one night, carefully planned multiple acts of arson take lives in a house fire and destroy two business properties. Grace and her team dig for clues and motives, but a second night brings three more fires, more victims, and more pressure. Adding to the investigation's difficulties are Grace's relationships with Det. Supt. Jonathan Gardam, a Londoner new to the city, and Emilia Garanita, an ambitious reporter. A personal crisis for a key ally, Det. Constable Charlene Brooks, adds further complications. Arlidge's minor characters are movingly real, and the story's twists are surprising and convincing. Helen, who bears both physical and emotional scars, emerges as one of crime fiction's most compelling detectives."—*PW* Starred Review

Atkins, Ace. [The Redeemers](#) (\$16). Corruption, Mississippi style. Quinn Colson got voted out of the sheriff's job in Tibbehawh County thanks to local kingpin Johnny Staff. Quinn's OK with another tour in Afghanistan or something similar, but first he wants to bring down Stagg's operation. And rescue his own addicted sister, Caddy. When a trio of criminals break into the safe room of a local lumber baron and make off with millions in cash—something odd there since the baron isn't that wealthy—two people end up dead, one of them the new sheriff. Acting sheriff is now his friend Lillie Virgil and she asks Quinn to step into this mess. Why does he agree? Maybe he suspects there were secrets in that safe along with the money, secrets now on the loose, and dangerous.... [Order](#) earlier Colsons.

Baker, Jo. [A Country Road, a Tree](#) (Knopf \$26.95). Baker switches from the household of Austen's Bennets to a biographical novel based on the life of Samuel Beckett's years in wartime France, on the run from the Gestapo. The title comes from the

opening stage direction of the playwright's *Waiting for Godot* and the story from the year pre-*Godot* and the Nobel Prize.

Barker, Clive. [The Scarlet Gospels](#) (\$16.99). Barker takes you back to two of his most iconic characters, detective Harry D'Amour who investigates all things supernatural, magical, as well as malevolent crimes, and his intensely evil rival Pinhead, the priest of hell. This one can make your worst nightmares seem more like bedtime stories.

Barrett, Lorna. [Title Wave](#) (Berkley \$26). While her bookstore, Haven't Got a Clue, is rebuilt following a devastating fire, Tricia Miles and her sister, Angelica, decide to book a cruise for some much needed R&R. Naturally they choose a Mystery Lovers cruise, where they can ponder whodunnit in deck chairs while sipping colorful drinks and soaking up some rays. But the fun is cut short when a fellow passenger is murdered for real. Is the killer a famous mystery author, one of his fans, or a member of the ship's crew? *Booktown Mystery #10*, for fans of Kate Carlisle and Jenn McKinlay's *Library Lovers* mysteries.

Bauregard, Mark. [The Whale: A Love Story](#) (Viking \$26). If *Moby Dick* lights you up, or you read Nathaniel Philbrick's [Why Read Moby Dick?](#) (\$13), this biographical novel touching upon Herman Melville's creative process, financial difficulties—after two hits based on his time at sea he had no further commercial or even critical success—family life, and especially his love for Nathaniel Hawthorne (apparently reciprocated in letters if not the flesh), offers an unusual perspective on two American literary icons.

Bellotto, Tony. [Rio Noir](#) (Akashic \$15.95). This is not a tourist guide. The city revealed in this book is a different Rio. Even though it brings you into famous landscapes of Rio in its pages, what is exposed here is a world of shadows, blood, intrigue, violence, hideouts, and mystery (and also of humor, of course, as is necessary with any undertaking involving Cariocas).

✎Berry, Flynn. [Under the Harrow](#) (Penguin \$16). "Nora leaves London to visit her sister, Rachel, in the countryside often. But this trip is different—a silent house, a dead dog hanging from the railing and so much blood. Nora stays, trying to help the police solve the case. She thinks it might have something to do with the unsolved attack on Rachel when she was just a teen but it could be someone new. This story is thrilling and quietly gripping. We become as obsessed as Nora in finding her sister's killer and what if he strikes again?"

Bilal, Parker. [City of Jackals](#) (Bloomsbury \$27). Cairo, December, 2005. Mourad Hafiz appears to have dropped out of university and disappeared. Engaged by his family to try and find him, Makana comes to believe that the Hafiz boy became involved in some kind of political activity just prior to his disappearance. But before he can discover more, the investigation is sidetracked: a severed head turns up on the riverbank next to his home, and Makana finds himself drawn into ethnic rivalry and gang war among young men from South Sudan. The trail leads from a church in the slums and the benevolent work of the larger-than-life Rev. Preston Corbis and sister Liz to the enigmatic Ihsan Qaddus and the Hesira Institute. President Mubarak has just been re-elected by a dubious 88 % majority in the country's first multi-party elections. In response to what appears to be flagrant election-rigging, there are early stirrings of organized political opposition to the regime. Change is afoot in this 5th Makana Mystery.

Buehlman, Chris. [Suicide Motor Club](#) (Berkley \$26). Remember that car that passed you near midnight on Route 66, doing 105 with its lights off? You wondered where it was going so quickly on that dark, dusty stretch of road, motor roaring, the driver glancing out the window as he blew by. You just saw the founder of the Suicide Motor Club. Be grateful his brake lights never flashed. Be grateful his car was already full. They roam America, littering the highways with smashed cars and bled-out bodies, a gruesome reflection of the unsettled sixties. But to anyone unlucky enough to meet them in the lonely hours of the night, they're just a blurry memory. That is—to all but one. Horrors!

Carr, Matthew. [The Devils of Cardona](#) (Riverhead \$27). This is a terrific if in places grisly historical—a thriller, but with digressive scenes—taking you to Spain, 1584, when Phillip II is on the throne and the Inquisition is in full force. Licenciado Mendoza, a local magistrate in Aragon, is sent to Belamar de la Sierra near the French border where the priest has been murdered in his own church. It's a time when Muslims are being forced into converting to Catholicism. Most of the townsfolk are Moriscos. With a royal visit, a wedding pending, the king wants to clear up the crime and prevent more violence, even an ethnic and civil war. Is there a mysterious Muslim avenger at work in the region or is something else going on, something in Cardona where the Countess was violently widowed two years back, leaving just a daughter as the heir.... This is a story for our time as well.

☛Clare, Alys. [The Night Wanderer](#) (Severn \$28.95). Aelf Fen Mystery #7. When a body appears in Aelf Fen, apprentice healer Lassair is skeptical of the sheriff's verdict that this was a wild animal attack. As more bodies are discovered, fear spreads through the town that the legendary demon, the Night Wanderer, has returned. The victims each have their throats torn out and their bodies mutilated by large wounds. Determined to prove the culprit is human, Lassair and lawman Jack Chevestrier investigate, putting Lassair right into the killer's path. Ordered Upon Request.

