

# BOOKNEWS from

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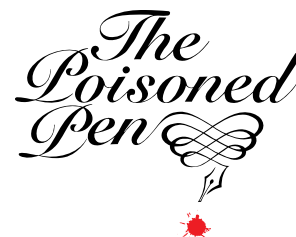
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## A MAGICAL MARCH....

**AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...**

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

### WEDNESDAY MARCH 1 7:00 PM

**Rhys Bowen** signs [In Farleigh Field](#) (Lake Union \$24.95 or \$14.95)

Our March History Club Pick

### THURSDAY MARCH 2 7:00 PM

**Tim Dorsey** signs [Clownfish Blues](#) (Harper \$26.99) Serge A. Storms

### WEDNESDAY MARCH 8 7:00 PM

**Brad Parks** signs [Say Nothing](#) (Dutton \$26) Thriller Club Pick!

### THURSDAY MARCH 9 7:00 PM Two Debuts

**Amy Engels** signs [The Roanoke Girls](#) (Crown \$25)

**Isabella Maldonado** signs [Blood's Echo](#) (Midnight Ink \$15.99)

### FRIDAY MARCH 10 7:00 PM SciFi/Fantasy Night

**Erika Lewis** signs [Game of Shadows](#) (Tor \$25.99) Debut

**Aprilynne Pike** signs [Arabesque](#) (\$14.99)

### SATURDAY MARCH 11 10:30 AM

**Coffee & Crime** discusses Sherry Thomas' [A Study in Scarlet Women](#) (\$15)

Lady Sherlock #1

### MONDAY MARCH 13 7:00 PM

**Jacqueline Winspear** signs [In This Grave Hour](#) (Harper \$27.99) Maisie Dobbs

### TUESDAY MARCH 14 7:00 PM

**Anne Perry** signs [Murder on the Serpentine](#) (Ballantine \$28) The Pitts

### WEDNESDAY MARCH 15 7:00 PM

Hosted by **Linda Castillo**

**Brunonia Barry** signs [The Fifth Petal](#) (Crown \$27.99)

### THURSDAY MARCH 16 7:00 PM Noir Night

**Linda Castillo** hosts

**David Joy** signs [The Weight of This World](#) (Putnam \$27)

**Owen Laukkanen** signs [The Forgotten Girls](#) (Putnam \$27)

### FRIDAY MARCH 17 7:00 PM

**The SciFi Club** discusses selections of Hugo and Nebula Nominated Short Stories (all available online) See **SciFi Stories** below for links

### SATURDAY MARCH 18 10:30 AM

**Croak & Dagger** discusses David Morrell's [Murder as a Fine Art](#) (\$16), the first in his Thomas DeQuincey Victorian murder trilogy

### SATURDAY MARCH 18 2:00 PM Cupcakes and Crime

**Linda Castillo** hosts a quartet of authors

**Laura Bradford** signs [The Silence of the Flans](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Emergency Dessert Squad #2

**Lynn Cahoon** signs [Fatality by Firelight](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Cat Latimer #2

**Paige Shelton** signs [Bookman Dead Style](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Dangerous Type #2

And [The Cracked Spine](#) (\$7.99), Scottish Bookshop #1

**Chevy Stevens** signs [Never Let You Go](#) (St Martins \$26.99)

### MONDAY MARCH 20 7:00 PM

**JA Jance** signs [Man Overboard](#) (Touchstone \$25.99) Ali Reynolds

### TUESDAY MARCH 21 7:00 PM

**Randy Wayne White** signs [Mangrove Lightning](#) (Putnam \$27) Doc Ford

### WEDNESDAY MARCH 22 7:00 PM A Sherlock Holmes

**William Kent Krueger** signs [Manitou Canyon](#) (Atria \$24.99) and hosts

**Lyndsay Faye** signs [The Whole Art of Detection](#) (Grove \$25)

### THURSDAY MARCH 23 7:00 PM Joe Pitt

**Location:** Scottsdale Hilton, 6333 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85250

**Admission:** Free. To get a book signed it must be purchased from The Poisoned Pen

**Doors and bar open 6:00 PM**

**Program 7:00 PM** hosted by **Robert Anglen**

**CJ Box** signs [Vicious Circle](#) (Putnam \$27)

### MONDAY MARCH 27 7:00 PM Lit Out Loud

**Actors will perform few short theater pieces derived from short stories**

**Tom Leveen** signs [Hellworld](#) (SimonSchuster/Pulse \$17.99) YA Thriller

### TUESDAY MARCH 28 7:00 PM

**Joe Ide** signs [IQ](#) (Mulholland \$26 later printings) and hosts

**Melissa Love Scrivener** signs [Lola](#) (Crown \$26)

March First Mystery Club Pick

### WEDNESDAY MARCH 29 7:00 PM Short Story Fest

**Steven Schwartz**, editor, signs [The Sharpened Quill](#) (\$12.99).

Introduction by James Sallis who attends along with most of the 11 contributors: Kurt Reichenbaugh, Robert Anglen, Merle McCann, Clark Lohr, Kevin Lynn Helmick, Jeff Kronenfeld, Steve Shadow, Scott McDonald, Karen Renner, Timothy W. Moore and Jacinda Power

**THURSDAY MARCH 30 7:00 PM**

**Hardboiled Crime** discusses Max Allan Collins, [The Road to Perdition](#) (\$14.99)

**SATURDAY APRIL 1 2:00 PM 7:00 PM**

**Donis Casey** signs the [Old Buzzard Had It Coming](#) (Poisoned Pen \$9.99) The 1<sup>st</sup> Alafair Tucker Mystery

**Mary Anna Evans** signs [Burials](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95) Faye Longchamp #10

**SUNDAY APRIL 2 2:00 PM**

**Cindy Brown** signs [Macdeath](#) (Henery \$15.99) and other titles  
**Ann Montgomery** signs [The Scent of Rain](#) (Amphorae \$12.95)

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 5 7:00 PM**

**Jared Shurin**, editor, signs [The Djinn Falls in Love and Other Stories](#) (Solaris/Simon Schuster \$15.95)

**THURSDAY APRIL 6 7:00 PM 7:00 PM**

**Lisa See** signs [The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane](#) (Scribner \$27)

**Some April highlights**

Mon. April 10: Steve Berry

Tues. April 11: Philip Kerr

Wed April 12: Anne Hillerman

Thurs. April 13: Matthew Quirk

CHANGE: Mon. April 17: Greg Iles

Tues April 18: Jeffrey Deaver

Thurs, April 20 Stuart Woods

Sat. April 22: Cozy Con. Tessa Arlen, Hannah Dennison, CS Harris, Francine Mathews, Jenn McKinlay, Megan Miranda, Renee Patrick, Paige Shelton

Mon April 24 Ann Cleeves with Shetland TV video bits

April 25 John Sandford

Wed. April 26: Jeff Guinn

**EVENT BOOKS**

Barry, Brunonia. [The Fifth Petal](#) (Crown \$27.99). The Indie Next Pick: “Barry takes her readers back to Salem with a mesmerizing tale filled with familiar characters from her previous works and new ones as well. Towner Whitney and John Rafferty come to the aid of Callie Cahill as they attempt to piece together the circumstances surrounding the brutal murder of her mother while trying to keep herself from becoming a victim as well. This is a beautifully written story, full of twists and turns. Fans of [The Lace Reader](#) (\$14.99) will love *The Fifth Petal*, though the book stands on its own and can be recommended to all readers.”

Bowen, Rhys. [In Farleigh Field](#) (Lake Union \$24.95 or \$14.95). World War II comes to Farleigh Place, the ancestral home of Lord Westerham and his five daughters, when a soldier with a failed parachute falls to his death on the estate. Why there, so unlikely a spot? Plus his uniform and possessions spell spy. MI5 operative and Westerham family friend Ben Cresswell is covertly tasked with determining if the man is a German agent. The assignment also offers Ben the chance to be near Lord Westerham’s middle daughter, Pamela, whom he furtively loves. But Pamela has her own secret: she has taken a job at Bletchley Park, the British code-breaking facility. As Ben follows a trail of spies and trai-

tors, which may include another member of Pamela’s family, he discovers that someone (or someones) has an appalling, history-altering agenda which Bowen has subtly woven into the story. Our **March History/Mystery Club Pick**. Think *Foyle’s War*.

Box, CJ. [Vicious Circle](#) (Putnam \$27). “At the start of Edgar-winner Box’s crackling 17th Joe Pickett novel, the Wyoming game warden is aboard a small plane in search of hunter Dave Farkus, ‘currently an unemployed layabout collecting dubious disability checks,’ who has gone on the run in the frozen high country. With the aid of an infrared spotting device, Joe locates Dave—right before the fugitive is fatally shot. Joe quickly settles on a suspect: erstwhile rodeo star Dallas Cates, just released from the prison where Joe helped send him 18 months earlier. Dallas’s motive? Scorched-earth revenge on Joe. To that end, the diabolically clever Dallas has recruited a gang of psychopathic miscreants for the ages.... this outing is the most suspenseful yet in this world-class series, setting a new standard for Box.”—PW Starred and Boxed Review. We have a wide array of Box’s earlier work [you can order](#).

Bradford, Laura. [The Silence of the Flans](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Baker Winnie Johnson does her best work when the heat is on. As owner of the Emergency Dessert Squad, she has a deft touch in the kitchen and a soft spot for lost causes. So when her business professor beau, Jay Morgan, expresses misgivings over having to fail one of his fourth-year students, Winnie cooks up a sweet solution. She’ll offer an extra credit opportunity in exchange for a little help with her growing business. But when her protégé’s first dessert delivery poisons a student journalist, the publicity threatens to burn Winnie’s business to a crisp. Now the entrepreneur-turned-detective must uncover the ingredients behind a recipe for murder before she crumbles under pressure... Begin reading *Emergency Dessert Squad Mysteries* with [Éclair and Present Danger](#) (\$7.99), plus [order more of her work](#) as well.

Brown, Cindy. [Macdeath](#) (Henery \$15.95). Like every actor, Ivy Meadows knows that Macbeth is cursed. But she’s finally scored her big break, cast as an acrobatic witch in a circus-themed production of *Macbeth* in Phoenix, Arizona. And though it may not be Broadway, nothing can dampen her enthusiasm—not her flying caldron, too-tight leotard, or carrot-wielding dictator of a director. But when one of the cast dies on opening night, Ivy is sure the seeming accident is “murder most foul” and that she’s the perfect person to solve the crime (after all, she does work part-time in her uncle’s detective agency). Undeterred by a poisoned Big Gulp, the threat of being blackballed, and the suddenly too-real curse, Ivy pursues the truth.... Order two other cozies by Brown here. Also available: [Oliver Twisted](#) and [The Sound of Murder](#) (\$15.95 each).

Cahoon, Lynn. [Fatality by Firelight](#) (Kensington \$7.99). In *Cat Latimer #2*, to kick off a winter writing retreat, Cat and her handyman boyfriend, Seth, escort the aspiring authors to a nearby ski resort, hoping some fresh cold air will wake up their creative muses. But instead of hitting the slopes, they hit the bar—and before long, a tipsy romance novelist named Christina is keeping herself warm with a local ski bum who might have neglected to tell her about his upcoming wedding. Next thing Cat knows, her uncle, the town sheriff, informs her that the young man’s been

found dead in a hot tub—and Christina shows up crying and covered in blood. Now, between a murder mystery, the theft of a rare Hemingway edition, and the arrival of a black-clad stranger in snowy Aspen Hills, well.... Start with [A Story to Kill](#) (\$7.99).

Dorsey, Tim. [Clownfish Blues](#) (Harper \$26.99). As he's shooting an homage to the classic *Route 66* TV series (filmed partly in Florida), lovable Sunshine State maniac Serge A. Storms contends with money-laundering drug cartels, bent bodega owners, and weasely venture capitalists all trying to game the state lottery system. There's plenty of sharp cultural commentary ("The sidewalks were thick with street crazies talking to themselves, and executives with Bluetooths talking to themselves"). Dorsey hasn't been to The Pen in years so please turn out to give him a warm welcome. You can [order his earlier books](#).

Engel, Amy. [The Roanoke Girls](#) (Crown \$25). Despite the title this first adult novel by Engel is not a Trust No One suspense but a real Gothic. For me a Gothic should unfold inside a mystery-laden house: here it's the Roanoke family homestead in isolated rural Kansas. The mystery, or rather mysteries, is why several female family members have disappeared, the latest, the one in this generation, being 15-year-old Allegra, which has baffled local law. And it pulls back her cousin Lane Roanoke, who had fled to LA as a teen shortly after her mother's suicide during a summer where Lane and Allegra hung out. Clearly there is a serpent in what should be paradise and Lane will need to nerve herself to discover it. For me it's not about the girls and what happened, but about one crucial characterization... Dysfunction morphing into suspense and stunning self-rationalization. I can't say without a spoiler but of various depictions of such a person over the years this one stands out, much like in Caroline Graham's [The Killings at Badger's Drift](#) (\$14.94), the first Midsomer Murder.

Evans, Mary Ann. [Burials](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Evans' enjoyable 10th Faye Longchamps mystery takes the archeologist and her husband, Joe Mantooth, from Florida to Oklahoma. Faye is doing a consulting gig for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, whose members plan to build a park on tribal land. As soon as she arrives at the site, someone fires gunshots in Faye's vicinity. Digging uncovers the skeletal remains of archeologist Sophia Townsend, who was the leader of a team exploring the same site three decades earlier. Skull fractures suggest that she was hit with a blunt instrument. Faye and Joe get caught up in tribal police chief Roy Cloud's subsequent murder investigation. Why was Sophia never reported missing? And where did the grave goods found with her remains come from? When the site claims another victim, the tension mounts. "Evans sensitively explores the issue of how to balance respecting cultural heritage and gaining knowledge of the past through scientific research." Also [Burials](#) (\$15.95). Evans, now a Professor in Oklahoma, will be joined by Donis Casey for her event at The Pen. [Order earlier Faye mysteries](#) and note the first, [Artifacts](#), has a new edition @\$9.99.

Faye, Lyndsay. [The Whole Art of Detection: Lost Mysteries of Sherlock Holmes](#) (Grove \$25). One of the Stared Review: "Edgar-finalist Faye, whose debut, [Dust and Shadow](#) (\$16) pitted Holmes against the Ripper, dives into pastiches again. Her stories present "pitch-perfect Watsonian narration in 13 of the 15 tales in this outstanding collection; the other two are told from Holmes's perspective. The stories are divided into four chronological

sections: the first predates the Holmes-Watson partnership; the second covers the period before Reichenbach; the third dates to after Holmes' resurrection; and the fourth treats the pair's later years sleuthing together. Most take Conan Doyle's tantalizing references to untold tales as their starting point.... All impressively add psychological depth to the friendship, plausibly exploring personal dynamics in the wake of traumas such as the loss of Watson's wife and Holmes's apparent return from the dead, in a way that will resonate especially with fans of the BBC's *Sherlock*." For more on the surge of Sherlocks, see Suddeny Sherlock below. I can't recommend her thoroughly original riff on *Jane Eyre*, [Jane Steele](#) (\$16), highly enough! See Our March Large Paperback Picks.

Jance, JA. [Man Overboard](#) (Touchstone \$25.99). Cybersecurity expert Roger McGeary finally has his life back on track after years of struggling with depression. His childhood friend Stu Ramey, a "brilliant software guy with the social skills of an onion," takes a lead role as second-in-command at High Noon Enterprises, a cybersecurity firm owned by Ali and her husband, B. Simpson, in Cottonwood, Arizona. While Ali handles interviews, Ramey tracks the online footprints of Hansen, who calls himself Odin, and Frigg, Hansen's "all-knowing artificial intelligence sidekick and companion," to whom Jance imputes nearly human characteristics. Frigg becomes a major player as Hansen and the folks at High Noon race to a climactic showdown in an unusual serial killer thriller, 12<sup>th</sup> in the Ali Reynolds series. [Order them all](#).

