

BOOKNEWS from

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Holiday Booknews 2016

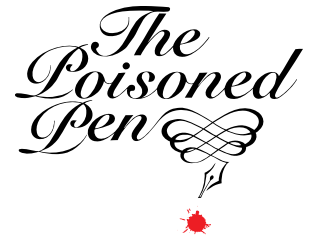
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A Holiday Booknews

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

Thanksgiving makes November the perfect month to celebrate food, not just planning menus and eating, but reading about food.

Also, here's a link to an [issue from Shelf Awareness](#) dedicated to Abrams and some of the cookbooks Abrams publishes. We can't stock them all but we can order in any book you like (in any genre, as a reminder)

Berry, Mary. [Cooking with Mary Berry](#) (Diamond \$25). Berry, host of the PBS series *The Great British Baking Show*, and ABC's *The Great Holiday Baking Show*, returns this fall to ABC with a second season! And we have her new cook book releasing time for fall and holiday shopping. Includes 150 recipes with US conversions and full color photos. Perfect for Ina Garten fans looking for something a bit different

Bittman, Mark. [How to Bake Everything](#) (Houghton \$35). Here is the simplest way to bake everything, from American favorites (Crunchy Toffee Cookies, Baked Alaska) to of-the-moment updates (Gingerbread Whoopie Pies). It explores global baking, too: Nordic ruis, New Orleans beignets, Afghan snowshoe naan. The recipes satisfy every flavor craving thanks to more than 2,000 recipes and variations: a pound cake can incorporate polenta, yogurt, ricotta, citrus, hazelnuts, ginger, and more. New bakers will appreciate Bittman's opinionated advice on essential equipment and ingredient substitutions, plus extensive technique illustrations. The pros will find their creativity unleashed with guidance on how to adapt recipes to become vegan, incorporate new grains, improvise tarts, or create customized icebox cakes using a mix-and-match chart.

Bourdain, Anthony. [Appetites](#) (Harper \$37.50). The chef, later as a world-traveling chronicler of food and culture on his CNN series *Parts Unknown*, has made a profession of understanding the appetites of others and eating weird food. These days, however, if he's cooking, it's for family and friends. This first cookbook in more than ten years boils down forty-plus years of professional cooking and globe-trotting to a tight repertoire of personal favorites—dishes that everyone should (at least in Mr. Bourdain's opinion) know how to cook. After years of traveling more than 200 days a year, he now enjoys entertaining at home. Years of prep lists and the hyper-organization necessary for a restaurant kitchen, however, have caused him, in his words, to have “morphed into a psychotic, anally retentive, bad-tempered Ina Garten.” Why this book? To balance back with home-cooked personal favorites.

Brown, Alton. [Alton Brown Everydaycook](#) (Random \$35). I can't resist quoting the author here: “So let's review: 101 recipes with mouthwatering photos, a plethora of useful insights on methods,

tools, and ingredients all written by an ‘award-winning and influential educator and tastemaker.’ That last part is from the PR office. Real people don't talk like that.”

Chapple, Justin. [Mad Genius Tips](#) (Oxmoor \$29.95). Chapple, a senior editor at *Food & Wine*, brings his Web video series into print with a collection of 90 creative uses for everyday kitchen items, and 100 recipes in which to employ this hackery. The 20 chapters are arranged alphabetically by gadget, resulting in each section having an eclectic mix of foodstuffs. The cheesecloth chapter, for instance, includes instructions for making tea bags, roasting chipotle-butter turkey, and decorating Linzer cookies. Some of his suggestions are handy indeed: he gets a lot of mileage out of a baking rack, for example, using it as a chopper for both boiled eggs and avocados. A Bundt pan turns out to be perfect for roasting a chicken upright, with the juices flowing into a surrounding ring of vegetables. Other, more common, ideas include using a wine bottle as a meat pounder, a Ziploc bag as a piping tool, plastic lids to shape hamburger patties, and a pair of scissors to snip herbs. Some tips seem more trouble than they're worth; why use expensive dental floss to truss a chicken?

Dali, Salvador. [Dali: Les Diners de Gala](#) (Taschen \$59.95). Do you find cooking surreal? Here's the first reissue of the 1973 cookbook by the Surrealist master in more than 40 years. 130 recipes, with his illustrations. Dali shares recipes often used at the infamous and opulent dinner parties and gatherings hosted with his wife Gala. Of the cookbook, the artist warned, “If you are a disciple of one of those calorie-counters who turn the joys of eating into a form of punishment, close this book at once; it is too lively, too aggressive, and far too impertinent for you.” Ordered Upon Request.

