

BOOKNEWS from

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Horrors! It's already October....

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

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)

MONDAY OCTOBER 3 7:00 PM

Kevin Hearne signs [The Purlined 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)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8 10:30 AM

Coffee and Club members share favorite Mary Stewart novels

SUNDAY OCTOBER 9 2:00 PM

Jon Jefferson signs [Without Mercy](#) (Harper \$26.99) Body Farm #10

MONDAY OCTOBER 10 7:00 PM

Charlaine Harris signs [All the Little Liars](#) (St Martins \$25.99) Aurora Teagarden

THURSDAY OCTOBER 13

Shannon Baker signs [Stripped Bare](#) (Forge \$24.99) Kate Fox #1

Margaret Mizushima signs [Stalking Ground](#) (Crooked Lane \$25.99) Timber Creek K-9 #2

Kevin Wolfe signs [The Homeplace](#) (St Martins \$24.99) First Mystery Club Pick

SATURDAY OCTOBER 15

Mark Pryor signs [The Paris Librarian](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95) Hugo Marston #6

Jeffery Siger signs [Santorini Caesars](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95) Andreas Kaldis #8

MONDAY OCTOBER 17 7:00 PM

Joe Ide signs [IQ](#) (Mulholland \$26) First Mystery Club Pick

John Sandford signs [Escape Clause](#) (Putnam \$29) Virgil Flowers

TUESDAY OCTOBER 18 7:00 PM

Douglas Preston signs [The Obsidian Chamber](#) (Grand Central \$28) Our copies come with a postcard of the Pendergast coat of arms
Lincoln Child, who has already signed all our copies, appears by Skype

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19 7:00 PM

Randy Wayne White signs [Seduced](#) (Putnam \$27) Hannah Smith #4

THURSDAY OCTOBER 20 7:00 PM

David Rosenfelt signs [The Twelve Dogs of Christmas](#) (St Martins \$24.99) Andy Carpenter #14

FRIDAY OCTOBER 21 7:00 PM

SciFi-Fantasy Club discusses Django Wexler's [The Thousand Names](#) (\$7.99)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 22 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger Club discusses John Hart's [Iron House](#) (\$15.99)

SUNDAY OCTOBER 23 MiniHistoricon

Tasha Alexander signs [A Terrible Beauty](#) (St Martins \$25.99) Lady Emily #11

Sherry Thomas signs [A Study in Scarlet Women](#) (Berkley \$15) Series start

Juliana Gray (Beatriz Williams) signs [A Most Extraordinary Pursuit](#) (Berkley \$15) Victorian series start

MONDAY OCTOBER 24 7:00 PM

Rob Hart signs [South Village](#) (Polis Books \$14.99) Ash McKenna #3

TUESDAY OCTOBER 25 7:00 PM

Tim Hallinan signs [The Fields Where They Lay](#) (Soho \$25.99) Junior Bender #6

Ed Lin signs [Incensed](#) (Soho \$26.95)

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime discusses William Hjortsberg's [Falling Angel](#) (\$12.99)

THURSDAY OCTOBER 27 7:00 PM

Kyle Mills signs Vince Flynn's [Order to Kill](#) (Atria \$28.99) Mitch Rapp #13

FRIDAY OCTOBER 28 7:00 PM

James Sallis and the Band play

MONDAY OCTOBER 31 6:30 PM

Stuart Woods signs [Sex, Lies, and Serious Money](#) (Putnam \$28) Stone Barrington

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 1 7:00 PM (Doors open 6:00 PM)

Book Launch! Tickets Required

Michael Connelly signs [The Wrong Side of Goodbye](#) (Little Brown \$29) Harry Bosch #19

EVENT BOOKS

Alexander, Tasha. [A Terrible Beauty](#) (St Martins \$25.99). The Lady Emily Ashton series began with her as a young Society widow, shocked and moved to learn that her missing, believed dead husband Lord Philip Ashton, explorer and art collector, had married her for love, not convenience. She truly mourned him. In time she grew to love and then married his good friend Colin Hargreaves. And now, relaxing into a holiday aimed at distracting her friend the duke from recent heartbreak at the villa on lovely Santorini she inherited from Ashton, they are all shocked when he shows up at the door. Is this man really Ashton? Did he not die in Africa as reported? It's been a decade and he's changed a bit, but he speaks to Emily of things only Ashton could know. Next thing they all know, Ashton reveals that he has been plagued for the past few years by an illegal antiques trader who believes he is in possession of a piece of Achilles' helmet, a priceless relic that was stolen from him moments after he unearthed it on an archaeological dig—and an assassin is at hand to retrieve it. A distraught Emily—what about her marriage to Colin? What of the children?—realizes she may lose everyone she loves....

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.

Baker, Shannon. [Stripped Bare](#) (Forge \$24.99). 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.

Bass, Jefferson, ie. Dr. Bill Bass and Jon Jefferson. [Without Mercy](#) (Harper \$26.99). The 10th and (for now) final Body Farm thriller is a real serial killer chiller. And the murder weapon deployed against the first to die is spectacular! Forensic anthropologist Bill Brockton has spent 25 years solving brutal murders—but none so horrific and merciless as his latest case: A

ravaged set of skeletal remains is found scattered in the woods of nearby Cook County. They are all that is left of a victim who had been chained, hand and foot, to a tree on a remote mountainside. The bones tell Brockton and his longtime graduate assistant, Miranda, that the victim was a young male under the age of thirty. As they dig deeper to establish his identity, they uncover warning signs that long-simmering hatred is about to explode into violence, engulfing the region in chaos. But the shocking case is only the beginning of Brockton's trials. In the middle of the troubling investigation, the unthinkable happens. The most frightening and deadliest criminal Brockton has ever foiled escapes from prison, bent on wreaking vengeance. And he's had nearly 20 years to plan. Simply killing Brockton isn't enough. I've read a lot of serial killer thrillers and I can say this one is truly original in some aspects. ***Dr. Bass could only sign a limited quantity of books but we designed a bookplate for him to sign for extra orders. Place yours ASAP if you want an actual double-signed first print.***

Gray, Juliana. [A Most Extraordinary Pursuit](#) (Berkley \$15). John Charles of our staff writes: This is a racy, funny series start laced with science, history (real), a bit of paranormal threading of the Theseus/Ariadne legend, and various Victorian relationships. I devoured every word and recommend it highly. John Charles, an enthusiastic fan of Beatriz Williams (Gray is a pseudonym Williams uses for historical romances) agrees and writes this: As the personal secretary to the eighth Duke of Olympia, Emmeline Rose Truelove never failed to successfully complete any job she was given. However, when the newly widowed Duchess of Olympia asks Emmeline to undertake a little task for her, Emmeline starts to think there might be a first time for everything. Arthur Maximilian Haywood, the new heir to the ducal title, has gone missing. Max, a long-time scholar and enthusiastic amateur archaeologist was last seen in Crete digging at Knossos. The Duchess wants Emmeline to travel to Crete, find Max, and bring him back home to England. Of course, the Duchess wouldn't think of sending Emmeline on a mission like this all by herself, and she has selected the perfect traveling companion for her: John Worthington, the Marquess of Silverton. Gray borrows Emmeline, who played a wonderful secondary role in some of Gray's earlier historical romances, and uses her to launch this amusing, witty new historical mystery series that artfully blends adventure, history, myth, romance, and a dash of the paranormal into one captivating tale. If you thought Bogart and Bacall had some serious romantic sparks in *The African Queen*, wait until you see what develops between Emmeline and John!

Hallinan, Timothy. [The Fields Where They Lay](#) (Soho \$25.95). Tracy Kingsley of our staff is a rabid Junior Bender fan, and says this about his 6th caper: Junior Bender is plunged into the rather sad world of shopping malls when his newest "client" wants to know why the hard-luck mall he and his mobster partners own is suddenly losing big bucks to theft. As Junior learns the ins and outs of mall security, he also grapples with his personal feelings about the upcoming Christmas holiday. Once again the very moral Junior finds that the problem with being the go-to investigator for the criminal element in LA is that your client isn't always worth helping. Mr. Hallinan continues to write very thoughtful books disguised as detective fiction.

Harris, Charlaine. [All the Little Liars](#) (St Martins \$25.99). “The narrative of Aurora Teagarden was thought to be over. In a surprising, but welcome return, All the Little Liars picks up right where we left off with Roe. Newly remarried, Roe is dealing with a plethora of issues. With a missing brother and troublesome father in town, Roe is searching for answers. Pregnancy, family problems, and more make for a suspenseful, fast, and comforting read. Harris’ writing shines best when she portrays the minutiae of small-town lives and the inner workings of families, friends, and relationships.”—October Library Reads

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](#).

Hart, Rob. [South Village](#) (Polis Books \$14.99). Ash McKenna #3 gets this review from *PW*: “In Hart’s lively third outing for occasional PI Ash McKenna, Crusty Pete, a member of the rural Georgia commune South Bridge, is dead, killed when a rope bridge breaks under him. It looks like an accident, but Ash is not so sure. Preoccupied with his guilt over questionable past actions of his own and feeling that Pete’s death is none of his business anyway, he concentrates on cooking for the commune and preparing to flee as soon as his passport comes through. But events toss him about, bringing in a mysterious cipher, a vague conspiracy, another death, and a black-ops raid from the FBI. Well-realized and interesting characters range from ex-Marine Aesop, who knows everything, to Tibo, the founder of the commune, to Sunny and Moony, attractive ladies who run a little Skype sex business from their trailer. The story zigs and zags and then heads off in yet another direction, keeping one step ahead of the reader until it ends up in an unexpected but satisfying spot.” Hart’s [NewYorked and City of Rose](#) both received excellent reviews too.

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.

Ide, Joe. [IQ](#) (Morrow \$26). John Sandford so admires this debut (and **First Mystery Club Pick**) that he asked us to invite Joe to share John’s October 17 book launch for Virgil’s rollicking new case. Sandford is not alone: “I don’t know how fast Joe Ide writes, but from now on he’ll have to write faster. Everyone who reads *IQ* will be clamoring for the next book, and for the one after that. This is one of the most intriguing—and appealing—detective characters to come along in years.”—Carl Hiaasen. And Patrick admires Ide too and writes: “The author has mentioned in interviews that his detective, Isaiah Quintabe (aka I.Q.) was inspired by the quintessential master of ratiocination himself, Sherlock Holmes, and it really shows in Ide’s striking, original debut. Born and raised by his brother in one of LA’s tougher neighborhoods, Quintabe was an outsider from the beginning; while his peers were getting into gangs and petty crime, I.Q. was busy developing his freakish intellect and setting up his own under-the-radar detective service. He specializes in the cases the police can’t or won’t touch, and he accepts whatever payment or trade that his customers can afford. When rap superstar Black the Knife’s life is threatened by a particularly inventive hit man, I.Q. is brought on to investigate. This is an absolute blast of a book, and Isaiah Quintabe is exactly the kind of detective we need today: he is fiercely intellectual, showcases brains of brawn, and impervious to corruption.”

King, Laurie R./Leslie S. Klinger. [Echoes of Sherlock Holmes](#) (Pegasus \$24.95). A 3rd 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. You can bring your copy back to have Alexander, Morrell, Perry, and Ryan sign their stories later this fall.

And by King: [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, as she notes in her short Introduction to it, has my favorite title: “Stately Holmes.” This is an excellent gift book idea since it’s rare and unusual. “Mary Russell’s War” is her “war journal” and presents many illustrations. Klinger wrote the Introduction and will sign our copies too.

Lin, Ed. [Incensed](#) (Soho \$26.95). I love reading about other cultures and unfamiliar landscapes and Lin is a really perceptive guide to Taiwan with its mix of both and its complex history with China. It’s more about the people and the relationships and customs than it is the plot. Here in his second Taipei Night Market Series novel, the time is the Mid-Autumn Festival, a time for putting family first. When 25-year-old orphan Jing-nan’s gangster uncle Big Eye, whom he hasn’t seen for years, dragoons him into a reunion and then into agreeing to a favor. Big Eye’s 16-year-old daughter, Mei-ling, has a biker boyfriend from the wrong side of the tracks—in Big Eye’s gangster opinion—and Big Eye wants Jing-nan to bring her to Taipei, away from the bad influences, and straighten her out. It doesn’t take Jing-nan long to discover Mei-ling is even more trouble than the average bratty, rebellious teenager. She’s been spoiled rotten and doesn’t know how to take no for an answer. She has her father’s thugs wrapped around her finger and quickly becomes the miniature dictator

of Jing-nan's life. But Mei-ling is also hiding a secret—one that puts her in harm's way. If Jing-nan wants to save his cousin from her own demons, he has to figure out the truth, even if it tears his family apart—again. I really liked [Ghost Month](#) (\$15.95), the start of this series taking its name from Jing-nan's inherited family restaurant business located in the night market.

Mills, Kyle. [Order to Kill](#) (Atria \$28.99). Mill's completion of Flynn's unpublished MS for [The Survivor](#) (\$9.99) climbed to #1 on bestseller lists and earned appreciative reviews. I haven't yet read my ARC of the first he has written completely on his own, so here is a Starred Review: "The rousing 15th entry in the late Vince Flynn's bestselling series, the first by Mills pits CIA officer Mitch Rapp against Grisha Azarov, Russian president Maxim Krupin's personal assassin, and for once Mitch isn't the odds-on favorite. Krupin has an ingenious plan involving the theft of Pakistani nuclear warheads and the deployment of dirty bombs in Saudi Arabia's oil fields. The goal is to destroy the Saudis' capability and enhance Russia's ability to fulfill the world's need for oil. As always, foiling this scheme falls on Mitch's legendary shoulders, and watching him go about his lethal business is just as compelling as when Flynn was doing the writing. Mitch has to deal with a tragic love interest, Leah; rescue his best friend, Scott Coleman; capture a stolen nuke; escape from ISIS-controlled Iraq; and defeat the most deadly foe he's ever battled. No problem. Satisfied fans will hope that Mills will fulfill their continuing Mitch Rapp needs far into the future." We ran out of *The Survivor* right after Mills' signing so I have just upped our order, but do put in yours early to avoid disappointment.

Mizushima, Margaret. [Stalking Ground](#) (Crooked Lane \$25.99). Mizushima is very good on K-9s, training, deployment, etc., which you would expect from an author who runs a veterinary clinic in Colorado with her husband. Our staff has fallen for Robo the K-9. If you liked Sue Henry's *Murder on the Iditarod* with its dogs, or David Rosenfelt's series with Tara the Golden, and Alex Kava's Creed/K-9 series, try Mizushima. What you get here is the disappearance of Deputy Ken Brody's girlfriend, a talented horse massage therapist, into the mountains around Timber Creek, Colorado, as an October snowstorm brews. When they find here, Mattie and Robo are left to guard the gravesite overnight in the storm while vet Cole Walker gathers supplies in support. This puts them squarely in the middle of a killer's stalking ground....