Joy, David. [The Weight of This World](#) (Putnam \$27). "Appalachia provides the evocative setting for this tale of a brutal world filled with violence and drugs from Edgar finalist Joy for 2016 First Mystery Club Pick [Where All Light Tends to Go](#) (\$16). After a tour in Afghanistan as a soldier, Thad Broom returns to North Carolina more damaged than when he left, unable to forgive or forget what he did there. With nowhere else to go, Thad settles in his dilapidated trailer down the mountain from his mother, April Trantham, who, he knows, has never loved him and is pursued by her own demons. Thad reestablishes an aimless life with his best friend, Aiden McCall, who at age 12 saw his father shoot his mother dead. The two friends suddenly have a windfall of drugs and cash after witnessing the accidental death of their drug dealer. But neither Todd nor Aiden is capable of climbing out of his self-imposed rural prison. Lyrical prose, realistic dialogue, and a story that illuminates the humanity of each character make this a standout."—*PW* Starred Review

Laukkanen, Owen. [The Forgotten Girls](#) (Putnam \$27). "A gut-wrenching tale filled with empathy. This may be the best yet in a first-rate series. FBI agent Carla Windermere is such a wonderful series character. Either she or the perp is going down, and it damned well won't be her." —*Kirkus* Starred Review for an exciting serial killer thriller. Plus it takes you onto the freight trains High Lines that runs through the Northern Rockies so close to Canada. We begin with a young girl called Ash riding the rails with a sense of her inevitable doom. The discovery of her body in a snowdrift by the tracks in Boundary County, Idaho, brings in Kirk Stevens and Carla Windermere of the joint FBI and Bureau of Criminal Apprehension violent-crimes task force in Minnesota. Ash was apparently strangled. Ash had a devoted friend—another train hopper, Mila Scott. When Mila learns that some sort of "ghost rider" has been preying on young women along the

High Line, she refuses to rest until she has avenged Ash. “Laukkanen is at his best in describing Mila’s grueling travels through the frigid Northwest in pursuit of the killer.” Plus Laukkanen provides “Incomparable pacing. This is a guaranteed lost weekend for Laukkanen’s fans and for anyone who’s seeking a Lee Child–like adrenaline rush.” —*Booklist*. [Order his earlier thrillers](#) starting with 2011 First Mystery Club Pick *The Professionals*.

Leveen, Tom. [Hellworld](#) (SimonSchuster/Pulse \$17.99). In an effort to put her family back together, a teen struggles to discover what happened to her mother who disappeared during a ghost hunt in this haunting new novel. Five years ago, Abby Booth’s mom, co-host of a ghost hunting reality show, went missing while filming in a ‘haunted’ cave in Arizona. Since then, Abby’s life has all but fallen to pieces, most notably because of her dad’s deep depression and how they’ve drifted further and further apart. But now, at seventeen, Abby has decided that things will change. She plans to go to the same cave where her mom and the crew went missing and to find out, once and for all, what happened there. With the help of the co-host’s son Charlie, and two of his friends, Abby sets off on a quest for answers...but when the group ends up finding, what they stumble across in that dark, primordial cave in Arizona, is nothing they could have ever imaged. Abby never expected a possible haunting could be something much worse.... Ages 14+. [Order Leveen’s earlier YA books.](#)

Lewis, Erika. [Game of Shadows](#) (Tor \$25.99). Lewis’ debut draws on Celtic legends. A vicious sorcerer. A modern Los Angelean trying to save his mother... Time jumps. Thousands of years ago in Ireland, an ancient race fought a world-changing battle—and lost. Their land overrun, the Celtic gods and goddesses fled, while the mythical races and magical druids sailed to an uncharted continent, cloaked so mankind could never find it. This new homeland was named Tara. In modern day Los Angeles, Ethan Makkai struggles with an overprotective mother who never lets him out of her sight, and a terrifying secret: he can see ghosts. Desperate for a taste of freedom, he leaves his apartment by himself for the first time—only to find his life changed forever. We like to encourage variety in our Picks. This is the **March SciFi/Fantasy Club** one. Lewis appears with local SciFi star Aprilynne Pike.

Love, Melissa Scrivener. [Lola](#) (Crown \$26). Here’s an unsparing debut, our **March First Mystery Club Pick**, one that inspires me to invite Joe Ide of 2016’s First Mystery Club Pick *IQ* (no signed firsts left) to host. A Starred Review: “At the start of Love’s stunning debut, a messenger from the Los Liones cartel visits the Huntington Park, California, home of 26-year-old Lola Vasquez and extends an offer to her boyfriend, Garcia. If Garcia’s gang, the Crenshaw Six, can intercept a drop between one of Los Liones’ former dealers and the man’s new supplier, the gang will get 10% of the loot and control of the dealer’s territory; if they fail, Lola dies. Garcia accepts, but the ambush goes awry, forcing Lola—the Crenshaw Six’s true leader—to emerge from the shadows and fight for her own survival and the safety of those she holds dear. This powerful read is at once an intelligently crafted mystery, a reflection on the cycles of violence and addiction, and a timely meditation on the double standard facing women in authority. Love’s writing is artful and evocative, her story’s sense of place and culture are strong, and, in *Lola*, Love has created a fully fleshed-out and uniquely compelling antihero who commands fear, respect, and adoration in equal measure.”

Maldonado, Isabelle. [Blood’s Echo](#) (Midnight Ink \$15.99). Detective Veranda Cruz leads an elite task force on the Phoenix Police Drug Enforcement Bureau. Bartolo Villalobos is the heir apparent to the most powerful cartel in the world. No one in the department suspects the secret motive behind Veranda’s obsession with the cartel... until an operation goes horribly wrong. Targeted by an increasingly unstable drug lord, Veranda must protect her family and stay clear of adversaries within the force while she sets a trap for Bartolo. Write what you know? The Mesa, Arizona, author retired from law enforcement as a Commander of Special Investigations and Forensics. During her long career, she was recognized with a Meritorious Service Award and a Lifesaving Award, and she was selected to attend executive management training at the FBI’s National Academy.

Montgomery, Ann. [The Scent of Rain](#) (Amphorae \$12.95). Rose Madsen will do anything to keep from being married off to one of the men in her Fundamentalist Mormon (FLDS) community, even endure the continued beatings and abuse of her mother. But when her mentally handicapped baby sister is forced to strangle the bird she loves at the behest of the Prophet, Rose frees the bird and runs away. Adan Reyes will do anything to escape the abusive foster care system in Phoenix, even leaving his good friends and successful high school athletic career behind him. Ill-prepared for surviving the desert, Adan hits the road only to suffer heat stroke. Found by a local handyman, he catches a glimpse of a mysterious girl—Rose—running through town, and follows her into the mountains where they are both tracked and discovered by the men of the FLDS community. Will they be stronger together and succeed in breaking away? For fans of Betty Webb’s *Desert Wives* and *Desert Lost* (\$15.95 each).

Parks, Brad. [Say Nothing](#) (Dutton \$26), our **March Thriller Club Pick**, is a breakout novel for Parks. In addition to praise from Sue Grafton and Lee Child, there is this: “Fans of crime fiction and fans of domestic drama will find much to love in Parks’ genre-blending thriller. Judge Scott Sampson is a devoted family man and a respected jurist thrown into every parent’s worst nightmare: his six-year-old twins are kidnapped, and the kidnapers blackmail Scott into increasingly immoral legal decisions. Cue marital meltdown, ethical dilemmas, paranoia, and a thrill ride that suspense lovers will race through to learn what happens next. ... a welcome read for fans of Coben and Hurwitz.” And: “Parks does a fantastic job conveying every parent’s worst fear while also showcasing the marital conflict and mistrust that erupts in the midst of a crisis. The complications and twists build to an unexpected climax that is both perfect and gut-wrenching... Fans of Harlan Coben and Lisa Gardner will love this thriller. Don’t stay silent, tell everyone.” —*LJ* Starred Review. “Parks dispenses plot twists with a poisoned eyedropper... The nerve-shredding never lets up for a minute as Parks picks you up by the scruff of the neck, shakes you vigorously, and repeats over and over again till a climax so harrowing that you’ll be shaking with gratitude that it’s finally over.” —*PW* Starred Review

Perry, Anne. [Murder on the Serpentine](#) (Ballantine \$28). As she nears life’s end, Queen Victoria needs the help of Thomas Pitt, commander of the Special Branch. The task: to probe the untimely death of Sir John Halberd, an old and trusted friend of her majesty, whom she had asked to investigate Alan Kendrick, a new adviser to her son, the Prince of Wales. While Kendrick seems to be merely sharing wisdom about horses with the heir to

the throne, a fellow horse enthusiast, the queen is concerned by the man's rumored involvement in "all sorts of other affairs." Her worries grew when Halberd died in an unusual boating accident that could have been foul play. "The mystery may follow familiar lines, but even newcomers are likely to be charmed by scenes that deepen Pitt's family relationships. This entry's main strength lies in the quiet, emotionally intelligent interactions among its characters." I've read the Pitt mysteries in real time as Perry penned them and always find them rewarding. [Order them here.](#)

Schwartz, Steven, ed. [The Sharpened Quill](#) (\$12.99). From crime to fantasy to romance, 23 stories bring fresh new voices that cover a broad range of styles and subject matter, from crime to fantasy to romance. It features an introduction by the great American writer, James Sallis and illustrations by Jacinda Power. Eleven writers pen stories that range from the long to the very short. Included are Kurt Reichenbaugh, Robert Anglen, Merle McCann, Clark Lohr, Kevin Lynn Helmick, Jeff Kronenfeld, Steve Shadow, Scott McDonald, Karen Renner, Timothy W. Moore and Jacinda Power.

See, Lisa. [The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane](#) (Scribner \$27). This stunning novel illuminates the fascinating world of small tea farms in China during the economic reforms of the 1980s and '90s. The customs of western China's Akha minority serve as the backbone of a gripping story "that contributes historical and social insight into the Akhas, an animistic people who lived modestly and virtually untouched by modernity in the mountains of China, and tea production in an increasingly globalized world. A growing taste for pu'er, a rare tea, has led entrepreneurs to seek out the ancient crop cultivated in remote Yunnan. Li-Yan, the intelligent but rash daughter of a village midwife, serves as the link between one such entrepreneur and her people, transforming their way of life. Against tradition, she translates for foreigners, then later bears a daughter out of wedlock and gives up the child for adoption at her mother's urging. Banished and broken, Li-Yan tries to navigate modern Chinese life while her daughter is raised by loving Caucasian parents in an upper middle-class California home. Neither time nor distance can vanquish their yearning to be reunited. With strong female characters, See deftly confronts the changing role of minority women, majority-minority relations, East-West adoption, and the economy of tea in modern China. See's giant bestseller [Snow Flower and the Secret Fan](#) (\$18) was a 2005 Modern Firsts Club Pick; if you missed it, order the paperback and she can sign it. (I keep trying to talk her into writing a 4<sup>th</sup> mystery but no joy so far).

Shelton, Paige. [Bookman Dead Style](#) (Berkley \$7.99). In Shelton's second Dangerous Type Mystery, it's January, and the Star City Film Festival has taken the Utah ski resort town by storm. Movie stars are everywhere, carving fresh powder on the slopes and crossing the thresholds of Bygone Alley's charming boutique shops—including The Rescued Word, where Clare Henry and her grandfather restore old typewriters and beloved books. When cinema's hottest superhero, Matt Bane, enters their store to buy some personalized notecards, it's hard not to be star struck. But when Clare sees the police leading Matt out of The Fountain hotel in handcuffs only a few hours later, she can't believe her eyes. The affable actor is accused of killing his sister, but Clare's convinced he's wrong for that role. Start with [To Helvetica and Back](#) (\$7.99). Shelton also signs her first Scottish Bookshop Mystery, [The Cracked Spine](#) (\$7.99; \$25.99).

Shurin, Jared, ed. [The Djinn Falls in Love and Other Stories](#) (Solaris/Simon Schuster \$15.95). What fun, a collection of original tales of the fearsome Djinn, from bestselling, award-winning and breakthrough international writers. Imagine a world filled with fierce, fiery beings, hiding in our shadows, in our dreams, under our skins. Eavesdropping and exploring; savaging our bodies, saving our souls. They are monsters, saviors, victims, childhood friends. Some have called them genies: these are the Djinn. And they are everywhere. On street corners, behind the wheel of a taxi, in the chorus, between the pages of books. Every language has a word for them. Every culture knows their traditions. Every religion, every history has them hiding in their dark places.

Authors: Neil Gaiman, Amal El-Mohtar, Catherine King, Claire North, E. J. Swift, Hermes, Jamal Mahjoub, James Smythe, J. Y. Yang, Kamila Shamsie, Kirsty Logan, K.J. Parker, Kuzhali Manickavel, Maria Dahvana Headley, Monica Byrne, Nnedi Okorafor, Saad Hossein, Sami Shah, Sophia Al-Maria and Usman Malik

Stevens, Chevy. [Never Let You Go](#) (St Martins \$26.99). In Canadian author's Stevens 6<sup>th</sup> novel, we get our **April Thriller Club Pick**. We meet Lindsey, a woman who has escaped an abusive husband and created a settled and safe life with her teenage daughter, Sophie. "The story of the disintegration of Lindsey's marriage to Andrew, told in flashbacks, explains her need to be independent and her fierce protection of Sophie. When Andrew reappears after a long imprisonment, disturbing things begin to happen to Lindsey. Sophie, who is curious about her father, makes contact with him, and they began to meet secretly. The tension escalates as Lindsey struggles to regain control of her life and escape from the subtle terror that colors her every move. The Pacific Northwest small-town setting contributes to the sense of looming disaster as it is continually beset with fog, rain, and snow. Disturbing, suspenseful, and just a little nerve-wracking, this fast-paced psychological thriller will keep fans of Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl* on edge."—*LJ*. The Indie Next Pick adds, "This fast-paced thriller will leave you guessing right up to the end!" Stevens' taut writing and chilling depiction of love twisted beyond recognition make this a compelling read from the first page to the last. [Order Stevens earlier novels.](#)

White, Randy Wayne. [Mangrove Lightning](#) (Putnam \$27). A legendary charter captain and guide named Tootsie Barlow has come to him, muttering about a curse. The members of his extended family have suffered a bizarre series of attacks, and Barlow is convinced it has something to do with a multiple murder in 1925, in which his family had a shameful part. At stake is the fate of Florida Everglades property owned by Barlow near Marco Island, which during Prohibition was the site of a war between bootleggers, such illegal activities as human smuggling (mostly Chinese), and the 1925 disappearance of Deputy J.H. Cox, who may have murdered a woman a few years earlier, along with his whole family. Barlow's ancestors were involved in the bootlegging battle, and Doc's sometime lover, Hannah Smith, is a descendant of the murder victim. Ford doesn't believe in curses, but as he and his friend Tomlinson begin to investigate, following the trail of the attacks from Key Largo to Tallahassee, they, too, suffer a series of near-fatal mishaps. Is it really a curse? Or just a crime spree? The answer lies in solving a 1925 multiple murder case and probing the mind of a madman. 24<sup>th</sup> in an always original series. [Order all the Doc Fords and Hannah Smiths](#) and binge.

Winspear, Jacqueline. [In This Grave Hour](#) (Harper \$27.99). This is the day before publication day so ask for your copy to be dated, too. Sunday September 3rd 1939. In a London shadowed by barrage balloons, bomb shelters and the threat of invasion, within days another former Belgian refugee is found murdered. And as Maisie delves deeper into the killings of the dispossessed from the “last war,” a new kind of refugee — an evacuee from London — appears in Maisie’s life. The little girl billeted at Maisie’s home in Kent does not, or cannot, speak, and the authorities do not know who the child belongs to or who might have put her on the “Operation Pied Piper” evacuee train. They know only that her name is Anna. As Maisie’s search for the killer escalates, the country braces for what is to come. . . . [Order Maisie’s full set](#) of investigations.