Gilbert, Sandra. [Eating Words: A Norton Anthology of Food Writing](#) (\$19.95). Edited by influential literary critic Sandra M. Gilbert and award-winning restaurant critic and professor of English Roger Porter, *Eating Words* gathers food writing of literary distinction and vast historical sweep into one volume. Beginning with the taboos of the Old Testament and the tastes of ancient Rome, and including travel essays, polemics, memoirs, and poems, the book is divided into sections such as “Food Writing Through History,” “At the Family Hearth,” “Hunger Games: The Delight and Dread of Eating,” “Kitchen Practices,” and “Food Politics.” Selections from writings by Julia Child, Anthony Bourdain, Bill Buford, Michael Pollan, Molly O'Neill, Calvin Trillin, and Adam Gopnik, along with works by authors not usually associated with gastronomy—Maxine Hong Kingston, Henry Louis Gates Jr., Hemingway, Chekhov, and David Foster Wallace—enliven this collection. Even if you don't cook it's an enjoyable and enlightening reading experience.

Goulding, Matthew/Anthony Bourdain. [Grape, Olive, Pig: Deep Travels Through Spain's Food Culture](#) (Harper \$35). A culinary-driven travel guide through Spain from Goulding, author of *Rice, Noodle, Fish*, and the coauthor of the bestselling *Eat This, Not That* series. He introduces you to the sprawling culinary and geographical landscape of his adoptive home, and offers an intimate portrait of this multifaceted country, its remarkable people, and its complex history. Fall in love with Barcelona's tiny tapas bars and modernist culinary temples. Explore the movable feast of small plates and late nights in Madrid. Join the three-thousand-year-old hunt for Bluefin tuna off the coast of Cadiz, then continue your seafood journey north to meet three sisters who risk their lives foraging the gooseneck barnacle, one of Spain's most treasured ingredients. Delight in some of the world's most innovative and avant-garde edible creations in San Sebastian, and then wash them down with cider from neighboring Asturias. Sample the world's finest acorn-fed ham in Salamanca, share in the traditions of cave-dwelling shepherds in the mountains beyond Granada, and debate what constitutes truly authentic paella in Valencia. Travel and food, my favorite dish.

Hartwig, Melissa. [Food Freedom Forever](#) (Houghton \$27). A book with a mission, maybe one best read in January. Hartwig "offers real solutions for anyone stuck in the exhausting cycle of yo-yo dieting and the resulting stress, weight gain, uncontrollable cravings, and health complaints." She defines true "food freedom" as being in control of the food you eat, instead of food controlling you with her "Whole30" plan. I'm not being snide here, I struggle with weight and think any positive program to help with that is to be commended.

Hovey, Tom. [The Great British Bake Off Coloring Book](#) (Little Brown \$13.99). Can't bake? Or you're skipping it? Here's a way to enjoy mouthwatering treats with no calories!

Homolka, Gina. [Skinnytaste Fast and Slow](#) (Polygon \$30). 80 Quick-Fix and 60 Slow Cooker healthy, taste-good recipes.

Howard, Vivian. [Deep Run Roots](#) (LittleBrown \$40). Stories and recipes from the star of PBS's *A Chef's Life's* "corner of the South."

Nelson, Candace. [The Sprinkles Baking Book](#) (Grand Central \$26). 100 secret cupcake and dessert classics from Chef Nelson.

Peternell, Cal. [A Recipe for Cooking](#) (Morrow \$29.95). Celebrate the joys of a great day in the kitchen and a meal shared with family and friends with this follow-up to the bestselling, IACP Award-winning *Twelve Recipes*, featuring next level, home-cook-friendly recipes for occasions large and small. Lots of intriguing recipes. I grew up learning to cook at school and at home, something not so common today. But, it's never too late....

Prud'homme, Ales. [The French Chef in America](#) (Knopf \$27.95). Many of the writings about celebrity chef Julia Child's life have focused on her years abroad, her earliest cookbooks and her first television program, *The French Chef*. Alex Prud'homme, Child's nephew and coauthor of her memoir *My Life in France*, fills in the story of her "second act" with this look at her life after that first program. Her iconic status encourages a false perception that Child rocketed to stardom following the publication of *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* and remained there, but in fact, she

faced the same pressure as any other celebrity to reinvent herself to match changing public interest. Blessed with a boundless work ethic and an indomitable spirit, she rose above creative differences, fickle audiences and shifts in culinary zeitgeist, from a taste for the rich and exotic to a demand for healthier, lighter fare. Thanks to extensive use of personal letters and papers, the narrative includes Child's voice, and Prud'homme skillfully evokes his aunt by focusing on her most human moments.

Reichl, Ruth. [Comfort Me with Apples](#) (\$17) picks up Reichl's story in 1978, when she puts down her chef's toque and embarks on a career as a restaurant critic. Her pursuit of good food and good company leads her to New York and China, France and Los Angeles, and her stories of cooking and dining with world-famous chefs range from the madcap to the sublime. Through it all, Reichl makes each and every course a hilarious and instructive occasion for novices and experts alike. She shares some of her favorite recipes while also sharing the intimacies of her personal life. One of my favorite books, it explores a passion, a career, and a way to approach food and feasting by the editor of the much-missed *Gourmet Magazine*.

