

BOOKNEWS from

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A very merry May for books and authors...

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

TUESDAY MAY 2 7:00 PM

Gini Koch signs [Alien Education](#) (DAW \$7.99) Alien #15

SATURDAY MAY 6 2:00 PM

Dana Stabenow signs [Less Than a Treason](#) (Zeus \$26.95)
Kate Shugak #21

SUNDAY MAY 7 Poisoned Pen Press 20th Party 2:00 PM

Annie Hogsett signs [Too Lucky to Live](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95)
Debut

Tammy Kaehler signs [Kiss the Bricks](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95)
Kate Reilly #5

Thomas Kies signs [Random Road](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 or
\$15.95) Debut

AND

Diane DiBiase and other contributors sign [Bound by Mystery](#)
(Poisoned Pen 18.95) PPP 20th Anniversary Anthology

MONDAY MAY 8 7:00 PM

Marie Brennan signs [Within the Sanctuary of Wings](#) (Tor
\$27.99)

TUESDAY MAY 9 7:00 PM Spenser Live!

Ace Atkins signs [Robert B. Parker's Little White Lies](#) (Putnam
\$27)
Spenser (and Hawk)

WEDNESDAY MAY 10 7:00 PM

Baron Birtcher signs [South California Purples](#) (Permanent Press
\$28.95)

Bob Truluck signs [The Big Nothing](#) (Murmur \$22.99)

THURSDAY MAY 11 7:00 PM

Ryan Dalton signs [The Black Tempest](#) (Jolly \$14.95)

FRIDAY MAY 12 7:00 PM Program

Doubletree Hilton 5401 N Scottsdale Road 85250

**ASU Futurist Brian David Johnson in conversation with Cory
Doctorow**

Cory Doctorow signs [Walkaway](#) (Tor \$26.99)
Doors Open 6:00 PM

Free to attend: Admission to the signing line only with the purchase of *Walkaway* from The Poisoned Pen
Cash Bar. Free Valet Parking

SATURDAY MAY 13 10:30 AM

Coffee and Crime members discuss their favorite Perry Mason
mystery by Erle Stanley Gardner

SATURDAY MAY 13 2:00 PM Mother's Day Tea

Amanda Quick (aka Jayne Ann Krentz) signs [The Girl Who
Knew Too Much](#) (Berkley \$27)

TUESDAY MAY 16 7:00 PM

Hosted by Patrick

Peter Blauner signs [Proving Ground](#) (St Martins \$25.99)

THURSDAY MAY 18 7:00 PM

Hosted by Karen Shaver

Brian Freeman signs [Marathon](#) (Quercus \$26.99)

Walt Gragg signs [The Red Line](#) (Berkley \$17)

FRIDAY MAY 19 7:00 PM

SciFi/Fantasy Club discusses Becky Chambers' [The Long Way
to a Small Angry Planet](#) (\$15.99)

SATURDAY MAY 20 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger discusses Rob Bryndza's [The Girl in the Ice](#)
(\$15.99)

SATURDAY MAY 20 2:00 PM Tea

Gian Sardar signs [You Were Here](#) (Putnam \$27)

Rosemary Simpson [What the Dead Leave Behind](#) (Kensington
\$25)

Radha Vatsal signs [Murder Between the Lines](#) (Sourcebooks
\$15.95)

Note: the local chapter of the Historical Novelists Society will meet with our trio of authors at 3:30 PM after the formal program. Anyone is welcome

SUNDAY MAY 21 2:00 PM

Hosted by Robert Anglen

Jo Nesbø signs [The Thirst](#) (Knopf \$26.95) Harry Hole

WEDNESDAY MAY 24 7:00 PM

Hosted by Nicholas Petrie

Steve Hamilton signs [Exit Strategy](#) (Putnam \$26) Mason #2

Nicholas Petrie signs [Burning Bright](#) (\$16)

WEDNESDAY MAY 24 SciFi Event 7:00 PM

Elevenegden #3 with host **Sam Sykes** at The Scottsdale Hilton,
6333 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85250

Authors so far include **Elizabeth Bear, Beth Cato, Wesley Chu, Myke Cole, Robin Hobb, Jason Hough, Sherrilyn Kenyon, Gini Koch, Scott Lynch, Brian McClellan, Aprilynne Pike, Victoria Schwab, Scott Sigler, Michael Stackpole**

Cash Bar. Free valet parking

This is a pre-Comicon mixer with book sales/signings, no formal program

THURSDAY MAY 25 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime discusses Ed McBain's [Hail to the Chief](#)
(\$13.95) in his 87th Precinct Series

TUESDAY MAY 30 7:00 PM Sherlock Lives

Vasudev Murthy signs [Sherlock Holmes, The Missing Years: Japan](#) and [Sherlock Holmes, The Missing Years: Timbuktu](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 or \$15.95 each)

SATURDAY JUNE 3 2:00 Cupcake Cozy

Kate Carlisle signs [Once Upon a Spine](#) (Berkley \$25)
Jenn McKinlay signs [About a Dog](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Bluff Point Romance #1

TUESDAY JUNE 6 7:00 PM International Thrillers

Matt Palmer signs [Enemy of the Good](#) (Putnam \$27.99)
Mark Sullivan signs [Beneath a Scarlet Sky](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$14.95)

WEDNESDAY JUNE 7 7:00 PM

Cara Black signs [Murder in Saint-Germain](#) (Soho \$27.95) Aimee LeDuc

THURSDAY JUNE 8 7:00 PM

Hosted by Barbara and Robert Anglen
Stephen Hunter signs [G Man](#) (Blue Rider \$27) Bob Lee, Earl, and grandfather Charles Swagger, 1933!

SATURDAY JUNE 10 10:30 AM

Coffee & Crime discusses Hannah Dennison's [Murder at Honey-church Hall](#) (\$15.95)

SATURDAY JUNE 10 2:00 PM Cozy Tea

Nancy Atherton signs [Aunt Dimity and the Widow's Curse](#) (Viking \$27)

SATURDAY JUNE 10 7:00 PM

Andaz Scottsdale, 6114 N Scottsdale Road 85253

Host: Laurie R. King, other authors may attend

Diana Gabaldon signs [MatchUp](#) (SimonSchuster \$27), a collection of stories edited by Lee Child for the International Thriller Writers. Diana will discuss her collection of stories, [Seven Stones to Stand or Fall](#) (\$30) which publishes June 27. Click on either title to order a Signed 1st printing.

Doors Open 6:00 PM Program 7:00 PM

Cash Bar. Valet Parking (\$2) or some parking on site

Free. Admission to the signing line only with purchase of *Match-Up* from The Poisoned Pen. You may bring 2 personal books to be signed as well.

To reserve a room at Andaz, email meredith.morris1@andaz.com.

EVENT BOOKS

Atherton, Nancy. [Aunt Dimity and the Widow's Curse](#) (Viking \$27). Lori Shepherd, who's privy to the ghostly Dimity Westwood's written communications from beyond, hears something disturbing from elderly quilter Annabelle Craven, a fellow resident of the English village of Finch. Annabelle casually confesses to murdering Zach Trotter, her first husband, in the nearby town of Old Cowerton many years earlier. At Aunt Dimity's suggestion, Lori travels to Old Cowerton, accompanied by her quirky friend, Bree Pym. In Old Cowerton, the women find opinion sharply divided: former neighbor and gossip Minnie Jessop and her cadre of friends accuse Annabelle of killing five men, including Zach; Penelope Moorecroft, "the current lady of the manor," and the members of her circle say Annabelle is entirely innocent. Lori returns home to confront Annabelle, whose heartbreaking explanation prepares the way for the heartwarming resolution.

Atkins, Ace. [Robert B. Parker's Little White Lies](#) (Putnam \$27). Spenser never loses his charm for me. In his 6th Spenser, Atkins really rocks the dialogue; I don't know that his Hawk is as razor sharp as when Parker wrote him, but Spenser, relocated to new digs after a fire, is vibrant, up-to-the-minute, evolving just enough, and Susan is keeping up. I read every word straight through (it's 301 pages, longer than a Parker Spenser). But why am I saying "a Parker Spenser"? The truth is that while the characters bow to Bob, and the landscape, this Spenser and especially this story is dynamite Atkins! He has created a truly impressive con man deploying "a trail of smoke and mirrors" who defies capture. He comes to Spenser's attention via a client called Connie who is, unusually, referred to him by Susan (Connie's therapist), but chasing him becomes personal...all the way South to Georgia in the end game. M. Brook Welles (sic) is fascinating, and so slick you can almost feel him sliding through your fingers

as you flip the pages. After conning everyone from the cable news shows to the local cops, will grifter Welles or will Spenser win?

Birtcher, Baron R. [South California Purples](#) (Permanent Press \$28.95). The year is 1973, and the last of America's soldiers are returning home from Vietnam, often shouted down and spat upon by protesters, while the first toxic cracks of public mistrust have begun to appear at the highest levels of government. But rural Meriwether County, tucked away amid the sweeping river valleys and serrated mountain ridges of southern Oregon has been left largely untouched by time. Yet now, cattle rancher Ty Dawson, a complex man tormented by elements of his own past, is involuntarily conscripted to assist local law enforcement when a herd of wild mustangs is rounded up for a government auction, igniting the passions of political activist Teresa Pineu, who threatens to fan the flames of an uprising that grows rapidly out of control. Hostility escalates into brutality and bloodshed. Set against the rugged backdrop of Oregon's vast ranchlands, this is the start of a new series from Birtcher who takes readers on an exciting ride. Patrick adds, "Birtcher has really come into his own with this excellent, far reaching and very timely novel. To say that there are any number of disturbing parallels between the fractured unrest of 1973 and 2017 would be an understatement. Birtcher puts it all in perspective in this provocative, engaging page-turner. Not to be missed."

Black, Cara. [Murder in Saint-Germain](#) (Soho \$27.95). Paris, July 1999: Private investigator Aimée Leduc is walking through Saint-Germain when she is accosted by Suzanne Lesage, a Brigade Criminelle agent on an elite counterterrorism squad. Suzanne has just returned from the former Yugoslavia, where she was hunting down dangerous war criminals for The Hague. Now back in Paris, Suzanne is convinced she's being stalked by a ghost—a Serbian

warlord she thought she'd killed. She's suffering from PTSD and her boss thinks she's imagining things. She begs Aimée to investigate, a complication in a life already frantic with her *bébé* (adorable) and issues with Chloé's now married father; the dying Morbier (her fault?) and what he has still to tell Aimée about her father's death; her agency partner's issues; and a tangle of bad things among academics. There's a lot about fashion and a wonderful portrait of this district of Paris to boot.

Blauner, Peter. [Proving Ground](#) (St Martins \$25.99). "Although it has been 11 years since *Slipping into Darkness*, Edgar-winner Blauner hasn't lost his touch, as this page-turner demonstrates."—*PW* Starred Review. Nathaniel Dresden never really got along with his father, an infamous civil rights lawyer who defended criminals and spearheaded protest movements. As an act of rebellion, Natty joined the U.S. Army and served in Iraq, coming back with a chest full of commendations and a head full of disturbing memories for the funeral of his murdered father. Dresden. The senior Dresden, always swinging left as encouraged by his activist wife, was suing the FBI and had received a favorable ruling when he was gunned down in Prospect Park one night. David was the lawyer cops loved to hate for his defense work; but who else had it in for him? Tough detectives Lourdes Robles [brash Latina] and Kevin Sullivan [canny but aging out] catch the case, working to find David's missing Mercedes, trace his activities and his phone—why so many calls to the FBI office? Natty, at first a suspect and never stable, begins to help his father's partner and his own father figure, Benjamin Grimaldi, continue the suit, hoping to discover more about his father's murder, keep his fiery mother in control, clear himself and maybe fix himself for he suffers terrible guilt from a bad op in Iraq. "Blauner has crafted two strong and complex leads in Natty and Lourdes and given readers an intricate plot that never feels forced." Our **May Thriller Club Pick** is told in alternating chapters, Natty vs. Lourdes, and packed with fully alive characters, even the dead man, David, the most admirable in the book. This complex story showcases "the Minotaur's maze that is New York City," and Brauner's singular voice—one you won't easily forget.

Brennan, Marie. [Within the Sanctuary of Wings](#) (Tor \$27.99 May 8). Brennan styles her fantasy as A Memoir by Lady Trent. "In the fifth and final chapter, Isabella, Lady Trent of Scirland, dragon naturalist extraordinaire refuses to allow the prevailing Victorian ethos to deflect her from exploring and learning about dragons, which in this world are ubiquitous and take a bewildering variety of forms. Her one unrealized ambition is to force her way into the prestigious all-male Philosophers' Colloquium. As her husband, Suhail, attempts to decipher inscriptions in Draconeian, the language of a long-vanished Draconeian Empire wherein humans tamed, or perhaps worshipped, creatures who resembled bipedal dragons, a furtive stranger named Thu Phimlat shows up; he's a native of the remote, mountainous country of Yelang, whose expansionist ambitions threaten Scirland. Thu reports discovering the remains of dragons preserved in the ice atop Yelang's loftiest peaks; they appear to be of an unknown and possibly extinct type. (Left to their own devices, dragon bones decay too rapidly for preservation.) Despite the geopolitical complications, Isabella naturally organizes an expedition to investigate."—*Kirkus* Starred Review, which adds, "Don't start here!" Thus [order them all](#).

