

# BOOKNEWS from

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## Summer's Over, but September Sizzles....

### AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

#### TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 6

**JA Jance** signs [Downfall](#) (Harper \$26.99) Joanna Brady and [Random Acts](#) (\$3.99), a Joanna Brady/Ali Reynolds novella

#### THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 8 7:00 PM

**Todd Moss** signs [Ghosts of Havana](#) (Putnam \$27) Judd Ryker #3

#### SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10 10:30 AM

**Coffee and Crime** discusses Josephine Tey's [Brat Farrar](#) (\$15)

#### SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10 2:00 PM

**Nisi Shawl** signs [Everfair](#) (Tor \$26.99) SciFi Book Club Pick

#### TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 13 6:00 PM Publication Party

**Clive Cussler and Robin Burcell** sign [Pirate](#) (Putnam \$29)  
Location: Marcellino's Ristorante, 7114 E Stetson Dr, Scottsdale, AZ 85251 (480) 990-9500

**Tickets Required: \$32 for one person includes one copy of *Pirate* to be signed, one glass of Prosecco and canapés; and can buy one companion ticket \$5, no book. If space permits we will sell tickets at the door but to be sure of your entry, please order in advance. A \$32 ticket holder may purchase additional copies of *Pirate* @\$29 each.**

Can't attend? Order your Signed copy in the usual way

#### THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15 7:00 PM

**Reed Farrel Coleman** signs [Robert B Parker's The Devil Wins](#) (Putnam \$27) Jesse Stone  
**Bruce DeSilva** signs [The Dread Line](#) (Forge \$25.99) Liam Mulligan #5

#### FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 16 7:00 PM

**SciFi Book Club** discusses Lev Grossman's [The Magicians](#) (\$16)

#### SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17 2:00 PM

**Laura DiSilverio** signs [Close Call](#) (\$15.99)  
**Beth Kendrick** signs [Once Upon a Wine](#) (NAL \$15)

#### SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18 2:00 PM

**Anne Perry** signs [Revenge in a Cold River](#) (Ballantine \$28) William Monk

#### WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 21 7:00 PM

**Craig Johnson** signs [An Obvious Fact](#) (Viking \$28) Longmire

#### THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22 7:00 PM

**Margaret Coel** signs [Winter's Child](#) (Berkley \$27)  
**William Kent Krueger** signs [Manitou Canyon](#) (Atria \$24.99)

#### MONDAY SEPTEMBER 26 7:00 PM

**Karin Slaughter** signs [The Kept Woman](#) (Harper \$27.99)

#### TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 27 7:00 PM

**Robert K. Tanenbaum** signs [Infamy](#) (Gallery \$27) Butch Karp #28

#### WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 28 7:00 PM

**Hardboiled Crime Club** discusses A.I. Bezzerides' [Thieves Market](#) (\$16.95)

#### THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 29 7:00 PM

**Alex Kava** signs [Reckless Creed](#) (Putnam \$26.95)

#### FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 30 7:00 PM

**James Sallis & The Three-Legged Dog Band**

#### SATURDAY OCTOBER 1 2:00 PM Holmes x 2

**Laurie R King** signs [Mary Russell's War](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.99) Stories  
**Laurie R King and Leslie S Klinger** sign [Echoes of Sherlock Holmes](#) (Pegasus \$24.95) More stories and by various authors

#### SUNDAY OCTOBER 3 2:00 PM

**Jodie Archer** signs [The Bestseller Code](#) (St Martins \$25.99) Inside stuff on writing one

#### MONDAY OCTOBER 3 7:00 PM

**Kevin Hearne** signs [The Purloined Poodle](#) (Subterranean \$20)

#### TUESDAY OCTOBER 4 Ghosts!

**Carolyn Hart** signs [Ghost Times Two](#) (Berkley \$26)  
**Donis Casey** signs [All Men Fear Me](#) (\$15.95)  
**Hannah Dennison** signs [Deadly Desires at Honeychurch Hall](#) (\$15.95)

## EVENT BOOKS

Archer, Jodie. [The Bestseller Code](#) (St Martins \$25.99). What if there were an algorithm that could reveal a secret DNA of bestsellers, regardless of their genre? What if it knew, just from analyzing the words alone, not just why genre writers like John Grisham and Danielle Steel belong on the lists, but also that authors such as Junta Diaz, Jodi Picoult and Donna Tartt had tell-tale signs of success all over their pages? Thanks to Jodie Archer and Matthew Jockers, the algorithm exists, the code has been cracked, and the results bring fresh new insights into how fiction works and why we read. *The Bestseller Code* offers a new theory for why *Fifty Shades* sold so well. It sheds light on the current craze for dark heroines. It reveals which themes tend to sell best. And all with fascinating supporting data taken from a five year study of 20,000 novels. Then there is the hunt for “the one”—the paradigmatic example of bestselling writing according to a computer’s analysis of thousands of points of data. The result is surprising, a bit ironic, and delightfully unorthodox. This book explains groundbreaking text mining research in accessible terms and offers a new perspective on the New York Times bestseller list. It is big-idea book about the relationship between creativity and technology, the sort that will be provocative to anyone interested in how analytics have already transformed the worlds of finance, medicine and sports. But at heart it is a celebration of books for readers and writers.

Coel, Margaret. [Winter’s Child](#) (Berkley \$27). Wind River Mystery #20 ties a modern crime to a centuries-old one, and in a blizzard.... It began when Myra and Eldon Little Shield found an abandoned baby on their doorstep and brought her inside. Five years later, no one has come back to claim the little girl now known as Mary Anne Little Shield. She’s old enough to start school, but her foster parents fear social services will take her—a white child—away from them. Determined to adopt Mary Anne, the Little Shields hire lawyer Clint Hopkins, who wants Arapaho Vicky Holden as co-counsel on the case. Just after he hands her some notes, a black truck deliberately runs Hopkins down in the street. Is it possible someone killed Hopkins to prevent Mary Anne’s adoption? Vicky fears so and digs into the child’s history, a connection to a missing alcoholic Arapahoe, plus a very cold case that ties to even older Wind River history. This is a powerful story with a couple of stunning twists. Coel signs with Krueger, two authors who use landscape, history, and weather powerfully to propel their narratives. Coel’s award-winning series is one of my favorites. Order it [here](#).

Coleman, Reed Farrel. [Robert B. Parker’s Debt to Pay](#) (Putnam \$27). Jesse Stone, who rebounded from losing his job with the LAPD because of his alcoholism, has found a comfortable landing spot in Paradise, Mass., and has reached the point where he feels confident that he can remain sober. But that resolve is tested by two intertwined developments that challenge his personal and professional life. His ex-wife, Jenn, is about to get married to a Dallas real-estate tycoon, and Jesse, who has found a new love in ex-FBI agent Diana Evans, hopes the ceremony will give him closure for a difficult relationship. But the man known as Mr. Peepers, “part serial killer, part assassin, part terrorist,” has resurfaced to torment Jesse. Mr. Peepers’ threat to murder Jenn

sets up a complex cat and mouse game that will keep readers turning pages en route to an appropriate conclusion, which offers numerous possibilities for the next book.

Cussler, Clive/Robin Burcell. [Pirate](#) (Putnam \$29). An 800-year-old treasure . . . an ancient cipher wheel... a brutal murder... and a man who will stop at nothing to claim what he considers rightfully his. Husband-and-wife treasure-hunting team Sam and Remi Fargo have gone on impossible missions before and faced many perils, but never have they faced an adversary as determined as this one. The battle will take them halfway around the world... #8 in the Fargo series and the first with coauthor Burcell who appears at a publication party with Clive September 13 when you can visit with them both as you collect your double-signed book.

DeSilva, Bruce. [The Dread Line](#) (Forge \$25.99). *Kirkus* reviews: “Getting fired from the *Providence Dispatch* has done nothing to lighten Liam Mulligan’s workload; the first chronicle of his work as a part-time private eye piles no fewer than three cases on his back. The first job is the most straightforward: find the masked robber who stuck a gun in Ellington Cargill’s fabulously wealthy face while he was using his safe-deposit box at the Jamestown office of Pell Savings and Trust and walked away with jewelry valued at \$6.3 million. The second has the client with the deepest pockets: the New England Patriots, who want McCracken & Associates, whose sole associate is Mulligan, to vet Conner Bowditch, the Boston College defensive tackle they plan to draft if he checks out. Since Mulligan already knows Bowditch’s not going to check out—he’s in debt to Mulligan’s old friend Dominic Zerilli, the bookie who’s generously cut Mulligan in for a piece of his action—this job is a little complicated. But it’s not nearly as complicated as the third job: catching the creep who’s kidnapping dogs on the island of Conanicut... Mulligan, who’s just acquired two dogs of his own in the hope of protecting his homestead from the depredations of the fiend he dubs Cat the Ripper, is more than happy to join the hunt for this lowlife even without a client or a fee.” Though it’s Rhode Island, Spenser might have worked these cases.

The Robert B Parker analogy is fun since DeSilva appears September 15 with Reed Farrel Coleman and the new Jesse Stone mystery. Order Mulligan’s earlier investigations [here](#).

DiSilverio, Laura. [Close Call](#) (\$15.99). After living through the media shaming of a political sex scandal when she was in college, Sydney Ellison fears notoriety above all. So when she stumbles onto a plot to assassinate a senator, she resists contacting the police. Before she can make herself do the right thing, the assassin tracks her down and kills her fiancé. Now a murder suspect and a killer’s target, Sydney reluctantly enlists the aid of her estranged sister, who betrayed her fifteen years earlier. Sydney must overcome her distrust and put all she has worked for on the line to stop the killer and his employer before more people die. “Twisty, intriguing, and terrific! An engaging heroine with a heart-breakingly complicated secret, a bitter family feud, conspiracy in the nation’s capital, and non-stop suspense. Fans of David Baldacci... will cheer this emotional and exciting thriller. Loved it!”—Hank Phillippi Ryan

Hart, Carolyn. [Ghost Times Two](#) (Berkley \$26). Bailey Ruth Raeburn's latest mission is to guide the happy-go-lucky spirit of a deceased young man named Jimmy to the next life. But Jimmy is determined to watch over his still-living girlfriend, Megan, whom he wants to be happy even without him—which is easier said than done. As if being haunted by her late boyfriend wasn't enough, Megan is dealing with an arrogant, manipulative senior partner who threatens to fire Megan's vulnerable secretary if Megan accepts a partnership at another law firm. She's in an impossible bind. Since Jimmy refuses to move on while Megan is being blackmailed, Bailey Ruth agrees to help him. But after the partner turns up dead and Megan is found at the crime scene... well, it's harder. The charming ghost series is fun for Hart, winner of numerous awards and MWA Grand Master. She's invited Donis Casey and Hannah Dennison to join her October 4. Order Bailey Ruth's earlier missions [here](#).

Hearne, Kevin. [The Purloined Poodle](#) (Subterranean \$20). Thanks to his relationship with the ancient Druid Atticus O'Sullivan, Oberon the Irish wolfhound knows trouble when he smells it—and furthermore, he knows he can handle it. When he discovers that a prizewinning poodle has been abducted in Eugene, Oregon, he learns that it's part of a rash of hound abductions all over the Pacific Northwest. Since the police aren't too worried about dogs they assume have run away, Oberon knows it's up to him to track down those hounds and reunite them with their humans. For justice! And gravy! Engaging the services of his faithful Druid, Oberon must travel throughout Oregon and Washington to question a man with a huge salami, thwart the plans of diabolical squirrels, and avoid, at all costs, a fight with a great big bear. A novella from Hearne ([Iron Druid Chronicles](#)) narrated by the dog.

Johnson, Craig. [An Obvious Fact](#) (Viking \$28). What fun, a Walt Longmire salted with Sherlock Holmes as read to him by Henry Standing Bear! We are creating some collectible to be inserted into our copies; but I am not sure yet what it is. Here's an on-line review: In Johnson's thrilling 12th Walt Longmire mystery, the Wyoming lawman and his longtime friend and sidekick, Henry Standing Bear, look into the circumstances that led 22-year-old Bodaway Torres, now in a coma, to run his motorcycle off the road during the country's largest annual motorcycle rally, held in Sturgis, South Dakota. Much to Walt's surprise, Bodaway's mother turns out to be "the" Lola, namesake of not only Henry's beloved car but also Walt's infant granddaughter—and there's a history between Henry and Lola that's anything but pleasant. When it becomes clear that Bodaway's crash was no accident and that ATF has its eye on the victim—was he running guns, or even drugs?—Walt is glad when his undersheriff, the always fiery Victoria Moretti, shows up, fresh off investigating her brother's murder in Philadelphia. Whether he's squaring off against biker gangs or teasing out long-simmering feuds involving his closest friends, Walt Longmire is always the man for the job. Order earlier Longmires [here](#).

Kava, Alex. [Reckless Creed](#) (Putnam \$26.95). In Chicago, a young man jumps from his thirtieth-story hotel room; along the Missouri river, a hunter and his son stumble upon a lake whose surface is littered with snow geese, all of them dead; and in southern Alabama, Ryder Creed and his search-and-rescue dog Grace find the body of a young woman who went missing in the Conecuh National Forest...and it appears she filled her pockets

with rocks and walked into the river. Before long Ryder Creed and FBI profiler Maggie O'Dell will discover the ominous connection among these mysterious deaths. What they find may be the most prolific killer the United States has ever known.... Kava does an ace job putting you into the world of search-and-rescue dogs. Order Creed's two earlier cases [here](#).

Kendrick, Beth. [Once Upon a Wine](#) (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.

King, Laurie R./Leslie S. Klinger. [Echoes of Sherlock Holmes](#) (Pegasus \$24.95). A 3<sup>rd</sup> collection of stories "inspired by the Holmes canon" from authors who will surprise you, as do their original stories. Tasha Alexander, John Connolly, Deborah Crombie, Cory Doctorow, Hallie Ephron, Meg Gardiner, WS Krueger, Jonathan Maberry, Catriona McPherson, Denise Mina, David Morrell, Anne Perry, Gary Phillips, Hank Phillippi Ryan are among them. Signed by King and Klinger at the end of Sept or early October at the Pen—we should be able to get Krueger to sign Sept. 22 and Alexander, Morrell, Perry, and Ryan later in the fall. We're looking into their jointly edited [In the Company of Sherlock Holmes](#) (Norton \$24.95) as well as [A Study in Sherlock](#) (\$16). Check the Enews or our WebStore for these.

And by King alone: [Mary Russell's War](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.99). A collection of short pieces including "The Marriage of Mary Russell"—terrific fun. And at last! The story King has written for me with my favorite title: "Stately Holmes." This is an excellent gift idea since it's rare and unusual.

Krueger, William K. [Manitou Canyon](#) (Atria \$24.99). Cork O'Connor learns again that November is the cruelest month—in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Lindsay Harris and her brother, Trevor, hire the ex-sheriff turned PI to find their architect grandfather, John Harris, who recently vanished from Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Winter is coming, and Cork's daughter is getting married soon, but the siblings' plea is compelling and Harris was a childhood friend, so Cork accompanies Lindsay into the wilderness to see what Tamarack County Search and Rescue might have missed. When the pair fails to return, friends and family investigate. Meanwhile, Cork and Lindsay fight for their lives. Honorable and courageous yet full of self-doubt, Cork seeks not only Harris but also redemption for past failures. References to Ojibwe culture and an extraordinary sense of place provide color and texture. Order earlier Corks [here](#), all corkers!