Cohen, Tamar. [The Fallout](#) (Mira \$15.99). The takeaway here: when close friends split, take care whose side you're on. Dan and Sasha are Josh and Hannah's closest friends, and lately they all seem to spend more time with each other than they do apart. But cozy weekends together quickly dissolve into a bitter game of tug-of-war when Dan utters three treacherous little words: I'm leaving her. Dan fully expects Josh to defend his choices—and that includes welcoming the 24-year-old model he's suddenly dating. Meanwhile, Dan's soon-to-be-ex-wife Sasha is devastated—dangerously so—by his betrayal, and she leans heavily on Hannah for support. Though Josh and Hannah try desperately to avoid the fallout of their friends' battle, they're quickly engulfed by the poisonous fog of attack lawyers, ugly accusations and untimely revelations. “As Josh and Hannah try to remain neutral, financial worries, intimacy problems, and other dilemmas strain their marriage and damage their careers. Peppered throughout are pages from a girl who exhibits signs of a dual personality as a result of her mother's abuse. Who is she? The reader knows Sasha had a horrible upbringing, but Hannah's may have been even worse. Cohen's marital drama morphs into a psychological thriller, and a last-minute twist set into motion much earlier in the narrative is brilliant.”

Crais, Robert. [The Promise](#) (\$16). Elvis Cole #14. When Elvis Cole is secretly hired to find a grief-stricken mother, he's led to an ordinary house on a rainy night in Echo Park. Only the house isn't ordinary, and the people hiding inside are a desperate fugitive and a murderous criminal with his own dangerous secrets. As helicopters swirl overhead, Scott and Maggie track the fugitive to this same house, coming face-to-face with Mr. Rollins, a killer who leaves behind a brutally murdered body and enough explosives to destroy the neighborhood. Scott is now the only person who can identify him, but Mr. Rollins has a rule: Never leave a witness alive. For all of them, the night is only beginning....

Craven, Michael. [The Detective and the Chinese High Fin](#) (Harper \$15.99). Los Angeles PI John Darvelle is a philosopher, a man who weighs up decisions and justice (but in the end game, won't let anyone else). The high-stakes world of rare tropical fish is really interesting but what sinks this one for me is that it is impossible to feel an iota of sympathy for Keaton Fuller, the entitled guy gunned down in his own driveway. Rather one wants to give a medal to the shooter.

Daitch, Susan. [The Lost Civilization of Suolucidir](#) (\$16.95). Daitch's fantastically fun novel has shades of Umberto Eco and Paul Auster and is brainy, escapist fiction at its best. Structured like a Russian nesting doll, the book conceals several overlapping tales centered on the search for the mythical lost city of Suolucidir. The novel begins with grad student Ariel Bokser's present-day search for the city, located somewhere in modern day Iran. The book then shifts to the heart of its story, the so-called Nieumacher papers, an inheritance from Ariel's father (a consulting mineralogist for a mining company) that relates the narrative of Sidonie and Bruno Nieumacher's quest for Suolucidir, beginning in 1936. The Nieumachers are husband and wife; he's a rare-book forger and she's a law student, and they are fleeing the West as much as they are searching East for Suolucidir. Setting off under the guidance of Bruno's former Berlin professor, now a black market profiteer, the duo brave adversity to find the lost city, dodging British agents and Russian spies. The book then shifts further back in time to the story of Hilliard and Congreaves, two mismatched British explorers who met at the Possum Club, an explorer society, and who set off in 1914 in search of fabled fortune and instead encounter their fate. The novel is like a Scheherazade tale, never quite giving the reader time or reason to pause. What exactly is Suolucidir? Lost city of the Hebrew tribes? A stand-in for colonialism's heart of darkness? Wisely, the MacGuffin remains elusive. As one character says, “Invisible cities sometimes leave no trace of themselves. Who knows what cities lay under our feet?” Perhaps Suolucidir is real, and still out there, awaiting discovery.”—*PW* Starred Review

Davis, Lindsey. [Deadly Election](#) (\$16.99). It's the year 89 B.C.E. Upon the retirement of her father, Marcus Didius Falco, Flavia Albia has inherited both his auction house and his clients as a private informer and sometime-sleuth. While preparing a sale of items from the household of wealthy Callistus Valens, who has gone to his country estate with his family, her workmen find a corpse inside a huge armored chest. Because it's too badly decomposed to identify, determining the body's killer, not to mention its identity, falls to Flavia despite the fact that Callistus suggests she simply dispose of it like rubbish. This potential slog takes a back seat when Flavia is buttonholed by rugged Manlius

Faustus, a magistrate who's as attracted to her as she is to him, so far to little effect. Faustus hires Flavia to dig up dirt on the slate of candidates competing against his friend Sextus Vibius Marinus in the upcoming election for Plebian Aedile... A murder reminds Flavia of the danger she has placed herself in.

Doiron, Paul. [The Precipice](#) (\$15.99). When two female hikers disappear in the Hundred Mile Wilderness—the most remote stretch along the entire Appalachian Trail—Maine game warden Mike Bowditch joins the desperate search to find them. Hope turns to despair after two unidentified corpses are discovered—their bones picked clean by coyotes. Do the bodies belong to the missing hikers? And were they killed by the increasingly aggressive wild dogs? Soon, all of Maine is gripped with the fear of killer coyotes. But Bowditch has his doubts. His new girlfriend, wildlife biologist Stacey Stevens, insists the scavengers are being wrongly blamed. She believes a murderer may be hiding in the offbeat community of hikers, hippies, and woodsmen at the edge of the Hundred Mile Wilderness. This story is also available in a \$9.99 paperback: see New in Mass Markets.

Dugoni, Robert. [In the Clearing](#) (amazon \$15.95). Detective Tracy Crosswhite has a skill, and a soft spot, for tackling unsolved crimes. So when Jenny, a former police academy classmate and protégé, asks Tracy to help solve a cold case that involves the suspicious suicide of a Native American high school girl forty years earlier, Tracy agrees. Following up on evidence Jenny's detective father collected when he was the investigating deputy, Tracy probes one small town's memory and finds dark, well-concealed secrets hidden within the community's fabric.

✎Falksen, GD. [The Transatlantic Conspiracy](#) (Soho Teen \$18.99). The year is 1908. Seventeen-year-old Rosalind Wallace's blissful stay in England with her best friend, Cecily de Vere, has come to an abrupt end, which is fine with Rosalind. She was getting tired of being high society Cecily's American "pet." Her industrialist father is unveiling his fabulous new Transatlantic Express, the world's first underwater railway. As a publicity stunt he has booked her on the maiden voyage—without asking. Rosalind is furious. But lucky for her, Cecily and her handsome older brother, Charles, volunteer to accompany her home. Fun turns to worry when Charles disappears during boarding. Then, deep under the sea, Cecily and her housemaid, Doris, are found stabbed to death in their state room. Rosalind is now trapped on Father's train—fighting to clear herself of her friend's murder, to find the killer, and ultimately to uncover the sinister truth behind the railway's construction.

Gentill, Sulari. [A Few Right-Thinking Men](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). I put the paperback into our June Trade Paperback Picks, and it is our History Paperback for June. This Starred Review from *Library Journal* arrived just as I am writing this Booknews so I can't resist putting it in for the hardcover: "In 1931 Sydney, Australia, unemployment is high and tension is mounting, especially among working people who feel the upper class are handing them a raw deal. Rowland ("Rowly") Sinclair was born with a silver spoon in his mouth, but has taken up the mantle of gentleman communist. He is, after all, a bohemian artist. His older brother is embarrassed by Rowly, but when their elderly uncle is murdered at home, Rowly sets out to uncover who might have wanted a sweet old man dead. As Uncle Rowly was a silent partner in a speakeasy, gangsters might have had it out for him, but our sleuth soon learns that fascist politicians make bad bedfellows. While the vintage Down Under settings might

make this debut, which was short-listed for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize Best First Book, comparable to Kerry Fisher's Melbourne-based Phryne Fisher 1920s mysteries, Gentill works in historical events that add verisimilitude to her story. There are more political machinations going on here than Phryne could ever contemplate. VERDICT Thanks to Poisoned Pen Press for bringing another award-winning Australian crime writer to U.S. shores. Her witty hero will delight traditional mystery buffs."