## SCIFI STORIES LINKS

**Ink Readers of Doi Saket** by Thomas Olde Heulvelde  
<http://www.tor.com/2013/04/24/the-ink-readers-of-doi-saket/>

**Mono No Aware** by Ken Liu  
<http://www.light-speed-magazine.com/fiction/mono-no-aware/>

**Hungry Daughters of Starving Mothers** by Alyssa Wong  
<http://www.nightmare-magazine.com/fiction/hungry-daughters-of-starving-mothers/>

**Study in Emerald** by Neil Gaiman  
<http://www.neilgaiman.com/mediafiles/exclusive/shortstories/emerald.pdf>

**Evil Robot Monkey** by Mary Robinette Kowal  
<http://maryrobinettekowal.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/evil-robotmonkeyMRK.pdf>

**Ponies** by Kij Johnson  
<http://www.tor.com/2010/11/17/ponies/>

**The Cartographer Wasps and the Anarchist Bees** by E. Lily Yu  
[http://clarkesworldmagazine.com/yl\\_04\\_11/](http://clarkesworldmagazine.com/yl_04_11/)

## SIGNED BOOKS

✚Arlen, Tessa. [Death by Any Other Name](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Arrives mid-March, Signed April 22, the 3<sup>rd</sup> for Lady Montfort. The elegant Lady Montfort and her redoubtable housekeeper Mrs. Jackson’s services are called upon after a cook is framed and dismissed for poisoning a guest of the Hyde Rose Society. Promising to help her regain her job and her dignity, the pair treks out to the countryside to investigate. The whole happens in roughly 8 days leading up to Britain’s declaring War in August, 1914. The rosarians are quarrelsome and quirky and underscore how soon the bloom of Edwardian days will die. I felt intensely sad as I read this.

Betley, Matthew. [Oath of Honor](#) (Atria \$26). I selected [Overwatch](#) (\$9.99) as a 2016 First Mystery Club Pick for this new thriller writer’s potential. I’m thrilled that his second novel underlines the wisdom of that Pick since it ups his game with a pulse-pounding high action read ranging from Unalaska/Dutch Harbor (where the greatest catch is a crew of black ops Russians) to the Sudan and involves Chinese, Russian, and Sudanese ops in a high-stakes game aimed at putting China ahead in the global game. Series leads Logan West and John Quick (much more layered but not losing a jot of their honed skills), investigators in a specialized FBI task force, are tasked with preventing the successful hijacking of technology code-named ONERING, a

new U.S. weapons system that has the ability to hijack any space satellite. The theft is the plan of Namir Badawi, the head of Sudan’s internal security division, who’s determined to humiliate the United States and bring about glory to Sudan as part of a new world order. Logan and John pursue the bad guys around the globe, always one step behind Namir and Major. Gang Lau, his Chinese spy henchman. Betley’s fight scenes are among the best in the genre and the book’s concept targets fans of Brad Taylor, James Rollins, Mark Greaney. . . those guys.

Chaon, Dan. [Ill Will](#) (Ballantine \$30). The Indie Next Pick: “*Ill Will* is a house of mirrors reflecting intergenerational psychodramas in which the abuses of a parent insidiously infect subsequent generations. Violent parricide, false memories, drugs, and sex fuel a double plot line and vivid character development and taut dialog propel the reader as scene shifts blur the roles of the offender and the injured. Chaon adroitly leads us through a literary haunted house, then leaves us to find our own way out.” We’re ahead of ourselves with Modern First Club Picks; this will be our **April MFC Pick** but arriving in March.

Coonts, Stephen. [Liberty’s Last Stand](#) (\$27.99). An alert we have Signed copies back in stock as well as a few of the most recent Jake Grafton, [The Art of War](#) (\$27.99 each). Both sold out but Steve hosted an event at The Pen February 16.

Cussler, Clive. Justin Scott. [The Cutthroat](#) (Putnam \$29). On sale March 14. Our copies come with a special insert signed by Justin Scott. The year is 1911. Chief Investigator Isaac Bell of the Van Dorn Detective Agency has been hired to find a young woman named Anna Pape who ran away from home to become an actress, Bell gets a shock when her murdered body turns up instead. Vowing to bring the killer to justice, he begins a manhunt which leads him into increasingly more alarming territory. Anna Pape was not alone in her fate—petite young blond women like Anna are being murdered in cities across America. And the pattern goes beyond the physical resemblance of the victims—there are disturbing familiarities about the killings themselves that send a chill through even a man as experienced with evil as Bell. If he is right about his fears, then he is on the trail of one of the greatest monsters of his time.

Downing, David. [Lenin’s Roller Coaster](#) (Soho \$27.95). The October Revolution of 1917 provides the backdrop for Downing’s outstanding third historical featuring British spy Jack McColl. At his father’s funeral in Scotland, McColl reunites with his lover, American journalist Caitlin Hanley, with whom he has a complicated past: two years earlier, McColl arrested her younger brother, Colm, for his role in an Irish republican plot after first offering him a chance to escape. Despite this incident, Caitlin is eager to make the most of their time together before work separates them. McColl’s boss in the Secret Service dispatches him on a mission to determine how the Transcaspien Railway can be put out of action as part of British efforts to prevent Germany from taking over Central Asia. Meanwhile, Caitlin travels to Russia to report on the efforts of the Bolshevik regime to create a new society. In addition to balancing plot and character development perfectly, Downing gives readers unfamiliar with the issues of the time all they need to know.”—*PW* Starred Review. [Jack of Spies](#) (\$15.95), a knockout, was a 2014 History Club Pick followed by [One Man’s Flag](#) (\$15.95).

✂Fowler, Christopher. [Bryant and May Wild Chamber](#) (Doubleday \$36). Our story begins at the end of an investigation, as the members of London's Peculiar Crimes Unit race to catch a killer near London Bridge Station in the rain, not realizing that they're about to cause a bizarre accident just yards away from the crime scene. And it will have repercussions for them all... One year later, in an exclusive London crescent, a woman walks her dog – but she's being watched. When she's found dead, the Peculiar Crimes Unit is called in to investigate. Why? Because the method of death is odd, the gardens are locked, the killer had no way in – or out – and the dog has disappeared. So a typical case for Bryant & May. But the hows and whys of the murder are not the only mysteries surrounding the dead woman – there's a missing husband and a lost nanny to puzzle over too. And it seems very like that the killer is preparing to strike again. As Arthur Bryant delves in to the history of London's 'wild chambers' – its extraordinary parks and gardens, John May and the rest of the team seem to have caused a national scandal. If no-one is safe then all of London's open spaces must be closed... With the PCU placed under house arrest, only Arthur Bryant remains at liberty – but can a hallucinating old codger catch the criminal and save the unit before it's too late? The setting in the city's garden spaces interestingly parallels that of Crombie's February book *Garden of Lamentations*.

✂Harris, CS. [Where the Dead Lie](#) (Penguin \$26). This is to alert you that the 12<sup>th</sup> Sebastian St-Cyr published mid-March but will be signed here on April 22 at our all-day convention. It's London 1813. Devlin is shocked by the torture and murder of a boy dumped on the grounds of an abandoned factory. It's the first alert to a pattern of missing children...

Heller, Peter. [Celine](#) (Knopf \$27). Our **March Surprise Me Club Pick** is a delight on every level, filled with rich characters who surprise and an investigation that only a creative mind like Heller could imagine. I loved it! The Indie Next Pick: "There should be an excused absence from life when a new Peter Heller novel is released to the world. There is a pace and a quality to his writing that will make you want to drink it down in one gulp. Heller's strong narrative voice and complex plotting have always stood out to me and Celine is another example of this. Loosely based on Heller's mother, Celine is a hard-nosed — if a bit worn down — private investigator living in post-9/11 Brooklyn. She has a stellar reputation, but when she is sent on a case to locate a young woman's missing father, it's clear that her age (and lifestyle) has caught up with her. You will fall in love with Celine and connect with everyone who populates this book. I would give just about anything to follow her on more adventures." Me, too. This gem delivers surprise as well as spectacular craft. I plan to reread it.

Hinger, Charlotte. [Fractured Families](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). I thought I knew Hinger and her Western Kansas series that has been changing up from a genealogy researcher/sleuth to a policing professional in Lottie Albright, but boy, was I wrong. This 4<sup>th</sup> Albright is a zinger full of surprises and a late discovery that will make you weep. It begins in a frozen, sculpture-filled Garden of Eden, 'the strangest place in all Kansas,' where a tiny corpse is spotted in the arms of a statue called Reaching Woman. Lottie, the full-time director of the nascent nine-county Northwest Kansas Regional Crime Center, investigates, aided by her deputy

sheriff husband, Keith Feine; mystery writer Dorothy Mercer, Keith's aunt who's visiting from New York; Lottie's twin sister, Josie Albright, a forensic psychologist; and abrasive psychologist Dr. Evan Ferguson, a political choice foisted on the NKRCC team. "Mercer proves an astute observer with a sharp intelligence as the team uncovers similar infant deaths and possible links to unsolved missing person cases. The diary of a severely handicapped child proves both riveting and pivotal..." –PW. The large paperback edition of this killer novel is our February Fresh Fiction Pick.

Howrey, Meg. [The Wanderers](#) (Putnam \$27). Signed in March but our **April SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick**. A private space exploration company is mounting a manned mission to Mars. To prepare for the actual event, the company plans an elaborate training program to match the conditions and potential problems the team might face. The ordeal, though simulated, is no less dramatic for the astronauts, their families, and the crew. The lines cross between fiction and reality and none of the participants is left unchanged. Part literary fiction, part sci-fi, all amazing." The Indie Next Pick: "Howrey brilliantly weaves together the vastness of outer space with the intimacy of human nature. Howrey's characters are artfully drawn — full of strengths and failings and each yearning for something in their relationships with others. The Mars simulation at the center of the story represents an exciting new frontier for human beings, but Howrey's astronauts demonstrate that even those driving the larger quest for human greatness are flawed individuals leading complicated lives. This is a wonderfully introspective novel on the meaning of space exploration and what we learn about ourselves when facing the unknown." Howrey's insightful novel will take readers to a place where they too can "lift their heads and wonder." This is a story one hopes becomes true.

Iles, Greg. [Mississippi Blood](#) (Harper \$28.99). Out March 28, signed here April 17. The concluding (and massive) volume in his Natchez Burning trilogy "is a sweeping story that remains intimate. The Double Eagles, a savage KKK splinter group, have declared a personal war on Penn Cage, a former prosecutor who's now the mayor of Natchez, Miss., necessitating 24-hour security protection for him and his family. The toxic bigotry escalates as Penn's father, Tom, once a respected physician, goes on trial for the murder of his former nurse and one-time lover, Viola Turner, an African-American who was suffering from terminal cancer. Penn teams with Serenity Butler, a famous black author who plans to write about Tom's case. Together, they look into the secrets of the Cage family, the Double Eagles, and the South. Though a side plot about J.F.K.'s assassination stretches credibility, relentless pacing keeps the story churning, with unexpected brutality erupting on nearly every page. The trial scenes are among the most exciting ever written in the genre."

Jónasson, Ragnar. [Snowblind](#) (St Martins \$27). A bestseller in England making its U.S. debut, Jónasson's whodunit puts a lively, sophisticated spin on the Agatha Christie model, taking it down intriguing dark alley. The *NY Times* reviews: "Anyone toying with the idea of emigrating might consider Siglufjörður, the outermost village in the north of Iceland in this novel in a chilly translation by Quentin Bates. The story is set during the 2008 fiscal collapse; but since the boom never made it this far north, the crash doesn't make an impact either. Remote as it is,

Siglufjörður proves the ideal job posting for Ari Thor Arason, a former theology student who recently graduated from the police academy. Ari Thor may be naïve when it comes to affairs of the heart, but he shows intelligence and persistence in investigating the apparently accidental death of a local author. This classically crafted whodunit holds up nicely, but Jónasson's true gift is for describing the daunting beauty of the fierce setting..." The *PW* Starred Review adds: "This classically crafted whodunit holds up nicely, but Jónasson's true gift is for describing the daunting beauty of the fierce setting, lashed by blinding snowstorms that smother the village in 'a thick, white darkness' that is strangely comforting."

Kane, Ben. [Eagles in the Storm](#) (Random \$32). AD 15. The German chieftain Arminius has been defeated, one of the lost Roman eagles recovered, and thousands of German tribesmen slain. Yet these successes aren't nearly enough for senior centurion Lucius Tullus. Not until Arminius is dead, his old legion's eagle found and the enemy tribes completely vanquished will he rest. But Arminius – devious, fearless – is burning for revenge of his own. Charismatic as ever, he raises another large tribal army, which will harry the Romans the length and breadth of the land. Soon Tullus finds himself in a cauldron of bloodshed, treachery and danger. His mission to retrieve his legion's eagle will be his most perilous yet....

La Farge, Paul. [The Night Ocean](#) (Penguin \$28). We are so spoiled for choice this month. Here is yet another superb candidate for a Modern Firsts Editions Club Pick. You members, and anyone loving a brilliant, enjoyable yet challenging read, should grab this riveting novel about secrets and scandals, psychiatry and pulp fiction, inspired by the lives of H.P. Lovecraft and his circle. Marina Willett, M.D., has a problem. Her husband, Charlie, has become obsessed with H.P. Lovecraft, in particular with one episode in the legendary horror writer's life: In the summer of 1934, the "old gent" lived for two months with a gay teenage fan named Robert Barlow, at Barlow's family home in central Florida. What were the two of them up to? Were they friends—or something more? Just when Charlie thinks he's solved the puzzle, a new scandal erupts, and he disappears. The police say it's suicide. Marina is a psychiatrist, and she doesn't believe them. And so.... "The whole novel is framed as the account of the efforts of Charlie's devoted therapist wife to find her husband. Like Lovecraft's "The Call of Cthulhu," the novel consists of several sub-narratives, ranging widely in time and place. But instead of a revelation about humanity's diminished place in an impersonal universe, La Farge delivers insights into the human need to believe in stories and the nature of literary fame, while consistently upsetting readers' expectations."—Peter Cannon

✻Marston, Edward. [Date with the Executioner](#) (Allison \$45). The ever inventive Marston publishes his 3rd Bow Street Rivals Regency series. 1817. Dawn breaks on a summer's day in Chalk Farm, London, and the scene is set for a duel between a lady's two ardent admirers. Paul Skillen has been teaching Mark Bowerman how to shoot properly, and although he is not sanguine of his chances, stands as his second. Although the duel is broken up, the passions behind the duel seem to spill out into the full light of day when one of the two duelists is found dead, shot between the eyes. Paul and his twin Peter are determined to see justice done and are soon enmeshed in threads of inheritance, treachery and

fraud. **AND we can offer Signed copies of Bow Street Rivals #2: [Steps to the Gallows](#) (\$45).**

✻McCarthy, Rob. [A Handful of Ashes](#) (Hodder \$45). #2 in the London-set Dr Harry Kent series, the perfect mix of detective novel and medical drama. Susan Bayliss became notorious when she blew the whistle on her boss, a heart surgeon at a renowned children's hospital. She accused him of negligence, operations were stopped and an inquiry launched. In the end she was the one suspended as a troublemaker. Now Dr Harry Kent, a medical examiner with the Met Police, has been called out to certify her suicide. But something about the scene is wrong. Someone held Susan down... The grieving parents of the children who died demand answers. The hospital is stonewalling. Everyone has secrets – it's up to Harry and DCI Frankie Noble to find out which were worth killing for. Follows *The Hollow Men*. This London publisher likes bloke books like Peter Robinson's Inspector Alan Banks.

Mina, Denise. [The Long Drop](#) (Harvill \$32). William Watt wants answers about his family's murder. Peter Manuel has them. But Peter Manuel is a liar. William Watt is an ordinary businessman, a fool, a social climber. Peter Manuel is a famous liar, a rapist, a criminal. He claims he can get hold of the gun used to murder Watt's family. One December night in 1957, Watt meets Manuel in a Glasgow bar to find out what he knows..... Based on true events.