Moss, Todd. [Ghosts of Havana](#) (Putnam \$27). What could be timelier than a thriller set in Cuba? When four friends from the D.C. suburbs agree to go deep-sea fishing off Florida, two are unaware that one of them, a descendant of a Bay of Pigs invader, has a secret agenda; the fourth is in on the game. When

their boat strays into Cuban waters and gets captured, Judd's boss sends him to Havana, to run a back-channel operation to free the "Soccer Dad Four" before they become tokens in a political badminton game between the US and Cuba. Meanwhile, Judd's wife, Jessica, a black-ops CIA agent on forced leave (she and Judd have made a kind of bargain to keep their marriage intact), seeks out the guy who rented the fishing boat to the four Americans. Moss, a former deputy assistant secretary of state, ups our interest proposing tactics that our intelligence agencies might employ in negotiating with a foreign power, tactics like "Minute Zero" and the "Golden Hour" (which make terrific sense to me!). But Jessica gets most of the action in our **September Thriller Club Pick**. Order Moss' two earlier thrillers [here](#). *Minute Zero* was a First Mystery Club Pick.

Perry, Anne. [Revenge in a Cold River](#) (Ballantine \$28). Commander William Monk of the River Police realizes that the man pulled from the murky Thames with a bullet in his back was a notorious forger who'd just escaped from prison. Monk of the Thames River Police is forced to contend with customs officer McNab, who clearly bears a bitter grudge against him. But the reason is a mystery in itself. Monk's memory loss—a secret he guards closely—leaves him vulnerable to repercussions from his missing past, especially his exploits overseas in the tumultuous Gold Rush days of San Francisco. And now McNab, as icy and unfathomable as the steel-gray Thames itself, appears intent on using whatever damning facts he can find to his advantage to ruin Monk's future as an officer of the law. As Monk explores the possibility of a conspiracy, McNab's game of cat and mouse escalates, with veiled threats and cryptic insinuations. Snared in an unforeseen trap, a desperate Monk must turn to his wife, Hester, and friend and attorney Oliver Rathbone for help, as his life literally hangs in the balance. #22 in an excellent series which, at last, really explain the mystery of who is William Monk. Excellent!

Shawl, Nisi. [Everfair](#) (Tor \$26.99). In this deeply compelling debut novel, Shawl takes readers to an alternate Earth where the inhumane history of the Belgian Congo is brilliantly rewritten. When Africa's indigenous populations learn about steam power. Neo-Victorian alternate history novel that explores the question of what might have come of Belgium's disastrous colonization of the Congo if the native populations had learned about steam technology a bit earlier. Fabian Socialists from Great Britain join forces with African-American missionaries to purchase land from the Belgian Congo's "owner," King Leopold II. This land, named Everfair, is set aside as a safe haven, an imaginary Utopia for native populations of the Congo as well as escaped slaves returning from America and other places where African natives were being mistreated.

Slaughter, Karin. [The Kept Woman](#) (Harper \$27.99). Just how bad is it when Will Trent finds a body on the floor of an abandoned Atlanta warehouse? Pretty bad. Bloody footprints suggest that another victim was carried away, and the warehouse belongs to a billionaire and definitely basketball star already being investigated for rape. What's more, Will's estranged wife is married to this bad boy. Then the crime scene yields an unfortunate link to Will's stormy past... You fans will be pleased that Will is back and in a case where Slaughter spares you nothing of crimes and crime scenes. The rape scene forensics, if futile when the accused buys his way out of being indicted, are detailed and powerful. Order Will's earlier cases [here](#).

Tanenbaum, Robert. [Infamy](#) (Gallery \$27). When a former Army veteran suddenly murders a colonel in New York, he claims that he had to do it because he was being used in mind control experiments. Surprisingly, a top Wall Street criminal defense lawyer, one with ties to the White House, decides to defend the killer, arguing that his client suffered from post-traumatic stress from his tours in Afghanistan and that it's his patriotic duty to assist him. As New York District Attorney Roger "Butch" Karp prepares a murder case against the veteran, he meets with investigative reporter Ariadne Stupenagel, who suspects that one of her sources for a story on high-level government corruption was a victim in the shooting. This points not to a random act of violence, but a hired killing that goes to the top levels of our nation. This is the 28<sup>th</sup> Butch Karp/Marlene Ciampi thriller.

## SIGNED BOOKS FOR SEPTEMBER

✚Aird, Catherine. [Learning Curve](#) (Allison \$45). Can it be the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter in the saga of copper CD Sloan and his complicated sidekick Crosby? Yes. But unfortunately I can't find any information about the plot which once again ensnares us in life in the fictional country of Calleshire. Many of these mysteries are British classics. I love Aird's philosophy: "If you can't be a good example, then you'll just have to be a horrible warning"

Baker, Shannon. [Stripped Bare](#) (Forge \$24.99 out in Sept. but Signed Oct. 13). Kate Fox is living the dream. She's married to Grand County Sheriff Ted Conner, the heir to her beloved Nebraska Sandhills cattle ranch, where they live with Kate's orphaned teenage niece, Carly. With the support of the well-connected Fox Clan, which includes Kate's eight boisterous and interfering siblings, Ted's reelection as Grand County Sheriff is virtually assured. That leaves Kate to the solitude and satisfaction of Frog Creek, her own slice of heaven. One night Kate answers a shattering phone call from Roxy at the Bar J. Carly's granddad Eldon, owner of the ranch, is dead and Ted has been shot and may never walk again. Kate vows to find the killer. She soon discovers Ted responded so quickly to the scene because he was already at the Bar J... in Roxy's bed. And to add to her woes, Carly has gone missing. Kate finds out that Eldon was considering selling his ranch to an obscenely rich environmentalist.... This book works well with Mizushima and Wolf, both below, in a Southwest Mystery evening October 13.

Benn, James R. [Blue Madonna](#) (Soho \$28). Set on the eve of the Normandy invasion in 1944, Billy Boyle's role will keep readers turning the pages. Boyle, a former Boston cop turned U.S. Army investigator who has been stationed in England for most of the war, is caught by surprise when MPs arrest him and he's charged with selling military property for a profit. Facing a court-martial, he has only an inexperienced young attorney to defend him. To avoid punishment, Boyle, who's demoted from captain to private, agrees to undertake a hazardous mission in France, whose success is threatened by a murderer. This compelling series explores many lesser known roads of WWII conflict and really commands my respect.

Bradley, Alan. [Twice the Brindled Cat Has Mew'd](#) (Orion \$42). Bradley's lively eighth Flavia de Luce novel finds the preadolescent chemist and detective back at Buckshaw, her crumbling family estate in England, after being dishonorably discharged from Miss Bodycote's Female Academy in Canada. Her beloved father's sickness taints homecoming, leaving moody Flavia to ward

off a flock of pesky sisters. Welcome distraction comes when Flavia stumbles on the body of a local wood-carver strapped upside-down to a wooden contraption, flanked by a stack of children's books by famed nonsense-versifier Oliver Inchbald. Flavia, who's delighted to investigate under the eye of her old friend Inspector Hewitt, uncovers a backstory to the murder involving a man devoured by seagulls and a madcap Auntie Loo who dies scuba diving. Only the somewhat arbitrary final reveal disappoints. Child detectives can irritate, but Flavia's a winner, a mix of sparky irreverence and wrathful propriety who evades the preciousness endemic to the species.

Coben, Harlan. [Home](#) (Dutton \$29). A new Myron Bolitar. A decade ago, kidnappers grabbed two boys from wealthy families and demanded ransom, then went silent. No trace of the boys ever surfaced. For ten years their families have been left with nothing but painful memories and a quiet desperation for the day that has finally, miraculously arrived: Myron Bolitar and his friend Win believe they have located one of the boys, now a teenager. Where has he been for ten years, and what does he know about the day, more than half a life ago, when he was taken? And most critically: What can he tell Myron and Win about the fate of his missing friend?

Dodd, Christina. [Because I'm Watching You](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Romantic suspense favorite Dodd heads back to Virtue Falls for another smart, dramatic mystery that will keep readers flipping pages until the very end, with unexpected twists, psychological tension, and emotional depth. The traumatic back stories of the main characters set up a trail of believable misdirection and heart-stirring romance, while secondary characters add dimension and continuity to the vivid and entertaining world of this compelling series. Another Virtue Falls winner."—*Kirkus Starred Review*

Foer, Jonathan. [Here I Am](#) (Farrar \$28). Unfolding over four tumultuous weeks, in present-day Washington, D.C., *Here I Am* is the story of a fracturing family in a moment of crisis. As Jacob and Julia and their three sons are forced to confront the distances between the lives they think they want and the lives they are living, a catastrophic earthquake sets in motion a quickly escalating conflict in the Middle East. It is Abraham who cried, "Here I Am." How does his cry apply today?

☞Hannah, Sophie. [Closed Casket](#) (Morrow \$26.99). NOTE: Hannah visits The Pen on December 5 to sign her second Hercule Poirot Mystery, but it publishes in September. Please reserve your copy now. Karen reviews: Lady Athelinda Playford is a well-known, successful author of children's books featuring Shrimp Seddon, leader of a gang of child detectives. Warning her lawyer ahead of time, she announces she intends to have a dinner party for family and friends to announce a changing of her will. In addition to the intimate group, she has also invited outsiders, Edward Catchpool, the narrator of the story, and Hercule Poirot. Neither man knows why they have been included. The big announcement comes before dinner is served, when Lady Playford reveals the change to her will, noting the exclusion, of her children, turning her assets over to her frail secretary who is not expected to survive more than a few weeks. When the shock wears off, the questions begin. Her son, with no visible means of support, and daughter who clings to a well-to-do fiancé, fail to understand their omission and why bequeath to someone who

may well pre-decease their mother. There is an abundance of motives among the group to hasten the demise of the victim before the will is changed. When a murder becomes a reality, Poirot and Catchpool assume their roles of investigators. The problems, trials and tribulations of those in attendance at the party come to light and everyone is a suspect. Additionally, the frail victim, her secretary, is a contradiction seeming to extend from great kindness to being a total fake and user. One reviewer says, "if you are a fan of the classic Christie Houseparty mystery, you'll love this one." "...cleverly plotted..." "Christie has been well imitated here." Personally, I found this book great fun to read – at times, the characters throw out insults and humor with a genteel touch and the gradual peeling away of clues is enticing. Treat yourself to this one.

Harris, Robert. [Conclave](#) (Random UK \$45). Our **October Thriller Club Pick** by the versatile Harris takes you inside the Vatican where a pope is being chosen... Behind the locked doors of the Sistine Chapel, 120 Cardinals from all over the globe will cast their votes in the world's most secretive election. They are holy men. But they have ambition. And they have rivals. Over the next 72 hours one of them will become the most powerful spiritual figure on earth... due in at the end of September; thus the October Pick.

Hart, Elsa. [The White Mirror](#) (St Martins \$27). Hart seamlessly melds the complex politics of 18th-century Asia with a superior fair-play plot in her second whodunit featuring Chinese librarian Li Du of First Mystery Pick [Jade Dragon Mountain](#) (\$15.95). Li Du, whose successful solution of a high-stakes murder in the previous book ended his political disgrace, has chosen a nomadic existence that lands him with a commercial caravan traveling in the Tibetan mountains, where his group encounters the eerie spectacle of a dead monk on a bridge. The monk, later identified as Dhama, a painter who lived in a nearby temple, has the image of a white mirror painted on his face. Li Du astutely deduces that Dhama was murdered, based on something missing from his studio. The sleuth assiduously probes the potential motives of his fellow guests at the manor where the travelers take shelter, among them a visiting dignitary and a Capuchin. The isolated and eerie manor setting is reminiscent of a classic golden age puzzle mystery, and Hart populates it with well-rounded characters. Which is why it's our **September History/Mystery Club Pick**.

Hiaasen, Carl. [Razor Girl](#) (Knopf \$27.95). The Indie Next Pick for our **September Surprise Me! Club Pick**: "Welcome back to Southern Florida! In the land of flimflam artists, illegal substances, and scantily clad women, disgraced detective Andrew Yancy is just trying to get his job back. Merry Mansfield, master of the car crash scam, insinuates herself into Yancy's life with brazen confidence. As it turns out, he needs her more than he could ever anticipate. Reality TV stars, redneck kidnappers, mobsters, and corrupt developers cross paths throughout this novel in hilarious, nonstop action. Hiaasen is at the top of his game with quirky characters, rapid-fire banter, and Wodehouse-like plotting." That the Razor Girl may be the key to Yancy's future will be as surprising as anything else he encounters along the way—including the giant Gambian rats that are livening up his restaurant inspections. Our supply is limited so do not delay ordering your copy!

Kahn, Michael A. [The Dead Hand](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). St. Louis attorney Rachel Gold lands not one but two cases that feature trouble arising from beyond the grave. Case No. 1 involves Marsha Knight, who, six years after her divorce from the late Jerry Knight, is being sued by Jerry's trophy wife, Danielle, over financial control of the lucrative Fontainebleau Estates, which Jerry had left Marsha in trust. Danielle seeks to annul the trust using the Rule Against Perpetuities. (Don't ask; the rule gives Rachel a major headache, and half the many lawyers she rubs up against here don't understand it at all.) Case No. 2 pits Rachel's client Cyndi Mulligan against her stepson, Bertram R. Grimsley, who was so infuriated when his late father, Bert Mulligan, repulsed his attempt to seize control of The Mulligan Group that he changed his name, waited for his old man to die, and is now suing to exclude Cyndi's daughter, Carson, from her late father's estate on the grounds that she isn't her father's daughter at all. Both cases spring gorgeous plot twists that keep recasting the hapless litigants in new and ever more unflattering roles. Both are ripe with the promise of legal and ethical complications that Kahn seizes with unholy glee. And both offer ample opportunity for the byplay between Rachel and other members of the St. Louis bar that will have readers with a law degree grinning in recognition and readers without one sighing in relief. ... An otherwise consistently high-spirited romp. A high-water mark in this inventive, ebullient series."—*Kirkus Reviews*. All new covers make this one a winner for binge reading; order [here](#).

King, Ross. [Claude Monet and the Painting of the Water Lilies](#) (Bloomsbury \$30). Among all his creations, the paintings of the water lilies in his garden at Giverny—in museums around the world—are the most famous. Monet himself intended them to provide “an asylum of peaceful meditation.” Yet, as Ross King reveals in his magisterial chronicle of both artist and his masterpieces, beneath the surface of these beautiful canvases lays remarkable drama, and they reflect torments Monet suffered in the last dozen years of his life. My elder daughter and I visited Giverny a few summers ago; it's much smaller than you expect compounded by the shoulder-to-shoulder tourists visiting the house and gardens. If you are patient you can wait for a moment with a perspective of the bridge and the lilies and visualize Monet at work.

