

# BOOKNEWS from

ISSN 1056-5655, © The Poisoned Pen, Ltd.

Volume 28, Number 12

November Booknews 2016

sales@poisonedpen.com tel (888)560-9919

<http://poisonedpen.com>

4014 N. Goldwater Blvd.

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

480-947-2974



## Happy Thanksgiving to All...

### AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

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

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

**Book Launch! Location: The Doubletree**, 5401 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale

**Free to Attend. Doors open at 6:00 PM Cash Bar Free Valet Parking**

#### WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 2 7:00 PM

**Anne Perry** signs [A Christmas Message](#) (Ballantine \$20) A Pitt series novella

She also appears at 11:00 AM November 3, R. H. Johnson Social Hall, 19803 R. H. Johnson Blvd., Sun City West

#### THURSDAY NOVEMBER 3 7:00 PM

**Marcia Clark** signs [Moral Defense](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95) Samantha Brinkman #2

#### SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5 6:00 PM

**Patrick** hosts a Party with CJ Box, Diana Gabaldon, Gary Phillips, James Sallis for the anthology [The Highway Kind](#) (Mulholland \$15.99) Connelly presigns the original Harry Bosch story

#### SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6 2:00 PM

**Linwood Barclay** signs [The Twenty-Three](#) (Penguin \$27) Promise Falls #3

**Hank Phillippi Ryan** signs [Say No More](#) (Forge \$25.99) Jane Ryland #5

#### THURSDAY NOVEMBER 10 7:00 PM

**Diana Gabaldon and Tara Bennett** sign [The Making of Outlander](#) (Bantam \$50)

**Location:** Hilton Resort 6333 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale AZ

**Time:** Doors open 6:00 PM, Program 7:00 PM

**Free to Attend. Cash bar. Free valet parking**

The book will be signed by Tara and Diana in advance. But there will be a signing line for personalization—your name, no inscription.

**Admission to the signing line comes only with the purchase of *The Making of Outlander* from The Poisoned Pen**

Those in the signing line may bring one personal book to be signed. No posed or group photos but we will snap a photo with you and the authors on request

#### SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12 10:30 AM

**Coffee and Crime** discusses Sally Andrews, [Recipes for Love and Murder](#) (\$15.99)

#### MONDAY NOVEMBER 14 7:00 PM

**Rick Wilber** signs [Alien Morning](#) (Tor \$25.99) Nov. SciFi Club Pick

#### TUESDAY NOVEMBER 15 7:00 PM

**Clive and Dirk Cussler** sign [Odessa Sea](#) (Putnam \$30) Dirk Pitt Clive signs [Built to Thrill](#) (Putnam \$60), a classic car collection follow-up to [Built for Adventure](#) (\$50)

#### WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 16 7:00 PM

**David Morrell** signs [Ruler of the Night](#) (LittleBrown \$27) Thomas DeQuincey #3

#### THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17 7:00 PM

**Hardboiled Crime** discusses Nathanael West, [Miss Lonely Hearts and The Day of the Locust](#) (\$14.95)

#### FRIDAY NOVEMBER 18 7:00 PM

**SciFi/Fantasy Club** discusses Kim Stanley Robinson's [Aurora](#) (\$9.99)

#### SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19 10:30 AM

**Croak & Dagger** discusses Flynn Berry, [Under the Harrow](#) (\$16)

#### SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20 2:00 PM Young Adult Fiction

**Elissa Harris** signs [M.I.N.D.](#) (Poisoned Pen Press \$10.99)

**Abigail Johnson** signs [If I Fix You](#) (Harlequin \$18.99)

**Jenny Moyer** signs [Flashfall](#) (Holt \$17.99)

**Aprilynne Pike** signs [Glitter](#) (Random \$17.99)

#### NOVEMBER 24 CLOSED

**Happy Thanksgiving to All**

#### SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26 12-2 PM

**Dana Stabenow, Donis Casey, Paige Shelton and Barbara** recommend books for Small Business Saturday: Discounts

#### AND AT 2:00 PM Library Lover's Tea

**Jenn McKinlay** signs [Better Late Than Never](#) (Berkley \$25) Library Lover's #7 Yes, there will be cupcakes!

#### TUESDAY NOVEMBER 29 7:00 PM

**Arctic Night with Barbara and Dana Stabenow with photos and videos, one fabulous one from Crystal, of its Northwest Passage Cruise. We can only show the Crystal video live. Don't miss it!**

#### SATURDAY DECEMBER 3 2:00 PM

**Repeats the Arctic Travels Program**

#### MONDAY DECEMBER 5 7:00 PM

**Sophie Hannah** signs [Closed Casket](#) (Harper \$26.99) 2<sup>nd</sup> "new" Poirot

#### TUESDAY DECEMBER 6 7:00 PM Publication Party

**Mark Greaney** signs [Tom Clancy: True Faith and Allegiance](#) (Putnam \$29.95)

## AWARDS UPDATE

## 2016 CWA Daggers

*Gold Dagger AND John Creasey Dagger (Best First Novel)*  
Bill Beverly, [Dodgers](#) (Crown \$26) A Hardboiled Crime Club Pick  
(Signed copies sold out)

*Ian Fleming Steel Dagger*  
Don Winslow, [The Cartel](#) (\$16)

*Endeavor Historical Dagger*  
David Young, *Stasi Child* (US Edition Aug. 2017)

*International Dagger*  
Pierre LeMaitre, [The Great Swindle](#) (\$14.99)

*Short Story Dagger*  
John Connolly, "On the Anatomization of an Unknown Man (1637) by Frans Mier"

*Dagger in the Library: Elly Griffiths*

*CWA/Cartier Diamond Dagger: Peter James*

## EVENT BOOKS

Barclay, Linwood. [The Twenty-Three](#) (Penguin \$27). In the conclusion to the Promise Falls Trilogy, bizarre incidents continue to maim and kill the residents of this small, New York town. PW writes, "In Barclay's fast and furious conclusion to the trilogy that began with 2015's [Broken Promise](#) (\$9.99) and 2016's [Far From True](#) (\$9.99 and \$27 Signed), many believe a serial killer is at work, while others are perplexed and refuse to believe such a thing could happen in their beloved burg. But then the next calamity hits with brute force: townspeople—young, old, rich, poor—begin to drop like flies from a mysterious ailment. Symptoms such as dizziness, blurred vision, and a racing heartbeat come on suddenly, and most victims are dead within hours. Others linger, comatose in a hospital crammed with bodies and helpless nurses and doctors. As the death toll rises, a pattern finally emerges, and Det. Barry Duckworth races to save the town and his own loved ones." This concludes the trilogy so there are many characters and events to track right up to the final reveal.

Clark, Marcia. [Moral Defense](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95). Here's one of her Starred Reviews for Samantha Brinkman #2. "In Clark's outstanding sequel to [Blood Defense](#) (\$15.95 or \$24.95), Samantha Brinkman, an L.A. defense attorney, agrees to represent 15-year-old Cassie Sonnenberg, whose father and brother were fatally stabbed in their home by an assailant who also left Cassie's mother at death's door. When Samantha interviews Cassie, the girl says that she initially hid under her bed and thus escaped the killer's notice. She got only a brief glimpse of the fleeing culprit, who appeared to be a skinhead. Since Cassie's mother, Paula, a city councilwoman, recently received death threats for successfully advocating passage of a strict new law targeting gangs, it seems plausible that a gang member was behind the bloody mayhem. But even as Samantha tries to protect Cassie's interests, she must deal with the life-threatening consequences of prior decisions she made on other cases in furtherance of her private code of justice. Clark deepens her already fascinating lead, while adeptly juggling several subplots." Comes in a simultaneous trade paperback edition: [Moral Defense](#) (\$15.95).

## 2016 Historical Writers Association

*Debut Fiction Winner*

Cecilia Ekbäck, [Wolf Winter](#) (\$16). Chair judge Andrew Taylor said that the judges were "unanimously impressed by *Wolf Winter*. Not only is it astonishingly accomplished for a first novel, but it plunges the reader into Swedish Lapland 300 years ago and plays havoc with your emotions. Dark, powerful and beautifully written, it's a worthy winner. *Wolf Winter* in UK signed hardcover was our March 2015 History/Mystery Club Pick and got a rave from me.

## 2016 Man Booker Prize Winner

Beatty, Paul. [The Sellout](#) (\$16)

## 2015 National Humanities Medal

Rudolfo Anaya for his pioneering stories of the Southwest

Connelly, Michael. [The Wrong Side of Goodbye](#) (LittleBrown \$29). Harry Bosch #19 has really rung Patrick's chimes. He says, "The Bosch books are modern classics and Connelly has taken his protagonist on a long, complicated journey over the course of the series. Along with the way, he's given us more and more insight into Bosch's psyche, and revealed bits of his past. Now, Bosch is operating as a private investigator and also working as a reserve detective for the small town of San Fernando. An elderly billionaire hires Bosch to see if he can discover what happened to the love of his life, a young Mexican-American woman that his parents forced him to abandon 60+ years ago when the girl became pregnant. The case takes Bosch on a time capsule trip into his own past and intersects with his time in Vietnam. This is one of Connelly's most Chanderlesque novels in a long time and takes Bosch's career into a new era." Yes, it is; not only is it a carefully wrought police procedural with Bosch working out of the tiny San Fernando PD, it has a lost- heir plot benefiting from modern technology as a tool. Read reporter Robert Anglen's [brilliant review](#) too.

Cussler, Clive/Dirk. [Odessa Sea](#) (Putnam \$30). PW writes, "On the Black Sea, the setting for bestseller Cussler's intricately plotted 24th Dirk Pitt adventure, the seventh coauthored with son Dirk, a Russian freighter has encountered a deadly mystery that has killed almost everyone aboard. Fortunately, Dirk and his crew aboard the Macedonia, an oceanographic research ship, are nearby, allowing Dirk and pal Al Giordino to investigate. After Dirk and Al rescue a lone crew member, a small explosion on the stern sends the freighter to the bottom of the sea. Ana Belova, a special investigator with Europol, and her partner, Lt. Petar Ralin, from the Bulgarian Organized Crime Directorate, assist Dirk and company in the hunt for Martin Hendriks, a Dutch businessman who's working a complicated deal with the Russians to acquire a nuclear weapon. The pages whip by as the characters, at least the good guys, survive one deadly encounter after another, and the bad guys get their comeuppances. Readers will anxiously await Dirk's next adventure."

Clive also signs [Built to Thrill](#) (Putnam \$60), a classic car collection follow-up to [Built for Adventure](#) (\$50), moving the survey forward from 1948 where *Built for Adventure* left off.

Gabaldon, Diana/Tara Bennett. [The Making of Outlander](#) (Bantam \$50). Loads of color photos. Signed by both—Gabaldon wrote the Introduction. And in late November, she gives us an Outlander novella: [Virgins](#) (Century \$26):

Greaney, Mark. [Tom Clancy: True Faith and Allegiance](#) (Putnam \$29.95). It begins with a family dinner in Princeton, New Jersey. After months at sea, U.S. Navy Commander Scott Hagan, captain of the USS James Greer, is on leave when he is attacked by an armed man in a crowded restaurant. Hagan is shot, but he manages to fight off the attacker. Though severely wounded, the gunman reveals he is a Russian whose brother was killed when his submarine was destroyed by Commander Hagan's ship. Hagan demands to know how the would-be assassin knew his exact location, but the man dies before he says more. In the international arrivals section of Tehran's Imam Khomeini airport, a Canadian businessman puts his fingerprint on a reader while chatting pleasantly with the customs official. Seconds later he is shuffled off to interrogation. He is actually an American CIA operative who has made this trip into Iran more than a dozen times, but now the Iranians have his fingerprints and know who he is—their prisoner. As more deadly events involving American military and intelligence personnel follow, all over the globe, it becomes clear that there has been some kind of massive information breach and that a wide array of America's most dangerous enemies have made a weapon of the stolen data. With U.S. intelligence agencies potentially compromised, it's up to John Clark and the rest of The Campus to track the leak to its source. Their investigation uncovers an unholy threat....

Harris, Elissa. [M.I.N.D.](#) (Poisoned Pen Press \$10.99). M.I.N.D.—Mental Invasive Neurological Disorder. Imagine skydiving or bungee-jumping or snowboarding down a glacier—and you never have to leave your room. Imagine being sixteen and hooking up with the crush-of-your-life, and you never have to put on lip gloss. Meet Cassie Stewart, who can project her mind into other people at will. She sees what they see, feels what they feel, but she can't read their thoughts. It's a wild ride, but harmless. Or so she thinks. Until a fatal hit-and-run makes Cassie realize she is in a unique position to help solve the crime. It's exhilarating to use your talent to help others, and, yeah, an enormous power trip as well. But what if something goes wrong and you can't get back? What if the body you're trapped in is committing a murder—and the person he's murdering is you? Debut fiction for ages 14+ earns this praise: "A fast-paced mystery that explodes from the first chapter and twists and turns until the last page. An utterly exhilarating ride!" —Lisa McMann, *New York Times* bestselling author of the Wake trilogy and the Unwantseds series. "This whip-smart YA debut is as sharply observed as it is mind-bendingly inventive. Elissa Harris has a M.I.N.D. for mystery!" —Adele Griffin, two-time National Book Award finalist and author of *The Unfinished Life of Addison Stone*.

Johnson, Abigail. [If I Fix You](#) (Harlequin \$18.99). Fellow author Aprilynne Pike calls this "a heartrending story about life not being what you hoped for...and being okay anyway." When sixteen-year-old Jill Whitaker's mom walks out—with a sticky note as a goodbye—only Jill knows the real reason she's gone. But how

can she tell her father? Jill can hardly believe the truth herself. Suddenly, the girl who likes to fix things—cars, relationships, romances, people—is all broken up. It used to be, her best friend, tall, blond and hot flirt Sean Addison, could make her smile in seconds. But not anymore. They don't even talk. With nothing making sense, Jill tries to pick up the pieces of her life. But when a new guy moves in next door, intense, seriously cute, but with scars—on the inside and out—that he thinks don't show, Jill finds herself trying to make things better for Daniel. But over one long, hot Arizona summer, she realizes she can't fix anyone's life until she fixes her own. And she knows just where to start...

✂Hannah, Sophie. [Closed Casket](#) (Harper \$26.99). John Charles reviews this second Hercule Poirot by British bestseller Hannah: "Die-hard fans of Agatha Christie's legendary sleuth from Belgium can relax since it is evident from Hannah's first Poirot, [The Monogram Murders](#) (\$14.99), and now with *Closed Casket*, she takes her responsibilities for carrying on the literary career of Hercule Poirot very seriously. Not only does Hannah come up with a fiendishly clever motive for murder in *Closed Casket*—and one that Christie herself would applaud for its simple brilliance—but Hannah also skillfully plants all the clues needed to solve the case into the plot, thus providing readers with the same armchair sleuthing fun they had with Christie's mysteries. With its polished writing deftly infused with just the right dash of dry, Christie-esque wit and its engaging cast of characters, *Closed Casket* is a rare treat for devoted readers of the Queen of Crime as well as anyone, who enjoys an expertly written, Golden Age style mystery. Our copies are in stock awaiting her visit on December 5—making this our **December British Crime Club Pick**.

McKinlay, Jenn. [Better Late Than Never](#) (Berkley \$25). When the Briar Creek Public Library holds its first overdue book amnesty day—no fines for late returns—the volume of incoming materials is more than Lindsey and her staff can handle. In a bind, Lindsey drafts the crafters to help check in and sort the stacks of books. But one tardy tome catches her attention—a copy of J. D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*, twenty years past due. When Lindsey looks up the borrower, she's shocked to discover it was a murdered teacher named Candice Whitley, whose killer was never found. Candice checked out the novel on the day she was murdered. Now Lindsey wonders if it could provide a clue to the decades-old cold case. No one noticed who brought the book back in, but could it be Candice's killer? [Order them all](#); for #6 see our November Mass Market Paperbacks Picks.