✎Hannah, Sophie. [A Game for All the Family](#) (Harper \$26.99). Justine Merrison leaves her old life behind for a fresh start. But soon after the move, Justine's daughter starts to withdraw after her friend George is expelled from school. Trying to help, Justine asks the principal to reconsider, only to be told that George hasn't been expelled – because there is no George. As Justine searches for answers, anonymous phone calls begin: a stranger, who insists that Justine and she share a traumatic past and a guilty secret. And then the caller threatens her life and the lives of her family. Pulled into a deadly game of deception, secrets and lies, Justine must find the truth in order to outwit a cunning opponent, protect her family and save her own life.

Harvey, Michael. [Brighton](#) (Harper \$27.99). This gritty stand-alone from Harvey reminds me of *Mystic River*. It focuses on two childhood friends who have gone in dramatically different directions as adults. Kevin Pearce starts life as an intelligent young man born into poverty and a brutal home life in 1970s Brighton, a hard-bitten section of Boston. Kevin's best friend, Bobby Scales, is a violent urban Huck Finn who's also capable and loyal. After Kevin's grandmother is murdered in a grisly home invasion, Kevin and Bobby ambush and slay the killer. Twenty-seven years later, Kevin, now a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, discovers that the gun Bobby used to shoot his grandmother's killer is the same gun used in the recent murder of an undercover policewoman. Kevin searches for the connection, which reunites him with Bobby, now a tough Brighton bookie. Harvey crisply evokes the dark side of the Boston urban underclass inhabiting a fractured neighborhood in a constant state of casual violence and brutality. An intense, twist-filled climax caps the story.

Hawley, Noah. [Before the Fall](#) (Grand Central \$26). A private plane leaving Martha's Vineyard goes down in the ocean and then the book moves back and forth in time, revealing the secrets of the dead passengers, as well as of the two survivors—a boy and a down-on-his-luck painter. Grand Central bills the book "the thriller to read in 2016"; they might be right. —Rachel Deahl

Housewright, David. [Stealing the Countess](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Since becoming an unlikely millionaire and quitting the St. Paul Police Department, Rushmore McKenzie has been working as an unlicensed private investigator, basically doing favors for friends and people in need. But even for him, this latest job is unusual. He's been asked to find a stolen Stradivarius, known as the Countess Borromeo, that only the violinist seems to want him to find. Stolen from a locked room in a B&B in the violinist's former hometown of Bayfield, Wisconsin, the violin is valued at \$4 million and is virtually irreplaceable. But the foundation that owns it and their insurance company refuses to think about buying it back from the thief (or thieves.) However, Paul Duclos, the violinist who has played it for the past twelve years, is desperate to get it back and will pay out of his own pocket to get it back. Which means McKenzie will be going up against combined opposition. Plus he finds there's more going on than theft....

✎Iggulden, Conn. [Wars of the Roses: Margaret of Anjou](#) (\$16). The middle volume in a trilogy about the real life Game of Thrones that pitted the House of Lancaster (red rose) against the House of York (white rose) that led to Henry VII and the Tudor dynasty (combining both roses). Begin with [Wars of the Roses: Stormbird](#) (\$16). [Wars of the Roses: Bloodline](#) (\$28) publishes mid-July.

✎Jarvis, Stephen. [Death and Mr. Pickwick](#) (\$19). in “this astounding first novel, Jarvis re-creates, in loving and exhaustive detail, the writing and publication of Charles Dickens’s first novel, *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club*, in 1836. Written under the pen name Boz, Pickwick made Dickens perhaps the first literary celebrity. But who deserves credit for creating Pickwick, the book’s protagonist: Dickens, the man who created the text, or Robert Seymour, the caricaturist who came up with the name and the graphic image of the rotund Englishman? Jarvis is clearly on the side of Seymour—and the book offers an impressively imagined account of Seymour, Dickens, and a huge host of others (the sheer scale of the book is, itself, Dickensian). This picaresque novel is structured with a framing story—a conversation between a present-day narrator and a Mr. Imbelicate, who wants assistance in writing the results of his life’s research on Dickens’s “immortal book.” This is a staggering accomplishment, a panoramic perspective of 19th-century London and its creative class.”

✎Jecks, Michael. [Rebellion’s Message](#) (Severn \$28.99). Veteran crimewriter Jecks begins a new series featuring Jack Blackjack, an Elizabethan cutpurse and adventurer. January, 1554. Light-fingered Jack Blackjack knows he’s not going to have a good day when he wakes with a sore head next to a dead body in a tavern’s yard. That would be bad enough – but when he discovers what’s in the dead man’s purse, the one he’d stolen, his day is set to get much worse. The purse explains why the mysterious man with the broad-brimmed hat wants to catch him. But so does the Lord Chancellor, as does the enigmatic Henry. In fact, almost everyone seems to be after Jack Blackjack. If it weren’t for the rebel army marching on London determined to remove Queen Mary from her throne and install Lady Jane Grey in her place, Jack could leave the city – but with the bridge blocked and every gate manned, there’s no escape.... Ordered Upon Request

✎Jewell, Lisa. [The Girls in the Garden](#) (Atria \$25). You live in a picturesque communal area, an oasis in urban London where your children run free, in and out of other people’s houses. You’ve known your neighbors for years and you trust them implicitly. What really happened, then, to the 13 year-old girl lying unconscious and bloody in a hidden corner? Who is responsible? For fans of Liane Moriarty and Jojo Moyes comes a family drama with a dark mystery at its core. “Vivid descriptions of the bucolic park contrast with the evil lurking around the themes of teenage sexuality, perversion, peer pressure, and the desire for a complete family. Jewell adeptly creates a pervasive atmosphere of unease in this well-spun narrative.”—*PW* Starred Review for a book not for me.

King, Stephen. [End of Watch](#) (Scribner \$30). After two straightforward crime thrillers, MWA Grand Master King torques this third and final novel featuring retired detective Bill Hodges into his trademark terror territory. Hodges has long suspected that Brady Hartsfield, the brain-damaged mass murderer captured at the end of *Mr. Mercedes*, has been faking his catatonia, and

his suspicions are reinforced by rumors circulating in Brady’s hospital ward (in what may be a Midwestern state) that he can move objects telekinetically. The truth is actually worse: with the help of secretly administered experimental drugs and skillfully hacked computer technology, Brady has found a way to project his personality into others and commandeer them as his “organic wheelchairs.” The stage is set for Brady to compel mass suicide among users of a handheld gaming device whose interface he’s hijacked, and to draw out Hodges to settle a personal score. King has dealt before with this novel’s different themes—endowment with dangerous supernatural powers, the zombifying effect of modern consumer electronics—but he finds fresh approaches to them and inventive ways to introduce them...in this final to the Bill Hodges trilogy.”—*PW* Boxed and Starred Review. And you can order King’s [Bill Hodges Trilogy Boxed Set](#). (Scribner \$90)

Kuhns, Eleanor. [The Devil’s Cold Dish](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Weaver and farmer Will Rees returns to his small Maine hometown Dugard in 1796 with his five adopted children and pregnant wife. While he owns a productive farm he has to face his somewhat estranged teenager David and his unrelentingly angry sister, furious that Will won’t let her family move in. Will kicked them off the farm when he discovered how they’d abused David, treating him like slave labor, while Will was off weaving, staying with the Shakers, investigating crimes. Worse, when his brother-in-law attacked him Will countered with a punch that left Sam addled. So really this story is a much needed chapter in resolution as well as a look at destructive gossip, a witchcraft scare, and murder. This is an interesting series with a look at post-Colonial America with all its passions and problems.