Mayor, Archer. [Presumption of Guilt](#) (St Martins \$27). A cold case heats up Mayor's excellent 27th Joe Gunther novel, set in and around Brattleboro, Vt. When roofer Henry “Hank” Mitchell went missing in 1970, most assumed he'd abandoned his family and moved west to join the free love movement; 40 years later, though, his body is discovered inside a concrete slab at the decommissioned Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, leaving special agent Joe Gunther and his team at the Vermont Bureau of Investigation to solve the man's now decades-old homicide. The subsequent murder of Hank's old business partner and the kidnapping of VBI investigator Lester Spinney's son suggest Hank's killer is still at large and won't go down without a fight. Evocative prose, a strong sense of place, and a simple yet satisfying conclusion elevate this expertly crafted whodunit. Trip-wire tension complements intelligent detective work, fascinating forensics, and an airtight plot; the rich shared history of Mayor's deftly drawn ensemble cast adds texture and depth without leaving new readers in the dark.”—*PW* Starred Review

McDermid, Val. [Out of Bounds](#) (Little Brown UK \$41). When a teenage joyrider crashes a stolen car, a routine DNA test could be the key to unlocking the mystery of a twenty-year-old murder inquiry. Detective Chief Inspector Karen Pirie is an expert at solving the unsolvable. With each cold case closed, justice is served. So, finding the answer should be straightforward, but it's as twisted as the DNA helix itself. Meanwhile, Karen finds herself irresistibly drawn to another case, one that she has no business investigating. And as she pieces together decades-old evidence, Karen discovers the most dangerous kind of secrets. Secrets that someone is willing to kill for....

McEwan, Ian. [Nutshell](#) (Canongate \$38). McEwan's latest novel is short, smart, and narrated by an unborn baby. Trudy has betrayed her husband, John. She's still in the marital home – a dilapidated, priceless London townhouse – but not with John. Instead, she's with his brother, the profoundly banal Claude, and the two of them have a plan. But there is a witness to their plot: the inquisitive, nine-month-old resident of Trudy's womb. His mother listens to the radio, audio books, and podcasts, so just from listening he has acquired knowledge of current events, music, literature, and history. From experience, he's formed opinions about wine and human behavior. What he's learned of the world has him using his umbilical cord as worry beads, but his greatest concern comes from overhearing his mother and her lover plotting to kill his father.

Mizushima, Margaret. [Stalking Ground](#) (Crooked Lane \$25.99 Signed Oct 13). Realistic characters and believable plot twists distinguish Mizushima's brisk sequel to 2015's [Killing Trail](#) (\$14.99; maybe some firsts @\$24.99). The disappearance of massage therapist Adrienne Howard, who's also the girlfriend of Chief Deputy Ken Brody, mobilizes Deputy Mattie Cobb of the Timber Creek, Colo., sheriff's office, and her canine partner, German shepherd Robo. When Mattie and Robo's search in the surrounding mountains ends with the discovery of Adrienne's body, the pair stays overnight to guard the makeshift gravesite during the middle of an October snowstorm. The investigation of Adrienne's murder leads to her fractured family and previous relationships, as well as a determined killer. Meanwhile, Mattie faces some facts about her own background in foster homes, while her friendship continues to grow with local veterinarian Cole Walker, who contends with being a single father. Robo proves his mettle as a well-trained detective and a brave hero in this incisive look at small-town police work.

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

Mullen, Thomas. [Darktown](#) (Atria \$27). The Indie Next Pick: “*Darktown* is a knockout novelization of the history of Atlanta’s first black police officers, who were appointed in 1948. Deftly merging social history with crime fiction, the story follows two of the new recruits as they secretly investigate the murder of a young black woman. It is a mission fraught with danger as the black officers come up against bigoted white officers and the insidious racism of an Atlanta still under Jim Crow. Mullen spins an immersive tale out of this friction, and it is his willingness to engage with this time period and to let its ugly realities shape and inform the course of the investigation that elevates this novel from a standard procedural: “Mullen (*The Revisionists*) uses the lens of a twisted murder mystery to unsettle readers with his unflinching look at racism in post-WWII Atlanta. That city has just hired its first black police officers, but the eight men given the responsibility for guarding black neighborhoods are still relegated to second-class status.... This page-turner reads like the best of James Ellroy.”—*PW* Starred Review on our **September Hardboiled Crime Club Pick**.

Neville, Stuart. [So Say the Fallen](#) (Soho \$28). “In Edgar-finalist Neville’s excellent sequel to 2015’s [Those We Left Behind](#) (\$15.95), DCI Serena Flanagan of the Belfast police investigates the apparent suicide of Henry Garrick, who was bedridden while slowly and painfully recovering from a serious car accident. It seems that his wife, Roberta, and a family friend, Rev. Peter McKay, gave him his evening medication of a packet of morphine granules mixed into a tub of yogurt, but after they left, he added an additional 10 packets and died during the night. But Roberta and McKay share a dreadful secret that eats at the reverend until he can barely contain it. Flanagan, who’s trying to focus on work despite serious family problems, suspects something is not as it seems, but he has no evidence and is constrained to accept the death as a suicide. The case is officially closed, but Flanagan can’t help following the remaining loose ends until something approaching justice is done in this complex and compassionate study of the human condition.”—*PW* Starred Review

O’Connell, Carol. [Blind Sight](#) (Putnam \$28). A blind child and a Catholic nun disappear from a city sidewalk in plain sight of onlookers. There, then gone—vanished in seconds. Those who witnessed the event still cannot believe it happened. Rampant rumors suggest that Andrew Polk, a Wall Street wheeler-dealer turned New York City mayor, has plenty of skeletons in the closet, but what these might have to do with the four mutilated corpses dumped outside Gracie Mansion, his official residence, lies at the heart of bestseller O’Connell’s affecting, fast-moving, but labyrinthine 12th thriller featuring NYPD Detective Kathy Mallory. Although the inscrutable, cyborg-chilly Mallory headlines the show, most of the novel’s emotional pull stems from blind 12-year-old kidnap victim Jonah Quill, whose tiny hope of survival may hinge on his own considerable wits. As Mallory and police partner Riker wrestle with the sprawling case as well as stonewalling from both the mayor and the Catholic Church—one of the dead, Jonah’s aunt, was a young cloistered nun—the feisty, fiercely independent boy struggles to connect with his stone-cold captor long enough to figure out an exit strategy. [Mallory’s Oracle](#) (\$7.99) is still one of my favorite first novels/series starts ever. Order all the Mallorys [here](#).

Patchett, Ann. [Commonwealth](#) (Harper \$27.99). One Sunday afternoon in Southern California, Bert Cousins shows up at Franny

Keating’s christening party uninvited. Before evening falls, he has kissed Franny’s mother, Beverly—thus setting in motion the dissolution of their marriages and the joining of two families. Spanning five decades, *Commonwealth* explores how this chance encounter reverberates through the lives of the four parents and six children involved. When, in her twenties, Franny begins an affair with the legendary author Leon Posen and tells him about her family, the story of her siblings is no longer hers to control. Their childhood becomes the basis for his wildly successful book, ultimately forcing them to reevaluate. The Indie Next Pick: Patchett leaves behind the exotic locales and intricate plots of *State of Wonder* and *Bel Canto* for an even darker and more difficult place to navigate — the interior of a blended family over the course of several decades. While more domestic than many of her previous novels, *Commonwealth* offers plenty of intrigue and surprises as Patchett explores the interaction of a group of children forced into each other’s lives because of their parents’ impulsive choices. With keen insight, tears of both sorrow and joy, and some real — if dark — humor, Patchett pulls readers into this complex family’s world, and we are eager for every detail.”

Siger, Jeffrey. [Santorini Caesars](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Out in September; Signed here October 15. When the black-sheep daughter of a high-ranking Greek military officer is brutally murdered, the motive is murky and the array of suspects immense. Veteran police inspector Andreas Kaldis is called to the beautiful Cycladic island of Santorini, some 150 miles south of Athens, to investigate the shooting of an anti-government protestor near the university. Oddly, forensics determines that professional killers are responsible. The victim is Penelope Sigounas, the disruptive daughter of a brigadier general whose stoic reaction to this family tragedy makes Andreas wonder what he might be hiding. The case resonates with both Andreas, who has a young son and a pregnant wife, and his veteran detective Tassos, who’s troubled by the possible political dimensions of the crime. Correctly surmising that the brigadier, assuming he was the intended target, will try to find the killer, Andreas has him followed. The brigadier suspects a group of Greek military men, the Caesars, who think they can run the country better than its elected officials. Andreas assigns the somewhat reckless detective Petro to monitor the Caesars, posing as a waiter. For some reason, the brigadier is not supportive of Andreas’ probe and unfortunately, all roads seem to lead to the imperious prime minister. The eighth case for Siger’s police hero has a timely plot and a handful of engaging back stories about its detective team. Order the earlier Inspector Kaldis cases [here](#). Any of them can be signed October 15.

Stewart, Amy. [Lady Cop Makes Trouble](#) (Houghton \$26). Stewart serves up another rip-roaring historical adventure, clever, suspenseful and funny, based on actual events featuring Constance Kopp, pioneering female deputy sheriff of Bergen County, NJ. It’s 1915 and Kopp is still packing a pistol and an attitude after her first crime-fighting adventures in [Girl Waits with Gun](#) (\$14.95) were this formidable woman faces crime, politics, social stigma, all while nailing evildoers. Constance has proved to be a capable deputy in a male-dominated profession, but her new career is in jeopardy when a prisoner she is guarding—Baron von Matthesius, a sneaky, dangerous con man facing undisclosed but serious charges—escapes her custody.... Her sisters provide comic relief, Norma with her carrier-pigeon

hobby and Fleurette with her acting classes and dreams of Broadway. Fans of the first Kopp Sisters novel will find another treat in this follow-up.”—*PW* Starred Review. The Indie Next Pick: “This tale takes readers from rural New Jersey to the mean streets of New York City in 1915. With grit, smarts, and utter determination, Constance tracks a convict who escaped her custody. Despite the astounding restrictions on a woman’s life in the early 20th century, Constance takes every risk to capture her suspect. Complemented by the historical notes that Stewart provides, *Lady Cop* is both informative and loads of fun.”

Sullivan, Faith. [Good Night, Mr. Wodehouse](#) (Milkweed \$16). The Indie Next Pick: “Whether you are familiar with the work of P.G. Wodehouse or not, you will want to read his books by the time you have finished this wonderful novel. Returning to Harvester, Minnesota, the location of her best-selling novel, *The Cape Ann*, Sullivan has provided a tale that will resonate with anyone who has been faced with the loss of a loved one, a challenge of faith, the gossip of a community, or the search for one’s independence. What better place to find grace than in the heart of a good book!”

Towles, Amor. [A Gentleman in Moscow](#) (Viking \$27). This 30-year saga set almost entirely inside the Metropol, Moscow’s most luxurious hotel. The Indie Next Pick: “Through Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov’s ordinary encounters and activities within the bounds of the four walls of post-revolutionary Moscow’s Metropol Hotel, where he is under house arrest, Towles deftly guides readers across a century of Russian history, from the Bolshevik uprising to the dawn of the nuclear age under Khrushchev. Grandiloquent language and drama reminiscent of Tolstoy gradually give way to action and tradecraft suggestive of *le Carré* in this lovely and entertaining tale of one man’s determination to maintain his dignity and passion for life, even after being stripped of his title, belongings, and freedom. Reading *A Gentleman in Moscow* is pure pleasure!” We have a few signed tip-ins for September but Towles will sign firsts for us in November when it becomes that month’s Modern Firsts Club Pick....the more we learn about Russia, the better.

Wolf, Kevin. [The Homeplace](#) (St Martins \$24.99). The latest Tony Hillerman Prize winner takes us to a bleak small town in high plains Colorado where the old adage, “You can’t go home again,” really bites. It begins with four bison gunned down off the road and the discovery of a body too. Former high school basketball star Chase Ford, who flamed out following an injury after becoming an incredible celebrity with a Lakers championship, was the first of four generations to leave Comanche County in the dust. But here he is and here is his past: plain Birdie, now with the Department of Wildlife; Mercy, his high school flame, now back herself and running her mother’s diner and hating it; Coach Porter of the high school basketball squad; Marty and Paco, deputies to Sheriff Kendall, Chase’s old rival... all those and more, plus the ghosts of those departed. Wolf tells his story in multiple voices. The characters breathe but, as befits a Hillerman Prize winner, the landscape shapes everything as small town gossip, moodiness, and the baggage residents are known to carry, or to hide, surge. Out in September; Signed here October 13.

#### BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSICS

Bude, John. [The Cornish Coast Murder](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). The Reverend Dodd, vicar of the quiet Cornish village of

Boscawen, spends his evenings reading detective stories by the fireside – but heaven forbid that the shadow of any real crime should ever fall across his seaside parish. But the vicar’s peace is shattered one stormy night when Julius Tregarthan, a secretive and ill-tempered magistrate, is found at his house in Boscawen with a bullet through his head. The local police inspector is baffled by the complete absence of clues. Luckily for Inspector Bigswell, the Reverend Dodd is on hand, and ready to put his keen understanding of the criminal mind to the test.

Hay, Mavis Doris. [Death on the Cherwell](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). For Miss Cordell, principal of Persephone College, there are two great evils in the world: unladylike behavior among her students and bad publicity for the college. This means it’s a very, very bad day when a secret society of her students meets by the river on a gloomy January afternoon—and finds the drowned body of the college bursar. *Death on the Cherwell* follows the investigation, which initially focuses on the girls themselves and ultimately leads them to do some detecting of their own. Soon they uncover a tangle of secrets—and clues that point to a fellow student. This novel from the golden age of British crime fiction is sure to puzzle and charm fans of Dorothy L. Sayers, Agatha Christie, and Josephine Tey.

North, Gil. [The Methods of Sergeant Cluff](#) and [Sergeant Cluff Stands Firm](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95 each) are both set in Yorkshire and feature this policeman, Caleb Cluff, and his collie, Clive. Those who enjoy Peter Robinson’s Yorkshire will want to see the unforgiving landscape a few decades earlier.

#### FAMTASTIC READS

Anderson, Kevin. [Eternity’s Mind](#) (Tor \$28.99). Here’s the climatic book in the *Saga of Shadows Trilogy* by the Hugo Award nominee. Two decades after the devastating Elemental War, which nearly destroyed the cosmos, the new Confederation restored peace and profitable commerce among the peoples and worlds of the Spiral Arm. The ambitious, innovative Roamers went back to their traditional business. But peace was not to last. The malevolent Klikiss robots soon found an ally in the ancient and near-omnipotent Shana Rei, destructive creatures who are the personification of darkness and chaos ... awakened after millennia of slumber to destroy all sentient life in the universe. The Confederation and the Ildiran Empire fought in every way possible, but the Spiral Arm itself seemed doomed. All across the transportal network, space is tearing apart, the links between the gateways are breaking down, the fabric of space unraveling. And then.... Order the whole trilogy [here](#).

Beagle, Peter S. [Summerlong](#) (Tachyon \$15.95). Beagle’s [The Last Unicorn](#) (\$16) is one of my favorite books ever (I read it as a library school graduate in a bibliographic course on sci-fi and fantasy, so it works for adults!). His new fantasy begins during typically unpleasant Puget Sound winter before the arrival of Lioness Lazos. An enigmatic young waitress with strange abilities, when the lovely Lioness comes to Gardner Island even the weather takes notice. As an impossibly beautiful spring leads into a perfect summer, Lioness is drawn to a complicated family. She is taken in by two disenchanting lovers—dynamic Joanna Delvecchio and scholarly Abe Aronson—visited by Joanna’s previously unlucky-in-love daughter, Lily. With Lioness in their lives, they are suddenly compelled to explore their deepest dreams and desires. Lioness grows more captivating as the days grow longer.