Millikin, Patrick, ed. [The Highway Kind](#) (Mulholland \$15.99). Patrick writes, "This collection of road-inspired crime stories was an absolute treat to curate and edit. You certainly don't have to be a car person to enjoy these tales, which run the gamut in terms of style and approach. Headlining the collection is an original Mickey Haller story from Michael Connelly (who will be signing our copies on Nov. 1st) as well as a kick-ass piece by C.J. Box centered around a 1948 Power Wagon, and a splendid story by Diana Gabaldon set in 1930's Nazi Germany based upon a real-life crash on the Autobahn. It was a real thrill to get a deep, moving story from George Pelecanos, set during the Vietnam era when Mopar was king. There's also an epic, hilarious tale by Joe Lansdale about two depression-era kids sent on the road to pick up their dead uncle's body. You'll also find killer original stories from Ace Atkins, James Sallis, Sara Gran, Kelli Braffet, Luis

Urrea, Willy Vlautin, Gary Phillips, Wallace Strobe, Ben Winters, and even Patterson Hood from the band Drive-By Truckers.” Signed by Patrick, Box, Connelly, Gabaldon, Phillips, Sallis, on November 5 (Connelly signs his story Nov. 1 at our launch party for his 19<sup>th</sup> Bosch!). Go back to Connelly and use the same click to read Mr. Anglen’s wonderful review of *The Highway Kind*.

✎Morrell, David. [Ruler of the Night](#) (LittleBrown \$27) completes the Thomas de Quincy trilogy. Comes with a nifty special postcard. 1855. The railway has irrevocably altered English society, effectively changing geography and fueling the industrial revolution by shortening distances between cities: a whole day’s journey can now be covered in a matter of hours. People marvel at their new freedom. But train travel brings new dangers as well, with England’s first death by train recorded on the very first day of railway operations in 1830. Twenty-five years later, England’s first train murder occurs, paralyzing London with the unthinkable when a gentleman is stabbed to death in a safely locked first-class passenger compartment. In the next compartment, the brilliant opium-eater Thomas De Quincey and his quick-witted daughter, Emily, discover the homicide in a most gruesome manner. Key witnesses and also resourceful sleuths, they join forces with their allies in Scotland Yard, Detective Ryan and his partner-in-training, Becker, to pursue the killer back into the fogbound streets of London, where other baffling murders occur. Ultimately, De Quincey must confront two ruthless adversaries: this terrifying enemy, and his own opium addiction. *Entertainment Weekly* avers that the De Quincey novels “evoke Victorian London with such finesse that you’ll hear the hooves clattering on cobblestones, the racket of dustmen, and the shrill calls of vendors.” [Order all 3](#).

Moyer, Jenny. [Flashfall](#) (Holt \$17.99). A debut from an Arizona author who is joining three others, Pike, Harris, and Johnson, on November 20 for a Teen Readers event (grown ups will enjoy their books too—plus it’s the Gift Book season!). Orion is a Subpar, expected to mine the tunnels of Outpost Five, near the deadly flash curtain. For generations, her people have chased cirium—the only element that can shield humanity from the curtain’s radioactive particles. She and her caving partner Dram work the most treacherous tunnel, fighting past flash bats and tunnel gulls, in hopes of mining enough cirium to earn their way into the protected city. But when newcomers arrive at Outpost Five, Orion uncovers disturbing revelations that make her question everything she thought she knew about life on both sides of the cirium shield. As conditions at the outpost grow increasingly dangerous, it’s up to Orion to forge a way past the flashfall, beyond all familiar boundaries....

✎Perry, Anne. [A Christmas Message](#) (Ballantine \$20). The year is 1900, and Victor Narraway is giving his wife, Vespasia, an unforgettable Christmas present—a trip to Jerusalem. Vespasia is enchanted by the exotic landscape of Palestine, and charmed by a fellow traveler the Narraways meet at their hotel in Jaffa. But when the man is murdered over a torn piece of ancient parchment he was taking to Jerusalem, Victor and Vespasia risk their lives to finish his mission and deliver the puzzling document to its home. Pursued by a shadowy figure with evil intent, they embark on a dangerous yet ultimately enlightening pilgrimage to the holy city, where the mysterious message on the parchment may finally be revealed. To fit the season this may be our November History/Mystery Club Pick.

Pike, Aprilynne. [Glitter](#) (Random \$17.99). The *PW* Starred Review: “The series opener from Pike (the Wings series) dazzles and enchants, blending Baroque-era sensibilities with futuristic realities. Danica Grayson, 17, lives in the 22nd-century country of Sonoman-Versailles, which consists of the French palace at Versailles. Now owned by a multinational conglomerate, the palace and its grounds act as the company’s headquarters and the last bastion of courtly life. It’s a place of contradictions, where robots handle mundane tasks, overseen by a frighteningly efficient AI, and the residents adopt the dress and social structure of a bygone age. Blackmailed into an engagement with the 19-year-old king, Danica is desperate to escape. The only way she can flee the king’s wrath and her mother’s tyranny is to become someone else, which requires money, so she turns to selling a powerful drug that’s infecting the streets of Paris. Mixed into cosmetics, it becomes wildly popular, but Danica’s downfall is as swift as it is gripping. Beautifully detailed scenes serve as the foundation for Danica’s ethical quandaries and illuminate the fantastical world in which she lives.” This is billed as Young Adult but really it’s for any lover of classy fantasy.

Ryan, Hank Phillippi. [Say No More](#) (Forge \$25.99 Nov. 6). Boston’s smartest, sexiest investigative couple returns, and, even more so than usual, they find themselves entwined in each other’s cases. This latest installment in the adventures of ace TV newswoman Jane Ryland and Harvard-educated homicide detective Jake Brogan (her no-longer-secret fiancé) hits the ground running with what seems to be a hit-and-run highway accident witnessed by both Jane and her new producer. Still, not even this can keep her from her main task of the moment: gathering interviews for a documentary about sexual assaults on college campuses. One victim in particular seems poised to tell all on camera, though she’s still too shy to give Jane and Fiola her real name. Meanwhile, Jake and Boston’s Finest have been dispatched to a housing complex called The Reserve where there’s been a suspicious drowning of a Hollywood screenwriter who’s a visiting professor at a local college—the same college (of course) attended by Jane’s potential interview subject. And if all that weren’t enough.... Ryan is adept at building suspense and using multiple points of view to build her multilayered plot. [Order all the Rylands](#).

Wilber, Rick. [Alien Morning](#) (Tor \$25.99). Our **November SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick** imagines aliens have landed. Focusing on near-future technology, Wilbur gives us a glimpse of the important role global media networking could play in an exciting first contact situation with alien life. Peter Holman is a freelance sweeper. The year 2030 sees a new era in social media. Sweepcasting, a multisensory interface that can convey every thought, touch, smell, sight, and sound, can immerse the audience in another person’s experience. By fate, chance, or some darker design, Peter is perfectly positioned to be the one human to document the arrival of the aliens, the S’hudonni. The S’hudonni offer advanced science in exchange for various trade goods from Earth. But nothing is simple: Peter slowly learns secrets he was never meant to know, about both the S’hudonni and his own family. Realizing that he has been used, he can only try to turn his situation around, to save what he can... “*Alien Morning* is classic shoe-on-the-other-foot speculation about Earth itself being colonized, and Wilbur pulls it off with sophistication and panache.” —Robert J. Sawyer, Hugo Award-winning author of *Quantum Night*. Wilber’s raw materials are familiar: a future society that does much

of its living in and through the cloud; first contact with aliens who seem friendly. But he makes his materials new by viewing them with a journalist's eye." —Stephen R. Donaldson

### TO GO WITH MORRELL'S TRILOGY

✚Wilson, Frances. [Guilty Thing: A Life of Thomas de Quincey](#) (Farrar \$30). Just named one of *PW's* Best Books of 2016, Wilson, (*How to Survive the Titanic: or, The Sinking of J. Bruce Ismay*) will enthrall readers with this mesmerizing and agile biography of English writer Thomas De Quincey, "the last of the Romantics." De Quincey (1785–1859) is best known for the autobiographical *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater*, which kicked off his literary career and arguably gave birth to the genre of literature devoted to addiction and recovery. Wilson makes a good case that opium, which De Quincey began taking at 19, was the making of him, freeing him from his "torments" and allowing him unfettered access to his inner life. Wilson captures De Quincey's multifaceted personality and career—as obsessive literary stalker, "born journalist," and visionary author, as well as his continuing influence on our own time and on authors such as Edgar Allan Poe, Jorge Luis Borges, Charles Baudelaire, and many others, amply demonstrating his lasting influence. Read more in the October 30 [NY Times Book Review](#).

### AND MORE OF PW'S BEST BOOKS OF 2016

Enrique, Alvaro. [Sudden Death](#) (Penguin \$27). Enrique ingeniously uses a 16th-century game of tennis between two hung over players (Spanish poet Quevedo and the notorious painter Caravaggio), played with a ball made of Anne Boleyn's hair, to explore the beauties and atrocities of Renaissance Europe. This is an unpredictable, nonpareil novel that, as with the macabre tennis ball at its center, "bounce[s] like a thing possessed.

Gyasi, Yaa. [Homecoming Signed](#) (Knopf \$26.95). A Modern Firsts Club Pick. Gyasi's debut novel traces a single bloodline across seven generations beginning with two Ghanaian half-sisters, one married to a British colonizer in the 1760s, the other caught in the slave trade. The histories of America and Ghana are blended with the fate of the separate families. Through the eyes of slaves, wanderers, union leaders, teachers, and addicts, Gyasi writes each narrative with remarkable freshness and subtlety.

Konar, Affinity. [Mischling](#) (Little Brown \$27). New in this Booknews: Stasha and Pearl, 12-year-old Jewish twins from Poland, rather than being sent to Auschwitz's gas chamber in 1944, are placed in Nazi doctor Josef Mengele's "zoo" in this gripping and haunting novel. In the months following liberation, Pearl disappears and Stasha heads west through a chaotic postwar landscape, holding out hope that Pearl is still alive.

Proulx, Annie. [Barkskins Signed](#) (Scribner \$32). Spanning 300 years and including a cast of dozens, Proulx's monumental achievement traces the descendants of two 17th-century woodsmen and their divergent paths. One family drifts and battles the erosion of Mi'kmaq culture, while the other develops a timber empire. Despite the scope and length, the story never slips from Proulx's grasp, resulting in an exhilarating, immersive reading experience.

#### *Mystery and Thrillers:*

Abbott, Megan. [You Will Know Me Signed](#) (Little Brown \$26). Thriller Award-winner Abbott takes a piercing look at what one family will sacrifice in the name of making their daughter

a champion. For the parents of Devon Knox, nothing is more important than ensuring that the 16-year-old has everything she needs to pursue a possible Olympic berth in gymnastics, but murder upsets their plans.

Barton, Fiona. [The Widow Signed](#) (NAL\$26). A First Mystery Club Pick. What would you do if your spouse suddenly became the prime suspect in the kidnapping of a two-year-old girl? That's the stomach-churning prospect that confronts London hairdresser Jean Taylor in this exceptional debut from British journalist Barton, who circles her story as if it were a lurking panther, unseen but viscerally sensed.

Cline, Emma. [The Girls Signed](#) (Random \$27). A First Mystery Club Pick: Fourteen years old in the summer of 1969, Evie Boyd meets 19-year-old Suzanne Parker, who introduces her to the chaotic existence on the California ranch of the charismatic, dangerous Russell Hadrick (think Charles Manson). As the mood on the ranch darkens, Cline expertly depicts the harm we can do, to ourselves and others, in our hunger for belonging and acceptance.

Hallinan, Timothy. [Fields Where They Lay Signed](#) (Soho \$25.95). Edgar finalist Hallinan deserves to win an Edgar for his ingeniously plotted, often hilarious sixth Junior Bender novel, in which Junior, a professional thief, agrees to go undercover shortly before Christmas at a San Fernando Valley, Calif., shopping mall, where there's been a spike in shoplifting. Our December Surprise Me! Club Pick.

Hart, John. [Redemption Road](#) (St Martins \$27.99). In Edgar-winner Hart's stellar crime thriller, North Carolina police detective Elizabeth Black faces the prospect of criminal charges arising from her gunning down two men she caught raping an 18-year-old girl. Though Hart employs plot twists effectively, it's his powerful, wounded but courageous lead whom readers will remember. Signed copies sold out.

Hodgson, Antonia. [The Last Confession of Thomas Hawkins](#) (\$17). Hodgson's outstanding second novel set in early 18th-century England charts the twisted path that leads Thomas Hawkins, a gentleman who has spent time in debtors' prison, to the gallows for murder. Will Hawkins get a last-minute pardon? Signed copies sold out.

Minier, Bernard. [Don't Turn Out the Lights](#) (St Martins \$26.99). French author Minier displays a rare gift for raising goose bumps in his intricate third thriller featuring Toulouse cop Martin Servaz, who is on leave six months after the sadistic killer he was hunting sent him the heart of a woman Martin was involved with. He gets back on the job after a new case leads him to a hotel where an artist committed suicide. Publishes Dec. 6. I recommend all his books.

Pattison, Eliot. [Blood of the Oak](#) (Counterpoint \$26). In 1765, ruthless killers are targeting messengers working for secret committees, whose leaders include Benjamin Franklin, in different American cities. In this superior fourth mystery featuring Scottish ex-pat Duncan McCallum, Pattison does a brilliant job of showing how political events of the era paved the way for the start of the Revolutionary War.

Penny, Louise. [A Great Reckoning](#) (St Martins \$28.99). The lyrical 12th entry in bestseller Penny's remarkable series finds former Chief Insp. Armand Gamache coming out of retirement to clean up the corrupt Sûreté Academy du Québec. This complex novel

deals with universal themes of compassion, weakness in the face of temptation, forgiveness, and the danger of falling into despair and cynicism over apparently insurmountable evils. Signed copies sold out.

Svensson, Anton. trans. from the Swedish by Elizabeth Clark Wessel. [The Father: Made in Sweden, Part 1](#) (Quercus \$26.99). Svensson, the pseudonym of screenwriter Stefan Thunberg and investigative journalist Anders Roslund, heartbreakingly blurs the line between criminal and victim in this stunning first of a two-novel series based on a sensational real-life string of bank robberies in 1990s Sweden.

Upson, Nicola. [London Rain](#) (Harper \$15.99). The coronation of George VI in 1937 provides the backdrop for Upson's psychologically complex sixth whodunit featuring real-life mystery writer Josephine Tey. Upson adroitly confounds the reader's expectations, and her subtle and emotionally intelligent exploration of Josephine's relationship with Tey's lover, Marta Hallard, adds depth.

Winters, Ben. [Underground Airlines](#) (Little Brown \$26). Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* meets *Blade Runner* in Winters' thriller set in a world where there was no Civil War and slavery still exists in four Southern states. Victor, an African-American bounty hunter, possesses a supreme talent for tracking down runaway slaves, but he begins to have doubts about his job after he penetrates an abolitionist organization in Indianapolis called Underground Airlines. Signed copies sold out. Winters has a story in Patrick's anthology *The Highway Kind*. See our November 5 Event.

