

# BOOKNEWS from

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## Lighting up August...

### AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

#### TUESDAY AUGUST 9 7:00 PM

**Rhys Bowen** signs [Crowned and Dangerous](#) (Berkley \$26) Lady Georgiana

#### SUNDAY AUGUST 14 2:00 PM

Scottsdale Public Library 3938 N Drinkwater  
**Susan Wiggs** signs [The Family Tree](#) (Mira \$25.95)

#### MONDAY AUGUST 15 7:00 PM Book Launch

**Lisa Scottoline** signs [Damaged](#) (St Martins \$27.99) Rosato & DiNunzio

#### THURSDAY AUGUST 18 7:00 PM

**Michael Koryta** signs [Rise the Dark](#) (LittleBrown \$26) Electrifying thriller

#### FRIDAY AUGUST 19 7:00 PM

**SciFi Book Club** discusses Pierce Brown, [Red Rising](#) (\$15), 1<sup>st</sup> in the Red Rising Trilogy

#### SATURDAY AUGUST 20 10:30 AM

**Croak & Dagger** discusses Derek Miller, [Norwegian by Night](#) (\$14.95)

#### SATURDAY AUGUST 20 2:00 PM

**Meagan Beaumont** signs [Blood of Saints](#) (Llewellyn \$15.99) Sabrina Vaughn #4

**Arthur Kerns** signs [The Yemen Contract](#) (Diversion \$14.99) Hayden Stone #3

#### MONDAY AUGUST 22 7:00 PM Book Launch

**Beth Cato** signs [Breath of Earth](#) (Harper \$14.99)

#### TUESDAY AUGUST 23 7:00 PM Book Launch

**Andrew Gross** signs [The One Man](#) (St Martins \$26.99)  
Our August Modern Firsts Club Pick comes with a chess rook

#### WEDNESDAY AUGUST 24 7:00 PM

**Erik Story** signs [Nothing Short of Dying](#) (Scribner \$26) Our August Thriller Club pick, a debut.

#### THURSDAY AUGUST 25 7:00 PM

**Hardboiled Crime** discusses Lou Berney, [The Long and Far-away Gone](#) (\$14.99)

#### MONDAY SEPTEMBER 5

**Closed for Labor Day**

#### TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 6

**JA Jance** signs [Downfall](#) (Harper \$26.99)

## EVENT BOOKS

Beaumont, Maegan. [Blood of Saints](#) (Llewellyn \$15.99). Deep in the mountains of Montana, former San Francisco Homicide Inspector Sabrina Vaughn has found the kind of peace she's always dreamed of. And with Michael O'Shea, she's found the kind of love she never thought possible. Together, even under the constant threat of Livingston Shaw, they've managed to build the kind of idyllic life they've both longed for. Then twenty-year-old forensic evidence connects her to a string of recent murders, forcing Sabrina to leave her new life and return to the place she was brutally raped and tortured in order to search for a killer who is as cunning as any she has ever encountered. 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Sabrina Vaughn series.

Bowen, Rhys. [Crowned and Dangerous](#) (Berkley \$26). "Set in late 1934, Bowen's outstanding 10th Royal Spyness Mystery opens on the road to Greta Green, Scotland, where distant heir to the British throne Lady Georgiana Rannoch and the Honorable Darcy O'Mara plan to elope. En route, Darcy learns that his father, Lord Kilhenny, is in custody for killing Timothy Roach, the wealthy American who bought Kilhenny Castle and the adjacent horse-racing stable. Lord Kilhenny argued with Roach, his fingerprints are on the murder weapon, and he drank too much on the evening in question to remember whether he's guilty, so he'll likely hang for the crime. To save Georgie from scandal, Darcy ends his engagement to her and returns home to County Kildare, Ireland. Bowen adds romance to this blend of Christie and Wodehouse for a stylish, head-scratcher of a whodunit. Colorful set pieces and larger-than-life characters enrich the clever plot, which enchants and satisfies while forwarding the series arc."—*PW* Starred Review Dedicated to The Pen and me, Barbara.

Cato, Beth. [Breath of Earth](#) (Harper \$14.99). Steampunk author Cato (*The Clockwork Dagger*) turns to the U.S. in this well-researched and vivid fantasy set in an alternate 1906 San Francisco that's protected from earthquakes by geomancers. Japan and the U.S. have formed the United Pacific alliance and jointly targeted China. The entire San Francisco council of Earth Wardens is destroyed in a suspicious explosion, leaving only the hidden talents of young Ingrid Carmichael to thwart the next attack on the city. Ingrid, the mixed-race daughter of a vanished warden, is restricted from practicing magic due to both her gender and her dark skin. She must look for allies among the city's persecuted Chinese refugees, exiles forced to wear yellow ID patches. Along with a renegade inventor (with a handy airship!), Ingrid sets out to confront the terrorists who plan to rubble the city and tries to appease the near-mythic guardian whose subterranean slumber is being disturbed. Cato cleverly brings her colorful Barbary Coast-era San Francisco to life, highlighting the neglected perspectives of the outsiders and the dispossessed.

Gross, Andrew. [The One Man](#) (St Martins \$26.99). The first 90 to order will each receive a nifty chess piece, a rook, designed for this heart-felt thriller by Gross. And we'll be promoting a giveaway of a special prize donated by Gross on Twitter. This is my review: The horrors of Holocaust are never less than gut-wrenching. When focused on one man, the imperative of his rescue bringing with it knowledge essential to defeating the Axis

Powers, the suspense of that story becomes gut-wrenching, too. High stakes indeed. And Andrew Gross brings a full arsenal of the novelist's skills to *The One Man*, yet none is so essential as the personal outrage powering the narrative, driving him deep into each character portrayed to create an immersive experience for the reader. When you turn the last page, be sure to read on to the Epilogue. As we head towards the High Holy Days for Jewish readers, this thematically rich book makes a powerful **Modern Firsts Club Pick**. Among its Starred Reviews are these comments: "Alternating between scenes of American hope-against-hope optimism and Nazi brutality, Blum's deadly odyssey into and out of this 20th-century hell drives toward a compelling celebration of the human will to survive, remember, and overcome." And, "don't bet on the outcome of this one, and do keep your tissues handy. This is Gross' best work yet, with his heart and soul imprinted on every page."

Jance, JA. [Downfall](#) (Harper \$26.99). Cochise County, Arizona, Sheriff Joanna Brady is pregnant and facing an election campaign, plus she has just lost her mother and stepfather in a road accident. What a time for the discovery of two women's bodies at the base of a peak the locals refer to as Geronimo. The victims have no apparent connection to each other and either jumped or were pushed to their deaths. One is immediately identified as Desirée Wilburton, a graduate student who was studying cacti in the area; the other turns out to be teacher Susan Marie Nelson, the wife of preacher, Drexel Nelson, who displays no grief when Joanna tells him the news of Susan's death. The pressure on Joanna increases when a domestic assault becomes a murder, and a relentless reporter, Mariss Shackelford, needles local officials, especially Joanna, about the unsolved crimes. The action races to a dramatic confrontation between Joanna and the killer, who has been hiding in plain sight. Jance signs this September 6, on sale date, but in late August you can buy a novella, [Random Acts](#) (\$3.99), bringing Brady and Ali Reynolds together, and bring it in to get it signed. Order other books by Jance [here](#).

Kerns, Arthur. [The Yemen Contract](#) (Diversions \$14.99). Once again CIA operative Hayden Stone has his work cut out for him. Abdul Wahab seeks to make a power grab in the exotic land of Yemen and establish a terrorist base from which to launch an attack on Europe. Wahab lures Stone to Yemen by kidnapping his partner CIA officer Sandra Harrington in Sicily. Stone comfortably operates in the mysterious, exotic world of Yemen where tribal leaders vie for power with the central government, al Qaeda exerts its influence through murder and mayhem, and double-dealing among Bedouin and townspeople is a national pastime. The cat and mouse game goes from the capital Sana'a, to the deserts in the far east of the country, and to the mountain villages in the north. Stone has a personal stake in this mission, but can never keep his eye off of the greater plot developing, the one that puts millions in peril, and that only he can stop. 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Hayden Stone thrillers you can order [here](#).

Koryta, Michael. [Rise the Dark](#) (LittleBrown \$26). For his 13th work, bestselling Koryta, a former PI and newspaper reporter with a host of literary award nominations under his belt, crafts a gripping —indeed, one could say, an electrifying —thriller linking, in time, the murder of Markus Novak's wife Lauren in a Florida

village to what appears to be a senseless act of vandalism in Red Lodge, Montana. In Koryta's expert hands we know immediately that the link is valid and the vandalism shutting off the lights in Red Lodge is purposeful. And that the deaths of Sandra Baldwin's brother and the behavior of her husband Jay, both high-voltage linesmen, must be related. But even the savvy reader will not guess why.... The talented Koryta, our 2016 Writer in Residence, has written in many genres. Order his earlier books [here](#).

Scottoline, Lisa. [Damaged](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Mary DiNunzio, a partner in the Philadelphia law firm of Rosato & DiNunzio, takes on a heartbreaking case involving a dyslexic fifth grader, Patrick O'Brien, who's bullied at school and is getting no support for his language disability. Patrick, who's being raised by his paternal grandfather, allegedly attacked a school aid with scissors, and now the aid is suing both Patrick and the school board for damages. On the brink of her wedding to college professor Anthony Rotunno, Mary becomes emotionally attached to Patrick, more so than any previous client, and finds herself pitted against a diabolical attorney, Nick Machiavelli (aka the Dark Prince), who's determined to win a settlement, despite the emotional cost to the 10-year-old boy. In her struggle to save Patrick, Mary finds herself fighting her associates, her fiancé, and social services. Tensions mount until the story concludes with a satisfying, unexpected twist."—*PW* Starred Review. This is a prepublication event so ask for your copy to be dated.

Also signed by Scottoline: [I've Got Sand in All the Wrong Places](#) (St Martins \$21.99). True tales from a mother and daughter who share their insights on aging, pop culture, family, and relationships.

Storey, Erik. [Nothing Short of Dying](#) (Scribner \$26). A debut bringing a soldier of fortune back to his Colorado home town is our **August Thriller Club Pick**. Clyde Barr has been away from peaks and pines for 16 years, running from his past more than towards his future. He's served some time, unjustly. But now he's received a frantic phone call from Jen, the youngest of his three sisters, begging for help. Then the line goes dead. Where is she? Who might have her? He isn't even sure who she is now, but he does know, he's her brother and he's been called home. Authors like Lee Child and CJ Box recommend Storey which gives you an idea of what type of series lead Clyde Barr is going to make.

Wiggs, Susan. [The Family Tree](#) (Mira \$25.95). John Charles reviews: Annie Rush knows she has a great life. Her cable cooking show, *The Key Ingredient*, is a big ratings hit. Viewers not only love the show's sexy celebrity chef host (Annie's husband Martin Harlow) but also his perky co-host Melissa Barrett. Then one day Annie receives some unexpected personal news that she knows will change her and Martin's future for the better. Annie rushes to the set of the show to share everything with Martin and finds her husband taking a private "meeting" with Melissa in his trailer. Hurt and betrayed by what she discovers, Annie rushes off the set only to suffer a tragic accident that puts her in a coma. One year later, Annie wakes up in her old hometown of Switchback, Vermont. Now with some help from an old cookbook written by her beloved Nona, Annie must not only figure out a way to put her life back together again, but also decide if she wants to take a second chance at love with her old high school sweetheart Fletcher Wyndham. Wiggs is one of the brightest stars in the romance and women's fiction firmament, and her newest novel beautifully showcases her flair for crafting richly nuanced char-

acters as well as coming up with emotionally engaging storylines. This is Wiggs first appearance in Arizona. We have some of her [backlist](#) for you too.

## SIGNED BOOKS

Bowen, Michael. [Damage Control](#) (Poisoned Pen \$28) "follows 30 tumultuous days in the life of a Washington fundraiser who's been put on the spot. Why are the Maryland police interested in Josephine Robideaux Kendall, of the Majority Values Coalition? Let us count the reasons. She'd been trying to raise a million dollars from crony capitalist Jerzy Schroeder when he was shot. She'd had a fling with her potential client, something both the cops and her husband, literary agent/consultant/navigator Raphael Kendall, take for granted, though neither knows for certain. And she'd been standing four feet from Schroeder when he shifted from vertical to horizontal. Sniffing an affair they can't prove, the cops suspect first Josie, then Rafe, and it's clear that the pair need to work together on a strategy for damage control, extricating themselves from the embrace of law enforcement and incidentally finding some way of replacing the fat fee Schroeder would have brought MVC... consistently delightful. Bowen lovingly details the process by which Josie seeks to peddle MVC's donor file on Schroeder to his ex-wife, Ann DeHoic, who's every bit as cagey as Josie, and her inspired long-term plan for capitalizing on an attempted burglary at the MVC office by launching a YouTube video designed to entice a most unlikely client. The high-speed exposition leads to a brightly disillusioned tour of D.C. institutions that shine more vividly than the people who represent them in Bowen's ebullient antidote to election-season blues."—*Kirkus Reviews*. I add that those who love *House of Cards*, and anyone following the current presidential campaign, will eagerly turn these pages.