Her new family thrives, even as they may be growing apart. But lingering in Lioness's past is a dark secret....

Belcher, RS. [Nightwise](#) (\$16.99). In the more shadowy corners of the world, frequented by angels and demons and everything in-between, Laytham Ballard is a legend. It's said he raised the dead at the age of ten, stole the Philosopher's Stone in Vegas back in 1999, and survived the bloodsucking kiss of the Mosquito Queen. Wise in the hidden ways of the night, he's also a cynical bastard who stopped thinking of himself as the good guy a long time ago. Now a promise to a dying friend has Ballard on the trail of an escaped Serbian war criminal with friends in both high and low places, and a sinister history of blood sacrifices. Ballard is hell-bent on making Dusan Slorzack pay for his numerous atrocities, but Slorzack seems to have literally dropped off the face of the Earth, beyond the reach of his enemies, the Illuminati, and maybe even the Devil himself....

Bledsoe, Alex. [Chapel of Ease: A Novel of the Tufa](#) (Tor \$27.99). This is a charming, gentle series showcasing the Appalachian Mountains and a fine talent: "With his subtle, character-driven approach, Bledsoe skillfully fuses music, legend, and regional atmosphere to create something that feels like an unexplored corner of American mythology." When Matt Johanssen, a young New York actor, auditions for "Chapel of Ease," an off-Broadway musical, he is instantly charmed by Ray Parrish, the show's writer and composer. They soon become friends; Matt learns that Ray's people call themselves the Tufa and that the musical is based on the history of his isolated home town. But there is one question in the show's script that Ray refuses to answer: what is buried in the ruins of the chapel of ease? As opening night approaches, strange things begin to happen. A dreadlocked girl follows Ray and spies on him. At the press preview, a strange Tufa woman warns him to stop the show. Then, as the rave reviews arrive, Ray dies in his sleep. Matt and the cast are distraught, but there's no question of shutting down: the run quickly sells out. They postpone opening night for a week and Matt volunteers to take Ray's ashes back to Needsville. He also hopes, while he's there, to find out more of the real story behind the play and discover the secret that Ray took to his grave. Matt's journey into the haunting Appalachian mountains of Cloud County sets him on a dangerous path, where some secrets deserve to stay buried. Order earlier Novels of the Tufa [here](#). Think early Sharyn McCrumb.

Christopher, Adam. [Made to Kill](#) (\$15.99). In an alternate version of 1960s Los Angeles, the world's only robot detective has been turned into a hit man by his corrupted master computer. Ray is good at the job, too—not only does nobody suspect the world's last robot is a hit man, his fame allows the Electromatic Detective Agency to continue as the perfect front, and with a twenty-four-hour memory limit, he sure can keep a secret. When a woman arrives at the agency wanting to hire Ray to investigate the brutal murder of a priest, his attempts to dissuade her are overruled when she produces a lucrative advance payment. Profit is profit, and Ray accepts the job. Ray's investigation leads him into a dark world of Hollywood intrigue, where the glamorous jet set societies are under the spell of a mysterious bandage-swathed man. The man and his champagne-sipping circle of followers conduct Satanic rituals behind Hollywood's razzle-dazzle facade—rituals that lead to...murder. Speculative noir...such fun.

⌘Cogman, Genevieve. [The Masked City](#) (NAL \$16). Working in an alternate version of Victorian London, Librarian-spy Irene has settled into a routine, collecting important fiction for the mysterious Library and blending in nicely with the local culture. But when her apprentice, Kai—a dragon of royal descent—is kidnapped by the Fae, her carefully crafted undercover operation begins to crumble. Kai's abduction could incite a conflict between the forces of chaos and order that would devastate all worlds and all dimensions. To keep humanity from getting caught in the crossfire, Irene will have to team up with a local Fae leader to travel deep into a version of Venice filled with dark magic, strange coincidences, and a perpetual celebration of Carnival—and save her friend before he becomes the first casualty of a catastrophic war. Yay, the sequel to [The Invisible Library](#) (\$15), a wonderful bibliofantasy.

Durst, Sarah Beth. [The Queen of Blood](#) (Harper Voyager \$19.99). Set in the magical world of Renthia where everything has a spirit: the willow tree with leaves that kiss the pond, the stream that feeds the river, the wind that exhales fresh snow.... But the spirits that reside within this land want to rid it of all humans. One woman stands between these malevolent spirits and the end of humankind: the queen. She alone has the magical power to prevent the spirits from destroying every man, woman, and child. But queens are still just human. With the position so precarious, young women are chosen to train as heirs. Daleina, a seemingly quiet academy student, is under no illusions as to her claim to the throne, but simply wants to right the wrongs that have befallen the land. Ven, a disgraced champion, has spent his exile secretly fighting against the growing number of spirit attacks. Joining forces, these daring partners embark on a treacherous quest to find the source of the spirits' restlessness... The publisher recommends this to fans of Patrick Rothfuss. Starts an epic fantasy series.

Grossman, Lev. [Warp](#) (\$15.99). Twenty-something Hollis Kessler languishes in a hopelessly magician-less world (with the exception of a fleet-footed nymph named Xanthe) not too far from where he graduated college. His friends do, too. They sleep late, read too much, drink too much, talk too much, and work and earn and do way too little. But Hollis does have an obsession: there's another world going on in his head, a world of excitement and danger and starships and romance, and it's telling him that it's time to stop dreaming and get serious. This re-publication of Lev Grossman's debut novel, *Warp*, shows the roots of his Magicians hero Quentin Coldwater.

Jenkins, Paul. [Curioddity](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Here's an imaginative debut. Will Morgan is a creature of habit—a low-budget insurance detective who walks to and from work with the flow of one-way traffic, and for whom imagination is a thing of the distant past. When a job opportunity enters the frame in the form of the mysterious Mr. Dinsdale, curator of the ever so slightly less-than-impressive Curioddity Museum, Will reluctantly accepts the task of finding a missing box of levity (the opposite of gravity). What he soon learns, however, is that there is another world out there—a world of magic we can only see by learning to un-look at things—and in this world there are people who want to close the Curioddity museum down. With the help of his eccentric new girlfriend Lucy, Will will do everything he can to deliver on his promise to help Mr. Dinsdale keep the Curioddity Museum in business.

Martinez, Michael. [MJ-12: Inception: A Majestic-12 Thriller](#) (Night Shade Books \$24.99). Normal people across the United States have inexplicably gained paranormal abilities. A factory worker can heal the sick and injured. A schoolteacher bends emotions to her will. A car salesman alters matter with a simple touch. A former soldier speaks to the dying and gains their memories as they pass on. They are the Variants, controlled by a secret government program called MAJESTIC-12 to open a new front in the Cold War. From the deserts of Nevada to the palaces of Istanbul, the halls of power in Washington to the dark, oppressive streets of Prague, the Variants are thrown into a deadly game of shifting alliance....

Priest, Cherie. [The Family Plot](#) (Tor \$25.99). Chuck Dutton built Music City Salvage with patience and expertise, stripping historic properties and reselling their bones. Inventory is running low, so he's thrilled when Augusta Withrow appears in his office offering salvage rights to her entire property. This could be a gold mine, so he assigns his daughter Dahlia to personally oversee the project. The crew finds a handful of surprises right away in a haunted house story for the ages—atmospheric, scary, and strange, with a modern gothic sensibility. Think ahead to Halloween.

Rowling, JK. [Harry Potter and the Cursed Child](#) (Little Brown UK \$44). This is a "Special Rehearsal Edition: The Official Script Book of the Original West End Production." Based on an original new story by J.K. Rowling, John Tiffany and Jack Thorne, a new play by Jack Thorne, here is the eighth story in the Harry Potter series and the first official Harry Potter story to be presented on stage, having premiered July 30<sup>th</sup>. It was always difficult being Harry Potter and it isn't much easier now that he is an overworked employee of the Ministry of Magic, a husband, and father of three school-age children. While Harry grapples with a past that refuses to stay where it belongs, his youngest son Albus must struggle with the weight of a family legacy he never wanted. As past and present fuse ominously, both father and son learn the uncomfortable truth: sometimes, darkness comes from unexpected places. Those of you who don't want their "English" translated will like the UK edition.

Shawl, Nisi. [Everfair](#) (Tor \$26.99). See Event Books for more on our **September SciFi Club Pick**.

Wendig, Chuck. [Aftermath Life Debt](#) (Ballantine \$28.99). Star Wars Aftermath Trilogy Volume 2.

### SEPTEMBER TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

Baldacci, David. [The Last Mile](#) (\$15.99). Convicted murderer Melvin Mars is counting down the last hours before his execution—for the violent killing of his parents twenty years earlier—when he's granted an unexpected reprieve. Another man has confessed to the crime. Amos Decker, newly hired on an FBI special task force, takes an interest in Mars's case after discovering the striking similarities to his own life: Both men were talented football players with promising careers cut short by tragedy. Both men's families were brutally murdered. And in both cases, another suspect came forward, years after the killing, to confess to the crime. A suspect who may or may not have been telling the truth. The confession has the potential to make Melvin Mars—guilty or not—a free man. Who wants Mars out of prison? And why now? But when a member of Decker's team disappears, it becomes clear that something much larger—and more sinister—than just one convicted criminal's life hangs in the balance.

Berry, Steve. [The 14th Colony](#) (\$15.99). Perfect for this election year. Berry asks, "what if both the president and the vice president elects were to die before taking the oath of office?" Is there a hole in the Constitution's succession plan? Shot down over Siberia, how can Cotton Malone answer the question? And what might be the role of the The Society of Cincinnati, America's oldest home-grown fraternal organization? And has the US considered Canada, not once but more, to be its 14<sup>th</sup> Colony? This is Berry's best in ages, wrapping an exciting thriller around an excellent analysis of the wind-down of the Cold War into the Russia of the 1990s and today, a look outward at our neighbor to the north in its strategic and commercial importance, and reviewing the US Constitution. Plus more.

Guinn, Jeff. [Buffalo Trail](#) (16). After barely escaping nemesis Killer Boots in the tiny Arizona Territory town of Glorious, Cash McLendon is in desperate need of a safe haven somewhere—anywhere—on the frontier. Fleeing to Dodge City, he falls in with an intrepid band of buffalo hunters determined to head south to forbidden Indian Territory in the Texas Panhandle. In the company of such colorful Western legends as Bat Masterson and Billy Dixon, Cash helps establish a hunting camp known as Adobe Walls. When a massive migration of buffalo arrives, Cash, newly hopeful that he may yet patch things up with Gabrielle Tirrito back in Arizona, thinks his luck has finally changed. But no good can come of entering the prohibited lands they've crossed into... Guinn's first in this series, [Glorious](#) (\$16), was a knockout.

Hallinan, Timothy. [Hot Countries](#) (\$15.95). Back when Poke Rafferty first arrived in Bangkok to write a travel guide, some of the old-timers in the Expat Bar on Patpong Road helped him make sense of the city. Now these men—many of whom have been living in Southeast Asia since the Vietnam War—have grown old and, in most cases, frail. When a talkative stranger named Arthur Varney turns up, they accept him without suspicion, failing to see that he's actually using them to get to Poke who out of loyalty, and to escape his family's addiction to TV, hangs out with them. Varney wants two things: money Poke doesn't have, and a person Poke is unwilling to hand over. A ruthless and determined Varney's action soon threaten the foundation of Poke's life in Thailand. And the much diminished men of the Expat Bar discover that they might still be a force to reckon with. How we love and admire Hallinan's chronicles of what befalls American ex-pat Poke in Thailand, the family Poke has created (his now pregnant ex-bar-girl wife and the street girl they adopted), and the way he wrestles with slippery choices and people. [Click here](#) to order Poke's amazing, Edgar-nominated, adventures.

Indridason, Arnaldur. [Reykjavik Nights](#) (\$16). Erlendur has recently joined the police force as a young officer and immediately sinks into the darkness of Reykjavik's underworld. Working nights, he discovers the city is full of car crashes, robberies, drinkers and fighters. And sometimes an unexplained death like that of a homeless man Erlendur knows who is found drowned. But few people care. Or when a young woman on her way home from a club vanishes. Both cases go cold. Erlendur is not an investigator, but his instincts tell him their fates are worth pursuing. How could they be linked? Inexorably, he is drawn into the blackness of the city's underbelly, where everyone is in the dark or on the run. "One of the most accomplished series of detective novels in modern crime fiction."—*Sunday Times*

Kirby, William. [Vienna](#) (\$15.99). There are two reasons to love this 2015 First Mystery Pick (besides the compelling pace and writing). Much of the narrative focuses on and is informed by Vienna, an autistic savant who's adrift in an overwhelming world. Readers of Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* will instantly relish this. Vienna has, in compensation, some remarkable skills. And two, while the plot is befuddling and ultimately embodies a kind of treasure hunt, at heart this is an offbeat love story as A-list model Justine, hottest fashionista on the European stage, engages with the odd English girl and begins to mentor her. Part of the plot includes photographs, no surprise with a super model in the picture. Part involves a set of wooden mannequins. And then there's the murder of Justine's current beau in the bathroom of her hotel room, and the twin scandals of the crime plus the relationship between the women. Justine and Vienna are pursued across Europe by paparazzi, tabloid headlines, and the mystery of Vienna's own shadowy past, which holds the key to everything in a debut inspired by a classic Sherlock Holmes story

✉Malliet, GM. [The Haunted Season](#) (\$15.99). The handsome vicar, newly married and a father, becomes caught up in a family drama at Totleigh Hall, his village's showplace. Usually the Lord and Lady of the manor are absent from Nether Monkship, but the family is in residence and the matter of a local fundraiser takes Max to call. In the past the Baaden-Boomethistles have sprinkled benefits across the village like fairy dust, but the current lord has a demanding (new) lady and peculiarly behaved children. An invitation to dine at the Hall for the Tudors is interrupted by the lord's suspicious death.... I enjoy this series, cute local names and all, but this one lacks the force of the earlier Tudors. Plus realistically, Max is facing up to what his bishop, even the villagers, think about the rash of murders during his tenure. A former MI5 agent, Max has much to consider.

✉Marwood, Alex. [The Darkest Secret](#) (Penguin \$16). When identical twin Coco goes missing during a family celebration, there is a media frenzy. Her parents are rich and influential, as are the friends they were with at their holiday home by the sea. But what really happened to Coco? Over two intense weekends—the first when Coco goes missing and the second twelve years later at the funeral of her father—the darkest of secrets will gradually be revealed. Marwood is a rising star in the UK. I like her books better than those of Ruth Ware.

Mayor, Archer. [The Company She Kept](#) (\$15.99). When the half-frozen body of Susan Raffner, a Vermont state senator, is found hanging from a cliff off the interstate with the word Dyke carved on her chest, the state's governor, Gail Zigman, puts Gunther in charge of the case. Gunther, who knew and respected Raffner, a polarizing activist and Zigman's close friend and adviser, can count on the usual colorful crew to help him out. The irascible Willy Kunkle and the reckless Sammie Martens, the only female on the VBI squad, shine as they pursue the possibly misleading few clues. A thorough vetting of Raffner's activities and associates yields some surprising results. Here's the 26<sup>th</sup> case for Vermont cop Joe Gunther. For the 27<sup>th</sup>, see Signed Books.