Carlisle, Kate. [Once Upon a Spine](#) (Berkley \$25 June 3). San Francisco bookbinder Brooklyn Wainwright stumbles through the looking glass in a tale of murder, rare books, and a quest for the perfect pie...

Dalton, Ryan. [The Black Tempest](#) (JollyFish \$14.95). I love the name of this press, JollyFish, for a YA Fantasy, Book 2 in the Time Shift Trilogy where two teens confront an enemy from the future and battle to save their town. It's a kind of reverse of the Narnia novels where the teens stepped through a wardrobe into the past and battled to save the land they found there. So here we are in summer in Emmett's Bluff, six months after [The Year of Lightning](#) (\$17.99 Signed), Book One. Malcolm and Valentine, returned to their normal teen lives, realize that time is calling to them and growing too strong to be ignored. When warriors from an ancient kingdom appear, they warn of a foe whose control of ice is powered by Time itself. And the twins gradually realize that if the Black Tempest is not stopped at Emmett's Bluff, his corruption will change history. Author Dalton is a student of James Sallis.

DiBiase, Diane, 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...). *PW* reviews: "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's "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!"

Doctorow, Cory. [Walkaway](#) (Tor \$26.99) is a darkly funny novel about an idealistic man's search for purpose in a country that has been leveled by extreme weather, economic disparity, and the collapse of civil society. One hopes that futurist Doctorow is not a Nostradamus, no? He appears on May 12 in conversation with ASU futurist Brian David Johnson for what is a must-hear discussion.

Hubert Vernon Rudolph Clayton Irving Wilson Alva Anton Jeff Harley Timothy Curtis Cleveland Cecil Ollie Edmund Eli Wiley Marvin Ellis Espinoza—known to his friends as Hubert, Etc—was too old to be at that Communist party. But after watching the breakdown of modern society, he really has no where left to be... Doctorow's first adult novel in 8 years envisions a utopian future where civilians can simply walkaway from society with

just the clothes on their back, with little reason to toil within the system. Thanks to technological advancements, anyone can design and print the basic necessities of life—food, clothing, shelter—from a computer. So why toil? “Doctorow’s world is violent and unfair, but the walkaways themselves are a surprising font of optimism. Their difficult-to-summarize worldview is based in the conviction that ‘you got the world you hoped for or the world you feared—your hope or your fear made it so.’ Doctorow queues up plenty of characters to question the truth of that maxim. The walkaways’ idealism is supported by nearly miraculous technological achievements... Doctorow is teaching, but he’s also having fun, and it’s a pleasure to watch him twist the two together. The novel is given velocity by its embrace of love: love for technology, love for science, love for nature, Earth and the human race. Walkaway is a running argument with a fun, funny nerd looking at the future with a mix of fear and hope.”—Hank Stephenson

Freeman, Brian. [Marathon](#) (Quercus \$26.99). Thriller Award–winner Freeman uses the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing as a template for his gripping eighth Jonathan Stride novel, putting his own spin on why and how such an egregious crime has been committed. Karen, our native Minnesotan, reviews: It is a rainy June day in Duluth, Minnesota where thousands of people have come to participate in, or observe, the Duluth Marathon. Great care has been taken to ensure security and avoid a repeat of what happened in Boston. Somewhere there is a lapse and a bomb goes off injuring and killing many people. Jonathan Stride is quick to respond along with his colleague Maggie Bei and significant other, Serena Dial. A photo surfaces of someone carrying a backpack and is described by the witness, as looking “like a Muslim”. The person is identified and the hunt begins. But Jonathan isn’t convinced the investigation is going in the right direction. A formidable opponent to his investigation is Dawn Bosch, a 1st Amendment Activist from New Jersey, who uses social media to act as judge and jury of the suspect. The hatred and misunderstanding of cultures is in high volume and have consequences as Jonathan, Serena and Maggie persist in their efforts toward resolution to the case. Freeman has been a successful author of psychological thrillers and the ability to put the reader in the “you are there” position. The undertone of menace and hidden motives keeps the reader engaged in a tense, exciting read.

Gabaldon, Diana et al. [Matchup](#) (SimonSchuster \$27) presents a collection of stories edited by Lee Child for the International Thriller Writers. Hers is written with Steve Berry: Jamie Fraser meets Cotton Malone over a hunt for a rare book, a grimoire. The authors solve the two-plus century time differential with brilliance. Diana will sign her story and we include a signed bookplate by Steve Berry. 10 additional stories pair a female with a male ITW author: Sandra Brown and CJ Box; Val McDermid and Peter James; Lee Child and Kathy Reichs; Lisa Jackson and John Sandford; David Morrell and Gayle Lynds, Karin Slaughter and Michael Koryta; Charlaine Harris and Andrew Gross; Lisa Scotoline and Nelson DeMille; Lara Adrian and Christopher Rice; JA Jance and Eric Van Lustbader. Child provides a brief, cogent intro to each selection. Highly recommended as entertainment, this anthology is a great place to start if you’ve not yet sampled some of these authors. Some of them will be visiting The Pen in coming months.

Diana will also discuss her collection of Outlander stories, [Seven Stones to Stand or Fall](#) (\$30) which publishes June 27.

We are taking orders now for this collection of short Outlander universe fiction.

Gragg, Walter. [The Red Line](#) (Berkley \$17). World War III could explode in seconds. “Set in the near future, Gragg’s impeccably researched, riveting first novel pits a revived Soviet Union against NATO. Russia’s brutal dictator, Comrade Cheninko, has built on a resurgence of power begun under Vladimir Putin and reconstituted the Warsaw Pact. A new cold war is about to become a hot one. Cheninko’s top general, Valexi Yovanovich, has developed a brilliant plan to deceive the enemy and conquer Germany in a mere five days. An extensive cast of well-drawn men and women on both the American and Russian sides provides a personal dimension to the big-picture view of the clash of massive armies. Gragg, a Vietnam War veteran who served at the United States European Headquarters in Germany, gives readers a horrifying look at the devastation of modern warfare from the smallest, most painful details to the frighteningly plausible global scenarios that could result in the death and devastation of a significant portion of our planet. This is must reading for any military action fan. Nearly every page reeks of the smoke of battle and the stench of death.”—*PW* Starred Review. Prior to law school, Gragg spent a number of years in the military. His time with the Army involved many interesting assignments including three years in the middle of the Cold War at United States European Headquarters in Germany where the idea for the book took shape. Grab this while you wait for Joe Kanon June 15, Brad Thor end of June.

Hamilton, Steve. [Exit Strategy](#) (Putnam \$26). Nick Mason made a devil’s bargain in [The Second Life of Nick Mason](#) (\$16): early release from prison where he’s serving time for being part of a robbery that took a life in exchange for doing “whatever is asked of him” by criminal kingpin Darius Cole. Mason gains a new and well funded life in Chicago. And he’s had to commit a murder as ordered by Cole. But now Mason is presented with a true mission impossible: Infiltrate WITSEC, the top-secret federal witness-protection program that has never been compromised, locate the three men who put Cole behind bars for life, and kill them. But first he has to find them—they’re ghost prisoners locked down around the clock in classified “deep black” locations by an battalion of heavily armed U.S. marshals charged with protecting them—and the clock is ticking. Cole is appealing his conviction, and these witnesses are either his ticket to freedom or the final nail in his coffin. Even Mason succeeds, but at what price? There is, inevitably, more to the bargain than he bargained for.

Hobb, Robin. [Assassin’s Fate: Book III of the Fitz and Fool Trilogy](#) (Del Rey \$32). “Along with millions of her other fans, I delight in every visit to the Six Duchies, the Rain Wilds, and the Out Islands, and can’t wait to see where she’ll take me next.”—George R. R. Martin. And where Hobb takes you next is into the last chapter of her epic trilogy. Fitz’s young daughter, Bee, has been kidnapped by the Servants, a secret society whose members not only dream of possible futures but use their prophecies to add to their wealth and influence. Bee plays a crucial part in these dreams—but just what part remains uncertain. As Bee is dragged by her sadistic captors across half the world, Fitz and the Fool, believing her dead, embark on a mission of revenge that will take them to the distant island where the Servants reside—a place the Fool once called home and later called prison. It was a hell the Fool escaped, maimed and blinded, swearing never to return. For

all his injuries, however, the Fool is not as helpless as he seems. He is a dreamer too, able to shape the future. And though Fitz is no longer the peerless assassin of his youth, he remains a man to be reckoned with—deadly with blades and poison, and adept in Farseer magic. And their goal is simple: to make sure not a single Servant survives their scourge....

Hobb attends our SciFi Meet and Greet May 24. Also available in Signed first print: Scot Sigler, [Alone](#) (Del Rey \$18.99), YA+ fantasy: The Generations Day.

Hogsett, Annie. [Too Lucky to Live](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). In Hogsett's debut, lonely and broke, Cleveland divorce-survivor Allie Harper believes all her problems would be solved if she could find a nice, smart, hot guy and enough money to get her car fixed. The hot guy arrives first: he's in a crosswalk clutching a bag of groceries while a blonde in a Hummer is learning hard on her horn. How has this woman missed that fact that the man is blind? From the curb, an outraged Allie jumps to his rescue, rebagging the groceries as well. The money is next—it's (literally) in the bag. Thomas Bennington III has bought a MondoMegaJackpot ticket along with canned tomatoes. Allie takes him home and turns his groceries into dinner for two. Later that night, Tom hears the numbers announced. He's won. And he's less than thrilled. PhD Tom had gambled on the odds of losing (175 million to one) to prove a point to Rune, a kid from the projects he's befriended, that only losers buy lottery tickets. Instead, Rune, who'd helped pick the Mondo numbers, will share Tom's jackpot. Allie and Tom grasp two things: one, they're hot for each other, and two, the ticket is a hot target, and now so are they. Every scheming weasel in Cleveland will be after Tom's millions. It's murder.

Hunter, Stephen. [G Man](#) (Blue Rider \$27). **Out mid-May but Hunter delays signing it until June 8** when I get back from Peru (never underestimate the power of a great dinner to pull authors to The Pen!). It's a Swagger saga—Bob Lee, who needs a project to keep from boredom and the bottle; Earl, who died too young and never spoke of... Charles Swagger, a Sheriff in the Ozarks and killer shot, whose downward spiral to another early death is the mystery Bob Lee decides to solve. Hunter moves back and forth from the present to 1934 when the FBI was still called Justice, an epic year for the gun gangsters of the day, especially Pretty Boy Floyd and draws upon his love affair with guns and rum (rye for Charles). Plus the psychology of violence and battle... and the offbeat love affair between Floyd and his wife.

Kaehler, Tammy. [Kiss the Bricks](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). Race car driver Kate Reilly can qualify for the Indianapolis 500 for the second time if she does well enough in the trials. She's shocked when she puts in the fastest time in the first practice session only to hear her achievement brings out the worst in a misogynist group of men who think women shouldn't be racing at all. Rude, sexist comments and hateful news stories compare her to PJ Rodriguez, the first woman to have the fastest time back in 1987—a woman who never got to race in the 500 because she reportedly jumped off a building. When PJ's mother and brother, aware of Kate's sleuthing experience, beg her to prove that PJ was murdered, she can't say no.... As usual, Kaehler combines a credible group of suspects with some detailed racing lore. Even readers who don't care about cars may well be hooked by the feminist angle."—*Kirkus*. I love the Kate Reillys; [order them all](#). And start with the new \$9.99 edition of the first, [Dead Man's Switch](#).

Kies, Thomas. [Random Road](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). *Library Journal* names this mystery its Debut of the Month with this Starred Review: "Reporter Geneva Chase has written hundreds of stories, but what brings her back to Sheffield, CT, and her hometown newspaper, isn't a news piece, it's her alcoholism. Yet this may be her chance at professional redemption, as she investigates one of the most grisly murder scenes of her career. Probing the brutal slaughter of six people at an exclusive gated community, the intrepid journalist also uncovers all kinds of secrets, from a young man whose father bribes a judge to let him off on a hit-and-run charge to a swingers' club. At the same time, Geneva also tries to hide her drinking problem from the newsroom. A chance encounter at an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting will change her life, but not before it's jeopardized by her connecting the dots and tracking down a vicious killer. Kies' debut mystery introduces a reporter with a compelling voice, a damaged woman who recounts her own bittersweet story as she hunts down clues. This suspenseful story will appeal to readers who enjoy hard-nosed investigative reporters such as Brad Parks' Carter Ross." So it's our **May Surprise Me! Club Pick**...and there is quite a one in store for readers. It sure nailed me as I edited it.