Krugler, David. [The Dead Don’t Bleed](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). History professor Krugler makes his triumphant fiction debut with a whodunit set in 1945 Washington, D.C. Lt. Ellis Voigt, an investigator for the Office of Naval Intelligence’s Sabotage, Espionage, and Counterterrorism section, investigates the murder of a colleague, Logan Skerrill, who was found shot to death in a back alley. Before his death, Skerrill was looking into the background of some new employees of the Soviet Union’s trading company in the U.S., but his work was (atypically for him) subpar. He gave the new hires a clean bill of health despite evidence that they were Russian spies. Might Skerrill may have been a blackmail victim? When Voigt finds that the dead man frequented a news-clipping service suspected of Communist affiliations, he’s sent there, undercover, to try to land a job. After being hired, Voigt looks for the business’s weak link and pursues the truth with no scruples about whom he will hurt along the way. “The fairly clued solution will surprise most readers, though it will make perfect sense in retrospect.”—*PW* Starred Review

Lunde, Darrin. [The Naturalist](#) (Crown \$28). This terrific study of Teddy Roosevelt and how his sickly childhood and lifelong passion for the natural world (he was taken when young into the Adirondacks, and his father was instrumental in founding NY’s American Museum of Natural History) inspired him to the wildlife conservation movement, our National Parks (this is the 100th anniversary year), and his epic travels. Written by a member of the Smithsonian who also worked at the NY museum, it traces the rise of museums as a whole, natural history museums in particular, taxidermy, hunting, Roosevelt’s life.... Absolutely fascinating and highly recommended for summer reading and for a Father’s Day Gift.

Lutz, Lisa. [How to Start a Fire](#) (\$14.95). When UC Santa Cruz roommates Anna and Kate find passed-out Georgiana Leoni on a lawn one night, they wheel her to their dorm in a shopping cart. Twenty years later, they gather around a campfire on the lawn of a New England mansion. Lutz acutely charts what happens in between—the web of wild adventures, unspoken jealousies, and sudden tragedies that alter the course of their lives. This is not a crime novel although there are crimes but “With this novel, Lutz joins the ranks of authors who write deeply and sensitively about the shadowy yet life-affirming terrain of female friendship. The characters are perfect because they are flawed and real and kind and cruel. And the story delivers staggering insights into the consequences of choice, no matter how insignificant a moment may seem at the time, as well as the meaning of forgiveness and the ways in which friends can become more like family than our own blood relations – for better or for worse.”—*Globe & Mail* [Toronto]

Mukherjee, Siddhartha. [The Gene](#) (Scribner \$32). Having written a bestseller about cancer, the oncologist and the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of [The Emperor of All Maladies](#) (\$18) relates the grand tale of how scientists have come to understand the role genes play in human development, behavior, and physiology. He deftly relates the basic scientific facts about the way genes are believed to function, while making clear the aspects of genetics that remain unknown. Mukherjee offers insight into both the scientific process and the sociology of science.

✎Muriel, Oscar de. [The Strings of Murder](#) (Pegasus \$26.95). Sherlock Holmes meets the X-Files in de Muriel’s standout debut, a creepy and atmospheric locked-room mystery set in 1888. “de Muriel’s hugely entertaining Victorian mystery finds Inspector Ian Frey in disgrace, sent by Scotland Yard to Edinburgh to join the Commission for the Elucidation of Unsolved Cases Presumably Related to the Odd and Ghostly. Frey is actually working undercover on a special mission from the prime minister to investigate the murder of a respected concert violinist at the rough hands of someone who seems to admire the work of Jack the Ripper. A fastidious fop, Frey is appalled by the gritty city and horrified by his superior, Adolphus McGray, a lusty Falstaffian character who calls his new colleague a ‘whiny lassie.’ The two actually work well together in this locked-room mystery. The real fun, though, is hearing the haughty Frey (who even brought along his fencing gear) recoil from the ‘dreadful’ Scottish accents, the ‘disgusting’ food and the ‘offensive stench’ of the streets.”—*NY Times*

Nichols, Peter. [The Rocks](#) (\$16). To call this novel an odyssey certainly fits because Homer’s *Odyssey* permeates the story and indeed shapes the actions of one of the characters. We begin in 2005 in an off-kilter Mediterranean idyll, a seaside resort area on the eastern end of the island of Mallorca. Two halves of a failed marriage nearly 60 years ago have a fateful, and fatal, encounter. Clearly a terrible event, kept secret, has divided them, shaping two families, four lovers, and one resort community. What that is we learn as the story unrolls backwards in time, at last revealing what irrevocably damaged the new marriage of Lulu and Gerald.

✎O’Malley, Daniel. [Stiletto](#) (Little Brown \$26). “Daniel O’Malley expands on the intriguing and hilarious paranormal world of the Chequy, Great Britain’s ultra-secret espionage and law enforcement agency for supernatural matters. In a devilishly

funny follow-up, he leads readers into the ranks of the Chequy’s mortal-enemies-turned-recent-allies, the Wetenschappelijk Broederschap van Natuurkundigen, a Belgian society of scientists who make Victor Frankenstein look unimaginative.... While not without flaws and possessed of a steep learning curve for the uninitiated, this sequel delivers the imagination, action and hilarity of its predecessor in spades. O’Malley reaches new heights of grotesquery in the best possible way with details of the Grafters’ lives, marked by constant enhancement and implantation surgeries beginning at the onset of adulthood. “This ambitious romp reads like *X-Men* meets *Supernatural* as narrated by Jasper Fforde, only funnier. Readers should begin with the first book, [The Rook](#) (\$16), then approach this one ready to meet some wince-cracking, butt-kicking additions to a stellar character roster.”—Infinite Reads. I agree, and plan to read *The Rook* my first chance.

Perez-Reverte, Arturo. [What We Become](#) (Atria \$27) follows the dangerous and passionate love affair between a beautiful high society woman and Max, an elegant thief. They meet aboard an ocean liner where he’s a dancer hired to entertain wives and meet up again here and there over time, their lives oddly linked. I found their final encounter both true to Max’s character, and surprising at the same time as the Spanish author twines romance, adventure, and espionage into a formidable historical.