Our Pat King reviews Mizushima's debut [Killing Trail](#) (\$14.99), calling it "a fast paced police procedural set in the small town of Timber Creek, Colorado. During a training session with the town's first K-9, Robo, Officer Mattie Cobb comes across the body of a murdered teenager and her wounded dog. An investigation starts on who murdered the young lady and for what reasons. Timber Creek is not as clean of a town as one believes as the investigation begins leaching out its secrets. Mizushima's provides the right balance of character development and plot pacing, keeping the reader engaged in the town's events while rooting for Maggie and Robo to find the killer. I particularly enjoyed Mizushima's occasional peppering of information on K-9 training and the medical care of dogs. The Croak and Dagger Book Club here at the Pen voted it their favorite book of the year. A clear winner!

Preston, Douglas/Lincoln Child. [The Obsidian Chamber](#) (Grand Central \$28). This is publication day and once again Child, who has by now signed our copies, will join us by Skype. Our

copies come with a large postcard of the Pendergast coat of arms which could be framed. And you will have the fun of a real chase novel as it opens when A.X.L. Pendergast's brother Diogenes, back from the dead, breaks into the 891 Riverside Drive mansion where Constance is working to recover from the harrowing events at Exmouth, Massachusetts (where A.X.L. went missing and is presumed dead). Holding a gun on Pendergast's bodyguard/factotum Proctor, Diogenes kidnaps her. The ensuing chase by car and airplane across land, ocean, and into wastes unknown, is hair-raising as Proctor works to recover from the worst defeat of his life. And events spiral off from there....

Pryor, Mark. [The Paris Librarian](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). Back from his mission in Barcelona, US Embassy security officer Hugo Marston is surprised when he calls in at the American Library in Paris to visit his old friend Paul Rogers to knock on the man's door and get no reply. When a library employee opens it with a key, they find Paul dead in his chair. The police call it natural causes but Hugo smells foul play. Poking around the library—a real institution by the way—Hugo picks up rumors swirling around the recently donated letters of American actress Isabelle Severin who aided the Resistance in her frequent visits to France toward the end of WWII. Does the Severin collection contain a dagger that Severin used to kill an SS officer in 1944? Delving deeper into the stacks and fending off a persistent and ambitious young woman interested in the now 90-something Severin, Hugo begins to suspect that the Severin legend is not what it is thought to be.

Rosenfelt, David. [The Twelve Dogs of Christmas](#) (St Martins \$24.99). What more fun than a Christmas mystery from the ebullient author of the Andy Carpenter series? As ever, the NJ defense lawyer is reluctant to take any case, but he can't ever refuse one with a canine connection. So when his long-time friend Martha "Pups" Boyer—so-called because she takes in stray puppies that the local dog rescue center can't handle, raises them until they're old enough to adopt, and then finds good homes for them—is hauled into court on a neighbor's complaint she's violating the zoning laws, Andy represents her. She gets off with conditions, but then the neighbor is murdered and Pups is the hot suspect with plenty of evidence to back up the cops, putting Andy into her corner again. Although you can see it coming, this is a very clever frame-up for Andy to pierce, saving puppies and Pups and spreading cheer all around (well, with one or two exceptions....).

Sandford, John. [Escape Clause](#) (Putnam \$29). October 17 is the day before pub date so you can ask for your copy to be dated. And ours come with a little temporary tattoo of a tiger to commemorate this zinger of a case for Virgil Flowers. I left my ARC with Dana Stabenow before Rob and I sailed away from Seward on our Northwest Passage cruise, and she posts this review with which I completely agree! "Any book that begins with Virgil Flowers naked in a swimming hole works for me. Add in two catnapped Amur tigers, immigrant workers being exploited in a pickle factory, a homicidal animal rights activist, Frankie the farmer girlfriend who is, reluctantly I say it, worthy of Virgil's undivided attention, Sparkle her idiot sister, Bill the sort-of priest, and a hilarious group of vengeful Armenian (or was it Iranian?) brothers who all talk like Damon Runyon characters anyway, and you've got a book that will keep your butt firmly in your chair from page 1 to page end. It sure did

mine. Sandford is always good but this book? Even better.” This is our **October Surprise Me!** Club Pick for all kinds of good reasons! Order early.

Siger, Jeffrey. [Santorini Caesars](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Read this [interesting interview](#) with Siger in the *Huffington Post*. And this review from *Booklist*: “Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis finds himself in the middle of yet another mess involving Greece’s volatile government. A young woman participating in a demonstration near an Athens university is gunned down by assassins who appear to be highly trained sharpshooters. The victim is a general’s daughter, prompting Kaldis and his team to wonder if the shooting is intended to send a message, but to whom and why? The investigation leads to a top-secret meeting of military leaders on the gorgeous island of Santorini, forcing Andreas to leave his pregnant wife to lead a group that will spy on the meeting. That effort reaps intelligence about another assassination attempt in the offing. As always, Siger provides readers with an action-packed plot, well-developed characters with lots of attitude, breathtaking Greek scenery, and a perceptive take on the current political and economic problems affecting Greece. International-crime fans need to be reading this consistently strong series. “Yes they do! *Kirkus* adds, “The eighth case for Siger’s police hero has a timely plot and a handful of engaging back stories about its detective team.”

Thomas, Sherry. [A Study in Scarlet Women](#) (Berkley \$15 PBO). Another series start for the hot, hot Victorian era and our **October History Paperback Pick**. John Charles reviews: When her father fails to honor his promise to provide the funds needed for her education, Charlotte Holmes is forced to take drastic measures. Charlotte devises a plan in which she is caught in a compromising position with a married man in order to thwart her parents’ plans to marry her off to a suitable man. Now to avoid being exiled to her family’s country estate, Charlotte runs off and settles into life in London as an independent woman, where she finds a new benefactress and a way to support herself by using her talent for “discernment” to open a private consultation business as “Sherlock Holmes.” However, when her beloved sister Livia is suspected of being involved in a scandalous murder, Charlotte must employ all of her powers of observation in order to find the real killer. As an award-winning historical romance author, Thomas has always taken creative risks with her stories. Now as Thomas launches a superbly entertaining new historical mystery series, she does the same thing, and the end result is an absolutely brilliant take on the classic Sherlock Holmes. For fans of Laurie R. King and Deanna Raybourn.

White, Randy Wayne. [Seduced](#) (Putnam \$27). Only RWW could craft a story out of elements like Florida’s amuck python population (anacondas, too) and the sinister citrus greening disease (HLB) originating in Asia that has attacked Florida and may trash the state’s lauded industry. Be sure to read the Foreword before plunging into this 4th Hannah Smith, the woman who can’t bring herself to commit to biologist Marion Ford (actually in RWW’s universe sex does not equal commitment for almost everyone). And speaking of sex, we open with the death of former Florida Lt Governor Harney Chatham, age 80, who dies in the bed of Smith’s mother Loretta, his longtime mistress. Chatham’s chauffeur and friend of 40 years persuades Hannah to help him move the body to a more respectable condition and place but inevitably this well-intentioned if crazy plan runs afoul

of the mean widow, Lonnie, whose agenda is terrifying, and of Chatham’s orange groves manager Kermit Bigalow (he’s the guy who explains to Hannah and to you about the ruinous blight and what might be done). This propels her on a high-stakes hunt for “feral citrus,” at least one ancient orange tree that while not directly of the original Spanish stock would be heartier than the current trees bred to produce sweeter fruit. Such an ancestral tree, or trees, might prove disease-resistant and provide root stock that will save Florida’s citrus (think of phylloxera and the success of California vine roots in combating it if you think this is an outrageous plot line). All this while human snakes as well as those actual reptiles ravaging much of Florida try to bring her down. And... there’s more. “White smoothly infuses an intriguing plot with timely environmental issues.”

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.

Woods, Stuart. [Sex, Lies, and Serious Money](#) (Putnam \$28). Fresh off the runway at Teeterboro, Stone Barrington arrives home to find an unexpected new client on his doorstep, anxiously soliciting his help. But everything is not as it seems, when the client reveals the true nature—and value—of his recent turn of fortune. Who better than Stone Barrington for Trick or Treat night? (his tricks are not generally candy but sex, but still...). In honor of his (probable) 50th bestselling novel, Putnam is running a sweepstakes so we’ll include an entry card in your copies. Don’t forget Woods can sign the truly terrific August entry: [Smooth Operator](#) (Putnam \$28), written with Parnell Hall.

OCTOBER BOOK BUYERS’ CLUB PICKS

British Crime Club One Unsigned paperback or hardcover per month

Horowitz, Anthony. [The Magpie Murders](#)

First Mystery Club 12+ Signed First Print per year

Ide, Joe. [IQ](#)

Fresh Fiction Club One paperback or hardcover per month

Fradkin, Barbara [Fire in the Stars](#)

Hardboiled Crime Club One signed First Print per month
TBA

History/Mystery Club One Signed First Print per month

Smith, Martin Cruz. [The Girl from Venice](#)

History Paperback One per month

Thomas Sherry. [A Study in Scarlet Women](#)

Modern First Editions One Signed First Print per month
Agee, Jonas. [Bones of Paradise](#)

SciFi/Fantasy/Horror Club One Signed First Print per month
Wilson, Sam. [Zodiac](#)

Surprise Me! Club One Signed Print First Per Month
Sandford, John. [Escape Clause](#)

Thriller Club One Signed First Print per month
Harris, Robert. [Conclave](#)

SIGNED BOOKS

✎Ackroyd, Peter. [Revolution](#) (Pan \$56). Volume 4 in his History of England begins in 1688 with a revolution and ends in 1815 with a famous victory. It is thus not the English Civil War but the Glorious Revolution that exiled Stuart king James II and runs up to Waterloo.

Agee, Jonis. [Bones of Paradise](#) (Harper \$28). Patrick reviews our **October Modern Firsts Club Pick**: Nebraska rancher J.B. Bennett's body is found in a ditch next to a slain Lakota Indian girl close to his acreage in the Sand Hills Country. It is just ten years after the massacre at Wounded Knee, and the plains are crowded with a motley crew of opportunists—from predatory oil men, crooked lawyers to plain old outlaws—and the community is left with a lot of unanswered questions regarding the grim discovery. Bennett's widow, returning after years of exile, returns with the Indian girl's sister to investigate, and to face the man who drove her off, Bennett's brutal father. This is a masterful epic of betrayal, family secrets, and murder set in a crucial time in our country's history.

Bennett, Brit. [The Mothers](#) (Riverhead \$26) is “a gorgeous, pitch-perfect and compassionate novel about three young people in a tightly knit African American community near Camp Pendleton, Calif., who fumble into adulthood under the shadow of their losses. The story is narrated by a collective of elderly Upper Room gossips known as “The Mothers.” In Bennett's hands, this framework casts the overwhelming circumstances as the stuff of life, which in no way diminishes the tragedies and betrayals. This wise and beautiful coming-of-age novel—one of the season's most anticipated—considers the tension between loss and redemption.”—Jeanette Zwart. It is the No. 1 Indie Next Pick for October: “The story begins with a secret. Nadia is a high school senior, mourning her mother's recent death, and smitten with the local pastor's son, Luke. It's not a serious romance, but it takes a turn when a pregnancy (and subsequent cover-up) happens. The impact sends ripples through the community. *The Mothers* asks us to contemplate how our decisions shape our lives.”

Boyle, TC. [The Terranauts](#) (Ecco \$26.99). It is 1994, and in the desert near Tillman, Arizona, forty miles from Tucson, a grand experiment involving the future of humanity is under way. As climate change threatens the earth, eight scientists, four men and four women dubbed the “Terranauts,” have been selected to live under glass in E2, a prototype of a possible off-earth colony with five biomes—rainforest, savanna, desert, ocean, and marsh. Closely monitored by an all-seeing Mission Control, this New Eden is both scientific project and momentous publicity stunt for ecovisionary Jeremiah Reed, aka G.C.—“God the Creator.” In addition to their roles as medics, farmers, biologists, and survivalists, his young, strapping Terranauts must impress watchful visitors and a skeptical media curious to see if E2's

environment will somehow be compromised. As the Terranauts face increased scrutiny and a host of disasters, both natural and of their own making, their mantra—“Nothing in, nothing out”—becomes a dangerously ferocious rallying cry in the story of a survivalist game told by three narrators.

Carr, Caleb. [Surrender New York](#) (Random \$30). Psychologist Trajan Jones and Mike Li, an “expert in trace and DNA evidence,” now teach online forensic courses out of a classroom in upstate New York, after their work discrediting official crime labs led to their exile from New York City. Their focus is on rebutting the notion that hard science has made criminal psychology and profiling obsolete. Michael Connelly avers, “Carr has written an addictive contemporary crime procedural stuffed with observations on the manipulations of science and the particular societal ills of the moment. Call it mystery with multiple messages... Carr writes with a style full of depth and description... Every character and location is multilayered and heavily defined... It adds up to a languid but intoxicating pace. This is a novel you set time aside for. It is charming and eloquent between the horrors it captures.” This may be a series start for the author of the crime classic *The Alienist*.

✎Cleeves, Ann. [Cold Earth](#) (Pan \$34.99). In the dark days of a Shetland winter, torrential rain triggers a landslide that crosses the main Lerwick-Sumburgh road and sweeps down to the sea. At the burial of his old friend Magnus Tait, Jimmy Perez watches the flood of mud and peaty water smash through a croft house in its path. Everyone thinks the croft is uninhabited, but in the wreckage he finds the body of a dark-haired woman wearing a red silk dress. In his mind, she shares his Mediterranean ancestry and soon he becomes obsessed with tracing her identity. Then it emerges that she was already dead before the landslide hit the house.... 7th in her Shetland series which has won Cleeves the UK Gold Dagger.

Collins, Billy. [The Rain in Portugal: Poems](#) (Random \$26). From former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins comes a twelfth collection of poetry offering nearly fifty new poems that showcase the generosity, wit, and imaginative play that prompted *The Wall Street Journal* to call him “America's favorite poet.” *The Rain in Portugal*—a title that admits he's not much of a rhymer—sheds Collins's ironic light on such subjects as travel and art, cats and dogs, loneliness and love, beauty and death.