## SIGNED BOOKS

✦Archer, Jeffery. [This Was a Man](#) (Macmillan \$44). The final installment of the Clifton Chronicles opens with a shot being fired, but who pulled the trigger, and who lives and who dies? In Whitehall, Giles Barrington discovers the truth about his wife Karin from the Cabinet Secretary. Is she a spy or a pawn in a larger game? Harry Clifton sets out to write his magnum opus, while his wife Emma completes her ten years as Chairman of the Bristol Royal Infirmary, and receives an unexpected call from Margaret Thatcher offering her a job. And, there's more.... Unsigned US Edition: [This Was a Man](#) (St Martins \$28.99)

Baldacci, David. [No Man's Land](#) (Grand Central \$29). John Puller's mother, Jackie, vanished thirty years ago from Fort Monroe, Virginia, when Puller was just a boy. Paul Rogers has been in prison for ten years. But twenty years before that, he was at Fort Monroe. One night three decades ago, Puller's and Rogers' worlds collided with devastating results, and the truth has been buried ever since. Until now. Military investigators, armed with a letter from a friend of Jackie's, arrive in the hospital room of Puller's father—a legendary three-star now sinking into dementia—and reveal that Puller Sr. has been accused of murdering Jackie. Aided by his brother Robert Puller, an Air Force major, and Veronica Knox, who works for a shadowy U.S. intelligence organization, Puller begins a journey that will take him into his own past, to find the truth about his mother. Paul Rogers' time is running out. With the clock ticking, he begins his own journey, one that will take him across the country to the place where all his troubles began: a mysterious building on the grounds of Fort Monroe. There, thirty years ago, the man Rogers had once been vanished too, and was replaced with... something Puller must

combat too. "Baldacci maintains tension throughout and imbues his characters with enough humanity to make readers care what happens to them."—*PW*. [Order earlier Pullers](#).

✦Bauer, Belinda. [The Beautiful Dead](#) (Bantam UK \$36). This is one exclusive that Eve Singer, an attractive iWitness News crime reporter, doesn't want, in this taut thriller from British author Bauer. While covering the stabbing of a young woman just feet from throngs of London Christmas shoppers, Eve catches the eye of the murderer, who decides she would be the perfect amanuensis to aid his grandiose series of gruesome "exhibitions." Bauer puts the sympathetic, conflicted Eve and the heart-tuggingly demented father for whom she is caring in escalating jeopardy, along with several memorable minor players, including Det. Sgt. Emily Aguda, whose small size leads people to underestimate her formidable skills (she's a black belt in kickboxing and Judo)...in this suspenseful slay ride through a snow-globe London.

Block, Lawrence. [Sinner Man](#) (Titan \$25). The first crime novel by MWA Grand Master Block returns to print, slightly revised, after being lost for 50 years. It's as lean and compulsively readable as you'd expect from a writer who made his rent writing paperbacks in the 1950s and '60s. When insurance salesman Donald Barshter of Danbury, Conn., accidentally kills his wife, he senses the chance to reinvent himself and decides to do so as a mobster. His plan takes him to Buffalo, N.Y., where he encounters new women and crafts a new life—and realizes that playing the part inevitably involves dipping his hands in blood. An entertaining afterword by Block traces his memory of the book and the era and how he eventually located copies released under the title *Savage Lover*. He followed more than one false trail, when "what turned up in the mailbox was a lesbian novel, one of the handful published in America that I hadn't written." "For fans of the paperback jungle, an original noir is reborn." Our supply of Signed copies is very limited; don't wait to order.

Chabon, Michael. [Moonglow](#) (Harper \$27). In 1989, fresh from the publication of his first novel, *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh*, Michael Chabon traveled to his mother's home in Oakland, California, to visit his terminally ill grandfather. Tongue loosened by powerful painkillers, memory stirred by the imminence of death, Chabon's grandfather shared recollections and told stories the younger man had never heard before, uncovering bits and pieces of a history long buried and forgotten. That dreamlike week of revelations forms the basis for the novel. "A grandson sits by his dying grandfather's bedside as his grandfather slowly reveals the light and shadows of a marriage and of a family that kept secrets as a way of life. He learns of his grandmother's life growing up during World War II; her coming to America and living with a man who kept to himself, even lying to her about his short time in prison. Chabon's signature style includes carefully observed characters that are both new and familiar and shimmering prose that reflects and refracts light much as moonlight does."—*Library Reads*. Note: our supply is very small so please order immediately to avoid disappointment. We'll fill orders in the order they are received.

Child, Lee. [Night School](#) (Bantam \$28.99). Library Reads reviews: "Child goes back to the well and gives readers another glimpse into Jack Reacher's past as a military cop—and what a worthwhile trip it is. It's 1996—after Reacher receives a Legion of Merit medal, he's sent to 'Night School' with two other men,

one from the FBI and another from the CIA. Soon the trio learns that they've been selected for a covert mission. Child layers his page-turning story with careful and sometimes dryly humorous details. This suspense series keeps getting better—it's a joy to read." The Indie Next review: "Child always finds a new situation that pits Jack against tricky villains who just might, this time, get the best of him. With plot twists and turns that keep readers guessing until the last pages, thrillers don't get any better than this!" I add that this is definitely one of Child's best plots for Reacher as well as a look back into his past. [Night School Signed](#) (Bantam UK \$45). Charles Finch has some interesting observations on Reacher in the [NYTBR](#).

✠Cornwell, Bernard. [The Flame Bearer](#) (Harper \$27.99). Saxon Tales #10. Britain is in a state of uneasy peace. Northumbria's Viking ruler, Sigtryggr, and Mercia's Saxon Queen Aethelflaed have agreed a truce. And so England's greatest warrior, Uhtred of Bebbanburg, at last has the chance to take back the home his traitorous uncle stole from him so many years ago—and which his scheming cousin still occupies. But fate is inexorable and the enemies Uhtred has made and the oaths he has sworn combine to distract him from his dream of recapturing Bebbanburg. New enemies enter into the fight for England's kingdoms: the redoubtable Constantin of Scotland seizes an opportunity for conquest and leads his armies south. Britain's precarious peace threatens to turn into a war of annihilation. But Uhtred is determined that nothing, neither the new enemies nor the old foes who combine against him, will keep him from his birth right.... The Signed UK edition is sold out.

Crosby, Ellen. [The Champagne Conspiracy](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Yum. A return to Virginia's wine country where food and drink shakes hands with fraud and murder. Out for Thanksgiving but Signed here at a Christmas Party, Saturday December 10 @ 2:00 PM, with Jane Cleland whose new antiques mystery is [Glow of Death](#) (St Martins \$25.99) and involves Tiffany lamps. Mark your calendars now for this double treat.

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.

De Castrique, Mark. [The Singularity Race](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Imagine the Singularity—the looming point of no return when Artificial Intelligence surpasses human cognitive abilities, with consequences no one can foresee and only a handful of people understand. Rusty Mullins, ex-Secret Service, has never heard of the Singularity. He only knows that after the deadly challenges of his last job for security firm Prime Protection, he swore he'd stop risking his life on assignments. Then his good friend Ted Lewison, head of Prime Protection, asks him back for a routine mission guarding Chinese scientist Dr. Lisa Li and her seven-year-old nephew Peter, and he agrees. The conference on AI bringing Dr. Li to Washington, DC, is barely underway when a team of assassins storms the room. The carnage is great but Mullins saves Dr. Li and Peter while the attackers kill the two other AI experts along with Lewison. His widow begs Mullins to uncover the power behind the group claiming credit for the assassinations. Is

"Double H" home grown, or part of a larger international conspiracy? And, terrifyingly, a machine with capacity exceeding human intelligence can outstrip all controls while possessing no moral or ethical brakes. De Castrique writes "soft" thrillers laced with strong characters and the gorgeous landscape of North Carolina. [The Singularity Race](#) (\$15.95).

Evanovich, Janet. [Turbo Twenty-Three](#) (Bantam \$28). The 23<sup>rd</sup> Plum finds the Jersey bounty hunter facing a first. Her fleeing target has left behind a truck loaded with ice cream and a dead body—frozen solid and covered in chocolate and chopped pecans. As fate would have it, Stephanie's mentor and occasional employer, Ranger, needs her to go undercover at the ice cream factory to find out who's killing employees and sabotaging the business. It's going to be hard for Stephanie to keep her hands off all that ice cream, and even harder for her to keep her hands off Ranger. It's also going to be hard to explain to Trenton's hottest cop, Joe Morelli, why she is spending late nights with Ranger...

Fairstein, Linda. [Into the Lion's Den](#) (Dial \$16.99). So Nancy Drew! Meet 12-year-old Devlin Quick, girl detective and book lover, in this new series. For more, see Killer Reads for Kids below. We know there is a vast pool of Nancy Drew readers who are now all grown-up who will eat this charmer up! Early orders will get Devlin Quick badges sent to us by the author.

Fedarcy, Jan. [Fidelity](#) (SimonSchuster \$25). This debut by the FBI's highest ranking woman officer makes both our **November Surprise Me! and Thriller Club Picks**. Kay Malloy, a brilliant young Special Agent whose assignment to the Counterintelligence Program in New York City has devastating consequences—both personal and professional. Kay always knew hers would be a life of service. Following the tragic death of her humanitarian parents, Kay and her brother, Christopher, were raised in a world of wealth and culture by their godparents. With ambition and selflessness, Kay joins the FBI to honor her parent's legacy, even while Christopher's life grows increasingly aimless. Paramilitary and male-dominated, the FBI could be an intimidating employer to anyone less confident, devoted, and insightful than Kay. But after early success in the Violent Crime Program in Baltimore she struggles working counterintelligence in New York. When Kay is assigned to investigate the loss of Russian government double agents, she sees this as her chance to prove herself despite agonizing choices she must make.

✠Finch, Charles. [The Inheritance](#) (St Martins \$28 No Date Yet!). Victorian-era gentleman sleuth Charles Lenox, now a private enquiry agent after time as a Member of Parliament, hasn't seen his Harrow school friend Gerald Leigh in many years, ever since Leigh got happily expelled and set off for a life of travel and, eventually, scientific inquiry. But hearing from Leigh generates an extra sense of excitement when his letter reveals that his return to London is related to his "mysterious benefactor." Lenox and Leigh started an unusual friendship at school when Leigh explained that his tuition was paid by an anonymous "friend," whose identity he desperately wanted to figure out. It was Lenox's first mystery, and it still hasn't been solved. It becomes clear that this is much more than child's play when Leigh goes missing from the Collingwood Hotel and Lenox must track him down—and once he does, Leigh reports that attempts have been made on his life—and that he has become the heir to a large fortune. And it spins on from there. I love this series—this is the 10<sup>th</sup>

entry—it is so Sayers in sensibility. **This book is out now. It's likely Finch will not be able to visit us until January. Please order now to be sure you get a first printing.**

Gabaldon, Diana. [Virgins](#) (Century \$26). What happened before Jamie met Claire? 1740: Young Jamie Fraser has left Scotland and, with his best friend Ian Murray, is running with a band of mercenaries in France. Both men have good reason not to go back to their homeland: both are nursing wounds, and despite their best efforts to remedy the situation, both are still virgins. So when a Jewish doctor hires them to escort his granddaughter to Paris, they readily agree. Both men are instantly drawn to the beautiful young lady—making their lives more complicated and way more dangerous...as revealed in this novella arriving in late November.

✚Griffiths, Elly. [Blood Card](#) (Quercus \$39). Elizabeth II's coronation is looming, but the murder of their wartime commander, Colonel Cartwright, spoils the happy mood for DI Edgar Stephens and magician Max Mephisto. A playbill featuring another deceased comrade is found in Colonel Cartwright's possession, and a playing card, the ace of hearts: the blood card. The wartime connection and the suggestion of magic are enough for him to put Stephens and Mephisto on the case. Edgar's investigation into the death of Brighton fortune-teller Madame Zabini is put on hold. Max is busy rehearsing for a spectacular Coronation Day variety show – and his television debut – so it's Edgar who is sent to New York, a land of plenty worlds away from still-rationed England. He's on the trail of a small-town mesmerist who may provide the key, but someone else silences him first. It's Sergeant Emma Holmes who finds the clue, buried in the files of the Zabini case, that leads them to an anarchist group intent on providing an explosive finale to Coronation Day. Will Edgar, Max and Emma foil the plot? Start with [The Zig Zag Girl and Smoke and Mirrors](#).

Hoffman, Patrick. [Every Man a Menace](#) (Grove \$27). Hoffman's second crime thriller is an edgy, crisp, compulsive portrait of the merciless players in the international Ecstasy trade. Here, the drug of choice is Molly (aka MDMA or Ecstasy), and Hoffman's dealers are occasionally hapless, but more often just plain ruthless. A former Bay Area private investigator, Hoffman unwinds his story from the murder of a small-time ex-con caught in a high stakes double-cross deal. He later adds in a San Francisco Filipina Molly queen's cross-border drug chain, the Miami club owners who broker the product and the Asian packagers who manage global distribution. Set largely in San Francisco, Miami and Bangkok, *Every Man a Menace* vibrates with punchy prose reminiscent of authors like Dashiell Hammett, Elmore Leonard and John Burdett, who made those cities their own. There is no sentimentality along Hoffman's drug chain—it's all about the money." An excellent **November Hardboiled Crime Club Pick**.

Ide, Joe. [IQ](#) (Mulholland \$26). "Mystery fans should hunt down IQ; Isaiah and his sidekick Dodson are a hilarious urban version of Holmes and Watson... "Living between cultures (and, no doubt, for self-preservation), he adopted the "speech, style and attitude" of his neighbors, while surviving by the formidable intellect he fancies he shares with his hero, Sherlock Holmes. That description also applies to Isaiah (IQ) Quintabe, Ide's "unlicensed and undaground" — and wonderfully quirky — detective. The jobs people bring to Isaiah are extremely modest, as are the payments for his

services. (He's said to have put one case to bed for some store-bought blueberry muffins.) So the chance to make serious money by smoking out the hit man who has taken aim at a rapper named Black the Knife comes at an opportune time. If not for a creepy killer cruising the scene ("Hellooo, Carmela"), the exhilarating language and oddball cast would make this debut a total laff-riot."—*NY Times Book Review* on our October First Mystery Club Pick.

Keyse-Walker, John. [Sun, Sand, Murder](#) (St Martins \$27). This charmer of our **November First Mystery Club Pick** 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.

King, Ross. [Mad Enchantment: Claude Monet](#) (Bloomsbury \$30). Novelist King moved into art/architecture some while back using his talents with fiction to infuse stories of masterpieces like Brunelleschi's Dome, the Sistine Chapel ceiling by Michelangelo, and DaVinci's *The Last Supper* with the narrative power of a novel. Here he's immersed in Impressionist Claude Monet and his creation of the paintings of the water lilies in his garden at Giverny. Monet himself intended them to provide "an asylum of peaceful meditation." Yet, as King reveals in his magisterial chronicle of both artist and his masterpieces, beneath the surface of these beautiful canvases lays remarkable drama, and they reflect the terrible personal torments Monet suffered in the last dozen years of his life. I attended King's magical book event at the Phoenix Art Museum in October which hooked me on this book. And I've visited [Giverny](#) which, is as often true when at the site of a legend, is smaller than one expects, but as spell-binding as the art and the artist. A lot depends on how crowded the property is, and what time of year you visit the garden.

Speaking of King as a novelist, his fabulous bibliomystery [Ex Libris](#) (\$16) set in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century as a London antiquarian and bookseller travels between Tower Bridge and Prague on his hunt for a lost volume, is one of my favorites.

Lamb, Wally. [I'll Take You There](#) (Harper \$25.99) is delightfully entertaining, funny and a bit mystical with wonderful connections to old movies and movie stars. Felix Funicello runs a Monday night film club which meets in an old theater. One evening, he is visited by the ghost of a female director from the silent film era. She takes him on a journey to his past where Felix sees scenes on the screen which help him gain an understanding of



women who have been important to him throughout his life. This novel is insightful and inspirational in connecting scenes from the past with our present day society.” Lamb weaves an evocative, deeply affecting tapestry of one Baby Boomer’s life—Felix Funicello, a film scholar introduced in *Wishin’ and Hopin’*—and the trio of unforgettable women who have changed it.