Resnick, Ariane. [The Thinking Girl's Guide to Drinking \(Cocktails without Regrets\)](#) (Regan \$24.95 Paperback). Bartender Resnick and chef/nutritionist Rae have compiled recipes for cocktails and mocktails that use healthier alternatives to high-sugar, high-fat, artificially flavored drinks. Recipes include Lavender Spa Lemonade, Bionic Tonic, Ginger Scene Queen, and Mocha Truffle Shot.

Tarlow, Andrew. [Dinner at the Long Table](#) (Ten Speed \$40). Restaurateur Tarlow (owner of Brooklyn's Diner, Marlow & Sons and others) and Anna Dunn (*Diner Journal* editor-in-chief, *Saltie* coauthor) offer recipes and stories about what the people in the restaurant industry cook in their own homes. They provide 17 meals' worth of recipes that are often exciting, risky or both—and cocktails to help in either case. The structure is for dinner parties, designed to serve between six and 10 people. Mediterranean and Middle Eastern cuisines suffuse many of the meals, which are organized seasonally. Highlights include a feast for the new year; a lunch of pickled eggs, panzanella and fried calamari sandwiches by the sea; and a harvest-inspired meal of sweet corn arancini, roasted fennel with fried quinoa, eggplant gratin and shortcake with sugar peaches. This cookbook demands a fearless streak. This is not the cookbook to grab when dinner needs to be on the table in 30 minutes. Its culinary creativity and wisdom are meant to be relished with a glass of wine...

Wagner, Nick. [Thug Kitchen 101](#) (Rodale \$26.99). Again, I quote the authors: "So scared of commitment you can't even dedicate some time to cook? *Thug Kitchen's* here to fix that sh*t: All recipes in *TK 101* are guaranteed to be faster than delivery, so you can whip up some tasty meals with simple ingredients regardless of when you stumble home from work. You're too damn important to be eating garbage, so TK has made it easy to take care of #1: you. No needless nonsense or preachy BS." I like the message that simple cooking at home is healthier than ordering fast food without sucking up your time.2n

FOR PET LOVERS

Braun, Mina. [Can I Have a Kitten? Color, Construct and Play](#) (Little Brown \$14.95). For ages 7+, a variety of kitty-cat projects to punch out, fold and glue, ranging from a cool constructible kitten statue to cute character finger puppets etc. Mina Braun's on-trend art work is beautiful making this a great gift book.

Horowitz, Alexandra. [Being a Dog](#) (Scribner \$27). The author of the bestselling [Inside of a Dog](#) (\$16) focuses on the olfactory. To a dog, there is no such thing as "fresh air." Every breath of air is loaded with information. In fact, what every dog—the tracking dog, of course, but also the dog lying next to you, snoring, on the couch—knows about the world comes mostly through his nose. In *Being a Dog*, Alexandra Horowitz, a research scientist in the field of dog cognition and the author of the runaway bestseller *Inside of a Dog*, unpacks the mystery of a dog's worldview as has never been done before. With her family dogs, Finnegan and Upton, leading the way, Horowitz sets off on a quest to make sense of scents, combining a personal journey of smelling with a tour through the cutting edge and improbable science behind the olfactory powers of the dog.

Mizuno, Keiya. [Life Works Itself Out—And Then You Nap](#) (Touchstone \$14.99). A mega-bestseller in Japan (where it has sold more than 700,000 copies), this book is filled with inspirational quotes and entertaining four-color photographs of cats that range from the heartwarming to the humorous. Whether you're feeling down and looking for a lift, or you need some lighthearted life advice, who better to turn to than man's TRUE best friend—the trusty feline.

2017 CALENDARS

Starz. [2017 Outlander Wall Calendar](#) (\$14.99) or [2017 Page-a-Day Outlander Calendar](#) (\$14.9).

The Strand. *Sherlock Holmes Calendar 2017* (\$19.95). Illustrated with the original illustrations from *Strand Magazine*, as well as films, posters, quotes, and oil paintings commissioned especially for the calendar by award-winning artist Jeffrey McKeever. Include sneak photo from the hit series starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman. Themes include Holmes in Action, The Wit and Wisdom of Holmes, Spoofs and Films, 221B Baker Street Today. The calendar also has important dates from the canon as well as trivia and much more! No ISBN is yet available so we can't link to our web store but you can order via sales@poisonedpen.com

GREAT GIFT IDEAS

Bogart, Jo Ellen. [The White Cat and the Monk](#) (Groundwood Books \$18.95). Illustrated by Sydney Smith and the recipient of 5 Starred Reviews, A Governor's General Literary Award for YA Literature, and a *NY Times* Best Illustrated Book of 2016 with this comment: "The text's subtle moral is timeless but also sings with elegiac timeliness—what a wonderful counterpoint to modern life's hamster wheel of achievement and approval, this idea that there is poetry in every pursuit executed with purposefulness and savored with uncompetitive joy."