McKinlay, Jenn. [About a Dog](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Bluff Point Romance #1...Ok, it's got a hot guy, but the real knockout is a stray puppy named Tulip! Mackenzie "Mac" Harris fled her hometown of Bluff Point, Maine, after being left at the altar—and seeking solace in the arms of her best friend's off-limits brother. Now, seven years later, she's back to attend her best friend's wedding—safe, or so she thinks, from the mistakes of her youth. But Gavin Tolliver has never forgotten the woman who has always held his heart. And when Mac rescues Tulip, only Gavin, the town's veterinarian, can help... First of a planned series.

Koch, Gini. [Alien Education](#) (Daw \$7.99). It's a typical day of bureaucracy and stress for President and First Lady Jeff and Kitty Katt-Martini, in part because Kitty's been tapped to represent Earth in the Galactic Council. Kitty feels that's a bad idea, and she might be right. When her first official TV morning show goes awry, it's only the quick thinking of the actor determined to make the *Code Name: First Lady* movie a reality that saves the day. It also forces Kitty to work with Hollywood. Dealing with the assimilation of the aliens who have come to Earth, while fending off advances from a variety of Hollywood types, seems like Kitty's biggest challenge. But then she and Jeff discover that Stephanie Valentino—Jeff's niece and the true Heir Apparent to the original Mastermind—is back. [Order all the Alien Novels](#).

Murthy, Vasudev. [Sherlock Holmes, The Missing Years: Japan](#) and [Sherlock Holmes, The Missing Years: Timbuktu](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 or \$15.95 each). Well this is exciting, my very own author visits us from India! I love his two books taking Holmes and Watson to unexpected destinations during the years before Holmes returned from his demise at the Reichenbach Falls. In the first we have a journey, mostly by sea, all the way to Japan. In the second not only do you get to meet the wonderful Islamic scholar Ibn Battu, you cross the deadly Sahara, meet the Tuaregs, visit Timbuktu as a cultural center, and experience an unusual encounter with Moriarty. Great fun, fascinating travel!

Nesbø, Jo. [The Thirst](#) (Knopf \$26.95). In [Police](#) (\$15.95)—the last novel featuring Jo Nesbø's hard-bitten, maverick Oslo detective—a killer wreaking revenge on the police had Harry Hole

fighting for the safety of the people closest to him. Now, in the Norwegian author's 11th Harry Hole, the story continues as Harry is inextricably drawn back into the Oslo police force. A serial murderer has begun targeting Tinder daters—a murderer whose MO reignites Harry's hunt for a nemesis of his past. A Starred Review: "Bestseller Nesbø's exceptional 11th Harry Hole novel finds the alcoholic, demon-ridden, occasionally suicidal Oslo police detective in better shape than usual. Harry is "currently a sober lecturer at Police College." In the past, he often woke up full of angst; now he's consistently waking up feeling happy. Of course, this relatively blissful state can't last. Harry soon joins the hunt for a serial killer, whose MO—cutting the throats of his victims in vampire fashion—is similar to that of the one killer who escaped him and still invades his dreams. Meanwhile, Rakel slips into a mysterious coma. Nesbø depicts a heartbreakingly conflicted Harry, who both wants to forget the horrors he's trying to prevent and knows he has to remember them in all their grim detail."

We are thrilled this superstar will be signing for the first time at The Pen. Toby Maguire's Material Pictures and Lawrence Grey's Grey Matter Productions have acquired the screen rights to *Blood on the Snow* by Jo Nesbø. They will develop it as a directorial debut vehicle for Maguire, with Nesbø writing the script.

Palmer, Matthew. [Enemy of the Good](#) (Putnam \$27.99). Karen and I are both raving over this brilliant thriller by veteran Foreign Service Officer Palmer who really knows his stuff. Foreign Service human rights officer Kate Hollister, the heroine of this solid international thriller from U.S. Foreign Service veteran Palmer (*The Wolf of Sarajevo*), gets transferred from Cuba to Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, the country where she was raised—and where her parents were murdered at the behest of Kyrgyzstan's "President for Life," Nurlan Eraliev. Her familiarity with the place, its language, and its culture will help her with her mission to identify the leader of Boldu, a revolutionary group. "Kate has to navigate both the supersecret underground movement and the intrigues of the embassy, particularly the more hawkish elements from the CIA, whose motives are suspect from the beginning. Palmer makes the nuances of diplomacy come alive, capturing the contrast between the tedium of diplomatic work and the dangers of espionage." Kate's story pales in comparison with that of Kyrgyzstan.

Petrie, Nicholas. [Burning Bright](#) (\$16). I can't say enough enthusiastic things about Petrie's second gem with Peter Ash after First Mystery Club Pick [The Drifter](#) (\$16). Petrie, a gifted host, is also star material, on track to become a CJ Box or Michael Connelly. If you've missed his work, wait no longer. The opening scene in *Burning Bright* where Peter is being pursued across sequoia canopies pulls you right into *Burning Bright*. There's an interesting, challenging woman. The dog. Villains. Yay!

Quick, Amanda. [The Girl Who Knew Too Much](#) (Berkley \$27). John Charles writes: Here is what I had to say about Quick's forthcoming novel in a starred review for *Booklist*: "The message Anna Harris's employer Helen Spencer left for her was short, simple, and written in Helen's blood: run. So, run is exactly what Anna did. Upon arriving in California, Anna reinvents herself as Irene Glasson, but now just when Irene is settling into her life as Hollywood gossip rag *Whispers* newest rookie reporter, Irene finds herself tangled up in another murder when she agrees to

meet movie actress Gloria Maitland at the Burning Cove Hotel and discovers Gloria's body at the bottom of the hotel's spa pool. Determined to get to the bottom of Gloria's murder, Irene finds herself forced into a reluctant investigative partnership with Oliver Ward, a former world-class magician and now owner of the Burning Cove Hotel. All of the key ingredients – wit-infused writing, sharply etched characters, and plenty of simmering sexual chemistry – that readers have come to expect from Quick come into perfect alignment in this stellar novel. Put this together with a plot that neatly marries high-stakes suspense and a glamorous, old Hollywood setting and you have blockbuster book that will not only delight historical romance readers but have historical mystery fans eager to join in on the fun."

John adds: we also have [Til Death Do Us Part](#) (\$7.99). Operating an exclusive matchmaking service for nobles in Victorian London, Calista Langley is stalked by a dangerously obsessed individual and turns to reclusive author Trent Hastings, who is fighting mysterious demons from his past, for help.

Sardar, Gian. [You Were Here](#) (Putnam \$27). John Charles reviews: Fourteen years after she left home in Minnesota, Abby Walters began having the dream again. The nightmare was always involved a table set for two, a chandelier, and Abby being buried alive with the taste of dirt in her mouth. However, this time the dream is different in one way: Abby also hears the name Claire Ballantine. After learning that her grandmother was once best friends with Claire, Abby returns home to Makade hoping to find some answers to her nightmares. After an unexpected reunion with her old high school crush Aiden MacKenzie, now a detective with the Makade Police Department, Abby finds herself digging into the past when a love triangle involving a married couple and a young woman ends tragically for all concerned. There is a mesmerizing almost dreamy quality to Sardar's writing, which perfectly suits her debut novel. Put this together with a twisted plot rich in old secrets, modern day crimes, hidden passions, and chilling suspense - all of which are expertly employed by Sardar as literary building blocks - and you have the kind of novel Hitchcock would give his eyeteeth to film.

Simpson, Rosemary. [What the Dead Leave Behind](#) (Kensington \$25). The death of Gilded Age Judge Thomas MacKenzie leaves his daughter, Prudence, a wealthy heiress—and at the mercy of his rapacious second wife, Victoria. A few short weeks before Prudence is to marry and come into her inheritance, her fiancé, Charles Linwood, dies in an apparent accident during the monster snowstorm of spring, 1888. Realizing that she has only herself to count on in her battle with Victoria, strong-willed minor Prudence exchanges her drugged drinks for tea and, with backup from Geoffrey Hunter, an old school friend of Charles', quietly searches the house for evidence that might free her from Victoria. "Simpson's debut, first in a planned series, features complex characters, a vivid look at old New York in the late 1800s, and a mystery with a twist."—*Kirkus*. John adds, "Simpson's splendid debut is the perfect blend of history and mystery with a sleuthing couple, who could easily pass as a younger version of Charlotte and Thomas Pitt. Combine this with a vividly evoked Gilded Age setting, and you truly have the start of very special new series for historical mystery lovers and historical fiction fans alike." Simpson turns out to be the sister of PPP author Eileen Brady. Small world, no?

Stabenow, Dana. [Less Than a Treason](#) (Zeus \$26.95). Two thousand people go missing in Alaska every year. They vanish in the middle of mountain footraces, on fishing boats in the Bering Sea, on small planes in the Bush. Kate Shugak 21 brings the lives of some of the missing plus Kate's circle forward since the events that sent her off alone to come to grips with them. How she does it is impressive and moving. And a bonus is that in the telling, and then as a multi-strand plot unfolds, the Alaska native unfurls some of her best writing about the glories--and quirks, lots of them--of her state. I've been reading Kate from the Edgar-winning first book *A Cold Day for Murder*, and recognize that with the advent of reality TV (*The Greatest Catch*) and the booming cruise industry, Alaska has become a far more familiar and cherished landscape for readers. This jewel will lure in many more. I like this from *Booklist's* Starred Review (I've already quote the *PW* Starred Review): "Starting a Kate Shugak book is like going somewhere everybody knows your name, given the warmth and familiarity of the Niniltna cast, even to readers new to the series. The twenty-first series installment, this sequel to *Bad Blood* (2013) maintains Stabenow's reputation for concise prose, pithy dialogue, full bodied characters, and intriguing plotting. Crime fiction doesn't get much better than this."

Sullivan, Mark. [Beneath a Scarlet Sky](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$14.95). Sullivan tells in novel form the true story of Pino Lella, a young man caught up in a WWII world of espionage, patriotism and love. See Our May Large Paperback Picks below for a full review. "*Beneath a Scarlet Sky* has everything—heroism, courage, terror, true love, revenge, compassion in the face of the worst human evils. Sullivan shows us war as it really is, with all its complexities, conflicting loyalties, and unresolved questions, but most of all, he brings us the extraordinary figure of Pino Lella, whose determination to live *con smania*—with passion—saved him." —Joseph Finder

Truluck, Bob. [The Big Nothing](#) (Murmur \$22.99 or \$10.99). Patrick reviews the **May Hardboiled Crime Club Pick**: "Truluck's never been the kind of writer to play by the rules, and this sly take on the classic 'guy-gets-out-of-prison-to-reclaim-hidden-cache-of-loot' riff is full of the blackest of black humor and even a touch of the Southern Gothic. Marty Pell is fresh out of prison after a four-year stint and eager to get his hands on the buried chunk of ill-gotten that he stole with partner-in-crime Shad Dupree. Things in Civility, Florida get violent (and a bit surreal) real fast, as the guys cross paths with sundry thieves, mercenaries and ne'er do wells. Truluck's writing is so alive and fresh that you'll want to follow along on this ride, no matter where it goes. If you like Elmore Leonard and Charles Willeford, you'll dig this.

Note: everyone who purchases a copy of *The Big Nothing* will receive a voucher that can be redeemed for a free signed copy of Truluck's earlier novel, *Flat White!*

Vatsal, Rhada. [Murder Between the Lines](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.95). Kitty Weeks, first met in 2016's [A Front Page Affair](#) (\$15.99), is still working on the *New York Sentinel Ladies' Page*, the paper's only section open to female reporters. Facing a new assignment, Kitty wasn't sure there were any interesting stories at Westfield Hall until she meets Elspeth Bright. Unlike the rest of the students at the prestigious girls' boarding school, Elspeth wasn't content to study the standard fare of domestic arts and drawing room French. Instead Elspeth, the daughter of a noted scientist, impressed Kitty with her passion for science and her confidence

that she was in the midst of achieving a great scientific breakthrough. However, Kitty is shocked to read in the newspapers a few days later that Elspeth has been found dead in Central Park after sleepwalking there one night and freezing to death. Under the guise of helping Elspeth's mother achieve some closure, Kitty agrees to talk to some of the girl's friends at Westfield only to find her own list of questions about Elspeth's death keeps getting longer. Vatsal deftly incorporates a wide range of fascinating historical subjects including electric batteries, submarines, Edison, and Women's Suffrage into the second sterling installment of her Kitty Weeks series, but she does so with an admirably light touch. If you love Rhys Bowen's Molly Murphy mysteries or Carola Dunn's Daisy Dalrymple books, you can't afford to miss either of Vatsal's equally entertaining historical mysteries. **Our May History Paperback Pick.**

SIGNED BOOKS

✚Atkins, Lucy. [The Night Visitor](#) (Quercus \$32). **Warning: this title will be our October British Crime Club Pick in its unsigned US edition.** But we are importing a few from London for those who want a Signed UK copy. I'm burned out on the Trust No One genre exemplified by *The Girl on the Train*, but the characters in this spiraling suspense thriller are so vivid, the twists so unexpected, and the root of it all so... well, not saying as I'll spoil it. Plus it's a literary setting in that the professor/historian/author whose perfect life is brought down is first seen on the night her sensational bestseller is launched at The Hunterian Museum, Royal College of Surgeons, London where Olivia displays that ripple of unease that you know portends coming disaster. When you reach the end game I think you'll agree with CL Taylor: "One of the most vivid, memorable and menacing characters I've ever read."