✎Rees, Tracy. [Amy Snow](#) (SimonSchuster \$15.99). Set in Victorian England, this engrossing first novel chronicles the secretive treasure hunt that orphan Amy Show undertakes when her only friend in the Vennaway stately home dies and leaves her a challenging legacy. After finding an infant Amy abandoned in the snow, kindly child Aurelia Vennaway brings the baby into her family, much to the chagrin of Aurelia’s spiteful and haughty rich parents. Amy is raised in the kitchen and treated like a servant when not kept out of sight, though the older Aurelia loves her like a sister. Aurelia’s declining health derails her parents’ plans to marry her off. She begs them to let her go on a short chaperoned trip before her heart fails her. What began as a three-month trip stretches to over a year, with Aurelia’s letters from different cities growing more uncharacteristically flighty and infrequent. She returns, sinks into a rapid decline, and dies, but contrives to leave Amy a letter containing money and instructions for a quest. Amy begins in London and is guided to various locations and people that aid her in uncovering Aurelia’s deepest secrets. This is a compelling story for those who like English romantic suspense, or DuMaurier or Dickens, with a great hook, rife with mysterious clues, intriguing people, and varied settings.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. [Bayou Magic](#) (\$6.99). It’s city-girl Maddy’s first summer in the bayou, and she just falls in love with her new surroundings—the glimmering fireflies, the glorious landscape, and something else, deep within the water, that only she can see. Could it be a mermaid? As her grandmother shares wisdom about sayings and signs, Maddy realizes she may be the only sibling to carry on her family’s magical legacy. And when a disastrous oil leak threatens the bayou, she knows she may also be the only one who can help. Does she have what it takes to be a hero? asks ASU’s Rhodes, a Coretta Scott King honor author.

Rowe, Rosemary. [The Ides of June](#) (Severn \$28.95). An astonishing new order has usurped power in Rome and the reverberations are reaching even to Glevum, where the legion is preparing to depart. Libertus’ wealthy patron, until recently one of the most

influential men in the Empire, finds himself not only deprived of the privilege and protection he had previously enjoyed, but under actual threat both from the political establishment in Rome and from an anonymous and vindictive enemy much closer to home. The murder of another councilor, similarly placed, makes the matter urgent. Libertus, whose humbler status affords obscurity, is charged with spiriting Marcus's young family away to a place of safety. But his task will bring problems of its own, as Libertus uncovers a grisly secret and an ancient crime – with ramifications stretching to the present day. I've always liked this series set around modern Gloucester. Ordered Upon Request.

Sarenbrant, Sofie. [Killer Deal](#) (Stockholm Text \$16.95). Detective Emma Sköld is pregnant, and trying to overcome horrible morning sickness in order to continue working. Emma and her partner are called to investigate a murder in an upscale Stockholm suburb. The day after an open house, the owner of the home is found murdered. The real estate agent who held the open house swore that she checked the house thoroughly before leaving, so Emma's suspicions quickly fall upon the victim's wife, Cornelia—until another shocking murder occurs at a different open house, turning Emma's theory upside-down. Interspersed with the investigation are the details of Emma's tumultuous personal life, which ends up entangled with Cornelia's. "*Killer Deal* makes a great entry point for those unfamiliar with Swedish crime novels, and is sure to lead readers to authors like Henning Mankell and Kjell Eriksson. This entertaining blend of family drama, murder and real estate is reminiscent of Camilla Läckberg's mystery novels, and will hold any crime-loving reader's interest; they'll eagerly await the next Sofie Sarenbrant to be translated."—Jessica Howard

Satterthwait, Walter. [New York Nocturne: The Return of Miss Lizzie](#) (Mysterious \$14.99). Here is a blast from the past! Not only from the author but about one of his most absorbing mysteries. *Miss Lizzie* is, of course, his story of Lizzie Borden. Now she and Amanda Burton reunite to solve the case of a grisly murder among Jazz Age New York's elite. Sixteen-year-old Amanda is spending the summer with her suave and easygoing uncle John at the Dakota Apartments, opposite the green sprawl of New York's Central Park. When John isn't doing something mysterious with stocks and bonds, he and Amanda enjoy the very best the Roaring Twenties have to offer. However, in a single brutal night, everything changes. Suddenly, Amanda is alone, far from home, and fighting for her life in a city that has abandoned her. Fortunately, there's one person Amanda can trust.... Works for YA given the teenage narrator and 1920s caper. Satterthwait has always enjoyed peppering his novels with iconic historical figures (Oscar Wilde in one).

Sefton, Maggie. [Knit to Be Tied](#) (Berkley \$26). In Fort Connor, Colorado, the friends at the House of Lambspun knitting shop are welcoming a new face into the fold. Shy, sweet, and pregnant Nancy Marsted would like to knit a baby hat, and the Lambspun ladies are more than happy to show her the ropes. They share their own pregnancy yarns and soon learn the father of Nancy's baby isn't quite the man she dreamed he was. He's a cad. Then one dark night a speeding car fatally mows down the dad-to-be and strikes a cyclist, spinning the town into a frenzy. Everyone worries that a crazed killer is on the loose. But maybe it's a perfectly sane one....

Shafak, Elif. [The Architect's Apprentice](#) (\$16). In 1540, a youth arrives in Istanbul as an animal trainer at the palace. His education there leads young Jahan to apprentice with the Ottoman's chief architect Mimar Sinan who takes the boy under his wing as he and his team construct some of the most magnificent buildings in history. Yet even as they build Sinan's triumphant masterpieces, the the incredible Suleymaniye and Selimiye mosques, jealousy erupts among Sinan's four apprentices (Jahan, Shafak hints, may have left Istanbul for India after Sinan's death and there built one of the wonder's of the world). "There is great beauty in Shafak's evocations of the era, and the novel can be read as a series of fascinating vignettes on the relationship between art and religion, creativity and devotion. . . Nowhere is the novel's sense of place more deftly established than in Shafak's passages on the character of Istanbul... Vibrant, fresh, and lively." – *The Washington Post*

Silva, Daniel. [The English Spy](#) (\$15.99). With Chiara returning to Israel to await the birth of twins and Gabriel Allon devoting some time to restoring the long-lost Caravaggio that was a focus of 2014's [The Heist](#) (\$9.99), the last thing he needs is a summons from MI6. A bomb has exploded aboard a yacht carrying the iconic divorced wife of the heir to the British throne—an icon known only by her first name and beloved for her beauty, style, and charitable works, and her rich lover—plus the crew. The only escapee appears to be a substitute chef brought on board to cook for the party for its holiday week....

Smith, Alexander McCall. [The Woman Who Walked in Sunshine](#) (\$15). "The sixteenth installment of the internationally bestselling No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series again showcases the boundless compassion, humor, and occasional wiliness of the agency's founder, the 'traditionally built' Mma Precious Ramotswe. . . . The title comes from Precious's reflection that she, blessed by the love of her husband, the proprietor of Tlokweng Road Speedy Motors, walks in sunshine. Readers of this and the whole series will feel similarly blessed." —*Booklist* Starred Review.