Pattison, Eliot. [The Skeleton God](#) (St Martins \$27). Pattison won a well-deserved Best First Novel Edgar Award for [Skull Mantra](#) (\$17.99), the first in his amazing and always surprising series set in Tibet. He "remains without peer at integrating a fair-play whodunit into a searing portrayal of life under an oppressive and capricious regime, as shown by his ninth Insp. Shan Tao Yun mystery. Shan, who lost his previous position after uncovering uncomfortable truths, now works as a constable in the secluded Tibetan town of Yangkar. Shan has done his best to stay off the radar of anyone in power, hoping that his diminished profile will enable less harsh treatment to continue for his imprisoned son, Ko." Then the arrival of a Chinese official disrupts Shan's life and worse, a surprising sound emanates from the tomb of a centuries-dead lama—a musical chant that is distinctly not Tibetan (it's Handel actually). Opening the tomb reveals two other corpses: one, a Chinese soldier who died decades earlier; the other, a Westerner, killed just hours before. The shocks for Shan don't end there. Both men seemed to have been murdered in exactly the same manner. Even readers unfamiliar with the physical and cultural devastation China has wrought in Tibet will find themselves engrossed—and moved—by Pattison's nuanced portrayal of an ancient society under ruthless siege. I'd like to make the Shan Tao Yun series required reading! [Order them all!](#)

Pearson, Ridley. [Kingdom Keepers: The Return Book Three: Disney at Last](#) (Disney \$19). Enjoy the finale of this hugely popular YA series set inside the world of Disneyland.

Post, Steph. [Lightwood](#) (Polis Books \$28). Patrick reviews his **March Hardboiled Crime Club Pick**: "I owe a debt to my pal Bobby McCue, fellow bookman from the now-defunct Mystery Bookstore in Los Angeles, for turning me on to this terrific novel featuring an irresistible mix of complicated families, crime, biker gangs and evangelical religion. Judah Cannon has just returned to his rural hometown of Silas, Florida after a three month stint



in prison. His options are limited and when his father approaches him with the offer of a new job, ripping off the Scorpions, a local motorcycle club, of a nice chunk of drug money, Judah slips back into the life. Complicating things is one Sister Tulah Atwell, the formidable pastor of a local charismatic Pentecostal church, who put up the money for the drug deal. When Tulah hears about the robbery, she vows to get biblical on both the Scorpions and the Cannon clan. Steph Post is one of the finest new writers I've come across in years, and her remarkably assured novel will invite comparisons to the best of Harry Crews, not to mention her contemporary peers David Joy and Brian Panowich."

Quirk, Matthew. [Dead Man Switch](#) (LittleBrown \$26). Out March 28, signed here April 13. A deadly fall on a rugged stretch of California coast. A home invasion gone wrong in Brittany. No one connects the killings because the victims are living under cover, their true identities closely-held secrets. They are members of America's most select kill/capture team, which combines special operations lethality with CIA tradecraft. They are the last line of defense against foreign threats, and someone is assassinating them one by one where they sleep, taking family and innocent bystanders to make the deaths seem like accidents. Captain John Hayes, a special operations legend, has left the military and spent the past year at home with his family. Once he uncovers the pattern behind the killings, he returns to the field to protect the men and women he once worked with. One of those women, Claire Sutherland, draws suspicion for her brilliant abilities as an assassin, and vanishes into thin air. Meanwhile, the attacks on Hayes's team members grow bolder and circle in on NY. Meet Hayes in Cold Barrel Zero (\$15.99), a 2016 Thriller Club Pick, filled with double-crosses, and government conspiracies.

✠Sansom, Ian. [Essex Poison](#) (Harper \$32). October 1937. Swanton Morley, the People's Professor, sets off to Essex to continue his history of England, The County Guides. Morley's daughter Miriam continues to cause chaos and his assistant Stephen Sefton continues to slide deeper into depression and despair. Morley is an honorary guest at the Colchester Oyster Festival. But when the mayor dies suddenly at the civic reception suspicion falls on his fellow councilors. Is it a case of food poisoning? Or? Join Morley, Miriam and Sefton on another journey into the dark heart of England.

Scalzi, John. [The Collapsing Empire](#) (Tor \$25.99). Scalzi opens a new series, setting up key players along the primary travel corridor of an empire overflowing with complex interactions among nobles, politicians, business interests, and an unstable physical environment. The Interdependency is a collection of far-flung, human-colonized, barely habitable planets strung together by the Flow, a naturally occurring, limited-access, faster-than-light network. The planets are governed by the concept of obligate mutual reliance and ruled by those who control access to the Flow, but a change to the Flow that would leave established planets isolated to die seems imminent. This would disrupt the plans of the ambitious noble Nohamapetan family, which is involved in a rebellion raging on the outermost planet of End. "Scalzi's storytelling centers on dynamic and quick-thinking players with strong personalities who engage in spirited social interactions, making the slightly dubious physics forgivable. Expect several future works set in this sprawling universe."

Shannon, Samantha. [Song Rising Collectors Edition](#) (Bloomsbury \$26). The third installment in Shannon's projected seven-book Bone Season series. In the near-future realm of Scion (an alternate universe version of England and eight other European nations), the ScionIDE military is poised to seek out and quarantine the so-called "unnaturals," people with psychic gifts. Though a prejudicial human bureaucracy fronts Scion, the strings are pulled by ethereal entities called the Rephaim, who exploit the clairvoyant captives as an expendable force against their enemies. 19-year-old dreamwalker and seventh-level clairvoyant Paige Mahoney now rules the London voyant underground as Underqueen and co-leads the Mime Order (an alliance between rebel Rephaim and voyants aiming to overthrow Scion.. Shannon expands the world of Scion effectively, showing the tyrannical atrocities the Rephaim's rule has inflicted outside London. Shannon's hybridized world combines sci-fi and fantasy as the perfect backdrop for a human rights thriller. "Shannon's exploration of a futuristic, perilous Europe remains engaging and evocative... The narrative is fueled by a constant sense of tension, as well as both internal and external conflict." -PW on her third dystopian fantasy. [Order all three here](#) and read in order.

✠Swanston, Andrew. [Incendium](#) (Bantam UK \$39). Fear of plague and insurrection taint the summer air of 1572, and heresy, fanaticism and religious unrest seethe while rumor and mistrust lead to imprisonment, torture, and sometimes murder. To the young lawyer Christopher Radcliff and his patron, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, the prospects for peace are poor. As Leicester's chief intelligencer, Radcliff is charged with investigating both rumors of rebellion at home and invasion from abroad. That the queen's own cousin, the Duke of Norfolk, is found guilty of treason; supporters of the imprisoned Mary Queen of Scots foment revolt, but the papist threat doesn't just come from within. Across the channel, France is being swept up in a frenzy of brutal and bloody religious persecution while Spain, makes preparations to invade. And Radcliffe is not only coping with the cut-throat world of court politics, he's in a turbulent relationship with a widow. And then a whisper of a plot that could provide a spark to the powder keg that is England reaches him. All he has to go on is a single word - *incendium*.

✠Thomson, ES. [Dark Asylum](#) (Constable \$45). 1851, Angel Meadow Asylum. Dr Rutherford, principal physician to the insane, is found dead, his head bashed in, his ears cut off, his lips and eyes stitched closed. The police direct their attention towards Angel Meadow's inmates, but to Jem Flockhart and Will Quartermain the crime is an act of calculated retribution, rather than of madness. To discover the truth Jem and Will must pursue the story through the darkest corners of the city - from the depths of a notorious rookery, to the sordid rooms of London's brothels, the gallows, the graveyard, the convict fleet and then back to the asylum. Dark historical fiction, the sequel to 2016 History Mystery Club Pick [Beloved Poison](#) (Pegasus \$25.95) which has drawn fine reviews in its US edition.

✠Underdown, Beth. [The Witchfinder's Sister](#) (Viking UK \$32). *The number of women my brother Matthew killed, so far as I can reckon it, is one hundred and six...* 1645. When Alice Hopkins' husband dies in a tragic accident, she has no choice but to return to the small Essex town of Manningtree, where her brother Matthew still lives. But home is no longer a place of safety. Matthew

has changed, and there are rumors spreading through the town: whispers of witches, and of a great book, in which her brother is gathering women's names. To what lengths will her brother's obsession drive him? And what choice will Alice make, when she finds herself at the very heart of his plan?

### BRTISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSIC

Bude, John. [The Cheltenham Square Murder](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). In the seeming tranquility of Regency Square in Cheltenham live the diverse inhabitants of its ten houses. One summer's evening, the square's rivalries and allegiances are disrupted by a sudden and unusual death – an arrow to the head, shot through an open window at no. 6. Unfortunately for the murderer, an invitation to visit had just been sent by the crime writer Aldous Bernet, staying with his sister at no. 8, to his friend Superintendent Meredith. Three days after his arrival, Meredith finds himself investigating the shocking murder two doors down. Six of the square's inhabitants are keen members of the Wellington Archery Club, but if Meredith thought that the case was going to be easy to solve, he was wrong. The Cheltenham Square Murder is a classic example of how John Bude (1901-57) builds a drama within a very specific location. Here the Regency splendor of Cheltenham provides the perfect setting for a story in which appearances are certainly deceiving. [Other BLCCs by Bude](#) *The Cornish Coast Murder; The Lake District Murder; The Sussex Downs Murder; Death on the Riviera*, all in stock.

#### Other classics

Farjeon, J Jefferson. [The House Opposite](#) (Harper \$12.99). From the Collins Crime Club archive, the first original novel to feature Ben the Cockney tramp, the unorthodox detective character created by J. Jefferson Farjeon, author of 2015 bestseller [Mystery in White](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95).

### A NEW POISONED PEN PRESS CLASSIC

DiBiase, Diane D., ed. [Bound by Mystery](#) (Poisoned Pen 18.95). Celebrating 20 years of PPP, many of its authors contribute original stories including: Kerry Greenwood, Laurie R. King, James Sallis, the long-missing Tim Maleeny (illness), and our two new Australians Sulari Gentill and J.M. Donellan (who mentions sacrificing a kangaroo to celebrate publishing with PPP... no wait, kidding...). Great cover design for this large paperback too. *Publishers Weekly*, the primary book review forum (other than newspapers like the *NY Times*) gives this anthology a Boxed Review:

“This wide-ranging anthology boasts 34 entertaining new stories from novelists published by Poisoned Pen, the pioneer small press devoted to mysteries. The locations of the tales, a few of which are not mysteries, are as varied as the provenance of their authors, and include Canada (Vicki Delany's “Her Mama's Pearls”), Australia (Sulari Gentill's “The Stranding”), Italy (David P. Wagner's “Disguise”), and England (Zoe Burke's “Game, Set, Match”). The periods vary, too, from Ancient Roman times (Jane Finniss' “Wild by Name, Wild by Nature”) and the Byzantine era (Mary Reed and Eric Mayer's “Time's Revenge”) to the Great Depression (Reavis



Z. Wortham's “Gold Digger”) and the contemporary (Steven Axelrod's “Nantucket Plunder”). A preface from each contributor describes how he or she came to be associated with Poisoned Pen. These serve as the volume's unifying thread, offering readers a peek behind the curtain at the trials and tribulations of fledgling writers. Some of these brief intros are outright love letters to the editors who helped shape the authors' ideas. Cheers to Poisoned Pen on its 20th anniversary!” Some authors will sign copies on May 7 at the PPP 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary party.

### FIRST IN SERIES BOOKS FROM POISONED PEN PRESS

#### New editions priced at \$9.99

Casey, Donis. [The Old Buzzard Had It Coming](#) Alafair Tucker #1 set in 1900s Oklahoma in a story given a rave by Tony Hillerman and Carolyn Hart

Evans, Mary Anna. [Artifacts](#) Faye Longchamp #1 set in Florida's Ten Thousand Isles. See Event Books for the new Faye

Ifkovic, Ed. [Lone Star](#). Introduction by David Morrell. 1955 Hollywood where Edna Ferber is on set with James Dean et al during the filming of her novel *Giant*. See New Books for the new Ferber.

Ramsay, Frederick. [Artscape](#) Ike Schwartz #1 where the Pickettsville, Virginia Sheriff realizes the local women's college has more than mere history in a Cold War bunker

✚Royal, Priscilla. [Wine of Violence](#) Introduction by Sharon Kay Penman. Medieval Murder #1 finds the young and new Prioress Eleanor wrestling with murder in Norfolk and her own attachment to the mysterious monk Brother Thomas

Webb, Betty. [Desert Noir](#) Lena Jones #1 introduces the Scottsdale private eye who is faced with a murder on Main Street (right outside the original location of The Poisoned Pen) and ends up testing her desert survival skills.

### SUDDENLY (MORE) SHERLOCK

*To go with the Lyndsay Faye Holmes stories in Event Books, these:*

Life, editors. [The Complete Sherlock Holmes](#) (Life \$13.95). With season 4 of the popular Benedict Cumberbatch series, Sherlock, airing on BBC One—and another Robert Downey movie about the great detective in the works—LIFE offers a colorful look back on the life and career of the immortal sleuth, along with a biography of his remarkable creator, Arthur Conan Doyle. Did you know that Holmes was based on a real person? Or that Doyle came to hate him? Or that the writer solved more than a few real-life mysteries himself? You'll find that and much more in this entertaining, immersive, informative new book.

Millett, Larry. [Sherlock Holmes and the Eisendorf Enigma](#) (U of Minn \$25.95). “Holmes returns to center stage in Millett's outstanding eighth historical set in Minnesota after playing a supporting role in 2014's *Strongwood*. In 1892, Holmes, who was believed to have perished in a struggle with Professor Moriarty, found himself in Bavaria, where he speedily identified a killer called the Monster of Munich, though his quarry escaped. In 1920, the detective, who's battling emphysema caused by decades of smoking, is about to return to London from a visit to the Mayo Clinic, when he discovers a taunting note under his hotel room door. The anonymous author of the cryptic missive promises him

a second chance to catch the Monster of Munich if Holmes will meet him in nearby Eisendorf, a community founded by German immigrants. Before arriving in the eccentric town, Holmes learns of some recent suspicious deaths, which, despite his declining health, he also attempts to solve. Millett does a superb job of portraying Holmes without the familiar Watsonian narration and creating a creepy setting for his inquiries.”—*PW* Starred Review

#### OUR MARCH LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Armstrong, Kelly. [City of the Lost](#) (\$15.99). This series starts with a nifty concept, a twist on witness protection run as a for-profit haven somewhere in the Yukon where the geography and weather and forest provide extra barriers. Homicide detective Casey Duncan has found her way there: when in college she killed the grandson of a mobster who is never going to let taking revenge go. Her best friend Diana is also on the run from an abusive ex. The two get to Rockport and where Casey is not welcome until the town council suddenly needs her—Rockport has its first real murder.... “The town of Rockton’s strong, atmospheric presence will interest readers of Armstrong’s Cainsville series and appeal to new readers, particularly fans of C.J. Box.” —*LJ*. Continue with [Darkness Absolute](#) (St Martin’s \$25.99) which I like even better! Think Anna Pigeon by Barr as well as Box characters and landscape.

Coben, Harlan. [Home](#) (\$16). Ten years ago two boys were snatched, ransoms demanded from their wealthy families...and then, nothing. Ten years of silence. And now Myron Bolitar and his awesome friend Win locate one of the youths and rescue him. So the question is, where has he been? Taken by whom? And, most critically what can he tell them about the other missing boy? Coben delivers one of his knockout punches with this first Bolitar in five years.

✎Faye, Lyndsay. [Jane Steele](#) (\$16). *USA Today* describes this reimagining of *Jane Eyre* with a new, mesmerizing voice and tributes to the original as “sheer mayhem meets Victorian propriety.” The sensitive orphan suffers the spite and cruelty of relatives and grim boarding school until she escapes to London, leaving a trail of corpses behind her. When her aunt dies and her childhood home gains a new master, a Mr. Thornfield, who seeks a governess, the youthful serial killer answers the advert....