Saylor, Steven. [Wrath of the Furies](#) (\$15.99). "A highly suspenseful plot and a moving resolution distinguish Saylor's masterful third novel featuring Roman sleuth Gordianus the Finder in his younger years... It's 88 BC and Mithridates, King of Pontus

(you may know him from the opera of this name by Mozart), has achieved an impressive string of victories against the troops Rome has thrown against him in Asia. Mithridates sees himself as the heir to Alexander and Gordianus, living in Alexandria, Egypt, has discovered his tutor Antipater, a poet, has been spying for Mithridates. Still, loyalties run deep and Gordianus resolves to enter Ephesus, now under the Pontic king's rule, and aid Antipater. Gordianus' timing is terrible as Mithridates is engaged in concocting a terrible plan to massacre tens of thousands of Romans trapped under his rule... Grab [The Seven Wonders](#) and [Raiders of the Nile](#) (\$15.99 each) to catch up on Gordianus as a youth.

Young, Hester. [The Gates of Evangeline](#) (\$16). Library Reads praises this 2015 First Mystery Club Pick: "Journalist Charlie Cates goes to gloomy, swampy Louisiana to write a book about the disappearance of a young child. Her research uncovers family secrets, lies, and clandestine affairs. This first book in a new series is incredibly suspenseful, with a vivid setting, a supernatural tinge, and an intricate plot that keeps you guessing until the end." And from reviewer Jen Forbus: "Here is a wonderfully evocative, chilling mystery layered with themes of love, faith and devotion that is sure to haunt readers' dreams long after they've turned the last page."

#### **MORE FOR POTTERMORE...**

*Now that JK Rowling has brought more kids than ever into bookstores and reading, here are two new authors you can suggest to ages 14+ (meaning mature readers will enjoy them too)*

Chee, Traci. [The Reader](#) (Putnam \$19.99). Fifteen-year-old Sefia has been on the run for six years, ever since she discovered the brutal murder of her father and fled their home with "Aunt" Nin, a squat, tough-faced master criminal. After her mother's death years earlier, Sefia had known only her father and Nin. Hiding in the shadows from the faceless enemy who killed her father, Sefia has learned to hunt, steal and survive in the island kingdoms of Kelanna under Nin's tutelage. When Nin is kidnapped, Sefia is left searching for answers, starting with "the mysterious angular object" she discovered in her parents' house. It is a book, but she doesn't know it because the written word is unknown in Kelanna, lending historical importance and value to storytelling and memory. Sefia vaguely recalls some of the symbols on the pages of the heavy, leather-wrapped object from her childhood blocks and her mother's songs, and finally makes the connection that it's a book full of words that have sounds and meanings: "Were they messages? Magic? Some ancient wisdom entrusted only to her parents?" As she learns to read the book, Sefia's mission becomes clear: "Learn what the book was for. Rescue Nin. And if she could, make them pay." And the terrific cover design will hook you. Ages 14+.

Moss, John. [The Girl in a Coma](#) (Poisoned Pen \$10.95). Allison Briscoe is your average fifteen-year-old-until someone tries to kill her. Shot in the head, her doctors and family think she is in a coma, but in fact, though she cannot move, she can think, she can hear, and she can dream. Each night, Allison lives vicariously through her pioneer ancestors, experiencing their adventures through their eyes. First, she enters the world of Rebecca Haun, a fifteen-year-old rebel who lived in Pennsylvania during the Revolutionary War. To prove a friend innocent of murder, Rebecca betrays her Mennonite beliefs and joins the Women's Brigade.

“Allie’s thought processes are alternately flighty and witty...her attempts to communicate add suspense and poignancy.”—*Kirkus* on a much-praised YA novel.

Rowling, JK. [Harry Potter and the Cursed Child](#) (Little Brown UK \$44). This is a “Special Rehearsal Edition: The Official Script Book of the Original West End Production.”

## NEW FOR SEPTEMBER

Alzamora, Sebastian. [Blood Crime](#) (Soho \$26). “Set during the Spanish Civil War, Alzamora’s extraordinary U.S. debut charts the corrupt political and familial relationships among anarchists, the Catalan government, and hidden religious communities. Brothers of the Marist Order negotiate with the religion-hating anarchists for their escape to France, and Capuchin nuns buy their safety by harboring a deviant bishop obsessed with a musically talented novice. Meanwhile, government officials investigate the murders of a priest and a young boy found bitten and drained of blood. Striking paranormal elements include an eloquently reflective vampire, who takes advantage of Barcelona’s chaos, and an automaton horse constructed from the remains of massacre victims. Alzamora deftly balances a swiftly moving, multithreaded plot set firmly in a historical context with a transcendent, nearly timeless exploration of the dark, violent nature of humanity and the vain search for God’s mercy, and, in doing so, creatively fulfills the challenge of reinventing gothic horror for a modern age. —*PW* Starred Review

☞Beaton, MC. [Pushing Up Daisies](#) (St Martins \$25.99). When Agatha Raisin left behind her PR business in London, she fulfilled her dream of settling in the cozy British Cotswolds where she began a successful private detective agency. Unfortunately, the village she lives in is about to get a little less cozy. Lord Bellington, a wealthy land developer, wants to turn the community garden into a housing estate. When Agatha and her friend Sir Charles Fraith attempt to convince Lord Bellington to abandon his plans he scoffs: “Do you think I give a damn about those pesky villagers?” So when Agatha finds his obituary in the newspaper two weeks later, it’s no surprise that some in town are feeling celebratory. The villagers are relieved to learn that Bellington’s son and heir, Damian, has no interest in continuing his father’s development plans. But the police are definitely interested in him as suspect number one. His father’s death, it seems, was no accident. But when Damian hires Agatha to find the real killer, she finds no shortage of suspects.... A British friend tells me the TV Agatha Raisin series is really good fun, so check it out. Order earlier Agathas [here](#).

Blackwell, Julie. [Letters from Paris](#) (Berkley \$15). “Blackwell’s) excellent new novel follows Claire Broussard, who leaves her complacent life in Chicago to visit her dying grandmother in Louisiana, then travels to Paris to unravel a secret at her behest. Claire has long been fascinated by a broken plaster mask of a beautiful woman that she found as a child in her grandmother’s attic. Claire traces the mask to the Parisian studio where it was made and finds herself quickly enmeshed with Armand, the grumpy-but-intriguing owner, and his amiable cousin Giselle. The pair offers Claire, who is bilingual, a job dealing with American customers in exchange for room and board while she decides what to do next. The heroine and the handsome curmudgeon immediately bristle at one another, but they warm to each other gradually as Claire learns more about the mask and

the family behind the studio. Blackwell seamlessly incorporates details about art, cast making, and the City of Light. She also skillfully weaves in chapters from the point of view of Sabine—the poor country girl behind the mystery, who became the muse of an abusive sculptor after a life of poverty. Blackwell does a fantastic job of incorporating recurring themes in this story; for instance, having survived drowning as a child, Claire is wary of rivers, while Sabine is rumored to have met her end in the Seine. Blackwell especially stuns in the aftermath of the main story by unleashing a twist that is both a complete surprise and a point that expertly ties everything together.”—*PW* Starred Review

☞Bolton, Sharon. [Daisy in Chains](#) (St Martins \$25.99). He’s a serial killer. A murderer of young women. But despite Hamish Wolfe’s conviction, he’s always stuck to his story—he’s innocent and he’s been wrongly imprisoned. He wants someone to investigate and, more importantly, to write his story. Maggie Rose is a notorious defense attorney and writer whose specialty is getting convictions overturned. At first, Maggie is reluctant to even acknowledge Hamish’s requests to meet, ignoring his letters. But this is a very charismatic and persuasive man, good-looking and intelligent. How can she say No? And if you think you know where this is going...you don’t! I recommend all books by Bolton, her series and standalones. Check them out [here](#).

☞Bradley, Alan. [Thrice the Brindled Cat Hath Mew’d](#) (Random \$26). A new Flavia de Luce. See Signed books for a review.

☞Brody, Frances. [Death of an Avid Reader](#) (St Martins \$25.99). “In Brody’s charming sixth mystery set in 1920s England, private detective Kate Shackleton agrees to help Lady Coulton locate the daughter she gave up soon after birth while her husband—who’s not the child’s father—was serving in South Africa during the Boer War. Lord Coulton, who’s on his deathbed, would have divorced her at the time had he known of her indiscretion. Kate’s search for the now-grown daughter takes her to Yorkshire, where she ends up participating in a ceremony to expel alleged ghosts from an old library in Leeds. In the library’s dark cellar she happens on the strangled body of a well-known mathematician, as well as an organ grinder who’s barely alive. Former policeman Jim Sykes ably assists Kate in the ensuing investigation. Kate and Jim are sharply rendered, quirky and intelligent with complementary skills. Readers will enjoy watching them at work.” I have enjoyed every one of this low-key but unusually plotted series plus the evolution of Kate from maybe-war-widow at loose ends into a purposeful woman.

☞Brotton, Jerry. [The Sultan and the Queen](#) (Viking \$28). Long before the Barbary Pirates challenged Thomas Jefferson, English merchants traveled to Marrakesh to trade gunpowder for sugar. In this groundbreaking book the bestselling author of *A History of the World in 12 Maps* reveals that Islam and the West crossed paths much earlier than we realize – and originally the Muslims had the upper hand. When Elizabeth was excommunicated by the pope in 1570, she found herself in an awkward predicament. England had always depended on trade. Now its key markets were suddenly closed to her Protestant merchants, while the staunchly Catholic king of Spain vowed to take her throne. In a bold decision with far-reaching consequences, she set her sights on the East.... Brotton emphasizes the extent to which Elizabethan England was shot through with influences, stories, individuals and products drawn from the Islamic world. The orient is not

elsewhere but already here, both thrillingly and uncomfortably close to home. . . . Brotton's book crackles with an energy that illuminates and vivifies its larger claims." —*Financial Times*

Bruen, Ken. [The Emerald Lie](#) (Grove \$25). A new noir with irascible protagonist Jack Taylor, an ex-cop who is as addicted to trouble as he is to Jameson, pills, and pop culture, is always cause to rejoice. The latest terror to be visited upon the dark Galway streets arrives in a most unusual form: a Cambridge graduate who becomes murderous over split infinitives, dangling modifiers, and any other sign of bad grammar. Meanwhile, Jack is approached by a grieving father with a pocketful of cash on offer if Jack will help exact revenge on those responsible for his daughter's brutal rape and murder. Though hesitant to get involved, Jack agrees to get a read on the likely perpetrators. But Jack is soon derailed by the reappearance of Emily (previous alias: Emerald), the chameleon-like young woman who joined forces with Jack to take down her pedophile father in *Green Hell* and who remains passionate, clever, and utterly homicidal. Order some earlier Taylors [here](#).

Carlson, Craig. [Pancakes in Paris: Living the American Dream in France](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.99). The Indie Next Pick: "Pancakes and Paris make for a winning combination in this charming memoir. Readers will cheer for Carlson as he follows his dream of opening a restaurant in another country. He faces many challenges, but perseveres until he reaches his goal. Thanks to Carlson it is now possible to get hearty pancakes and other treats at Breakfast in America, the first American-style diner in Paris. This is a perfect read for armchair travelers or for Francophiles planning their next trip to the City of Lights."

Chase, James Hadley. [Lady-Here's Your Wreath/ Miss Callaghan Comes to Grief](#) (Stark House \$19.95). More early gangster fiction from the early 1940s, so violent that *Miss Callaghan* was banned in England.

Collins, Lauren. [When in French](#) (Penguin \$27). Witty, informative and studded with *bon mots* in both French and English, *When in French* is a thoughtful, ultimately joyous exploration of falling in love with, and through, words. The author writes, On the one hand, there are more bilingual, biracial, bi-national, bicultural couples and families than there have ever been. Everyone seems happy about that increase of choices and freedom. And yet there's also rising xenophobia and nationalism in the world. I don't know what it all adds up to, but it definitely makes for a very interesting tension. So many people are "mixed" in some way, and we are having to reckon with that. I think this mixture, this globalization of not only the world but our families, is a palpable phenomenon of our moment and our generation. It's something that's very different from our parents' generation, at least in my case. And I'm happy with the faraway trajectory my life has taken, but I'm not an evangelist at all for expatriation. There's a moment near the end of the book where I run into a childhood acquaintance on a beach near my family's home, and I watch her giving her kids essentially the same kind of childhood that she had. And part of me wondered what I was missing.

Crawford, Isis. [A Catered Tea Party](#) (Kensington \$25). Quiet Longely, New York, is abuzz with excitement over the opening of a revamped art complex—and catering sisters Bernie and Libby Simmons are helping put on an elaborate tea party for the opening night gala fundraiser. But when the billionaire behind the

project drops dead, the Simmons sisters find themselves steeped in murder...with recipes. Order more of these cozies [here](#).

Curry, Alexandra. [The Courtesan](#) (\$16). A novel based on the woman Jinhua's complicated and surprising life. Unprotected at age seven in 1881 when her mandarin father is summarily executed on the Emperor's orders, she's sold by his first wife to a brothel-keeper, taken as a concubine by an elegant, troubled scholar, and when he is sent to Europe on a diplomatic mission, is not only transformed but finds a "Great Love" in an Austrian nobleman, Count Alfred von Waldsee, and meets the Empress Elizabeth (later assassinated). Joy and tragedy mix and follow her back to China where the Count, British Sir Edmund Backhouse, the Empress Dowager Cixi, Jinhua's husband, and many more endure the Boxer Rebellion and many more changes. One can't help but feel that Arthur Golden's bestseller, [Memoirs of a Geisha](#) (\$15.99), is a model for a tale of friendship, love, sacrifice, temptation, and for some, redemption in a changing world. I think of Lisa See's work also.

Dugoni, Robert. [The 7<sup>th</sup> Canon](#) (Amazon \$15.95). Always one of my favorite authors. Here's his latest. In San Francisco's seamy Tenderloin district, a teenage street hustler has been murdered in a shelter for boys, and the dedicated priest who runs the struggling home stands accused. Despite damning evidence that he's a killer-and worse-Father Thomas Martin stands by his innocence, and attorney Peter Donley stands with him. For three years Donley has cut his legal teeth in his uncle's tiny, no-frills law firm, where people come before profits. Just as Donley is poised to move on to a lucrative dream job, the shocking case lands in his lap, and he must put his family's future on hold while putting his courtroom skills to the test. But a ruthless DA seeking headlines and a brutal homicide cop bent on vengeance have their own agendas. Now, as he unearths the dirty secrets surrounding the case, others dig up dark secrets hidden by Donley, and he must risk everything to save his client's life....

Eggers, Dave. [Heroes of the Frontier](#) (Knopf \$28.95). Josie and her children's father have split up, she's been sued by a former patient and lost her dental practice, and she's grieving the death of a young man senselessly killed. When her ex asks to take the children to meet his new fiancée's family, Josie makes a run for it, figuring Alaska is about as far as she can get without a passport. Josie and her kids, Paul and Ana, rent a rattling old RV named the Chateau for the trip.... "A picaresque adventure and spiritual coming-of-age tale — On the Road crossed with Henderson the Rain King... Deeply affecting." —Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*

Francis, Felix. [Front Runner](#) (\$16). Dave Swinton, a champion steeplechase jockey who's the public face of the sport, confesses to his friend Jeff Hinkley, British Horseracing Authority investigator, that he intentionally lost a race, a breach of the BHA's rules that could bar him from racing for a decade. Dave refuses to say more, though he later tells Jeff in confidence that he was blackmailed into doing so by a person who threatens to tell the tax authorities that the athlete neglected to report sizable gifts. This makes the situation even more awkward for Jeff, who urges Dave to admit he made an error and pay what he owes to the revenue service. When Dave's burned corpse turns up in his car in what appears to be a case of suicide, Jeff investigates. Francis again offers an imaginative variant on the racetrack-related thriller plots of his father, Dick.