Connelly, Michael. [The Wrong Side of Goodbye](#) (Orion \$45). I note this here since the UK edition for the 19th Bosch is the true first. Our copies will either come Signed from London or arrive to be signed Nov. 1 at Connelly's launch party at The Pen for the book.

✎Cornwell, Bernard. [The Flame Bearer: Saxon Tale #10](#) (Collins \$45). This is listed for October but always runs late. I ordered a very few for those who like the UK edition. See November-December for the US edition which will be tip-ins.

Cranston, Bryan. [A Life in Parts](#) (Scribner \$27). Tip-ins are as good as it gets for this memoir, a coming-of-age story and a meditation on creativity, devotion, and craft, by the star of *Breaking Bad* and more.

Cussler, Clive. [Built to Thrill](#) (Putnam \$60). Now you can explore the personal automotive collection of the literary master of mechanical marvels. Readers will explore the history of

each model and the story of how it was found and restored, not to mention notes on where some of these dazzling machines have appeared in his novels. The fins, the fenders, the furious horsepower: *Built to Thrill* runs straight through the forties, fifties, and sixties, capturing it all. Picking back up in 1948 where the first volume, [Built for Adventure](#) (\$50), left off, it's full of striking full-color photographs and engaging commentary.

De Hamel, Christopher. [Meetings with Remarkable Manuscripts](#) (Andrew Lane \$60). The idea for the book, which is entirely new, is to invite the reader into intimate conversations with twelve of the most famous manuscripts in existence and to explore with the author what they tell us about nearly a thousand years of medieval history – and sometimes about the modern world too. Christopher de Hamel introduces us to kings, queens, saints, scribes, artists, librarians, thieves, dealers, collectors and the international community of manuscript scholars, showing us how he and his fellows piece together evidence to reach unexpected conclusions. He traces the elaborate journeys which these exceptionally precious artifacts have made through time and space, shows us how they have been copied, who has owned them or lusted after them (and how we can tell), how they have been embroiled in politics and scholarly disputes, how they have been regarded as objects of supreme beauty and luxury and as symbols of national identity. *Given the price, this is an Order Upon Request book.*

Donoghue, Emma. [The Wonder](#) (LittleBrown \$27). Donoghue demonstrates her versatility by dabbling in a wide range of literary styles in this latest novel. Set mostly in a small, spare room inside a shabby cabin in rural 1850s Ireland, the closely imagined, intricately drawn story possesses many of the same alluring qualities as her bestseller, *Room*. 11-year-old Anna O'Donnell's family claims she has lived without a bite to eat for more than four months. Hoping to prove the truthfulness of these claims, a committee of town leaders brings in two nurses to watch Anna day and night and confirm that she eats nothing during that time. But as the watch continues, Anna begins to weaken, making Nightingale-trained nurse Lib Wright question the morality of her task. Donoghue has gone to great lengths to make *The Wonder* feel in and of its time and place, a small Irish village in the mid-19th century. As Lib tends to her charge, readers learn of Florence Nightingale and the Crimean War; the Irish Potato Famine; political tensions between England and Ireland; photography techniques of the time; and religious rituals of 19th-century Irish peoples.... This rich sense of history combines with Donoghue's expertly imagined story of a fasting girl to deliver a quietly suspenseful novel that explores questions of faith and love—and the lengths to which one might go to prove either, or both. Donoghue's engrossing novel is loaded with descriptions of period customs and 19th-century Catholic devotional objects and prayers.

Donaldson, Jess. [The More They Disappear](#) (St Martins \$26.99). The *NY Times* describes a late-arriving Hardboiled Crime Club Pick as “a fine first novel... Donaldson is a soulful writer, especially sensitive to imagery that reflects the young sheriff's sense of desolation...” Set in 1998, troubled teenager Mary Jane Finley kills Sheriff Lew Mattock with a rifle shot at a fund-raising barbecue in Marathon, Kentucky. That action roils the lives of many Marathoners, including Deputy Harlan Dupee, who suddenly finds himself sheriff, and the members of Mattock's

family: his widow, Mabel; his son, Lewis; and Lewis's wife, Sophie. Mary Jane's boyfriend, Mark Gaines, who's Sophie's brother, and their father, Dr. Trip Gaines, are also affected. While Dupee, a reluctant and unprepared sheriff, begins to uncover Mattock's secrets (bribes, affairs, gambling debts), drug user Mary Jane and drug dealer Mark make ineffectual attempts to flee the area. Others, including the manipulative Trip, convince reluctant Lewis to run for sheriff. Donaldson relentlessly tracks the devastating fallout from Mattock's death as it sweeps through Marathon.

Hansen, Ron. [The Kid](#) (Scribner \$27). Patrick and I support Hansen's amazing work. Patrick writes, “I've been a fan of Hansen's work for many years and really admire his versatility and artistry. This time out, the author turns his attention to one of the west's most iconic and misunderstood figures: William Henry McCarty, or as he would be known, ‘Billy the Kid.’ Tracing his short life from his upbringing in New York, Kansas and ultimately, New Mexico, Hansen does a remarkable job of sifting through the known facts and the legends to create a flesh and bones character. We witness every gunfight, horse theft, and drunken debauch, and meet a wonderful array of characters along the way. If you're a fan of western history and folklore, you won't want to miss this one.”

✎Horowitz, Anthony. [The Magpie Murders](#) (Orion \$34). When editor Susan Ryeland is given the tattered manuscript of Alan Conway's latest novel, she has little idea it will change her life. She's worked with the revered crime writer for years and his detective, Atticus Pund, is renowned for solving crimes in the sleepy English villages of the 1950s. As Susan knows only too well, vintage crime sells handsomely. It's just a shame that it means dealing with an author like Alan Conway... But Conway's latest tale of murder at Pye Hall is not quite what it seems. Yes, there are dead bodies and a host of intriguing suspects, but hidden in the pages of the manuscript there lies another story: a tale written between the very words on the page, telling of real-life jealousy, greed, ruthless ambition and murder. Enjoy Horowitz's deliciously dark take on the cozy crime novel, brought bang- up-to-date with a fiendish modern twist. This is our **October British Crime Club Pick**. As it has a higher price point than usual for the Club (Note: there is never a surcharge for an author's signature) I will balance it with a paperback original pick for either November or December.

Jiles, Paulette. [News of the World](#) (Harper \$24.99). A Western longlisted for the National Book Award–Fiction. In post-Civil War Texas, a 10-year-old girl makes an odyssey back to her aunt and uncle's home after living with the Kiowa warriors who had killed her parents four years earlier. It is 1870 and Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd travels through northern Texas, giving live readings to paying audiences hungry for news of the world. An elderly widower who has lived through three wars and fought in two of them, the captain enjoys his rootless, solitary existence. In Wichita Falls, he is offered a \$50 gold piece to deliver a young orphan to her relatives in San Antonio. Four years earlier, a band of Kiowa raiders killed Johanna's parents and sister; sparing the little girl, they raised her as one of their own. Recently rescued by the U.S. army, the ten-year-old has once again been torn away from the only home she knows. Their 400-mile journey south through unsettled territory and unforgiving terrain proves difficult and at times dangerous. “Lyrical and affecting, the novel

succeeds in skirting clichés through its empathy and through the depth of its major characters.”—*Kirkus* Starred Review

Keyse-Walker, John. [Sun, Sand, Murder](#) (St Martins \$27). This charmer of a debut sneaks up on you. The plotting isn't perfect but the concept is outstanding. The Special Constable, one Teddy Creque, a lifelong native, narrates well and his growth from a man futzing along through life to an actual investigator gaining personal insights as well is nicely done. I could have done without the prologue which is TMI, but I admit Keyse-Walker led me up the garden path as Teddy investigates the shooting death of Paul Kelliher, a biologist focused on the native iguana who's wintered on the island for several years. What really stands out is the loving portrait of Anegada, one of the British Virgin Islands I knew nothing at all about. It will especially appeal to those of you fond of the TV series *Death in Paradise* (which too can balance some weak points with some very clever crimes). I add this novel is the winner of the Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel contest. “Spectacular as a Caribbean sunset, Keyse-Walker's debut is a well-paced puzzler no one should miss.”—*Kirkus* Starred Review. “A winner. It is written with the coral clarity of a Caribbean atoll, and evokes an edgy rhythm that suits the protagonist, Teddy Creque, and his wholly authentic domain, the Virgin Islands.”—Randy Wayne White. Who should know this domain, no? If I can bring off Signed 1sts this will be our November Surprise Me! Club Pick as it's going to take awhile.

Livesey, Margot. [Mercury](#) (Harper \$26.99). Donald believes he knows all there is to know about seeing. An optometrist in suburban Boston, he is sure that he and his wife, Viv, who runs the local stables, are both devoted to their two children and to each other. Then Mercury—a gorgeous young thoroughbred with a murky past—arrives at Windy Hill and everything changes. Mercury's owner, Hilary, is a newcomer to town who has enrolled her daughter in riding lessons. When she brings Mercury to board at Windy Hill, everyone is struck by his beauty and prowess, particularly Viv. And then.... “*Mercury* demonstrates Tolstoy's dictum: all unhappy families are unhappy in their own way. The Stevensons find themselves upended by a horse — a magnificent horse that sets off a chain of deceit and crime. This powerful novel reveals the fragility of life when tested by the shock of genuine passion.”—Ben Fountain. “Livesey has a penchant for creating a sense of foreboding in her novels.... A tangled morality tale not about a horse but about a marriage and friendships disintegrating under the steady drip of secrets and half-truths.”—*Library Journal*

Maden, Mike. [Drone Threat](#) (Putnam \$28). In Troy Pearce's 4th thriller, it is the eve of President Lane's historic Asian Security Summit. A hobby-store quadcopter lands on the White House lawn carrying a package and an ominous threat: Fly the enclosed black flag of ISIS over the White House by noon today or suffer the consequences. The threat further promises that every day the flag isn't flown a new attack will be launched, each deadlier than the first. President Lane refuses to comply with the outrageous demand, but the first drone attacks, sending a shudder through the U.S. economy. With few options available and even fewer clues, President Lane unleashes Troy Pearce and his Drone Command team to find and stop the untraceable source of the destabilizing attacks. But the terror mastermind proves more elusive and vindictive than any opponent Pearce

has faced before.... “Adrenaline junkies will be thrilled to know that Troy Pearce and his drone technology team are back in action... Suspense lovers will find their hearts racing because of the abundant and creative detail. The plot is rich, and the villains are... everywhere.”—*Suspense Magazine*. I had two encounters with drones this summer: one flew at us while we walked on a bridge in Stockholm and hovered for a while; the other, flown by a passenger, enraged the captain of the Crystal cruise ship for the interference it posed. It was the only time he lost his temper.

✠Maitland, Karen. [The Plague Charmer](#) (Headline \$45). Riddle me this: what is my price? 1361. Porlock Weir, Exmoor. Thirteen years after the Great Pestilence, plague strikes England for the second time. Sara, a packhorse man's wife, remembers the horror all too well and fears for safety of her children. Only a dark-haired stranger offers help, but at a price that no one will pay. Fear gives way to hysteria in the village and, when the sickness spreads to her family, Sara finds herself locked away by neighbors she has trusted for years. And, as her husband — and then others — begin to die, the cost no longer seems so unthinkable. “The price that I ask, from one willing to pay... A human life.”

✠McDermid, Val. [Out of Bounds](#) (LittleBrown 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.... Delayed signing but should arrive any time.

✠McEwan, Ian. [Nutshell](#) (Canongate UK \$38). McEwan reimagines *Hamlet* with an unborn baby as the narrator. 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.

Riordan, Rick. [Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard](#) (Disney \$19.99). Looking for something thrilling for younger readers? Riordan continues his career as chronicler of the gods (a veritable modern Bullfinch but writing for teens) with this tale. Thor's hammer is missing again. The thunder god has a disturbing habit of misplacing his weapon—the mightiest force in the Nine Worlds. But this time the hammer isn't just lost, it has fallen into enemy hands. If Magnus Chase and his friends can't retrieve the hammer quickly, the mortal worlds will be defenseless against an onslaught of giants. Ragnarok will begin. The Nine Worlds will burn. Unfortunately, the only person who can broker a deal for the hammer's return is the gods' worst enemy, Loki—and the price he wants is very high....

Smith, Martin Cruz. [The Girl from Venice](#) (SimonSchuster \$27). Our **October History/Mystery Club Pick** is a real departure for Smith and a most unusual WWII war story. Set in the canals of Venice and a small fishing village on its outskirts, it begins with fisherman Innocenzo pulling in the body of a young girl from the sea. Then a German gun boat hails him. Wishing he hadn't taken

in dangerous cargo, Cenzo is surprised to see when his boat is searched, then trashed by Germans obviously looking for someone, that the girl has disappeared. As things progress, she reappears, the boat reappears, and in the end Giulia kills Lt. Hoff and she and Cenzo dump his body down a well. Now what? Giulia gradually reveals she is Jewish from an obviously wealthy family, used to privilege, and that she escaped a German roundup of Jews who'd been hiding for two years in San Clemente and now she's on a list, hunted by a disgruntled and randomly cruel Wehrmacht as the war winds down, the Allies run bombing raids, Il Duce breaks more promises, and various characters must not only survive but figure out their post-war strategies. Cenzo's own family is part of the problem. Smith captures it all with an almost gentle, bemused prose, so unlike his Russian thrillers, and while he details crimes, betrayals, executions, forgeries, a treasure hunt, and more, this is essentially a most unlikely but convincing love story.

✠Thomas, Will. [Hell Bay](#) (St Martins \$27). A Victorian mystery that rewrites *And Then There Were None* with a very different ending. "Lord Hargrave hires detective Cyrus Barker and his assistant, Thomas Llewelyn, to provide security for his secret meeting with French Ambassador Michel Gascoigne to discuss a new treaty. The meeting will be disguised as a house party at Hargrave's home on Godolphin Island in the Isles of Scilly. Barker's cover will be provided by his lady friend, Philippa Ashleigh, a close friend of Lady Barker. The island has no telephone, only a red flag to run up a pole when help is required. Aside from the two detectives, the Hargraves, their daughter and two sons, and the ambassador, the party includes his lordship's doctor and his two daughters; Delacroix, the ambassador's bodyguard; the Honorable Algernon Kerry, an unpleasant old family friend recently returned from South America; Lady Alicia Travers; Colonel and Mrs. Fraser; and some 15 servants. On the first night, Hargrave is shot dead by an expert marksman, the ferry that brought the ambassador is sent away by a faked note, and Delacroix is found stabbed. Although the assassin has many opportunities to kill at will, he seems to be highly selective.... Thomas supplies plenty of suspects and red herrings, ratcheting up the tension steadily as he winnows the targets to make this period adventure one of his best."—*Kirkus Reviews* on this 8th in a series that gives a nod to Sherlock Holmes.