Larsen, KJ. [There Was a Crooked Man](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). 5th the comic yet wickedly plotted Cat de Luca private eye series. And life is looking good for the detective. The Pants on Fire Detective Agency is booming and her romance with FBI Agent Chance Savino still gives her goose bumps. She both adores and dodges her outrageous Italian family. Mama’s latest scheme to marry her off involves a romantic cruise, insane amounts of champagne, and a hijacked priest to tie the knot. But Cat’s world is about to tumble when a ghost from Papa’s past threatens to expose a terrible secret. A long time ago when Papa and Captain Bob were partners, they responded to a hit and run that claimed the life of one of Bridgeport’s most beloved citizens. Daniel Baumgarten, owner and proprietor of Baumgarten’s Jewelry was killed in the street outside his shop. The unsolved death was relegated to a dusty cold case file where it was almost forgotten. Until the day someone kidnapped Captain Bob’s dog and broke into the ex-partners’ homes. The culprit claims to have evidence of police corruption that will destroy the Captain and Papa. What’s most terrifying to Cat is that Papa and Bob don’t deny the accusation. Instead, they’re furious with her and order her to leave it alone. No way. With her agency partners (which include Inga, a dog easily bribed with sausages), Cat sets out to prove her chops as an investigator. [Order all](#) the Pants on Fire Detective Agency Mysteries. Filled with food, so good holiday reading. No calories for you.

✦Marston, Edward. [Enemy Within](#) (Allison \$46). Pentonville Prison. Wally Hibbert is serving a long sentence for arson. But after befriending and tricking one of the officers, Hibbert makes an audacious escape. Inspector Marmion, the detective who arrested Hibbert, is warned to watch his back, but it seems that Hibbert has another target in his murderous sights. However, the investigation is mired in confusion, the identities of killer and victim become increasingly ambiguous. An inmate at an internment camp who might be a spy sending intelligence to the Germans complicates matters further, as do the multiplying manhunts.... A new chapter in the Homefront Detective Series.

Meyer, Stephenie. [The Chemist](#) (LittleBrown \$28). She used to work for the U.S. government, but very few people ever knew that. An expert in her field, she was one of the darkest secrets of an agency so clandestine it doesn’t even have a name. And when they decided she was a liability, they came for her without warning. Now she rarely stays in the same place or uses the same name for long. They’ve killed the only other person she trusted, but something she knows still poses a threat. They want her dead, and soon. When her former handler offers her a way out, she realizes it’s her only chance to erase the giant target on her back. But it means taking one last job for her ex-employers. To her horror, the information she acquires only makes her situation more dangerous.

Mills, Mark. [Where Dead Men Meet](#) (Headline \$39) Paris, 1937. Luke Hamilton – a junior air intelligence officer at the British Embassy – finds himself the target of an assassination attempt. A clear case of mistaken identity, or so it first appears. As Luke is

hunted across a continent sliding towards war, he comes to learn that the answers lie deep in a past that predates his abandonment as a baby on the steps of an orphanage twenty-five years ago. Set against a terrific backdrop of Europe on the cusp of the Second World War, this is compelling novel, rich in adventure, espionage, secrets and lies. For fans of William Boyd, Charles Cumming or Robert Harris. Arriving in early December to be our **December History/Mystery Club Pick**. I list it here as we won’t be able to reorder it if we run out.

Penny, Stef. [Under a Pole Star](#) (Quercus \$42). Flora Mackie first crossed the Arctic Circle at the age of twelve. In 1889, the whaler’s daughter from Dundee, dubbed by the press “The Snow Queen,” sets out to become a scientist and explorer. She struggles to be taken seriously but determination and chance lead her back to northern Greenland at the head of a British expedition, despite the many who believe that a young woman has no place in this harsh world of men. Geologist Jakob de Beyn was raised in Manhattan. Yearning for wider horizons, he joins a rival expedition, led by the furiously driven Lester Armitage. When Jakob and Flora’s paths cross, it is a fateful meeting. All three become obsessed with the north, a place where violent extremes exist side by side: perpetual night and endless day; frozen seas and coastal meadows; heroism and lies. Armitage’s ruthless desire to be the true leader of polar discovery takes him and his men on a mission whose tragic outcome will reverberate for years to come. Set against the stark, timeless beauty of northern Greenland, and fin-de-siècle New York and London, *Under a Pole Star* offers a compelling look at the dark side of the “golden age” of exploration, a study of the corrosive power of ambition, and an epic, incendiary love story.

Picoult, Jodi. [Small Great Things](#) (Random \$28.99). When the newborn son of two white supremacists dies in the hospital, a black nurse is accused of criminal behavior. Picoult is best known for fiction that blends courtroom and human drama surrounding controversial topics. While some of her novels have deviated from that template, she returns to it in *Small Great Things*, which depicts the trial of a nurse accused of the wrongful death of a patient through the lens of the Black Lives Matter movement

✦Rankin, Ian. [Rather Be the Devil](#) (Orion \$41). John Rebus, as incapable of settling into his retirement as he is of playing by the rules, investigates a cold case from the 1970s involving a gorgeous and wealthy female socialite who was found dead in a bedroom at one of Edinburgh’s most luxurious hotels. No one was ever found guilty, but the scandalous circumstances of the murder have kept the town talking for over forty years. Now, Rebus has his own reasons to investigate, but his inquiries quickly make him some very dangerous and powerful enemies... as usual!

Scarrow, Simon. [Invictus \(Eagles of the Empire\)](#) (Headline \$42). It is AD 54. The soldiers of the Roman army patrol a growing Empire, from the Mediterranean to the North Sea, from the Atlantic to the banks of the Nile. Rome brutally enforces its rule, and its legions are the most efficient and aggressive fighting force in the world. Two battle-scarred veterans of this army, Prefect Cato and Centurion Macro, have survived years of campaigning in Britannia and have been recalled to Rome. Their time in the teeming, dangerously political city is short, and soon they are travelling with the Praetorian Guard to Spain, a restless colony where simmering tension in the face of Roman rule is aggravated

by bitter rivalry amongst the natives. The challenges that face two old friends and their comrades in arms are unlike any they have seen before – in a land that declares itself unconquerable. 15th in the Eagles of the Empire Series.

✦Taylor, Andrew. [Fireside Gothic](#) (Collins \$32). Three gothic novellas perfect for fans of Hurley's *The Loney*. "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. "The Leper House": One stormy night in Suffolk, a man's car breaks down following his sister's funeral. The only source of light comes from a remote cottage by the sea. The mysterious woman who lives there begs him to leave, yet he can't shake the sense that she somehow needs him. He attempts to return the next day but she is nowhere to be seen. And neither is the cottage. "The Scratch": Clare and Gerald live a perfect life in the Forest of Dean with their cat, Cannop. Then Gerald's young nephew comes to stay. Jack is from another world – active service in Afghanistan. The experience has left him outwardly untouched, but for a scratch that won't heal. Jack and Cannop don't like each other. Clare and Jack like each other too much. The scratch begins to fester.

Towles, Amor. [A Gentleman in Moscow](#) (Viking \$27). Our **November Modern Firsts Club Pick** is the second by a real rising literary star. This 30-year saga set almost entirely inside the Metropol, Moscow's most luxurious hotel. The Indie Next Pick: "Through Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov's ordinary encounters and activities within the bounds of the four walls of post-revolutionary Moscow's Metropol Hotel, where he is under house arrest, Towles deftly guides readers across a century of Russian history, from the Bolshevik uprising to the dawn of the nuclear age under Khrushchev. Grandiloquent language and drama reminiscent of Tolstoy gradually give way to action and tradecraft suggestive of le Carré in this lovely and entertaining tale of one man's determination to maintain his dignity and passion for life, even after being stripped of his title, belongings, and freedom. Reading *A Gentleman in Moscow* is pure pleasure!" This novel gets a full-page essay in the [NY Times Book Review](#).

Wagner, David P. [Return to Umbria](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). "The beautiful Umbrian towns of Orvieto and Todi provide the setting for Wagner's well-written fourth mystery featuring translator Rick Montoya. Rick, an Italian-American based in Rome, and his lover, detective Betta Innocenti, are visiting the area with a mission: to persuade Rick's 21-year-old cousin, Fabrizio, to return to his family home in Perugia and break off his relationship with an Orvieto matron. On the way up to Orvieto, Rick exchanges a few words with three American women. When one of them ends up dead, Rick is drawn into the police investigation as an interpreter. The motive for the victim's death seems to be linked to her experiences in Orvieto as an art student many years before. Wagner skillfully inserts nuggets of local culture without slowing down the narrative pace, and perhaps even more importantly, he gets Italy right. He understands the nuances of Italian manners and mentality as well as the glorious national preoccupation with food."—*PW*. 4<sup>th</sup> in a Rick Montoya Tastes of Italy series highlighting food, wine, art, architecture, and regions. [Return to Umbria](#) (\$15.95).

## KILLER READS FOR KIDS

### *See the Event Books Section for 4 Reads for Teens*

Fairstein, Linda. [Into the Lion's Den Signed](#) (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. "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.**

Johansen, Erika. [The Fate of the Tearling](#) (Harper, \$25.99). "It's been fascinating to watch the Tearling saga evolve into a riveting blend of fantasy and dystopian fiction with characters developing in unexpected but satisfying ways into people I really care about. With the introduction of new characters in the town, a third timeline is woven into the story, leading to a plot twist that I did not see coming at all. This book has given me lots to think about—community, leadership, the use and abuse of power—and makes me want to reread all three books."

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' 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

## BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSICS AND A NONFICTION GEM

Bude, John. [The Cornish Coast Murder](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). The Reverend Dodd, vicar of the quiet Cornish village of Boscawen, spends his evenings reading detective stories by the fireside – but heaven forbid that the shadow of any real crime should ever fall across his seaside parish. But the vicar’s peace is shattered one stormy night when Julius Tregarthan, a secretive and ill-tempered magistrate, is found at his house in Boscawen with a bullet through his head. The local police inspector is baffled by the complete absence of clues. Luckily for Inspector Bigswell, the Reverend Dodd is on hand, and ready to put his keen understanding of the criminal mind to the test. This classic mystery novel of the golden age of British crime fiction is set against the vividly described backdrop of a fishing village on Cornwall’s Atlantic coast. It is now republished for the first time since the 1930s with an introduction by the award-winning crime writer Martin Edwards. Bude is the author of [The Sussex Downs Murder](#) and due in late November, [The Lake District Murder](#) (\$12.95 each).

Hay, Mavis Doriel. [Murder Underground](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). 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. “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.

And....

Dewess, Shelly. [Not Just Jane](#) (Harper \$15.99). “Not merely delightful nonfiction. It’s a moving and heartfelt tribute to seven forgotten literary foremothers whose works were widely admired and just as widely consigned to moldering oblivion. What we need are many more books in the spirit of *Not Just Jane*.” —Lyndsay Faye. Jane Austen and the Brontës endure as British literature’s leading ladies (and for good reason)—but were these reclusive parsons’ daughters really the only writing women of their day? A feminist history of literary Britain, this witty, fascinating nonfiction debut explores the extraordinary lives and work of seven long-forgotten authoresses, and asks: Why did their considerable fame and influence, and a vibrant culture of female creativity, fade away? And what are we missing because of it?

## OUR NOVEMBER TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

Anderson, James. [The Never-Open Desert Diner](#) (\$16). “Anderson distills the heat and shimmering haze of the Utah desert into his fine first novel.... Just as important as the mysteries of human entanglement are the desert’s brilliant light, torrential downpours, and vast night sky.” Ben Jones is a truck driver, so nice a guy and soft touch that he’s descending into bankruptcy. His route in a lonely highway He delivers for UPS and FedEx but not DHL

across a stretch of Utah heading north to Salt Lake and south to Moab. On his route is an old diner built in 1929 and for a time, 1955-87, it figured in a number of B-movies and had some fame as the Well-Known Desert Diner. Then tragedy struck the owners and the widower became a recluse repelling customers, hence its “Never-Open” renaming. One day Ben, needing to pee, ventures into the hidden entrance to an abandoned off-highway development and finds a beautiful woman playing a cello in the model home. He beats an embarrassed retreat. But something later calls him back... and the story flows, filled with surprises, from there....” CJ Box calls this November 2015 Hardboiled Club Pick “lyrical, whimsical, atmospheric, and skillfully rendered.”

Camilleri, Andrea. [A Voice in the Night](#) (Penguin \$16). Sicily’s Inspector Montalbano is investigating a robbery at a supermarket, a standard case that takes a spin when manager Guido Borsellino is later found hanging in his office. Was it a suicide? The inspector and the coroner have their doubts, and further investigation leads to the director of a powerful local company. Meanwhile, a girl is found brutally murdered in Giovanni Strangio’s apartment—Giovanni has a flawless alibi, and it’s no coincidence that Michele Strangio, president of the province, is his father. Weaving together these two crimes, Montalbano realizes that he’s in a difficult spot where political power is enmeshed with the mafia underworld. (This storyline has been shown in the TV version found on MHZ-TV). [Order all Montalbanos](#).

Downing, David. [One Man’s Flag](#) (\$16.95). Few series starts have enraptured me as much as Downing’s [Jack of Spies](#) (\$15.95). I was already a rabid reader of Downing’s John Russell WWII Spy Thriller series, each named after a Berlin train station (*Zoo Station* comes first), but Jack McCall, a kind of James Bond of before WWI, truly upped the spy game. The sequel, set in the spring of 1915, now in paperback, continues the story as Jack moves further around the globe. “Downing exhibits his knowledge of world history in a wide-ranging story that takes place in India, Ireland, and Belgium. His details about how countries in the British Empire were affected by the Great War are quite absorbing.” —*Library Journal*. “Engrossing...Comparisons to W. Somerset Maugham’s classic stories about Ashenden, another gentleman spy, are well deserved.” —*The Seattle Times*

Gaind, Arjun Raj. [A Very Pukka Murder](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). *PW* reviews the start of The Maharaja Mysteries series: “Set in the tiny princely state of Rajpore, India’s Gaind’s first novel is both a satisfying locked-room mystery and a keenly observed comedy of manners. On Jan. 1, 1909, Rajpore’s maharaja, Sikan-der Singh, who usually likes to start his day with a frosty flute of champagne, learns that Maj. William Russell, a high British government official, has been found dead in his bed. When Russell didn’t respond to his servant’s knocks, a cavalry officer had to break into his bedroom because it was bolted from within. A keen mystery solver, Sikander hops into his Rolls-Royce and hastens to Russell’s bungalow in Rajpore’s English settlement. Sikander determines that Russell was poisoned, but members of the British enclave, keen to avoid a scandal, hamper the maharaja’s subsequent investigation. It becomes clear that Russell had quite a few nasty little secrets and unpleasant proclivities that caused him to be despised by practically everyone. Fans of traditional mysteries and those with an interest in British colonial history will be rewarded.” Our **November History/Mystery Paperback Pick**. See New Books for another review.

✎Kinsey, TE. [A Quiet Life in the Country](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). This delightful and cleverly snarky Edwardian village mystery turning on rural rivalries and resentments is our **November British Crime Club Pick**. Lady Emily Hardcastle is an eccentric widow with a secret past. Florence Armstrong, her maid and confidante, is an expert in martial arts. The year is 1908 and they've just moved from London to Littleton Cotterell, Gloucestershire, in quest of a quieter life. But first there are all the social niceties and traditions to meet a Lady's arrival, impossible to ignore even if one seeks retirement. And it is not long before a dead body is discovered in the woods, and the police are off on the wrong scent. Lady Hardcastle and Flo, not inexperienced in corpses and crime, reveal they know a surprising amount about crime investigation to the resentment, but eventual appreciation, of Inspector Sunderland. And as they all dig deeper into the murder they scent an intrigue that extends beyond the village to the thriving city of Bristol, so easily reached by rail. With almost no one free from suspicion, they can be certain of only one fact: there is no such thing as a quiet life in the country. Good news, as it promises a sequel.