Betley, Matthew. [Oath of Honor](#) (Atria \$26). This is an outstanding second novel, a big kick up from [Overwatch](#) (\$9.99), a 2016 First Mystery Club Pick for this new thriller writer's potential. Yay, he's lived up to it! 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.

Billingham, Mark. [Love Like Blood](#) (LittleBrown UK \$42). The 14th Tom Thorne teas the formerly rule-bending detective inspector, who's fighting middle age and an expanding waistline, with DI Nicola Tanner, introduced in 2016's standalone, *Die of Shame*. When Tanner's life partner, Susan Best, is murdered outside the couple's home after a shopping trip, the by-the-book Tanner

believes that she, not Susan, was the intended victim, retaliation for her investigation of a series of honor killings in London's Muslim, Hindu, and Sikh communities. Skeptical at first, Thorne agrees to help Tanner when a young Bangladeshi couple disappears, and Thorne suspects that the honor killings may be linked to a cold case from his past

Brookmyre, Chris. Sam Morpeth is growing up way too fast, left to fend for a younger sister with learning difficulties when their mother goes to prison and watching her dreams of university evaporate. But Sam learns what it is to be truly powerless when a stranger begins to blackmail her online, drawing her into a trap she may not escape alive. Who would you turn to? Meanwhile, reporter Jack Parlabane has finally got his career back on track, but his success has left him indebted to a volatile source on the wrong side of the law. Now that debt is being called in, and it could cost him everything. What would you be capable of? Thrown together by a mutual enemy, Sam and Jack are about to discover they have more in common than they realize – and might be each other's only hope.

✚Caldecott, Andrew. [Rotherweird](#) (Quercus \$55). After reading this—*Rotherweird* is twisted, arcane murder-mystery with shades of Deborah Harkness, Hope Mirrlees, Ben Aaronovitch, Mervyn Peake and Edward Gorey at their disturbing best—I wanted to order lots. But the price deters me. The town of Rotherweird stands alone – there are no guidebooks, despite the fascinating and diverse architectural styles cramming the narrow streets, the *avant garde* science and offbeat customs. Cast adrift from the rest of England by Elizabeth I, Rotherweird's independence is subject to one disturbing condition: nobody, but nobody, studies the town or its history. For beneath the enchanting surface lurks a secret so dark that it must never be rediscovered, still less reused. But secrets have a way of leaking out. Two inquisitive outsiders have arrived: Jonah Oblong, to teach modern history at Rotherweird School (nothing local and nothing before 1800), and the sinister billionaire Sir Veronal Slickstone, who has somehow got permission to renovate the town's long-derelect Manor House. Slickstone and Oblong, though driven by conflicting motives, both strive to connect past and present, until they and their allies are drawn into a race against time – and each other.

Caputo, Philip. [Some Rise By Sin](#) (Holt \$28). Patrick intends to secure Signed copies. Email him or watch the Enews or May Booknews for an update. Meanwhile he agrees with this description: The Mexican village of San Patricio is being menaced by a bizarre, cultish drug cartel infamous for its brutality. As the townspeople try to defend themselves by forming a vigilante group, the Mexican army and police have their own ways of fighting back. Into this volatile mix of forces for good and evil (and sometimes both) steps an unlikely broker for peace: Timothy Riordan, an American missionary priest who must decide whether to betray his vows to stop the unspeakable violence and help the people he has pledged to protect. Riordan's fellow expatriate Lisette Moreno serves the region in a different way, as a doctor who makes "house calls" to impoverished settlements, advocating modern medicine to a traditional society wary of outsiders. To gain acceptance, she must keep secret her rocky love affair with artist Pamela Childress, whose troubled emotions lead Moreno to question their relationship. Together, Lisette and Riordan tend to their community. But when Riordan oversteps the bounds of his position, his personal crisis echoes the impossible choices fac-

ing a nation beset by instability and bloodshed. Based on actual events, propelled by moral conflict, and animated by a keen and discerning sensibility, *Some Rise by Sin* demonstrates yet again Philip Caputo's generous and insightful gifts as a storyteller.

Chevalier, Tracy. [New Boy](#) (Hodder \$32). Arriving at his fourth school in six years, diplomat's son Osei Kokote knows he needs an ally if he is to survive his first day – so he's lucky to hit it off with Dee, the most popular girl in school. But one student can't stand to witness this budding relationship: Ian decides to destroy the friendship between the black boy and the golden girl. By the end of the day, the school and its key players – teachers and pupils alike – will never be the same again. The tragedy of *Othello* is transposed to a 1970s suburban Washington schoolyard, where kids fall in and out of love with each other before lunchtime, and practice a casual racism picked up from their parents and teachers. Chevalier's powerful drama of friends torn apart by jealousy, bullying and betrayal will leave you reeling. New in the Hogarth Shakespeare Series.

Child, Lee. [No Middle Name](#) (Bantam \$28). This is the first time all Lee Child's shorter fiction featuring Jack Reacher has been collected into one volume. 12 stories, some of novella length, which cover a lot of Jack Reacher's life, before, during, and after his military career. In "Too Much Time," the one tale not previously published, Reacher witnesses a robbery and deftly halts the thief in small-town Maine. The authorities want a statement, but soon Reacher's charged with "felonious involvement"—a classic Child mash-up of deduction and action. In "Second Son," set in 1974 in Guam, where the Reacher family has just been posted, 13-year-old Jack already knows how to deal with bullies and demonstrates his nascent investigative gifts. In "High Heat," set on the night of the 1977 New York City blackout, teenage Reacher has a date, helps the FBI make a case against a mob boss/drug lord, and provides clues to the identity of serial killer Son of Sam. Read together, the stories shed new light on Reacher's past, illuminating how he grew up and developed into the wandering avenger.

Child, Lincoln. [Full Wolf Moon](#) (Doubleday \$26.95). Enigmaologist Dr. Jeremy Logan checks into a rustic but luxurious artists' retreat deep in the Adirondacks with the aim of completing a monograph on medieval heresy. The colony is firm about no surprise visitors or activity disturbing its guests. But an old friend from his student days, Randall Jessup, is waiting for Logan. A philosopher-turned-forest ranger, Lieutenant Jessup asks Logan to use his unusual expertise and empathy to aid, *sub rosa*, the official investigation into the brutal dismemberment death of a hiker near Desolation Mountain. The carnage might be the work of a wild bear. Or an isolated clan feared by its neighbors. But it coincided with the full moon, accelerating rumors of some kind of werewolf at work. Naturally Logan can't resist this. A werewolf? Seriously? And that's the set-up for another unusual thriller blending science and dangerous landscapes and riddles featuring Logan. When you get to the end you will recognize Child's tip of the hat to a classic.

Christie, William. [A Single Spy](#) (St Martins \$27). Thriller writer Christie chooses an historical subject centered on the 1943 Tehran Conference bringing together Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin. But it begins earlier when the luck of a Russian orphan and thief runs out and instead of further surviving under the

Soviet system he is caught and transported to the NKVD HQ. At 16, Alexsi Ivanovich Smirnov is given a choice: agree to be trained and inserted as a spy into Nazi Germany using the ID of a long-lost nephew of a high-ranking Nazi official as cover—or disappear forever. It's no choice, really. But Alexsi learned his skills well and one of them is the ability to disappear. Nonetheless off he goes into Germany and in time comes Operation Long Jump, a Nazi plan to assassinate the three leaders at Tehran. A plan that was thwarted by a Soviet intelligence officer who had infiltrated German intelligence, or so the record says. In theory German commando Otto Skorzeny commanded Long Jump, but he left no record; in fact, the Germans say it didn't happen. The Russians say it did. The Allies think it may have been a Russian ploy to get FDR to stay at the Soviet Embassy in Tehran, the better to spy on him. As Christie says, "It was a classic intelligence wilderness of mirrors, and for me, the perfect opportunity to write... a fictional story, yet absolutely correct in every single historical detail." You may recall Francine Mathews wrote of the Tehran Conference and potential plot in [Too Bad to Die](#) (\$16), involving Ian Fleming. Alexsi reminds me of the fabulous young Russian in David Benioff's brilliant bestseller [City of Thieves](#) (\$16), set in Leningrad during the Nazi siege. **Our May History Club Pick**, due in the very end of April, gets these other raves: "Part *bildungsroman*, part history lesson, part political exposé, Christie's enthralling novel defies expectations while striking all the chords that make spy fiction so enjoyable." —*Kirkus* Starred Review. "With detailed historical events, compelling characters, and plenty of heart-grabbing moments, this novel is intensely engaging from the first page." —*Library Journal* Starred Review.

Cleeves, Ann. [Cold Earth](#) (St Martins \$25.99). **This is our May British Crime Club Pick**. The ground shifts in more ways than one for Detective Inspector Jimmy Perez in CWA Diamond Dagger-winner Cleeves' 7th Shetland mystery.

Connolly, John. [A Game of Ghosts](#) (Hodder \$35). It is deep winter. The darkness is unending. The private detective named Jaycob Eklund has vanished, and Charlie Parker is dispatched to track him down. Parker's employer, Edgar Ross, an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has his own reasons for wanting Eklund found. Eklund is no ordinary investigator. He is obsessively tracking a series of homicides and disappearances, each linked to reports of hauntings. Now Parker will be drawn into Eklund's world, a realm in which the monstrous Mother rules a crumbling criminal empire, in which men strike bargains with angels, and in which the innocent and guilty alike are pawns in a game of ghosts...

Cussler, Clive/Graham Brown. [The Nighthawk](#) (Putnam \$29 on sale May 30 signed by both). When the most advanced aircraft ever designed vanishes over the South Pacific, Kurt Austin and Joe Zavala are drawn into a deadly contest to locate the fallen machine. Russia and China covet the radical technology, but the United States worries about a darker problem. They know what others don't—that the X-37 is carrying a dangerous secret.... Also chasing the Nighthawk are Russian and Chinese forces, in particular a deadly Chinese operative, Daiyu, who works for the Ministry of State Security. Meanwhile, Kurt must deal with double and triple crosses from his supposed friends.

De Castell, Sebastien. [Spellslinger](#) (Hot Key \$39). Kellen is moments away from facing his first mage's duel and the start of four

trials that will make him a spellcaster. There's just one problem: his magic is gone. This is the first in a rich and compelling fantasy series bursting with tricks, traps and a devious talking squirrel cat. This is a Signed and Numbered Edition. Also new from this fantasy star: [Tyrant's Throne](#) (Quercus \$44). Falcio val Mond, First Cantor of the Greatcoats, is on the brink of fulfilling his dead King's dream: Aline is about to take the throne and restore the rule of law once and for all. But for the Greatcoats, nothing is ever that simple. In neighboring Averages, an enigmatic new warlord is uniting the barbarian armies and even worse, he is rumored to have a new ally: Falcio's old nemesis Trin. With the armies of Averages at her back, she'll be unstoppable. Falcio, Kest, and Brasti go racing north to stop her, but in those cold, treacherous climes they discover something altogether different – and far more dangerous: a new player plans to take the throne of Tristia.

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 Transcaspian 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 UK \$40). This is not only a terrific story that as usual is unpredictable in how it goes, but the feature of London highlighted is its gardens—wild chambers within the urban complex. Not just gardens but royal gardens, parks, squares, closes, and many more. Fowler delights in highlighting the history of London's lungs, the English philosophy of gardens, privacy, formality, design, and much else. The body of the divorcing wife of a former high-flying financier is discovered in a very posh garden to which only the residents of the upscale street have keys. While the gardener is an obvious suspect, the Peculiar Crimes Unit never accepts the obvious. Fans will be cheered to know that Arthur Bryant has made a recovery from insanity to the merely...peculiar. My highest recommendation as indeed I give to this entire eccentric, elegant, entertaining, and always informative series.

Hart, Carolyn G. [Walking on My Grave](#) (Berkley \$26). Death on Demand bookstore owner Annie Darling, as ever more into sleuthing than retail, knows her friend and fellow shop owner Ves Roundtree is a very wealthy woman. Her rich brother entrusted her with his estate, and upon her death, his fortune is to be divided. Several cash-strapped islanders are in line to collect life-changing inheritances. The problem is, Ves is very much alive. Ves hosts a dinner for the prospective beneficiaries and feels a chill in the air that has nothing to do with the wintry season. Not

long after, she suffers a bad fall that was no accident. Everyone at the table had a motive but not a shred of evidence was left behind. When one of the suspects is found floating in the harbor and Ves disappears, Annie and her husband Max spring into action. 26th in a charming series from an MWA Grand Master and multi-award winner.