✠Tyler, LC. [The Plague Road](#) (Little Brown UK \$44). 1665, and the Great Plague has London in its grip. Everyone who can has fled and the only sounds are the tolling bells and the incessant cry of 'bring out your dead!' Where better, then, to hide a murdered man than amongst the corpses on their way to the plague pit? John Grey, now a successful lawyer, is called in by Secretary of State Lord Arlington to investigate an unexpected admission to the Tothill pit. The man was, before his murder, known to be carrying a letter from the Duke of York to the French ambassador. But the letter has vanished and Arlington wants it. Grey soon begins to realize why Arlington is prepared to pay well for the document. The contents will compromise not only the duke but many others around him. But Arlington is not the only one trying to recover the letter. Somebody has killed once to try to obtain it—and is prepared to kill again. And Samuel Pepys's offer of help may not be all it seems. So John Grey is forced to set off on a journey through plague-ravaged England to fulfill his commission and keep himself safe from his enemies—if the Plague doesn't get him first.

Wilson, Sam. [Zodiac](#) (Penguin \$45). Our **SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick for October**. The author writes, "*Zodiac* is a thriller set in a world divided by star signs. The month and hour of your birth determines your place in society, not because of some cosmic influence or a dystopian government, but because our beliefs shape who we are. Astrology is a way of categorizing people that doesn't have the historical charge of race, religion, wealth or gender. *Zodiac* takes that and shapes a world around it—a world that ends up looking a lot like ours. I never state if astrology is actually true in *Zodiac*, because the belief in it is enough. It's a way of exploring some of the things I'm interested in: Culture, self-fulfilling prophecy, and the way that symbols can supplant reality. More importantly, though, it let me tell a story. San Celeste is a recognizable city, but it's also off-kilter, which makes it the perfect place to set a murder. You can't be sure how it's going to play out, because it isn't our world. And ultimately I was trying to tell the best story that I could, with a plot that's as taut and gripping as I could make it. A police chief is murdered. A girl is kidnapped. A man tracks his illegitimate daughter. All the elements are simple and visceral. I wanted readers to wolf the book down. Astrology is the spice." I recently read an article in *New Republic* about the growing popularity of western astrology in China, where employers are reportedly hiring and turning people down based on their sign. Even in South Africa I have heard of people who refuse to work with Virgos because they're "too high maintenance."

Wortham, Reavis. [Unraveled](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). The 6th in the Red River Series blends the racial topicality of the Sixties crime classic *In the Heat of the Night* with the coming-of-age poignancy of *To Kill a Mockingbird* with one of Wortham's trademark taut and thrilling plots. *Unraveled* presents a gripping investigation into the extremes of human nature, both at its most repulsive and at its redemptive best. For more see Our October Trade Paperback Picks as it comes in a simultaneous trade paperback edition.

THREE "NEW"GEORGETTE HEYER STORIES

Heyer, Georgette. [Snowdrift and Other Stories](#) (Heinemann \$21). Regency tales formerly published in *Pistols for Two* BUT with the addition of 3 rediscovered Regency Romance tales by the best author of them all in this field. I was brought up on Heyer's work by My Mother, and reread them often. Many authors today join me in thinking [A Civil Contract](#) (\$13.99) is one of the best historical novels ever (it ends with news of the outcome of Waterloo).

This is a good time to mention Heyer also wrote several wonderful mysteries (her husband, a renowned judge, allegedly helped with the plotting). We have them all in stock as we do her Regencies and her historical novels. [Click here to order](#).

BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSICS

Farjeon, J. Jefferson. [Mystery in White](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). A Christmas detective tale not seen in shops for more than 70 years has become a festive sleeper hit and resurrected interest in a long-forgotten crime writer. I think you'll enjoy this article from the UK's *Independent* when the BL republished Farjeon's classic crime in 2014: "*Mystery in White* is selling in 'astonishing numbers' according to the Waterstones book chain. It has outsold rival paperbacks *Gone Girl*, by Gillian Flynn, and Donna Tartt's *The Goldfinch* on the high street, while Amazon temporarily

ran out of stock last week due to surging demand. The novel tells the story of an eclectic group of six people stuck on a train stranded by snow on Christmas Eve. Fearing that they may find themselves marooned all night, they decide to walk to the next station. On the way, they come across an unlocked house with dinner laid, kettle boiled and a fire on, but no one seemingly at home. ‘Trapped together for Christmas, the passengers are seeking to unravel the secrets of the empty house when a murderer strikes in their midst.’ First published in 1937, *Mystery in White* has been republished as part of the British Library Crime Classics series that is rekindling interest in authors from the ‘golden age’ of crime writing.” In stock now.

Hay, Mavis Doris. [Murder Underground](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). “This detective novel is much more than interesting. The numerous characters are well differentiated, and include one of the most feckless, exasperating and lifelike literary men that ever confused a trail.” —Dorothy L. Sayers, *Sunday Times*, 1934. When Miss Pongleton is found murdered on the stairs of Belsize Park station, her fellow-boarders in the Frampton Hotel are not overwhelmed with grief at the death of a tiresome old woman. But they all have their theories about the identity of the murderer, and help to unravel the mystery of who killed the wealthy ‘Pongle’. Several of her fellow residents—even Tuppy the terrier—have a part to play in the events that lead to a dramatic arrest. This classic mystery novel is set in and around the Northern Line of the London Underground. It is now republished for the first time since the 1930s, with an introduction by award-winning crime writer Stephen Booth.

And British Library Spy Classics in mid-October:

Oppenheim, E Phillips. [The Great Impersonation](#) (\$12.95). East Africa, 1913. The disgraced English aristocrat Everard Dominey stumbles out of the bush, and comes face to face with his lookalike – the German Baron von Ragastein. Months later, Dominey returns to London and resumes his glittering social life. But is it really Dominey who has come back– or a German secret agent seeking to infiltrate English high society? As international tension mounts and the great powers of Europe move closer to war, Dominey finds himself entangled in a story of suspicion and intrigue. He must try to evade his insane and murderous wife as well as escape the attentions of the passionate Princess Eiderstrom – and will eventually uncover the secret of the ghost that haunts his ancestral home. This classic thriller was hugely popular when it was first published in 1920, selling over one million copies in that year alone, and was filmed three times. It was selected by the *Guardian* as one of 100 novels everyone must read.

Oppenheim, E. Phillips. [The Spy Paramount](#) (\$12.95). Rome, 1934. Martin Fawley leaves the American secret service and is recruited by General Berati, the most feared man in fascist Italy, as a spy. After a brief encounter with a glamorous yet murderous Italian princess, Fawley’s mission takes him undercover to Monaco. Suave and worldly, Fawley is quite at home in the casinos and golf courses of Monte Carlo – but he is soon entangled in a game with higher stakes. As the nations of Europe vie for power, Fawley discovers the secret weapon that will determine the outcome of the looming war. This classic thriller – undoubtedly an influence on Ian Fleming’s James Bond novels – is now republished for the first time since the 1930s. With its yachts and cocktail parties, its steely hero and brutal assassins,

and its cinematic range across the cities of Europe, this is a gripping and sophisticated tale of a spy who saves the world.

And to mention another classic, or rather classics:

Christie, Agatha. [And Then There Were None](#) (\$19.99). A facsimile edition of one of her most famous and tantalizing puzzles, a book the publisher calls the bestselling book in the world. Featuring the original typesetting and format of the first (US) edition from the Christie family’s archive, *And Then There Were None Facsimile Edition* is packaged with the first hardcover edition’s actual cover art, which has been painstakingly restored to its original beauty. Note: this is the title of the first US edition from December, 1939; the first UK edition, published in November, 1939, had an entirely different cover and title. [Check it out here](#).

Quentin, Patrick. [The Puzzles of Peter Duluth](#) (Crippen & Landru \$29). Patrick Quentin was the pseudonym of Richard Webb (1901-1966) and Hugh Wheeler (1912-1987). Together they wrote some of the finest detective novels during the Golden Age of the classic mystery. Beginning with *Puzzle for Fools* (1936), Webb and Wheeler placed their detective hero, Peter Duluth, into perilous situations in which he must extricate himself (and his actress wife Iris) by solving the crime. This book contains two previously uncollected novellas about Peter and Iris, and two short stories. Michael Dirda reviews in the *Washington Post*: “As one learns from Curtis Evans’s excellent introduction, Patrick Quentin was the pen name used by Richard Webb and Hugh Wheeler for nine mysteries written between 1932 and 1952, most notably the 1938 classic, ‘Puzzle for Players’. After 1952 Wheeler produced seven additional Quentin novels on his own, but then, successfully, switched careers: He soon won a trio of Tonys for scripting the musicals ‘A Little Night Music,’ ‘Candide’ and ‘Sweeney Todd’” All four stories here feature producer Peter Duluth and his actress wife, Iris. In the almost zany ‘Puzzle for Poppy’ the couple solve the attempted murder of a St. Bernard. This story and ‘Death and the Rising Star’ exhibit a distinctly 1940s breeziness, somewhat reminiscent of the ‘Thin Man’ movies, but the two novellas, ‘Death Rides the Ski-Tow’ and ‘Murder With Flowers,’ are, as Evans notes, more reminiscent of Alfred Hitchcock thrillers.” In trade paperback: [The Puzzles of Peter Duluth](#) (\$19).

AND TWO MORE CLASSICS...

Palmer, Arnold. [A Life Well Played](#) (St Martins \$22.99). A champion golfer who proved himself a business visionary and paved the way for the founding of IMG to represent professional athletes died in September at age 87. I will never forget following him around 18 hilly holes in Tennessee in my late twenties and being barely able to keep up. Or watching him win two British Opens or come from 7 strokes back to defeat a very young Jack Nicklaus. A gentleman, always the gold standard in conduct if a sometimes rogue on the links, he gave back to his fans, styled Arnie’s Army, without stint, showing up to start the 2016 Masters with Nicklaus last April. Enjoy his last round of anecdotes and tips from a life that was indeed well and courageously played.

Springsteen, Bruce. [Born to Run](#) (SimonSchuster \$32.50). Who am I to improve upon Richard Ford writing a full page review in the *NY Times*? “...Springsteen can write—not just life-imprinting song lyrics but good, solid prose that travels all the way to the right margin. I mean, you’d think a guy who wrote, “Spanish

Johnny drove in from the underworld last night / With bruised arms and broken rhythm and a beat-up old Buick...”, could navigate his way around a complete and creditable American sentence. And you’d be right... Nothing in *Born to Run* rings to me as unmeant or punch-pulling... And like a fabled Springsteen concert—always notable for its deck-clearing thoroughness—*Born to Run* achieves the sensation that all the relevant questions have been answered by the time the lights are turned out. He delivers the story of Bruce... via an informally steadfast Jersey plainspeak that’s worked and deftly detailed and intimate with its readers—cleareyed enough to say what it means when it has hard stories to tell, yet supple enough to rise to occasions requiring eloquence—sometimes rather pleasingly subsiding into the syntax and rhythms of a Bruce Springsteen song...”

OCTOBER TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

Andrews, Sally. [Recipes for Love and Murder](#) (\$15.99). John Charles writes: When her recipe column for the local paper is switched out for a self-help column, middle-aged widow Tannie Maria isn’t sure if she will be any good at helping others. However, when Tannie Marie decides to include some recipes along with her “advice,” she discovers she has a hidden gift for helping others. One of the first letters Tannie Marie receives is from an abused woman, who is worried that her husband may kill her. When the woman is later found dead supposedly by committing suicide, Tannie Marie (who has had her own experiences with an abusive spouse), realizes she must do something. I love books that take me to another corner of the world, and Andrew’s marvelous debut beautifully captures the spare beauty of the South African landscape as well as the country’s exotic flora and fauna. Food, of course given the heroine’s job, plays an important role in the plot as well, and you can almost taste the dishes Tannie Marie cooks and shares with her friends. (As an added bonus, a small selection of recipes is included.) Other critics have compared this to Alexander McCall Smith’s Mma Ramotswe series, and if you enjoy those books you will probably also fall for this debut. But I also see a bit of Miss Marple in Tannie Marie, and in its own unique way her corner of South Africa has echoes the small village atmosphere of St. Mary Mead. Andrews’ debut will be the November pick for the Coffee and Crime book discussion group.

Bruen, Ken. [Green Hell](#) (\$15). In the previous book in the series, Purgatory, ex-cop Jack Taylor had finally turned his life around, only to be taunted back into fighting Galway’s corruption by a twisted serial killer named C33. In the new novel *Green Hell*, Bruen’s dark angel of a protagonist has again hit rock bottom: one of his best friends is dead, the other has stopped speaking to him; he has given up battling his addiction to alcohol and pills; and his firing from the Irish national police, the Guards, is ancient history. But Jack isn’t about to embark on a self-improvement plan. Instead, he has taken up a vigilante case against a respected professor of literature at the University of Galway who has a violent habit his friends in high places are only too happy to ignore. And when Jack rescues a preppy American student on a Rhodes Scholarship from a couple of kid thugs, he also unexpectedly gains a new sidekick, who abandons his thesis on Beckett to write a biography of Galway’s most magnetic rogue. Between pub crawls and violent outbursts, Jack’s vengeful plot against the professor soon spirals toward chaos. Enter Emerald, an edgy young Goth who could either be the answer to Jack’s

problems, or the last ripped stitch in his undoing. [Order earlier Jack Taylors here](#); all recommended.

Casarett, David. [Murder at the House of Rooster](#) (Red Hook \$15.99). Two nights ago, a young woman brought her husband into the emergency room of the Sriphat Hospital in Thailand, where he passed away. A guard thinks she remembers her coming in before, but with a different husband—one who also died. Ladarat Patalung, for one, would have been happier without a serial murderer—if there is one—loose in her hospital. Then again, she never expected to be a detective in the first place. And now, Ladarat has no choice but to investigate...” I love this book. It’s not only a killer mystery, but it also introduces a uniquely appealing central character and gives us a warm and accurate look into the Thai heart.”—Timothy Hallinan. Starts a series with a nurse detective.