Mort, Terry. [The Monet Murders](#) (\$15.95). It's Hollywood, 1934. Prohibition is finally over, but there is still plenty of crime for an ambitious young private eye to investigate. Though he has a slightly checkered past, Riley Fitzhugh is well connected in the film industry and is hired by a major producer—whose lovely girlfriend has disappeared. He also is hired to recover a stolen Monet, a crime that results in two murders initially, with more to come. Riley lives at the Garden of Allah Hotel, the favorite watering place of screenwriters, and he meets and unknowingly assists many of them with their plots. Incidentally one of these gents, whose nom de plume is 'Hobey Baker,' might actually be F. Scott Fitzgerald.... Evoking the classic hardboiled style, *The Monet Murders* is a charmingly cozy murder mystery. "The terms noir and delightful usually aren't used together, but they pair up happily in this entertaining romp. Mort has fun with noir conventions but never mocks them—a difficult trick to bring off and he does it masterfully."—*Booklist*

Moretti, Kate. [The Vanishing Year](#) (Atria \$16). It's a tale of lost twins, amnesia, agoraphobia, adoption — most indebted, in other words, to melodramas like *Rebecca* and *Wuthering Heights* and *The Moonstone*. (There's even a Mrs. Danvers clone.)... *The Vanishing Year* is intimate, conversational company, and its plot is strong, its closing twists superb....as so often in tales like this one, status anxiety, the sense that rising in the world must inevitably invite punishment, lurks behind the histrionics. [Plus, it's Wall Street, big money life with trapdoors.] The most human and memorable scenes Moretti writes have little to do with these mysteries, however. They're the ones that recall Zoe's childhood adoration of her mother, a loving, fragile person, Sally Bowles in California. The depiction of their relationship seems to come from a different, more tender and less outlandish novel. It would be interesting if Moretti were to write it one day."—Charles Finch, *NY Times Book Review*. I include this for you fans of domestic suspense like *The Girl on the Train*.

Moss, David. [This Isn't a Game](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). I'm fascinated by the different reviews for this debut. If the reviewer likes the offbeat with a touch of whimsy and some sharp writing, you get this one: "Jackson Oliver, the hero of Moss's thoroughly enjoyable first novel and series launch, owns a Costa Rica-based

online betting site, VegasVegas. In addition to sporting events, VegasVegas is giving odds on the outcome of the trial of Hollywood film director Andrew Marvel, who's charged with murdering his wife: acquittal, guilty verdict, and—at 100 to one—dropped charges. When a punter logs on asking to place a \$1,000 bet on dropped charges, Jackson obliges, convinced there's no chance that he'll have to pay out. A few days later, a video supplying an airtight alibi for Marvel turns up. Thinking that the timing is just too pat, Jackson sets off for Vermont, the scene of the murder and the place where the bet was made. He has only three days to discover if his bettor is a murderer, an accomplice, or just lucky. After that he must pay up or be blacklisted from the gambling industry. This winning debut offers insights into gambling odds, antiques, the raising of buffalo, the film industry, and small-town morality."—*PW* on a paperback original.

Nesser, Hakan. [Hour of the Wolf](#) (\$16). In the middle of a damp, dark night, a young man is struck by a car after leaving his girlfriend's house. The driver, drunk, leaves the body by the side of the road. Wrestling with guilt, the driver tries to put the murder out of his mind—until a blackmail note arrives, setting into motion a chain of events that will draw everyone involved into a fog of crime. Reinhart, the new chief inspector of the Maardam police force, sets his team to work. But when the victim of a second, possibly related, killing is identified, Reinhart realizes that this is no ordinary investigation. Former chief inspector Van Veeteren—a legend now in retirement—is called upon to face his greatest trial yet, when someone close to him is found dead. "Nesser's novels look for the roots of crime in the ills of society... He has seized his chance to create his own dark poetry from these stark materials, and the effect is haunting." —*The Wall Street Journal*. *Hour of the Wolf* was first published in Swedish in 1999 (as *Carambole*). In writing this I remember watching it as an episode in the Swedish TV series (with subtitles).

✎Rendell, Ruth. [Dark Corners](#) (\$16). I'm sad as I write this, the final book from the awesome Ruth Rendell. It's a deliciously diabolical tale on a favorite theme: one person's devouring of a weaker person's identity" says the *NY Times*. When his father dies, Carl Martin inherits a house in an increasingly rich and trendy London neighborhood. Carl needs cash, however, so he rents the upstairs room and kitchen to the first person he interviews, Dermot McKinnon. That was colossal mistake number one. Mistake number two was keeping his father's bizarre collection of homeopathic "cures" that he found in the medicine cabinet, including a stash of controversial diet pills. Mistake number three was selling fifty of those diet pills to a friend, who is then found dead. Dermot seizes a nefarious opportunity and begins to blackmail Carl, refusing to pay rent, and creepily invading Carl's space. And thus begins a downward spiral... Rendell and PD James gone... But see New Books where we get a holiday surprise from James.

✎Todd, Charles. [No Shred of Evidence](#) (\$14.99). Inspector Ian Rutledge, exhaustedly closing up his last case, finds himself rushed off to north Cornwall near Padstow where the Chief Constable has requested the Yard to assist on a devilish case. Four young women, out for a row up the small river in the magistrate's family boat, are signaled for help by a young banker who appears to be going down in his own boat. And drowning. Their account is they tried to pull him from the river before a farmer waded out from shore and finished the job. Why then has the gruff farmer

accused the four woman of trying to murder the banker? They are being held at the magistrate's home rather than the local gaol, a more difficult task when Harry Saunders dies and a kind of hue and cry for murder builds. It's 1920, but the past is still painful for all concerned in this drama. It's baffling and grows the more so as layer upon layer of local secrets are revealed. Good luck working out which ones will turn out to hold the key to the case. This is the 18<sup>th</sup> case in a superior historical mystery series. Order the rest of them [here](#). We have a few Signed Firsts: [No Shred of Evidence](#) (\$25.99).

Wagner, David P. [Return to Umbria](#) (\$15.95). "The beautiful Umbrian towns of Orvieto and Todi provide the setting for Wagner's well-written fourth mystery featuring translator Rick Montoya. Delicious food and drink don't distract Rick and his new romance from the art, the scenery, or the murder of an American woman who once studied in Orvieto and returned for some kind of reunion... See Signed books for more.

### NEW FOR NOVEMBER

Alfieri, Annamaria. [The Idol of Mombasa](#) (Felony & Mayhem \$14.95). In this second mystery set in the British Protectorate of East Africa, newlyweds Vera and Justin Tolliver (she a Scottish missionary's daughter, raised in Africa; he an English police officer) contend with the complicated investigation into the murder of a runaway slave. Start with [Strange Gods](#) (\$14.94). A Scottish doctor is found dead on the grounds of a mission complex in 1911, in the British Protectorate of East Africa. A tribesman's spear protrudes from his back. The scene points to multitudes of motives in a country divided by tribal warfare and rankling under British colonial rule. The doctor ran afoul of the local medicine man when people started preferring Scottish to tribal medicine. And the doctor's love life, loaded with cast-off lovers, could make him a target for murder staged as tribal payback. On one level, Alfieri has concocted a riveting whodunit. But the colonial African setting makes it much more.... Alfieri illuminates the complexities and cruelties of colonial rule while giving readers an engrossing romance and mystery."—*Booklist*

Backman, Fredrick. [And Every Morning the Way Home Gets Longer and Longer](#) (\$18). This novella continues Backman's moving portrait of an elderly man's struggle to hold on to his most precious memories, and his family's efforts to care for him even as they must find a way to let go. Start with Ove's [earlier bestsellers](#) here.

✦Bernett, Danielle. [Deadly Legacy](#) (Black Opal \$13.99). A month after her adventures trying to track down the killer of her friend Charles Latimer, journalist Emmeline Kirby finds herself in a car that has crashed on a lonely country road in Kent with a dead man as her companion. How did she come to find herself in this predicament? It all started with a man named Ambrose Trent, the fiancé of her friend Claire Sedgwick. But there's something not quite right about Ambrose. When he ends up dead, Emmeline believes she knows who the killer is. But as new evidence comes to light, she realizes that she's dead wrong—and only jewel-thief Gregory can save her. "Stolen diamonds, revenge and murder are served up at a cracking pace as Emmeline unites with Gregory once again." —Tessa Arlen

✦Blake, Robin. [Skin and Bone](#) (St Martins \$25.99). The 4<sup>th</sup> in a robust 18<sup>th</sup> Century series set in Preston in the north of England is curiously modern in the motivations underlying a baby's

being found in a tanner's noxious pit. Was the infant murdered? Who are its parents? Coroner Titus Cragg, assisted by excitable physician Luke Fidelis, rules it murder and suspects a wicked cabal to blame. Not witchcraft at work, but greed. "The mystery's strengths are the author's skillful command of a large cast of characters, all of them nuanced and original, and his enterprising use of Georgian-era methods of investigating a homicide when examining a corpse was itself problematic and the powerful could legally demolish those who posed too many uncomfortable questions." Excellent for fans of the late Bruce Alexander. Order [all the Blakes](#) here.

Brookmyre, Chris. [Black Widow](#) (Grove \$25). Winner of the 2016 McIlvanney Prize for Scottish crime book of the year. "Exceptionally good—a knotty mystery that's . . . one of the most perceptive excavations of a dysfunctional marriage I can remember reading . . . Brookmyre plays a cunning, careful game, allowing Diana to co-narrate so plausibly that we are never sure if she is genuinely empathetic (and therefore unfairly maligned as a psychopath) or just brilliant at emulating emotion for our benefit."—*Guardian*

Burnet, Graeme. [His Bloody Project](#) (Skyhorse \$24.99). It's only a story — or is it? Burnet makes such masterly use of the narrative form in the horrifying tale he tells in this finalist for the 2016 Man Booker Prize. It seems plucked straight out of Scotland's sanguinary historical archives. Presented as a collection of "Documents Relating to the Case of Roderick Macrae," which took place in 1869, the novel includes the jailhouse memoir of a 17-year-old Scottish Highlander being held in Inverness Castle, awaiting trial for three appalling murders. Roderick and his family brave feudal conditions, toiling as tenant farmers on a small allotment, harvesting peat for fuel and scavenging seaweed to fertilize their gardens. It's a hard existence, made even harder by Lachlan Mackenzie, a vindictive constable who systematically strips the Macraes of their livelihood. When father and son bravely take their grievances to the factor, the man charged with running the estate on behalf of the laird, he cruelly dismisses their request to see the regulations they're accused of violating."—*NY Times Book Review* Things go downhill from there in a stark, moving portrait of how powerless a tenant is against the agenda of someone like Mackenzie and an indifferent laird. Burnet is wise enough to let the actual record speak for itself.

Capri, Diane. [Blood Trails](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). Michael Flint is the heir hunter of last resort. A forensic genealogist and former clandestine agent specializing in high-end private investigations, he promises clients he can find anyone, anytime, anywhere—dead or alive. Laura Oakwood stands to lose more than \$50 million in mineral royalties if she's not found within 72 hours to claim expiring rights. Texas oil baron Sebastian Shaw is locked into a rivalry with his bitter rival Felix Crane over securing Oakwood and her signature and hires Flint via Flint's childhood ally Scarlett who runs a security service—he can't say no to her, given their past. Flint prides himself on never missing IDing an heir, and that's what makes the book interesting: his process, the connections he makes, the twists and turns. With all its starts and stops this (presumed) series start could be gripping serial TV. Questions that surface about Flint's own parents layer the story.

Carse, James. [PhD Death](#) (Opus \$19.95). Missing the late Amanda Cross? I haven't read this but *PW* gives it a Star, so I will

try it: “Carse makes his impressive fiction debut with a cerebral mystery that combines sophisticated puzzles (linguistic, mathematical, and literary) with a searing indictment of American education and business practices. The death of Oliver Ridley, the newly appointed dean of an unnamed university in upstate New York, is assumed to be a suicide until an emailed puzzle received by faculty and students is deciphered and ominously reads: “The first to go is the most recent of ten.” Jack Lister, the university’s president, appoints rhetorician Professor Carmody to head a commission to help the police identify the so-called Puzzler. A second puzzle arrives a month later. When solved, it reveals both the next victim and the victim’s ugly secret. Neither the police nor Carmody’s committee makes much progress unmasking the Puzzler. When the surprising killer is finally revealed, the choice of victims is fully explained and their sins detailed. Carse, an NYU emeritus professor, writes with wit and great insight into the workings of academe.”

Carl, Joanna. [The Chocolate Bunny Brouhaha](#) (Berkley \$23). Mmm, the wrong holiday for the season. The approach of Easter means a rush of business at TenHuis Chocolate, and Lee and her Aunt Nettie need all the help they can get to make their famous chocolate bunnies. Unfortunately, new hire Bunny Birdsong is a klutzy basket case dropping everything she picks up. But to Lee’s surprise, she’s a whiz with computers and fixing the store’s website so they decide to keep her. However, Bunny receives a few visitors they could do without: her soon to be ex-husband Beau, his wealthy aunt Abigail, and his new girlfriend and her brother all descend on the shop one day and have a bitter argument. Lee hopes they can find a peaceful way to settle their dispute—but no, soon there’s a body in the vacant store next door...

⌘Challinor, CS. [Judgment of Murder](#) (Midnight Ink \$14.99). Rex Graves of Scotland’s supreme criminal court learns of the passing of his old mentor, former judge Lord Murgatroyd (aka Judge Murder), and phones Murgatroyd’s widowed daughter and only heir, Phoebe Wells, to extend his condolences. When Phoebe tells Rex that she suspects her father died of unnatural causes, Rex travels to Canterbury, England, to learn more.. He compiles a list of criminals who came before Lord Murgatroyd, including Richard Pruitt, who got off after being accused of murdering a young school girl. Adding more suspicion is news of a young girl’s disappearance. Pruitt vows his innocence and offers proof about the person he says is the real killer. Is there a link between these crimes and the old judge’s possible murder? On the personal side, Rex manages a little romancing with his fiancée, Helen d’Arcy, while resisting Phoebe’s flirtations. [Order all the Rex Grave Mysteries.](#)

Clark, Mary Higgins/Alafair Burke. [The Sleeping Beauty Killer](#) (SimonSchuster \$26.99). “A clever plot and a cast of intriguing characters, whose actions and agendas are easily misconstrued, boost bestseller Clark and Burke’s third novel featuring Laurie Morgan, the producer of the New York–based TV show Under Suspicion. Casey Carter (aka Crazy Casey or the Sleeping Beauty Killer), who served a 15-year sentence for manslaughter in the death of her fiancé, Hunter Raleigh III, seeks Laurie out and begs Laurie to help prove her innocence. Casey names five possible suspects who had opportunity and motive for killing Hunter, though she has few allies to support her cause. Meanwhile, Laurie’s lover, attorney Alex Buckley, is no longer host of the show, having been replaced without Laurie’s input by Ryan Nichols, a

hotshot lawyer. Plagued by a rocky relationship with Ryan and a worrisome disconnect with Alex, Laurie interviews everyone she can and finds much that seems to confirm Casey’s guilt and nothing that suggests her innocence. The authors keep Laurie and the reader grasping for answers till the end.”—*PW* Starred Review

Coelho, Paulo. [The Spy](#) (Knopf \$22). A slim volume using much of the historical record plus Coelho’s exceptional talents to tell the story of Mata Hari, who as a young Dutch woman in a repressive town made a bad choice of husbands, left their home in Indonesia to reinvent herself in Paris, led a life of glamour and, unfortunately for her, so broke society’s many boundaries that eventually she was framed by the French as a spy and executed by firing squad. Like Burnet above, Coelho lets Mata Hari tell her own story through the record as much as possible. It recalls the Dreyfus Affair and the French predilection for unjust targeting individuals as what, distractions from unpleasant issues? Or punishment for defying societal conventions?