Burke, James Lee. [The Jealous Kind](#) (SimonSchuster \$27.99). Burke has a rousing good time, maybe channeling his high school days, in this standalone set in Houston. It begins in Aaron Holland Broussard's junior year, 1952. Two momentous events propel him and the story: he falls in an electric moment for the gorgeous and gifted blonde Valerie Epstein. And he does it while she is sitting in her over-privileged boyfriend's car—and fighting with him. The Sir Galahad role goes down roughly (how does Burke remember how these boys might have talked?). And the challenge to Grady Harrelson at the Galveston drive-in inadvertently puts Aaron in the cross-hairs of one of the richest families in Texas—and of the Mob. I like it in a season when fathers are disastrous (Julia Keller's new novel, below, etc) that Aaron finds courage in his father, a soldier in the Great War. If you've never read Burke, this would be a great place to dive in to the two-time Edgar winner's work.

Crouch, Blake. [Dark Matter](#) (Crown \$28). Our **August SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick** is, per the Indie Next Pick, "equal parts science fiction, thriller, and theoretical self-examination, complete with an overarching love story. Crouch does a fantastic job of keeping readers grounded while traveling through multiple dimensions, and he offers introspection on how each of the life choices a person makes recreates that person in a new and profound way. I tore through this, waiting for—and finding—a spectacular conclusion. A must-read!" The hero of this hot-buzz thriller is Jason Dessen, is a physics professor living in Chicago with his wife Daniela and their teen son Charlie. An



ordinary, very happy family. And one night with no warning he's kidnapped and drugged. He wakes up in a different version of the city, where the basic facts of his life are completely altered, where multiple Jasons exist, and the main challenge is how to get back to his real wife and son, and then what. . . . Crouch, long fascinated by quantum mechanics, weaves a speculative story grounded in the possibility of multiple realities. Read more in a *WSJ* article [here](#). This is a marvelous reading experience, fast moving, surprising, and truly scary—one of summer's best books.

Evanovich, Janet. [Curious Minds](#) (Bantam \$28). Kicks off the Knight and Moon Series with coauthor Phoef Sutton, a charming guy I met at Left Coast Crime last Feb. Emerson Knight is introverted, eccentric, and has little to no sense of social etiquette. Good thing he's also brilliant, rich, and (some people might say) handsome, or he'd probably be homeless. Riley Moon has just graduated from Harvard Business and Harvard Law. Her aggressive Texas spitfire attitude has helped her land her dream job as a junior analyst with mega-bank Blane-Grunwald. At least Riley Moon thought it was her dream job, until she is given her first assignment: babysitting Emerson Knight. What starts off as an inquiry about missing bank funds in the Knight account leads to inquiries about a missing man, missing gold, and a life-and-death race across the country. Through the streets of Washington, D.C., and down into the underground vault of the Federal Reserve in New York City, an evil plan is exposed.

✚Hodgson, Antonia. [A Death at Fountains Abbey](#) (Hodder \$36). Late spring, 1728 and Thomas Hawkins has left London for the wild beauty of Yorkshire—forced forced on a mission he can't refuse. John Aislabie, one of the wealthiest men in England, has been threatened with murder. Blackmailed into investigating, Tom must hunt down those responsible, or lose the woman he loves forever. Since Aislabie is widely regarded as the architect of the greatest financial swindle ever seen, there is no shortage of suspects. Far from the ragged comforts of home, Tom and his ward Sam Fleet enter a world of elegant surfaces and hidden danger. The great estate is haunted by family secrets and simmering unease. Someone is determined to punish John Aislabie—and anyone who stands in the way. As the violence escalates and shocking truths are revealed, Tom is dragged, inexorably, towards the darkest night of his life. Inspired by real characters, events and settings, *A Death at Fountains Abbey* is a gripping stand-alone historical thriller. It also continues the story that began with the award-winning *The Devil in the Marshalsea* and *The Last Confession of Thomas Hawkins*. You can order them [here](#).

Keller, Julia. [Sorrow Road](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Keller's unsparring look at Acker's Gap, West Virginia, and prosecutor Bell Elkins who gave up a high-profile life and husband in DC for a return to her hometown forms a moving crime series reflecting an America very much in the forefront today. The complex plots, the ensemble cast, the hardscrabble landscape fuse into an unforgettable portrait. And in the bitter winter landscape of this book, the poor decisions and behavior of three teens back in the 1930s tracks with murders today and with the issues raised by Bell's daughter Carla who has left DC for a return to Acker's Gap under dubious circumstances. Best to read these in order; order [here](#).

Moore, Graham. [The Last Days of Night](#) (Random \$28). Business is war. Today's tech giants, retail giants, oil giants battle ferociously. With technology comes patents, territories—and

lawsuits. And so it was in 1888, locus Gilded Age New York, the scene of what became known as the "current war" with electrification and the light bulb patent at stake. And no more ruthless player than Thomas Alva Edison took the field. While he waged war on many fronts, the epic contest was against George Westinghouse and Nikola: General Electric vs. Westinghouse. **Arriving mid August but our September Modern Firsts Club Pick** is Moore's second novel after 2010 First Mystery Club Pick [The Sherlockian](#) (\$15), and it is the current war it embraces along with Cravath's organization of what became the modern law firm. (Shame that the illustrious legal name of Cravath has fallen so badly, but a plus of this novel is to see how it gained its luster). "Graham Moore takes us back to the dawn of light—electric light—into a world of invention and skulduggery, populated by the likes of Edison, Westinghouse, Tesla, and the novel's hero, a young lawyer named Paul Cravath (a name that will resonate with ambitious law students everywhere). It's part legal thriller, part tour of a magical time—the age of wonder—and once you've finished it, you'll find it hard to return to the world of now."—Erik Larson. "... a wonder, a riveting historical novel that is part legal thriller, part techno-suspense. This fast-paced story about the personal and legal clash over the invention of the light bulb is a tale of larger-than-life characters and devious doings, and a significant meditation on the price we as a society pay for new technology. . . . Thoughtful and hugely entertaining."—Scott Turov

Moriarty, Liane. [Truly, Madly, Guilty](#) (Flatiron \$26.99). Best-seller Moriarty, an Australian, puts three "happy" families under her razor-sharp, dissecting eye. Six responsible adults. Three cute kids. One small dog. It's just a normal weekend. What could possibly go wrong? What goes wrong begins with a spur-of-the-moment invitation to an impromptu evening barbecue. What happens there is not revealed but hinted at and then the various narrators circle back and back to it. I'm not a fan of this storytelling technique unless it's done well and lightly. . . .

Parker, Ann. [What Gold Buys](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). *PW* gives a Starred Review and interview to our **August History/Mystery Club Pick**: "In Parker's emotionally and historically convincing fifth Silver Rush mystery, saloon keeper Inez Stannert is reunited with her unfaithful husband, Mark, in Leadville, a silver-mining Colorado boomtown, in October 1880. She barely has time to check on their business, the Silver Queen Saloon, before discovering a dead body in a shanty in Leadville's red-light district. The victim is fortune-teller Drina Grizzi, whose predictions have led to many conflicts. The corpse vanishes within hours, perhaps stolen by "resurrection men" hunting bodies to sell for dissection. As more murders follow, Inez attempts to untangle the crimes with the help of Drina's feisty 12-year-old daughter, Antonia, with whom she forms an enduring bond. She must also sort out her feelings for Mark and the lover who still has her heart, Rev. Justice Sands. Parker wraps up the mystery deftly but leaves Inez's future sufficiently unresolved so that readers will eagerly await the next installment." To get up to speed you can order the earlier Silver Rush Mysteries [here](#).

Penny, Louise. [A Great Reckoning](#) (St Martins \$30). Armand Gamache comes out of retirement to redirect the corrupt Sûreté Academy du Québec. When an old map is found hidden in the wall of a bistro in Three Pines, the remote village in which Gamache and his wife live, the locals treat it as only an interest-

ing artifact. But Gamache uses the mystery of the map's origin to engage the interest of four cadets at the academy who are in particular danger of going astray. When someone fatally shoots Serge Leduc, a sadistic, manipulative professor, a copy of the map is found in Leduc's bedside table, and suspicion falls on the four cadets and Gamache himself. Complex as ever in plot but it's the vivid characters and Penny's prose that hold you. Publishes August 30—our copies will arrive in early September. Order Gamache's earlier cases [here](#).

✚Robinson, Peter. [When the Music's Over](#) (Hodder \$45). The first is a poet claiming she was assaulted decades earlier by a man now regarded as one of the country's national treasures. And the second is a girl found on a remote roadside, her body broken, her life snuffed out. For Alan Banks, newly promoted to Detective Superintendent, the first case rips a tunnel into long-ago days of innocence and discovery, of music and light. And in the victim, he sees an opportunity for magic recaptured... if he can bring her assailant to justice. For Detective Inspector Annie Banks, the lifeless young woman poses a baffling mystery - a mystery that will lead her into the unlikeliest of places, interviewing the unlikeliest of suspects. See Our August Trade Paperback Picks for the earlier Banks.

✚Todd, Charles. [The Shattered Tree](#) (Harper \$25.99). We read much about Occupied Paris in WWII, such as in June's Alan Furst novel, but here we find Bess Crawford hunting for a man she briefly nursed, and suspects might be a German although dressed in an American uniform, across the Paris of 1918, and even into its suburbs. There is a lot going on: a splintered family, a possible old murder, a priest doing a cover-up (or does he wish an exposé, and if so, of what?), an American officer on the hunt for a deserter, and the thread running throughout ties to the history of Alsace-Lorraine, a province in the east of France that changed hands to Germany in its 1870 war with France, which Germany won. Also a giant siege gun aimed at Paris and possibly made more devastating by a mole supplying data. I really like this series and worry about what will happen to it when the war ends—it is drawing to a welcome close, but Bess' life will be upended again. This is a splendid series, well plotted and illustrating both the meticulous record-keeping of the combatants (English anyway) and the war's intimacy—most of it was fought in a limited territory so warriors of all stripes could move back and forth across the Channel. Order the Bess Crawfords [here](#).

Tucker, Neely. [Only the Hunted Run](#) (Viking \$27). Newsman Tucker's third novel opens with a terrible scene of carnage inside our nation's capitol. He brings his skills full bore to drop you into it. Reporter Sully Carter is at the scene and witnesses it; also calls in the story live. And he has a brief moment with the shooter, Terry Waters, who is able to escape the scene and vanish. When he is finally caught, Terry rants and earns himself a stay at St. Elizabeth's mental hospital. And that's all I'm going to say as this dark book plays powerfully out....

Verdon, John. [Wolf Lake](#) (Counterpoint \$26). The *PW* Starred Review for our **August Surprise Me Pick**—and there really is a surprise in a story that (only) appears to verge into the supernatural: “Fans of classic fair play who appreciate well-developed characterizations in their whodunits will relish Verdon's richly atmospheric fifth mystery featuring retired NYPD homicide detective Dave Gurney. A former police colleague brings Dave

back into his previous life by involving him in a bizarre and baffling case. Ethan Gall, the owner of Wolf Lake Lodge in the Adirondacks, hired renowned psychologist Richard Hammond to provide on-site hypnotic therapy at the lodge. After four of Hammond's patients, including Gall, committed suicide, the doctor was dubbed the “death whisperer” by the press and suspected, by the public and the New York state police, of talking patients into killing themselves. Despite the seriousness of his situation, Hammond refuses to hire an attorney or seek any other help. His sister, Jane, however, asks Dave to work for her to clear her brother's name. To the detective's surprise, his wife, Madeleine, who has been ambivalent about his continuing to sleuth, agrees that he should take on the case. Verdon couples the continued nuanced exploration of Dave and Madeleine's relationship with one of his most sophisticated solutions yet.” Order the earlier cracking good Verdons [here](#).

Wurster, Erich. [The Coaster](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). *Library Journal* gives this debut a Starred Review and makes it its August Debut of the Month. I was going to hold off getting this signed until January when Wurster appears here with Thomas Perry, but we're going to ship the hardcover to him now for the **First Mystery Club**. Here's the *LJ* Starred Review: “Bob Patterson is a coaster; a guy who ties his fortunes to someone higher up the food chain. His job as head of a division of his father-in-law's company doesn't require much input from him. His wife, Sarah, is president of Bennett Capital, and their life is well regulated; galas and benefits and rescuing horses and occasional lovemaking keep Bob going. Suddenly, Sarah's father dies, leaving Bob as the trustee of Sam Bennett's multibillion-dollar personal fortune. What's a coaster to do? When blackmail and murder raise their ugly heads, Bob finds out he actually can accomplish quite a lot when necessary. Aficionados of comic mysteries will delight in Wurster's laconic, humorous prose; Bob's wry, self-deprecating, and hilarious musings offer keen observations on everything from sports to sex.”

#### BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSICS

Farjeon, J. Jefferson. [Mystery in White](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). “The horror on the train, great though it may turn out to be, will not compare with the horror that exists here, in this house.” On Christmas Eve, heavy snowfall brings a train to a halt near the village of Hemmersby. Several passengers take shelter in a deserted country house, where the fire has been lit and the table laid for tea – but no one is at home. Trapped together for Christmas, the passengers are seeking to unravel the secrets of the empty house when a murderer strikes in their midst. This classic Christmas mystery from the 1930s has an introduction by Edgar and Agatha winner Martin Edwards. Its republication by the British Library became a runaway bestseller in England and is now added to the BLCC classics available in the US. Order Farjeon's other books [here](#).