✦Hawkins, Paula. [Into the Water](#) (Doubleday UK \$34). The second novel from the author of *The Girl on the Train*. In the last days before her death, Nel called her sister. Jules didn't pick up the phone, ignoring her plea for help. Now Nel is dead. They say she jumped. And Jules has been dragged back to the one place she hoped she had escaped for good, to care for the teenage girl her sister left behind. But Jules is afraid. So afraid. Of her long-buried memories, of the old Mill House, of knowing that Nel would never have jumped. And most of all she's afraid of the water, and the place they call the Drowning Pool.... I would call this more Gothic than Trust No One.

✦Henry, James. [Frost at Midnight](#) (Bantam UK \$32.99). The fourth prequel to R. D. Wingfield's *A Touch of Frost*. August, 1983. Denton is preparing for a wedding. Detective Sergeant Waters should be on top of the world with less than a week to go until he marries Kim Myles. But the Sunday before the big day, instead of a run-through with his best man, the church is sealed off. The body of a young woman has been found in the churchyard, and their idyllic wedding venue has become a crime scene. Detective Sergeant Jack Frost has been homeless for the past three months, ever since his wife's family sold the matrimonial house. He's been staying with Detective Constable Sue Clarke but with a baby to take care of and the imminent arrival of her mother, she's given him his marching orders. But as best man to Waters, he's got a responsibility to solve the mystery of the dead girl in the churchyard. Can he put his own troubles aside and be the detective they need him to be? All in all, August looks set to be a wicked month in Denton...

Hewson, David. [Sleep Baby Sleep](#) (Pan \$36). 4th in the Peter Voss series. Annie Schrijver is just twenty-two-years-old. She works in the picturesque Albert Cuyp flower market where her father has a stall. Brimming with personality, she's always been popular with the customers. But then she goes missing, only to be found barely alive, tied to a stone angel in a graveyard, surrounded by a ring of fire. Her body contains traces of a drug which connect the police to a previous case: the Sleeping Beauty murders. But Annie seems to have been the lucky one, as a body is found nearby, freshly tattooed with three words: Sleep Baby Sleep. It is summer and Amsterdam is full of tourists drunk or high on all that it has to offer. The drum of music from a make-shift DJ booth near the zoo is deafening, and empty frites cones and beer cans litter the streets. But the atmosphere has sinister undercurrents as a killer is at work in a city where crime pays and tensions run high. Detective Pieter Vos knows that if he is to outwit the murderer, he will need to employ everything he has....

✦James, Peter. [Need You Dead \(Roy Grace #](#) (Pan \$45). Lorna Belling, desperate to escape the marriage from hell, falls for the charms of another man who promises her the earth. But, as Lorna finds, life seldom follows the plans you've made. A chance photograph on a client's mobile phone changes everything for her. When the body of a woman is found in a bath in Brighton, Detective Superintendent Roy Grace is called to the scene. At

first it looks an open and shut case with a clear prime suspect. Then other scenarios begin to present themselves, each of them tantalizingly plausible, until, in a sudden turn of events, and to his utter disbelief, the case turns more sinister than Grace could ever have imagined.

Kahn, Vaseem. [The Strange Disappearance of a Bollywood Star](#) (Mulholland UK \$35). Inspector Chopra and his elephant sidekick investigate the dark side of Bollywood. Mumbai thrives on extravagant spectacles and larger-than-life characters. But even in the city of dreams, there is no guarantee of a happy ending. Rising star and incorrigible playboy Vikram Verma has disappeared, leaving his latest film in jeopardy. Hired by Verma's formidable mother to find him, Inspector Chopra and his sidekick, baby elephant Ganesha, embark on a journey deep into the world's most flamboyant movie industry. As they uncover feuding stars, failed investments and death threats, it seems that many people have a motive for wanting Verma out of the picture. And yet, as Chopra has long suspected, in Bollywood the truth is often stranger than fiction...

Kostova, Elizabeth. [The Shadow Land](#) (Ballantine \$29). Kostova scored a major bestseller with [The Historian](#) (\$16), a novel rooted in the legends of Vlad the Impaler and in Eastern Europe. Kostova returns there, to elegant Sofia, Bulgaria, with the generations-spanning story of a young American, Alexandra Boyd, who inadvertently acquires one of the bags of an elderly couple as they have a taxi mix-up outside a Sofia hotel. Opening it, she finds an ornate wooden box of what she believes to be human ashes. And thus she gains a mission to find the family and restore them. Her quest involves the secrets of a talented musician which brings on danger and in sum delves into the horrors of a century while exploring Bulgaria's culture and landscape. It's a novel, not a travelogue, but one can read it as both.

Lehane, Dennis. [Since We Fell](#) (Ecco \$27.99). Once a star journalist, until something snapped during her TV coverage of the devastation in Haiti following the 2009 earthquake, Rachel Childs now barely leaves her house. Lehane portrays the frantic hamster wheel of waxing and waning anxiety with unnerving clarity. A lifetime of tension, much of it spawning from her now-deceased mother's refusal to disclose the identity of Rachel's father, weighs on Rachel. The quest to put a name to half her DNA is what first sets Rachel on a collision course with Brian Delacroix, a PI (or so he claims) who advises her against the whole thing. Fast forward several years, and Rachel and Brian meet again. Their eventual marriage is romantic and life-affirming, as Brian coaxes Rachel through the swamp of her psyche, until it's suddenly not. "The book's conspiracy plot doesn't cut the deepest; it's Lehane's intensely intimate portrayal of a woman tormented by her own mind."—*PW*

✦Lyle, HB. [Irregular: A Different Class of Spy](#) (Hodder \$43). As a boy, he spied for Sherlock Holmes. As a man, he must save the Empire. London 1909: The British Empire seems invulnerable. But Captain Vernon Kell, head of counter-intelligence at the War Office, knows better. In Russia, revolution; in Germany, an arms race; in London, the streets are alive with foreign terrorists. Kell wants to set up a Secret Service, but to convince his political masters he needs proof of a threat – and to find that, he needs an agent he can trust. The playing fields of Eton may produce good officers, but not men who can work undercover in a munitions

factory that appears to be leaking secrets to the Germans. Kell needs Wiggins. Trained as a child by Kell's old friend Sherlock Holmes – he led a gang of urchin investigators known as the Baker Street Irregulars – Wiggins is an ex-soldier with an expert line in deduction and the cunning of a born street fighter. ‘The best’, says Holmes. Wiggins turns down the job – he ‘don’t do official’. But when his best friend is killed by Russian anarchists, Wiggins sees that the role of secret agent could take him towards his sworn revenge. Tracking the Russian gang, Wiggins meets a mysterious beauty called Bela, who saves his life. Working for Kell, he begins to unravel a conspiracy that reaches far beyond the munitions facto.

MacBride, Stuart. [Dark So Deadly](#) (Collins \$44). Welcome to the Misfit Mob... It's where Police Scotland dumps the officers it can't get rid of, but wants to: the outcasts, the troublemakers, the compromised. Officers like DC Callum MacGregor, lumbered with all the boring go-nowhere cases. So when an ancient mummy turns up at the Oldcastle tip, it's his job to find out which museum it's been stolen from. But then Callum uncovers links between his ancient corpse and three missing young men, and life starts to get a lot more interesting. O Division's Major Investigation Teams already have more cases than they can cope with, so, against everyone's better judgment, the Misfit Mob are just going to have to manage this one on their own. No one expects them to succeed, but right now they're the only thing standing between the killer's victims and a slow, lingering death.

Nicorvo, Jay Baron. [The Standard Grand](#) (St Martins \$28). When an Army trucker goes AWOL before her third deployment, she ends up sleeping in Central Park. There, she meets a Vietnam vet and widower who inherited a tumbledown Borscht Belt resort. Converted into a halfway house for homeless veterans, the Standard—and its two thousand acres over the Marcellus Shale Formation—is coveted by a Houston-based multinational company. Toward what end, only a corporate executive knows. **This debut, a May Indie Next Pick, is our June Modern Firsts Club Pick;** non-members should order it now to avoid our running out. The Indie Next Pick ends, “*The Standard Grand* is sculpture, a work of art with every word, every detail, perfect.” Patrick has more to say about this debut in June.

✦Parsons, Tony. [Die Last](#) (Random UK \$32). As dawn breaks on a snowy February morning, a refrigerated lorry is found parked in the heart of London's Chinatown. Inside, twelve women, apparently illegal immigrants, are dead from hypothermia. But in the cab of the abandoned death truck, DC Max Wolfe of West End Central finds thirteen passports. The hunt for the missing woman will take Max Wolfe into the dark heart of the world of human smuggling, mass migration and 21st-century slave markets, as he is forced to ask the question that haunts our time: What would you do for a home?

Rio, ML. [If We Were Villains](#) (Flatiron \$27). Rio's debut takes place in one of those academic—an elite arts college—hothouses filled with youth both brilliant and highly sexed and adults less monk-or-nun-like than one would hope. The inevitable comparison is to Donna Tartt's *The Secret History*, and in my mind to some of the literary suspense novels by Carol Goodman. We begin with the release of Oliver Marks from ten years in prison. He's been doing time for a murder he did—or didn't—commit and thus he's greeted by the cop who put him there. Detective

Calhoun is retiring and he really wants to know what happened when the seven students in theater studying Shakespeare ended up creating a deadly drama that left one of them dead and the others acting for their lives to appear blameless. Did Marks do it—or did he take the fall? If so, then why? And what's the second act if any? We have a small supply of Signed firsts so please order soon.

Riordan, Rick. [Trials of Apollo Book Two: The Dark Prophecy](#) (Disney \$19.99). The god Apollo, cast down to earth and trapped in the form of a gawky teenage boy as punishment, must set off on the second of his harrowing (and hilarious) trials. He and his companions seek the ancient oracles – restoring them is the only way for Apollo to reclaim his place on Mount Olympus. Somewhere in the American Midwest is a haunted cave that may hold answers for Apollo in his quest to become a god again...it doesn't kill him or drive him insane first. Standing in Apollo's way is the second member of the evil Triumvirate – a Roman emperor whose love of bloodshed and spectacle makes even Nero look tame.

✦Runcie, James. [Sidney Chambers and the Persistence of Love](#) (Bloomsbury \$34). It is May 1971 and the Cambridgeshire countryside is bursting into summer. Archdeacon Sidney Chambers is walking in a bluebell wood with his daughter Anna and their ageing Labrador Byron when they stumble upon a body. Plunged into another murder investigation, Sidney discovers a world of hippies and psychedelic plants, where permissive behavior seems to hide something darker. This is the first of many disturbing secrets that Sidney unearths beneath the tranquil surface of the diocese: a celebrated photographer is accused of rape; a priceless religious text vanishes from a Cambridge college; the authentication of a lost masterpiece proves a slippery business; and Sidney's own nephew goes missing. Endeavoring to fit in his clerical duties around sleuthing, Sidney continues to reflect on the divine mysteries of love, life and faith, while wrestling with the earthly problems of parish scandals, a progressive new secretary, the challenges of parenthood, and worse...

✦Searle, Nicholas. [A Traitor in the Family](#) (Viking UK \$25). The author of UK bestseller [The Good Liar](#) (\$15.99) comes up with another tricky premise. While her husband prepared to murder a young man he had never met, Bridget O'Neill completed her packing for Christmas with her in-laws. Francis O'Neill is a terrorist, trained to kill for his cause. Bridget is his wife, expected to be loyal and stand by her husband. She has learned not to hope for much more, until the day she glimpses, for the first time, the chance of a new life. A life without violence, without secrets, and without knocks on the door in the dead of night. A life without her husband. But what if freedom for Bridget means grave danger for Francis? If you like Ruth Ware, she raves about Searle.