Collins, Lauren. [When in French](#) (Penguin \$27). A thirty-something staff writer for the *New Yorker* moved to London and fell for a Frenchman. Then Olivier moved them to Geneva, a city in a country where four tongues are spoken. So how does their relationship grow, and in what language? Collins sweeps you into the challenges and nuances, some of them way off, of loving in a second language. And her triumphs—like giving birth in French in a Geneva suburban facility. In the end, she passes the rigorous French threshold for a passport and they are off to Paris. I hope it will for the core of a second memoir since this first is so enjoyable.

Cornwell, Patricia. [Chaos](#) (Harper \$28.99). Cornwell’s own paranoia is on display here in spades as she moves Kay Scarpetta through a very long, hot, slow scene in a broiling Cambridge, Mass. and on into yet another tangle where her two arch-villains pose a new threat. Not only is it boring, one wishes she’d come up with something, or rather someones, new. And a more plausible hypothesis.

Costner, Kevin/Jon Baird. [The Explorer’s Guild](#) (\$18). Ready for pure and bravura escapism? Behind the staid public rooms of an old world gentlemen’s club operates a more mysterious organization: The Explorers Guild, a clandestine group of adventurers who bravely journey to those places in which light gives way to shadow and reason is usurped by myth. The secrets they seek are hidden in mountain ranges and lost in deserts, buried in the ocean floor and lodged deep in polar ice. The aim of The Explorers Guild: to discover the mysteries that lie beyond the boundaries of the known world. Set against the backdrop of World War I, with Western Civilization on the edge of calamity, the first installment in The Explorers Guild series, *A Passage to Shambhala*, concerns the Guild’s quest to find the golden city of Buddhist myth. The search will take them from the Polar North to the Mongolian deserts, through the underground canals of Asia to deep inside the Himalayas, before the fabled city finally divulges its secrets and the globe-spanning journey plays out to its startling conclusion.

Crouch, Blake. [Good Behavior](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). Fresh out of prison and fighting to keep afloat, Letty Dobesh returns to her old tricks burglarizing suites at a luxury hotel. While on the job, she overhears a man hiring a hit man to kill his wife. Letty may not be winning any morality awards, but even she has limits. Unable to go to the police, Letty sets out to derail the job,

putting herself on a collision course with the killer that entangles the two of them in a dangerous, seductive relationship. *Good Behavior* comprises three interlinked novellas (*The Pain of Others*, *Sunset Key*, and *Grab*), which together form a novel-length portrait of Blake Crouch's all-time favorite character creation, Letty Dobesh. This edition is the complete Letty Dobesh collection, the basis for the TNT television show starring Michelle Dockery. *We have a very few Signed copies; first come, first served.*

De Castrique, Mark. [The Singularity Race](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). A "soft thriller" in De Castrique's wonderful voice about AI, various threats, and a big finale in the Appalachians where his other series, one for Sam Blackman, Asheville PI, and the other for Barry Clayton, Gainesboro NC's undertaker/deputy sheriff, roll. See Signed Books for more.

Ellis, Warren. [Normal](#) (FSG Originals \$13). "Adam Dearden has been ferried to Normal Head, an asylum dedicated to treating only futurists. Shortly after Adam arrives at Normal, a patient disappears from his locked room, leaving only a huge pile of insects behind. Adam unearths a conspiracy that will have readers flipping pages quickly, reminding us that 'we are now in a place where we will never again have a private conversation.' Witty and insightful, Ellis's writing has much to say about technology and gives readers much to think about in this brief novel."

Ellison, JT. [No One Knows](#) (\$16). Citing Ellison's nod to *Gone Girl* but with fresh twists of her own. John Charles notes: "Nashville cop Taylor Jackson teams up with troubled FBI profiler Dr. John Baldwin to search for a serial killer who is targeting college students at Vanderbilt University. If you like Karin Slaughter's or Patricia Cornwell's books, you definitely should check out Ellison's equally riveting novels."

Eriksson, Kjell. [Stone Coffin](#) (St Martins \$25.99). A hit-and-run driver kills Josefin Cederén and her six-year-old daughter as they are walking to church on a road near Uppsala. Homicide detective Ann Lindell and her colleagues suspect successful businessman Sven-Erik Cederén, the victims' husband and father, who has disappeared. The police soon discover that Sven-Erik kept a mistress, owned foreign property, and engaged in shady business dealings, and yet odd inconsistencies strain the seemingly open-and-shut case. Eriksson smoothly shifts among the troubled minds of those affected by the deaths including Detective Ann Lindell. I thought the plot premise was terrific and liked being inside many heads but Lindell's stalled romance with the gloomy, remote Edvard drags this down. Still this series appeals to me more than much of the Scandinavian Crime Wave. This is the 7th published in the US and was short-listed for the Swedish Crime Academy Award for Best Crime Novel, which Eriksson won for an earlier series title, [The Princess of Burundi](#) (\$15.99).

Ferrante, Elena. [The Beach at Night](#) (Ecco \$12). The tale takes the form of a children's fable told from the point of view of the lost (stolen!) doll, Celina. Celina is having a terrible night, one full of jealousy for the new kitten, Minù, feelings of abandonment and sadness, misadventures at the hands of the beach attendant, and dark dreams. But she will be happily found by Mati, her child, once the sun rises. Accompanied by the illustrations of Mara Cerri, *The Beach at Night* is a picture book but also a story for all of [Neapolitan Quartet](#) author Ferrante's many ardent fans.

Fitzsimmons, Matthew. [Poisonfeather](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95). Gibson Vaughn, hero of the bestselling novel *The Short*

*Drop*, returns. When jailed billionaire Charles Merrick hints publicly that he has stashed a fortune in an offshore cache, a school of sharks converges upon his release from federal prison. Among his swindled victims is Judge Hammond Birk, the man who saved Gibson Vaughn's life when he was a troubled teenager. Now Gibson intends to repay that debt by recovering Merrick's victims' money. But Gibson isn't the only one on the trail of the hidden fortune. The promise of billions has drawn a horde of ruthless treasure hunters, including an edgy ex-con, a female bartender with a mysterious history, a Chinese spy with a passion for fly-fishing, and a veritable army of hardened mercenaries. To stay ahead of the sharks and win justice for his mentor, Gibson will need all his formidable skills. But at the end of the road, he'll still have to face "Poisonfeather"—a geopolitical secret that just might get Gibson killed...or worse. "FitzSimmons' complicated hero leaps off the page with intensity and good intentions, while a byzantine plot hums along, ensnaring characters into a tightening web of greed, betrayal, and violent death." —PW

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 whose killer car story appears in Patrick's *The Highway Kind*.

Gaind, Arjun. [A Very Pukka Murder](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.99). This would be our November History Club Pick if only we could get the author here from India to sign. But the simultaneous paperback is our **November History Paperback Pick**. So here begins The Maharaja Murders. From the borders of icy Kashmir to the shark-infested shores of the Malabar Coast, Major William Russell, the English Resident of the small, princely state of Rajpore, is renowned as a strait-laced man of rigorous habit. When his valet knocks on his bedroom door the morning after the 1909 New Year's Ball and receives no response, he and the Resident's elderly secretary eventually task the English Commandant of Cavalry with breaking it down. The Resident is dead in his bed. His Highness Farzand-i-Khas-i-Daulat-i-Inglishia Mansur-i-Zaman Maharaja Sikander Singh, Light of Heaven, Sword of Justice, Shield of the Faithful, sole ruler of Rajpore, is slow to rise after the night of revelry. But news of the murder galvanizes him. The fabulously wealthy Maharaja, who perforce has surrendered much of his authority to the British, relishes a riddle and the rush of resolving it. Like August Dupin and Sherlock Holmes, Sikander wields careful and deliberate logic to crack puzzles that leave less intelligent men confounded. Here is such an opportunity—and well timed, for the Maharaja, resigned to another year of indolence, is almost fatally bored. Abandoning the lavish comforts of his ornate palace, Sikander wheels his Silver Ghost to the insular English settlement. Despite the objections of the local Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police, he works the crime scene and deduces that Resident was poisoned by a massive dose of strychnine. As a clock starts ticking—the British authorities dispatch their own investigator from Simla.

✂Gattis, Mark/Steven Moffat. [Sherlock](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). Much of this season's publishing has revolved around Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes. Here the co-creators of the TV series present their all-time favorites of Doyle's stories of Holmes' adventures. In short, this is a "curated" collection of stories available in many volumes. Why not a super hero, if flawed, for these tumultuous times?

George, Elizabeth, ed. [Best American Mystery Stories 2016](#) (Houghton \$14.95). Includes work by Megan Abbott, Matt Bell, Tom Franklin, Stephen King, Elmore Leonard, KK Rusch, and more. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of this series.

Glaney, Robert. [Please Do Not Disturb](#) (Bloomsbury \$26). Glaney's second novel is set in the fictional East African country of Bwalo. It is a portrait of a land struggling, decades after its emancipation from British colonial rule, to escape the iron fist of the man responsible for its liberation; his despotic reign has turned Bwalo into "a country where anything can happen to anyone at any time." The novel revolves around an event known as the Big Day, the annual commemoration of Bwalo's independence in the 1980s, and relies on a chorus of four narrative voices to tell a subtle, complex story of the climate of fear that's the chief product of political oppression. Most compelling among them is Josef, whose willingness to betray even his closest friends has begun to congeal into a profound moral crisis alongside a rapidly unfolding plot to overthrow the corrupt regime.

Grisham, John. [The Whistler](#) (Doubleday \$28.95). Lacy Stoltz is an investigator for the Florida Board on Judicial Conduct. She is a lawyer, not a cop, and it is her job to respond to complaints dealing with judicial misconduct. After nine years with the Board, she knows that most problems are caused by incompetence, not corruption. Then comes a previously disbarred lawyer who is back in business with a new identity. He now goes by the name Greg Myers, and he claims to know of a Florida judge who has stolen more money than all other crooked judges combined. And not just crooked judges in Florida. All judges, from all states, and throughout U.S. history. What's the source of the ill-gotten gains? It seems the judge was secretly involved with the construction of a large casino on Native American land. The Coast Mafia financed the casino and is now helping itself to a sizable skim of each month's cash. Greg wants to quash this and files a complaint with the Judicial Conduct Board, which means it gets to Lacy....

Hammer, Lotte/Soren. [The Vanished](#) (Bloomsbury). "Thought Swedish detectives were depressive, did you? Meet Konrad Simonsen, head of homicide for the Copenhagen police and the seriously melancholy moral compass of a solid series by the Danish sister and brother Lotte and Soren Hammer... The authors' intimate style; translated by Martin Aitken, yields character studies of emotional depth and intensity." — *NY Times Book Review*. "A deftly written procedural with clear appeal for fans of Scandinavian crime fiction, particularly those who delight in riveting investigative detail and psychological intricacies." — *Booklist*

Harding, Georgia. [The Gun Room](#) (Bloomsbury \$26). Dawn, mist clearing over the rice fields, a burning Vietnamese village, and a young war photographer gets the shot that might make his career. The image, of a staring soldier in the midst of mayhem, will become one of the great photographs of the war. But what Jonathan has seen in that village is more than he can bear, and he flees. He drifts on to Japan. But even here, in this alien city,

his history catches up with him: the photograph and his responsibility in taking it, his responsibility as a witness to war, and as a witness to other events buried far deeper in his past. "Told in a gracefully quiet tone reminiscent of D.H. Lawrence—simple, descriptive, cool on the surface, churning with emotion below... with astute Susan Sontag-like ruminations on photography, viewer and subject, memory and responsibility... With a self-effacing tenderness, Harding brings her understated story to a powerful, emotional end. A haunting, subtle inquiry into complex and difficult matters." — *Kirkus Reviews*

Harris, Robert. [Conclave](#) (Knopf \$26.95). Harris' fascination with the process of a Pope's death and the selection by the Cardinals, not called Princes of the Church for nothing, led him to do careful and considerable research. How he gained so much access is in part a mystery; although this is fiction with characterizations, a plot, politicking, and such, the details nail it. As I write this we have 2 Signed UK firsts of this our October Thriller Club Pick.

Harrison, Kim. [The Operator](#) (Gallery \$28.99). Peri Reed's job eats away at her personal life, but for a special task agent in hiding, forgetting the past can be a blessing. Betrayed by the man she thought she loved and the agency that turned her into the very thing she fought against, Peri abandoned the wealth and privilege of Opti for an anonymous life riddled with memory gaps and self-doubt. But when a highly addictive drug promises to end her dependency on those who'd use her as a tool for their own success, she must choose to either remain broken and vulnerable or return to the above-the-law power and prestige she once left: strong but without will—for whoever holds her next fix, will hold her loyalty. A near-future urban fantasy series following [The Drafter](#) (\$7.99).

Haley, James L. [The Shores of Tripoli](#) (Putnam \$28). If a rollicking, rich seagoing adventure—with pirates—is your escape from stress this month, join Young Bliven Putnam, great-nephew of Revolutionary War hero Israel Putnam, as he joins the young American navy assembled by Jefferson in 1801 and sails for the Mediterranean to battle the Berber pirates. And that's just the start of naval service.... There's a lot to be learned here about modern Islamists.

Higashino, Keigo. [Under the Midnight Sun](#) (St Martins \$26.99). This Japanese thriller follows two Osaka children, both affected by an unsolved murder, as they grow into corrupt and troubled adulthood. Higashino's unforgiving corkscrew of a mystery will leave readers gleefully chilled. The solution to *Under the Midnight Sun* plays second fiddle to the tense atmosphere and unspooling machinations as innocent, or at least hapless, bystanders get caught in the webs of Ryo or Yukiho. The whodunit revelation will take few readers by surprise, seemingly by design; secondary characters begin to guess at the truth well before the closing. Focused more on relationships between exploiters and their prey than simple questions of justice and guilt, this quick-reading Japanese export proves its author a master of the human psyche. —Jaclyn Fulwood. Edgar-nominee Higashino is a favorite of Rob's. [Order](#) them all here.

Hoffman, Alice. [Faithful](#) (SimonSchuster \$26). Since the night of the car accident that left her best friend Helene in a coma, Shelby Richmond doesn't believe she deserves to live. Though her physical injuries are minor, Shelby drifts through her days in a state of agonized, drug-addled limbo, paralyzed by the events



of that night, feeling both unworthy and unable to start living a life beyond the accident. Alice Hoffman unfolds the slow, rich, heartbreaking story of how Shelby finds her way in *Faithful*, her 26th novel for adults. The #1 November Indie Next Pick: “It is a coming-of-age tale of the emotional journey of a girl overcome with heartbreak after a tragic accident, who is now attempting to redefine herself. It is a hopeful lesson in faith, love, friendship, forgiveness, and opening up to new possibilities. A friendly warning: Expect a craving for Chinese food and a desire to adopt a rescue dog after reading.”

Holt, Anne. [No Echo](#) (Scribner \$26) isn't set in New York, where such a prospect would make most publishers giddy with joy. Of course, Anne Holt's police procedural takes place in her native Norway, and her simpatico detective, Hanne Wilhelmsen, would never be so heartless — especially after she's just spent six months at a monastic retreat mourning the death of her longtime partner. In this polished translation by Anne Bruce, Wilhelmsen quickly puts on her game face when a fellow officer is unable to solve the murder of the celebrity chef whose body has been found at the back door of the Oslo police station. Although Holt isn't a playful writer, her observations on the restaurant business can be downright droll.”—*NY Times Book Review* on the latest in a fine [Norwegian series](#).

Hunt, Andrew. [Desolation Flats](#) (St Martins \$26.99). The third mystery from a Hillerman Prize winner gets a Starred Review: “Set in 1938, Hunt's outstanding third mystery featuring Mormon policeman Art Oveson combines a moving portrayal of a man attempting to deal with his wife's depression with a clever whodunit story line. Art, who's been transferred to the Salt Lake City PD's two-man Missing Persons Bureau, is on hand when British racing-car driver Clive Underhill almost perishes in a crash. Art risks his own life to rescue Clive, who has traveled to the U.S. to try to set the world's land-speed record on the Salt Flats. Clive's major competition is a German racer, whose triumph would be a propaganda victory for the Nazis. The detective gets further involved with Clive after a member of Clive's party disappears and another is murdered. The identity of the prime murder suspect complicates Art's inquiry, as do his struggles with his wife's mental illness and its effect on their three children. The richness of the characters, including secondary ones, and the imaginative plot make this the best yet in the series.”