North, Gil. [The Methods of Sergeant Cluff](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). It is a wet and windy night in the town of Gunnarshaw, on the edge of the Yorkshire moors. The body of young Jane Trundle, assistant in the chemist's shop, is discovered lying face down on the cobblestones. Originally published in 1961, North's second Sergeant Cluff novel after [Sergeant Cluff Stands Firm](#) (\$12.95) also out in August, is not a classic mystery, despite its inclusion in the British Library Crime Classics series. Rather, it is a rumination on social change in England during the late

1950s and early 1960s, a period that saw the rise of a moneyed professional class. As one character puts it, “In my father’s day they had to be gentry. Any Tom, Dick, or Harry with the cheek can stick his oar in now.” The claustrophobic atmosphere of Gunnarshaw, the fictional Yorkshire town where the story is set, echoes the gloomy character of its hero, Sergeant Cluff. There is a hypnotic pleasure in watching Cluff, usually in the company of his collie, Clive, wandering the back alleys and canal tow paths, scoffing gravy-filled meat pies at a workingman’s cafe and gossiping with the locals. These seemingly inconclusive activities in fact reveal the prejudices, mores, and class structure of Gunnarshaw and lead Cluff to intuit the murderer of a young local woman. Anglophiles will find a lot to like.”—*PW*

*And an anthology of classics from British publisher Pan Macmillan:* Davies, David Stuart. [Classic Locked Room Mysteries](#) (\$12.99). A fascinating collection of ingenious mysteries which all pose the question ‘howdunnit?’ –how was the crime done?’ Featuring well-known sleuths from Sherlock Holmes to Father Brown, as well as the less familiar, including Jacques Futrelle’s Professor Augustus S. F. X. Van Dusen, in each story the reader is invited to play detective and is presented with a challenge: can you solve the mystery before the solution is revealed? Such stories reached their height of popularity in the Victorian and Edwardian eras; this collection, edited and introduced by David Stuart Davies, brings together stories from such masters of the genre as Edgar Allan Poe, Wilkie Collins and G. K. Chesterton.

### BOOKS WITH A HIGH FUN SCORE

*For that week of vacation or a long hot weekend, enjoy these*

Bartsch, Jeffrey. [Two Across](#) (Grand Central \$14.99). As a lifelong word nerd, I can’t resist this romance. Teenager Stanley Owens meets his match in beautiful, brainy Vera Baxter when they tie for first place in the annual National Spelling Bee. Though their mothers have big plans for them—Stanley will become a senator, Vera a mathematics professor—neither wants to follow these pre-determined paths. So Stanley hatches a scheme to marry Vera in a sham wedding for the cash gifts, hoping they will enable him to pursue his one true love: crossword puzzle construction. In enlisting Vera to marry him, though, he neglects one variable: she’s secretly in love with him, which makes their counterfeit ceremony an exercise in misery for her. Realizing the truth only after she’s moved away and cut him out of her life, Stanley tries to atone for his mistakes and win her back. But he’s unable to find her, until one day he comes across a puzzle whose clues make him think it could only have been created by Vera. Intrigued, he plays along, communicating back to her via his own gridded clues. But will they connect again before it’s all too late?

Harris, Shaun. [The Hemingway Thief](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). Henry “Coop” Cooper, the narrator of Harris’s stellar debut, is thinking about murder—of his own pseudonym. When his first literary novel is widely panned, he turns to writing vampire romance novels under an assumed name—which are immediate bestsellers, to his unending shame and his agent’s glee. In remote Pendira, Mexico, Coop is taking a break on his agent’s orders, when he and Grady Doyle—the new owner of the dive hotel and bar Coop inhabits—interrupt the beating of a grifter, Ebenezer Milch, who has quite the story to tell. In Paris of 1922, an uncle of Milch’s stole the legendary suitcase containing Ernest Hemingway’s papers, and now a book collector with nefari-

ous ties and hired assassins is after the suitcase. Coop winds up traveling across cartel-laden Mexico in a battered RV with an ex-DEA agent, a former hit man, and Milch in search of the suitcase, finding himself out of his depth at every turn. “Filled with charming pop-culture references, this deft caper novel is by turns laugh-out-loud funny and poignant.”—*PW* Starred Review

Kendrick, Beth. [Once Upon a Wine Signed](#) (NAL \$15). Days of wine and roses can sound melancholy (as indeed the movie was), but in this sparky romance they beckon happily for Cammie Breyer when she survives the failure of her restaurant, her chef/boyfriend leaving her for a hotter kitchen, and relocating to Delaware when her Aunt Ginger calls with a demand and surprise—she has bought a vineyard. So Cammie moves to seaside Black Dog Bay, scene of her childhood summers, ready and determined to make the new enterprise succeed. The problem: none of the three women knows the first thing about making wine. So life becomes dirt, sweat, and desperation, filled with unruly tourists, financial trapdoors, second thoughts...and hey, hidden talents and hints of romance.

Mayle, Peter. [The Diamond Caper](#) (\$15). Pure fun, and a mellow look at the life of the rich on the Riviera. The food and wine are the best parts. Mayle’s fourth novel featuring American detective Sam Levitt delights—more because of the French local color than any hardcore mystery solving. Sam and insurance investigator Elena Morales are on the hunt for a jewelry thief in the South of France. The thefts, which began small in 2002, have gradually escalated to include a two-million-euro necklace stolen from a party at the Cannes Film Festival. But the book’s strength lies in the great descriptions of characters (“even [Sam’s] voice sounded suntanned”) and of all things French. Plus the lifestyle of the 1% of the 1%, exemplifying what Dana Stabenow calls “first world problems” revolving around estates, renovations and decorating, wine cellars, and how to give an impressive party—sort of on the lines of Hitchcock’s *To Catch a Thief*.

Miller, Jason. [Red Dog](#) (Harper \$14.99). This Midwestern noir/gothic set in the southern Illinois coal country known as Little Egypt is filled with sinister hollows, petty corruption, dogs, and wildly eccentric characters. Self appointed “redneck detective” Slim is visited by a shady pair, father and son, hoping he will be for hire to find their missing pit bull. A man with a rep as a bloodhound, Slim is used to looking for people, not pets, but he needs cash to fix his air conditioner. This may sound mundane but the voice is wonderful and the concept unusual, the doublecrosses slick—and the whole is truly funny. I loved it. Including the dog. Did I mention the chickens?

Miller, Louise. [The City Baker’s Guide to Country Living](#) (Viking \$26). The Indie Next Pick: “This charming debut follows big-city baker Olivia Rawlings as she flees her cushy Boston job for small-town New England after accidentally setting her dessert—and the building—on fire. Along the way, she finds new friends, family, and a sense of belonging. Perfect for fans of *Kitchens of the Great Midwest* and *Sarah Addison Allen*, this is a comforting, big-hearted book that will enchant readers with its delightfully quirky characters, beautiful setting, and mouthwatering descriptions of baked goods.” John Charles will say more in his August BookNotes.

Sanchez, Mamen. [The Altogether Unexpected Disappearance of Atticus Craftsman](#) (Atria \$24). The Indie Next Pick: “Full of



quirky characters, passionate lovers, and literary references, this novel takes the reader on a playful romp through both Spain and the human soul. You know how a sprinkle of salt makes chocolate taste sweeter? This book seems all the more timeless for the dashes of modernity throughout: the Spanish detective who references CSI, the wedding band that plays Lady Gaga—all against the intoxicating backdrop of Madrid and Granada. Delightful!” One of my top August reading recommendations! Despite the Spanish landscape, the British characters including Atticus and his father and publishing cohorts are spot on, plus there are five Madrid women determined to remain employed in publishing, gypsies, and a pop up Ernest Hemingway. Romance, literature, mystery, a perfect, delightful summer reading package.

Stewart, Martin. [Riverkeep](#) (Viking \$17.99). I love a rousing” adventure having devoured the Oz books as a young reader and have never lost my taste for the fantastical. Debut novelist Stewart creates a fantastical world packed with magic and monsters, set on the fictional shores of the Danék River. Wulliam, 15, is to become the new Riverkeep, a job that generations of men in his family have done without complaint. Though an obedient child, Wull plans on running away before he can take up the oars of the family bāta and follow in his father’s footsteps of keeping the river free of corpses. After Pappa is attacked by a bohdan, which inhabits the bodies of its victims, Wull attempts to save his father by going after the mormorach, an enormous, magical aquatic creature that might hold a cure. Stewart assembles a slew of imaginative and memorable characters, including Mix, a stowaway girl with strange markings on her barklike skin; Tillinghast, a “not technic’ly alive” homunculus made from human parts; and Remedie, a witch who hopes to bring her wooden child back to life. Filled with wild adventure and hilarious dialogue (Tillinghast has a particularly saucy mouth), this vivid, engrossing fantasy will delight readers, even those who occasionally find the dialect tricky to navigate. You can give this one to teens if you can tear yourself away.

Wurster, Erich. [The Coaster](#) (\$15.95). The Indie Next nomination ends with this: “Bob is hysterical and is a character I would love to hear more from in the future. I haven’t read a comic crime novel this good since Donald Westlake passed away.” See Our August Trade Paperback Picks for more.

### GO OUT OF THIS WORLD

Bakker, R. Scott. [The Great Ordeal](#) (Overlook 28.95). As Fanim war-drums beat just outside the city, the Empress Anasurimbor Esmenet searches frantically throughout the palace for her missing son Kelmomas. Meanwhile and many miles away, Esmenet’s husband’s Great Ordeal continues its epic march further north. But in light of dwindling supplies, the Aspect-Emperor’s decision to allow his men to consume the flesh of fallen Sranc could have consequences even He couldn’t have foreseen. And, deep in Ishuāl, the wizard Achamian grapples with his fear that his unspeakably long journey might be ending in emptiness, no closer to the truth than when he set out. Book Three in The Aspect-Emperor series that follows Bakker’s Prince of Nothing sag has a helpful “What Has Come Before” section to catch you up, plus a Prologue.

Boone, Ezekiel. [The Hatching](#) (SimonSchuster \$26). This is imaginative, rocket-like, and fun, a horror thriller such as Stephen King might write. We begin outside Manú National Park, Peru, where an American tourist is, horrifyingly, devoured whole by a skittering mass (think the new *Star Trek* movie and

its swarm!). As any number of unsettling and unprecedented incidents begins to rock the globe, a mysterious package from South America arrives at a DC laboratory. Wait, don’t....

Chen, Curtis C. [Waypoint Kangaroo](#) (Forge \$25.99). Mystery. Spy story. SciFi. Fun! If you liked *The Martian*, try Chen’s debut, a whole different take on travel there. “If you like your adventure lightning-paced and set in space, this is the book for you. *Waypoint Kangaroo* is a high tech thriller set on a passenger liner headed for Mars, featuring a wisecracking secret agent with a super power that will blow your mind. New writer Curtis Chen delivers non-stop action that twists and turns and finally hurtles to a harrowing climax. Prepare for old-fashioned sense of wonder updated with cutting edge hardware in this deft first novel.”—James Patrick Kelly, winner of the Hugo, Nebula and Locus awards

✂Kowal, Mary Robinette. [Ghost Talkers](#) (Tor \$24.99). Ginger Stuyvesant, an American heiress living in London during World War I, is engaged to Captain Benjamin Hartshorne, an intelligence officer. Ginger is a medium for the Spirit Corps, a special Spiritualist force. Each soldier heading for the front is conditioned to report to the mediums of the Spirit Corps when they die so the Corps can pass instant information about troop movements to military intelligence. Ginger and her fellow mediums contribute a great deal to the war efforts, so long as they pass the information through appropriate channels. While Ben is away at the front, Ginger discovers the presence of a traitor. Without the presence of her fiancé to validate her findings, the top brass thinks she’s just imagining things. Even worse, it is clear that the Spirit Corps is now being directly targeted by the German war effort. Left to her own devices, Ginger has to find out how the Germans are targeting the Spirit Corps and stop them.

Mahoney, Dennis. [Bell Weather](#) (\$15.99). “Set in a fantastical 18th-century world where rain falls up and storms wash the land with bright hues, this is the story of Molly, a spirited young woman fighting for the freedom to choose her own path. Readers learn about her childhood with an overbearing governess, a cold father, and a brilliant, cunning brother who will stop at nothing to ensure that he and Molly are together and unbridled.” —*Boston Globe*, Pick of the Week

Marmell, Ari. [Dead to Rites](#) (Titan \$14.95). Mick Oberon may look like just another 1930s private detective, but beneath the fedora and the overcoat, he’s got pointy ears and he’s packing a wand. “A potent mix of gangsters and magic... gripping fantastical.” *PW* Starred Review for the 3<sup>rd</sup> in this series.

Mieville, China. [The Last Days of New Paris](#) (Ballantine \$26). 1941. In the chaos of wartime Marseille, American engineer—and occult disciple—Jack Parsons stumbles onto a clandestine anti-Nazi group, including Surrealist theorist André Breton. In the strange games of the dissident diplomats, exiled revolutionaries, and avant-garde artists, Parsons finds and channels hope. But what he unwittingly unleashes is the power of dreams and nightmares, changing the war and the world forever. 1950. A lone Surrealist fighter, Thibaut, walks a new, hallucinogenic Paris, where Nazis and the Resistance are trapped in unending conflict, and the streets are stalked by living images and texts—and by the forces of Hell. To escape the city, he must join forces with Sam, an American photographer intent on recording the ruins, and make common cause with a powerful, enigmatic figure of chance

and rebellion: the exquisite corpse. But Sam is being hunted. And new secrets will emerge that will test all their loyalties—to each other, to Paris old and new, and to reality....