Franklin, Tom, ed. [Mississippi Noir](#) (Akashic \$15.95). These chilling stories vary in length, from 20-some pages down to just a few, and though they cover a range of subjects and settings in time, they consistently embody the ideal of noir writing with a strong sense of place. Bullets, blood, abuse and longing appear frequently, with some sex scenes thrown in as well. Ace Atkins writes of desperate teens running out of options; Megan Abbott, in a scintillating contribution, views from both sides a romance gone tragically wrong; Chris Offutt's understated story stars a waitress drifting from town to town; and Dominiqua Dickey's first published story involves an interracial romance in 1936. Within all of the pieces, the authors pay special attention to local details: natural beauty, economic depression, college culture, the longing to escape a small town or the yearning for a wider world.

Also new: Scott Phillips, ed. [St. Louis Noir](#) (\$15.95); Michel Dufranne, [Brussels Noir](#) (\$15.95), of which *PW* says, "Brussels, Belgium's cosmopolitan, multilingual capital, has its criminal underside, as shown in the 13 dark—and sometimes darkly humorous—stories in this strong Akashic noir volume." You won't know the authors so this is an excellent opportunity to meet new writers.

Freed, David. [Hot Start](#) (Permanent \$29.95). A notorious, international big game hunter and his beautiful, former flight attendant wife are gunned down at long range late one sweltering summer night while swimming naked on their seaside estate in opulent Rancho Bonita, California. Police investigators are convinced that the killer is a strident, outspoken animal rights activist with both military experience and a criminal record. The evidence against him would appear overwhelming—until rumors begin to surface that others may have had their own reasons for committing murder. The last thing flight instructor, aspiring Buddhist, and ex-government assassin Cordell Logan wants to do is become involved in the investigation. He and the accused, however, have mutual friends. Reluctant at first, Logan finds himself caught up in an increasingly confounding enigma.... I'm a fan of the Cordell Logan series.

Green, Jane. [Falling](#) (Berkley \$26). When Emma Montague left the strict confines of upper-crust British life for New York, she felt sure it would make her happy. Away from her parents and expectations, she felt liberated, throwing herself into Manhattan life replete with a high-paying job, a gorgeous apartment, and a string of successful boyfriends. But the cutthroat world of finance and relentless pursuit of more began to take its toll. This wasn't the life she wanted either. On the move again, Emma settles in the picturesque waterfront town of Westport, Connecticut, a world apart from both England and Manhattan. And here begins her love story....

☞Gregory, Philippa. [Three Sisters, Three Queens](#) (SimonSchuster \$27.99). In case you think it was a sinecure to be a princess, or they lived happily ever after, read this account of Katherine of Aragon, Henry VIII's first wife, and of his two sisters, Mary and Margaret. The Tudors were all playing a real life Game of Thrones.

Grisham, John. [Rogue Lawyer](#) (\$17). Sebastian Rudd takes the cases no one else wants to take: the drug-addled punk accused of murdering two little girls; a crime lord on death row; a homeowner who shot at a SWAT team. Rudd believes that every person accused of a crime is entitled to a fair trial – even if he

has to cheat to get one. He antagonizes people from both sides of the law: his last office was firebombed, either by drug dealers or cops. He doesn't know or care which. But things are about to get even more complicated for Sebastian. Arch Swanger is the prime suspect in the abduction and presumed murder of 21-year-old Jiliana Kemp, the daughter of the assistant chief of police. When Swanger asks Sebastian to represent him, he lets Sebastian in on a terrible secret....

Groff, Lauren. [Fates and Furies](#) (\$16). Lotto Satterwhite is the center, the hub around which all the characters revolve in the first half of the book. In the second half of the book, the lens turns to Lotto's wife Mathilde, and her side of the lopsided partnership gives us a totally different view. Groff is a master of language. It's not a gentle read. But it's magnificent." This is a kind of *Gone Girl* without actual crimes; instead it's betrayals.

Guinn, Matthew. [The Scribe](#) (\$15.95). A shunned detective is pulled back to Atlanta to solve some brutal murders that seem to be the work of a serial killer. Political intrigue, a fascinating time in this country's history, and a good old-fashioned murder mystery make this one fascinating read. This book asks the question: when a man has had everything taken away, will he still fight for what is right? "The richness of the characters and period detail make the prospect of a sequel welcome."—*PW* Starred Review

Hagberg, David. [End Game](#) (Forge \$25.99). Langley is experiencing a series of gruesome murders. The CIA's own headquarters should be the safest spot on the planet, but a highly professional, violently psychopathic assassin, who hideously disfigures his victims, strikes without mercy. The murders spread from Langley to a prison outside of Athens, where the first clue to what will become the End Game surfaces. A code carved into four copper panels of the legendary statue in a courtyard at CIA headquarters, known as Kryptos, predicts the means and the terrible necessity for the serial killings. Before the first Iraq war, something horrifying was buried in the foothills above the oil city of Kirkuk. It will not remain buried forever. Only Kirk McGarvey, Pete Boylan, and the CIA's odd-duck genius, Otto Rencke, can find the truth still buried in Iraq.

Haines, Carolyn. [The Book of Beloved](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). As a young woman widowed by World War I, Raissa James is no stranger to ghosts. But when an invitation arrives from Caoin House, her uncle's estate in Mobile, Alabama, she's finally ready to cast off the shadows of her past. And what better way to do so than with a grand party in her honor? An aspiring authoress, Raissa's eager to soak up more of life—and immerse herself in the dark history that haunts the estate. But the revelries come to an abrupt end when one of her uncle's guests takes a deadly plunge. And when a ghost from the property's past, a Confederate soldier, reveals himself to Raissa, she's more determined than ever to get to the heart of the mysterious deaths that plague Caoin House. Author Haines of the sassy, sharp voice, adds, "I hope you know I love writing about Sarah Booth and the Mississippi Delta, and I have no intention of stopping that series. But I have this darker side. I love ghost stories. I grew up watching scary shows with my mother and brothers. It was like a family obsession. And I loved reading what I describe as "gentle" horror. Ghost stories, suspense, haunted houses. DuMaurier's *Rebecca* and Barbara Michaels' *Ammie, Come Home*, were two of my favorite books. I can still remember the heart-stopping thrill of

reading those books late at night, afraid to keep going but unable to stop. I loved the narrative voices the authors were able to create, the tone, the careful details.”

Herbert, AL. [Murder with Macaroni and Cheese](#) (Kensington \$15). When the organizing committee for her upcoming high school reunion desperately needs a caterer, African-American Halia agrees to help out. Soon she’s serving up her signature macaroni and cheese and famous chicken wings to a host of appreciative ex-classmates. Some folks have blossomed since graduation. Others, like manipulative Raynell Rollins, currently married to a former football star, haven’t changed nearly enough. When Raynell is found dead the morning after the reunion, the roll call of possible suspects could fill the school gymnasium... Mahalia Watkins #2

Hoag, Tami. [The Bitter Season](#) (\$16). As the dreary, bitter weather of late fall descends on Minneapolis, Detective Nikki Liska is restless, already bored with her new assignment to the cold case squad. She misses the rush of pulling an all-nighter and the sense of urgency of hunting a killer on the loose. Most of all she misses her old partner, Sam Kovac. Kovac is having an even harder time adjusting to Liska’s absence but is distracted from his troubles by an especially brutal double homicide: a prominent university professor and his wife, bludgeoned and hacked to death in their home with a ceremonial Japanese samurai sword. Liska’s case—the unsolved murder of a decorated sex crimes detective—is less of a distraction: twenty-five years later, there is little hope for finding the killer who got away.

⌘Hollow, Mike. [Fifth Column](#) (Lion \$14.99). The Blitz Detective digs into the rubble of WWII London where lurks danger—and not from the Nazis. An attractive young woman is found dead on a bomb site in the early hours of the morning. At first glance, she is just another casualty of the previous night’s air raid, but when the post-mortem shows signs of strangling, DI Jago is called on to investigate. The dead woman is smartly dressed but carries no identity card. However, a local engineering company reports a member of staff has failed to appear at work that morning and the body is quickly identified as that of Miss Mary Watkins. DI Jago’s initial interviews yield little fruit, no one can think of a reason why Mary would be murdered, but as the investigation continues, DI Jago finds....

Holm, Chris. [Red Right Hand](#) (Mulholland \$26). “Near the start of Holm’s explosive and timely sequel to 2015’s [The Killing Kind](#) (\$15.99), a tourist taking photos with his daughter’s cell phone manages to capture not only a terrorist attack on the Golden Gate Bridge but also the image of an older man thought long dead by both the FBI and the shadowy criminal organization known as the Council. Frank Segreti gave evidence against the Council seven years earlier and—allegedly—got blown up for his troubles. Now he’s back, and FBI special agent Charlie Thompson knows that the only person who can protect him and lead her to the Council is one of the Bureau’s most wanted. Enter hit man Michael Hendricks, who’s been gunning to take down the Council ever since it dispatched its own hit man to take him out and his best friend got caught in the crossfire. While Charlie begins investigating a Syrian group claiming responsibility for the Golden Gate attack, Michael travels to San Francisco to find Frank amid the law enforcement mayhem. Holm expertly balances weighty issues of national security with more intimate

personal losses, and makes it clear that the best stories happen in the gray area between good and evil.”—PW Starred Review

Holt, Anne. [No Echo](#) (Scribner \$26). Karen reviews: Brede Zielger, a celebrity chef with an adoring following, is found on the steps of the Oslo Police Headquarters, with a fatal knife wound. On the surface, there seems to be no reason why he would be the victim of such a crime. Billy T. is pulled into the investigation and, later, his team is joined by Hanne Wilhelmsen who has been away on a six-month leave. Why she has been away and is returning now, provides a tension between the two. Billy T., as he is known, is frustrated by the information he is getting about the true character of the victim. Brede’s very young wife is recovering nicely, looking out for her own best interests, his business partner has a hidden project that is slow in coming to light. Also, there is a book that is being prepared to highlight Brede, his successes and some coveted recipes. The publisher is very tight-lipped in sharing information, citing confidentiality issues. Hanne follows a different path, pulling bits of information together to connect the dots. One of her first discoveries was Hairy Mary, the worn out prostitute who just happened to be passing by the murder scene, anonymously notifying the police about the body and location. From there, she resurrects more information and puts the puzzle together. A satisfying read with sympathetic characters and interesting plotting. Holt has been one of Norway’s most popular authors beginning in 1993 with her first novel, [1222](#) (\$16).

Jeffries, Dinah. [The Tea Planter’s Wife](#) Crown \$26). In her U.S. debut, Jefferies, who was born in Malaysia and lives in England, delivers an engrossing tale of mystery, manners, and prejudice set against the backdrop of Ceylon (current-day Sri Lanka). Arriving from England by ship not long after the sinking of the Titanic, Gwen, the 19-year-old bride of Laurence Hooper, heir to a massive tea plantation, senses tension on every side when she comes to the serene but secluded plantation. Who is this widowed man she has married, and what is he hiding from his past? And why does everyone—Laurence’s sister, the plantation manager, and Laurence himself—want Gwen to keep her distance from the affairs of the native workers? As Laurence becomes involved with a mysterious businesswoman and Gwen spends her time with a local Sinhalese man, the past begins to spill into the present at the scenic plantation and we see that compromise can spell cruelty and aspirations to love can conquer much.

Ivey, Eowyn. [To the Bright Edge of the World](#) (Little Brown \$26). An 1885 wilderness expedition, a female pioneer of photography, and Native American myths come to life make Ivey’s second novel (after *The Snow Child*) an entrancing, occasionally chilling, depiction of turn-of-the-century Alaska. Through diaries, letters, reports, newspaper clippings, drawings, and photographs, Ivey evokes an Indian Wars veteran’s expedition up the Wolverine River into Alaska’s northern interior. Colonel Allen Forrester’s mission is to map the territory, make contact with inhabitants, and collect information for future (military or commercial) enterprises. Years later, a descendant of the Forresters donates their journals and artifacts to a museum in the small town now on the expedition route, site of rafting tours and a million-dollar fishing lodge. In this splendid adventure novel, Ivey captures Alaska’s beauty and brutality, not just preserving history, but keeping it alive. The story of the expedition is framed by modern-day correspondence between Montanan Walter Forrester and the

curator of the historical museum in Alpine, Alaska. Enjoy vivid depictions of the natural elements' harsh brutality and a mystical, folkloric component.

Kahn, Michael A. [The Dead Hand](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). See Signed books for a review of the new legal thriller with St. Louis attorney Rachel Gold. Three plot strands braid together for surprising results.

✦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. Kelly's book is our **September British Crime Club Pick**.

Lashner, William. [The Four-Night Run](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). A thrilling story of reckoning, racketeering, and revenge. J.D. Scrbacek is young, talented, and the best criminal lawyer money can buy. But after winning the biggest trial of his career, his victory ends in violence. At first, Scrbacek assumes the bomb that killed his assistant was meant for his monster-mobster client. But with a second attempt on his life, he comes to realize he's a marked man. On his own and on the run, Scrbacek seeks safety in Crapstown, the forgotten, run-down slum of the city. But when he gets there, he's forced to face his past... if he ever wants to see his future. Scrbacek must argue for his life to a jury that would rather see him dead. Is he lawyer enough to save himself? "Opens with a blistering trial scene... After the razzle-dazzle opening, Lashner slips into a thoughtful reflection on the failings of the legal system... there is also lively action, great steamy sex, and witty dialogue. The phrasemaking is dazzling." —*Booklist*. And you can read a piece by Lashner about [Books That Scared the Bejeeps Out of Me!](#)

✦Leo, Forrest. [The Gentleman](#) (Penguin Press \$26). The Indie Next Pick: "Fast-paced, funny, and extremely enjoyable, *The Gentleman* has fantastic elements and intriguing characters tied together with smart dialogue and timing reminiscent of a Baz Luhrman film. Badly behaved Victorian ladies, indolent poets, an exasperated editor, intrepid British adventurers, steampunk inventors, omniscient butlers, a genteel Devil, and a number of cunning plans combine to make this debut novel exciting and amusing."

Leonard, Elmore. [Elmore Leonard: Four Later Novels](#) (Library of America \$40). In *Get Shorty*, a Miami loan shark with an idea for a movie finds a way to break into Hollywood as a producer, the perfect setup for Elmore Leonard's brilliantly satiric take on an industry he knew well. *Rum Punch* (filmed by Quentin Tarantino as Jackie Brown in 1997) shows an aging bail bondsman and an airline stewardess matching wits against lawmen and criminals alike. In *Out of Sight*, deputy U.S. marshal Karen Sisco and escaped bank robber Jack Foley find themselves thrust together

in a high-risk fusion of violent adventure and unlikely romance; included as a special feature is "Karen Makes Out," the story that introduced Sisco. The collection concludes with *Tishomingo Blues*, a kaleidoscopic story involving exhibition high divers, Civil War reenactors, and an unforgettable cast of gangsters and hustlers.