✎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.”

Kalteis, Dietrich. [House of Blazes](#) (\$16.95). Levi Hayes is out for gold — and blood — in a blend of history, the western, and crime that tears through the mean streets of San Francisco. In the days before the great earthquake and fire of 1906, Levi Hayes returns from San Quentin Prison with a plan. After serving five years for the theft of \$30,000 in gold coins from the San Francisco Mint, he's ready to take back what's his and exact revenge on the now-powerful Healey brothers who set him up and had his barroom, House of Blazes, seized by court order. But even as the earthquake brings the city to its knees, Levi has already put his wild scheme underway. It propels them through saloon halls, gambling dens, back alleys, and brothels before it spectacularly backfires.

✎Kay, Francesca. [The Long Room](#) (Tin House \$15.95). It's the story of a British spy in London in 1981 — where everyone is watching the Jeremy Irons “Brideshead Revisited.” As Stephen leaves the long room where he works for British intelligence one night, and which gives the book its title, we see him “lightly touching each of the eight deserted desks as he goes past,” which is just what I would do too. He's an unhappy fellow, Stephen: He expected Oxford to open new doors for him, but instead found that it only showed him the locked ones more closely. At least his boss, Rollo Buckingham has invited him to work on a sensitive internal investigation; the only difficulty is that Stephen has fallen in love with Helen, one of its subjects. *The Long Room* is uncannily reminiscent of *Jill* by Philip Larkin, about a provincial boy who goes up to Oxford with high hopes, only to be overwhelmed by loneliness and longing, a sense that life is something that goes on elsewhere, in sparkling rooms he glimpses from the street. No nation has produced this kind of aching query with a hundredth of the frequency of England, whose great original sin is class, as America's is slavery. Stephen's resentment drives him to more and more desperate choices, less and less realistically, culminating in an absurd and anticlimactic trip across the country. But the grace of Kay's voice is hypnotizing, and there are moments when her empathy for Stephen makes them seem barely divisible. Spies and writers are both paid to notice, after all.”—Charles Finch, [NY Times Book Review](#)

✎Koreto, R.J. [Death Among the Rubies](#) (Crooked Lane \$15.99). A fearless Edwardian-era suffragist is determined to solve a murder, with or without the help of the skeptical police. Lady Frances Ffolkes is incensed when she finds out that her dear friends have been subject to vicious threats. Promising to uncover their attacker, she travels with them to Kestrel's Eyrie, the fabled estate belonging to Gwen's family. But soon Frances faces an even greater problem, when Gwen's father, a powerful diplomat, is stabbed to death with his prized ruby dagger. It's a shame that the clunky prose isn't worthy of the concept. Some of it is truly juvenile. I winced. [Death on the Sapphire](#) (\$14.99).

Krentz, Jayne Ann. [When All the Girls Have Gone](#) (Berkley, \$27). Charlotte crosses paths with Max, a former criminal profiler turned private investigator, at the condo of the recently deceased friend of her step sister Jocelyn. Max and Charlotte begin investigating and find themselves in the killer's sights as they follow a twisted path into the past.

Lasdun, James. [Fall Guy](#) (Norton \$25.95). “At the start of this terrific novel of suspense from Lasdun, Matthew, an unemployed chef, and his cousin Charlie, a successful Wall Streeter, drive from New York City to Charlie's vacation house in the Catskills.

Charlie has invited Matthew, who's almost like a brother, to spend the summer with him and his wife, Chloe. Matthew believes that the summer will be restorative, but the pastoral retreat is anything but as the gap in social status between him and Charlie becomes more pronounced. The tension rises when Matthew, essentially a private chef for the couple, begins to suspect Chloe of infidelity. The verboten topics of class and money hover over this literate tale of love, jealousy, and revenge. As one character notes, money is "inextricably linked to the one source of guilt and shame... the sense that you've stolen another person's labor." An undercurrent of menace and threat finally erupts, and Lasdun presents the inexorable turnings of fate in a subtle and disconcerting way.—*PW* Starred Review on an Indie Next Pick and our **November Fresh Fiction Club Pick**.

Larsen, KJ. [There Was a Crooked Man](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). The 5<sup>th</sup> and funny Cat DeLuca Pants on Fire Detective Agency mystery. See Signed Books for a review.

Lethem, Jonathan. [A Gambler's Anatomy](#) (Doubleday \$27.95). The Indie Next Pick: "The Gambler vs. the House. Alexander Bruno's journey as a psychically abled, top-notch backgammon player illuminates themes of reward and loss, purpose and fulfillment in this engaging, thought-provoking yarn. Lethem's prose is on point, and his allusions and references resonate strongly. His description of this world — fast, oddly comical, sardonic, and, at most times, without sense or reason — is poignant and heavy-hitting, full of breath without being overly winded. Another winner from Lethem, who has established himself firmly amongst the top dogs of intelligent contemporary literary fiction."

Littell, Robert. [The Mayakovsky Tapes](#) (St Martins \$25.99). "An *éminence grise* of the world of espionage, Robert Littell hides a *romanesque* soul. It surfaces in *The Mayakovsky Tapes*, a fictionalized biography of the Russian poet Vladimir Mayakovsky. With a kaleidoscope of emotions the flamboyant Lilya, the anti-Bolshevik Elly, the White Russian Tatiana, and the brazen diva Nora explore seventh heaven with their Don Quixote-like young idol."—24 Hours (Switzerland)

✎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 their help. Lovett likes bibliomysteries, always fun. [Order](#) more here.

Maitland, Barry. [Ash Island](#) (St Martins \$25.99). It makes sense for Maitland to transfer to an Australian cop, DS Harry Belltree of Sydney, from his marvelous team of London coppers Brock and Kolla in a favorite series for me. We first meet Harry in [Cru-cifixion Creek](#) (\$25.99). Having tangled with corrupt colleagues in the department, he's now an embarrassment so he accepts a post in far-away Newcastle and moves with his pregnant wife Jenny. All for the quiet life. But it eludes him when a body is found off shore on Ash Island, the first of many. And somehow this raises the story of the car crash that killed his parents and blinded Jenny, suggesting it was no accident.... This is the second book in a hard-hitting, well plotted trilogy by a truly terrific author.

✎Marchetta, Melina. [Tell the Truth, Shame the Devil](#) (Mulholland \$26). Karen reviews: A bus, carrying a group of young people has been bombed, claiming five victims. The suspect is a passenger, and a member of a crime family, who disappears from the scene. Chief Inspector Bish Ortley, recently suspended from the force, rushes to the scene to be with his daughter. He becomes involved in the investigation which includes multiple French and British law enforcement agencies, who sometimes work against each other, as well as a complex network of different languages. Further complications involve social media, which work both as pro and con among erstwhile teenagers protecting their friends. Bish works to build trust with the young people, particularly his daughter who continues to grieve, along with him, the death of his son, her brother. The story is a mystery, filled with family stories, flawed, but decent, characters, and an intriguing plot. Marchetta is a successful writer in the YA community, having been published in seventeen languages and eighteen countries. This debut adult novel is a great read, well worth a reader's time. I hope to see more from her in the future."

Masello, Robert. [The Jekyll Revelation](#) (amazon \$14.95) weaves together the parallel stories of Victorian novelist Robert Louis Stevenson and 21st-century environmentalist Rafael Salazar. The two men's lives collide when Rafe discovers Stevenson's old journal, which contains ominous particulars about the creation of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and promises to reveal the identity of Jack the Ripper. *Booklist* raves: "Readers will find themselves immersed in both stories, past and present, as the journal entries and current events intertwine for the novel's fiery conclusion." This shows more enthusiasm than I have for an overstuffed storyline, but Ripperologists never get tired of pastiches any more than do Sherlockians.

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' "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.

✎Millard, Candice. [Hero of the Empire](#) (Doubleday \$30). As we can see by the current low level of leaders, the like of Winston Churchill, a man who whatever his failings knew how to rally the best of people, and to lead them, is sorely missed. How did he become Churchill? Millard writes about his evolution into a statesman by looking at "the Boer War, a daring escape and the making" of the man.

Nickless, Barbara. [Blood on the Tracks](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). A young woman is found brutally murdered, and the main suspect is the victim's fiancé, a hideously scarred Iraq War vet known as the Burned Man. But Railroad Police Special Agent Sidney Rose Parnell, brought in by the Denver Major Crimes unit to help investigate, can't shake the feeling that larger forces are behind this apparent crime of passion. "A stunner of a thriller. From the first page to the last, it weaves a spell that only a natural storyteller can master. And a guarantee: you'll fall in love with one of the best characters to come along in modern thriller fiction, Sydney Rose Parnell." —Jeffery Deaver. Nickless' writing admirably captures the fallout from a war where even survivors are trapped, forever reliving their trauma." —*Kirkus Reviews*

Pancol, Katherine. [The Slow Waltz of Turtles](#) (Penguin \$17). Following up [The Yellow Eyes of Crocodiles](#) (\$16) puts 42-year-old new widow Josephine Cortes at a crossroads. Her husband has succumbed to crocodiles (in Kenya); her elder daughter, the one she bought the posh new apartment for in 16<sup>th</sup> Arrondissement Paris using the royalties from the wildly successful fiction she ghostwrote for her sister Iris, has moved to London; Iris is having a crisis; and Josephine is attacked by a vicious man on her way home one evening. Then people begin to turn up dead in Josephine's new neighborhood. Both comic and serious (the murders are very much so), the story charts Josephine's growth as others melt down. For something different...

Patterson, James. [Cross the Line](#) (LittleBrown \$29). Shots ring out in the early morning hours in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. When the smoke clears, a prominent police official lies dead, leaving the city's police force scrambling for answers. Under pressure from the mayor, Alex Cross steps into the leadership vacuum to crack the case.

Pauw, Marion. [Girl in the Dark](#) (\$15.99). Holland is less frequently the landscape of crime fiction (translated into English) than, say, Sweden. So it's one reason to read this debut, psychological suspense highlighting some fractured and frankly horrible family dynamics. A brother sits in prison, convicted of a crime. His sister Iris, single mother and lawyer, steps up for him. He's autistic and odd, but is he a killer?

Pintoff, Stefanie. [City on Edge](#) (Bantam \$27). What at first looks like an assassination attempt on New York City's Police Commissioner might in fact be a smokescreen for the abduction of his teenage daughter. Or is it a larger conspiracy? As midtown Manhattan grinds to a halt in preparation for Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Eve Rossi and her team of ex-cons race the clock to save a child's life and thwart a massive terrorist threat in this whiplash-paced thriller.

Phillips, Louise. [Red Ribbons](#) (Polis \$16). With her US debut, Irish author Louise Phillips introduces criminal psychologist Kate Pearson. A missing schoolgirl is found buried in the Dublin Mountains, hands clasped together in prayer, two Red Ribbons in her hair. Twenty-four hours later, a second schoolgirl is found in a shallow grave – her body identically arranged. The hunt for the killer is on. The police call in criminal psychologist, Kate Pearson, to get inside the mind of the murderer before he strikes again. But the more Kate discovers about the killings, the more it all feels terrifyingly familiar. As the pressure to find the killer intensifies there's one vital connection to be made – Ellie Brady,

a woman institutionalized fifteen years earlier for the murder of her daughter Amy. She stopped talking when everybody stopped listening. But what connects the death of Amy Brady to the murdered schoolgirls? As Kate Pearson, begins to unravel the truth, danger is closer than she knows...

Rice, Anne. [Prince Lestat and the Realms of Atlantis](#) (Knopf \$28.95). The 12<sup>th</sup> in Rice's Vampire Chronicles does not publish until Nov. 29. The vampire Lestat de Lioncourt learns to grapple with a great sea power of ancient times; a mysterious heaven on earth situated on a boundless continent as he learns how and why, and in what manner and with what far-reaching purpose, this force came to build and rule the great legendary empire of centuries ago that thrived in the Atlantic Ocean.

Russ, Ted. [Spirit Mission](#) (Holt \$28). In 2015, U.S. Army aviator Sam Avery, the narrator of Russ's exciting, cleverly constructed first novel, is the pilot of a Chinook helicopter on an unauthorized mission into Iraq. Flashback to 1987. Sam arrives at West Point and is immediately submitted to the harassment inflicted on all cadets every minute of their day for their entire first year. Sam rooms with Cisco Guerrero, who earns the nickname Turtle because of his slowness. Of particular interest is the upperclassman known as Guru, who takes the new cadets under his wing and is soon sending them on "spirit missions," fiendishly elaborate unsanctioned pranks that are undertaken for the sheer glory of pulling them off. Years later, it's Turtle and Zack Dempsey, another West Point roommate of Sam's, who show up in Iraq and tell Sam that Guru, now a charity worker, has been taken prisoner by ISIS and will be beheaded in 24 hours unless they rescue him. Once again the old friends are on a spirit mission, this time against seriously deadly odds.

Rydahl, Thomas. [The Hermit](#) (Oneworld \$24.99). The *PW* Starred Review for a debut: "Erhard, the 60ish hero of Rydahl's brilliant, scathing debut, which won the Glass Key Award in 2015 for best Nordic crime novel, is a down-at-heels expatriate Danish cabbie and sometime piano tuner. This "old man with tired eyes" has lived in a shack on Fuerteventura, one of the Canary Islands, with only two skittish goats for company for about 20 years. He sends much of his meager earnings to his ex-wife and daughters in Denmark, drinks too much, and occasionally scavenges dumpsters for food. When a three-month-old baby boy is found starved to death in a cardboard box in a car that washes up on the beach, Erhard is outraged. With virtually no resources, lacking a computer and the savvy to use one, but drawing on his own wits and calling in a multitude of favors, Erhard doggedly traces the dead baby's mother and uncovers a complex smuggling scheme. Stunningly conceived and expertly executed, this portrayal of one man's thirst for justice in the face of human corruption proves that not even a self-isolated hermit can be an island unto himself."

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. Read more in the Holiday issue of the *Booknews* to publish the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Stewart, Chris. [Winter Sky](#) (\$16.99). A Congressman from Utah turns to historical fiction with a story set during the bleak, cold days of December, 1944. The Red Army is advancing, the Nazis are withdrawing and the people of Poland are trapped between two enemies. A few brave Polish Resistance fighters, known as “the Devil’s Rebels,” have been fighting the Nazis, but they are forced to retreat from the Soviet surge. One young fighter winds up in the (fictional) village of Gorndask, with no memory of how he came to be injured, or even of his name. His only clue to his identity is the ripped photograph in his pocket. A mysterious young woman gives the rebel news of a refugee train heading toward the American lines, but before he can act, a fellow countryman informs the SS of his presence in Gorndask. In spite of the Soviet threat, the SS officers are determined not to let a Devil’s Rebel escape, and set off in pursuit of him. A short and fast-paced novel that covers a rarely seen side of World War II...

✦Street, Karen Lee. [Edgar Allan Poe and the London Monster](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). Street’s impressive first novel cleverly pairs Poe with his fictional creation, the Chevalier C. Auguste Dupin. In 1840, Poe travels to England after receiving a parcel from his stepmother containing a bundle of letters that appear to implicate Poe’s maternal grandparents in a series of real-life crimes committed decades earlier. Between 1788 and 1790, women were terrorized by the so-called London Monster, who cut “the derrières of over fifty victims.” Though a man was eventually charged with the crimes, doubt lingered about his guilt, leaving room for Poe to wonder whether his mother’s parents, actors Elizabeth and Henry Arnold, might have actually been responsible for them. Poe’s friend Dupin meets him in London to sort out the truth about the past and about the person who’s stalking him in the present. That foe seems to have almost supernatural abilities, having somehow gotten hold of a letter Poe wrote his wife that was tossed overboard during his transatlantic voyage. The two men work together to find answers to their respective mysteries as the clock runs down, leading to a final showdown—in creepy catacombs. Fun, but comes with the risks any author runs writing an actual historical character, one who was a writer himself and familiar to readers.