Wendig, Chuck. [Invasive](#) (Harper \$25.99). Hannah Stander is a consultant for the FBI—a futurist who helps the Agency with cases that feature demonstrations of bleeding-edge technology. It's her job to help them identify unforeseen threats: hackers, AIs, genetic modification, anything that in the wrong hands could harm the homeland. Hannah is in an airport, waiting to board a flight home to see her family, when she receives a call from Agent Hollis Copper. "I've got a cabin full of over a thousand dead bodies," he tells her. Whether those bodies are all human, he doesn't say. What Hannah finds is a horrifying murder that points to the impossible—someone weaponizing the natural world in a most unnatural way. "Think Thomas Harris' Will Graham and Clarice Starling rolled into one and pitched on the knife's edge of a scenario that makes *Jurassic Park* look like a carnival ride. Another rip-roaring, deeply paranoid thriller about the reasons to fear the future." —*Kirkus* Starred Review for an author much admired by our own Pat King.

Wexler, Django. [The Guns of Empire](#) (Roc\$28). Book 4 in the Shadow Campaigns. After their shattering defeats at the hands of brilliant General Janus bet Vhalnich, the opposing powers have called all sides to the negotiating table in hopes of securing an end to the war. Queen Raesinia of Vordan is anxious to see the return of peace, but Janus insists that any peace with the implacable Sworn Church of Elysium is doomed to fail. For their Priests of the Black, there can be no truce with heretics and demons they seek to destroy, and the war is to the death. Soldiers Marcus d'Ivoire and Winter Ihernglass find themselves caught between their general and their queen....

#### AND SOME COLORFUL FUN

Basford, Johanna. [Magical Jungle, An Inky Expedition](#) (Putnam \$16.95). From the internationally bestselling creator of *The Secret Garden* and *Lost Ocean* comes a beautiful new coloring book that takes you on a wondrous expedition through the jungle. And for more fun, some cool features: custom paper, colorable cover, pallet page and 4 perforated images suitable for framing. Order Basford's other adult coloring books [here](#).

#### OUR AUGUST TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

Aichner, Bernhard. [Woman of the Dead](#) (\$15). Austrian author Aichner packs a lot into a powerful thriller, his first to be translated into English. Blum, a female undertaker, has been leading a good life as the loving wife of a decorated police officer whom she met in a time of terrible crisis, a loving mother, and a successful business woman. Husband Mark and her friends adore her. And then in one moment it's all ripped away: a hit and run kills Mark. Overwhelmed by grief, Blum packs up his office one day and discovers evidence that Mark's death was no accident. It was murder. So Blum, a woman with a skill set few suspect and a resolve honed in a dreadful childhood to match, goes after the killer or killers, bent on revenge. Wow. This 2015 First Mystery Club Pick is the first in a Blum trilogy.

Benn, James R. [The White Ghost](#) (\$15.95). Benn's series concept—a family of Boston cops calls in favors to place young Billy Boyle on the staff of a distant relative at the outset of World War II, only to have "Uncle Ike" sent off to command US forces in the European theater and Billy become a kind of free-lance in-

vestigator—is upped in this 10<sup>th</sup> terrific story which scrubs much whitewash from the Kennedy family's legend. Under orders from Ike's boss General Marshall, Billy and Kaz, his Polish Army Lt. sidekick (he's a baron), are plucked from Casablanca in August, 1943, and flown to the Solomon Islands to investigate the murder of a Malaita native. Joe Kennedy, Jr., delivers the orders. The chief suspect is the slightly wounded PT boat Commander John F. Kennedy, recuperating on Tulagi. Clearly Joe Kennedy, Sr., is pulling the strings here (and revealing some family history new to Billy). So is the investigation to be a whitewash or a witch hunt? And Billy set up as a fall guy? The real heroes of this rich, fast-moving, thoroughly researched story however are the Australian Coastwatchers who risked everything in their lonely assignments. Benn drops back in time from his 9<sup>th</sup> novel to illuminate the Pacific theater with the same verve and detail he's presented the war in Europe. Order September's [Blue Madonna](#) (Soho \$28) and Boyle's other fabulous investigations [here](#)—so perfect for August binge reading.

Finch, Charles. [Home by Nightfall](#) (\$15.99). London in the autumn of 1876 is buzzing with news and rumors about the mysterious disappearance of a famous foreign pianist from the theater where he has just electrifyingly performed. Charles Lenox, having left Parliament where his former secretary has taken his seat, has weathered the transition into professional private enquiry agent as a partner in a now-thriving detective agency. He's a natural choice to investigate what happened to the musician, he thinks, although there is competition from a former agency partner who has set up on his own funded by a rich press lord. But a more urgent concern is the health of Lenox's newly widowed elder brother and Charles abandons London for the family home. And quickly learns that instead of a quiet week in the country, something strange is afoot in Markethouse, the adjacent village. In fact, it's something so bizarre you have to wonder how Finch will pull it all together.... I'm a big fan of Finch's elegant historical fiction, a Victorian Lord Peter Wimsey of sorts, and urge you to order all of them [here](#).

Khan, Vaseem. [The Perplexing Theft of the Jewel in the Crown](#) (Orbit \$15.99), the second Baby Ganesh Agency Investigation. For centuries, the Koh-i-Noor diamond has set man against man and king against king. Now part of the British Crown Jewels, the priceless gem is a prize that many have killed to possess. So when the Crown Jewels go on display in Mumbai, security is everyone's principal concern. And yet, on the very day Inspector Chopra visits the exhibition, the diamond is stolen from under his nose. The heist was daring and seemingly impossible. The hunt is on for the culprits. But it soon becomes clear that only one man—and his elephant—can possibly crack this case... Start with [The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra](#) (\$15.99).

Lanh, Andrew. [No Good to Cry](#) (\$15.95). Up to now, we've had a sketchy look at the terrible childhood of Rick van Lam, a *bui doi* or child of dust, meaning the child of a Vietnamese mother and an American GI father. Now Lanh opens with a scene set in an orphanage in Ho Chi Minh City which hit me like a hammer to the heart! Rick is daily tormented and visited with cruelty, like the other children of mixed race. Worse, when another child of dust, this time the son of a Vietnamese mother and a Black GI, arrives, rather than befriend him, young Rick turns on Mike Tran, savagely pleased there is a new target, someone more an outcast than him. If you think race is primarily an American issue, these



pages will disabuse you. And it's not just the children who are savage, it's also the nuns! Then the narrative moves to Hartford today where ex-cop Rick does PI work. One sunny afternoon, his Viet-vet mentor and partner Jimmy and Jimmy's old army pal Ralph are attacked on a city sidewalk. Ralph is killed and Jimmy, backing up, is struck by a car. Rick finds himself in a quandary—he's asked to clear the name of the two prime suspects named by the police, a boy named Simon Tran (called Saigon) and his buddy Frankie Croix. The wheel of life turns full circle--Simon is the son of Mike Tran. Working with Hank Nguyen, a state-cop-in-training, Rick tracks Simon to a Vietnamese gang in Little Saigon. But Simon and Frankie are boys who refuse to be saved. And who may be facing not just murder charges but becoming victims in a vicious gangland war? Rick's two earlier cases zing, too; order them [here](#).

Petrie, Nicholas. [The Drifter](#) (\$16). This First Mystery Club Pick from last January is a zinger. I loved it. So did Dana Stabenow who says, "A vet with PTSD comes to the aid of the family of a friend and fellow vet who has committed suicide, but of course that's only where the story starts, evolving later into a potentially catastrophic domestic terrorism event. (Trying not to give too much away but you'll know all this yourself by the first chapter.) The voice of Peter the vet is solid as a rock and there is a terrific dog, and most of the supporting cast is also good... I can see Peter evolving in future books into the second coming of Travis McGee, a mercenary not for hire with mad skills and serious heart, ready to do the necessary for all those other hurting vets and their families." Petrie will have a second book out this winter.

Qiu, Xiaolong. [Shanghai Redemption](#) (\$15.99). Another man might think a rise to the post of director of the Shanghai Legal Reform Committee would be a promotion from the Police Bureau. But Inspector Chen, super-attuned to the power politics of China's single party government, knows he's being sidelined. The question is, why? No recent results need punishment, no sins need to be atone. So it must be something he was about to probe as a cop. And the string being pulled is not only invisible but must have been yanked high up by someone claiming a need for "stability maintenance." In other words, someone wants to avoid embarrassment—or worse. His fear is magnified after an invitation to read at a party celebrating the publication of his translations of TS Eliot (Chen is a poet as well as a policeman) turns out to be a set-up, one where he dodges disaster by pure luck. His narrow escape only intensifies his search to identify what is or will be going on. It's all subtle, and clever. "The suspense is palpable, and Qiu gives readers a chilling vision of life under authoritarian rule." Order Qiu's earlier work [here](#).

✂Robinson, Peter. [In the Dark Places](#) (\$14.99). Quintessential Banks, full of the wine, music, Yorkshire scenery and a page-turning plot. And here we are at his 22nd Alan Banks that begins quietly when Banks investigates the disappearance of a tractor belonging to a gentleman farmer. Why connect the theft to a bloodstain found at a nearby WWII airplane hangar? The tale moves off in unexpected directions, still rich in the landscape and culture of Yorkshire. Still populated with characters moving through their lives, reacting to events, reaching for experiences, skills, relationships—and justice for victims. Still ingeniously plotted though the astute reader should keep up despite nerve-racking suspense. Still flush with the musicality of his prose, and with the love of music that is so much a part of Banks. And

still shaping the story with local history and landmarks. For a Banks reissue, see New Books and for his new Signed UK hard-cover, see Signed Books.

Scottoline, Lisa. [Corrupted](#) (\$15.99). Despite the best efforts of Bennie Rosato, founder of the Rosato & DiNunzio law firm, 12-year-old Jason Leftavick landed at a juvenile detention center after being goaded to punch out a class bully. This led Bennie into a difficult love affair as well as a heartbreaking loss for her young client. Now an adult, he's accused of murdering the very same bully, and Bennie feels that she must fight to take back Jason's life. She owes him. She doesn't expect to meet her own past, too, but for a workaholic six-footer like Bennie, an impossible task with surprises all around is a tonic. Plus there are serious issues for her law firm to face. I like going outside Philly into the Poconos to the dreadful town of Mountaintop where Jason first tangled with the Gusini clan, and the law. His move to the city, to Fishtown, should have been a new start 13 years later, but the past is always alive.... For the sequel, see Event Books. Scottoline signs here August 15.

Steele, Jon. [The Way of Sorrows](#) (\$16). As readers know from 2012's *The Watchers* and 2013's *Angel City*, a war has been raging for the "soul of man" after supernatural beings betrayed their mission to guide humanity in its designated role of caretakers of Earth's life forms. The beings' lust for female humans led to breeding with them, which introduced evil into the world. "Impressively, Steele balances the high eschatological stakes with humor."—*PW*. If this sounds too metaphysical or fantastical for you, let me add that the pacing of these thrillers is pounding and the landscape in Lausanne, Switzerland, with its history and landmarks is wonderfully evocative—Steele lives there. Rob and I visited him and the cathedral and other spots, so memorable. I love reading something different, too.

Viets, Elaine. [Brain Storm](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). In her words, the author says, "*Brain Storm* is a psychological suspense novel based on my own fight to survive six strokes, a coma and brain surgery. Death investigator Angela Richman works in ultra-wealthy Chouteau Forest, Missouri. Devastating migraines send her to the ER, but she's misdiagnosed by the resident neurologist, Dr. Porter Gravois and sent back home. Angela has six strokes and needs brain surgery. She's saved by a brash, brilliant surgeon, Dr. Jeb Travis Tritt. She wakes up from a coma, drug-addled and hallucinating. While she's in the hospital, the doctor who misdiagnosed her is murdered and the surgeon who saved her is arrested. It's a drug-addled, hallucinating Angela who learns that Dr. Gravois has been murdered...and the chief suspect is the surgeon who saved her life. Angela doesn't believe it, but can she trust her instincts? Her brain trauma brings doubts that she'll ever recover her investigative skills. But she's determined to save Dr. Tritt...." For fans of Kathy Reichs

Wurster, Erich. [The Coaster](#) (\$15.95). The Indie Next nomination: "Wait 'til you meet Bob, a man who appears to be a bit on the boring side, who doesn't work very hard at his job, he gets into all kinds of trouble with his brilliant wife, Sarah, since he is usually not being straight with her, and then, just when you think Bob has gotten everyone into deep s\*\*\* and they are all going to be killed, Bob rises to the occasion and is much cleverer than everyone thought. This hilarious book is fun throughout but the last few chapters are brilliant. The reader never sees what is coming.

This is exactly how a real mystery story should be – perfectly done! A fabulous ending with plenty of bad guys with guns and plenty of smart conversation between Bob, THE Man, and his wife, Sarah. I did not want to leave Bob’s life, as wild and crazy as it was. What great fun.” And I love this comment from an early reader who is not a reviewer: “This book made me laugh many times. Bob is hysterical and is a character I would love to hear more from in the future. I haven’t read a comic crime novel this good since Donald Westlake passed away.” Wurster will join Thomas Perry and his new twisty novel in January at The Pen. Meanwhile it’s our August First Mystery Club Pick.

## LOOK FOR NEW COZIES IN THE AUGUST BOOKNOTES

*Here’s one to get you started:*

Andrews, Donna. [Die Like an Eagle](#) (Minotaur \$25.99). “Meg and her family embrace America’s favorite past time. It’s the opening weekend for the Caerphilly Summerball baseball league and Meg finds a body in the porta-potty. Meg, her friends and family must catch a killer and figure out how to oust the petty league president before everyone’s weekend is ruined. Reading Andrews’ books is like a visit home to your favorite relatives, plus she weaves humor and fun while still penning an enjoyable mystery.”