Suarez, Daniel. [The Change Agent](#) (Dutton \$28). Our **May SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick** is, “An outstanding speculative thriller... The depth and sophistication of Suarez's dystopian world—not to mention his facility at making complex science intelligible to the nonexpert—rivals anything Michael Crichton ever did.” If you've been watching the news lately, you may have already heard of a genetic editing technology named CRISPR which permits targeted modifications to DNA. In coming decades what effect will the spread of this technology have on society? *Change Agent* explores this near future world where synthetic biology and rampant genetic editing give humanity control

of evolution itself. In 2045 Interpol's Genetic Crime Division grapples with a new type of crime: illicit genetic editing—and it isn't long before the fight gets personal.... CRISPR genetic editing is routinely used to cure genetic disorders in human embryos. However, CRISPR technology is capable of much more—and parents know it. Looking to imbue their children with better memories, greater height, longer life, and more, parents seek out black market embryo labs willing to make risky edits for a price, with potentially unintended consequences for humanity. But having become the most profitable criminal enterprise in the world, the ruthless genetic cartels researching new edits are prepared to go to any length to defend their market. When Interpol Agent Kenneth Durand begins hunting down their labs, he soon becomes their top target. *"A natural at making future shocks seem perfectly believable, Suarez delivers his most entertaining high-tech thriller yet."* — *Kirkus Reviews*

Swinson, David. [Crime Song](#) (LittleBrown \$27). It's an interesting juxtaposition to put a good cop with a bad cocaine etc habit on the trail of, ultimately, a bad cop with a good business plan. Frank Marr, formerly of the DCPD, is eking out a living as a PI and watching his stash dwindle (he has a really serious addiction). But even in his extreme he agrees to do a favor for his aunt who was like a second mother to him. Her son Jeffrey appears to be in trouble, and Frank confirms that he is indeed tangled in a small-time drug op. So if small time, why is Frank's home burglarized? And a body left on his kitchen floor. It's Jeffrey. And worse, Frank's .38, the apparent murder weapon, is missing. So is his cherished music collection. But oddly, the remains of his stash are untouched. What's the message her? Retired cop Swinson broke into (literary) crime big last year with [The Second Girl](#) (\$15.99), a Hardboiled Crime Club Pick much praised by Patrick.

Tinti, Hannah. [The Twelve Lives of Samuel Hawley](#) (Random \$27). The Indie Next Pick for a book arriving in April but our **May Modern Firsts Club Pick**: "Hannah Tinti has accomplished something rare in *The Twelve Lives of Samuel Hawley*: she has written a book too exciting to put down, but too well written to race through or, heaven forbid, skim. Her novel, however, is more than just a treat for those of us who love literary thrillers; it is also a provocative exploration of violence and the extremes to which men and women will go to defend those they love. "Author Ann Patchett adds, "One part Quentin Tarantino, one part Scheherazade, and twelve parts wild innovation. Hannah Tinti proves herself to be an old fashioned storyteller of the highest order."

Turow, Scott. [Testimony](#) (Grand Central \$30). At the age of fifty, former prosecutor Bill ten Boom has walked out on everything he thought was important to him: his law career, his wife, Kindle County, even his country. Still, when he is tapped by the International Criminal Court—an organization charged with prosecuting crimes against humanity—he feels drawn to what will become the most elusive case of his career. Over ten years ago, in the apocalyptic chaos following the Bosnian war, an entire Roma refugee camp vanished. Now for the first time, a witness has stepped forward: Ferko Rincic claims that armed men marched the camp's Gypsy residents to a cave in the middle of the night—and then with a hand grenade set off an avalanche, burying 400 people alive. Only Ferko survived. Boom's task is to examine Ferko's claims and determine who might have massacred the Roma. His investigation takes him from the International Criminal Court's base in Holland to the cities and villages of Bosnia and secret meetings in

Washington, DC, as Boom sorts through a host of suspects, ranging from Serb paramilitaries, to organized crime gangs, to the US government itself, while also maneuvering among the alliances and treacheries of those connected to the case:

Winawar, Melodie. [The Scribe of Siena](#) (Touchstone \$27). In our **May First Mystery Club Pick**, neurosurgeon Beatrice Trovato has always been a deeply empathetic person. But when she begins having sudden, deeply emotional reactions while performing surgery, she worries that her new sensitivity will interfere with her job. When her beloved brother dies suddenly in Siena, she bitterly regrets postponing visiting him in favor of career demands. She heads to the city to sort out his affairs, decide what to do with the home he's left her, and retrieve his research on Siena's history with the Black Death, by every measure more severe in Siena than anywhere. What she doesn't expect is to be pulled into his studies, as she compulsively attempts to complete what he started. Stumbling across fresco painter Gabriele Accorsi, who mysteriously seems to have painted her into his work, she finds herself physically transported across time into the 14th century, just before the plague strike. (You Outlander fans will be OK with this). The vivid descriptions of the people, way of life, food, and other details of medieval Italy deepen the plot, making the book a truly immersive experience. The novel dramatically brings to life a period in Siena's history that is still overwhelmingly neglected by historians—it is still unclear why Siena was ravaged by the plague in ways unseen in other Italian cities. "Winawar has created a prodigious, vibrant tale of past and present that transports readers and fills in the historical gaps. This is a marvelous work of research and invention... Racing against time in more ways than one, Beatrice tries to identify the culprits while wondering if she can ever return to her own time, or if she wants to." — *PW* Starred Review. Winawar renders her story in compelling detail, in Beatrice's whip-smart, observant, often sarcastic voice. Supporting characters in both eras—Ben's neighbor Donata in the present day; the sharp-eyed nun Suor Umiltà in 1347; Gabriele and his family—are also vivid and endearing. The conspiracy is vital as a plot device, but the more resonant theme is Beatrice's deep love for both her centuries and her heartfelt struggle to decide where she belongs.

BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSIC

Rolls, Anthony. [Family Matters](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). Robert Arthur Kewdingham is an eccentric failure of a man. In middle age he retreats into a private world, hunting for Roman artifacts and devoting himself to bizarre mystical beliefs. Robert's wife, Bertha, feels that there are few things more dreadful than a husband who will persist in making a fool of himself in public. Their marriage consists of horrible quarrels, futile arguments, incessant bickering. Scarcely any friends will visit the Kewdinghams in their peaceful hometown Shufflecester. Everything is wrong – and with the entrance of John Harrigall, a bohemian bachelor from London who catches Bertha's eye, they take a turn for the worse. Soon deep passions and resentments shatter the calm facade of the Kewdinghams' lives. This richly characterized and elegantly written crime novel from 1933 is a true forgotten classic.

Coming in June:

Edwards, Martin, ed. [Miraculous Mysteries](#) (\$15.95). Impossible crime stories have been relished by puzzle-lovers ever since the

invention of detective fiction. Fiendishly intricate cases were particularly well suited to the cerebral type of detective story that became so popular during the 'golden age of murder' between the two world wars. But the tradition goes back to the days of Edgar Allan Poe and Wilkie Collins, and impossible crime stories have been written by such luminaries as Arthur Conan Doyle, G.K. Chesterton, Dorothy L. Sayers and Margery Allingham. This anthology celebrates their work, alongside long-hidden gems by less familiar writers. John Dickson Carr was the reputed master of this subgenre. And there are some wonderful locked room novels by authors like Robert Barnard, Reginald Hill, and the famous island mystery by Christie, *And Then There Were None*.

GET YOUR SUMMER NOIR ON...

Stark House publishes some classic volumes

Allyn, Doug. [Jukebox Kings](#) (\$17.95). A gritty new novel set in the early days of rhythm & blues and rock & roll, from the author of *All Creatures Dark and Dangerous* and the Mitch Mitchell series. "Allyn deftly weaves greed, ambition, action, romance and tragedy."—*PW*.

Cameron, Lou. [Angel's Flight](#) (\$9.99). A crazy ruthless story of the music business told from the inside, from swing jazz to bebop to rock & roll. "Here's the real lowdown on everybody—the most alive, authentic, swinging novel about the music business!"—Claude Thornhill. Introduction by Gary Lovisi.

Chase, James Hadley. [Just the Way It Is/Blonde's Requiem](#) (\$19.95). "Crime, Money, Deception, Blonde. All the essential ingredients of a thriller are in place, along with twists and surprises."—Two more 1940s crime classics from the author of *No Orchids for Miss Blandish*.

Flagg, John. [Death and the Naked Lady /Faces Turned Against Him/ The Lady and the Cheetah](#) (\$19.95). Two standalone espionage classics from the early 1950s—originally published by Gold Medal Books—plus a rare short story from the author of *The Persian Cat*. "Enough sudden deaths, mix-ups and double-crosses to satisfy any aficionado's tastes."—Steve Lewis, *MysteryFile*. Introduction by James Reasoner

Fleischman, AS. [Shanghai Flame / Counterspy Express](#) (\$19.95). Two novels of exotic Cold War adventure and intrigue from the 1950s. "[Fleischman] doesn't waste any time dropping the reader right into the middle of the action... highly recommended." — James Reasoner

Keene, Day. [Sleep with the Devil / Wake Up to Murder/ Joy House](#) (\$21.95). Three early 1950s noir crime thrillers from a master of the genre. "Day Keene packs a knockout combination: sharp dialogue, pacey plots, superbly rounded characters—and a profound sympathy for the socially marginalized. A very modern writer." —Allan Guthrie. New introduction by David Lawrence Wilson

Nielsen, Helen. [The Woman on the Roof](#) (\$9.99). Wilma Rathjen lives above the garage with a view of the apartments below. Her brother Curtis has provided this safe haven for her after her breakdown. The last thing Wilma wants to do is go back to the institution. So when she looks out of her window and sees the body of her neighbor, Jeri Lynn, lying dead in her bathtub, she doesn't call the police. She waits if the body is really there, one

of the other tenants will discover it. And discover it they do. But is this really an accident? There are plenty of tenants, but only Wilma could have seen what happened and that someone might try to kill her next!

Rohmer, Sax. [Brood of the Witch Queen/Quest of the Sacred Slipper](#) (\$19.95). Two stand-alone exotic thrillers from the author of the Fu Manchu series. Weird deaths and supernatural events threaten London in these two early 20th century occult masterpieces.

White, Lionel. [Snatchers / Clean Break](#) (\$19.95). Two classic caper novels from the early 1950s. *Clean Break* was filmed as *The Killing* by Stanley Kubrick in 1956. "One of the best thrillers I've read this or any season."—Jack Webb. New introduction by Rick Ollerman.

RECENT GEMS POISONED PEN

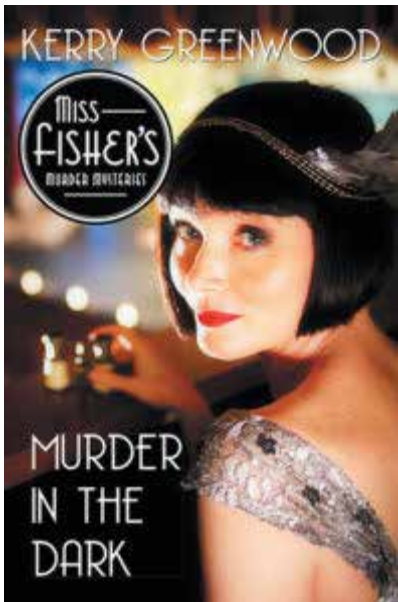
Chisholm, PF. [A Famine of Horses](#) (\$9.99). The latest first in a series to be reissued at \$9.99 introduces Sir Robert Carey. If time travel were possible, he'd be my guy! Diana Gabaldon is an enthusiastic fan—think of Robert as an Elizabethan Jamie Fraser. [Read Diana's essay](#) on the 8th Sir Robert which should make you not familiar with the series to dive right in. In part she says, "I've loved the Robert Carey series since the first book, and every one thereafter has had all the elements that made the first so engaging: a fascinating look at little-known parts of Elizabethan history, wonderfully immersive details, hilarious dialogue, adventurous situations, and—above all—characters drawn with a deftness that catches the essence of a soul in a few words. Sir Robert is the center of it all, of course, but the story certainly doesn't stop with him. He's surrounded by a constantly evolving (and revolving) constellation of courtiers, reivers, Borderers (often synonymous with reivers), Sergeant Dodd (his surly, dour, stubborn, honorable sidekick), scholars, assassins, spies, royalty, and (to be sure) women. One woman in particular; the unattainable Elizabeth Widdrington, unhappily married to a cruel older husband and much too honorable to take Robert Carey as her lover, much as she wants to. *Kirkus* writes of *Famine*: "Rich in atmosphere and packed with vivid real and fictional characters, few novels are as well imagined or as much fun as this romp through roguish courtiers, rival gangs, rustling, treason, and high ambition. "A briskly paced debut rich in spiky characters, eccentric accents, and, above all, a charismatic hero with a sense of honor and a sense of humor."

Greenwood, Kerry. [Murder in the Dark](#) (\$15.95). The success of the Miss Fisher Mysteries on TV prompts PPP to reissue the Phryne Fishers with new covers. But they are the same fabulous, racy 1920s blend of mystery, Australia style. Order all the [Miss Fisher Mysteries](#) with the new covers. For the complete list, some with the gorgeous Art Deco covers, [click here](#).

Kaehler, Tammy. [Dead Man's Switch](#) (\$9.99). And here is another series first reissued. Kate Reilly is one of my favorite sleuths. Get to know her and join us May 7 for a PPP party celebrating Kate's latest investigation. See Event Books.

OUR MAY LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

⌘Atherton, Nancy. [Aunt Dimity and the Buried Treasure](#) (\$14. King) highlights the benefits and hazards of uncovering the past.