Connolly, John. [Wolf in Winter](#) (\$16). A 2014 novel now in trade paperback and with a supernatural trope that fits the month of Halloween although some of you realists may scoff. In his 12th case, PI Charlie Parker, based in Portland, Maine, is still on the hunt for the serial killer known as the Collector, with his sidekicks—and comic relief—Angel and Louis in tow. Meanwhile, the seeming suicide of one of the city’s better known homeless men, Jude, diverts his attention. Before Jude’s death, Parker was intent on tracking down his estranged, wayward daughter, Annie, to try to reestablish a connection. The investigative trail leads to the wealthy, isolated town of Prosperous. “Sparks—and bullets—fly when Parker starts poking his nose into the deeper secrets of Prosperous, where he finds out fast that some secrets are worth killing for. A compellingly flawed hero and a detail-rich plot make for another satisfying read... “—*PW*. We still have a few Signed UK 1sts of Parker #14, [Time of Torment](#) (\$36).

Crosby, Ellen. [Ghost Image](#) (\$16). I’m delighted to say that Crosby delivers a new Virginia wine country mystery, [The Champagne Conspiracy](#) (St Martins \$27) , in November. An update on that is to come. But I think she excels in this sequel to [Multiple Exposure](#) (\$16). As a freelance photojournalist, Sophie Medina gets the chance to hobnob with some of the biggest players in Washington, DC, from the safety of behind her camera. But when she stumbles upon the body of her friend, Br. Kevin Boyle, at his Franciscan monastery, the story hits closer to home. Already thrust unwillingly into the public eye as the wedding photographer for a senator’s daughter and an Austrian nobleman, Sophie discovers an even bigger secret when, while sorting through Kevin’s effects, she finds an antique botany book said to have belonged to Thomas Jefferson with info of benefit to modern medicine that her friend, a vocal environmental advocate, had recently acquired. The book and its treasure map-like contents ensnare Sophie in a dangerous game that takes her from the archives at the Smithsonian to the vast underground Seed Bank outside of London. She narrowly escapes death several times before her return to the United States, where she can’t be sure whom to trust. The second in Crosby’s new series is a quick-moving mystery with a wealth of fascinating material on gardening in Colonial times, plus extra twists thanks to her ex-spy husband. I recommend both Sophies highly.

☞Dennison, Hannah. [Deadly Desires at Honeychurch Hall](#) (\$15.99). We will have her sign copies October 4 when she

appears with Carolyn Hart. At first glance you could take this as a village cozy with a sly Gothic element (a tall, handsome man introduced as Valentine Prince-Avery) and romance tropes. But Dennison delivers a real surprise in the clever plot for her sequel to [Murder at Honeychurch Hall](#) (\$15.99) which I applaud. The Devonshire village is Little Dipperton. Our heroine Kat Stanton is the (disgraced) former TV presenter (host) of *Fakes & Treasures* who's come to see if her newly widowed mother Irish can manage her charming new home on the Honeychurch Hall estate. What Kat learned is that Iris, long a conventional wife, had a hidden side: she writes lucrative bodice-rippers as Krystalle Storm (which explains those mysterious headache/absences from family life). Hoping to return to London after the first set of adventures, Kat now learns that the idyllic village and valley are facing disruption by the new train line and that potential beau Valentine is the line's compensation consultant. Then at a lively protest meeting, he runs off, leaving his SUV—and the body of an elderly villager—behind. Plus there's the missing £5,000 and Kat's ex who keeps sending huge floral offerings. . . . Still in stock, Signed 1sts of [A Killer Ball at Honeychurch Hall](#) (\$24.99).

Fletcher, Martin. [The War Reporter](#) (\$15.99). "Noted NBC war correspondent for the Middle East and Tel Aviv bureau chief Martin Fletcher delivers a thrilling novel set in the 1990s, using his lengthy experiences as a journalist to take readers on a touching, stressful, and emotional ride through wartime Bosnia and Serbia. The book is action-packed while also exploring the complex personal relationships that develop in a volatile war setting...The War Reporter is a moving novel, a crisply written and believable story of modern-day war and its effect on human relationships that keeps readers fully engrossed from start to finish."—The Jewish Book Council. *Booklist* calls it "A moving love story... A small gem of a novel." Winner of a Jewish National Book Award and author of *The List* and *Jacob's Oath*, both of which achieved outstanding critical acclaim.

✎Griffiths, Elly. [Zig-Zag Girl](#) (\$14.95). While I prefer her sparky series for Cambridge archaeologist Ruth Galloway and ensemble cast, any book by Griffiths works for me. In the start of a second series she shifts to the south coast town of Brighton and to 1950 and the remit of DI Edgar Stephens. The Magic Men, a group of stage magicians who performed special missions during WWII, have since gone their separate ways. Only one, Max Mephisto, is still earning top billing on the variety circuit. Others have become a police officer, a wisecracking comedian, a carpenter. The oldest of the group has drifted lower and lower in the profession, performing to bored audiences in sleazy strip clubs. The gruesome murder of a glamorous magician's stage assistant draws the former team back together. The portrayal of the backstage life and the onstage performances of illusionists forms a fascinating backdrop to the main action. Brief flashbacks to the Magic Men's wartime missions provide an equally gripping backstory. As the plot deepens, Griffiths' tone darkens, leading to a series of surprise twists. "With a labyrinthine plot, a splendid reveal and superb evocation of the wafer-thin veneer of glamour at the bottom end of show business, this is thoroughly enjoyable."—*The Guardian*. See the sequel, Indie Next Pick [Smoke and Mirrors](#), below in Some New Books for October.

Hamilton, Ian. [The King of Shanghai](#) (Anansi \$15.95). Who would think a forensic accountant's work could be so thrilling? Globe-trotting Chinese-Canadian Ava Lee has been in partnership

with the man she reveres and calls Uncle, recovering stolen money and debts for his client list. And now Uncle is dead and Ava Lee begins a new venture, investing, with two trusted women. The Three Sisters hadn't planned on assuming so much risk so quickly, nor had Ava Lee expected her new life to be upset by Xu, a man also mentored by Uncle Chow Tung and compellingly like him. Xu draws her to Shanghai whence his role in the Triad Societies sends her to Hong Kong and Guangzhou in a real test of her skills financial and martial. Ava Lee could teach Donald Trump a thing or two about the art of the deal as she enters The Triad Years. This excellent thriller series has won Canadian Hamilton an Arthur Ellis Award for best first novel and nominations for the Barry, a LAMBDA, and another Ellis—and my heart. How I love something well written and different. [Order them here](#).

Harrison, Mette. [His Right Hand](#) (\$15.95). In Draper, Utah, a tight-knit Mormon community is thrown into upheaval when their ward's second counselor—one of the bishop's right-hand men—is found dead in an elaborately staged murder on church property. Carl Ashby was known as a devout Mormon, a pillar of the community, and a loving husband and father. Who would want him dead? The Indie Next Pick: "In this riveting and compassionate mystery, beloved counselor Carl Ashby is found dead at church, leaving the Mormon community devastated. But when Linda and Kurt Wallheim learn that Carl was originally a female the news turns their world inside out, directing their focus away from the bigger issues at hand. In a community that is so set with its gender roles, can the Wallheims look past that to discover who killed Carl and why?" Inspired by the history of a family friend, here is the sequel to bestselling 2014 First Mystery Club Pick [The Bishop's Wife](#) (\$15.95). Look for a 3rd in January.

Katzenbach, John. [The Dead Student](#) (\$16). Timothy Warner, a PhD student who goes by the nickname "Moth," wakes up on his ninety-ninth day of sobriety with an intense craving for drink. He asks his uncle Ed, a former alcoholic and now successful psychiatrist, to meet him at an AA meeting later that day. When Ed doesn't show up, Moth bikes to his office and discovers a grisly scene—his uncle lying in a pool of blood, shot through the temple. The police pronounce the death a suicide, but Moth refuses to believe that his uncle would take his own life. Devastated and confused, he calls on the only person he thinks he can trust: Andrea Martine, an ex-girlfriend he has not spoken to in years. Each battling their inner demons, Moth and Andy travel into dark, unfamiliar territory, intent on finding out the truth about Ed's death and circling ever closer to a devious mind... This thriller by the ace Katzenbach was one of *PW's* top 10 mystery & thriller picks for fall, 2015 and a finalist for Killer Nashville's Best Novel Award. He's one of our Karen's favorite authors.

✎MacNeal, Susan Elia. [The Queen's Accomplice](#) (Bantam \$16). Echoes of classic crime meet international espionage in MacNeal's accomplished sixth WWII mystery. In bombed-and blacked-out 1942 London, a young woman's horrifically butchered body is discovered in Regent's Park near graffiti proclaiming that "Jack Is Back." With the discovery of a second, similarly brutalized corpse, a pattern emerges: the murders explicitly mimic Jack the Ripper's, and both women have been tapped for the Special Operations Executive, a top-secret unit that sends women spies behind enemy lines. American expat Maggie Hope, an experienced SOE operative, joins the investigation

jointly conducted by Scotland Yard and MI5. The stakes rise when a young woman trained by Maggie disappears, possibly abducted by the killer that the press dubs the Blackout Beast. “Though the titular queen—the current monarch’s mother—plays only a minor role, MacNeal’s engaging characters, vivid scene-setting, moments of romance, and rich historical detail offer plenty to enjoy” in this consistently well executed and popular series. [Order all the Hopes here.](#)

✎McPherson, Ben. [A Line of Blood](#) (\$15.95). A London family—mother, father, and young son—must deal with the murder of their secretive next-door neighbor and the intrusive police investigation that follows—a mind-bending read that will leave readers faced with ever shifting, and increasingly frightening, suspicions that one or all of them had something to do with it. I considered this for the British Crime Club in hardcover but it competed with something else. Try it in paperback.

✎Morrell, David. [Inspector of the Dead](#) (\$15.99). I am a rabid fan of the colorful Thomas De Quincey trilogy by Morrell who signs the final volume [Ruler of the Night](#) (LittleBrown \$27), for us here on November 16. Start with [Murder as a Fine Art](#) (\$16) and then read this Starred Review and grab this second entry: “Fans of sophisticated historicals will embrace Macavity Award–winner Morrell’s second suspense novel featuring Thomas De Quincey and his grown daughter, Emily. In 1855, just as the British are dealing with the collapse of the government following revelations of mismanagement during the Crimean War, London suffers a reign of terror. After murdering the servants of a Mayfair lord’s household, a killer manages the seemingly impossible crime of slitting the throat of Lady Cosgrove in her private pew in St. James’s Church. A note near her corpse contains only the words Young England, a reference to a group of conspirators that assassin Edward Oxford claimed were behind his attempt on Queen Victoria’s life in 1840. The murders continue, in settings apparently selected to show Londoners that they aren’t safe anywhere, and with a savagery that suggests a personal motive for the bloody spree. Impressively, Morrell even manages to introduce some humor into his grim tale, as shown by a scene in which De Quincy shocks Lord Palmerston by admitting he once told George III a lie. Convincing period detail complements the fascinating story line.”

Swanson, Peter. [The Kind Worth Killing](#) (\$15.95). From the author of terrific First Mystery Club Pick [The Girl with a Clock for a Heart](#) (\$14.99)—hailed by the *Washington Post* as “crime fiction’s best first novel of 2014”—a devious tale of psychological suspense involving sex, deception, and an accidental encounter that leads to murder that is a modern reimagining of Patricia Highsmith’s classic *Strangers on a Train*. Swanson is a rising star who takes his time and writes crafty plots with elegance.

Wortham, Reavis. [Unraveled](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). It’s 1968. In the rural Northeast Texas community of Center Springs, a car lunges through the guard rails on highway 271’s tightest curve and flings its two occupants down the new Lake Lamar Dam. What stuns the town’s residents isn’t the tragic accident but the identities of the two victims: Mayor Frank Clay, a white man, and Maggie Mayfield, a black woman who worked in his office. Each of them married to other people. What were they doing in Frank’s car together? As Sheriff Cody Parker remarks

to Constable Ned Parker as they survey the scene, “That ain’t no puzzle. It’s a problem.” Indeed. The Clays and the Mayfields have been carrying on a feud for generations, harboring revenge against each other in their DNA and just waiting for an excuse to reignite it. Living with his grandparents Ned and Miss Becky in a little farmhouse near the Red River, 14-year-old Top Parker finds himself caught up in another adult situation. The war escalating between the Clays and the Mayfields is frightening in its intensity. More horrifying is a man calling himself the Wraith who invades homes and watches the Parkers. Meanwhile Sheriff Cody Parker finds himself a possible suspect in the murder of several residents. He listens to his Deputy John Washington and removes himself from the investigation, giving free rein to John and to Deputy Anna Sloan as they try and unravel the various mysteries as houses burn, a throat gets cut, and one unfortunate soul is found hanging from a tree limb, dead. Think *In the Heat of the Night* with the coming-of-age poignancy of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Unraveled* presents a gripping investigation into human nature, both at its most repulsive and at its redemptive best. Order all the [Red River Mysteries](#) here excluding the signed hardcover of *Unraveled*.

SOME OF THE NEW BOOKS FOR OCTOBER

Art Institute of Chicago. [Color the Classics](#) (Sourcebooks \$14.99). If you enjoy the adult coloring craze, why not try your hand at 30 masterpieces from the museum’s collection? I grew up with it; it holds Rosenwald glass from Rob’s family and a marvelous collection of Impressionists, not to mention the 68 Thorne Miniature Rooms (check out this [YouTube video tour](#)) which were an annual treat to visit with my Grandmother after lunch at Marshall Field’s. The Phoenix Art Museum has some of the rooms you can enjoy.

Bardugo, Leigh. [The Six of Crows](#) (Holt \$18.99). Ketterdam: a bustling hub of international trade where anything can be had for the right price — and no one knows that better than criminal prodigy Kaz Brekker. Kaz is offered a chance at a deadly heist that could make him rich beyond his wildest dreams. But he can’t pull it off alone... Released last fall but just now on our radar, a great fantasy read for teens and mature readers. And don’t overlook [The Crooked Kingdom](#) (\$18.99).