Cussler, Clive. [Built to Thrill](#) (Putnam \$60). If you never make it to Denver to view Clive's awesome collection of classic, often rare, automobiles, no worries. You can leaf through this stunning book (love the bright red end pages) and imagine humming along

down the road. It picks up in 1948 where the first volume, a classic car collection follow-up to [Built for Adventure](#) (\$50) left off. In at least one Fargo thriller one of the cars appeared, Clive at the wheel.

Foer, Joshua. [Atlas Obscura, An Explorer's Guide to the World's Hidden Wonders](#) (Workman \$35). "Richly illustrated, delightfully strange, this compendium of off-beat destinations should spark many adventures, both terrestrial and imaginary." —*Boston Globe*. "Whether describing a Canadian museum that showcases world history through shoes, a pet-casket company that will also sell you a unit for your severed limb, a Greek snake festival, or a place in the Canary Islands where inhabitants communicate through whistling, the authors have compiled an enthralling range of oddities. Featuring full-color illustrations, this hefty and gorgeously produced tome will be eagerly pored over by readers of many ages and fans of the original website." —*Booklist (Starred Review)*. "Odds are you won't get past three pages without being amazed at something truly strange that you didn't know existed." —*San Francisco Chronicle*. "Richly illustrated, delightfully strange, this compendium of off-beat destinations should spark many adventures, both terrestrial and imaginary." —*Boston Globe*

Le Guin, Ursula. [The Unreal and the Real: The Selected Short Stories of Ursula K. Le Guin](#) (Saga \$29.99). Selected by the author, and combined in one volume for the first time. She has won multiple prizes and accolades from the Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters to the Newbery Honor, the Nebula, Hugo, World Fantasy, and PEN/Malamud Awards. She has had her work collected over the years, but this is the first short story volume combining a full range of her work. Also new: [The Found and the Lost: the Collected Novellas of Ursula K. Le Guin](#) (\$29.99). "The 13 splendid tales in this huge collection (which, despite its title, does omit a few of Le Guin's novella-length works) show why Le Guin is one of the most honored living writers of fantastic literature. Some of the science fiction stories explore the divergent development of worlds that the Hani seeded long ago with human ancestors; some fantasies examine how people on the different islands of the Earth sea Archipelago deal with their potential to use different kinds of magic. Two of the best stories work outside these favorite settings: the rambunctious but touching "Buffalo Gals Won't You Come Out Tonight" (1987), a Hugo- and IFA-winner based on Southwest Native American lore; and "Paradises Lost" (2002), a gentle examination of how the crew of a starship fights the lure of religious fanaticism during a generations-long mission. Le Guin is never soggily sentimental, but throughout her long career she has preferred to deal with heartbreakingly real characters who discover that they can extend themselves into acts of generous compassion. These stories are wonderful, and full of wonder." —*PW Starred Review*
Phaidon Editors. [Exploring the Botanical World](#) (Phaidon \$59.95). The images are gorgeous. [Click here to see a selection](#) from this glorious book and think... holiday gifts! And note that the book cover is pretty glorious too.

Fairstein, Linda. [Into the Lion's Den Signed](#) Den (Dial \$16.99). So Nancy Drew! Meet 12-year-old Devlin Quick, girl detective and book lover, in this new series. Devlin's friend Liza thinks she has seen someone slice a page from a rare book in the New York Public Library. Unfortunately, this crime was committed with

no grown-up witnesses present. Devlin, knowing that defacing a book is a horrible thing to do, wants to solve this mystery as soon as possible. She enlists the help of the police commissioner, her friends, and others in an effort to crack the case. Devlin is a clever character who is constantly coming up with creative methodologies to gather evidence and piece together information. An appreciation of reading is a reoccurring theme throughout; many classic works of literature are referenced and explored throughout the narrative. The friendly and loving relationship between Devlin and her mother is also developed. The New York City setting plays an interesting and crucial role in this mystery; famous landmarks are significant parts of the plot's progression. Historical and geographical facts are also often woven seamlessly into the character's adventures. Readers will be exposed to new vocabulary in an engaging and easy-to-comprehend manner. They'll also be introduced to a wide array of concepts and techniques often used in detective and forensic work. "A well-crafted and satisfying first volume in a new series. Ideal for bibliophiles and mystery fans alike."—*School Library Journal*.

Linda has sent some nifty Devlin badges to go with our copies.