In the attic of her house in the Cotswolds village of Finch, Lori comes across a gold bracelet inlaid with garnets that must have belonged to her ghostly aunt, Dimity Westwood. This discovery prompts Dimity to tell the story of a post-WWII misunderstanding with a man she knew only as Badger; she asks Lori to try to locate Badger, even though he would be almost 90 years old. Reluctantly, Lori agrees to visit Dimity's old stomping grounds in London, where she encounters three pensioners known as the

Battle of Britain boys, who put her on the right trail. Meanwhile, "metal detectorist" James Hobson arrives in Finch, causing a stir with his hobby. The use of a metal detector by various villagers produces objects that reveal things better left hidden. Atherton smoothly blends history, village life, and the otherworldly. See Event Books for [Aunt Dimity and the Widow's Curse](#) (Viking \$27, signed here June 10).

Black, Cara. [Murder on the Quai](#) (\$15.95). Though a prequel there is much that is fresh, plus a strong plot. November, 1989: Aimée Leduc is in her first year of college at Paris's preeminent medical school. She lives in a 17th-century apartment that overlooks the Seine with her father, who runs the family detective agency. Meet her at the outset of her 15 cases. *PW* reviews, "a prequel that tells the intriguing story of Aimée's debut as a detective. When Aimée's father, Jean-Claude, travels to Germany on business around the time of the fall of the Berlin Wall, he leaves Aimée, a first-year medical student who's struggling with academic failure and her boyfriend leaving her for another woman, temporarily in charge of the family-owned detective agency in Paris. Elise Pelletier, who claims to be Jean-Claude's second cousin, brings Aimée her first case. Elise wants to find the woman whose name and phone number were on a matchbook in the pocket of her own father, Bruno, who was discovered tied and bound with a bullet in his head under the Pont des Invalides. As Aimée investigates, she becomes enmeshed in the murky history of the murder of four German soldiers in Vichy, France, during WWII. See Event Books for [Murder in Saint-Germain](#) (Soho \$27.95), signed here June 7.

✂Cartmel, Andrew. [The Vinyl Detective - The Run-Out Groove](#) (Titan \$14.95). [The Vinyl Detective Mysteries – Written in Dead Wax](#) (Titan \$14.95) was a big hit as one of our 2016 British Crime Club Picks. Patrick and I both raved. Now our unnamed hero, aka The Vinyl Detective, is back. His first adventure consisted of the search for a rare record; his second the search for a lost child. Specifically the child of Valerian, lead singer of a great rock band of the 1960s, who hanged herself in mysterious circumstances after the boy's abduction. Along the way, the Vinyl Detective finds himself marked for death, at the wrong end of a shotgun, and unknowingly dosed with LSD as a prelude to being

burned alive. And then there's the grave robbing...

Connelly, Michael. [The Wrong Side of Goodbye](#) (\$15.99). Harry Bosch has finally aged out of the LAPD, but what else would he do but detect? So he's hung out a shingle as a PI and it brings him a case straight out of Raymond Chandler: a dying, reclusive billionaire wants to know if the Mexican girl he loved did have their baby and, if so, what became of it. At the same time Harry volunteers as an investigator for a cash-strapped small PD inside metro LA and finds himself tracking a serial rapist who turns out to be a super test of Harry's skill set. Terrific! Look for Connelly to start a new series featuring a young detective trying to prove herself in the LAPD in July with [The Late Show](#) (LittleBrown \$29 Signed).

Corby, Gary. [The Singer from Memphis](#) (\$15.95). Here is a very funny and historically sound adventure for Nicolaos, the only private investigator in ancient Athens—perfect for those who enjoy Steven Saylor's recent books for the Young Gordianus set in Egypt. Nicolaos, on assignment from Pericles, discovers that helping an author with his book research can be very dangerous. The would-be author is a young and naïf Herodotus who wishes to produce a memorable book. So he has hired Nico and his priestess wife, Diotima, to accompany him to Egypt to research that ancient country's history. Pericles sees this as a way to plant Nicolaos as an Athenian secret agent in Egypt which is in the throes of a rebellion against its overlord, the Persian Empire. Pirates infest the sea route. Three different armies roam the Egyptian countryside. The river is full of crocodiles. There's an heir to the last Pharaoh who lacks credentials. Everywhere Nico turns, there's a secret agent ready to kill him—two, actually, one Spartan, the other Persian. Plus he can't find a decent cup of wine anywhere in a country that lives on beer. And...there's a treasure hunt. I love this whole series which you can order and read [here](#). Next: [Death on Delos](#) (Soho \$26.95) in July.

Crouch, Blake. [Dark Matter](#) (\$16). The Indie Next Pick: "Equal parts science fiction, thriller, and theoretical self-examination, complete with an overarching love story. Crouch does a fantastic job of keeping readers grounded while traveling through multiple dimensions, and he offers introspection on how each of the life choices a person makes recreates that person in a new and profound way. I tore through this, waiting for—and finding—a spectacular conclusion. A must-read!" The hero of this hot-buzz thriller is Jason Dessen, is a physics professor living in Chicago with his wife Daniela and their teen son Charlie. An ordinary, very happy family. And one night with no warning he's kidnapped and drugged. He wakes up in a different version of the city, where the basic facts of his life are completely altered, where multiple Jasons exist, and the main challenge is how to get back to his real wife and son, and then what... Crouch, long fascinated by quantum mechanics, weaves a speculative story grounded in the possibility of multiple realities.

✂De Muriel, Oscar. [The Strings of Murder](#) (\$15.95). Sherlock Holmes meets the X-Files in de Muriel's standout debut, a creepy and atmospheric locked-room mystery set in 1888. "De Muriel's hugely entertaining Victorian mystery finds Inspector Ian Frey in disgrace, sent by Scotland Yard to Edinburgh to join the Commission for the Elucidation of Unsolved Cases Presumably Related to the Odd and Ghostly. Frey is actually working undercover on a special mission from the prime minister to investigate the

murder of a respected concert violinist at the rough hands of someone who seems to admire the work of Jack the Ripper. A fastidious fop, Frey is appalled by the gritty city and horrified by his superior, Adolphus McGray, a lusty Falstaffian character who calls his new colleague a ‘whiny lassie.’ The two actually work well together in this locked-room mystery. The real fun, though, is hearing the haughty Frey (who even brought along his fencing gear) recoil from the ‘dreadful’ Scottish accents, the ‘disgusting’ food and the ‘offensive stench’ of the streets.”—*NY Times*

Hart, John. [Redemption Road](#) (\$16.99). “You have a damaged cop that refuses to help herself, an ex-cop leaving prison after serving time for a murder he didn’t commit and a serial killer who is unknown in the town he has been preying upon for years. And that just starts the book.” After a long absence, multi-Edgar winner Hart returns with his first female character plunged into one of his layered plots that is rich in backstory and once again celebrates the Southern Gothic, legal style.

Krueger, William Kent. [Manitou Canyon](#) (\$16). Cork O’Connor learns again that November is the cruelest month—in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Lindsay Harris and her brother, Trevor, hire the ex-sheriff turned PI to find their architect grandfather, John Harris, who recently vanished from Minnesota’s Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Winter is coming, and Cork’s daughter is getting married soon, but the siblings’ plea is compelling and Harris was a childhood friend, so Cork accompanies Lindsay into the wilderness to see what Tamarack County Search and Rescue might have missed. When the pair fails to return, friends and family investigate. Meanwhile, Cork and Lindsay fight for their lives. Honorable and courageous yet full of self-doubt, Cork seeks not only Harris but also redemption for past failures. References to Ojibwe culture and an extraordinary sense of place provide color and texture. Order earlier Corks [here](#), all corks! Krueger signs the next Cork, [Sulfur Springs](#) (Atria \$26), here on August 31 (with T Jefferson Parker).

Morgan, CE. [The Sport of Kings](#) (\$18). “A vivid epic of rage and racism on a Kentucky stud farm exposes the myth of the American dream.” —*The Spectator* “Ravishing and ambitious.... It’s a mud-flecked epic, replete with fertile symbolism, that hurtles through generations of Kentucky history.... [Morgan is] an interior writer, with deep verbal and intellectual resources [who] bears down incisively on topics — the lust for speed and power and domination, the prison experience of black men, male camaraderie, the bonds between fathers and sons, the brute intricacies of the dirty Southern soul — that men have tended to claim . . . [A] serious and important novel.”—Dwight Garner, *The New York Times*, which made it a Notable Book of 2016, as did NPR. It is a regret I never got to this book in 2016 so I’m making up for it now.

Newton, JL. [Oink: A Food for Thought Mystery](#) (She Writes \$16.95). Like the Orr debut below, Newton’s debut fiction is amusing and full of quirks—plus it has recipes. They aren’t normally a plus for me but the one for cornbread made with goat cheese and caramelized onions hooked me. While we have, as in Orr, a woman who signs up for an on-line dating service (her pick is a math professor specializing in chaos theory), she’s also a serious academic navigating the politics of Arbor State University, clearly once an aggie school but being unfortunately transformed from a university cherishing small programs and universities by

the funding and structures of corporations. Specifically by agri-giant Syndicon. But this is not an agenda-driven book (although I’m not sure it could be set anywhere but in Southern California); it’s a character-driven one. When plan biology professor Peter Elliott is found nearly dead in the hog pen, it sets investigations in motion. Elliott was found clutching a bit of cornbread which leads the cops to Professor Emily Addams who among other things is researching corn (thus eating and cooking with it as often as possible). And it leads Emily to do some investigating which turns up the various evil deeds of Peter Elliott, and thus a circle of suspects in his poisoning. It’s not quite a Christie, but it’s a bit like one of her archaeology-driven mysteries. Plus you can cook from the recipes and the bibliography attached to them.

Orr, Jill. [The Good Byline](#) (Park Books \$16). This zingy debut has a captivating voice in Riley Ellison, a smart and quirky library assistant with a penchant for obits, and a corkscrew plot that embraces organized crime, secret lovers, and suspicious taco trucks, plus a serpentine investigation. It begins when Riley, known as “Riley, Bless Her Heart” since her forever boyfriend dumped her and moved on from Tuttle Corner, Virginia (but not from her loyal heart), takes two steps: she signs up for an on-line dating service; she tries to reconnect with her childhood best friend. Jordan James, so cool, was a reporter at the *Tuttle Times*—but, Riley learns, ended her own life. A disbelieving Riley agrees to Jordan’s mom’s request to write Jordan’s obituary as a way to discover what led to her suicide. Then an unusual fellow reporter convinces Riley that Jordan’s death was murder and off she goes down a dangerous path. While undeniably a book more for women readers than men, I hope everyone takes Riley to his or her heart so that we get a sequel. If for no other reason than the emails (and range of services) offered Riley by Regina H, Personal Romance Concierge, Click.com, a genius at monetizing anything, would be sorely missed, as would all the gems quoted from real columnists (Orr is one herself) that underline aspects of Riley’s world. **Our May Fresh Fiction Pick.**

Paris, BA. [Behind Closed Doors](#) (\$15.99). This terrific debut, a 2016 British Crime Club Pick in hardcover, is not novel in the idea that a psychopath courts and weds a young woman and essentially imprisons her. But it is as you discover his real target and, crucially, whether the bride finds her mojo. What really won me was the meticulous portrait of what the wife of an upper-middle-class Brit would do to appear normal right down to meal preparation and how she dresses. It actually underscores the menace. “On the surface, Jack and Grace have the perfect marriage, the perfect house, and the perfect jobs. What lies beneath the surface is something so sinister yet so believable that it will horrify most readers. This is a quietly superb story of psychological abuse with a spectacular end-game. Paris publishes her next novel, [The Breakdown](#) (St Martins \$25.99), in July.

Perri, Camille. [The Assistants](#) (\$16). A 2016 Modern Firsts Club Pick now in paperback. There’s a crime, or crimes, at its core but it’s more like *The Devil Wore Prada* with a billionaire guy rather than a bitchy boss. And there’s a con his underpaid, debt-loaded, and desperate executive assistant Tina Fontana stumbles into at Titan Corporation, the giant media conglomerate headed by Robert Barlow, CEO (some may think Michael Bloomberg here). It all begins when a technical error in submitting one of Robert’s travel and entertainment expense reports opens an opportunity for Tina to... well, to keep what’s mere pocket change for Robert.

She's crushed by student debt, living in miserable shared space. But here is the proverbial one small step, the one that leads to more steps down a path and picks up partners and ends in.... Perri's debut is smart with heart.