## NEW BOOKS FOR AUGUST

Agee, Jonis. [The Bones of Paradise](#) (Morrow \$25.99). The Indie Next Pick: “Agee presents the saga of the Bennett family in the years following the massacre at Wounded Knee. Formed and altered by the unforgiving Nebraska Sandhills, the Bennetts are a rough, conflicted lot, and their story is filled with secrets, lies, betrayals, vengeance, and murder. Agee evokes a lost world and time without sentiment, but with a beautiful subtlety interrupted only by the true horrors of well-researched fact. A must-read for lovers of Western literature, family sagas, and historical fiction.”

✎Archer, Jeffrey. [Cometh the Hour](#) (\$15.99). The 6<sup>th</sup> and penultimate book in the Clifton Chronicles opens with the reading of a suicide note, which has devastating consequences for Harry and Emma Clifton, Giles Barrington and Lady Virginia...

We have 6 [Cometh the Hour Signed](#) (Macmillan UK \$25).

✎Banville, John. [Blue Guitar](#) (\$16). Hapless Olly Orme, who, “pushing fifty and [feeling] a hundred,” is back in the English village of his birth and suffering through a mid-life crisis. A modestly successful “paintster” who gives up painting for existential reasons (“What’s the difference between a blimp and a guitar? Any old object serves...”), and a rather philosophical thief for whom the thrill of stealing eventually wanes, Olly stumbles through an affair with Polly, his friend Marcus’s companion. When the lovers are found out, Olly runs away to the house where he was born, but is set upon by Polly and dragged to her own family home. A mad-hatter couple of days ensues in which Olly is tortured with cups of tea and English damp—and for the first and last time is caught stealing, in this case a little volume of poetry bound in crimson cloth. When he finally escapes and encounters his sensible wife again, she reveals a secret of her own.

Bowen, Michael. [Damage Control](#) (\$15.95). A fast and funny DC thriller, perfect for dysfunctional Washington and with an extra treat for longtime Michael Connelly fans. See Signed Books for more.

✎Brodrick, William. [The Discourtesy of Death](#) (Overlook \$27.95). British author Brodrick was an Augustinian friar before he left the order to become a lawyer. His sleuth Brother Anselm is a lawyer who left the law to become a monk...but he can’t leave the law behind as he is thrust into one investigation after another. It’s been something of a crisis for him to do this, and for Larkwood Priory’s Prior. But now a letter arrives accusing prominent academic Peter of a grisly murder, that of his paraplegic and cancer-stricken wife Jenny, and the Prior decides that Anselm should in fact use his skills out in the world on a regular basis. At stake here is the fate of the couple’s child Timothy when his father is taken up for murder and his grandfather, a war veteran, decides the best thing to do for Timothy is to kill Peter. So there’s a sort of ticking clock in motion here. This is an unusual series well worth reading for its ethical dilemmas as well as its plots. Unfortunately the earlier Anselms are mostly out of print (for now).

Burton, Jessie. [The Muse](#) (Harper \$27.99). The Indie Next Pick: “Burton’s follow-up to *The Miniaturist* also takes place in the art world, but this time the settings alternate between London in the 1960s and pre-Civil War Spain in the 1930s. In 1967, a long-lost work by a dead Spanish painter turns up in London. Is it really an original Isaac Robles? Or is there a more complicated story behind the intriguing painting? A fun read with interesting meditations on the purpose and making of art.” [The Muse Signed](#) (\$32).

Cameron, Bill. [Property of the State](#) (Poisoned Pencil \$10.95). This debut YA mystery (ages 14-18) earns a Starred Review from *Kirkus*: “Foster teen Joey narrates events as he slowly uncovers a convoluted mystery, with a soupçon of romance added for spice. Taciturn Joey, a long-term foster kid, has learned not to actually voice the thoughts in his head and is aiming for early graduation and emancipation as soon as possible. But just because he doesn’t talk much doesn’t mean he’s stupid. His clever internal commentary adds humor to this biting account of the alternative high school he attends, his classmates, and their families. He also cultivates a relationship with Trisha, a classmate and fellow foster kid who seems to have won the foster-parent sweepstakes. When Joey’s foster father watches porn on his school-issued laptop, it’s caught by sentry software, and Joey immediately is in a kind of trouble that seems to just build. Beaten up, homeless, and completely smitten by Trisha, Joey finds his curiosity and his attempts to solve his immediate problems uncovering hidden truths that lead to the solving of interconnected mysteries amid an eruption of violence. Joey’s voice is raw and engaging, both foulmouthed and inclined to wordplay, and his supporting cast, though not notably diverse, is equally well-drawn. An eminently satisfying series opener for mystery fans who want their downtrodden detectives to be appealing, clever, and unafraid of action.”

Clayton, Meg Waite. [The Race for Paris](#) (\$15.99). Normandy, 1944. To cover the fighting in France, Jane, a reporter for the *Nashville Banner*, and Liv, an Associated Press photographer, have endured enormous danger and frustrating obstacles—including strict military regulations limiting what women correspondents can. Even so, Liv wants more. Encouraged by her husband, the editor of a New York newspaper, she’s determined to be the first photographer to reach Paris with the Allies, and capture its freedom from the Nazis. However, her Commanding Officer has other ideas about the role of women in the press corps. To fulfill her ambitions, Liv must go AWOL. She persuades Jane to join her, and the two women find a guardian angel in Fletcher, a Brit-

ish military photographer who reluctantly agrees to escort them. As they race for Paris across the perilous French countryside, Liv, Jane, and Fletcher forge an indelible emotional bond that will transform them and reverberate long after the war is over.

✂Cleeves, Ann. [Harbour Street](#) (\$16.99). Vera Stanhope is not your typical police officer. Middle aged, overweight, she moves at her own pace and inevitably gets her (wo)man. This unusual and it must be said claustrophobic case begins on a Newcastle Metro filled with Christmas revelers. When DI Joe Ashworth and his daughter leave the train with the other passengers forced off by a bad weather halt, they notice one older woman stays behind. She's been murdered. She lives in a Harbour Street household in a quiet neighborhood. Why does Vera, her curiosity high and results low, keep circling back there?

Also by Gold Dagger winner Cleeves: [Thin Air: A Shetland Mystery](#) (\$15.99). A group of old university friends leave the bright lights of London and travel to Shetland to celebrate the marriage of one of their friends. But, one of them, Eleanor, disappears—apparently into thin air. Detectives Jimmy Perez and Willow Reeves are dispatched to investigate. Before she went missing, Eleanor claimed to have seen the ghost of a local child who drowned in the 1920s. Jimmy and Willow are convinced that there is more to Eleanor's disappearance than they first thought. Is there a secret that lies behind the myth? One so shocking that someone would kill—many years later—to protect? This is crime fiction so of course there is... but what? And by whom?

Cobb, Thomas. [A Darkness the Color of Snow](#) (\$15.99). Like *No Country for Old Men* and *Snow Falling on Cedars*, an atmospheric psychological thriller in which a young cop involved in a hit-and-run death becomes the focal point for a community's grief and determination to place blame.

Cotterill, Colin. [I Shot the Buddha](#) (Soho \$26.95). It's been quite a journey since Cotterill penned his First Mystery Club Pick [The Coroner's Lunch](#) (\$9.99). And for Laos' elderly coroner Dr. Siri Paiboun. It's now 1979 and the retired Siri and his wife Madame Daeng are still helping Laos' misfits, filling their house in Vientiane with an assortment of oddballs who include a Buddhist monk. One day the man rides away on his bicycle and doesn't come back, leaving a note on the fridge asking them to help a fellow monk escape across the Mekong River into Thailand. So of course, off they go, swiftly running afoul of Lao secret service offers and some famous spiritualists, ending up in Thailand themselves.

Crider, Bill. [Survivors Will Be Shot Again](#) (St Martins \$25.99). If there is such a genre as a Western Cozy, then Crider's long-running Sheriff Dan Rhodes is right there. He's kept busy in his small Texas county with all sorts of misdemeanors, situations, and sometimes crime. Even murders. For example, marijuana patch guarded by a hungry alligator. Right now there's a string of burglaries going down. Is the new murder somehow tied into this? In a place so small, coincidence is not very likely....

Daly, Elizabeth. [The Book of the Crime](#) (Felony \$12.95). My late sister was a serious fan of Daly's civilized series set in mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century New York with gentlemanly bibliophile sleuth Henry Gamadge. In this 16<sup>th</sup> and final case for him, was originally published in 1951. Henry must help Rena Austen, newly wed, who has decided her marriage was a big mistake, and has fled her husband's gloomy Upper East Side house in fear for her life. Felony has republished them, such a treat. Order them all [here](#).

✂Davey, EM. [Foretold by Thunder](#) (Overlook \$26.95). A debut thriller of Dan Brown spin that begins when Professor Britton sneaks a file into the Royal Mail as he runs, he thinks, to escape those who don't think he's just some nutter, but dangerous. Britton, on the lam, is struck dead by a lightning bolt slamming into him on Hampstead Heath. The recipient of the file, journalist Jake Wolsey, wonders why Winston Churchill had shown an interest in the ancient Etruscan civilization and gets his first alarm with TV news of Britton's unlikely death. He then hooks up with archaeologist Florence Chung, attracting more attention from MI6 (and others) as they travel across Europe and Africa in search of a sacred Etruscan text which ties into the rise of both Rome and the Third Reich in uncanny ways.... This is truly fun if you like this genre, and has a bonus in the careful research behind a story that is, as I said, in the style of Brown.

Davis, Fiona. [The Dollhouse](#) (Dutton \$26). A debut centered upon a magical residence for women. It's a very New York story, both in 1952 when the young woman who arrives to study at Katy Gibbs Secretarial School is introduced to downtown jazz clubs where heroin is as addictive as the music, and 2016 NY where glitzy but aging landmarks like the Barbizon, once a safe retreat for young professional women, have been turned into condos. It's also a cautionary tale about entrusting yourself to men who are power players although Rose Lewin's lover is under serious pressure from his former life. Library Reads reports, "This is the story of the women who stayed in the Barbizon Hotel in the 1950's. A reporter is tipped off about one of the women, who still lives in the building over 60 years later. As Rose tries to research a murder and a case of switched identities, she starts becoming part of the story. The narration switched between 2016 and 1952 and as I read the novel, I soon got caught up in the next piece of the puzzle. It had history, romance, and a way to view the changing roles of women." Residents included Grace Kelly, Joan Crawford, Lauren Bacall, Edna Ferber, Ann Beattie, Eudora Welty. Elaine Stritch.

De Giovanni, Maurizio. [Darkness for the Bastards of Pizzofalcone](#) (Europa \$17). A kidnapped child and the burglary of a high-class apartment: two crimes that seem to have no connection at all until Inspector Lojacono, known as "The Chinaman," starts to investigate. This starts a new series set in contemporary Naples where cops battle criminals. The ensemble cast will remind you veterans of Ed McBain's 87th Precinct series.

Deutermann, PT. [The Commodore](#) (St Martins \$26.99). This Starred Review is good news for fans of military fiction looking for a cracking August read: "Deutermann's experience as a U.S. Navy captain informs this engrossing novel set in the Pacific theater during WWII. Capt. Harmon "Sluff" Wolf commands the USS John B. King, "a brand-new, 2,100-ton Fletcher-class destroyer." The son of a Chippewa father and an Irish mother whose family emigrated to the U.S. from Canada, he received the nickname Sluff (for 'short little ugly fat fucker') at the Naval Academy. Given the prejudice of the day, his rise in the formal white-gloved ranks of the Navy is all the more impressive. While patrolling the waters off Guadalcanal in the J.B. King, he develops new ways of fighting the enemy that save his ship and sink Japanese warships, but his superiors are slow to appreciate, much less adopt, his tactics. Sluff is stubborn and sticks to his guns, and in a series of night engagements he proves his worth and earns a promotion to commodore. Deutermann (Pacific Glory) handles



the human-interest aspects well, but it's his battle sequences on the high seas that stand out. Fans of military action thrillers will race through the pages and finish the book wanting more."

Farnsworth, Christopher. [Killfile](#) (Harper \$25.99). A clever high-concept (i.e., improbable but fun) action/adventure novel in the spirit of James Rollins and Douglas Preston that combines history and biotechnology with cinematic pacing. Hired by billionaire Everett Sloan to determine whether a whiz kid who used to work for his data-mining outfit stole company secrets to start his own operation, mind-reading investigator John Smith finds himself targeted by a conspiratorial group with secret CIA connections. Years removed from quitting the CIA, which trained him on how to use his skills, Smith is no ordinary telepath. Not only can he "hear" what people are thinking, he also can project thoughts and fears into their heads. The problem is, when he defends himself from an attacker by implanting a traumatizing memory or crippling feeling, he himself retains a percentage of the pain or suffering. High-tech bad boy Eli Preston, the data thief, is so concerned that Smith will reveal his illicit government ties that he wants him 100 percent dead.

Feiffer, Jules. [Cousin Joseph](#) (Norton \$25.95). In *Kill My Mother*, legendary cartoonist Feiffer began an epic saga of American noir fiction. Now (oversize graphic novel) *Cousin Joseph*, a prequel, introduces us to bare-knuckled Detective Sam Hannigan, head of the Bay City's Red Squad and patriarch of the Hannigan family featured in [Kill My Mother](#) (\$18.95). Our story opens in Bay City in 1931 in the midst of the Great Depression. Big Sam sees himself as a righteous, truth-seeking patriot, defending the American way, as his Irish immigrant father would have wanted, against a rising tide of left-wing unionism, strikes, and disruption that plague his home town. At the same time he makes monthly, secret overnight trips on behalf of Cousin Joseph, a mysterious man on the phone he has never laid eyes on, to pay off Hollywood producers to ensure that they will film only upbeat films that idealize a mythic America: no warts, no injustice uncorrected, only happy endings. But Sam, himself, is not in for a happy ending, as step by step the secret of his unseen mentor's duplicity is revealed to him. Fast-moving action, violence, and murder in the noir style of pulps and forties films are melded in the satiric, sociopolitical Feifferian style to dig up the buried fearmongering of the past and expose how closely it matches the headlines, happenings, and violence of today.