Steiner, Susan. [Missing, Presumed](#) (Random \$27). A thoughtful, richly plotted police procedural about a missing person case and the secrets that come to the surface when a feisty detective becomes relentless in finding the truth. Edith Hind, a 24-year-old Cambridge graduate student, goes missing, leaving behind only a smear of blood and signs of a struggle at the flat she shares with her boyfriend. The pressure is on DS Manon Bradshaw, who excels at her job but not at her personal life—she has suffered a string of dreary Internet dates—and the rest of the Cambridgeshire Major Incident Team; Edith's father is Sir Ian Hind, physician to the royal family. Steiner slips smoothly among narrators, shifting from Manon's ever-widening investigation to characters who are directly affected by Edith's disappearance. As leads dry up and the days Edith is missing increase, every scrap of case information is fodder for the press, who pounce on the more salacious aspects of Edith's personal life, even as Manon and the team discover that the answers might be linked to something much more serious. The actual perp won't surprise you sophisticated readers of British suspense, but all will enjoy a vein of dark humor pulses beneath this compelling whodunit with an appealing, complicated heroine at its center. This is our **June British Crime Club Pick**. Tana French and Kate Atkinson readers, alert, but really this is a book for any British mystery fan.

Stevens, Chevy. [Those Girls](#) (\$15.99). Life has never been easy for the three Campbell sisters. Jess, Courtney, and Dani live on a remote ranch in Western Canada where they work hard and try to stay out of the way of their father's temper. One night, a fight gets out of hand and the sisters are forced to go on the run, only to get caught in an even worse nightmare when their truck breaks down in a small town. As events spiral out of control they find themselves in a horrifying situation and are left with no choice but to change their names and create new lives. Eighteen years later, they are still trying to forget what happened that summer. But when one of the sisters goes missing, followed closely by her niece, they are pulled back into the past.

Stradal, J Ryan. [Kitchens of the Great Midwest](#): (\$16). Think Farm-to-Table Dinners, a Locavore spin, unusual recipes with artisan foods, and a narrative handed off from one character to another starting with the inspired chef Lars Thorvald of Duluth, unwilling master of lutefisk (dried whitefish soaked in lye), who works slavishly to escape his assigned family role and the smell that indelibly clings to him. His young daughter Eva first appears in his chapter, as does his wife Cynthia whom he marries while capturing Minnesota's Twin Cities with his cuisine. The voice(s) of this book is like none other, the concept is way out, both funny yet sad (never maudlin; in fact sad is almost offhand), and what Stradal says about creating families and careers is... unique. Rob, my own foodie, agrees there is nothing quite like this book.

Tremblay, Paul. [Disappearance at Devil's Rock](#) (Harper \$25.99). The Starred Review suggests this for fans of King and Straub: "Intense emotions of fear and alienation carve direct paths to the supernatural in this tightly plotted and atmospheric novel. Young Tommy's disappearance in Borderland State Park, Mass., near haunted Devil's Rock, throws his mother, Elizabeth Sanderson, into a maelstrom of guilt. Townsfolk start seeing shadows at their windows, and Tommy's friends Josh and Luis grow anxious, reluctant to discuss the night when he vanished. Meanwhile, Elizabeth encounters Tommy's ghost in her bedroom and receives mysterious notebook pages that reveal sinister connections among Tommy's father's death, a stranger named Arnold who Tommy met at Devil's Rock, and a macabre folk tale. Tremblay (*A Head Full of Ghosts*) uses concise prose and smooth storytelling to evoke raw emotion in this tale of love, loss, and terror. Sympathetic characters and heartbreaking struggles replace genre stereotypes and tropes."

Vachss, Andrew. [Signwave](#) (\$15.95). Once a mercenary, later an assassin, and now living a different life, Dell has bone-marrow-deep loyalty and protective instincts. When his wife, former battlefield nurse Dolly, receives a thinly veiled threat, Dell reverts to his old ways to untangle the background of a prominent local figure, George Byron Benton. Benton combines the deadly patience of a Gila monster and a complex agenda—including a public life that's all elaborate disguise. To penetrate Benton's dense facade, Dell methodically works his way through the only reliable source of news in the area—a blog called Undercurrents. If he manages to track Benton down, Dell will have to decide how far he is willing to go to recapture the sense of safety that Benton has stolen. But first...

✠Vyleta, Dan. [Smoke](#) (Knopf \$27.95). England, "a century ago, give or take"—a familiar yet strange land where, when the wicked lie or sin in thought or deed, they release Smoke: thin, white

wisps, or oily black and oozing, or yellow or green, depending on the crime. They might smoke through their mouths, or the pores of their skin. "One notices it at the shoulders first, and where the sweat has plastered the nightshirt to his skin." It is a remarkably convenient way to judge people. Or so it seems. With this premise, Vyleta introduces a world of action, intrigue and challenge, telling his story from several perspectives. As the plot continues to expand, the cast expands as well, eventually spanning social classes to include religious fanatics, compassionless scientists, imitators of virtue, goodhearted working-class misfits—and, possibly, the truly evil. Dystopian fiction set in Victorian England.

White, Karen. [Flight Patterns](#) (NAL \$26). I am a lover of fine china so this new novel by an author highly recommended to me by Lauren Willig and Beatriz Williams catches my eye. Georgia Chambers has spent her life sifting through other people's pasts while trying to forget her own. But then her work as an expert of fine china—especially of Limoges—requires her to return to the one place she swore she'd never revisit—her family home on the coast of Florida. It's been ten years since she left and nothing much has changed, except that there are fewer oysters and more tourists. She finds solace seeing her grandfather still toiling away in the apiary where she spent much of her childhood, but encountering her estranged mother and sister leaves her rattled. Seeing them after all this time makes Georgia realize that something has been missing—and unless she finds a way to heal these rifts, she will forever be living vicariously through other people's remnants. To embrace her own life—mistakes and all—she will have to find the courage to confront the ghosts of her past and the secrets she was forced to keep....

✠Wilson, Robert. [Stealing People](#) (Europa \$17). Charlie Boxer, an expert at solving kidnappings, and his ex-wife Detective Mercy Dunqah are tasked with taking down a bold and heartless crime syndicate responsible for the abduction of six children. #3 in the Boxer series by Gold Dagger winner Wilson whose [A Small Death in Lisbon](#) (\$8.99) was a mega bestseller... deservedly so, and makes a terrific companion read to new books like those from Alan Furst.

✠Wodehouse, PG. [The Essential Jeeves and Wooster](#) (Overlook \$55). A gorgeous boxed set of works with special editions of three of Wodehouse's most beloved masterpieces: the hilarious account of the first encounter between Jeeves and Wooster, "Carry On, Jeeves," an ideal introduction to Wodehouse's marvelous world; "Thank You, Jeeves," the first full-length novel to feature our heroes, along with an American millionaire, a terrifying conflagration, and an exceedingly annoying instrument called the banjolele; and "Joy in the Morning," considered one of the best of the Jeeves novels.

Woods, Stuart. [Dishonorable Intentions](#) (Putnam \$28 can be Signed in late October). Boris Tirov detests Stone Barrington whose latest romantic interest is, Stone's bad, Boris's ex-wife, screenwriter Gala Wilde, sister of Santa Fe attorney Ed Eagle's second wife. Boris first shows up in Santa Fe while the couple trysts there (and meet a hungry bear), and follows them to Hollywood and on to England, where Stone owns an estate with its own airfield. The vengeful Boris, a Hollywood movie producer with rumored connections to the Russian mob, remains hot on their trail. The ease with which Stone keeps Boris at bay threatens to become monotonous until Boris cuts a deal with Russian

president Viktor Petrov: in exchange for Petrov not extraditing Boris from the U.S. on a long-standing murder charge, Boris will ensure that Petrov has an intimate meeting with a beautiful American actress who's due to arrive in Moscow for a movie premiere. Woods leaves this intriguing plot line up in the air, presumably to be continued in a later installment, as the main action speeds toward Boris' final, foolish attempt to get even with Stone. I think this chapter marks the first three-way sex scene in Woods' books but am not 100% sure.