Fesperman, Dan. [The Letter Writer](#) (\$16). I have devoured every Fesperman from his award-winning 1999 First Mystery Club Pick [Lie in the Dark](#) (\$14) to this gem. Rich in character and atmosphere, reminiscent of Graham Greene and Ambler, the plots reflect the reporter’s superior research skills as they range around the globe. This story opens in February, 1942 New York when an ocean liner is in flames in the harbor. Woodrow Cain, up from NC and new to the NYPD, then makes contact with one “Danziger” who may be able to help Cain identify a body found floating in the Hudson.... “Fesperman’s troop of characters, historic and fictional, makes New York come alive with conspiracy and mystery. A Sherlock-like creation... the story kicks into thriller overdrive.” —*Kirkus*. The WWII alliance between the Mafia and the U.S. government has been explored in crime fiction before... but never in such compelling fashion as Fesperman does here... What makes this novel shine is the way Fesperman combines it with the mobsters-as-patriots angle and with the rich character of the letter writer. A multifaceted mix of mystery and historical fiction.”—*Booklist*.

Goldsborough, R. [Murder, Stage Left](#) (Mysterious \$14.99). A fellow orchid connoisseur, Lewis Hewitt, tells the sedentary sleuth Nero Wolfe that a friend, Roy Breckenridge, needs Wolfe’s help. Lewis’ offer of some rare flowers is enough to get Wolfe to meet Breckenridge, who’s both producing and directing the hit show *Death at Cresthaven*, a murder mystery. The impresario is uneasy about something regarding the production that he can only articulate as a vague “tension.” Wolfe hits on the idea of sending his able leg man, Archie Goodwin, undercover. Posing as a Canadian theatrical journalist, Archie interviews the cast and crew for a purported article. He manages to get some information but not enough to prevent a fatal poisoning and his being suspected of culpability. “Even die-hard Rex Stout fans will have a hard time distinguishing Goldsborough’s prose and plotting from the originals.”—*PW* Starred Review

Goodman, Carol. [The Widow’s House](#) (Harper \$15.99). A Hudson River Gothic embraces a crumbling mansion and neurotic writers, revealing at least some of the Hammett Prize winner’s thoughts on the creative process—and its roadblocks. Clare Martin and her husband, Jess, author of a bestseller ten years back, sell their twice-mortgaged Brooklyn loft and move to Concord on the Hudson (Goodman’s usual landscape) where Clare grew up and the couple attended college. They can’t afford to buy a home, so they accept jobs as caretakers of River House, their former writing professor’s dilapidated mansion. At first, the change in scenery proves beneficial to them both; stalled author Jess begins making progress on his next book, and the estate’s blood-soaked history inspires Clare to write a novel of her own. But when Clare starts seeing ghostly figures and hearing cries in the night, readers will be forced to wonder whether River House is actually haunted or Clare is suffering a mental breakdown. “Though the story’s setting and tone pay homage to such authors as Edgar Allan Poe, Shirley Jackson, and Charlotte Perkins Gilman, the fresh plot and modern characters give this twisty contemporary gothic a timeless feel.” Goodman is an elegant, imaginative writer and this is one of her best.

✎Griffiths, Elly. [The Woman in Blue](#) (\$14.99). We had a run on the tantalizing Ruth Galloway mysteries in February when Deborah Crombie joined me in praising them. An atmospheric Norfolk setting, quirky characters, relationships that tangle beyond most imaginings, the thrill of archaeological discoveries and penetrating local history, academic politics—it’s all there book to book. This one kicks off when a vision of the Virgin Mary foreshadows a string of cold-blooded murders beginning with a body dumped in a ditch, revealing a dark current of religious fanaticism in Walsingham, once a medieval pilgrimage site. Best to [read them in order](#) starting with *The Crossing Places*. And enjoy the rich cast of characters and their developing stories.

Hallinan, Timothy. [King Maybe](#) (\$15.95). The Junior Bender books are staff favorites, especially with Tracy and Pat King. Los Angeles’s most talented burglar is in the middle of stealing one of the world’s rarest stamps from a professional killer when his luck suddenly turns sour. It takes an unexpected assist to get him out alive, but his escape sets off a chain reaction of blackmail, strong-arming, and escalating crime. By the time Junior is forced to commit his third burglary of the week—in the impregnable fortress that’s home to the ruthless studio mogul called King Maybe—he’s beginning to wish he’d just let the killer take a crack at him. Hallinan has drawn raves for the newest Bernie, [Fields Where They Lay](#) (\$25.95 Signed).

✂Harris, CS. [When Falcons Fall](#) (\$15.95). The 11<sup>th</sup> elegant Sebastian St-Cyr Regency Era mystery takes the Viscount (aka Devlin) out of London to Ayleswick-on-Teme, a Shropshire village to honor a slain friend. This peaceful enterprise is interrupted by the discovery of the body of a young widow along the banks of the Teme. The local magistrate turns to Devlin for help. Devlin soon discovers that the widow was hiding her true identity—and she was not the first young beauty in the village to be murdered... For the 12<sup>th</sup> in the series, see Signed Books; Harris will sign it here on April 22.

Kerr, Philip. [The Other Side of Silence](#) (\$16). Bernie is living quietly under a false identity at Cap Ferrat, where he is a concierge in a grand hotel, living a quiet life in his formal morning coat. And mourning his departed wife. Then a beautiful blonde (so Chandler) approaches him asking, it finally surfaces, for an entrée through his bridge foursome to the notoriously reclusive W. Somerset Maugham, himself a bridge fiend, who lives nearby. At first, Bernie thinks he is dealing with nothing more than an ambitious writer. But, once admitted into the writer's magnificent villa, Bernie is asked by Maugham to negotiate with a blackmailer, one of Bernie's most hated nemeses from the war years. The man possesses a photo that confirms the rampant homosexuality of Maugham and his crowd. But the stakes are higher because the real purpose of the blackmail is not a cash payoff but to expose an unknown Soviet mole at the highest levels of MI6. In short, we've arrived at the Cambridge... Five? But maybe the purpose of all this is not to expose and mole but to protect one. Based in part on historical fact about Maugham's role as a spy and the infamous ring of traitors within British intelligence as well as a man rumored to be one but never confirmed, Kerr's story is as plausible as it is ingenious, spellbinding, and moving. I swear he gets better book to book; this one is incredible! And he signs a new Gunther, [Prussian Blue](#) (Putnam \$27) here on April 11, rumored to be even more fabulous.

Lawton, John. [The Unfortunate Englishman](#) (\$16). Having shot someone in what he believed was self-defense in the chaos of 1963 Berlin, Joe Wilderness finds himself locked up with little chance of escape. But an official pardon through his father-in-law Burne-Jones, a senior agent at MI6, means he is free to go—although forever in Burne-Jones's service. His newest operation will take him back to Berlin, which is now the dividing line between the West and the Soviets. A backstory of innocence and intrigue unravels, one in which Wilderness is in and out of Berlin and Vienna like a jack-in-the-box. When the Russians started building the Berlin wall in 1961, two unfortunate Englishmen were trapped on opposite sides. Geoffrey Masefield in the Lubyanka, and Bernard Alleyn (alias KGB Captain Leonid Liubimov) in Wormwood Scrubs. In 1965 there is a new plan. To exchange the prisoners, a swap upon Berlin's bridge of spies. Here's a thrilling tale of Khrushchev, Kennedy, a spy exchange... and ten thousand bottles of fine Bordeaux. What can possibly go wrong?

Miranda, Megan. [All the Missing Girls](#) (\$16). It's been ten years since Nicolette Farrell left her rural hometown after her best friend, Corinne, disappeared from Cooley Ridge without a trace. Back again to tie up loose ends and care for her ailing father, Nic is soon plunged into a shocking drama that reawakens Corinne's case and breaks open old wounds long since stitched. The decade-old investigation focused on Nic, her brother Daniel, boyfriend Tyler, and Corinne's boyfriend Jackson. Since then,

only Nic has left Cooley Ridge. Daniel and his wife, Laura, are expecting a baby; Jackson works at the town bar; and Tyler is dating Annaleise Carter, Nic's younger neighbor and the group's alibi the night Corinne disappeared. Then, within days of Nic's return, Annaleise goes missing. Told backwards—Day 15 to Day 1—from the time Annaleise goes missing, Nic works to unravel the truth about her younger neighbor's disappearance, revealing shocking truths... Miranda signs [The Perfect Stranger](#) (Simon-Schuster \$25) here on April 22 along with 7 other authors from 1:00-4:00 PM.

✂Prebble, Stuart. [The Insect Farm](#) (\$15.99). I didn't expect to enjoy a book with this title but it is one of my favorite British Crime Club Picks (the hardcover). It's creepy and terrific—and a wonderful book both about brothers and about what it's like to take responsibility for a mentally disabled child/adult. But it's more Gothic than mystery even though there is a murder that both warps one brother's life and creates part of the punch-in-the-gut ending. The Maguire brothers grew up in suburban Croydon, southeast of London, in a house with a typical shed in the garden. But the simple elder brother Roger's obsession is insects and the shed is his habitat/playground. Jonathan is used to the family dynamic of watching out for Roger, and Roger has proved he can watch out for Jonathan (as against, say, school bullies). In time, Jonathan's obsession becomes his wife Harriet. As Roger's insect farm becomes more complex, suggesting he is doing so as well, Jonathan's marriage does too. Their parents die in a fire. There's a murder. And then come real surprises. Recommended by Jeffery Deaver, David Morrell, and Lee Child as well as by me.

Vidich, Paul. [An Honorable Man](#) (\$16). A worthy 2016 First Mystery Club Pick caught my eye with its title, which proved to be American, not British, but fit its era: the Cold War. Its' 1953 DC. McCarthyism is raging and Stalin's death signals a power vacuum in the Soviet Union. And the CIA is reeling from clear evidence of a double agent selling secrets to the Soviets, compromising missions round the world, facilitating assassinations and curtailing goals. The Director knows the mole's code name is Protocol. George Mueller would be perfect to help nail the traitor. Yale-educated, experienced in Eastern Europe, an op so dedicated he's sacrificed his marriage. But Mueller has secrets of his own, secrets that may bring suspicion ruinously to his door. Vidich reminds me of Joe Kanon in his work. "This looks like the launch of a great career in spy fiction." —*Booklist* Starred Review. "A moody debut spy novel inspired by real events... Dead-on Cold War fiction. Noir to the bone." —*Kirkus Reviews*. A new Vidich set in 1958 Cuba, [The Good Assassin Signed](#) (Atria \$25) will be here in April.

## BOOKS EVOKING IRELAND FOR MARCH

If March evokes your inner Irish, check out books in our web-store, or in store, by authors like Benjamin Black/John Banville, John Connolly's non-Charlie Parker novels, Adrian McKinty, Stuart Neville, Patrick Taylor...and for historicals, Cora Harrison and Peter Tremayne.

Barry, Sebastian. [Days Without End](#) (Viking \$26). Irish immigrant Thomas McNulty and his love, beautiful John Cole, meet as homeless boys and share a lifetime of violence and deprivation, adventure and affection. In spite of their suffering, Thomas's first-person narration sings with wonder at the beauty of the world and their place in it. "We were two wood-shavings of

humanity in a rough world,” Thomas reflects on their striking out together “in the enterprise of continuing survival.” He and New England-born John find work in costume as saloon dancers for miners delighted to pay for a waltz or a foxtrot. They outgrow that job and join the army on the Oregon Trail, desperately seeking a secure future.

Bowen, Rhys. [Time of Fog and Fire](#) (\$16.99). Irish immigrant Molly Murphy, now Sullivan, and her NYPD Captain husband Daniel navigate both his assignment to the Secret Service and her rushed travel to San Francisco where he may be in danger—and sending her a possible SOS. This whole series showcases the Irish experience in America. [Order it all.](#)

Lally, Caitriona. [Eggshells](#) (Melville House, \$16.99). “Whimsical and different, this novel’s humor hooked me. Vivian is an eccentric, living in Dublin and searching for a place where she can feel she belongs. How can you help but love a character who checks every wardrobe for Narnia and every yellow road for an Emerald City? This novel movingly explores the outcasts and the different among us, showing that they are only hoping to fit in and find a friend.”

Lewis, Erika. [Game of Shadows](#) (Tor \$25.99). A fantasy time-jump debut drawing on ancient Irish legends. See Event Books.

McKinty, Adrian. [Police at the Station and They Don’t Look Friendly](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). The Sean Duffy novels set in and around Belfast where’s he’s with the police have evoked admiration from readers, reviewers, and authors like Ian Rankin and Don Winslow. Patrick and I are serious fans and this latest Duffy is, again, remarkable in its narrative voice, the events that transpire, and McKinney’s evocation of the place and its devastating politics. The book opens in 1988 with Duffy haven fallen into a trap and being led through the woods to his IRA execution, and ends... well, that would be a spoiler. Along the way he rushes to the scene of a man killed with a bolt from a crossbow. McKinty now lives in Australia so we haven’t seen him at The Pen recently. [Order the Duffys here.](#)

### SOME NEW BOOKS FOR MARCH

Albanese, Laurie Lico. [Stolen Beauty](#) (Atria \$26). If you warmed to the film *Woman in Gold* or fancy the work of Gustav Klimt, then visit 1903 Vienna where Adele Bloch Bauer—brilliant, young, lovely, and Jewish—meets him. His renegade genius, does it awake her to erotic possibilities as the tide of anti-Semitism and right-wing politics begins to rise? Still, Adele’s circle was making the world modern. Some 40 years later her niece Maria Altmann is a newlywed as the Nazis march into Austria. Vienna becomes a war zone, her husband is arrested, her parents forced from their home? Will any of them escape? And what will become of her aunt’s paintings? Albanese entwines the story of the two women over the course of over a century in a lush yet provocative novel highlighting Women’s History Month.

Allebeury, Ted. [The Twentieth Day of January](#) (Dover \$12.95). This classic Cold War novel, released, recently shot to the top of the U.K. e-book spy fiction bestseller list, earning the #1 spot in January. The book is set in 1980 as, seemingly out of nowhere, wealthy businessman Logan Powell has become President-elect and is weeks away from assuming the most powerful position in the world. Across the Atlantic, veteran British intelligence agent James MacKay uncovers evidence that suggests something

might be wrong with the election. With the help of a reluctant CIA, MacKay sets out on a dangerous and daring mission.... Out March 20.

Baldacci, David. [No Man’s Land](#) (\$15.99). Special Agent John Puller’s mother 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...until now.

Barnes, Julian. [The Sense of an Ending](#) (Vintage \$15). A movie tie-in edition for the release of the film on March 7 drawn from this Man Booker Prize winner.

⌘Bauer, Belinda. [Finders Keepers](#) (\$16). Enjoy “Surprise bubbling explosively away” in Bauer’s thriller about an alarming spree of kidnappings in the southwest of England. The eight-year-old boy had vanished from the car and-as if by slick, sick magic-had been replaced by a note on the steering wheel: ‘You don’t love him.’ At the height of summer a dark shadow falls across Exmoor, as children begin to disappear, with each disappearance marked only by a terse, accusatory note. There are no explanations, no ransom demands, and no hope. Policeman Jonas Holly (a character returning from Bauer’s first two novels) faces a precarious journey into the warped mind of the kidnapper if he’s to stand any chance of catching him. But-still reeling from a personal tragedy-is Jonas really up to the task?

Blake, James Carlos. [Borderlands: Short Fictions](#) (\$16). Blake writes of borderlands of mixed blood and spilled blood, of generations forged in fight, failure, and hope, from the 19th Century Mexican frontier to the borderlands of today. .

⌘Brett, Simon. [Mrs. Pargeter’s Public Relation](#) (Severn \$28.99). Mrs. Pargeter is at a charity reception, where she meets a woman who claims to be her late husband’s sister. This encounter leads to digging into past secrets, the discovery of a body, visiting Greece and danger for Mrs. Pargeter, as she learns the true nature of charity and the dubious skills by which Public Relations can make evil look good. Ordered Upon Request.

Brodrick, William. [The Day of the Lie](#) (Overlook \$27.95). I have not yet read this entry in a series I admire, so I quote the publisher: Father Anselm receives a visit from an old friend with a dangerous story to tell—the story of a revolutionary in Eastern Europe during the icy grip of the Cold War. As a young woman, Roza Mojeska was part of an underground resistance group in Communist Poland. Betrayed by someone close to her, someone still unknown, she was sent to the dark of a government prison and forced to make a terrible choice that would haunt her to this day. Now, decades later, Father Anselm peels back years of history, decades of secrets, a half-century of lies, in order to expose a truth that victim and torturer would keep hidden.