Fossum, Karin. [Hell Fire](#) (Houghton \$24). Think of Norway and generally you think of cold, but Fossum opens her 12<sup>th</sup> case for Inspector Sejer in the searing heart of a summer day, 2005. A farmer discovers the body of a mother and 5-year-old boy stabbed to death. Violently. Even Sejer is shocked. Flashbacks to December 2004 show Bonnie, a generous woman who cleans the homes of the elderly and infirm, performing her menial duties with stoic dignity as she worries about caring for her son. And more flashbacks focus on a widow with an odd but intelligent misfit of a son with terrible eating habits called Eddie. We learn that she is dying of cancer as the background stories catch up to the present. It's no surprise in the end who is the killer but the power here is in the choices people make and the role of fate in how those choices play out. I find Fossum's novels bleak and unsparing but this one forces a meditation rather than inspiring puzzle solving. New in paperback for Sejer: [The Drowned Boy](#) (\$14.95)

Frasier, Anne. [The Body Reader](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). This novel is based on a tough premise—Minneapolis Detective Jude Fontaine was kept prisoner in an underground cell, her only human contact her sadistic captor for three long years, her survival totally dependent on learning to read his body language, every flicker of emotion and thought. In an act of violence she escapes, only to discover (heartbreaker) when she reaches home and her lover that he's moved on. But it doesn't break Jude. Back on the job, she has an extra skill thus she can apply to the living and to victims, the dead. And she's highly motivated to work cases. Her colleagues in Homicide are dubious about how fit she is but her new partner, Uriah Ashby, thinks she's sane, plus he has a story of his own to keep hidden. The two tackle the case of a killer, apparently mad, who is striking down young women. Jude is a multidimensional character you root for and should be a very promising series lead.

Freedland, Jonathan. [The 3rd Woman](#) (\$15.99). Journalist Madison Webb is obsessed with exposing lies and corruption. But she never thought she'd be investigating her own sister's murder. Madison refuses to accept the official line that Abigail's death was an isolated crime. She uncovers evidence that suggests her sister was the third victim in a series of killings hushed up as part of a major conspiracy. In a United States that now bows before the People's Republic of China, corruption is rife. "Excellent.... Think of this novel as a gritty, noirish crossbreed of *Blade Runner* and *L.A. Confidential*.... This is an intelligent, finely crafted mystery, a speculative thriller that brilliantly channels the anxieties of our time." —*NY Times Book Review*

Gentry, Amy. [Good as Gone](#) (Houghton \$23). A debut with a story in the domestic suspense genre. The premise is that one night Jane, Tom and Anna's younger daughter, saw a man hold a knife against her sister Julie and walked her out of the family home. Anna (the narrator) and Tom and the community pulled out all stops to find her, Jane not able to contribute much. Julie's been gone 8 years. And the one night the doorbell rings, and there's Julie, back home. But is she? Why is she? Is she, in fact, Julie? The truth in these books is never what it seems on the surface and getting to it is, well, complicated. A key to this genre is to tell the story in the present tense which adds pace and immediacy, but which I find grows irksome.

Greenwood, Elizabeth. [Death Fraud](#) (SimonSchuster \$26). Tired of your humdrum life? In heaps of trouble? Wanting out of....? Then read this comic, true foray into the world of death fraud. Faced with a six-figure student loan debt, Greenwood was discussing her options with a friend when he blurted out, "You could fake your own death." What began as a joke turned into something of an obsession as Greenwood embarked on a curious quest to find out just how feasible it is to disappear in the information age. She ends up "taking us on a romp through the world of the living dead — not zombies, but real folk who decide the best way to go on with life is to fake death. It's a delightful read, and for anyone tantalized by the prospect of disappearing without a trace it might even provide some useful tips — though Greenwood is careful to caution that 'pseudocide' is rarely painless." — Erik Larson

Hearn, Lian. [Lord of the Darkwood](#) (Farrar \$13). Here is Book 3 in the Tale of Shikanoko, historical fantasy set in Hearn's vision of medieval Japan. The Spider Tribe, spurned by their guard-

ian (warrior Shikanoko has turned his back, mourning a secret love), go it on their own to explore the reach of their powers and ambition. Hina, the only one who knows the location of the true emperor, forges a new identity of her own. And the traditional powers rally to battle for the Lotus Throne. The final volume publishes in September. Order them all [here](#). Hearn's *Tales of the Otori* are magical and marvelous so you can read those volumes too. Order them all [here](#).

Herriman, Nancy. [No Pity for the Dead](#) (NAL \$15). British-born nurse Celia Davies runs a free medical clinic to assist the poor women of San Francisco. Aided in her endeavors by her half-Chinese cousin Barbara and feisty housekeeper Addie, Celia has earned the trust and friendship of many of the city's downtrodden, including a young orphan named Owen—who's just confided to her that he's stumbled upon a corpse. Owen recently started working for the ruthless real estate and development group, Martin and Company, and discovered a dead body in the office's basement. Celia turns to Detective Nick Greaves for help, only to learn that one of the main suspects—the husband of Celia's dearest friend—is an old enemy of Nick's.... Begin with [No Comfort for the Lost](#) (\$15).

Holding, Elisabeth Saxony. [Kill Joy / The Virgin Huntress](#) (Stark House \$19.95). Another beautiful study in the subtle and miasmic horror of emotions such as only Mrs. Holding can bring off."—*San Francisco Chronicle*. "A young lady finds trouble when she follows her employer to a house where death seems to stalk its every visitor; and a young man tries to stay one step ahead of the huntress who tries to uncover his questionable past. Two masterful novels of suspense from the author of *The Blank Wall*. New introduction by Jake Hinkson. "Before the term "roman noir" had even been coined, her specialty was isolated and desperate characters with profoundly poor decision-making skills."—Jake Hinkson

Hood, Ann. [The Book That Matters Most](#) (Norton \$25.95). Library Reads reviews: "A recently separated woman seeks solace and purpose in a local book group, while her daughter is dealing with her own life-changing problems that just might be resolved with a little literary assistance. The juxtaposition of the idyllic small town and the harsh reality of the seedier side of Paris, the weight of memory and regret, and the power of human connection, along with the engaging characters all work together to create an enthralling read. Readers will be carried away with the hope that these lovely and damaged characters can find their own happy ending." John Charles will say more in the August Book Notes.

Horsley, Kate. [The American Girl](#) (Harper \$15.99). An American exchange student in France involved in a suspicious accident and the journalist determined to break the story are both drawn into a media circus, a mysterious family, and a small town with dark secrets. On a quiet summer morning, seventeen-year-old American exchange student Quinn Perkins stumbles out of the woods near the small French town of St. Roch. Barefoot, bloodied, and unable to say what has happened to her, Quinn's appearance creates quite a stir, especially since the Blavettes—the French family with whom she's been staying—have mysteriously disappeared. Now the media, and everyone in the idyllic village, are wondering if the American girl had anything to do with her host family's disappearance. Cynical Boston journalist Molly Swift cannot

deny she is also drawn to the mystery and travels to St. Roch. She is prepared to do anything to learn the truth, including lying so she can get close to Quinn. But when a shocking discovery turns the town against Quinn and she is arrested for the murders of the Blavette family, she finds an unlikely ally in Molly. We read Quinn's diary entries interspersed with Molly's narrative. Neither woman is entirely sympathetic or admirable but both know how to persevere.

Inbinder, Gary. [The Hanged Man](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). A thriller set in July, 1890, Paris is of interest as much for the history, innovative forensics, use of police spies, and city landmarks as they were then as it is for the story. It begins when a body is found very visibly hanging from a bridge. How did he get there? Suicide, or murder? Examination shows the man's wrists were bound. Inspector Achille Lefebvre had been planning a romantic getaway with his wife at seaside Trouville when the call came. Since the newly formed political brigade under Lefebvre's former partner Rousseau demands into the investigation, and with intrigue, espionage, and terrorism building, time is of the essence in this matter of the suicide bridge murder.... Follows *The Devil in Montmartre*.

✦Kelly, Stephen. [The Wages of Desire](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). Set in 1942, Kelly reminds us of what policing in wartime is like: few resources, fewer policeman, public scorn of those serving rather than off fighting. DCI Thomas Lamb of the Hampshire Constabulary is safeguarding his daughter Vera from conscription by employing her as his driver while his ankle is healing. They are called to a church graveyard when the Reverend Wimberly reports finding a corpse there. But the body of Land Girl Ruth Aisquith is merely the tip of the iceberg in the village of Winstead which is riddled with dark secrets and bad behavior. In a meticulous and leisurely narrative, laden with nuance, Kelly pilots Lamb and his team through what proves to be multiple investigative threads. Fans of the TV series *Foyle's War*, which addresses the role of the police during WWII, will feel at home. This will be our September British Crime Club pick.

✦Kent, Winona. [In Loving Memory](#) (Diversion \$14.99). I haven't read this one but this Starred Review inspires me to order a copy: Kent combines time travel, mystery, and romance in a delightful sequel to [Persistence of Memory](#) (\$14.99) that's easily accessible for new readers. Shaun Deeley of the 19th century and Charlie Collins (or Mrs. Collins, as Shaun insists on calling her) of the 21st century, a pair of unpracticed, accidental time travelers, have returned to Charlie's present-day English-countryside home to begin their lives together. However, as they are putting together an exhibit at the Stoneford Village Museum, they unexpectedly transport back to 1940 London during the Blitz, where they meet Charlie's grandmother, then a young woman. They quickly understand that this meeting is not a chance occurrence: Charlie and Shaun's family history and the future they've already lived all depend on protecting Charlie's grandmother from a killer who is crisscrossing through the centuries. Kent's wonderfully complex and charming mystery asks interesting questions about how individual actions might change outcomes, but these heavy thoughts do not detract from Charlie and Shaun's romance as their delightful banter reveals their solid devotion to each other. You fans of English country village stories should grab these.

Lapena, Shari. [The Couple Next Door](#) (Penguin \$26). The keystone of domestic suspense narrative is betrayal—how many ways and by how many of the characters. In this debut Lapena spares no one so that at the conclusion you have been exhausted as well as entertained. And appalled! In part because this plot can't work unless the new mother was willing to leave her six-month old baby home along while she attended a dinner party that grew increasingly late and liquored next door. Library Reads finds it, "so full of twists and turns that my head was swiveling. Who took baby Cora? Marco and Anne decide to leave their baby home alone. After all, they share a wall with their neighbors, with whom they are partying. They would take turns checking in on her baby monitor. But when they return to their flat the first thing they find is an open door and no Cora. Who's to blame? Could it be an unlikely suspect that you won't see coming? If you like a book that keeps you guessing until the very end you won't be disappointed."

Manzini, Antonio. [Adam's Rib](#) (Harper \$14.99). Deputy Chief of Police Rocco Schiavone has been exiled from Rome to the cold, backward, alpine town of Aosta where he self medicates while dealing with the mostly morons who make up the local police force. He has a convenient main squeeze but in his mind he's forever married to his dead wife. So the girlfriend's birthday today is going to take second seat to the burglary call where Rocco discovers that the employer of the maid who called it in is hanging in what appears to be a suicide. Rocco however feels the scene is off (while he's off a bit, too) and calls it homicide. . . This is the sequel to [Black Run](#) (\$14.99), two for you Italianphiles.

McHugh, Laura. [Arrowood](#) (Spiegel & Grau \$27). A riverine Gothic set in Iowa along the Mississippi where an old mansion broods on the banks and guards family secrets. Although Arden and her parents left it when the twins disappeared, kidnapped per Arden's testimony at age 8 by some predator, Arden's grandparents refused to sell the home. As the Indie Next Pick points out, "When her father dies, Arden inherits Arrowood, her childhood home. Set on the Mississippi River, the little town of Keokuk, Iowa, has seen more prosperous days, as has Arrowood, which has stood vacant for years. Arden decides to move back to Keokuk and re-establish the search for her two-year-old twin siblings who disappeared 20 years earlier under her watch. With the help of Ben, her childhood friend and a longtime resident of Keokuk, Arden re-examines the disappearance, hoping to not only find the twins, but also to make peace with her own deep-rooted secrets."

✎Mitchell, David. [Slade House](#) (\$15). Down the road from a working-class British pub, along the brick wall of a narrow alley, if the conditions are exactly right, you'll find the entrance to Slade House. A stranger will greet you by name and invite you inside. At first, you won't want to leave. Later, you'll find that you can't. Every nine years, the house's residents—an odd brother and sister—extend a unique invitation to someone who's different or lonely. But what really goes on inside Slade House? For those who find out, it's already too late... This is a kind of haunted house story spanning five decades from the 1970s to now and, in Mitchell's trademark style, leaping genres as it unrolls.

✎Morton, Kate. [The Lake House](#) (\$17). A neglected Cornish estate. A missing child. Secrets down generations. . . and a surprise. If you long for Daphne DuMaurier, Mary Stewart, read Morton. All of her work: order it [here](#). Highly recommended!