Mamatas, Nick. [I Am Providence](#) (Night Shade Books \$15.99). Visiting historic Providence, R.I., for the first time to attend a conference on H.P. Lovecraft, horror writer Colleen Danzig has more than a little bit of trouble making friends with her peers. The devoted Lovecraftians are an insular bunch with friendships and grudges that span decades. This tempest in a teapot makes investigating the grisly murder of Colleen's roommate for the weekend, the novelist Panossian, all the more difficult, especially since everyone seemed to have beef with him, and no one seems to care that his face was removed or that the motive seems to be tied to a book of stories bound in human skin. The police suspect Colleen, and so it's up to her to find the real killer. If only the magically cognizant murder victim could remember just who did it. Or do anything, really, except lie on the slab in the morgue narrating. "Rich with irreverence about the notoriously anti-Semitic Lovecraft and the pulpy horror genre he spawned, *I Am Providence* is as much a send-up of solipsistic literary zeal as it is an offbeat murder mystery."—Dave Wheeler

Maxwell, Alyssa. [Murder at Rough Point](#) (Kensington \$25). Set in the fall of 1896, Maxwell's pleasantly twisty fifth Gilded Newport mystery finds Emmaline Cross, journalist for the Newport, R.I., Observer and distant relative of American gilded age royalty, with an assignment more worthy of her talents than the usual "fashion and frippery." A group of artists and intellectuals are holding a two-week retreat at Rough Point, the Gothic Revival estate owned by Frederick Vanderbilt, a remote cousin of hers. Emma is to interview and write about the contentious and egotistical band of bohemians, including an opera diva, a dancer, a cellist, a sculptor, a stage director, author Edith Wharton, and Emma's own artist parents. When someone begins picking off the guests one by one and the survivors are trapped on the estate by a vicious storm, it's up to Emma to track down a killer. Even though some of the victims are dispatched by methods that stretch credulity, this tale will appeal to lovers of atmospheric country house mysteries.

✦Macmillan, Gilly. [The Perfect Girl](#) (Harper \$15.95). The *PW* Starred Review: "Piano prodigy Zoe Maisey, the 17-year-old heroine of this cunningly plotted psychological thriller from Thriller Award-finalist Macmillan, and Zoe's devoted mother, Maria, have against all odds started a promising second act in Bristol, England, after a night in Devon three years earlier that shattered Zoe's life—and snuffed out those of a trio of other teens. Maria has married wealthy entrepreneur Chris Kennedy, and Zoe now has a baby half sister, Grace. All is well until a piano recital brings the past roaring back with devastating consequences. Unfortunately, Zoe and Maria aren't the only ones with secrets, and what they don't know about Chris and his brooding teenage son, Lucas, just might prove their undoing. As the suspenseful, serpentine tale unreels from the alternating perspectives of several key players, readers will be rooting for the resilient, resourceful Zoe all the way to the perfectly executed final twists."



Mezrich, Ben. [37th Parallel: The Secret Truth](#) (Atria \$26). This real-life *The X-Files* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* tells the true story of a computer programmer who tracks paranormal events along a 3,000-mile stretch through the heart of America and is drawn deeper and deeper into a vast conspiracy. It began when Chuck Zukowski took up UFO investigations as a hobby. Don't expect resolution, but enjoy the journey.

☞ Moore, Alan. [Jerusalem](#) (Norton \$35). All the review media Starred this new work by the UK's Moore. Here is the *LJ*: "This latest work by Moore (*Watchmen*; *V for Vendetta*; *From Hell*) is difficult to define by flimsy constraints such as genre. In fact, during a first read-through, it's hard to say what this literary behemoth is even about. Ten years in the making, it is, on one hand, a fictional history of Northampton, England, stretching out over millennia. On another hand, it is a story of siblings Michael and Alma Warren, their extended family, and how they and their ancestors shape the fortunes of the denizens of The Boroughs, the ghetto in which they live. But also, and more importantly, it is a story about everything: life, death, the afterlife, free will, famous Northamptonians (John Clare, Oliver Cromwell, Philip Doddridge) rubbing elbows with prostitutes and drug addicts over time and space. It is about how, no matter what happens in life, we all go to the same place when we die; how everything, literally everything, is determined by four angels playing a game of snooker. It is confusing, hilarious, sad, mind-blowing, poignant, frustrating, and one of the most beautiful books ever written. More of a work of art than a novel, this book simply needs to be read."

☞ Mosby, Steve. [The Reckoning on Cane Hill](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). "In the stark prologue of Mosby's stunning, intricately plotted police procedural, Det. David Groves identifies the body of his nearly three-year-old son, Jamie, lying in a pit in the woods in an unspecified part of England. A second major plot line strikes a somewhat lighter note: Det. Mark Nelson, as punishment for "drunken transgressions" at his engagement party attended by his fellow cops, must interview a young woman claiming to be Charlotte "Charlie" Matheson, who died two years earlier in a car crash. When Mark sees Charlie's mutilated face, he knows immediately that this is no laughing matter. The two stories proceed separately, seemingly unrelated. David is taunted by his son's killer, while Mark quickly comes to the conclusion that the "dead" woman is who she says she is. Looming over Mark's case is the specter of a serial killer who has long since died. When Mosby finally begins to connect the dots, readers will be blown away."—*PW* Starred Review

Nagy, John A. [George Washington's Secret Spy](#) (St Martins \$27.99). For those who think US intelligence work began with WWII's OSS, here's a surprise, the untold stories of our first spy-master, George Washington. He took a disorderly, ill-equipped rabble and defeated the best trained and best equipped army of its day. Nagy has become the nation's leading expert on the subject, discovering hundreds of spies who went behind enemy lines to gather intelligence during the American Revolution, many of whom are completely unknown to most historians. Using George Washington's diary as the primary source, Nagy tells the story of Washington's experiences during the French and Indian War and his first steps in the field of espionage. Despite what many believe, Washington did not come to the American Revolution completely unskilled in this area of warfare. Espionage was a

skill he honed during the French and Indian war and upon which he heavily depended during the Revolutionary War. He used espionage to level the playing field and then exploited it on to final victory. If you read say PF Chisholm you can drop back to Elizabethan England and her spymaster, Sir Francis Walsingham.

Overholt, Cuyle. [A Deadly Affection](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.99). Dr. Genevieve Summerford prides herself on her ability as a psychiatrist to understand the inner workings of the human mind. But when one of her patients is arrested for murder—a murder Genevieve fears she may have unwittingly provoked—she begins to doubt her training and intuition. Unable to believe that her patient could have committed the gruesome crime, Genevieve seeks out answers, desperate to clear the woman's name—and her own. And she uncovers a dark secret, one that could, should Genevieve choose to reveal it, bring down catastrophe on those she cares most about. But, should she let it lie, it will almost certainly send her patient to the electric chair. "This superb debut reflects the author's impeccable research with its portrait of turn-of-the-century New York City. Discussion questions at the end focusing on women's rights make this a solid book club choice."—*LJ* Starred Review. "A well-paced, 20th-century whodunit full of dark secrets and fascinating intrigues."—*Kirkus* Starred Review. And our **September History Paperback Pick**.

Parker, Ann. [What Gold Buys: A Silver Rush Mystery](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.99). See Signed books for a review of this novel set in 1870s Leadville, 5<sup>th</sup> in an award-winning series.

Patterson, James. [NYPD Red 4](#) (\$15.99). Det. Zach Jordan and partner Kylie MacDonald, the woman he loved and lost at the police academy, are members of the elite task force NYPD Red, which handles cases involving the rich, famous, and connected. Their new case involves robbery and murder at a fancy movie premiere—and they're not on the screen. Also, [Private Paris](#) (\$15.99): There's no time for sightseeing when Jack Morgan stops by the Paris office of Private, the world-class investigation firm for which he works. Even as he's asked to find the granddaughter of client Sherman Wilkerson, several leading cultural figures are found dead, with just a graffiti tag connecting the two cases.

☞ Saunders, Kate. [The Secrets of Wishtide](#) (Bloomsbury \$26). I gave this series start a rave review in August for our History/Mystery Club Pick in the Signed UK edition, sold out. Don't miss out. Here's the *LJ* Starred Review: "Meet Laetitia Rodd, the widow of an archdeacon, who is living in reduced circumstances in 1850 Hampstead, England. She supports herself by doing discreet private investigation work for her brother, a successful London criminal barrister. Her sibling introduces Laetitia to Sir James Calderstone, a wealthy industrialist who asks her to investigate an "unsuitable" woman whom his son wants to marry. The goal is to prevent the match. Posing as the new governess for the two Calderstone daughters, she travels to Wishtide, Sir James's Lincolnshire estate. Laetitia's probe grows increasingly complicated as corpses amass and eventually Sir James's son is accused of murder. Rodd is then engaged to find proof of his innocence. Readers will find themselves immersed in 19th-century English society, from grand houses to dockside taverns, in a story that draws heavily from the work of Charles Dickens. Saunders's protagonist sheds a sympathetic light on the plight of women in the rigid moral climate of Victorian England. Readers who relish

the puzzle of a well-done Victorian-set mystery with a resourceful female detective will take pleasure in this series launch by a prolific British author and journalist.”

Siger, Jeffrey. [Santorini Caesars](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). Another thrilling case for Athens’ Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis. See Signed books for a review; Siger signs this title here October 15.

Simenon, George. [Maigret’s Dead Man](#); [Maigret’s Holiday](#) (Penguin \$12 each). Reissues. Plus [When I Was Old](#) (Penguin \$17).

Stabiner, Karen. [Generation Chef](#) (Avery \$26). What is life really like for the new generation of professional cooks? A journalist writes the story of Jonah Miller’s roller-coaster first year. For many young people, being a chef is as compelling a dream as being a rock star or professional athlete. Skill and creativity in the kitchen are more profitable than ever before, as cooks scramble to reach the top—but talent isn’t enough. Today’s chef needs the business savvy of a high-risk entrepreneur, determination, and big dose of luck. What *Moneyball* did for baseball, *Generation Chef* does for the restaurant business. Stabiner transports you from your regular seat in the dining room to the heart of the kitchen as she details chef Jonah Miller’s quest to open the Basque restaurant Huertas in the heart of NYC’s East Village, at the ripe age of 24. Miller’s challenges and successes at Huertas are just the starting point of this fast-paced story, providing insight into the world a young chef faces today—the intense financial pressures, the overcrowded field of aspiring cooks, and the impact of reviews and social media, which can dictate who survives. I view this as a kind of thriller with high stakes.

Starr, Jason. [Savage Lane](#) (\$15.99). Karen Daily, recently divorced, lives with her two kids in a quaint suburb of New York City. She’s teaching at a nearby elementary school, starting to date again, and for the first time in years has found joy in her life. Mark Berman, Karen’s friend and neighbor, wants out of his unhappy marriage, and so does his wife, Deb, but they have stayed together for the sake of their children. Unbeknownst to Karen, while Mark’s marriage has deteriorated his obsession with her has grown. And as Mark’s rich fantasy life takes on a more sinister edge, rumors begin to spread about Karen and a bigger secret is uncovered. And soon Karen finds that Mark is not the only one who has taken an undesired interest in her...

Taylor, Patrick. [An Irish Doctor in Love and at Sea](#) (\$14.99).

“Before Dr. Fingal Flahertie O’Reilly became the village doctor of Ballybucklebo, Ireland, he was a young surgeon-lieutenant in the British Navy aboard the *HMS Warspite*, honing his medical skills at the peak of World War II. In this latest addition to Taylor’s hugely popular “Irish Country” series, Dr. O’Reilly and his wife Kitty are enjoying the comfortable life of their quaint Irish village when an event commemorating the war causes O’Reilly to revisit old friends and his days as a young surgeon in wartime. Seamlessly shifting between the two eventful eras of his life, he recalls the excitement of learning his skills, pursuing his first love, Deirdre, and forging ahead during a time of terrifying uncertainty, while facing the present challenges of learning new skills....”—*LJ* Starred Review

✦Thomas, Will. [Anatomy of Evil](#) (\$16.99). Cyrus Barker, private enquiry agent, with the help of his assistant Thomas Llewellyn, has developed an enviable reputation for discreetly solving some of the toughest, most consequential cases in recent history. But one evening in 1888, Robert Anderson, the head of Scotland

Yard’s Criminal Investigation Department (CID), appears at Barker’s office with an offer. A series of murders in the Whitechapel area of London are turning the city upside down, with tremendous pressure being brought to bear on Scotland Yard and the government itself. Barker is to be named temporary envoy to the Royal Family with regard to the case while surreptitiously bringing his investigative skill to the case. With various elements of society, high and low, bringing their own agenda to increasingly shocking murders, Barker and Llewellyn must find and hunt down the century’s most notorious killer. The Whitechapel Killer has managed to elude the finest minds of Scotland Yard—and beyond.... It’s great that Thomas has brought back this series. You can order the volumes in print [here](#).

✦Thomson, ES. [Beloved Poison](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). This publisher has upped its game publishing British crime. Here’s a Starred Review for this one: “Rich atmospheric and a Dickensian portrayal of the underbelly of Victorian London elevate Scottish author Thomson’s superb whodunit above most other historical debuts. Jem Flockhart, an apothecary at St. Saviour’s Infirmary, has successfully passed herself off as a man in order to work alongside her father, continuing a family tradition in medicine that dates back a century. Meanwhile, the hospital governors have agreed that to sell the property to make way for a railway bridge, which necessitates emptying its graveyard, an unpleasant task delegated to junior architect William Quatermain. And, in the midst of that upheaval, one of the infirmary’s doctors is fatally poisoned, a crime that Jem believes is linked to her discovery of six tiny coffins, each containing a blood-stained doll. Some of the coffins are lined with papers with cryptic writing, including a reference to the date Jem’s mother died giving birth to her. Thomson excels in evoking the claustrophobic feel of the back alleys Jem must tread in search of the truth. The plot builds to a logical but surprising reveal.”

Turner, Lisa. [Devil Sent the Rain](#) (Harper \$14.99). A Southern Gothic with a murdered bride and old money and betrayals all round. Fresh from solving Memphis’ most sensational murder case, Homicide Detective Billy Able and his ambitious new partner Frankie Malone are called to a bizarre crime scene on the outskirts of town. A high society attorney has been murdered while dressed in a wedding gown. Billy is shocked to discover he has a very personal connection to the victim. When the attorney’s death exposes illegal practices at her family’s prestigious law firm, the scandal is enough to rock the southern city’s social world. In a tale of the remnants of Old South aristocracy and entitlement, twisted by greed and vengeance, Billy must confront the secrets of his own past to have any chance at solving the murder of the girl he once knew. But as he seeks the truth, he’s drawn closer to an embittered killer bent on revenge.... Well wrought and twisted.

✦Ward, Sarah. [A Deadly Thaw](#) (St Martins \$25.99). “At the start of Ward’s gripping sequel to [In Bitter Chill](#) (\$25.99), a 2015 British Crime Club Pick, a police procedural starring the officers of the Derbyshire Constabulary, a body lies in an abandoned morgue built during WWI. The deceased, Andrew Fisher, was shot dead more than a decade earlier. At the time, Fisher’s wife, Lena Gray, identified the body, confessed to the murder, and was sent to prison. Det. Constable Connie Childs and Det. Sgt. Damian Palmer are keen to question Lena, who’s out on parole, about the possibility she misidentified her husband.