New in paperback: [The Discourtesy of Death](#) (\$16.95). An anonymous letter accuses a prominent academic, Peter Henderson, of a grotesque murder: the calculated killing of Jenny, his disabled partner, believed by everyone to have died peacefully two years ago. Jenny was spared a long and painful illness. Knowing the truth behind the soothing lie, Father Anselm, former barrister, current clergyman, must move cautiously to expose the killer and the killing without harming young Timothy, Jenny and

Peter's son. But Jenny's father is looking out for his grandson, and he is capable of anything if he thinks it's for the best. He has set out to execute Peter.... An intricate and layered story.

Brown, Taylor. [River of Kings](#) (St Martins \$25.99). The Altamaha River, Georgia's "Little Amazon," is one of the last truly wild places in America. Crossed by roads only five times in its 137 miles, the black-water river is home to thousand-year-old virgin cypress, direct descendants of eighteenth-century Highland warriors, and a staggering array of rare and endangered species. The Altamaha is even rumored to harbor its own river monster, as well as traces of the oldest European fort in North America. Brothers Hunter and Lawton Loggins set off to kayak the river, bearing their father's ashes toward the sea. Hunter is a college student, Lawton a Navy SEAL on leave; they were raised by an angry, enigmatic shrimper who loved the river, and whose death remains a mystery that his sons are determined to solve. As the brothers proceed downriver, their story alternates with that of Jacques le Moyne, the first European artist in North America, who accompanied a 1564 French expedition that began as a search for riches and ended in a bloody confrontation with Spanish conquistadors and native tribes. Twining past and present in one compelling narrative, and illustrated with drawings that survived the 1564 expedition. This may be Georgia rather than Florida but Brown's novel, likened to *Deliverance*, makes a companion read to the new Randy Wayne White in Event Books. Recommended by, among others, David Joy and Michael Farris Smith.

Childs, Laura. [Pekoe Most Poison](#) (Berkley \$26). There's no way to escape the Cabot Cove comparison—how can the owner of a delicious tea shop in Charleston, SC, constantly be confronted with murder—but, who cares? The tea rituals and food are delicious although calling an invitation to a "Rat Tea" makes one uneasy. As servers dressed in rodent costumes and wearing white gloves offer elegant finger sandwiches and fine teas, Theodosia Browning of the Indigo Tea Shop learns these parties date back to early twentieth-century Charleston, where the cream of society would sponsor so-called rat teas to promote city rodent control and better public health. But this party goes from odd to chaotic when a fire starts at one of the tables and Doreen's entrepreneur husband suddenly goes into convulsions and drops dead. Has his favorite orange pekoe tea been poisoned? Theo smells a rat! Binge your way [through this series](#).

Chodosh, Janie. [Code Red](#) (Poisoned Pen \$10.95). After nailing the murderer of her addict mom and proving that her detractors are full of it, seventeen-year-old Faith Flores is back for another kick-ass science mystery. She's proud to be chosen for a summer internship at a research lab in Santa Fe, New Mexico, but once she arrives, complications abound. For one thing, Santa Fe is the birthplace of the father she's never met, and for another, she clashes with a local environmentalist trying to pull the plug on the genetically modified chiles her new boss is engineering. She and violin prodigy, Clem, learn of a new teen drug called liquid gold while discreetly researching the family angle. The chip on Faith's shoulder is still there, but so is her determination to uncover the truth when a girl she meets at a party dies from an overdose of liquid gold. A read for teens that follows [Death Spiral](#) (\$10.95).

Dipucchio, Kelly. [Antoinette](#) (SimonSchuster \$17.99). For all dog lovers, an adorable picture book. One day, while Antoinette plays in the park with her friend Gaston, Gaston's sister Ooh-La-La goes missing. Antoinette feels a tug in her heart and a twitch in her nose. She must find Ooh-La-La. She will not give up! Can Antoinette rescue the puppy in peril—and discover what makes her extra special along the way? Beneath this poodle's fluffy exterior lies a hero's heart. Ages 4-8 (and grown-ups too).

Dobyns, Stephen. [Saratoga Payback](#) (Blue Rider \$27). It's been years since Charlie Bradshaw worked a case. Now that he's is a regular Saratoga civilian—the cops revoked his PI license—life is a little boring. But trouble won't leave this senior citizen (not seen since 1998's *Saratoga Strongbox*) alone, and in Dobyns' 11th series installment, it literally turns up on Bradshaw's front lawn in the form of a dead man, who is none other than Saratoga's most annoying resident. Charlie's crime-solving instincts run deep and even without the proper license, he starts poking around in the murder investigation. Saratoga is a nifty setting for fiction.

Dunant, Sarah. [In the Name of the Family](#) (Random \$28). Renaissance doyenne Dunant (*Blood and Beauty*) turns her sights once again on the Borgia family. Pope Alexander VI is firmly entrenched in his powerful position, consumed with revenge against his enemies. His ambitious son, Cesare—with access to the church coffers—is spurred to take over more and more of Italy's city-states, no matter the cost in money or lives, and his daughter, Lucrezia, a pawn in the power-hungry plans of her family, makes her own mark on 16th-century Italy. As the Borgia clan extends its reach, whether through bloody confrontations or cunning behind-the-scenes maneuvering, historian and diplomat Niccolò Machiavelli has a front-row seat for the various machinations, observing their stunning moves while advising his superiors in Florence how to deal with the changing political climes.... This is a fascinating era but how I wish Dunant would return to writing mysteries!

☞Emerson, Kathy Lynn. [Murder in a Cornish Alehouse](#): (Severn \$28.99). June, 1584. The death of Sir Walter Pendennis prompts Rosamond Jaffrey to go Cornwall, where her half-brother and mother are. There she discovers that Sir Walter was murdered and works with Sir Francis Walsingham to unmask the killer. Rosamond's investigations lead her into a maelstrom of smuggling, piracy—and and rumors of treason. Ordered Upon Request.

☞Emmerson, Miranda. [Miss Treadway and the Field of Stars](#) (Harper \$26.99). . "How do you find a missing actress in a world where everyone is trying to hide? Fabulous depiction of a London where the 'Swinging Sixties' hides a darker more complicated story of prejudice and struggle. I loved the strong women and evocative writing from an author offering more questions than clues."—H Helen Simonson, author of *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*

Furst, Alan. [A Hero of France](#) (\$16). Not my favorite Furst. It begins in Paris, March 1941, and works its way to August. The Germans occupy the City of Light and the Resistance grows. Mathieu runs a cell and faces off against multiple threats including German police Inspector Otto Broehm whose specific mission is to destroy Mathieu's cell. The period detail is as ever well done. But I go with reviewer Tom Carson of *GQ* who wrote a brilliant

critique of this book. My favorite line in it: “At some point, you start to wonder: if these people and their activities are so inconsequential, why are we spending time with them? For that matter, why is Furst?” On the other hand, the *PW* reviewer gave it a Star, so books strike different people... differently.

George, Margaret. [The Confessions of Young Nero](#) (Berkley \$28) asks what responsibilities a leader has to his people, especially if the demands of leadership interfere with personal happiness. Is it selfish to engage in supposedly frivolous pursuits that give your life meaning? Nero’s philosophy is simple: “...I want the maximum of happy moments...” In retrospect, Nero’s major folly seems to be in thinking of himself as a person, rather than the living embodiment of the state.”

Gill, John Freeman. [The Gargoyle Hunters](#) (Knopf \$27.95). In 1974, with both his family and his city fracturing, thirteen-year-old Griffin Watts is recruited into his estranged father’s illicit and dangerous architectural salvage business. Small and nimble, Griffin is charged with stealing exuberantly expressive 19th-century architectural sculptures—gargoyles—right off the faces of unsung tenements and iconic skyscrapers all over town. As his father explains it, these gargoyles, carved and cast by immigrant artisans during the city’s architectural glory days, are an endangered species in this era of sweeping urban renewal. Desperate both to connect with his father and to raise cash to pay the mortgage on the brownstone where Griffin lives with his mother and sister, he is slow to recognize that his father’s deepening obsession with preserving the architectural treasures of *Beaux Arts New York* is also a destructive force, imperiling Griffin’s friendships, his relationship with his very first girlfriend, and even his life. Maybe loss, he reflects, is the only thing no one can ever take away from you. “In the spirit of Jonathan Lethem and J. D. Salinger, Gill strips the mask off New York City” in his debut novel.

Giolito, Malin Persson. [Quicksand](#) (Other Press \$25.95). The subject matter prompts varied reactions to the English-language debut of the Swedish novelist. *LJ* gives it a Star: “This startling and compelling ...debut...centers on the plight of 18-year old Maja Norberg, who stands accused in the mass shooting deaths of her teacher and several of her friends and classmates at the private school she attended. Is Maja truly responsible for this tragedy or was she coerced into participating by her boyfriend, who was among those who died? In a voice that deftly portrays teen bravado, distrust, and naivety, Maja narrates a tale that interweaves her daily life in jail, her experiences in the courtroom, and her drug-influenced memories of the shooting, its antecedents, and its aftermath. Giolito has created a superb unreliable narrator, one who forces readers to search for the truth within the emotionally charged commentary as Maya attempts to examine her situation objectively and prepare for a harrowing final outcome. Brilliantly conceived and executed, this extraordinary legal thriller is not to be missed by fans of the genre.”

Gray, Rosemary. [London](#) (Pan \$12.99). An illustrated, small London literary companion in hardcover: diary entries, with quotations, poems, essays and extracts from great works written in its honor.

Gundar-Goshen, Ayelet. [Waking Lions](#) (Little Brown \$26). This is more a Ruth Rendell novel of suspense turning on a deadly mistake and compounding it. The *PW* Starred Review: “A moment’s

inattention upends multiple lives in Gundar-Goshen’s powerful thriller, the Israeli author’s first novel to be published in the U.S. When Dr. Eitan Green uncovered corruption at the hospital he worked at in Tel Aviv, he was forced to take a less desirable position in Beersheba in the Negev desert. Now, after a too-long shift at Beersheba’s Soroka Hospital, an exhausted Eitan glances at the Moon in his rearview window during his drive home. While his eyes are off the road, he strikes an Eritrean man, who suffers a skull fracture. Unable to do anything to save the man’s life, the guilt-ridden Eitan flees. His nightmare worsens when the victim’s wife appears at his home, bearing the wallet he dropped at the scene of the hit-and-run. He agrees to give her fellow Eritreans medical treatment at night in exchange for her keeping silent about his role in her husband’s death. The arrangement forces Eitan to lie to his police detective wife, who has been looking into the fatality. The psychological complications match the plot...”

Hinger, Charlotte. [Fractured Families](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). “Featuring a crime spree and a murderer, both as cold as the Midwestern winter setting, this whodunit will burn like frostbite.”—*LJ*. It’s the Garden of Eden. And the weather is absolutely freezing! The discovery of the body of a young man inside the mausoleum of the Civil War veteran who commissioned this bizarre sculpture park makes the blood of Undersheriff Lottie Albright and her husband’s Aunt Dorothy run cold. Dorothy Mercer, paying a visit to Western Kansas from Manhattan, may be a bestselling mystery novelist, but she is truly shocked confronting murder firsthand. But the real bone-chiller is yet to come. With snow coming on, Lottie and Dorothy act quickly to preserve the crime scene while awaiting the arrival of Sheriff Sam Adams. Eyes, and boots, on the ground, they measure and photograph underneath the park’s bizarre parade of tree-high sculptures. Why would they look up? Reaching Woman stands some forty feet in the air, trapped in stone. And in her arms—a ghastly bundle. It takes the sharp eyes of the old sheriff to spot her burden. It breaks all hearts when it’s brought to earth, a second body, so fresh, so frozen, so forlorn. Lottie, transitioning from local historian to the politicking necessary to organize a regional crime center, is made the lead investigator. It’s a test of the concept and of her role as its director. “As they read the tale of a physically handicapped young man widely regarded as an idiot, kept by his mother only for the disability check she can claim and left to roam at will, they discover some shocking parallels to their case.... Hinger does a wonderful job connecting a young boy’s grim life with a horrific crime spree.”—*Kirkus*. Our **Fresh Fiction Pick for March** is the large paperback edition—for Signed copies see Signed Books.

Ifkovic, Edward. [Old News](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). “Edna Ferber’s eighth case finds her on the cusp of fame—though little does she know it, since she’s stuck back in Chicago with her imperious mother and a long-ago murder case. Retreating in a sweltering July, 1923, from her stressful stint on a Milwaukee newspaper, Ferber, already widely known as the author of stories for women’s magazines and working on her novel *So Big* that will make her a major literary star, joins her mother on a week-long visit to Julia Ferber’s old friend and former neighbor Esther Newmann. From her first sight of Leah Brenner, the neighbor convicted of killing her husband, it’s clear that this vacation will be anything but restful. Leah herself, released from a mental asylum and returned to the neighborhood 15 years after her husband,

butcher Ivan Brenner, was fatally stabbed in the neck shortly after the couple's latest fight, comes across as gentle, fragile, and hospitable to Edna. It's the rest of her family that's the problem... The more time Edna spends in the sweltering neighborhood where she grew up, the more she wonders why everyone's so determined to keep this case closed."—*Kirkus*. As we see expressions of anti-Semitism and other bigotry on the rise now, this book is an important reminder of why we should all stand against such views. Also in hardcover: [Old News](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Start with Ferb's first case [Lone Star](#). (\$9.99), putting her on the 1955 set with James Dean and other stars filming her novel *Giant*. This new edition has an Introduction by David Morrell.

✎Jewell, Lisa. [The Girls in the Garden](#) (\$16). I find myself sheering away from any book with "Girl" or "Girls" in the title. Here's a Starred Review for this one which for those who've just read Crombie's [Garden of Lamentations](#) will carry enjoyment of London's parks forward.... Clare and her two daughters, 12-year-old Pip and 13-year-old Grace, move into a "cute little flat" near a Narnia-like park in London. When the girls make friends with the neighbors and the park clique, it looks like they are on the right path. But on the night of Grace's birthday, she goes missing. When she is found, she is partially undressed, unconscious, and bloody. No friends, neighbors, or even husbands are above suspicion as the taut mystery unravels to reveal the neighborhood's dark secrets. Jewell (The Third Wife) jumps straight into the story with the discovery of Grace, then flashes to the past, setting up an eerie foreshadowing of the events to occur. Rich characterization and intricate plot development are combined with mid-chapter cliffhangers that cut from one character's point of view to the next, resulting in a riveting pace.

Kaaberbol, Lene. [The Considerate Killer](#) (\$15.95). The Danish co-authors wrap up the Nina Borg series in style and with an interesting, unusual plot that begins with Nina's dream beach trip to a resort in the Philippines and carries on with repercussions in Denmark. On an icy winter day, she is attacked outside the grocery store. The last thing she hears before losing consciousness is her assailant asking her forgiveness. Only later does she understand that this isn't for what he's just done, but for what he plans to do to. As Nina tries to trace the origin of sinister messages she's received, she realizes the attempt on her life must be linked to events in Manila, and to three young men whose dangerous friendship started in medical school. The series begin with the acclaimed [The Boy in the Suitcase](#) (\$9.99).

Korelitz, Jean. [The Devil and Webster](#) (Grand Central \$26). Naomi Roth is the first female president of Webster College, a once conservative school now known for producing fired-up, progressive graduates. A former student radical herself, Naomi isn't alarmed when Webster students, including her own daughter, begin an outdoor encampment to protest a popular professor's denial of tenure, but when Omar Khayal, a charismatic Palestinian student with a devastating personal history, emerges as the group's leader, shocking acts of vandalism begin to destabilize the campus. As the crisis slips beyond her control, Naomi struggles to protect her friends, colleagues, and family from an unknowable adversary. A riveting novel about who we think we are, and what we think we believe.