Neville, Stuart. [Those We Left Behind](#) (\$15.95). Ciaran Devine, who made Belfast headlines seven years ago as the "schoolboy killer," is about to walk free. At the age of twelve, he confessed to the brutal murder of his foster father; his testimony mitigated the sentence of his older brother, Thomas, who was also found at the crime scene, covered in blood. But Belfast DCI Serena Flanagan, the only officer who could convince a young, frightened Ciaran to speak, has silently harbored doubts about his confession all this time. Ciaran's release triggers several things... Neville, praised by many other great talents, here holds Ireland and Belfast accountable for its foster care system. It's not too early to order your Signed First of September's [So Say the Fallen](#) (Soho \$28).

Olsen, Rena. [The Girl Before](#) (Putnam \$27). Here we have a debut in the domestic suspense drama. It begins when Clara Lawson is confronted with a home invasion that rips away her beloved husband and her daughters. Her husband cries out to her, "Say Nothing." So right away we know there is something going in below the placid surface of family life. And we gradually learn as the narrative alternates between past and present that Clara's upbringing with Mama and Papa G, her marriage, are not what she thinks they were as agents put her in lockdown and accuse her husband of terrible crimes. As recollections flood back, Clara begins to question who she is, her history, and what she owes to her family and to society. It's not hard to figure out the main-spring of the plot so the interest lies in the psychology of Clara and, sadly, the terrible things that predators do to children.

Palma, Felix J. [The Map of Chaos](#) (\$18). The final volume in Spanish author Palma's Map of Time trilogy, a "vividly drawn odyssey spanning time and space that calls on three of the literary greats of the past century to answer the fundamental question of our place in the universe and to demonstrate the enduring power of undying love." —Jack Du Brul. "It's no surprise that Palma's heroes are writers. He wears his love for old-fashioned storytelling on an ink-stained sleeve. Bookworms are always searching for new realms in which to lose themselves. With this trilogy, Palma offers an homage and multiple new worlds to explore." —*Washington Post*. Order all three generous volumes [here](#).

✎Paris, BA. [Behind Closed Doors](#) (St Martins \$25.99). This terrific debut, our **August British Crime Club Pick**, is not novel in the idea that a psychopath courts and weds a young woman and essentially imprisons her, but in leading you towards his real target and, crucially, whether the bride finds her mojo. What really won me was the meticulous portrait of what the wife of an upper-middle-class Brit would do to appear normal. Down to meal preparation and how she dresses. It actually underscores the menace. "On the surface, Jack and Grace have the perfect marriage, the perfect house, and the perfect jobs. What lies beneath the surface is something so sinister yet so believable that it will horrify most readers. What happens behind closed doors and could, or would, you believe it? This is a superb story of psychological abuse that will have your heart racing right up to the end."

Patterson, James/Michael Ledwidge. [Bullseye](#) (LittleBrown \$28). Tensions between America and Russia are the highest they've been since the Cold War. As the countries' Presidents travel to the United Nations to iron out their differences, a fashionable husband and wife team of lethal assassins prowls the streets of Manhattan hunting their prey—a professor hiding a scandalous



secret. Their next target: the extremely popular President of the United States of America.... New in the Michael Bennett series.

Pötzsch, Oliver. [The Castle of Kings](#) (Houghton \$28). “As the early-16th-century Peasants’ War tears Palatinate Germany apart, Pötzsch follows a young noblewoman’s epic quest, sparked by a signet ring once owned by the legendary Barbarossa—Frederick I, Holy Roman Emperor. Agnes, preferring falconry to needlepoint, is the teenage daughter of Philipp von Erfenstein, Trifels Castle’s knight castellan. Her best friend is Mathis, son of Trifels’ blacksmith. Adventures begin when Agnes’ falcon, Parcival, returns from hunting, Barbarossa’s ring tied to his talons. Simultaneously, the countryside is beset by bandits led by Black Hans, a rogue knight. Since Mathis is fascinated with firearms and can work alchemy with gunpowder, von Erfenstein charges him with building a cannon to destroy Black Hans’ fortress. Pötzsch’s tale thereafter spins off in multiple directions. The dialogue is offered in modern syntax, sometimes slipping into anachronisms, but Pötzsch paints picturesque landscapes, whether it’s damp, dark castles, the stink of a medieval tannery, or whirlpool-plagued Rhine River rapids, and offers esoteric information about arquebuses, falconets, landsknecht mercenaries, the Holy Lance, and a synopsis of the Hohenstaufen and Habsburg aristocracies. Combine *Princess Bride* with Germanic history circa 1500, add a dash of *Lord of the Rings*, and there’s a week of good fun in 600 pages...” I’m an admirer of the author’s medieval mysteries featuring the Hangman’s Daughter and you should be, too.

Pryor, Mark. [The Paris Librarian](#) (Seventh Street \$16). Pryor joins us October 15 to sign this latest case for American Embassy security officer Hugo Marston, but why wait to read it? The story takes you inside the real American Library for a fictional series of events (I suspect a few names and places were changed to protect the innocent...). It appears it might be a locked-room mystery when, as events unfold, Hugo’s friend Paul Rogers, the library’s director, is found dead in his chair inside his locked office. The papers of actress Isabelle Severin who is still alive, in her 90s, keep cropping up—was she a spy for the Allies in France during WWII? The Marstons form a charming series with landscapes and history galore. Order them [here](#).

Rankin, Ian. [The Beat Goes On: The Complete Rebus Stories](#) (\$16.99). The 31 rewarding stories in Edgar-winner Rankin’s complete John Rebus collection span the Scottish detective’s entire career, from his early days as a policeman learning the ropes right up to the time of his quasi-retirement. The best entries, such as “A Good Hanging,” which involves a murder disguised as a suicide during the Edinburgh fringe festival, feel like short novels.

Reyn, Irina. [The Imperial Wife](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Tanya Kagan, a rising specialist in Russian art at a top New York auction house, is trying to entice Russia’s wealthy oligarchs to bid on the biggest sale of her career, The Order of Saint Catherine. It could be the defining moment for her, product of an immigrant family, in a highly competitive profession. Meanwhile her novelist husband seems to be slipping away. As questions arise over the provenance of the Order and auction fever kicks in, Reyn takes us into the world of German-born Russian Empress Catherine the Great, who may have owned the priceless artifact, and who, an immigrant herself who if she didn’t murder her husband, likely agreed to it, faced some of the issues as Tanya. “The manner in which this author is able to switch back and forth between the

dwindling marriage of a contemporary New York couple and the domestic life of Catherine the Great, and the precarious lives of oligarchs, is nothing less than masterful. Every aspect of young Catherine’s life is utterly fascinating—and Reyn hits those historical details so squarely on the head, the chapters are reminiscent of Hillary Mantel’s finest work. If none of that grabs you, and you’re a bibliophile or interested in writing, the husband’s story and the changing dynamic between them as his novel stalls, don’t miss this elegant novel.

✠Rimington, Stella. [Breaking Cover](#) (Bloomsbury \$26). “Now that Vladimir Putin is flexing his muscles in the international arena, Rimington, who always has a sharp eye for contemporary headlines, provides another dose of Cold War tension for MI5 and MI6 . . . [*Breaking Cover* is] perhaps the most vividly plotted of Rimington’s recent spy thrillers.” —*Kirkus*. Still reeling from the loss of the man she loved in a botched antiterrorist operation in Paris, Liz Carlyle has been posted to MI5’s counter-espionage desk, where her bosses hope the relative quiet might give her the chance to find her feet again. However, they hadn’t counted on the aftershocks of Russia’s incursions into Crimea and President Putin’s determination to silence those who would oppose him, wherever they may be living in the world. As a result, Liz soon finds herself on the hunt for a Russian spy on British soil—a spy whose intentions are unknown, and whose presence is a threat not only to Russian dissidents living in England but also to the security of the nation itself. And with MI5 and MI6 coming under painful public scrutiny in the post-Edward Snowden world, for Liz and her team, security is something that is beginning to feel increasingly remote. Order all the Liz Carlyles [here](#).

✠Robinson, Peter. [In a Dry Season](#) (\$14.99). Reissue. When a boy finds a skeleton buried in a dried-up reservoir built on the site of a ruined village, Detective Chief Inspector Alan Banks is brought in by his arch-enemy Chief Constable Jeremiah “Jimmy” Riddle to head what looks like being a dull, routine investigation. It turns into anything but. With the help of Detective Sergeant Annie Cabbot, Banks uncovers long-kept secrets in a community that has resolutely concealed its past. For the latest Alan Banks, see Signed Books; for the most recent paperback see Our August Trade Paperback Picks.

Robinson, Todd. [Rough Trade](#) (Polis \$25). When a waitress at The Cellar asks Boo and Junior to scare off her roommate Dana’s harassing ex-boyfriend, Byron, Boo’s white-knight impulses kick in and they perform the job with gusto—leaving Byron bloodied but very much alive. So when Byron is found dead, they’re shocked. They’re even more shocked when they learn that nothing is what they originally thought, and they’re being held accountable in the death. With Junior called in for questioning, Boo determines to clear their names by finding Byron’s true killer. It’s a quest in which Boo will have to face down crooked cops, crazed guard dogs, a rival security crew, the Irish mob and—worst of all—his own ingrained prejudices. Polis is a small press that specializes in noir...hardboiled, often with an off-kilter or humorous edge.

Sanchez, Mamen. [The Altogether Unexpected Disappearance of Atticus Craftsman](#) (Atria \$23). A delightful romp through publishing, British class, five determined Spanish women, Madrid and Granada, and a touch of Ernest Hemingway. An Indie Next Pick and one of mine for August. I loved it—and it was over too soon for me. Don’t miss it.

Spann, Susan. [The Ninja's Daughter](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). 4<sup>th</sup> in Spann's Shinobi Mysteries with lead character Hiro Hattori. We're in 16<sup>th</sup> Century Japan, actually autumn, 1565, Kyoto where the shogun's recent death and the impending clash of rival samurai signal an impending war. How do the death of a young woman found on the banks of the Kamo River, and the hasty actions of a young man, drag Father Mateo and Hiro into an investigation? If you think the class system is limited to Britain, Spann's unsparing look at how actors and the city's theater guilds fare will wake you up. I'm not a fan of her voice but the truly tragic nature of this story is compelling.

Straussbaugh, John. [City of Sediton](#) (LittleBrown \$30). In case you're feeling the rise of populism around us is something new, check out this probing history of New York City during our Civil War.... It was both a help and a hindrance to Lincoln and the Union, a focal point of protest and a font of the kind of thing all too familiar today on social media.

Summerscale, Kate. [The Wicked Boy](#) (Penguin \$28). A moving account of Victorian-age murder that is a whodunit rather than a whodunit. In East London during the summer of 1895, 13-year-old Robert Coombes and his younger brother, Nattie, attended a heralded cricket match on their own, telling neighbors that their mother was in Liverpool visiting family. In fact, Emily Coombes was already lying dead in her bed behind a closed door, having been fatally stabbed by Robert. Horrifically, her corpse remained undetected for well over a week while the brothers acted as if nothing were amiss. Upon arrest, Robert claimed he acted after his mother had beaten Nattie, and before she could do the same to him. The resulting trial focused on the question of Robert's mental state, whether he was really the wicked boy of the book's title, and how the penny dreadfuls he was so fond of may have warped his mind. Summerscale's dogged research yields a tragedy that reads like a Dickens novel, including the remarkable payoff at the end.

Thurlo, David. [Rob Thy Neighbor](#) (St Martins \$25.99). *LJ* writes, "Albuquerque pawnshop owner (and former Special Forces operative) Charlie Henry and his buddy and business partner Gordon Sweeney are grilling steaks at their friends' cookout when gunshots ring out from next door. Charlie and Gordon race into the house to find masked men trying to kidnap homeowner Sam Randall. Not trusting the police, Sam hires Charlie and Gordon to investigate the home invasion. Yet as the case becomes more complicated and Charlie is targeted as a suspect, they have to find out who wants Sam dead and why. Charlie's Navajo background adds local color and interest to a basic police procedural." This is the third book in the series and the first Thurlo has written without his wife Aimee who recently died.

Tosches, Nick. [Under Tiberius](#) (\$15.99). Nearly all of the narrative unrolls during the reign of Emperor Tiberius, stepson to Caesar Augustus, a man who gradually grew more depraved and mad and finally went into exile on Capri. The premise is that in 2000 Tosches found himself in the Vatican researching a novel. With access to the Archivio Segreto, he and the librarian assigned to him make an astounding discovery: an ancient manuscript, tattered and filmed with dust, written in Latin. A memoir written by a grandfather to a grandson, it recounts the old man's early career as a speechwriter, so to speak, for Tiberius, his dismissal and exile of Judea, and a project he conceives, a scam, when he meets

a filthy, impoverished specimen of wandering rabbi who calls himself... yes, you guessed it... and sets to work writing a series of stories and aphorisms for the 30-something man. The librarian translates their find for Tosches and the two hastily replace it in the archives, back into oblivion. But then Tosches presents the translation and really, it's astonishing.

Tracy, P.J. [The Sixth Idea](#) (Putnam \$27). Here's a welcome new case for the Monkeewrench Gang—and it's off with a bang (literally, and actually two of them). It's the Christmas season in Minneapolis. On a flight to the city, a young woman is seated next to a middle-aged man on a plane. In conversation, they discover an unlikely connection. Soon thereafter, Lydia comes home to find there are two dead men in her basement. Cops Leo Magozzi and Gino Rolseth get the call and soon become convinced Lydia is a target too. But of whom, and why? We already have a clue from a scene set in 1957. So the plot becomes whether the two cops aided by Monkeewrench (\$7.99), the super computer action nerds, can tie the past and present together, save Lydia, and figure out who kidnapped both an elderly and terminally ill man from his home and an Alzheimer's patient from his assisted living? The first in this series, [Monkeewrench](#) (\$7.99), remains among my favorite First Mystery Club Picks so I'd start by [ordering it and the rest](#), catching up to *The Sixth Idea*.