Schiff, Stacy. [The Witches](#) (\$18.99). An award-winning narrative of 1692 Salem and the hysteria that gripped the community, with tragic results.

✦Tantimedh, Adi. [Her Nightly Embrace](#) (Atria \$26). Another choice for those looking for something unusual. This is the first book of The Ravi PI Series, being turned into BBC-TV, with a British-born Indian private eye who sees various Hindu gods (portents) while running investigations for Golden Sentinels, a private investigation and security agency in London. Thrust into a world far different from that of his old-school (and very eccentric, interfering) parents, where the rich, celebrated, and powerful want someone to wash dirty laundry and make problems go away, Ravi wades further and further over his head into a series of complex cases, one of which, from a banker, brings him his first murder case. Suspend disbelief but enjoy the characterizations and Adi’s well honed prose (his resumé is impressive).

Tatum, Bradford. [Only the Dead Know Burbank](#) (Harper \$15.99). “Spanning almost eighty years, this illustrative paean to horror cinema is full of humor, delightful historical insight into film, Hollywood, horror with the occasional wink to some of the more

campy aspects of the genre and so much fun to read! The PW Starred Review is more enthusiastic than I am, but I’m always for something unusual and edgy: “In actor Tatum’s unusual, captivating debut, set in Germany and the U.S. in the early 20th century, a woman cursed with immortality eventually finds comfort in filmmaking. Maddy Ulm narrates her story with a wry pragmatism that doesn’t conceal her underlying melancholy over her unchanging condition, and her longing for the experiences and feelings that only mortals can have. Film proves to be her outlet, and horror her specialty. When one of her silent films is picked up by Universal Pictures, she heads from Bavaria to Hollywood and is soon working on some of the most famous movies of the age. Maddy loves the studio and delights in haunting the nooks and crannies of the sets, but her pervasive sense of loneliness is always evident, and she bears the crushing knowledge that she’ll be forever trapped in the body of a young woman. Spanning the years leading up to the rise of Hitler, this biting witty and darkly vibrant concoction features an irresistible heroine, and the gorgeous, lush writing easily conjures the grit and glamour of golden age Hollywood. Maddy’s story is crass, lyrical, and even tragic. Cameos by Lon Chaney and Boris Karloff will undoubtedly delight film buffs, as will the meticulously researched depiction of the dawn of filmmaking.”—PW Starred Review for a complicated, unusual book.

✦Trow, M J. [The Angel: A Charles Dickens Mystery](#) (Severn \$28.99). Was Charles Dickens’s death on June 9, 1870, at his country retreat in Kent actually a murder? That’s the question facing enquiry agents Matthew Grand and James Batchelor. When George Sala, Dickens’s garrulous biographer, asks Grand and Batchelor, whose motto is “no stone unturned,” to investigate, they leap into action. Improbably, Dickens’s staff and family members are soon opening up to Grand and Batchelor, as the police grumble. Two men sharing lodgings in London, investigating crimes while enjoying an uneasy relationship with Scotland Yard, invites an obvious comparison to Holmes and Watson, but Grand and Batchelor fall short of Conan Doyle’s high standard. More successful is Trow’s arch and witty tone and a plunge into the delightfully cutthroat publishing scene of Victorian London, where all loudly mourn Dickens while privately saying that the unfinished *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* definitely wasn’t his best. Ordered Upon Request.

✦Veley, Charles. [The Wilhelm Conspiracy](#). (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). I’m always up for a Holmes pastiche. This one I feel is a nod to the growing cadre of female Sherlocks (thank you, Laurie King and Mary Russell) and features young American Lucy James, Holmes’ recently discovered daughter. A prominent banker is found dead in an unsavory part of London. Hours later, the charred remains of another body lie on a beach in Dover. Both deaths—and their possible link—attract Sherlock Holmes. Then the Secretary of War summons the detective with catastrophic news whose consequences could harm the nation for generations: on the eve of war, a new British superweapon has fallen into the wrong hands. Holmes must recover it. Despite her father’s objections, Lucy insists on helping him find the weapon and solve the murders. Along with Dr. Watson, they follow the trail to Germany, uncovering a sinister plot that puts them directly in the line of fire. Featuring appearances from real-life notables Nikola Tesla, King Edward VII, and Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Wells, Dan. [Extreme Makeover](#) (Tor \$27.99). Also in paperback: [Extreme Makeover](#) (\$15.99). Wells (the John Wayne Cleaver series) spares no aspect of American society's darkest corners or obsessions in this enjoyable satire. In his work for NewYew cosmetics company, Lyle Fontanelle spends most days devising a new formulation for a hand lotion that he hopes might have additional uses that are beyond skin deep. In his efforts to design the product to rebuild cells for burn victims, he inadvertently invents a cream that overwrites DNA and creates clones. When focus group members testing the lotion suddenly start looking like Lyle, he realizes he has made a terrible mistake. His company, however, sees the possibility of enormous profits on the horizon. The pursuit of youth and beauty takes a dark turn in this satirical novel. The science is of the hand-waving variety that doesn't bear close scrutiny, but it is an entertaining send-up of corporate greed and societal shallowness."—*Library Journal*

## FANTASTIC READS

Bova, Ben. [Apes and Angels](#) (Tor \$25.99). A wave of death is spreading through the Milky Way galaxy, an expanding sphere of lethal gamma radiation that erupted from the galaxy's core twenty-eight thousand years ago and now is approaching Earth's vicinity at the speed of light. Every world it touched was wiped clean of all life. But it's possible to protect a planet from gamma radiation. Earth is safe. Now, guided by the ancient intelligent machines called the Predecessors, men and women from Earth seek out those precious, rare worlds that harbor intelligent species, determined to save them from the doom that is hurtling toward them. So the crew of the *Odysseus* has arrived at Mithra Gamma, the third planet of the star Mithra....

Butcher, Jim, ed. [Shadowed Souls](#) (NAL \$17). In this dark and gritty collection—featuring short stories from Jim Butcher, Seanan McGuire, Kevin J. Anderson, and Rob Thurman—nothing is as simple as black and white, light and dark, good and evil.

Clarke, Cassandra. [The Mad Scientist's Daughter](#) (Saga \$26.99). Nominated for the Phillip K. Dick Award, a science fiction fairy tale set in a collapsing future America about a girl and the android she falls in love with. Also in paperback: [The Mad Scientist's Daughter](#) (\$14.99)

Hearne, Kevin. [Staked](#) (\$7.99). Iron Druid Atticus O'Sullivan, hero of Kevin Hearne's epic urban fantasy series, has a point to make—and then drive into a vampire's heart. #8 in series.

Konar, Affinity. [Mischling](#) (Little Brown \$27). It's 1944 when the twin sisters arrive at Auschwitz with their mother and grandfather. In their benighted new world, Pearl and Stasha Zagorski take refuge in their identical natures, comforting themselves with the private language and shared games of their childhood. As part of the experimental population of twins known as Mengele's Zoo, the girls experience privileges and horrors unknown to others, and they find themselves changed, stripped of the personalities they once shared, their identities altered by the burdens of guilt and pain. That winter, at a concert orchestrated by Mengele, Pearl disappears. Stasha grieves for her twin, but clings to the possibility that Pearl remains alive. And this multi-award nominated book goes from there. "Konar describes [these horrors] beautifully, lyrically, in the language of a fable...readers who allow themselves to fall under the spell of Konar's exceptionally sensitive writing may well find the book unforgettable."—Ruth Franklin, *NY Times Book Review*

Koontz, Dean. [Ashley Bell](#) (\$9.99). Bibi Blair is a fierce, funny, dauntless young woman—whose doctor says she has one year to live. She replies, "We'll see." Her sudden recovery astonishes medical science. An enigmatic woman convinces Bibi that she escaped death so that she can save someone else. Someone named Ashley Bell. But save her from what, from whom? And who is Ashley Bell? Where is she?

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

Sanderson, Brandon. [Arcanum Unbounded](#) (Tor \$27.99). Sanderson's first collection of short fiction, a total of nine works: novellas and short stories set in the Shardworlds, the worlds of *Stormlight*, *Mistborn*, *Elantris*, and others. An all-new 40,000-word *Stormlight* Archive novella is included.

## OUR NOVEMBER MASS MARKET PICKS

Ayres, DD. [Explosive Forces](#) (St Martins \$7.99) While trying to figure out who set fire to her business, destroying everything she worked so hard to build, Carly Huntington-Reese teams up with a local firefighter who is also a target of the same serial arsonist and together they set out to stop a madman before he strikes again as passion explodes between them. All of Ayres' books in the K-9 Rescue series not only feature plenty of action, adventure, and romance.

Brennan, Allison. [The Lost Girls](#) (St Martins \$7.99) When photojournalist Siobhan Walsh uncovers a black market baby ring with ties to human trafficking, FBI Agent Lucy Kincaid and her mentor, Special Agent Noah Armstrong, investigate the case with her help, only to discover that it has far-reaching consequences they never could have imagined.

Connelly, Michael. [The Crossing](#) (\$9.99) Harry Bosch #20. Coming out of retirement to help his defense attorney half-brother prove that a client has been framed for murder, Detective Harry Bosch secretly teams up with former partner Lucia Soto to in-

investigate possible corruption inside the LAPD. *Kirkus* concluded their review with “solid, unspectacular, utterly engrossing work from the reigning master of the police procedural.”

Hardy, Susannah. [A Killer Kebab](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Greek to Me #3. When she finds the body of her divorce lawyer amid the construction debris at Bonaparte House, and a man who has an ax to grind with her family is arrested for the crime, Georgie, with the clues not adding up, decides to launch her own investigation and bring the real killer to justice.

Hurwitz, Gregg. [Orphan X](#) (\$9.99) Using his skills as an elite former agent and assassin to advocate anonymously for desperate people, Evan Smoak finds himself pursued by someone with comparable training who would exploit his life of service to find and eliminate him. Hurwitz’s latest was a major hit with staff and readers at the Poisoned Pen when it came out in hardcover. So if you missed it then, now is your chance to get your hands on one of the best thrillers of 2016. *PW* opened their rave review with “Bestseller Hurwitz (*Don’t Look Back*) melds nonstop action and high-tech gadgetry with an acute character story in this excellent series opener.”

McKinlay, Jenn. [A Likely Story](#) (\$7.99) Library Lover’s #6. When her friend, Peter Rosen, is killed and his brother, Stewart, goes missing, library director Lindsey Norris will stop at nothing to solve the murder and disappearance. *LJ* ended their review of McKinlay’s latest by saying “Intrigue is provided by wealthy Evelyn Dewhurst buying up islands and Chicago antique collectors Kevin Perkins and Calvin Hodges arriving to visit the Rosens. Lindsey’s attraction to both Sully and handsome (but married) actor Robbie Vine provides some welcome romance amid the sleuthing.”

Norton, Carla. [What Doesn’t Kill Her](#) (\$7.99) When a psychopath who held her prisoner for four years escapes from a mental facility and begins a murderous rampage, college student Reeve realizes that she is the only person who knows the killer well enough to stop him. Norton won the Edgar for *The Edge of Normal*, and *LJ* said this about its sequel “highly recommended for all fans of manhunt mysteries who love a strong heroine who sometimes breaks but is never completely broken.”

Pressey, Rose. [Haunted is Always in Fashion](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Haunted Village #5. Vintage fashion expert Cookie Chanel, agreeing to share her vast knowledge with author Juliana McDaniell, instead finds herself writing a completely different story when Juliana is shot dead, and, with the help of her psychic cat and a couple of inquisitive ghosts, must close the book on a killer

Reichs, Kathy. [The Bone Collection](#) (Random \$9.99) This collection of four short stories stars forensic anthropologist Dr. Temperance Brennan and includes “First Bones,” which reveals how she got her start in the lab, and “Bones on Ice,” which follows her to Mount Everest where she must identify a human corpse previously buried deep within the ice.

#### NEW HOLIDAY MYSTERIES IN MASS MARKET

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.

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.

Manning, Jason. [Christmas in the Lone Star State](#) (\$6.99) While escorting prisoner Jake Eddings to the funeral of his 10-year-old son, Texas Ranger Bill Sayles comes across a trail of violence and bloodshed left behind by Mal and Lute Litchfield, brothers who fled England as wanted men, and must place his in trust in Eddings to help him stop these outlaws before they hurt anyone else.

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.

#### NEW IN MASS MARKET PAPERBACKS

Baer, Neal. [Kill Again](#) (\$9.99) Forensic psychiatrist Claire Waters faces down her fears and the most terrifying serial killer New York has ever seen since Son of Sam.

Brandon, Ali. [Twice Told Tail](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Black Cat Bookshop #6. While being suspicious of an anonymous online bidder who is offering a lot of money for one of her antique books, Darla Pettistone is roped into helping bridezilla Connie Capello get ready for her big day—until their shopping excursion ends in murder.

Dyer-Seeley, Kate. [First Degree Mudder](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Pacific Northwest #4. Outdoor writer Meg Reed, deciding to take her job to the next level, trains hard for Mud, Sweat & Beers, an extreme 5K mud run, only to find herself getting down and dirty in a murder investigation when her coach, Billy the Tank, is found dead.

Fluke, Joanne. [Deadly Memories](#) (Kensington \$7.99) The survivor of a car crash, but suffering from amnesia, Maura Thomas who has no recollection of her husband, her daughter or her Beverly Hills boutique starts piecing together the fragments of her previous life, only to discover that not everyone around her is who they claim to be.

Graham, Heather. [Flawless](#) (\$7.99) Inheriting the New York City pub that has been in her family for generations, criminal psychologist and vigilante Kieran Finnegan clashes with FBI agent Craig Frasier during a jewelry store heist when she secretly returns a gem stolen by her brother.

Hearon, Leigh. [Saddle Up for Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Carson Stables #2. When one of her horses is savagely slaughtered and the body of a young woman is found hanging in her new hay barn, horse trainer and Carson Stables owner Annie Carson must follow a deadly trail of clues to bring a killer to justice, while dealing with an unexpected mystery that involves her private life.

Hechtman, Betty. [Hooking for Trouble](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Crochet #11. When she believes she has witnessed a murder, Molly Pink, the founder of the Tarzana Hookers’ Yarn University, calls in her ex, homicide detective Barry Greenberg, who reports that nothing is amiss, forcing her to unravel the clues herself to find the truth.

Jackson, Lisa. [If She Only Knew](#) (\$7.99) Left with fractured memories following the car accident that nearly took her life, Marla Cahill finds herself surrounded by a family of strangers and in deadly danger from a twisted killer who fears what she may remember. A reissue.

Murphy, Shirley. [Cat Shout for Joy](#) (\$7.99) Joe Grey #19. While expecting their new litter of kittens, Joe Grey and Dulcie become involved in investigating a human murderer who has been targeting the local elderly.

Olsen, Gregg. [Just Try to Stop Me](#) (Kensington \$9.99) When a vengeful serial killer with the ability to control minds escapes from prison, she, using innocent young women as bait to lure unsuspecting victims into her trap, streams the murders live and this time sheriff's detective Kendall Stark and forensic pathologist Birdy Waterman won't be able to stop her.

Smith, Karen Rose. [Shades of Wrath](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Home Staging #6. Hired to decorate a run-down mansion, which will now house Kismet, Pennsylvania's women's shelter, home stager and stray animal rescuer Caprice De Luca must instead design an investigation that will expose a crafty killer after the shelter's director is murdered