Kumar, V Sanjay. [Third Squad](#) (Akashic \$15.95). Karan is an "encounter specialist" with the Third Squad, a special branch of

the Mumbai police. The branch furthers the cause of justice by carrying out hits on the most egregious criminals. Karan, a new recruit with infallible aim, has Asperger's, which makes him particularly suited to the black-and-white world of his job—until that same binary sense of right and wrong leads him to directly disobey a kill order, because it matters to him whom he shoots. Written in the first and third person (with one foray into second person), the overly dense narrative and its many threads provide occasionally confusing insights into Karan. One of the more interesting characters is Mumbai, which Kumar evokes with lyrical prose, calling it "this city of noir."

Kunzru, Hari. [White Tears](#) (Knopf \$26.95). Two ambitious young musicians are drawn into the dark underworld of blues record collecting, haunted by the ghosts of a repressive past. The Indie Next Pick: "An unsettling, grungy, gorgeous tale of white appropriations of black culture, legacy, and memory, of the harrowing effects of racism through the years, of a haunting that resonates through generations through a blues song that should have been stamped on vinyl, that maybe was but never was. This is a story of the costs of a lack of reparations, of money and power and powerlessness, all tied up in the viscerally kinetic prose of an author writing about obsession. Beautiful, ugly, indelible writing makes this a book I won't soon forget."

Leon, Donna. [The Waters of Eternal Youth](#) (\$16). Leon has done a brilliant job with her 25th Guido Brunetti Venetian crime novel. Among its many virtues is the suspense of whether a crime has actually been committed. We start out with a cold case if so: 15 years ago a young girl fell into one of the city's canals and did not quite drown. There's her aristocratic if cold grandmother who as Brunetti's mother-in-law's best friend hooks him on the story. Then there's the horse, called Petunia. The heartbreak. The calousness and the caring. I can't say enough good things about this exceptional novel which both breaks your heart and uplifts it. In April we get Brunetti #26: [Earthly Remains Signed](#) (Heinemann \$42). [Order them all here](#).

✎Lovett, Charlie. [The Lost Book of the Grail](#) (Viking \$28). This delightful bibliomystery set at Oxford not only won my heart but made our **March British Crime Club Pick**. I can't recommend it highly enough for those who love books, lost manuscripts (and found), its ancient role of the guardian, libraries, Oxford, a love story, mystery....

MacBride, Stuart. [In the Cold Dark Ground](#) (Harper \$15.99). Sergeant Logan McRae's team find a body dumped in the woods — but is it the missing businessman they've been searching for, or a signal of something far more sinister? It doesn't help that his ex-boss is taking over the case, a new Superintendent has it in for him, and Professional Standards are eyeing him. Even worse: Aberdeen's criminal overlord, Wee Hamish Mowat, is dying and rival gangs all over the UK are eyeing his territory.... A hard-boiled, bestselling UK series' latest installment.

Macallister, Greer. [Girl in Disguise](#) (Sourcebooks \$25.99). For the first female Pinkerton detective, respect is hard to come by. Danger, however, is not. In the tumultuous years of the Civil War, the streets of Chicago offer a woman mostly danger and ruin—unless that woman is Kate Warne, the first female Pinkerton detective and a desperate widow with a knack for manipulation. Descending into undercover operations, Kate is able to infiltrate the seedy side of the city in ways her fellow detectives



can't. She's a seductress, an exotic foreign medium, a rich train passenger—all depending on the day and the robber, thief, or murderer she's been assigned to nab. Inspired by the real story of Kate Warne, this spirited novel follows the detective's rise during one of the nation's greatest times of crisis. "With cunning, guile, and a dash of desperation, Kate Warne charms her way into the old boys' club of a mid-19th-century Chicago detective agency and soon finds herself catapulted into a world of spies, rogues, and double-crossers. As she dons and sheds all manner of disguises, Kate discovers that she has a knack for subterfuge - and more than that, she likes it. Inspired by a real-life story, Greer Macallister has created a fast-paced, lively tale of intrigue and deception, with a heroine at its center so appealingly complicated that she leaps off the page."—Christina Baker Kline, bestselling author of *Orphan Train*

McDonald, Gregory. [Snatch](#) (Hard Case Crime \$12.95). Kidnappings link two exceptional crime novels, *Snatched* and *Safekeeping*, by McDonald (1937–2008), best known for his Fletch and Flynn series. In *Snatched*, an incompetent thug named Spike seizes eight-year-old Toby Rinaldi, the precocious son of a foreign dignitary stationed in New York City. The folks funding Spike want to manipulate Toby's father into killing a U.N. resolution. In *Safekeeping*, an orphan of aristocratic heritage, eight-year-old Robby Burnes, travels during WWII from London to Manhattan, where he's placed in the care of cynical journalist Thadeus Lowry. While searching for his school one morning, Robby falls into the wrong hands. Both novels showcase McDonald's wit, but it's the latter that really shows his versatility. McDonald gleefully mixes Dickensian characters and Charles Lederer-style dialogue (Lowry explains that New York apartments are "a few rooms for which [people] pay endlessly, but never come to possess"). This compendium volume will please fans and casual readers alike who want to see the range that McDonald was capable of beyond his most famous creations.

Mina, Denise. [Blood, Salt, Water](#) (\$15.99). Here's *LJ* on one of Patrick's favorite authors: "Helensburgh is a sleepy, picturesque town hugging Scotland's coast—just the sort of place where the locals wear expensive cardigans and buy free-range eggs. But it's definitely not the type of community to endear itself to Alex Morrow, the world-weary Glasgow detective. Alex reluctantly travels to Helensburgh to trace the whereabouts of a corrupt businesswoman who vanished while being targeted by a national law enforcement sting. Roxanna Fuentecilla was beautiful, tempestuous, and, thanks to cell phone records, last known to have been within range of the seaside village. When the dead body that surfaces in a local lake turns out to be someone other than Roxanna, Alex realizes that the town's posh façade hides a rotten core of deceit and despair. Supplementing procedural elements with doses of psychological suspense and wry social commentary (the vote for Scottish independence, class tension, and even the foibles of those following gluten-free diets all come under her gimlet eye." 5<sup>th</sup> in the series.

Miske, Karim. [Arab Jazz](#) (\$16.99). A 2016 First Mystery Club Pick presents a noir Paris: "When Ahmed Taroundat, a troubled young man, discovers the murder of his neighbor Laura Vignole, the carefully sheltered life he has built for himself over the years crumbles. Ahmed lives in the 19th Arrondissement of Paris, where the children of Jehovah's Witnesses, Orthodox Jews, and

fundamentalist Muslims can be friends. It's a hip neighborhood featuring great food and charming bars. However, as detectives Rachel Kupferstein and Jean Hamelot investigate Laura's gruesome death, the charm of the community becomes a façade for bad behavior and a frightening new drug. Miské's first novel, which won the English Pen Award, redefines noir at its darkest. As the bodies pile up and the number of suspects increases, Ahmed and the French police face a daunting task. Is anyone innocent in the arrondissement? Is anyone sane? How can the flow of this terrifying drug be stemmed? Miské's ability to keep his readers on the edge of their seats and the way he handles an intricate plot without a misstep has created an amazing page-turner."—*LJ* Starred Review

✠Morton, Mandy. [The No 2 Feline Detective Agency](#) (St Martins \$25.99). I found this British cozy set in a world of cats had no discernible story, or rather has a story that wanders all over. I mention it purely for feline fanciers....

Obregón, Nicolas. [Blue Light Yokohama](#) (St Martins \$25.99). After a tantalizing prologue, Obregón maintains a high level of suspense throughout his superior fiction debut, an intricately constructed whodunit that doesn't sacrifice depth of characterization for plot. One day in 1996, policeman Hideo Akashi and his wife are riding a cable car in the Nagasaki Prefecture when a woman attempts to open the car door. After stabbing the attendant who tries to stop her, she succeeds in opening the door and jumps out. Akashi manages to grab her by the arm, but after seeing a tattoo on her wrist of a large black sun, he lets her plummet to her death. Fifteen years later, Akashi, a respected Tokyo police inspector, jumps to his death off a bridge. Akashi had been investigating the murders of the Kaneshiros, parents and two children, who were butchered in their home by a killer who removed the father's heart. The case passes to Inspector Iwata, who notices a drawing of a black sun on the ceiling of the bedroom where one of the victims was found. While the complex mystery itself will keep readers turning pages, the book's real strength is Iwata, a compellingly tormented lead, whose demons don't prevent him from doggedly pursuing the truth.

Pastor, Ben. [Road to Ithaca](#) (Berkley \$14.95). Pastor's solid fifth Martin Bora mystery (after 2015's *Tin Sky*) takes the Wehrmacht investigator from Moscow, where he's been stationed, to Crete in early June 1941, soon after the German occupation of the island and three weeks before Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union. Bora's mission is to secure 60 bottles of choice Cretan wine on behalf of NKVD chief Lavrenti Beria. But once the detective arrives in Crete, he receives a much different assignment. A British POW has reported to the Wehrmacht War Crimes Bureau that, during the recent battle for Crete, a British NCO observed eight German paratroopers enter the home of a prominent Swiss national, where he soon heard gunfire. After the departure of the paratroopers, this witness discovered all the civilian occupants slain. While Bora isn't as memorable a character as Bernie Gunther, Philip Kerr fans will still find this depiction of an honest German cop working under adverse wartime circumstances intriguing.

Patterson, James. [Humans Bow Down](#) (Little Brown \$28). This novel gives the lie to the idea that the enemy of jobs is immigrants. It's robots! This thriller is set in a world run by machines. And the robots plan to quell the last human holdouts....

Patrick, Renee. [Design for Dying](#) (\$15.99). I much enjoyed this clever debut bringing to life Hollywood behind the silver screen. Los Angeles, 1937. Lillian Frost has traded dreams of stardom for security as a department store salesgirl . . . until she discovers she's a suspect in the murder of her former roommate, Ruby Carroll. Ruby was gorgeous and fun with few boundaries, and tenaciously ambitious. This party girl died wearing a gown she had stolen from the wardrobe department at Paramount Pictures, domain of Edith Head who has yet to win the first of her 8 Oscars. . . . Why? Full of Hollywood without the decadence and violence in so many novels set there. Not a cozy either. Patrick signs the sequel, [Dangerous to Know](#) (Forge \$24.99), on April 22.

Pattison, Eliot. [Blood of the Oak](#) (\$15.95). Pattison, whose remarkable new novel set in Tibet is reviewed in Signed Books, writes an historical series that also reflects his fascination (and familiarity) with ancient cultures. The fourth entry in the Bone Rattler series moves ever closer to the beginning of the American Revolution and advances the protagonist Duncan McCallum to 1765 and into the throes of the Stamp Tax dissent, which marked the beginning of organized resistance to English rule. As the story unfolds, Duncan is drawn into the mystery of ritualistic murders that are strangely connected to both the theft of an Iroquois artifact and an additional series of murders and kidnappings connecting to the network of secret runners supporting the nascent committees of correspondence—which are engaged in the first organized political dissent across colonial borders. In following the trail he encounters a powerful conspiracy of highly placed English aristocrats who are bent on crushing all dissent. Just as he shows how China has clashed with the centuries-old Tibetan culture, here is shows the effects of Europeans and their politics and ambitions on Native Americans. [Order the Bone Rattler series here](#).

Pyne, Daniel. [Catalina Eddy](#) (Blue Rider \$28). Three loosely connected novellas, each focused on a homicide case, make up this gritty, darkly witty, and often bitter California noir from Pyne (Fifty Mice). In “The Big Empty,” set in Hollywood in June 1954, PI Rylan Lovely, an Army vet, investigates the murder of the ex-wife who betrayed him with his blind best friend; along the way, Lovely rescues a child, Gilbert Kirby. In “Losertown,” set in San Diego in June 1987, Kirby, now an assistant U.S. attorney, is trapped between a politically appointed boss, Sabrina Colter, “somebody’s kid sister crossed with a poisonous snake,” and his lover, FBI agent Tina Z, as they attempt to trap a drug lord. Kirby never knows that he’s the father of Tina’s Marine daughter, Willa, who’s arrested for killing her husband in “Portuguese Bend,” set in Long Beach in June 2016. Paralyzed homicide detective Riley McCluggage and freelance photographer Finn Miller try to crack the case. Pyne’s wounded characters walk their mean streets honorably in this compelling account of attempts to find sense in a senseless world.

Quartey, Kwei. [Gold of Our Fathers](#) (\$15.95). Darko Dawson of the Ghana Police Service has just been promoted to Chief Inspector. He’s enjoying the celebrations, and the small salary bump, when comes the “no free lunch” news. His boss is transferring him from the capital at Accra to Obusai in the remote Ashanti region which has become notorious for the illegal exploitation of its gold mines. And worse, the station is a shambles with an office full of uncatalogued evidence and cold case files and weighed down by low morale. It only needs the

body of a Chinese, a mine owner, to be unearthed from his own quarry to test Darko’s skills and resolve. Plus he’s pitted against offenders “too big to fail”—meaning too rich. An intelligent and well crafted series. [Click here](#) to order all the Darkos which I have recommended to you before.

✠Robinson, Peter. [Bad Boy](#) (\$15.99). Reissue of an Inspector Alan Banks.

Robotham, Michael. [Close Your Eyes](#) (\$15.99). Robotham continues to torture clinical psychologist Joseph O’Loughlin. Ten years ago Joe was diagnosed with Parkinson’s. A reactive one-night stand severed his marriage. He lives apart from his beloved wife and two kids, one of whom, the daughter, is now getting ready for college. The wife suggests Joe spend the summer in the family home. And then another mother, and a teenage girl, are found foully murdered in a remote West Country farmhouse and Joe is drawn into the investigation by the grandstanding idiocies of a former student trading on Joe’s reputation and calling himself “The Mindhunter.” This idiot not only leaks details of the police investigation, jeopardizing it, but stirs up the media by doing so to the media. Joe discovers a link to a series of brutal attacks involving women carved up with the Letter A. And that’s only the beginning of what he faces. . . .

Rosenstiel, Tom. [Shining City](#) (Harper \$26.99). In the tradition of *House of Cards* and Michael Connelly’s Bosch series, a polished and gripping political thriller introduces Peter Rena, a fixer hired by the president to vet his nominee for the Supreme Court. Rena is a “fixer.” With his partner, Randi Brooks, he is hired by the powerful elite to make problems disappear. They get their biggest job yet when the White House hires them to vet the president’s nominee for the Supreme Court. Judge Roland Madison is a legal giant, but he’s a political maverick, with views that might make the already tricky confirmation process even more difficult. Rena and his team go full-bore to cover every inch of the judge’s past, while the competing factions of Washington, D.C., mobilize with frightening intensity: ambitious senators, garrulous journalists, and wily power players on both sides of the aisle. All of that becomes background when a string of seemingly random killings overlaps with Rena’s investigation, with Judge Madison a possible target. Racing against the clock to keep his nominee safe, the president satisfied, and the political wolves at bay, Rena learns that Washington’s obsession with power-how to get it and how to keep it-is a dangerous game. “The vetting of a Supreme Court nominee before his nomination and a series of unsolved murders converge in this fast-paced thriller. The behind the scenes political wheeling & dealing is a glimpse of realpolitik in action.”

Rowe, Claudia. [The Spider and the Fly](#) (Harper \$26.99). This excellent true crime kicks off when Rowe is a careworn reporter in Poughkeepsie. A local man confesses to the rape and murder of a series of missing women. The case has journalistic potential, but there is more to the story. As Rowe and killer Kendall Francois communicate in letters and phone calls and during prison visits, the journalist’s life goes into a tailspin. Her boyfriend leaves, taking their dog; she moves to the woods and lives in a barn like a hermit. As her obsession with Francois grows, Rowe delves into her own past, a troubled childhood and damaged relationships leading to what she sees as a lifelong fascination with brutality. Chasing violence and fear has led her to a serial killer who can seem like a big teddy bear as well as a disturbed predator. Rowe

yearns to understand where a man like this comes from, how a murderer is made, and the intricacies of race and class in Poughkeepsie and beyond. She puzzles over Francois's family home, so stuffed with rot and detritus and denial that decomposing bodies went unnoticed. What she learns is that Francois may not be a riddle she can solve. The reflective tone and dogged probing into the ugliest of human behaviors enrich this blend of true crime, memoir and suspense.