Vine, Richard. [Soho Sins](#) (Hard Case Crime \$22.99). With this publisher you know from the get-go you're getting a noir. This one is entwined in Manhattan's art world where a golden couple flourished in the 1990s. One day the wife, Amanda, is found murdered in her Soho loft and her husband Phil confesses to shooting her. Hmmm. Phil may have been a continent away, so why would he do this? Phil's attorney hires PI Hogan who allies with art dealer Jackson Wyeth probe for the truth. The secrets are truly sordid. Colorful backgrounds and characters don't make up for a weak plot although the ambiguous conclusion surprises and satisfies. For me, I'm glad I don't know any of these people.

Way, Camilla. [Watching Edie](#) (NAL \$26). If the betrayals of friendship and high school interest you, this story that jumps back and forth between the past and present of Edie, the girl in high school who had it all but is currently down, and Heather, the awkward girl who wanted so badly to be accepted and may rescue Edie, is for you. As I've said, I've overdosed on this genre but if you read fewer books per month than I do (as surely you do), then that's not an issue for you.

Wolfe, Inger Ash. [The Night Bell](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). Detective Inspector Hazel Micallef of the Port Dundas, Ontario, police, is overweight, caring for her ill and aging mother (the former mayor), and dealing with rifts in the PD. She's 64, it's 2007. A new "luxury" development, houses, one of two promised golf courses, will upend the town's quiet life. Especially after a resident couple find bones and the development becomes a crime scene. The abandoned orphanage on the property gives up the remains of some 18 boys, all of them murdered, while one of Hazel's fellow officers, a difficult 30-year-veteran, goes missing. All this casts her mind back into the late 1950s when an Asian girl disappeared and blame fell upon Hazel's adopted brother, moved at 10 from foster care into the Micallef family but never able to adapt or attach (he died at 39). The narrative moves back and forth across time in a leisurely but suspenseful way across some 390 pages to a conclusion that is as much about the tragedy of people at the

margins of society as it is about justice. I'm a big fan of Hazel (who is nothing like Susan Sarandon who played her in the movie of the series' start, *The Calling*) and the other prickly, layered characters in the four so far) Micallef novels. Plan to spend some time on this one. Order them all here.

Woods, Stuart. [Smooth Operator](#) (Putnam \$28). This is Woods' first collaboration with Parnell Hall and I love it! The plot is a zinger, clever and well executed, and not based on the sort of fantasy life that Stone Barrington leads among the 1%. It plays upon Stone's connection to Kate, the US President, and a potentially disastrous situation that needs a man of the talents of Teddy Fay, ex-CIA, master of disguise and not infrequent assassin who's been leading a quiet, undercover life working for Stone's son's film production company. In the mess the world is in we all yearn for a hero to save the day and Teddy fills this unlikely role to perfection. Woods joins us October 31 (a treat, this is not a trick) when he can sign it as well as the new book for October, [Sex, Lies, and Serious Money](#) (Putnam \$28). He can also sign June's book, [Dishonorable Intentions](#) (\$28), while our supply of firsts lasts.

Young, Heather. [The Lost Girls](#) (Harper \$25.99). Unread by me. The publisher says, "A stunning debut novel that examines the price of loyalty, the burden of regret, the meaning of salvation, and the sacrifices we make for those we love, told in the voices of two unforgettable women linked by a decades-old family mystery at a picturesque lake house."

#### OUR AUGUST MASS MARKET PAPERBACK PICKS

Adams, Ellery [Murder in the Secret Garden](#). (Berkley \$7.99) Book Retreat #3. When one of the members of The Medieval Herbalists turns up dead after finding—and unlocking—a garden filled with deadly plants at her book-themed resort, Jane Steward must discover which one of her guests has a penchant for poison. Adams is a busy writer since she also writes the "Books by the Bay" series and the "Charmed Pie Shoppe" mysteries.

✎Bowen, Rhys. [Malice at the Palace](#) (\$7.99) Royal Spyness #9. Accepting a royal assignment that places her in the allegedly haunted Kensington Palace, Lady Georgiana serves a Greek princess who is betrothed to the king's youngest son, a comfortable situation that is disrupted by an untimely murder. *PW* says "Bowen's ninth Royal Spyness mystery (after 2014's Queen of Hearts) is the best yet in this lighthearted series set in 1930s England."

Coel, Margaret. [The Man Who Fell from the Sky](#) (\$7.99) Holden #19. Arapaho attorney Vicky Holden and Father John O'Malley engage in a dangerous manhunt involving two Native American victims and Butch Cassidy's famed hidden treasure. *PW* ended their review with "Coel smoothly blends Cassidy lore with this moving tale of complex family relationships, including those of outsiders Father John and Vicky."

DiSilverio, Laura. [Readaholics and the Gothic Gala](#) (NAL \$7.99) Readaholics #3. When gigantic egos, old resentments, uninvited guests and murder ruin the Celebration of Gothic Novels festivities, Amy-Faye Johnson and the Readaholics must tap into their knowledge of the classics and read between the lines to lure a killer out of the shadows. DiSilverio will be at the Poisoned Pen on September 17<sup>th</sup> to launch a new thriller.

Du Brul, Jack. [The Lightning Stones](#) (\$9.99) Philip Mercer #8. When his mentor is killed while conducting vital underground

research into climate change, Philip Mercer launches an effort to find answers and exact vengeance. DuBrul incorporates an interesting theory about the disappearance of pilot Amelia Earhart into the plot of *The Lightning Stones*, and the combination of fast-paced thriller with a historical hook make this a natural pick for fans of James Rollins books.

Ellison, JT. [All the Pretty Girls](#) (\$9.99) Taylor Jackson #1. When a local girl falls prey to a sadistic serial killer, Nashville homicide lieutenant Taylor Jackson and her lover, FBI profiler Dr. John Baldwin, find themselves in a joint investigation pursuing a vicious murderer. *Bookpage* loved this saying "readers will find *All the Pretty Girls* a thrilling ride through a well-known locale, and the rest of the country will get a closer view and a different perspective of Music City." We still have a few signed copies of Ellison's *Field of Graves*, a prequel to this gripping series.

Grafton, Sue. [X](#) (\$9.99) Kinsey Millhone #24. A serial killer who leaves no trace of his crimes challenges Kinsey's skills to solve the case before she becomes his next victim. *PW* concluded their review with "This superior outing will remind readers why this much-loved series will be missed as the end of the alphabet approaches."

✎Hawkins, Paula. [The Girl on the Train](#) (\$9.99) Obsessively watching a breakfasting couple every day to escape the pain of her losses, Rachel witnesses a shocking event that inextricably entangles her in the lives of strangers. *PW* said "The surprise-packed narratives hurtle toward a stunning climax, horrifying as a train wreck and just as riveting." Barbara may be over the whole unreliable narrator trend in suspense, but I think Hawkins' book is every bit as good as *Gone Girl*.

Rollins, James. [The Bone Labyrinth](#) (\$9.99) Sigma Force #11. Commander Gray Pierce makes paradigm-shifting discoveries about human evolution while investigating shadowy figures depicted in Neanderthal cave paintings. *LJ*, like most all the review sources, loved this saying "Full of death-defying adventures and scientific detail, this is a fabulous read, with danger and intrigue at every turn."

Scottoline, Lisa. [Accused](#) (\$8.99) Rosato and Associates #12. When a 13-year-old genius and member of the most powerful family in the country believes that the man imprisoned for killing her sister six years earlier is innocent, the all-female law firm of Rosato & Associates agree to reopen the case and find out if justice was really served all those years ago. *Kirkus* said this "Comfort food for the faithful, with less thrills and more detection than most of the firm's cases (*Think Twice*, 2010, etc.): a showcase for a heroine who aptly describes herself as "Nancy Drew with a J.D."

#### NEW IN MASS MARKET PAPERBACKS

Andrews, Donna. [Lord of the Wings](#) (\$7.99) Meg Langslow #19. Reluctantly volunteering her home after a haunted house exhibit burns down during her town's over-the-top Halloween festival activities, Meg Langslow is challenged to save the day upon discovering a real murder victim among the creepy displays.

Cass, Laurie. [Cat with a Clue](#) (NAL \$7.99) Bookmobile Cat #5. When she stumbles upon a dead body at her workplace, librarian Minnie Hamilton and her rescue cat, Eddie, must sniff out the clues to save the library's reputation and catch a spineless killer before someone else is written out of the picture.



Fury, Dalton. [One Killer Force](#) (SimonSchuster \$9.99) Delta Force commander Kolt “Racer” Raynor fights against the government’s idea for combining the Delta Force with the SEALs, and the leaders in charge of that decision who want Kolt gone.

Galenorn, Yasmine. [Flight from Mayhem](#) (Berkley \$7.99) To catch a serial killer who is draining the bank accounts of elderly women before he sends them to an early grave, Alex and Shimmer use their friend, Bette, who volunteered to act as bait, to lure the shifter to them, but their plans go dangerously awry.

Gerber, Daryl W. [Grilling the Subject](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Cookbook Nook #5. As the Wild West Extravaganza rides into Crystal Cove, cookbook-store owner Jenna Hart, while indulging in grilled and barbecued delights, must prove the innocence of her father in the murder of a neighbor.

Graham, Heather. [Deadly Fate](#) (Mira \$7.99) A psychic entertainer working on an Alaskan cruise ship becomes an unexpected partner to a paranormal FBI agent who is investigating a grisly series of murders he believes have been committed by a killer he once put behind bars.

Hamilton, Victoria. [Much Ado About Muffin](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Merry Muffin #4. When opera singer Roma Toscana brings drama to Autumn Vale, New York—which leads to the murder of postmistress Minnie Urquhart, her sworn enemy—muffin baker Merry Wynter must prove the innocence of this woman by mixing together the clues to catch the real killer.

Holmes, Juliann. [Clock and Dagger](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Clock Shop #2. While preparing for the opening of the clock shop she inherited from her grandfather, expert clockmaker Ruth Clagan gets all wound up when her new watchmaker is found dead, and, with time ticking by, launches her own investigation to catch a killer.

Hooper, Kay. [Fear the Dark](#) (Berkley \$9.99) Bishop/SCU #16. Investigating a baffling series of disappearances in a small mountain community, paranormal Special Crimes Unit agents Lucas and Samantha Jordan team up with two new partners in a case that takes a sinister personal turn.

Jance, JA. [Random Acts: A Joanna Brady and Ali Reynolds Mystery](#) (Harper \$3.99). Signed September 6. Sheriff Joanna Brady has a lot on her plate—she is up for re-election as sheriff, pregnant with her third child, and her eldest is packing up to leave for college. Then Joanna is woken in the middle of the night by a call reporting a motor vehicle accident. Her mother and stepfather’s RV ran off the road at high speed and hit the pillar of an overpass. Something about the accident seems suspicious, though, and when Joanna gets a call from Ali Reynolds, a journalist turned investigator, she accepts her offer to help.

Kelly, Diane. [Death, Taxes, and a Satin Garter](#) (St Martins \$7.99) Death and Taxes #10. While fulfilling her maid-of-honor duties for her best friend’s upcoming wedding, IRS Special Agent Tara Holloway goes up against the star of the Flo Cash Cash Flow Show who is handing out some shady tax advice to her listeners and pursues a catfishing Casanova who has relieved several lonely ladies of their cash, cars and credit cards.

Maberry, Jonathan. [The King of Plagues](#) (SimonSchuster \$9.99) Joe Ledger and the Department of Military Sciences race against time to neutralize a powerful secret society whose goal is to destabilize world economies and profit from the resulting chaos by using weaponized versions of the Ten Plagues of Egypt.

Neggers, Carla. [Keeper’s Reach](#) (Mira \$7.99) Sharpe and Donovan #5. Discovering that two friends from his military past are conducting a secret investigation on the Maine coast, Colin Donovan’s brother, Mike, investigates a freelance intelligence analyst before discovering a link to Emma Sharpe.

Sweeney, Leann. [The Cat, The Collector, and the Killer](#) (NAL \$7.99) Cats in Trouble #8. When she and her police chief husband find a disoriented woman wandering the streets with a kitten in a tote bag and many more cats at her house, along with a dead body, Jillian Hart must play a game of cat-and-mouse with the real killer to prove this woman’s innocence.

Vallere, Diane. [Silk Stalkings](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Material Witness #3. When millionaire Harvey Halliwell is found dead right before the contestants for the annual Miss Tangorli beauty pageant are announced, fabric shop owner Polyester Monroe must piece together the clues to unveil the real killer after her friend is caught up in the crime.

Wood, Tom. [A Time to Die](#) (NAL \$9.99) With a price on his own head, and indentured to British Intelligence, professional assassin Victor is tasked with eliminating the worst of the worst, including Mila Rados, a former Serbian paramilitary commander wanted for war crimes who is now the leader of an organized criminal network in Belgrade.

Young, Tom. [Hunters](#) (\$9.99) *Khatar*. It is the Somali word for “dangerous,” and it is one that Colonel Michael Parson has heard all too often on his present mission. His friend Sophia Gold has talked him into taking a leave from the Air Force to fly relief supplies into Somalia, but even Parson doesn’t know just how *khatar* this trip will turn out to be.