Fusilli, Jim. [Crime Plus Music: 20 Stories of Music-Themed Noir](#) (Three Rooms Press \$19.95). The author, a favorite with me, and music critic for The Wall Street Journal collects nifty stories by authors including Peter Blauner, Reed Farrel Coleman, David Corbett, Tyler Dilts, Brendan DuBois, Bill Fitzhugh, Alison Gaylin, A.J. Hartley, Craig Johnson, David Liss, Val McDermid, Gary Phillips, Peter Robinson, Zoe Sharp, Mark Haskell Smith, and, from the music world, Galadrielle Allman, author of *Please Be With Me: A Song for My Father*, Duane Allman, and award-winning songwriter-novelist Willy Vlautin

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.

☞Heyer, Georgette. [Snowdrift and Other Stories](#) (Heinemann \$23). 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. As do Stephanie Barron, Dana Stabenow, Lauren Willig and a host of other contemporary authors.

Oxford editors, [The Atlas of the World](#) (Oxford University Press \$89.95). The only world atlas updated annually includes 18 pages of stunning satellite images from NASA's latest Earth Observation Satellite, Landsat 8; a "Gazetteer of Nations" that has been comprehensively checked and updated to include recent economic and political changes; and a 48-page illustrated "Introduction

to World Geography. I bought a store copy so you can examine it when it arrives. Ordered Upon Request

Simpson, John. [The Word Detective: Searching for the Meaning of It All at the Oxford English Dictionary](#) (Basic Books, \$27.9). Simpson has a ball exploring quirky English language facts with the former chief editor, for more than four decades, of the *OED*. As an assistant on the Supplement to the *OED*, his first task was to read a work on the semiotics of film—part of a project to bring modern words and ideas into what remained at heart a Victorian enterprise. By the time he retired as the dictionary's chief editor in 2013, the *OED* had been transformed from a monument of Victorian scholarship to a dynamic on-line database—a revolution in which Simpson played a critical role.... This is a memoir as well as a story of words. When I was earning my Masters in Library Science I used to browse the university's volumes just for fun... and the challenge. Occasionally you could make up a ribald joke from a definition. As in "merkin" but I won't repeat it as this is a PG-rated publication.

Sweet, Melissa. [Some Writer!](#) (Houghton \$18.99). Sweet (Caldecott Honor artist of Jen Bryant's *The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus* and *A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams*) has written and illustrated the first-ever visual biography of E.B. White, the beloved children's book author, New Yorker columnist, poet, the "White" in *Strunk and White's Elements of Style* and true writer's writer. In a clean, engaging style and "clear, brief, bold" sentences fit for an E.B. White biography, Sweet takes readers on a journey through his life as writer, husband and father, starting with his earliest days in New York and blissful childhood summers in Maine. The elaborate, thoughtfully choreographed scrapbook bursts with colorful collages made up of Sweet's charming original paintings; whimsical dioramas and maps; abundant family photos; paper ephemera; vintage office supplies; pieces of old books; chunks of barn; eggs; leaves; and old typewriter keys. The pages whisper "labor of love." Sweet gives White himself the floor quite often, peppering quotations from his books, journals and letters throughout, all thoroughly sourced. The stories behind *Stuart Little* and 1953 Newbery Honor Medalist *Charlotte's Web* are thrilling for those who hold dear the dapper mouse, spider and pig. Garth Williams's funny sketches of different versions of Charlotte the spider's face are priceless (one on the cutting-room floor was modeled after the Mona Lisa). Sweet pulls out all the stops to bring the legendary author to life for readers young and old in her fresh and beautiful tribute

NEW HOLIDAY FICTION

☞Berry, Ellen. [The Bookshop on Rosemary Lane](#) (\$14.99). For Thanksgiving: Take a trip to the Yorkshire village of Burley Bridge, where a very special little cookbook shop is about to open its doors...

Bowen, Rhys. [Away in a Manger](#) (\$15.99). Christmas in 1905 New York looks grand to Molly Murphy. She and Daniel have a baby son and young Bridie for a family. And as she and he children are out listening to carolers in the street, they hear an angelic voice from a tiny ragged child. It isn't long before this ragged urchin pulls Molly into an investigation leading to the highest levels of city society. Most copies signed by Bowen who also signs *The Twelve Clues of Christmas* shown below, her holiday book for Lady Georgiana Rannoch.

Carlisle, Kate. [Deck the Hallways](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Fixer-Upper #4. While trying to transform a Victorian mansion into apartments for homeless families in time for the holidays, contractor Shannon Hammer must pull-off a Christmas miracle to save her father from prison and find the real killer of a miserly bank president.

☞Cohen, Tammy. [Dying for Christmas](#) (Norton \$25.95). Brrr... chilling British suspense “I am missing. Held captive by a blue-eyed stranger. To mark the twelve days of Christmas, he gives me a gift every day, each more horrible than the last. The twelfth day is getting closer. After that, there’ll be no more Christmas cheer for me. No mince pies, no carols. No way out.... But I have a secret. No-one has guessed it. Will you?”