Beard, Mary. [SPQR](#) (\$17.95). In an instant classic, Mary Beard narrates the history of Rome “with passion and without technical jargon” and demonstrates how “a slightly shabby Iron Age village” rose to become the “undisputed hegemon of the Mediterranean” —*Wall Street Journal*. National Book Critics Circle Finalist • *Wall Street Journal* Best Books of 2015 • *Kirkus Reviews* Best Books of 2015 • *Economist* Books of the Year 2015 • *New York Times Book Review* 100 Notable Books of 2015

Belsky, RG. [Blonde Ice](#) (Atria \$16). Belsky’s fast-paced third novel featuring intrepid *New York Daily News* reporter Gil Malloy entangles the aging journalist in two front-page stories unfolding simultaneously. One revolves around an exclusive on the upcoming mayoral race, while the other concerns a female serial killer who’s torturing and murdering men for the thrill of it. The killer—tagged Blonde Ice by the media—is a beautiful and extraordinarily intelligent woman who seems to have a penchant for targeting promiscuous men. Malloy.” The plot is full of twists and told with dry humor, but what I like most is Gil’s efforts to “stay relevant in the quickly changing newspaper industry,”

attempts to stay on top of the disparate stories, and his genuine surprise at discovering links between the deputy mayor and the killer. “Insightful and genuinely interesting characters, gritty atmospherics, and a wry sense of humor power the plot, which is filled with enough bombshell twists to keep readers guessing.” [Order all the Malloys here.](#)

Benedict, Marie. [The Other Einstein](#) (Sourcebooks \$25.99). “Einstein. Just hearing that name likely brings a smile to your face, as you picture the mischievous wild-haired scientist with the twinkle in his eye. In *The Other Einstein*, readers get a view of the woman behind the genius, his first wife Mileva Maric, a strong willed and brilliant physics student who refused to let society dictate her life’s path, but who lost her way when love came on the scene. Benedict has penned an engaging tale that will likely inspire readers to investigate the true story behind Maric’s genius and her personal and professional relationship with Einstein.”

Benjamin, Melanie. [The Swans of Fifth Avenue](#) (\$16). A novel about New York’s “Swans” of the 1950s—and the scandalous, headline-making, and enthralling friendship between literary legend Truman Capote and peerless socialite Babe Paley.

Bowen, Lila. [Conspiracy of Ravens](#) (Orbit \$25) is the sequel to [Wake of Vultures](#) (\$15.99) taking Nettie Lonesome towards her destiny as the Shadow calls. A powerful alchemist is leaving a trail of dead across the prairie. And Nettie must face the ultimate challenge: side with her friends and the badge on her chest or take off alone on a dangerous mission that is pulling her inexorably toward the fight of her life. So, a Western/ Fantasy series.

✠Brody, Frances. [Death of an Avid Reader](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Lady Coulton gave up the baby that would have ruined her marriage, born when Lord Coulton was away at the Boer Wars. Now that her husband is dying, she asks Leeds’ private enquiry agent Kate Shackleton (who may or may not be a war widow) to find Sophia. This is the 1920s and Kate is from a socially superior background; hence this mission. 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. Brody has the 1920s Britain and the style of the classic British cozy down pat. Plenty of distinctive characters, charming animals, and twists and turns add up to a charming 6th entry in a series I have recommended to you every single book.

Brooks, Geraldine. [The Secret Chord](#) (\$16). Peeling away the myth to bring King David to life in Second Iron Age Israel, Brooks traces the arc of his journey from obscurity to fame, from shepherd to soldier, from hero to traitor, from beloved king to murderous despot and into his remorseful and diminished dotage.

✠Cleeves, Ann. [Moth Catcher](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Life seems perfect in the quiet community of Valley Farm. Then a shocking discovery shatters the silence. The owners of a big country house have employed a house-sitter, a young ecologist, to look after the place while they’re away. But his dead body is found by the side of the lane—a lonely place to die. When DI Vera Stanhope arrives on the scene, she finds the body of a second man. What

the two victims seem to have in common is a fascination with studying moths—and with catching these beautiful, intriguing creatures. Only Lepidoptera seems to connect the two. But others in the town seem webbed together, or apart, by secrets.... In her 7th for Vera (star of a TV series), Cleeves draws “complex relations with her fellow detectives as well as the hidden springs of tension in the circle affected by the crime, touching on class relations, the ennui of middle age, and the deceits, frailties, and tenderness of long marriage.”

✠Colgan, Jenny. [The Bookshop on the Corner](#) (\$14.99). For young librarian Nina Redmond, nothing brings greater satisfaction than placing the perfect book in the hands of eager readers. To her dismay, her library in Birmingham, England, is downsizing and changing its focus. This presents petite, timid Nina with an opportunity to follow a dream of creating a bookstore on wheels. Relocating to the Scottish Highlands is an uncharacteristic act of daring for her. Driving an unwieldy mobile bookstore and living in a modernized remote barn introduces her to a world of small towns and stunning wide open spaces, along with a community of hungry readers. Nina blossoms as she matches books with both the young and old, all while engaging in two romantic flirtations. Who will win this shy English librarian’s heart?

Connolly, John/Declan Burke, eds. [Books to Die For](#) (\$17). Stellar contemporary mystery writers celebrate their favorite mystery novels in this gorgeously wrought collection, featuring essays by Lee Child, Michael Connelly, Kathy Reichs, Ian Rankin, and classics by Christie, Doyle, Poe, Marlowe, Sayers... Indispensable reading and tons of fun! Think of this as an excellent gift book, too.

Correa, Armando. [The German Girl](#) (Atria \$26.99). Just when you think there can’t be another aspect of the miseries of WWII to chronicle, here is Correa writing a debut framed with the story of the *St. Louis*, a transatlantic liner transporting Jews in safe passage to Cuba and a new life—only to be turned away first by Cuba, then by the US, and finally... well read it. The point of view character is young Hannah Rosenthal along with her best friend Leo Martin. They make a pact that whatever may come, they will have a future together....

✠Dams, Jeanne M. [Smile and Be a Villain](#) (Severn \$28.99). Talking a walk on the first day of their holiday on the beautiful island of Alderney in the English Channel, Dorothy Martin and her husband, retired police detective Alan Nesbitt, discover a body on a precipitous hill path. An accident—or something more sinister? Dorothy and Alan make it their business to find out.

✠De Bernieres, Louis. [Notwithstanding](#) (Penguin \$16). This novelist, after reading Tim Pears’ 1993 classic, *In the Place of Fallen Leaves*, exchanged letters with Pears where Pears replied, “I’ll keep England if you keep abroad.” So de Bernieres kept the agreement and wrote about “abroad” up until now when he gives us this collection of stories. They are set in a Surrey village he calls Notwithstanding and both celebrates and dispel the idea of the English rural idyll, the perfect village. The best part IMHO is the Afterword which is wonderful and which says, among other excellent things, “Britain really is an immense lunatic asylum.... We are rigid and formal in some ways, but we believe in the right to eccentricity as long as the eccentricities are large enough. We are not so tolerant of small ones. Woe betide you if you hold your

knife incorrectly, but good luck to you if you wear a loin-cloth and live up a tree.” Which you fans of British fiction will agree is not only a truth but adds greatly to the enjoyment of reading it.

✎Doherty, Paul. [The Great Revolt](#) (Severn \$29.95). Doherty is nearly as prolific as Patterson but he writes his many books himself. I like Brother Athelstan, monk of Southwark, London. In his 16th investigation, it's June, 1381, and rebel armies are massed outside the city, determined to overturn the reign of boy-king Richard II. John of Gaunt, the Regent, is heading north, leaving the boy unprotected [note, when Gaunt died, Richard hung onto the throne until deposed in 1399 by Gaunt's son Henry Bolingbroke, aka Henry IV]. But Athelstan's focus is smaller: he's at Blackfriars, tasked with solving the murder of his fellow priest, Brother Alberic, found stabbed to death in his locked chamber. Ordered Upon Request. New in paperback: [The Book of Fires](#) (\$17.95) and [The Herald of Hell](#) (\$17.95), Brother Athelstans #14 and #15.

Doughty, Louise. [Black Water](#) (Farrar \$26). In her follow-up to 2014 British Crime Club Pick [Apple Tree Yard](#) (\$16), “Doughty has created a novel comparable to Graham Greene's masterpiece *The Quiet American* in its taut exploration of morality on a geopolitical and personal scale. It follows John Harper, long-time employee of The Institute—a mysterious organization that amounts to a non-governmental spy agency—who is forced into an uneasy furlough in rural Indonesia after a lapse of operational judgment. Harper falls for Rita, another foreign transplant with a troubled past, as political turbulence increases prior to the 1998 resignation of President Suharto. Disturbing historical echoes force Harper to reckon with his own culpability in the 1965 massacres that killed some one million Indonesians, when he served as a courier ferrying lists of alleged communists to military officials. The plot is complex and delves into dark, unjustly forgotten corners of history, including the brutal consequences of the United States' anticommunist efforts. That said, *Black Water* is as much a character study as it is an espionage thriller, determined to explicate Harper's fractured identity. He is the son of an Indonesian mother and a Dutch father killed by the Japanese during World War II, and extended flashbacks trace his piecemeal upbringing.”

✎Dunn, Carola. [Superfluous Women](#) (\$16.99). Daisy Dalrymple #22. The Honourable Daisy Dalrymple Fletcher, on a convalescent trip to the countryside, goes to visit three old school friends in the area. The three, all unmarried, have recently bought a house together. They are a part of the generation of “superfluous women”—brought up expecting marriage and a family, but left without any prospects after more than 700,000 British men were killed in the Great War. Daisy and her husband Alec—Detective Chief Inspector Alec Fletcher, of Scotland Yard—go for a Sunday lunch with Daisy's friends, where one of the women mentions a wine cellar below their house, which remains curiously locked, no key to be found. Alec offers to pick the lock, but when he opens the door, what greets them is not a cache of wine, but the stench of a long-dead body. And with that, what was a pleasant Sunday lunch becomes an interesting murder investigation. I liked this premise much better than Ruth Ware's contemporary take on the hazards of school friend reunions in [In a Dark, Dark Wood](#) (\$16).

Dunn, Matthew. [A Soldier's Revenge](#) (Morrow \$26.99). While you're waiting for the new Jack Reacher on Nov. 7 you can whip through this lightning bolt of a thriller with former MI6 ace Will Cochrane who resigned from MI6/CIA after his identity was blown. He's in the States prepared to adopt the two children of a former SEAL who'd worked for him, now dead. And he wakes up in Room 1944 of the NY Waldorf with his hands covered in blood and the body of a woman face down in the bathtub, the back of her head blasted away. His fingerprints are on the wall, his blood (from a cut on his arm) under her nails. He has no memory of any of it. So, black ops pro that he is, he runs. The case is assigned to the city's two top cops and the chase is on. You can get whiplash reading this so grab one and settle in for the ride.

Eskens, Allen. [The Heavens May Fall](#) (Seventh Street Press \$15.95). Karen Shaver reviews: We met Detective Max Rupert and attorney Boady Sanden in Eskens first novel [The Life We Bury](#) (\$15.95). In this new title, the wife of attorney, Ben Pruitt is found brutally murdered and the first suspect is, of course, the husband. Rupert is assigned to the case and sees it as an opportunity to even the score with Pruitt for a time when the two were on opposite sides of a case. Pruitt forged documents that made Rupert look foolish and the animosity has never gone away. Boady is a former law partner of Ben and is hired to defend him on the murder charge. Max can only see Ben as guilty and is not open to any evidence that indicates otherwise. Just as adamant is Boady's contention that Ben is innocent. He was out of town on the night of the murder and is able to provide receipts to prove his position. Both Boady and Max have different perspectives that may have more to do with issues from the past than the reality of what is in front of them. The friendship of Max and Boady is tested and fractures their effectiveness in resolving the case. Eskens is a pleasure to read. His writing is intelligent and engaging, the story intriguing and characters decent, but flawed. He has won high praise from Lee Child and William Kent Krueger.

Fradkin, Barbara. [Fire in the Stars](#) (Dundurn \$19.95). Fradkin, author of the Inspector Green series, two of which won Arthur Ellis awards, now introduces readers to a new mystery series. The adventurous Amanda Doucette was an international aid worker, but after surviving a horrific incident in Nigeria, she returned to Canada. When she learns that her fellow aid worker Phil Cousins has disappeared into northern Newfoundland with his young son, she embarks on a quest to find them. Fradkin does a marvelous job depicting the fierce beauty and isolation of Newfoundland and the post-traumatic stress both Amanda and Phil experience. Amanda is buoyed by her retriever Kaylee and RCMP officer Chris Tymko, who takes vacation time to assist her. with: a dead foreigner fished out of the sea, the sighting of a lifeboat carrying several men hurrying away, and an old fisherman found ax murdered. Amanda's task becomes more difficult and dangerous as she not only has to find Phil and his son in the wilderness but also has to figure out who the murderer is—it's our **Fresh Fiction Club Pick**. Fradkin, a retired psychologist, creates well-drawn, complex characters, and she knows how to build tension and drama that hold readers to the end. Fradkin was part of our International Crime Night last February.

French, Tana. [The Trespasser](#) (Viking, \$27). Library Reads reports: “Aislinn Murray is beautiful, lives in a picture-perfect cottage, and has a boy she’s crazy about. Antoinette Conway is a tough member of the Dublin Murder Squad who knows no one likes her and says she doesn’t care. When Aislinn is murdered, Conway and her partner Steve Moran take the case and start listening to all the stories about Aislinn. Which ones are true? Was she in love and with whom? Are the stories we tell ourselves and others anywhere near the truth?” I have read all French’s work with enthusiasm but this one doesn’t do it for me. Unfortunately there is no tour thus no signed copies.

Fuentes, Gabrielle. [The Sleeping World](#) (Touchstone \$25). A debut that captures the exhilaration and dangers of 1970s post-Franco Spain when the generals who staged the coup want to clean up the loose ends—the dissidents, mostly students—in anticipation of war crimes trials when the country becomes a democracy. Does this sound like what’s going on in Erdogan’s Turkey right now, or what? Mosca, a bitterly jaded young woman, goes on a harrowing search for her missing brother—and the history that destroyed their lives. Violent, heartbreaking, unforgettable, the novel succeeds in capturing Spain’s liminal period between dictatorship and democracy on an intimate, deeply personal level. The fever dream of Mosca’s story, however, reaches beyond Spain’s borders to confront universal questions of love and loss amidst the violent current of history.

Gallagher, Stephen. [The Authentic William James](#) (Subterranean \$40). “As the special investigator to the Lord Chancellor’s Visitor in Lunacy, [former policeman and Pinkerton agent Sebastian] Becker is charged with investigating “the psychology of anyone with a fortune or an income that might be put at risk by their erratic behavior.” When a fatal arson at a Sussex theater claims the life of a German prince, Becker’s superior is eager for him to demolish any claim that the prime suspect, showman William James, was insane when he set the fire. After meeting James, Becker is prepared to give some credence to the man’s claims of innocence. That comes back to haunt him when James manipulates him into facilitating his escape, leading the detective on a search for the fugitive—and the truth—that takes him to Pennsylvania and an apparent dead end. Gallagher makes the most of his unusual concept in the service of a twisty but logical plot line.”—*PW* Starred Review. I absolutely loved Becker’s debut in [The Bedlam Detective](#) (\$15.95), recommended to all fans of well-written, eccentric British crime fiction.