OUR JUNE MASS MARKET PICKS

Bradford, Laura. [A Churn for the Worse Signed](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Claire Weatherly #5. After an Amish farmer is found dead and another is victimized, Detective Jakob Fisher, who has two strikes against him in the eyes of the Amish, finds it difficult to investigate these crimes until he partners with a shop owner who has earned trust from the Amish community. Bradford also writes the Southern Sewing Circle mysteries as Elizabeth Lynn Casey, and she will be making her first appearance at the Poisoned Pen on Saturday June 11 at 2 PM with Kate Carlisle (see below) and Paige Shelton.

Carlisle, Kate. [Ripped from the Pages](#) (\$7.99) Bibliophile #9. While visiting her parents in Sonoma, book-restoration expert Brooklyn Wainwright attends an excavation of the caves hidden deep under her parents' commune where she is faced with a real-life mystery when priceless treasure is unearthed and a crime from the past is exposed. Kate will be at the Poisoned Pen on Saturday June 11 at 2 PM to talk about her latest mystery: *Books of a Feather*. See Event Books.

Child, Lincoln. [The Forgotten Room](#) (\$9.99) Jeremy Logan #3. Investigating a baffling murder-suicide at a Newport mansion that houses a respected think tank, Jeremy Logan discovers a secret room in the mansion filled with obscure scientific equipment related to a dangerous top-secret project. Fans of *Downton* will enjoy the American version of a Stately Home. *LJ* concluded their thumbs up review with "Jeremy, who appeared in *The Third Gate* and *Deep Storm*, is a quirky but believable character. He develops into an intriguing protagonist as he works through an electrifying plot that is one of Child's best yet. Fans of James Rollins, Steve Berry, and Matthew Reilly will love this book."

Coes, Ben. [Independence Day](#) (\$9.99) Dewey/Andreas #5. Sidelined after two operations gone wrong and a terrible personal loss, former Delta and new intelligence agent Dewey Andreas defies his superiors in a race against time to stop a deadly terrorist plot on U.S. soil. *PW* said this about the hardcover appearance of the book last year "Compelling characters, a wealth of technical detail, and ticking-clock suspense make bestseller Coes' fifth Dewey Andreas novel (after 2013's *Eye for an Eye*) one of the year's best thrillers." See Event Books for the sequel signed here on June 21.

Doiron, Paul. [The Precipice](#) (\$9.99) Mike Bowditch #6. When a pair of lovers are declared the victims of a coyote attack on a remote stretch of the Appalachian Trail, Mike Bowditch clashes with his biologist girlfriend, who believes that the victims were murdered. *PW* ended their review by saying "Multidimensional characters and a high level of suspense help make this a winner."

Dunn, Matthew. [The Spy House](#) (\$9.99) Will Cochrane #5. Freelance intelligence operative Will Cochrane investigates after four U.N. security agents are found murdered while responding to the assassination of an Israeli ambassador. Superior spy fiction.

Fairstein, Linda. [Devil's Bridge](#) (\$9.99) Alexandra Cooper #17. Investigating the disappearance of Alex Cooper, NYPD detective Mike Chapman looks into a recent security breach and Coop's numerous enemies while evaluating the vulnerabilities of their newly intimate relationship. In her latest ode to New York City, Fairstein includes some interesting back-story about Chapman's legendary cop father and a brutal Irish gang.

Howells, Debbie. [The Bones of You](#) (\$9.99) After eighteen-year-old Rosie Anderson is murdered in an idyllic English village, Kate, a neighbor who has a daughter Rosie's age, becomes obsessed with uncovering the secrets behind the crime. *PW* ended with "The how and the why of Rosie's murder slowly unfolds across the dual narratives of Rosie, who, in death, looks over a family life that was far from perfect, and Kate, who's battling her own demons. Savvy mystery fans will identify the culprit before the big reveal, but the increasingly tense storytelling and astute observations on mother-daughter relationships will keep readers turning the pages." A debut.

Levine, Laura. [Death By Tiara](#) (\$7.99) Jaine Austen #13. When she is hired to write lyrics for a contestant in a talent competition, freelance writer Jaine Austen is plunged into a glittering nightmare of vicious stage moms, exacting judges, and trash-talking teens after a catfight turns deadly. If you are looking for a fun, cozy series that doesn't take itself too seriously but provides plenty of chuckles, you will definitely want to give Levine's books a whirl.

Lynds, Gayle. [The Assassins](#) (\$9.99). After noticing a man who looks like him, and dressed in his clothes, being killed in a hit-and-run accident, former military spy Judd Ryder must determine if he or the imposter was the intended victim. Lynds has a terrific time with this fast-paced and clever thriller. *LJ* had this to say: "The answer is far-fetched but readers won't mind, getting there is what's fun."

Paretsky, Sara. [Brush Back](#) (\$9.99) V.I. Warshawski #18. Reluctantly agreeing to help when an old high-school boyfriend asks her to exonerate his mother for the murder of his sister, V. I. Warshawski is forced to confront ugly politics and violent elements in the depressed steel mill town of her youth. *Kirkus* was one of many review sources that loved this saying "Paretsky, who plots more conscientiously than anyone else in the field, digs deep, then deeper, into past and present until all is revealed. The results will be especially appealing to baseball fans, who'll appreciate the punning chapter titles and learn more than they ever imagined about Wrigley Field." Which is timely considering the league-leading performance by the Cubs so far in 2016.

Taylor, Brad. [Insider Threat](#) (\$9.99) Pike Logan #8. When ISIS plans an attack no one anticipates, one that cannot be defeated by an airstrike, Pike Logan and the Taskforce are America's only hope. *LJ* concluded their take with "strongly recommended for the many fans of the "Logan" series and those who enjoy a breakneck pace. Though the final pages include a moment of implausibility, Delta Force veteran Taylor gives hope for a positive resolution to today's hostilities."

Toyne, Simon. [The Searcher](#) (\$9.99) Solomon Creed #1. After surviving a plane crash, a man with amnesia arrives in Redemption, Arizona, believing he's there to save a man who already died. *LJ*'s review ended by saying "With the Southwestern setting, readers might expect this book to be a Western, but Toyne

has turned out a subtle yet compelling religion-flavored thriller that engenders a “one more page, one more chapter” urgency, much like his previous trilogy.” This terrific book published as Solomon Creed in the UK: [Solomon Creed Signed](#) (\$36).

NEW IN MASS MARKET

Alan, Isabella. [Murder, Handcrafted](#) (NAL \$7.99) Amish Quilt Shop #5. Amish Quilt Shop owner Angie Braddock must piece together the clues, along with her boyfriend Sheriff James Mitchell, when a home renovation project with her mother leads to the murder of an electrician.

Anderson, Kurt. [Devour](#) (Kensington \$9.99) Fishing boat captain Brian Hawkins goes after the biggest catch of the century when a casino cruise ship carrying high-stakes passengers—and a top-secret cargo—falls under the attack of a massive predator (cue the theme music from *Jaws*) that rises from the sea in search of human prey. This thriller may have you rethinking those plans for booking a summer cruise.