Crusie, Jennifer. [It Must Be Christmas](#) (\$7.99). 3 holiday stories by 3 romance authors.

Delany, Vicki. [We Wish You a Murderous Christmas](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Year Round Christmas #2. When the son of Jack Olsen, who owns the Yuletide Inn, decides to no longer celebrate Christmas at the Inn, sending the local shopkeepers into a tizzy, Merry Wilkinson is faced with a holiday homicide when he is found stabbed to death.

Evans, Richard. [The Mistletoe Secret](#) (SimonSchuster \$19.99). Thinking no one is reading, a blogger who calls herself LBH writes about her most personal feelings, especially her overwhelming loneliness. She goes from day to day showing a brave face to the world while inside she longs to know how it would feel if one person cared about her. Alex Bartlett cares. He’s reading her posts in Daytona Beach, Florida. Nursing his own broken heart and trust issues, he finds himself falling for this sensitive, vulnerable woman whose feelings mirror his own. Following a trail of clues LBH has inadvertently revealed, he discovers that she lives in the small town of Midway, Utah. He makes his way there just after Thanksgiving, determined to find LBH.

☞Farjeon, J Jefferson. [Mystery in White: A Christmas Crime Story](#) (\$12.95). On Christmas Eve, heavy snowfall brings a train to a halt near the village of Hemmersby. Several passengers take shelter in a deserted country house, where the fire has been lit and the table laid for tea - but no one is at home. Trapped together for Christmas, the passengers are seeking to unravel the secrets of the empty house when a murderer strikes in their midst... This Golden Age mystery was a 2015 UK bestseller and is now snaring readers including the Poisoned Pen staff in the US.

Also from the British Library Crime Classics: Mavis Doriel Hay, [The Santa Klaus Murder](#) (\$12.95). “This extremely clever country-house murder mystery is the perfect holiday gift for the avid cozy crime fan. It has an aristocratic setting, a dead earl, and a major suspect ... There are loads of clues, red herrings, and twists in a truly classic Christmas mystery with all the golden age patina.” –*Globe and Mail*. Martin Edwards, ed. [Silent Nights](#) (\$12.95). This book introduces of readers to some of the finest Christmas detective stories of the past. Martin Edwards’ selection blends festive pieces from much-loved authors with one or two stories which are likely to be unfamiliar even to diehard mystery fans. The result is a collection of crime fiction to savor, whatever the season. Think of a good mystery story read before bed as an aid to digestion.

Fluke, Joanne. [Christmas Caramel Murder](#) (Kensington \$20). A holiday mystery novella with Hannah Swensen and the Lake Eden, Minnesota, crowd featuring a naughty Mrs. Claus turning up dead before her curtain call at the town’s annual production of *A Christmas Carol*. Plus recipes. Was there a Santa in Dickens’ classic? Not that I recall....

Gibbs, Stuart. [Spy Ski School Signed](#) (Simon Schuster \$16.99). Ages 8-12. Thirteen-year-old Ben Ripley is not exactly the best student spy school has ever seen—he keeps flunking Advanced Self Preservation. But outside of class, Ben is pretty great at staying alive. His enemies have kidnapped him, shot at him, locked him in a room with a ticking time bomb, and even tried to blow him up with missiles. And he’s survived every time. After all that unexpected success, the CIA has decided to activate Ben for real. Yes, the slopes, and the stakes, get really steep in this follow-up to the Edgar Award–nominated *Spy School*, *Spy Camp*, and *Evil Spy School*.

Hallinan, Timothy. [The Fields Where They Lay](#) (Soho \$25.95). A glorious Junior Bender caper plunging the LA burglar (and you) into a mega shopping mall when his newest “client” wants to know why the hard-luck property 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. It’s a hoot, but thoughtful too.

Hartwell, David. [Christmas Magic](#) (Tor \$17.99). A collection of holiday stories by some of today’s most gifted writers of fantasy and science-fiction. In this volume, Harlan Ellison, Alan Dean Foster, Kit Reed, Howard Waldrop, Donald Westlake, and many other science fiction and fantasy stars present their unique visions of Christmas. Toys come to life for one miraculous hour. A little girl sets forth on a quest to join Santa’s elves. Talking animals, away in a manger, bring two lovers together, and a small boy discovers the secret of Santa’s tenth reindeer. These and other stories raise Christmas spirits to fantastic new heights, and find unexpected twists and surprises in even the oldest of holiday traditions

Hughes, Anita. [Christmas in Paris](#) (\$15.99). Isabel Lawson is standing on the balcony of her suite at the Hotel Crillon as she gazes at the twinkling lights of the Champs Elysée and wonders if she’s made a terrible mistake. She was supposed to be visiting the Christmas tree in the Place de la Concorde, and eating escargots and macaroons with her new husband on their honeymoon. But a week before the wedding, she called it off. Isabel is an ambitious Philadelphia finance woman, and Neil suddenly decided to take over his grandparents’ farm. Isabel wasn’t ready to trade her briefcase for a pair of rubber boots and a saddle. When Neil suggested she use their honeymoon tickets for herself, she thought it would give her a chance to clear her head. That is until she locks herself out on the balcony in the middle of winter....