Kat Gray, Lena's sister, wants answers, but the clues that an anonymous teen is feeding her aren't adding up. More deaths follow, and while the detectives struggle to put together the pieces, their superiors seem to be holding something back. Supt. Dai Llewellyn suggests the case involves sex, and Connie and Damian begin to suspect that rape is at the heart of events. The confusion and obfuscation that delay the solution are frustrating but also true to the realities of this sort of crime.

✎Weaver, Ashley. [Death Wears a Mask](#) (\$15.99). I liked Weaver's debut novel, [Murder at the Brightwell](#) (\$15.99), so well it was a 2014 British Crime Club Pick. Christie-esque in style, set in the 1930s, it portrayed members of the upper class at play at a seaside resort hotel where murder struck. Wife Amory and playboy husband Milo cracked it and now comes a request by one Serena Barrington to investigate the theft of her jewels at a dinner party....

✎Weaver, Tim. [Dead Tracks](#) (Penguin \$16). Seventeen-year-old Megan Carver was an unlikely runaway. A straight-A student from a happy home, she studied hard and rarely got into trouble. Yet six months on, she still hasn't been found. Missing persons investigator David Raker knows what it's like to grieve. He knows the shadowy world of the lost, too. So when he's hired by Megan's parents to find out what happened, he recognizes their pain—but knows that the darkest secrets can be buried deep. And Megan's secrets could cost him his life. Raker's investigation takes him through a confounding string of surprises and deceptions. People close to Megan turn up dead. Others remain too terrified to talk. And soon the conspiracy of silence leads Raker towards a forest on the edge of the city. A place with a horrifying past as the hunting ground for a twisted serial killer. A place known as the Dead Tracks.... 2<sup>nd</sup> in a dark, visceral series.

Wenzel, Brendan. [They All Saw the Cat](#) (Chronicle \$16.99). As a striped cat with a red collar and golden bell walks through the world, all sorts of other creatures—a child, a flea, a dog, a bird—see that cat through the lens of their own perception and, page by page, the cat transforms accordingly. It's an ingenious idea, gorgeously realized in an inventive picture book. Ages 3-6.

Whitehead, Colson. [The Underground Railroad](#) (Doubleday \$26.95). The Indie Next Pick: "Whitehead's new novel is much more than the story of a runaway slave, Cora, who fights her way to the North; it is also a phantasmagorical look at race in America. In this instance the railroad is literal — a train roaring through tunnels constructed like a subway, leading Cora to several unlikely destinations. Like the travels of Gulliver, each of Cora's stops on the railroad is a different version of America, displaying the varied ways in which Americans view race and manifest destiny. With exquisite prose, Colson digs deep into the troubled heart of America, exposing prejudice, tolerance, hatred, violence, and love as readers stop at each distinct station. Cora is a hero for the ages, and Whitehead is a writer who can guide us, like a station master, into the light. This is a fantastic novel." Cora embarks on a harrowing flight, state by state, seeking true freedom. Like the protagonist of *Gulliver's Travels*, she encounters different worlds at each stage of her journey. This is a pick for Oprah's Book Club.

Wohlleben, Peter. [The Hidden Life of Trees](#) (Greystone \$24.95). What They Feel, How They Communicate: Discoveries from a Secret World. The Canadian publisher says this September Indie

Next Pick "fits squarely into Greystone's publishing program, which is built on nonfiction titles about humans' relationship to the planet and the natural world." Primatologist Frans De Waal noted that the work gives "the impression there is sentience all around us." Well worth reading—and look for it to be a nonfiction bestseller—it's been No. 1 in Germany for over a year—like [H Is for Hawk](#) (\$16), one of my Best of 2015 Picks.

#### OUR SEPTEMBER MASS MARKET PAPERBACK PICKS

Burke, James Lee. [House of the Rising Sun](#) (\$9.99) Hackberry Holland Prequel. Escaping with a stolen artifact after a violent encounter with Mexican soldiers, a Texas Ranger is pursued by a bloodthirsty Austrian arms dealer, who, believing the artifact to be the Holy Grail, targets the man's estranged son. *PW* concluded their review with "crisp dialogue highlights this tale of redemption and the bonds of family, and the breathtaking conclusion is one that readers won't soon forget."

Cahoon, Lynn. [A Story to Kill](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Cat Latimer #1. When a best-selling author pens his last word during her writers' retreat, former English professor Cat Latimer teams up with her uncle, the local police chief, to close the book on a clever killer who seems determined to shut down her new bed-and-breakfast. Calhoon is also the author of the Tourist Trap series.

Cochran, Peg. [No Farm, No Foul](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Farmer's Daughter #1. When the minister's wife is murdered on her property during a fundraiser for a local church, Shelby McDonald, the owner of the Love Blossom Farm in the small Western Michigan town of Lovett, must dig in her heels and find the killer herself. Cochran also writes the Cranberry Cove cozy mysteries and her new series will definitely appeal to fans of Edith Maxwell's Local Foods series or anyone who enjoys Paige Shelton's Farmer's Market mysteries.

De Villiers, Gerard. [The Madmen of Benghazi](#) (\$9.99) Malko Linge has been hired by the CIA to trail Ibrahim al-Senussi, the man the Americans are backing in post-Qaddafi Libya, as Malko and al-Senussi are faced with deadly threats from Abu Bukatalla, a fundamentalist seeking to control Libya. *PW* ended their review saying "the book is short, blazingly fast, and full of explicit sex. Readers may wonder why American publishers waited so long to bring the series to this country."

Flynn, Vince. [Survivor](#) (\$9.99) Mitch Rapp #14. When an elite former CIA agent steals a massive amount of classified information and offers it to the Pakistani secret forces, operative Mitch Rapp must prevent the information from falling into the wrong hands. Thriller writer Kyle Mills did a superb job finishing *The Survivor*, which he completed based on an unfinished manuscript left by the author.

Follett, Ken. [The Edge of Eternity](#) (\$9.99) Five international families—American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh—come to one of the most tumultuous eras of all: the 1960s through the 1980s, from civil rights, assassinations, mass political movements, and Vietnam to the Berlin Wall, the Cuban Missile Crisis, presidential impeachment, revolution—and rock and roll in this conclusion to Follett's Century trilogy. *Kirkus* concluded their review with "Follett writes of those young hipsters with a fustiness befitting Michener, and indeed there's a Michenerian-epic feeling to the whole enterprise, as if *The Drifters* had gotten mashed up with John le Carré and Pierre Salinger; it's George Burns in

Pepperland stuff. Still, fans of Follett won't mind, and, knowing all the tricks, he does a good job of tying disparate storylines together in the end. A well-written entertainment, best suited to those who measure their novels in reams instead of signatures."

Kellerman, Faye. [The Theory of Death](#) (\$9.99) Peter Decker/Rina Lazarus #23. Investigating a suspicious suicide in the woods near Greenbury, former LAPD detective Peter Decker, accompanied by Tyler McAdams, infiltrates a college's elite mathematics circles to uncover an operation that transforms bright students into calculating criminals.

Martin, Nancy. [Miss Ruffles Inherits Everything](#) (\$7.99) Sunny McKillip #1. When rich matriarch Honeybelle Hensley leaves her fortune to her dog, Miss Ruffles, Honeybelle's assistant Sunny McKillip is tasked with keeping the dog safe but is challenged by parties out to acquire the dog's newfound wealth. Martin was a hit when she appeared at the Pen for the hardcover launch of this book of which *LJ* says "The author of the "Blackbird Sisters" mysteries scores again with this charming tale of crime and canines, the first book in a new series."

Novak, Brenda. [Her Darkest Nightmare](#) (\$7.99) Evelyn Talbot #1. While running a psychiatric prison in Alaska, Dr. Evelyn Talbot, who survived an attack by a serial killer when she was a teenager, wonders if her past has come back to haunt her when a murderer targets her facility. If you find yourself fascinated with all the variations of *Criminal Minds* on television, Novak's new series will definitely keep you entertained.

Ryan, Hank Phillippi. [What You See](#) (\$7.99) Jane Ryland #4. While reporter Jane Ryland searches for a nine-year-old flower girl who has been kidnapped by her stepfather, detective Jake Brogan investigates a public stabbing, only to uncover a dark conspiracy of extortion and stolen lives.

Slaughter, Karin. [Beyond Reach](#) (\$9.99). Reissue. When the charred body of a woman is found, and Detective Lena Adams is charged with homicide, Grant Country's medical examiner/pediatrician Sara Linton joins forces with her husband, police Chief Jeffrey Tolliver, to uncover the truth about a case that is poisoning a small town with hatred. *Bookpage* made this their mystery of the month when it first came out in print and their review ended with "From a medical-examiner procedural aspect, Slaughter's novels are as gripping as anything from Kathy Reichs or the early Patricia Cornwell, and when she gets into the intricacies of relationships she hits the ball right out of the park. Additionally, there's enough gruesome medical detail to make genre junkies line up for the next installment."

#### NEW IN MASS MARKET PAPERBACK

Black, Saul. [The Killing Lessons](#) (\$9.99) Investigating the latest victims of a pair of serial killers, increasingly unstable San Francisco homicide detective Valerie Hart investigates the murderers' only survivor, a traumatized ten-year-old girl.

Bonner, Brynn. [Dead in a Flash](#) (Pocket \$7.99) Family History #3. When a former North Carolina senator asks genealogists Sophreena McClure and Esme Sabatier to solve a family mystery once and for all, they are determined to find the truth about a decades-old tragedy especially when a present-day murder turns up new candidates for the long-ago crime.

Brown, Dale. [The Puppet Master](#) (\$9.99) Dreamland #17. After one of Louis Massina's robotic creations makes a miraculous res-

cue, an FBI agent recruits him to pursue criminals running a massive financial scam—and not coincidentally, suspected of killing the agent's brother. Massina agrees to deploy a surveillance "bot" that uses artificial intelligence to follow its target. But when he's thrust into a dangerous conspiracy, the billionaire inventor decides to take matters into his own hands, unleashing the greatest cyber-weapons in the world and becoming the Puppet Master.

Carter, Chris. [An Evil Mind](#) (Picador \$9.99) Assisting the FBI in the case of a freak accident in rural Wyoming that has exposed the work of a serial killer, LAPD psychologist Robert Hunter interviews a leading suspect who claims he is a pawn in a decades-long operation.

Clark, Mary Higgins. [All Dressed in White](#) (\$7.99) A follow-up to *The Cinderella Murder* finds intrepid television producer Laurie Moran recreating the events surrounding the cold case disappearance of a bride and investigating numerous theories about what may have happened.

Cox Bryan, Moll. [Death Among the Doilies](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Cora Crafts #1. While transforming her Victorian estate into a crafter's paradise and babysitting her best friend Jane's daughter, 30-something blogger Cora Chevalier is drawn into a murder mystery that puts her reputation and business on the line.

Coyle, Cleo. [Dead to the Last Drop](#) (\$7.99) Coffeehouse #15. Asked to examine a historic White House coffee service, coffeehouse manager-turned-amateur detective Clare Cosi learns its role as a CIA "dead drop" decades earlier and uncovers unsettling clues implicating some of Washington, D.C.'s most powerful people.

Fee, Vickie. [It's Your Party, Die If You Want To](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Liv and Di in Dixie #2. Between a riverboat gambler-theme engagement party and a murder mystery dinner for charity, Dixie, Tennessee, party planner Liv McKay is far too frenzied to feel festive. Add to the mix her duties at the annual businesswomen's retreat and the antics of a celebrity ghost-hunting diva, and Liv's schedule is turning out to be the scariest thing about this Halloween—especially when the ladies stumble across a dead body in a cemetery.

Fiedler, Chrystle. [Dandelion Dead](#) (Pocket \$7.99) Natural Remedies #3. Shop owner and naturopathic doctor Willow McQuade, while helping husband-and-wife team David and Ivy create an organic winery powered only by wind and sun, takes a holistic approach to solving a murder when Ivy's twin sister is poisoned during the grand opening.

Flowers, Jean. [Cancelled By Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Postmistress #2. When the dead body of fabric-shop owner Daisy Harmon is found after a massive storm, postmistress Cassie Miller is asked by Daisy's widowed husband to find the truth before someone else is swept away by a killer.

Gaylin, Alison. [What Remains of Me](#) (\$9.99) After serving time for the murder of an Oscar-nominated director when she was still a teen, Kelly Michelle Lund is suspected in another, similar murder, 35 years after being released, and must work to clear her name.

Hollis, Lee. [Death of a Pumpkin Carver](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Food and Cocktails #8. When her troublemaking ex-husband Danny comes back to Bar Harbor just in time for Halloween, Hayley Powell, the food and cocktails columnist for the *Island Times*,

gets more tricks than treats as she is forced to prove his innocence in the murder of his moonshine-making uncle.

James, Miranda. [Digging Up the Dirt](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Southern Ladies #3. An'gel and Dickce Ducote, busy with plans for the Athena Garden Club's spring tour of grand old homes, are having trouble getting the other club members to help. The rest of the group is all a-flutter now that dashing and still-eligible Hadley Partridge is back to restore his family mansion. But the idle chatter soon turns deadly serious when a body turns up on the Partridge estate after a storm.

Kelly, Mary Lou. [Anonymous Sources](#) (\$5.99) When Boston reporter Alexandra James is assigned to cover the death of Thom Carlyle, the son of a powerful Washington insider, she soon discovers the story is not as simple as it seems. The young man fell from the top of a Harvard bell tower, but did he jump...or was he pushed?

Kelly, Mary Lou. [The Bullet](#) (\$5.99) When her world is blown apart, Professor Caroline Cashion returns home to discover the truth about her past and why her biological parents were murdered—and to find the killer before he finds her.

McHugh, Mary. [High Kicks, Hot Chocolate, and Homicides](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Happy Hoofers #5. It's a Christmas miracle for the Happy Hoofers when they score a gig at New York City's Radio City Music Hall with the legendary Rockettes, complete with sexy Santa suits and microphones on their shoes. But when a dazzling diva of a dancer is found dead under the stage, there's quite a lineup of suspects.

McMahon, Jennifer. [The Winter People](#) (\$7.99) Coming of age in an old farmhouse, nineteen-year-old Ruthie begins a search for her agoraphobic mother and discovers the century-old diary of the farmhouse's long-ago resident, a grieving mother who died under mysterious circumstances.

Swanson, Denise. [Murder of a Cranky Catnapper](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Scumble River #19. Scumble River School psychologist Skye Denison Boyd's first attempts to use pet therapy to aid a handful of socially awkward fourth grade boys ends disastrously and draws the ire of cantankerous school board member Palmer Lynch. So when Lynch is later found dead in his home with a therapy cat hidden in his garage, Skye finds herself once again playing amateur sleuth to find the killer.

Wallace, Aurale. [Pumpkin Picking with Murder](#) (St Martins \$7.99) Otter Lake #3. When the annual Fall Festival in Otter Lake, New Hampshire, is marred by a murder in a swan boat in the Tunnel of Love, Erica Bloom must prove the innocence of her Aunt Tweety in the death of an elderly man by rocking the boat to bring the real killer to the surface.

Wellington, Dave. [The Cyclops Initiative](#) (\$9.99) Former Special Forces soldier and current spy, Jim Chapel, goes rogue to protect his trusted hacker friend, Angel, after she is suspected of terrorism.