Blake, Heather. [Gone with the Witch](#) (NAL \$7.99) Wishcraft #6. Hired to keep an eye out for a saboteur at the Pawsitively Enchanted pet contest, Darcy, along with her dog Missy, is thrown off the scent when her lead suspect is found dead and someone begins stealing prize-winning pets, forcing her to sniff out both a killer and a thief.

Cameron, W Bruce. [The Midnight Plan of the Repo Man](#), (\$7.99) After repo man Ruddy McCann begins hearing the voice of Alan Lottner, the father of Ruddy’s crush, in his head, Alan tasks Ruddy with finding his murderers.

Carmack, Amanda. [Murder at Fontainebleau](#) (NAL \$7.99) Kate Haywood #5. Sent by Queen Elizabeth to the court of Mary Queen of Scots, who has declared herself the rightful Queen of England, to discover her next move, Kate Haywood must navigate the unfamiliar French court where glittering balls and banquets disguise poisonous ambition and murder.

Connolly, Sheila. [Dead End Street](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Museum #7. When a member of a neighborhood rescue program is killed while showing her an abandoned row house in a rundown area of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Antiquarian Society president Nell Pratt is determined to find the truth before she herself becomes history.

Davis, Krista. [The Diva Serves High Tea](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Domestic Diva #10. After the new owner of the antique store is poisoned after attending a literacy fundraiser at the new tea shop, domestic diva Sophie Winston gets into hot water when she decides to investigate the crime on her own.

Day, Maddie. [Grilled for Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Country Store #2. Robbie Jordan, the owner of Pans ‘n’ Pancakes, may have had reservations about flirtatious widow Erica Shermer, but when Erica winds up dead in the eatery, Robbie needs to turn up the heat on a killer if she wants to keep her new restaurant open for business.

Estleman, Loren. [Long High Noon](#) (\$9.99). Two westerns from the Spur award-winning author. In “The Long High Noon,” cowboys Randy Locke and Frank Farmer, who have spent years trying to kill one another, decide to take their final duel public and sell tickets to an event where the winner takes all, and in “The Adventures of Johnny Vermillion,” a Pinkerton detective must set a clever trap for an acting troupe that is robbing banks.

Finch, Kay. [The Black Cat Knocks on Wood](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Bad Luck Cat #2. When a local business owner is found dead right after a black cat was seen in her office, mystery novelist Sabrina Tate and her cat, Hitchcock, while dealing with her Aunt Rowe who has signed up for the upcoming Texas Hill Country Senior Pro Rodeo, must rope in a killer before he strikes again.

Gabaldon, Diana. [Written in My Own Heart’s Blood](#) (\$9.99) Outlander #8. The mass market release of the latest Outlander novel featuring Jamie and Claire.

Green, Simon R. [From a Droid to a Kill](#) (NAL \$7.99) When his girlfriend Molly, his parents, and other major fighters against the forces of darkness are kidnapped by the otherworldly holder of their souls, Eddie Droid participates in a high-stakes supernatural competition to save his loved ones.

Griffin, W E B. [Deadly Assets](#) (\$9.99) Badge of Honor #12. Tensions between the Philadelphia Police Department and its Citizens Oversight Committee reach a boiling point during an investigation into shootings by young Homicide Sergeant Matt Payne.

Hough, Jason M. [Zero World](#) (\$9.99) Equipped with a brain implant that causes him to conduct missions without a conscience and forget them immediately afterward, super-powered spy Peter Caswell uncovers a universe-shaking secret with ties to a past he cannot remember.

Jance, JA. [Dance of the Bones](#) (\$9.99) Beaumont #23. Retired sheriff Brandon Walker calls on J.P. Beaumont for help when he discovers that there are links between a years-old murder case he has been called on to investigate and another unsolved case in Seattle.

Johansen, Iris. [Shadow Play](#) (\$8.99) Eve Duncan #18. Assisting a California sheriff in the reconstruction of a skeleton that may be a missing child, forensic sculptor Eve Duncan begins communicating with the child’s spirit and becomes increasingly obsessed with the case.

Kennedy, Mary. [A Premonition of Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Dream Club #3. When Abigail Marchand meets her demise tumbling down a flight of stairs, the Dream Club, along with Detective Sam Stiles, must catch a killer before another victim is laid to rest.

Laurie, Victoria. [Sense of Deception](#) (\$7.99) Psychic Eye #13. Meeting a woman who has been wrongly sentenced to death for murder, Abby races to identify the real killer among numerous suspects.

Leeson, Gayle. [The Calamity Cafe](#) (NAL \$7.99) Down South Café #1. When Lou Lou, her former employer—and bully of a boss—is found dead, Amy Flowers, who was about to purchase the restaurant from Lou Lou and open the café of her dreams, must clear her name of the crime by serving up the real killer. This author also writes the “Embroidery” mystery series as Amanda Lee.

McAndrews, Jenn. [A Shattering Crime](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Stained-Glass #3. Stained-glass enthusiast and amateur sleuth Georgia Kelly, while dealing with her new kitten and her mother, must piece together the clues to prove the innocence of baker Rozelle who has been accused of murdering a local businessman.

McConnon, Maggie. [Wedding Bel Blues](#) (SimonSchuster \$7.99) Belfast McGrath #1. When her cousin Caleigh's last one-night stand before her wedding ends up with her lover plunging to his death during the reception, Belfast McGrath, thinking that this was no accident, teams up with Detective Kevin Hanson, her long-ago love, to find the truth.

Patterson, James. [Zoo II: A Bookshot](#) (LittleBrown \$4.99) Apparently Patterson's *Zoo* was just the beginning. If you didn't get enough of the crazed, human-eating animals in that book, here is a second helping. "Written" with Max DaLillo.

Scalzi, John. [The End of All Things](#) (\$8.99). A sequel to *The Human Division* finds Colonial Defense Forces lieutenant Harry Wilson investigating a series of alien attacks that are threatening Earth's survivors and an increasingly under-sourced Colonial Union.

Sefton, Maggie. [Purl Up and Die](#) (\$7.99) House of Lambspun #13. Enjoying a summer with her boyfriend and her knitting circle companions, Kelly is on the case when a friend's son is wrongly accused of murdering a young woman.

☒ Sutton, William. [Lawless and the Devil of Euston Square](#) (Titan \$7.99) Novice detective, Campbell Lawless, stumbles onto the trail of Berwick Skelton, an elusive revolutionary, seemingly determined to bring London to its knees through a series of devilish acts of terrorism.

Truman, Margaret. [Margaret Truman's Internship in Murder](#) (\$7.99) When a popular but secretly womanizing congressman's besotted intern goes missing, investigator Robert Brixton is hired by the girl's family to discover clues that the police may have missed.

Wendig, Chuck. [Zer0es](#) (\$7.99). Five iconoclastic hackers are recruited against their will to serve the U.S. government by working as cyberspies before discovering an NSA artificial intelligence program that is rapidly growing out of control.

Woods, Stuart. [Foreign Affairs](#) (\$9.99) Stone Barrington #35. When he's apprised at the last minute of a mandatory meeting abroad, Stone Barrington rushes off to Europe for a whirlwind tour of business and, of course, pleasure. But from the start the trip seems to be cursed, plagued by suspicious "accidents" and unfortunate events, and some of Stone's plans go up in flames—literally.