☞James, PD. [The Mistletoe Murder and Other Stories](#) (Knopf \$24). The four previously uncollected mysteries in this collection show that James (1920–2014) was just as adept at the short form as she was at novel length; they efficiently introduce characters and create atmosphere, while posing fair challenges to readers eager to match wits with her. The title story presents a solution to a very cold case, provided by a mystery author who was in the house where an antiques dealer was bludgeoned to death. The author subtly conceals the signpost to the truth in “A Very

Commonplace Murder,” the most complex selection, in which an alibi witness dithers over coming forward to clear an innocent man. In “The Twelve Clues of Christmas,” Adam Dalgleish, her series lead, comments, “I don’t think I’ll ever have another case like it. It was pure Agatha Christie.” Such a comparison isn’t gratuitous—the puzzles are sure to please Christie fans, while offering enough psychological depth to satisfy those who want to emotionally invest in the characters, even if they appear for just a few dozen pages.”

✠Kitchin, CH. [Crime at Christmas](#) (Faber \$14.95). From the classic crimes age. It’s Christmas at Hampstead’s Beresford Lodge. A group of relatives and intimate friends gather to celebrate the festive season, but their party is rudely interrupted by a violent death. It isn’t long before a second body is discovered. Can the murderer be one of those in the great house? The stockbroker sleuth Malcolm Warren investigates, in this brilliantly witty mystery. “Kitchin’s knowledge of the crevices of human nature lifts his crime fiction out of the category of puzzlement and into the realm of the detective novel. He was, in short, ahead of his day.”—HRF Keating

Lovett, Charlie. [The Further Adventures of Ebenezer Scrooge](#) (\$16). On a hot summer day some twenty years after he was famously converted to kindness, Ebenezer Scrooge still roams the streets of London, spreading Christmas cheer, much to the annoyance of his creditors, nephew, and his employee Bob Cratchit. However, when Scrooge decides to help his old friend and former partner Jacob Marley, as well as other inhabitants of the city, he will need the assistance of the very people he’s annoyed. He’ll also have to call on the three ghosts that visited him two decades earlier. Scrooge finds it’s harder to practice good works than you’d think....

Meier, Leslie. [Eggnog Murder](#) (Kensington \$25). This anthology boasts three terrific tales of yuletide murder in coastal Maine. In bestseller Meier’s title novella, reporter Lucy Stone—featured in 24 full-length mysteries—must discover who poisoned horrid Dorcas Philpott, write a circulation-boosting story for the Tinker’s Cove Pennysaver, and mediate a hilarious domestic culture clash when daughter Elizabeth returns from Paris, sporting silk scarves and affectations. In Hollis’s “Death by Eggnog,” a Hayley Powell Food and Cocktails mystery, tyrannical librarian Agatha Farnsworth dies in exquisitely awful detail at the Restaurant Association Dinner, first choking on fiery wings made by Hayley’s restaurateur brother, Randy, then suffering anaphylaxis after gulping eggnog mislabeled as nondairy. Julia Snowden, the heroine of five Maine Clambake mysteries, unwittingly brings trouble home to her mother’s for Christmas in Ross’s “Nogged Out,” a creepily convincing tale of tinsel-decked, cookie-scented psychopathology. It’s not just the nog: sparkly writing and emotional depth link this trio of holiday cozies.”—PW Starred Review for the stories by Meier, Lee Hollis, and Barbara Ross.

Patterson, James. [The Christmas Mystery](#) (Little Brown \$4.99). One of Patterson’s short BookShots with Richard DiLallo featuring Detective Luc Moncrief.

✠Perry, Anne. [A Christmas Message Signed](#) Ballantine \$20). Where better to spend Christmas than in the Holy Land with Lady Vespasia and her new husband Victor Narraway? It’s 1900 and the groom has given the bride a trip to Jerusalem. They are charmed by Palestine until a man is murdered over a torn piece of ancient parchment....

✠Taylor, Andrew. [Fireside Gothic Signed](#) (Collins \$32). Three gothic novellas perfect for fans of *The Loney* by Andrew Michael Hurley. “Broken Voices”: It’s Christmas before the Great War and two lonely schoolboys have been forced into companionship. Left in the care of an elderly teacher, there is little to do but listen to his eerie tales about the nearby Cathedral. The boys concoct a plan to discover if the stories are true. But the Cathedral is filled with hidden dangers, and curiosity can prove fatal. And there are two more novellas to enjoy.