Gleick, James. [Time Travel, A History](#) (Pantheon \$26.95). Celebrated science writer James Gleick (*Chaos, Genius*) takes readers on a scientific and cultural journey through the history of time travel, investigating time machines as well as paradoxes and quandaries scientific and metaphysical. Gleick kicks off with H.G. Wells, but *Time Travel* bounces along thematic paths rather than chronological ones: one chapter deals with the philosophical implications of time travel, while another addresses the physics of entropy (it’s what makes time move forward for us, and keeps us from being able to go backward). Gleick is omnivorous, finding his muse in every available source, and is as likely to make a reference to *Bill & Ted’s Excellent Adventure* and *Back to the Future* as he is Tom Stoppard or Richard Feynman. Though versed in sci-fi and pop culture, Gleick’s chief concern is the nature and definition of time itself.

Griffiths, Elly. [Smoke and Mirrors](#) (Houghton \$25). The IndieNext Pick: “Thrilled for another opportunity to enjoy DI Stephens and Max Mephisto joining forces against crime and intrigue. It may appear light hearted with its theatrical/magician twist, but these detective stories are full of dark happenings. Solving the gruesome murder of two local children dampens the holiday spirit in this small town. The lead characters are very enjoyable and the theater setting so unique. I enjoyed the love interest/overprotected daughter story line as well! Very much looking forward to the next installment.” For the first, *The Zig-Zag Girl*, see Our October Trade Paperback Picks.

Harrison, Cora. [Shocking Assassination](#) (Severn \$29.99). “Harrison does an even better job of integrating a fair-play mystery with the tensions of early 1920s Ireland in her second whodunit featuring the Reverend Mother Aquinas than she did in its predecessor, 2015’s *A Shameful Murder*. Mother Aquinas is shopping in a Cork market when a shot rings out and city engineer James Doyle drops dead. She spots journalist Sam O’Mahoney standing near Doyle’s corpse, holding a pistol. No one takes seriously the reporter’s claim that he just picked up the weapon after someone dropped it on his foot. And Sam had a strong motive for the killing: he was fired from his job after he wrote an article exposing waste and corruption in the city’s government that included allegations of wrongdoing on Doyle’s part. Sam’s distraught mother begs Mother Aquinas to exonerate him, and while the Cork convent head refuses to perjure herself, she vigorously pursues other suspects. Well-drawn characters, including a lead capable of sustaining a long series, complement the clever plot.”—*PW* Starred Review. Ordered Upon Request.

Hearn, Lian. [The Tengu’s Game of Go](#) (Farrar \$13). The four-book Tale of the Shikanoko series reaches its finale as destiny has its way, determining once and for all who will be emperor of Hearn’s fantasy feudal Japan. [Order all four tales here.](#)

☒Heley, Veronica. [Murder in Style](#) (Severn \$29.99). When Poppy Cordover is found dead at the bottom of the office stairs at the Magpie boutique, which she co-owned with her twin sister Juno, the twins’ father asks Ellie Quicke to investigate. Ellie Quick’s enquiries are about to uncover a hornet’s nest of greed, malice and tragic secrets.

☒Henderson, Jenn. [Josephine Tey, A Life](#) (\$18). The *LJ* Starred Review: “Josephine Tey’s work has never been out of print in the nearly 90 years since her first book was published. Her 1951 novel [The Daughter of Time](#) (\$16) was chosen by the Crime Writer’s Association as the greatest mystery novel of all time. Yet, until now there has never been a full-length biography of the writer. Playwright and author Henderson corrects the oversight with a fascinating and highly readable account of Tey’s life. Born Elizabeth MacKintosh in Inverness, Scotland, in 1896, “Beth” had begun a career teaching physical education before she moved back home to care for her aging father. At this point she turned to writing, making her first break as a playwright using the pseudonym Gordon Daviot by writing a successful work starring the young John Gielgud. While continuing to produce plays as Daviot, she became a famous mystery writer as Tey. Henderson ably chronicles her subject’s life and provides not just facts but context for her work through thorough research into the stories of family, friends, and the social and political milieu of the times. Photographs, extensive notes, and an index round out the work.”

A must-read for fans of Tey and/or Nicola Upton's mysteries featuring Tey as the sleuth. Black & White photos and, I think, an Introduction or Foreword by Val McDermid. *The Daughter of Time* may be the best known but my favorites are [The Franchise Affair](#) and [Brat Farrar](#) (\$16 each)!

✎James, P.D. [The Mistletoe Murder and Other Stories](#) (Knopf \$24). The newly appointed Sgt. Dalgliesh is drawn into a case that is "pure Agatha Christie." A best-selling crime novelist describes the crime she herself was involved in fifty years earlier... Dalgliesh's godfather implores him to reinvestigate a notorious murder that might ease the godfather's mind about an inheritance, but which will reveal a truth that even the supremely upstanding Adam Dalgliesh will keep to himself. Each of these 4 previously uncollected stories by James (1920-2014) is playful as well as ingeniously plotted, forming a real holiday treat for readers.

Johansen, Iris. [Night Watch](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Born blind, Kendra Michaels spent the first twenty years of her life living in the darkness. Then, thanks to a revolutionary medical procedure developed by England's Night Watch Project, she was given the gift of sight. Her highly-developed senses (honed during her years in the dark), combined with her new found vision, have made her a remarkable investigator, sought after by law-enforcement agencies all over the country. But her newest case becomes deeply personal as she uncovers the truth about the shadowy organization that has given her so much. Kendra is surprised when she is visited by Dr. Charles Waldridge, the researcher who gave her sight. All is not well with the brilliant surgeon; he's troubled by something he can't discuss with Kendra. When Waldridge disappears the very night he visits her, Kendra moves into action....

Le Carré, John. [The Pigeon Tunnel: Stories from My Life](#) (Viking \$28 UNSIGNED). This "autobiography," is fabulous, a must-read for the author's fans. As Le Carré explains in his introduction, "A recently published account of my life offers thumbnail versions of one or two of the stories, so it naturally pleases me to reclaim them as my own, tell them in my own voice and invest them as best I can with my own feelings." The long chapter on his father is the heart of the book and the remarkable thing is that there is no note of bitterness in the telling. Read a full-page [penetrating review](#) by Walter Isaacson with which I completely agree in the *NY Times Book Review*. There is a FAINT CHANCE we will get Signed copies of [The Pigeon Tunnel](#) (\$46) from London so if you put your name in, we will not charge you until the book actually appears. This is iffy but we're doing our best to get them. Reminder: Le Carré is the pen name of David Cornwell who did serve in Britain's spy force before he began to write about it.

Meier, Leslie. [The British Manor Murder](#) (Kensington \$25). It's a nippy spring in Tinker's Cove, Maine, and so Lucy Stone can't wait to join her friend Sue at the Earl of Wickham's manor in England for the "Heads Up!" hat exhibition—even if she has to spend her entire holiday curtsying. But at Moreton Manor, privileged life isn't always tea and crumpets. A body, bludgeoned by the chapel's gold-plated reliquary, is found in a hidden, sealed off room. Stranger still, the corpse is identified as the son of snobby Aunt Millicent's handmaiden. Considering the weapon and the clandestine location, Lucy wouldn't be shocked if the murder was an inside job. I'm not calling this a British mystery, it's an American cozy.

Notaro, Laurie. [Crossing the Horizon](#) (Gallery \$26). If you thrilled to Paula McClain's [Circling the Sun](#) and her fictionalization of the life of aviatrix Beryl Markham, this terrific triple-story, based on fact and illustrated from real life, is for you. Three women resolve to become the first to fly across the Atlantic from East to West. They are Elsie Mackay, daughter of an Earl, the first Englishwoman to get her pilot's license. Mabel Boll, a glamorous society darling and former cigar girl, ardent to make the historic flight. And beauty pageant contestant Ruth Elder who uses her winnings for flying lessons and becomes the preeminent American girl of the sky. Elsie, a rebel from Society life, is the most accomplished and the most likely to succeed; and the least interested in the celebrity that comes with the role (this is after all the age of Lindbergh). Notaro's research is awesome but it's her storytelling chops that make what could be journalism or biography into something much more as she braids these lives and the times into a suspenseful work that gains extra power from following the three women on through their lives. I may be able to secure Signed copies; watch the Enews.

✎Parsons, Tony. [The Hanging Club](#) (St Martins \$25.99). I'm a serious fan of this series from the UK and am pleased to see this spot-on review in *Kirkus*: "A group of vigilantes goes after bad guys who received little more than a slap on the wrist. In his latest Max Wolfe outing, Parsons explores whether criminal justice is truly just. This series continues to grow in both its excellent writing and subtly paced character development.... Wolfe begins to wonder whether the system really does work. Killers go free or receive token sentences, while families grieve and pine for justice. When his best friend, Jackson Rose, walks back into his life, Wolfe faces a dilemma: stay true to his oath as a cop or give in to his instincts to shield the people he cares about. Parsons' latest takes on the frustration that both cops and society as a whole have with a slow-moving system that often results in punishment that in no way reflects the anguish of those affected by the crime, weighing not only the legally correct responses to those imbalances, but also the morally correct ones. This case tests Wolfe's humanity as well as his sense of duty.

Patterson, James. [Filthy Rich](#) (LittleBrown \$28). The true story of billionaire Jeffrey Epstein, written with John Connolly and Tim Malloy. New novels: [Kill or Be Killed](#) (LittleBrown \$19.99), *Women's Murder Club*, and [Woman of God](#) (LittleBrown \$28) with Maxine Paetro. I can't keep up with Patterson's output.

✎Penzler, Otto. [The Big Book of Jack the Ripper](#) (Knopf \$25). Penzler's ambitious sixth Big Book after 2015's [The Big Book of Sherlock Holmes Stories](#) (\$25) appropriately deviates from the template of earlier volumes, given its focus on a real-life criminal. The opening section, "The True Story," gathers primary sources, like witness statements and autopsy reports, contemporary newspaper accounts of the murders, and George Bernard Shaw's legendary letter to the editor of the *Star* newspaper decrying the horrific living conditions in Whitechapel. The bulk of the book provides a comprehensive selection of Ripper-inspired fiction, including such well-known works as Marie Belloc Lowndes' "The Lodger" (presented in both its original short story form and later novel version) and Robert Bloch's "Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper." But as with previous Big Books, Penzler's dogged research has enabled him to include undeservedly obscure stories as well....

Price, Steven. [By Gaslight](#) (Farrar \$28). I haven't been able to get to this massive novel by Canadian poet Price (who is not visiting the US, alas). So here's what I can say: "Steven Price's extraordinary historical novel [is] finely written and deeply researched, about the period just following the Civil War, the son of America's most famous detective (Allen Pinkerton), and a cast of truly powerful characters, half-mad and all dangerous." —Alan Furst. "This sweeping tale of the unforgettable William Pinkerton and Adam Foole thrusts the reader into smoky Victorian London with all its grit and glitter. Uniting the literary grace and depth of William Faulkner and Cormac McCarthy with the intrigue and momentum of a Sherlock Holmes story, *By Gaslight* is completely absorbing..." —Jacqueline Baker. And the *PW* Starred Review begins, "Price's elegantly written, vividly evoked second novel marries historical suspense with literary sophistication. In 1885 London, a woman's dismembered body is identified as that of Charlotte Reckitt, a longtime grifter for whom two very different men are searching. William Pinkerton, the 39-year-old son of American detective-agency-founder Allan Pinkerton, is struggling to accept his larger-than-life father's recent death. Along with the agency, he has inherited the elder Pinkerton's obsession with Edward Shade, an elusive master criminal his father could never apprehend. ...Thief and confidence man Adam Foole hopes to reunite with Charlotte, the lover he lost 10 years before but hasn't forgotten. Both men are obsessed with getting to the bottom of Charlotte's apparent demise..."

✠Rickloff, Alix. [The Secrets of Nanreath Hall](#) (Harper \$15.99). Cornwall, 1940. Back in England after the harrowing evacuation at Dunkirk, WWII Red Cross nurse Anna Trenowyth is shocked to learn that her adoptive parents Graham and Prue Handley have been killed in an air raid. She desperately needs their advice as she's been assigned to the military hospital that has set up camp inside her biological mother's childhood home—Nanreath Hall. Anna was just six-years-old when her mother, Lady Katherine Trenowyth, died. All she has left are vague memories that tease her with clues she can't unravel. Anna's assignment to Nanreath Hall could be the chance for her to finally become acquainted with the family she's never known—and to unbury the truth and secrets surrounding her past. Cornwall, 1913. In the luxury of pre-WWI England, Lady Katherine Trenowyth is expected to do nothing more than make a smart marriage and have a respectable life. When Simon Halliday, a bohemian painter, enters her world, Katherine begins to question the future that was so carefully laid out for her... You can see where this is going. *Romantic Times* lays it out: "...an emotional and fascinating journey into the hearts of many women. [...] Many will find the soap-opera plotline, likable characters, colorful backdrop and the quest for answers to decades-old questions as much fun as a Downtown Abbey episode."

Ripley, JR. [Buried in Beignets](#) (\$17.95). "39-year-old Maggie Miller has moved from Phoenix to Table Rock, Arizona, where her mother, sister, and two nephews already live. When people ask her whether she's married, recently divorced Maggie says her husband is dead because 'he was dead to me.' Maggie is preparing to open Maggie's Beignet Café, but inside a packing box, she finds the body of her landlord, Rick Wilbur. When Det. Mark Highsmith, who has "yummy brown eyes, sort of the color of brown M&Ms," learns that the murder weapon was

a rolling pin, he takes Maggie in for questioning. Meanwhile, obstacles keep getting in the way of her grand opening—the police investigation, a bounced check, a fire, and a visit from her ex-husband. Recipes and tips add seasoning to Ripley's appealing mix of quirky characters and slapstick humor." This is from *PW* for a book I haven't read.