Scottoline, Lisa. [Most Wanted](#) (\$15.99). Leave it to Lisa to imagine such a scenario. An infertile couple, the Nilssons, worn out with trying to conceive and the near death of their sex life, decide to use a sperm donor. Going on-line they pick Donor 3319. Blond. Distinctive blue eyes. Tall. Medical student. Perfect. Two months later, Christine is happily pregnant. A type A, she's focused. And then one day watching the news she sees a man being arrested for a series of brutal murders. A man she is sure is Donor 3319! Is her baby going to have a serial killer for a father? Lisa's relentless drive drives the story but really, what would you do in such a situation?

Sedgwick, Marcus. [Mister Memory](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). This is a beautifully written if eccentric novel that makes Paris leap into life. "*Fin de siècle* Paris provides the backdrop for this outstanding thriller from Sedgwick who creates a sense of intimacy with the reader through darkly humorous omniscient narration reminiscent of Dumas ("Paris at that time can be described as a fairy tale; assuming it's understood that fairy tales are brutish, dark and violent"). One night, Marcel Després, a man with a photographic memory, comes home to his studio apartment to find his wife, Ondine, in bed with a male acquaintance of theirs. The police arrest Marcel soon after he shoots Ondine dead. The motive eliminates the risk of execution, but Insp. Laurent Petit, a dedicated policeman haunted by the death of his fiancée, is shocked when he learns that the murderer has been summarily declared insane and transferred to the asylum of Salpêtrière. Petit's quest for the truth behind Ondine's murder coincides with the efforts of Dr. Lucien Morel, an alienist at Salpêtrière, to understand Marcel's phenomenal gift. Sedgwick thoughtfully explores fundamental questions about the relationship of memory and identity."—*PW* Starred Review

In a related book, but historical true crime, order Holly Tucker's [City of Light, City of Poison](#) (Norton \$26.95), set during the dark side of the reign of the Sun King. Louis IV assigns Nicolas de la Reynie to be Paris' first police chief, charged with cleaning up "the crime capital of the world" despite the hindrance of its labyrinthine neighborhoods. He unearths a tightly knit squad of poisoners, witches, renegade priests... eventually bringing down the king's lush mistress, Madame de Montespan by scandal, even at peril to de la Reynie for risking it. The distance between the quietly back-stabbing world of the king's court and the criminal underground proves disturbingly short. Nobles settle scores by employing witches to craft poisons and by hiring priests to perform dark rituals in Paris's most illustrious churches and cathedrals. From secret courtrooms to torture chambers, Tucker crafts a gripping true-crime tale of deception and murder. Based on thousands of pages of court transcripts and La Reynie's compulsive note-taking, as well as on letters and diaries.

Seeley, Nick. [Cambodia Noir](#) (\$16). Phnom Penh, Cambodia: The end of the line. Lawless, drug-soaked, forgotten—it's where

bad journalists go to die. For once-great war photographer Will Keller, that's kind of a mission statement: he spends his days floating from one score to the next, taking any job that pays; his nights are a haze of sex, drugs, booze, and brawling. But Will's spiral toward oblivion is interrupted by Kara Saito, a beautiful young woman who shows up and begs Will to help find her sister, June, who disappeared during a stint as an intern at the local paper. This is an atmospheric and unusual book, and well written.

Shaw, Johnny. [Imperial Valley](#) (Amazon \$15.95). Jimmy Veeder #3 finds the former wild man into hardscrabble farming and family in southernmost California. Jimmy and his new wife, Angie, a nurse, along with their eight-year-old adopted son, Juan, embark on a honeymoon to Mazatlan, Mexico, that's also a trip paid for by his long-time gangster friend, Tomás Morales, to find Juan's grandfather. Along the way, they fall into a violent tangle of cartel drug smuggling. Among the slam-bang fisticuffs, frequent references to Shaw's favorite "songs for fightin'," and often funny reflections on male-female role reversals, Shaw lands a few good punches on the plight of decent ordinary folk at the hands of the powerful and corrupt on both sides of the border; he also suggests that the problem in defeating the cartels is that they feed the poor, while the government only takes anything it can from them. Shaw celebrates the spirit he finds in small towns, where friends are family, as he brings this amusing riff on *The Magnificent Seven* to a riotous shoot-'em-up climax.

Tyson, Wendy. [Bitter Harvest](#) (Henary \$15.95). Big-city lawyer turned small-town organic farmer Megan Sawyer is a kind, intelligent, and spirited woman with great integrity. In short, she's the sort of person cozy readers warm to and root for. Winsome, Pennsylvania, Megan's hometown, is in the midst of frantic preparations for Oktoberfest, a week-long festival celebrating local produce and pure country living. All is going smoothly, until Megan's at times cantankerous grandmother discovers a body at a solar farm. Bobby King, the young police chief, wants to avoid a murder investigation and does his best to dismiss Megan's growing concerns about the death, but when another corpse is found, Bobby realizes he needs to take Megan seriously. "Tyson populates the cast with a smug-but-attractive PR consultant, a temperamental-but-gifted chef, a shrewd and sexy Scottish vet, and assorted townspeople, whose motives are complex and believable. It's a pleasure to spend time in their company."—*PW* Starred Review on this second by Tyson from Henery, a press devoted to the cozy

Ward, Catriona. [The Girl from Rawblood](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.99). Iris and her father are the last of the Villarca line. For generations, the Villarcas have been haunted by "her." Her origins are a mystery, but her purpose is clear: when a Villarca marries, when they love, when they have a child—she comes, and death follows. Confined in their lonely mansion on Dartmoor, Iris makes her father a promise—to remain alone all her life. But when she's 15, Iris breaks that promise. She dares to fall in love, and the consequences of her choice are immediate and heartbreaking. From the sun-spotted hills of Italy to the biting chill of Victorian dissection halls, *The Girl from Rawblood* portrays darkness, love, and the ghosts of the past.

#### OUR MARCH SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Baldacci, David. [The Last Mile](#) (\$9.99) In this sequel to *Memory Man*, Amos Decker, newly hired to a FBI special task force, takes

an interest in convicted murderer Melvin Mars case when he discovers the eerie similarities to his own life. *LJ* ended their review with “Just when the story line heads to what seems an obvious conclusion, Baldacci veers off course with a surprising twist. The end result is another exciting read from a thriller master.”

Box, CJ. [Off the Grid](#) (\$9.99) Joe Pickett #17. When a small team of elite professional special operators recruit him to help defeat a domestic terror cell in Wyoming’s Red Desert in exchange for expunging his criminal record, Nate Romanowski, assisted by Joe Pickett, discover a sinister agenda behind the operation. *PW* says “A master at managing multiple plot lines, Box brings them all together for a nerve-wracking climax that rivals *The Wild Bunch* for utter havoc. With this exceptional entry, Box solidifies his place at the upper level of the crime fiction pantheon.”

Bradford, Laura. [Silence of the Flans Signed](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Emergency Desert Squad #2. The owner of the Emergency Desert Squad, baker Winnie Johnson, is stunned when her protégé’s first dessert delivery poisons a student journalist and must cook up the real killer before everything she worked so hard for crumbles around her. Bradford is also the author of Claire Weatherly Amish mysteries and, along authors Lynn Cahoon (see below), Paige Shelton, and Chevy Stevens, will be at the Poisoned Pen on Saturday March 18 at 2 PM.

Cahoon, Lynn. [Fatality by Firelight Signed](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Cat Latimer #2. Hosting a winter writing retreat at her Colorado bed-and-breakfast, Cat Latimer finds herself adrift in a real murder mystery when a groom-to-be is murdered after having some fun with a tipsy romance novelist.

Cussler, Clive. [The Gangster](#) (\$9.99) Isaac Bell #9. Organizing a group of fellow law enforcers to dismantle an Italian gangster mob that has spread throughout 1906 New York City, Detective Isaac Bell of the Van Dorn Agency begins to suspect that copycat criminals are using the gang’s name to gain personal power

Palmer, Daniel. [Mercy](#) (\$9.99) Dr. Julie Devereux, an outspoken advocate for the right to die, reconsiders her convictions when her fiancé is left a quadriplegic by a motorcycle accident and begs to be allowed to end his life before dying from a rare form of heart failure that places the doctor under suspicion. Fans of Robin Cook’s medical thrillers will want to schedule an appointment with Palmer’s latest since *PW* concluded their review with “Ample, plausible twists combined with well-developed characters add up to a superior thriller that grapples with the ethics of euthanasia.”

Petrie, Nick. [The Drifter](#) (\$8.99) Forcing himself to manage his PTSD when a fellow Marine commits suicide, Iraq and Afghanistan veteran Peter Ash helps his friend’s widow and discovers a cache of money and explosives that place him at the center of a wide-scale plot with ties to the world he tried to leave behind. *PW* said “Petrie’s expertly paced plot sets a colorful array of characters on a collision course. Readers will look forward to seeing more of the resourceful Ash.” This debut mystery is also up for an Edgar award for best first mystery this year.

Schutt, Bill. [Hell’s Gate](#) (\$9.99) When a Japanese submarine is discovered abandoned deep in the Brazilian wilderness at the height of World War II, an adventurous zoologist uncovers a catastrophic Axis plot to destroy the United States and the other Allies. *Kirkus* concluded their review with “Fast-moving fun for

thriller readers who enjoy a bit of horror and seeing bad guys get what’s coming to them.” Sounds like readers of Rollins and Preston/Child may want to check out this new author.

Silva, Daniel. [The Black Widow](#) (\$9.99) Gabriel Allon #15. Art restorer, assassin, and spy Gabriel Allon finds himself poised to become the chief of Israel’s secret intelligence service, but not before answering the French government’s request to eliminate the person responsible for detonating a massive bomb in Paris. *Kirkus* ended their review with “Silva was a journalist stationed in the Middle East. His Gabriel Allon novels have tracked—and, in some cases, anticipated—the rise of the Islamic State group. In his foreword, he notes that he began writing this story before the Paris attacks of 2015. A dark thriller for difficult times.”

White, Randy Wayne. [Deep Blue](#) (\$9.99) “Doc” Ford #23. Assigned to track down an American working for ISIS and make sure he never kills anyone again, Doc Ford finds the operation more complicated than he anticipated, especially when those complications follow him back to the small community of Dinkin’s Bay. *PW* again “Lively characters, enough action for three summer blockbusters, and plenty of plot twists make this a great addition to the bestselling series.”

#### MORE SMALL PAPERBACKS

Archer, Winnie. [Kneaded to Death](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Bread Shop #1. When her new friends—the Dias sisters, who teach a bread-making class at Yeast of Eden—are accused of murdering one of their students, struggling photographer Ivy Culpepper vows to prove their innocence and must follow a deadly trail of crumbs around town in order to do so.

Beaton, M C. [Death of a Nurse](#) (\$7.99) Hamish Macbeth #32. Visiting a newcomer to Sutherland who treats him rudely, Hamish Macbeth invites the man’s private nurse out to dinner only to find himself investigating the young woman’s suspicious death.

Blake, Bethany. [Death By Chocolate Lab](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Lucky Paws Pet-sitting #2. When the arrogant, womanizing owner of Blue Ribbon K-9 Academy—and her sister’s ex-boyfriend—is found dead, pet sitter Daphne Templeton, with the help of her basset hound and Chihuahua, must prove her sister’s innocence in the crime by finding Steve’s prize-winning chocolate Lab who went missing after his death.

Braun, Matt. [Rio Grande](#) (Forge \$10.99) After leaving the antebellum South, Tom Stuart journeys first to Texas where he meets passionate, tempestuous Maria and later to New Orleans where Jovette, a dazzling Creole beauty, ignites his dreams of dynasty.

Brennan, Allison. [Make Them Pay](#) (\$7.99) Lucy Kincaid #11. While tracking down dozens of children sold through illegal adoptions, Lucy Kincaid must deal with her fiancé Sean’s estranged sister, who, arriving two weeks before the wedding, needs something Sean has, and if she doesn’t get it, every member of their family will end up dead—including Sean.

Childs, Laura. [Devonshire Scream](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Tea Shop #17. Theodosia Browning caters a trunk show at a jewelry store that is crashed by masked thieves who steal the jewels on display and leave a dead body in their wake, prompting Theo to investigate suspicions contrary to those of the FBI.

Evanovich, Janet. [The Pursuit](#) (\$8.99) Fox and O’Hare #5. In her pursuit of the man who kidnapped her partner, Nick Fox, Kate

O'Hare follows the trail of evidence to an ex-Serbian military officer who is planning a deadly crime with a lucrative payout.

Hamilton, Donald. [Matt Helm - The Threateners](#) (Forge \$7.99) Matt Helm #26. With nowhere to turn, Matt Helm is caught in the middle of a war between cocaine cowboys and killers as a group of renegade American agents get ready to take down the cartel of a ruthless South American drug lord.

Johansen, Iris. [Night and Day](#) (\$8.99) Eve Duncan #20. Targeted by the enemies pursuing Cara Delaney, forensic sculptor Eve Duncan flees with Cara from California to a remote mountain in the Scottish Highlands, but when Cara is taken in spite of their precautions, Eve risks everything to save her.

Kappes, Tonya. [A Ghostly Mortality](#) (Harper \$7.99) Ghostly Southern #6. The proprietor of a small-town Kentucky funeral home, Emma Lee, who gets justice for murdered ghosts so that they can cross over, must help her sister Charlotte Rae find her killer but must make peace with her first.

Lane, Kelly. [Cold Pressed Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Olive Grove #2. When her sister, Daphne, is accused of murdering one of the celebrity chefs from the Chow Network during the annual Farm Family Fair, Eva Knox and her eccentric friends and relatives must serve up the killer before Daphne's goose is cooked.

Logan, Kylie. [Gone with the Twins](#) (Berkley \$7.99) League of Literary Ladies #5. While the League of Literary Ladies enjoys *Gone With the Wind*, they find themselves embroiled in a murder investigation when they must prove that one of their members, the owner of a B and B, did not kill a local real estate agent who was looking to bring in the competition.

Lotz, Sarah. [Day Four](#) (\$7.99) This follow-up to *The Three* follows the chaos that ensues when a cruise ship is stranded and passengers fall ill amid rumors of shadowy figures on the lower decks.

McConnon, Maggie. [Bel of the Brawl](#) (St Martins \$7.99) Belfast McGrath #2. After a scandalous mistake ends her career as a NYC chef, Belfast McGrath works as a caterer at her parents' wedding hall back in her hometown, where a cold case involving best friend Amy Mitchell is re-opened, prompting her to launch her own investigation with the help of her new client—a private detective.

Patterson, James. [NYPD Red 4](#) (\$9.99) When a murder and robbery take place at a glitzy movie premiere, Detectives Zach Jordan and Kylie MacDonald must scour the city's seedy underworld, celebrity penthouses, and everything in between to find the killer before he strikes again.

Rosett, Sara. [Marriage, Monsters-In-Law, and Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Mom Zone #8. When professional organizer Ellie Avery agrees to help organize a family wedding, things get deadly when a member of the wedding party winds up dead.

Spillane, Mickey. [Mike Hammer - Murder Never Knocks](#) (Forge \$7.99) After thwarting several assassination attempts and stopping the kidnapping of a socialite, Mike Hammer tries to figure out who wants him dead and why.

White, Randy Wayne. [Sanibel Flats](#) (\$9.99) In this reissue of the first Doc Ford thriller, "Doc" Ford lives quietly as a marine biologist on Sanibel Island, having left a secret past behind, but an old friend seeking help is murdered and Doc finds himself back in Central America searching for a kidnapped boy.

Wiken, Linda. [Roux the Day](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Dinner Club #2. When TV personality Miranda Myers is found dead during a cruise ship casino night, event planner J.J. Tanner is fac