Thompson, Victoria. [Murder on St Nicholas Avenue](#) (\$7.99) Gaslight #18. When a family friend’s traumatized daughter is accused of murdering her new husband, Sarah Brandt and Frank Malloy investigate with the assistance of household members and uncover sinister truths about the victim’s true identity.

Wagner, David P. [Return to Umbria](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 Signed or \$15.95). OK, this Tastes of Italy doesn’t highlight the traditional Thanksgiving menu, but Wagner makes you drool over Italian cuisine and wine. Lesa has written up this 4th for translator Rick Montoya [on our blog](#). And among his reviews, is this summary: “Strong suspects, tantalizing secrets, concealed motives, and risky behaviors tie to a fascinating landscape and layers of Orvieto’s past.” Recently, *Publishers Weekly* interviewed Wagner about his books, and his love of Italy. [Here’s the link](#) to that story in which he says, among other things, “The big three Italy-based mystery authors for me—Dibdin, Leon, and Camilleri—helped push me toward Italy as well. Also, after retiring from work as a press officer at our consulate, I spent several years writing tourist materials on Italy, and I got to the point where I wanted to add stories of my own to the towns I was writing about.”

And a few older favorites

✠Atherton, Nancy. [Aunt Dimity’s Christmas](#) (\$8.99). Lori can hardly wait for Christmas this year: lean times are over, the cottage Aunt Dimity willed her is more beautiful than ever, her nine-month-old twins, Will and Rob, are thriving, and she and husband Bill have never been happier. Determined to make this Christmas the best ever, Lori’s plans are derailed by finding a body under the lilac bushes.... 5th in series.

✠Baron, Stephanie. [Jane and the Twelve Days of Christmas](#) (\$16.95). It’s Christmas Eve, 1814 and Jane Austen is spend the 12 days of Christmas with family and friends at the Vyne, ancestral seat of the Chute family. *Mansfield Park* is selling well, the war with American has ended, but then one of the revelers dies suspiciously.... I love this because Jane does not hold back on how it feels to spend the holidays in a dysfunctional family while wishing you were well away....

✠Bowen, Rhys. [The Twelve Clues of Christmas](#) (\$7.99). As Lady Georgiana Rannoch reports: On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me—well, actually, my true love, Darcy O’Mara, is tramping around South America. Meanwhile Mummy is holed up in a tiny village called Tiddleton-under-Lovey with that droll Noel Coward! And I’m snowed in at Castle Rannoch with my bumbling brother, Binky, and sourpuss sister-in-law, Fig. So it’s a miracle when I contrive to land a position as hostess to a posh holiday party in Tiddleton. The village is like something out of *A Christmas Carol*! But no sooner have I arrived than a neighborhood nuisance, a fellow named Freddie, falls out of a tree dead. On my second day, another so-called accident results

in a death – and there’s yet another on my third. Includes an English Christmas companion, full of holiday recipes, games, and more....

✦Christie, Agatha. [Hercule Poirot’s Christmas](#) (\$12.99). A classic English country house murder with a warring family starring Hercule Poirot.

Fluke, Joanne. [Plum Pudding Murder](#) (\$7.99). Now a Hallmark Movies & Mysteries Original Movie *Murder She Baked: A Plum Pudding Murder Mystery*. The yuletide season in Lake Eden, Minnesota, guarantees a white Christmas, delectable holiday goodies from Hannah Swensen’s bakery, The Cookie Jar—and murder...

King, Laurie. [Mary’s Christmas Signed](#) (\$10). A Mary Russell story.

Meier, Leslie. [The Christmas Cookie Murder](#) (\$6.99). A Tinker’s Cove cozy where the annual Cookie Exchange ends in the murder of a woman accused of stealing a recipe for low-fat, sugar-free cookies (a crime all by itself...)

Penzler, Otto, ed. [The Big Book of Christmas Mysteries](#) (Vintage \$25). From classic Victorian tales by Arthur Conan Doyle, Robert Louis Stevenson, and Thomas Hardy, to contemporary stories by Sara Paretsky and Ed McBain, this collection touches on all aspects of the holiday season, and all types of mysteries. They are suspenseful, funny, frightening, and poignant. Included are puzzles by Mary Higgins Clark, Isaac Asimov, and Ngaio Marsh; uncanny tales in the tradition of A Christmas Carol by Peter Lovesey and Max Allan Collins; O. Henry-like stories by Stanley Ellin and Joseph Shearing, stories by pulp icons John D. MacDonald and Damon Runyon; comic gems from Donald E. Westlake and John Mortimer; and many, many more. Almost any kind of mystery you’re in the mood for—suspense, pure detection, humor, cozy, private eye, or police procedural—can be found in these pages.