Schneider, Franklin/Jennifer. [Black Hills](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). At the center of the drama is Alice Riley, a disgraced New York City journalist turned private eye who has been brought in to investigate the crime. After teaming up with a well-connected local prostitute, Alice soon learns that out in the black hills of South Dakota, corruption runs deeper than the oil buried beneath the ground, and the assault she is investigating is just one piece of a much bigger conspiracy. Dark and gritty, *Black Hills* offers a modern twist on classic detective thrillers, evoking *Thelma & Louise*

Skredderberget, Asle. [The Oslo Conspiracy](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Can't get along without a Scandinavian Noir fix? Milo Cavalli is really rich—and a cop assigned to the Financial Crimes Unit. Because Milo is Italian on his father's side, his superiors dispatch him to Rome to help investigate a Norwegian citizen's murder. Ingrid Tollefsen, a researcher who worked at the Oslo office of an American pharmaceutical company, was found strangled in her hotel room in Italy, but with no other signs of violence. Milo is surprised to learn that two years earlier the victim's 15-year-old brother was executed near his school in Norway by gangsters who also gunned down a teacher. Meanwhile, Milo's personal life resembles a soap opera as he deals with tension with his significant other, romantic temptations, and dramatic revelations about his family. I like the idea of such a global framework for a series start.

Slater, Dan. [Wolf Boys: Two American Teenagers and Mexico's Most Dangerous Drug Cartel](#) (Simon & Schuster). An intimate story of two American teens recruited as killers for a Mexican cartel and their pursuit by a Mexican-American detective who realizes the War on Drugs is unwinnable. A nonfiction thriller, *Wolf Boys* depicts the way the border is changing, disappearing, and posing new, terrifying threats to American security.

Smith, Alexander McCall. [Precious and Grace](#) (Knopf \$25.95). The co-director of the No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency, Grace Makutsi, is busy with her own case, her client none other than their erstwhile assistant, Mr. Polopetsi, who has unwittingly involved himself in a pyramid scheme. The agency's other assistant, Charlie, may also need more help than he can offer, as he is newly embroiled in a romance with a glamorous woman about whom the others have their doubts. So when a young Canadian woman approaches Mma Ramotswa with a complex case, it's up to her alone to solve it—with her signature intuition and insight, of course.... Wow, this is the 17th in this amusing series.

Smith, Martin Cruz. [Canto for a Gypsy; Gypsy in Amber](#) (\$16). In conjunction with Smith's new novel, *The Girl from Venice*, reviewed in Signed Books in this Booknews, his two early books, *Amber* in New York and *Canto* with plenty of action in Hungary, are reissued. Joe Gores used to write about American gypsies and car scams; Smith goes with crown jewels.

Smith, Wilbur. [Pharaoh](#) (Harper \$28.99) is the 5th swords-and-sandals adventure by Smith set in ancient Egypt as it continues

the saga of Lord Taita, loyal consigliere to Pharaoh Tamose. Sadly, as Taita drives the last of the invading Hyksos from Egypt, Tamose dies. That's troublesome for Taita because Tamose's eldest son and heir is a cowardly, hedonistic pervert who calls himself Utteric Turo the Great. Utteric fears Taita. Utteric is also wary of his own brother, Rameses, next in line for the throne. Betrayals, escapes, battles, and such then resound. I really liked [Desert God](#), where you should begin (comes in small and large size paperback); this 5th one is standard Smith.

✎Weaver, Ashley. [Most Novel Revenge](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Socialite Amory Ames and her newly reformed playboy husband, Milo, drive carefreely in their smart new motor car to Lyonsgate, a country estate, where a death occurred one evening years earlier. The guests from that tragic evening—plus Amory and Milo—have been reassembled by Isobel Van Allen, a magnetic woman who scandalized society with a novel, *The Dead of Winter*, closely based on drug- and alcohol-fueled events that led up to the discovery of the body. Van Allen's book ended with an accusation of murder against a fellow partygoer, but Isobel found herself ousted by society when the real-life model for her killer committed suicide. She couldn't be much of a plotter, IMHO, since she should have anticipated that her dramatic announcement she is writing a sequel telling the real story during the current fraught reunion would lead to outrage and her murder. To catch a killer, Amory sorts through the murky past with the reluctant aid of Milo; their charged relationship adds narrative tension. I liked Weaver's debut more than the two sequels but this series is 1920s stylish and fun. [Buy all three here](#).

✎Weaver, Tim. [Vanished](#) (Penguin \$16). For millions of Londoners, the morning of 17 December is just like any other. But not for Sam Wren. An hour after leaving home, he gets onto a tube train, and never gets off again. No eyewitnesses. No trace of him on security cameras. Six months later, he's still missing. Out of options and desperate for answers, Sam's wife, Julia, hires David Raker to track him down. Raker has made a career out of finding the lost. He knows how they think. And, in missing person cases, the only certainty is that everyone has something to hide. But in this case the secrets go deeper than anyone imagined. For, as Raker starts to suspect that even the police are lying to him, someone is watching....

Willis, Connie. [Crosstalk](#) (Del Rey \$28). "*Crosstalk* is the perfect romantic comedy for the digital age. Briddey works for a cell phone provider that is constantly searching for the next great way to help people "connect"—never mind that she is already inundated by calls, texts, social media, and unannounced visits from her colleagues, friends, and nosy family. When she undergoes a procedure to telepathically sense the emotions of her seemingly perfect boyfriend, things go awry and she ends up connected to the wrong person. A perfect screwball comedy from a master writer!"

OUR OCTOBER MASS MARKET PAPERBACK PICKS

Aarons, Kathy. [Behind Chocolate Bars](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Chocolate Covered Mysteries #3. While preparing for the annual West Riverdale Halloween Fair, business partners Michelle and Erica find themselves trick-or-treating for the truth as they try to prove the innocence of one of Erica's comic-book club members when he is accused of murder.

Abbott, Victoria. [Hammett Hex](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Book Collector #5. While on a romantic trip to San Francisco with Officer Tyler Smiley Dekker, Jordan Bingham, in the process of returning a rare copy of Dashiell Hammett's *Red Harvest* for her employer, discovers that someone is trying to kill them. Abbott's Book Collector series is great fun for readers who enjoy learning more about classic mysteries since each one revolves around a different author like Agatha Christie or Ngaio Marsh.

Barclay, Linwood. [Far From True](#) (\$9.99) When private investigator Cal Weaver looks into a break-in at the home of a recently deceased man, he uncovers far more than he is prepared for after he finds a hidden room that was used for salacious activities. Detective Barry Duckworth is doggedly trying to solve two murders, one of which is three years old. And Duckworth believes the key to solving his mystery may lie with Cal Weaver's own case. *LJ's* review ended with "Sex tapes, secret rooms, and murder are all part of the fun in this new thriller from the best-selling Barclay. He successfully juggles numerous story lines and leaves readers eagerly anticipating the third and final book in the "Promise Falls" trilogy."

Brookes, Adam. [Spy Games](#) (\$9.99). Journalist Philip Mangan becomes embroiled in a life-threatening conspiracy involving local unrest in East Africa and his failures in Beijing in this sequel to *Night Heron*. *PW* ended their review with "The not always convincing conflict between competing Chinese factions slows the action in places, but Brookes shows that his impressive debut was no fluke, and readers will look forward to Mangan's next adventure."

Child, Lee. [Never Go Back](#) (\$9.99) Jack Reacher #18. Jack Reacher arrives in Virginia hoping to contact the woman he spoke with on the phone in "61 Hours," only to be drafted back into the Army, where he confronts life-changing elements from his past. *Kirkus* gave this entry in the series a coveted star concluding their review with "For the pure pleasure of uncomplicated, nonstop action, no one touches Reacher, who accurately observes that "I trained myself...to turn fear into aggression."

Farrow, Sharon. [Dying for Strawberries](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Berry Basket #1. While helping the town of Oriole Point, Michigan, prepare for its first annual Strawberry Moon Bash, Marlee Jacob, the owner of the Berry Basket, must also deal with her missing best friend, a seedy man who threatens to crush her business and a dead body that is linked to her past, and which could permanently stain her future. If you enjoy Paige Shelton "Farmers' Market" mysteries or Sheila Connolly's "Orchard" books, you may want to give this new series a try.

Howell, Dorothy. [Swag, Bags, and Swindlers](#) (\$7.99) Haley Randolph #11. After the director of a retirement home is found murdered, Haley Randolph discovers that he had a bank account balance that was far beyond his means and that the list of suspects among the Hollywood Haven residents keeps getting longer. *PW* said this "self-absorbed Haley isn't the easiest lead character to sympathize with, but Howell keeps the story quick-moving and lighthearted."

Kelly, Sofie. [Paws and Effect](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Magical Cats #8. When her old beau, Detective Marcus Gordon, is accused of murder, resourceful librarian Kathleen and her magical felines

must paw through the clues to discover who is trying to frame him for murder. Miss the old cat mysteries by Lillian Jackson Braun? Then you need to start reading Kelly's equally precocious feline series.

Myers, Ann. [Feliz Navidead](#) (Harper \$7.99) Santa Fe Café #3. It's the most picturesque time of the year in Santa Fe, and Chef Rita Lafitte of Tres Amigas Café hopes the twinkling lights and tasty holiday treats will charm her visiting mom. Rita is also planning fun activities, such as watching her teenage daughter, Celia; perform in an outdoor Christmas play. What she doesn't plan for is murder. Hungry for culinary crime novels like the kind Diane Mott Davidson whips up? Then you need to add Myers' equally delicious mysteries to your reading diet.

Tremel, Joyce. [Tangled Up in Brew](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Brewing Trouble #2. When a nasty food critic winds up dead after eating one of her chef boyfriend's burgers during the Three Rivers Brews and Burgers Festival, brew pub owner Maxine O'Hara, to save both of their reputations and their lives, must serve up a killer.

NEW IN MASS MARKET PAPERBACKS

Archer, Jeffrey. [Cometh the Hour](#) (\$9.99) Clifton Chronicles #6. In the aftermath of a devastating suicide, Harry Clifton continues his efforts to rescue Anatoly Babakov from a Siberian gulag, while his wife Emma counsels Margaret Thatcher with unexpected consequences and their friends endure heartache and financial setbacks.

Baldacci, David. [Guilty](#) (\$9.99) Will Robie #3. When his father is charged with murder and refuses to do anything to prove his innocence, Will Robie returns as an outsider to his hometown of Cantrell, Mississippi—where he is met with distrust—to conduct his own investigation.

Blake, Heather. [The Witch and the Dead](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Wishcraft #7. When she discovers a pile of old bones in her Aunt Vee's garage under a mess of memories and forgotten possessions, wish-granting witch Darcy Merriweather must solve a cold case to keep her aunt from doing a spell in prison.

Budewitz, Leslie. [Killing Thyme](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Spice Shop #3. When she encounters an old friend who disappeared years ago, and who then is murdered only days later, spice shop owner Pepper Reece digs up the dirt on Seattle's Pike Place Market to catch a killer only to place her own life in danger.

Childs, Laura. [Parchment and Old Lace](#) (\$7.99) Scrapbooking #13. Investigating the murder of a woman weeks before her wedding, scrapbook shop owner Carmela Bertrand and her beau, Detective Edgar Babcock, tap Carmela's sister Ellie's tarot-reading abilities for clues about the killer's identity.

Coleman, Reed Farrel. [Robert B Parker's the Devil Win](#) (\$9.99) Jesse Stone #15. Investigating the discovery of three bodies in an abandoned factory after a huge storm, Jesse Stone discovers that one victim is recent while the others were teens, friends of her associate Molly Crane, who went missing 25 years earlier.

Connolly, Sheila. [Seeds of Deception](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Orchard #10. While honeymooning at Monticello and enjoying Thomas Jefferson's orchards, newlyweds Meg and Seth discover that something rotten is going on at home and must cut their vacation short when the police pick Meg's father as the killer of a handyman.

Graham, Heather. [Darkest Journey](#) (\$7.99) Shocked when her own father is implicated in the murders of two Civil War re-enactors, Charlie reunites with former flame and Krewe of Hunters agent Ethan Delaney on a Mississippi River cruise to infiltrate the band of re-enactors and identify who among them has a motive to kill.

Lavene, Joyce A. [Putting on the Witch](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Retired Witches #3. Excited to finally attend the exclusive Witches Ball, Molly and Elsie find their enchanting time marred by murder, and, with the whole place on lockdown, an angry council and a real Spanish Inquisitor breathing down their necks, they must move fast to conjure up a cunning killer.

London, Colette. [The Semi-Sweet Hereafter](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Chocolate Whisperer #3. While in London to lend her expertise on all things chocolate to a posh chocolaterie-patisserie, detective constable Hayden Mundy Moore stumbles upon the dead body of a sexy celebrity chef who just happens to be the ex-husband of Hayden's client and must unwrap the clues to catch a killer with a sweet tooth.

Margolin, Phillip. [Violent Crimes](#) (\$9.99) Amanda Jaffe #5. Hired to represent the eco-warrior son of an oil tycoon who has been found murdered, veteran lawyer Amanda Jaffe, discovering that the suspect has only confessed to promote a cause, endeavors to discover the identity of the true killer.

Orgain, Diana. [Yappy Hour](#) (\$7.99) While serving Doggie Daiquiris and Muttgauritas for her sister, who has mysteriously left town, Maggie, who is neither pet friendly nor business savvy, stumbles upon a dead body and, deciding to investigate on her own, must rely on a group of dog-loving friends to solve the mystery and save the bar.

Oust, Gail. [Cinnamon Toasted](#) (\$7.99) Spice Shop #3. When Melly, her former mother-in-law, accepts a lucrative deal for her programming prowess and is subsequently implicated in a murder during Brandywine Creek's Oktoberfest celebration, Piper enlists the help of Reba Mae to find the real killer.

Patterson, James. [113 Minutes](#) (LittleBrown \$4.99) Molly Rourke takes the law into her own hands following the murder of her son.

Rosenfelt, David. [Blackout](#) (\$7.99) When his suspended partner, Doug, loses his memory after a gunshot wound sustained during an off-the-books search for infamous criminal Nicholas Bennett, Nate is drawn into the investigation and makes a traumatizing discovery.

Vallere, Diane. [Masking for Trouble](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Costume Shop #2. When the venture capitalist, who was trying to push out local businesses, including hers, is found dead during a Halloween party, costume-shop owner Margo Tamblin is the top suspect and must unmask the real killer before she is forced to wear prison stripes.

Wait, Lea. [Dangling By a Thread](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Mainly Needlepoint #4. Hermit Jesse Lockhart lives alone on King's Island, three miles east of Haven Harbor, Maine, where he's created a private sanctuary for the endangered Great Cormorants. But when a wealthy family wants to buy the island and Jesse's cousin Simon petitions for power of attorney to force him to sell, Jesse is the one who becomes endangered.

Washburn, Tim. [Cataclysm](#) (Kensington \$9.99) When Earth's largest super-volcano begins to awaken under Yellowstone National Park after 640,000 years, scientist Tucker Mayfield mobilizes a team to evacuate all of the visitors, but as the earthquakes intensify, some think that Doomsday itself may be approaching.