Sullivan, Mark. [Beneath a Scarlet Sky](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$14.95). Sullivan tells in novel form the true story of Pino Lella, a young man caught up in a world of espionage, patriotism and love. As Nazis infiltrate and take command of Milan, Pino's aunt and uncle continue to run their leather goods shop, selling fine handmade products to the wealthy of the city, as well as to the Nazis. Pino is startled to see the Germans, but he is young and his mind quickly turns to beautiful Anna. The war is closing in on the city, but he can ignore it--until the night Milan is bombed, and Pino and his younger brother, Mimo, narrowly miss dying in a movie theater. For their safety, Pino and Mimo are sent to a camp in the Alps run by priests, where Pino frets about his inability to do anything for the war effort. Then, he is given a series of tasks by the head priest, including learning to drive. Assigned as driver to one of the highest-ranking Nazis in Milan, Pino uses his position to help the Resistance. Sullivan has interwoven numerous small details of life during the war, based on interviews with Pino and countless hours of research in archives and books. The novel highlights the plight of Jews and others captured and enslaved by the Germans; the constant tension and fear the Italians lived in as the battle for Italy raged around them; and the destruction from the Allies dropping bombs night after night as they advanced toward Milan. But he counters this heaviness with the intricately woven love story of Pino and Anna. **Sullivan signs this here June 6.** Recommended to readers of *The Nightingale*. [Order other thrillers](#) by Sullivan, who writes a series with James Patterson.

SOME NEW BOOKS FOR MAY

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Bell, Madison S. [Behind the Moon](#) (City Lights \$15.95). This paperback original is unread by me but I'm intrigued. Here's the *LJ* Starred Review: "This latest from National Book Award finalist Bell is the story of an illicit teenage camping trip gone awry. Julie and Karyn are supposed to be having a sleepover but are instead on an adventure with Jamal, Marlo, and Sonny. They are in the desert near a large rock outcropping featuring petroglyphs and a narrow cave opening. Under the influence of a mistakenly ingested drug, Julie escapes the unwanted advances of Marlo by retreating, with Jamal's help, into the relative safety of the cave. The story proceeds through a number of alternative retellings. Woven throughout are dreamlike passages involving Paleolithic peoples and totemic animal spirits. Next we meet Julie's birth mother, Marissa, who has come back to the hospital where Julie was born, coincidentally finding her daughter there in a coma after her ordeal in the desert. The last section focuses on Marissa's experiences working with Jamal and a Native American outlaw named Ultimo to unravel the mystery of the cave. VERDICT Multiple versions and perspectives are pervasive and illustrate the dream space and the story, culminating in a perfect matchup of beginning and ending. Highly recommended for readers who can accept a number of coexisting realities."

Bennett, Robert Jackson. [City of Miracles](#) (Crown \$16). Bennett concludes his Divine Cities trilogy (*City of Stairs*, *City of*

Blades) with a stunning and heartbreaking tale of sacrifice amid magic and spycraft. Sigrud Harkvaldsson has spent years in the wilderness after the death of his daughter. When Shara Komayd, his mentor and friend, is assassinated, he vows to find out what happened and seek revenge. Instead of discovering a simple plot by one of Shara's enemies, Sigrud finds hints of magic and divine artifacts that suggest a threat to the entire world; soon he realizes that, although most of the gods are dead, some of their children aren't. Sigrud has long served as a Conan analogue in Bennett's novels, and the aging barbarian is hardly a new trope, but Bennett dives deeply into Sigrud's character, with some well-laid clues from *City of Stairs* paying substantial dividends as his background is revealed. Intriguing characters such as Shara's teenage daughter, Tatyana, and former ingénue Invania Restroyka (now "the richest damn woman alive") keep the story entertaining, and the ghost of Shara hangs over all of them. The bittersweet ending, which elegantly and definitively caps off the novel and the trilogy, will have readers reaching for the tissues.

Billingham, Mark. [Die of Shame](#) (\$15.99). It's interesting that Billingham goes with shame as a push in our so confessional age. Every Monday evening, six people gather in a smart North London house to talk about shame. A respected doctor, a well-heeled housewife, a young male prostitute . . . they could not be more different. All they have in common is a history of addiction. But when one of the group is murdered, it quickly becomes apparent that someone else in that circle is responsible. The investigation is hampered by the strict confidentiality that binds these individuals and their therapist together, which makes things difficult for Detective Inspector Nicola Tanner, a woman who can appreciate the desire to keep personal matters private. If she is to find the killer, she will need to use less obvious means. The question is: What could be shameful enough to cost someone his life?

Boylan, Jennifer Finney. [The Long Black Veil](#) (Crown \$25). "At the start of this madcap thriller full of hidden identities from Boylan, a night of goofy post-college mischief goes horribly amiss in Philadelphia's shut-down Eastern State Penitentiary in 1980. When human remains surface at the site decades after the party, one of the six revelers, Jon Casey—now a top chef in Philadelphia—is charged, although the gumshoe assigned to review the cold case files senses more than a possible crime of passion has been covered up. In the interim, it appears that another party participant, a friend of Casey's, may have faked his own death. In rural Maine, freelance writer Judith Carrigan, who knew both the victim and Casey back when, knows the latter to be innocent. But to help Casey would put her family and happiness on the line. Boylan's bluff, witty prose ("my actual innocence got on his nerves") charms away any impatience with more far-fetched aspects of her loopy plot. And embedded in the whodunit is a heartwarming midlife love story, in which hard-won candor, tenacity, and a generous sense of humor are the most saving of graces."—*PW* Starred Review for a new book recommended to fans of Megan Abbott and, once again, Donna Tartt.

Cameron, Claire. [The Last Neanderthal](#) (Little Brown \$26). If you've been missing Jean Auel this fascinating novel is for you—and links the past to the present. Forty millennia separate the two female protagonists of this impressively executed novel from the author of *The Bear*. In the distant past, a Neanderthal named Girl struggles to define her role in a depleted family that includes her aged mother, Big Mother; her brother, Him; and Runt, a

foundling. Now of childbearing age, Girl is secretly impregnated by Him and soon thereafter cast out by Big Mother, and though the family is eventually reunited, a failed hunt leaves several of them dead. Girl is left to care for Runt while leading them to “the meeting place,” where they’ll hopefully join a new family. Interspersed with Girl’s story are flash-forwards to Rose, the pregnant anthropologist who unearths Girl’s bones positioned intimately beside those of a human. The births of both Rose and Girl’s children, past and present, threaten to destroy the lives of the respective mothers, as Rose is forced to leave the dig site, while Girl must deliver the baby alone in a snowstorm. The contrasting and similar reactions to motherhood are emblematic of the book’s greatest strength—its ability to collapse time and space to draw together seemingly dissimilar species: ancestors and successors, writer and reader.

Castle, Richard. [Heat Storm](#) (Kingswell \$26.99). Nikki Heat and Derrick Storm team up for the first time to save Nikki’s mother, Cynthia, who has been in hiding (and presumed dead) for 17 years. Standing in their way is a nefarious group of Chinese businessmen known as the Shanghai Seven, who have the resources—and ruthlessness—to stop them.

Cline, Emma. [The Girls](#) (\$17). A 2016 First Mystery Club Pick, a multi-award nominee now in paperback, explores the uncanny appeal of a religious cult for girls seeking refuge from moral uncertainty. It’s 1969. Unhappy teenager Evie Boyd is sucked into a Charles-Manson-like cult, seduced by the blessed-out feral girls in the commune leader’s entourage. Lonely and insecure, Evie follows them like a stray to the farm, where they live in squalor, and tries to ignore undercurrents of violence and sexual abuse.”Yet she’s painfully aware that she is fascinated by girls, awkward with boys, and overlooked by her divorced parents, who are preoccupied with their own relationships. When Evie meets Suzanne Parker, she finds in the 19-year-old grifter an assurance she herself lacks. Suzanne lives at a derelict ranch with the followers of charismatic failed musician Russell Hadrick, who extols selflessness and sexual freedom. Soon, Evie—grateful for Russell’s attention, the sense of family the group offers, and Suzanne’s seductive presence—is swept into their chaotic existence. As the mood at the ranch turns dark, her choices become riskier. . . . Its similarities to the Manson story and crimes notwithstanding, *The Girls* is less about one night of violence than about the harm we can do, to ourselves and others, in our hunger for belonging and acceptance.”

Crichton, Michael. [Dragon Teeth](#) (Harper \$28.99). Hmm, when clearing his office Crichton’s widow found this novel (or the basis for it, anyway) which, set in 1876, centers itself on the burgeoning world of paleontology and an actual feud between Yale’s Othniel Charles Marsh (a Peabody) and rival Edward Drinker Cope of Philadelphia. Both men are set on expeditions west to pillage the land for dinosaur fossils while sabotaging each other’s hunting with what became known as the Bone Wars. Crichton creates an entitled and arrogant Yale undergrad, one William Johnson, also rich (note, the three principals of this story are all sons of wealthy fathers, full of entitlement and a desire to make their own fame), who signs on with Marsh after scrambling up some skill as a photographer. But he gets caught up their rivalry. This is not vintage Crichton nor does it have the panache of Indiana Jones, but it’s worth reading for the unusual aspects

of the Wild West (and academic East) it depicts. Expect to meet other real characters like Wyatt Earp, Collis Huntington, etc. And of course the fossils tie into *Jurassic Park*.

Czerneda, Julie. [Nebula Awards Showcase 2017](#) (Pyr \$18). The *PW* Starred Review: “This compilation of Nebula Award–nominated and –winning fiction from 2016 is indispensable reading for anyone interested in fantastic fiction. The three short-fiction winners show the breadth of themes and ideas and the sheer creativity of the genre’s leading writers. Alyssa Wong’s “Hungry Daughters of Starving Mothers” is an unsettling tale of horror and also a haunting love story. Sarah Pinsker’s novelette “Our Lady of the Open Road” is a rumination on artistic integrity in a near future in which canned StageHolos are stifling the future of live musical performance. Nnedi Okorafor’s exceptional novella “Binti” explores cultural tribalism as humans and extraterrestrials face off. In addition to all six nominated short stories, the anthology includes excerpts from all six nominated novels, two Rhysling Award–winning poems, and tributes by Betsy Wollheim for C.J. Cherryh (winner of the Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award) and by Michelle Sagara for Terry Pratchett (posthumous winner of the Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award). Czerneda has curated a sterling collection of outstanding work.”

Davis, Lindsey. [Graveyard of the Hesperides](#) (\$16.99). Days before her wedding to virile Tiberius Manlius Faustus, Flavia Albia brings a picnic lunch to her bridegroom at his popular restaurant, The Garden of Hesperides, currently closed for renovations. Their hearty romantic meal is interrupted when builders discover a cache of human bones. Her job as an informer (the ancient term for a private investigator) makes Albia feel duty-bound to investigate, however halfheartedly. . . . 4th in the Flavia Alba series follow up to the Falco Mysteries.

DeLillo, Don. [Zero K](#) (\$16). One of the Starred Reviews: “DeLillo’s 17th novel features a man arriving at a strange, remote compound (we are told the nearest city is Bishkek)—a set-up similar to a few other DeLillo books, *Mao II* and *Ratner’s Star* among them. This time, the protagonist is Jeffrey Lockhart, who is joining his billionaire father, Ross, to say good-bye to Ross’s second wife (and Jeffrey’s stepmother), Artis. The compound is the home of the Convergence, a scientific endeavor that preserves people indefinitely; in Artis’ case, it’s until there’s a cure for her ailing health. But as with any novel by DeLillo, our preeminent brain-needler, the plot is window dressing for his preoccupations: obsessive sallies into death, information, and all kinds of other things. Longtime readers will not be surprised that there’s a two-page rumination on mannequins. But a few components elevate *Zero K* to stand among his finest work.

Doiron, Paul. [The Widower](#) (\$15.99). Game Warden Mike Bowditch is on the trail of a ruthless vigilante amid the snow-covered mountains of Maine. When a mysterious woman in distress appears outside his home, Mike Bowditch has no clue she is about to blow his world apart. Amber Langstrom is beautiful, damaged, and hiding a secret with a link to his past. She claims her son Adam is a wrongfully convicted sex offender who has vanished from a brutal work camp in the high timber around the Widower Ski Resort. She also claims that Adam is the illegitimate son of Jack Bowditch, Mike’s dead and diabolical father - and the half-brother Mike never knew he had. After try-

ing so hard to put his troubled past behind him, Mike is reluctant to revisit the wild country of his childhood and again confront his father's history of violence. But... See our May Small Paperback Picks as this title appears in large and small paperback formats.

Drew, Alan. [Shadow Man](#) (Random \$27). Detective Ben Wade has returned to his California hometown of Rancho Santa Elena for a quieter life. Suddenly the town, with its peaceful streets and excellent public schools, finds itself at the mercy of a serial killer who slips through windows and screen doors, shattering illusions of safety. As Ben and forensic specialist Natasha Betencourt struggle to stay one step ahead of the killer, Ben's own world is rocked again by a teen's suicide. Ben must decide how far he is willing to go, and how much he will risk, to rescue the town from a long-buried secret, as well as from a psychotic murderer. With eerie, chilling, fine prose, Alan Drew brings us into the treacherous underbelly of a suburban California town in this brilliant novel of suspense about a man, and a community, confronted with the heart of human darkness. "Wonderfully imagined and wonderfully written, patient but propulsive, serious but suspenseful, grown-up but gripping, *Shadow Man* is everything a great thriller should be."—Lee Child. "Shadow Man is smart, chilling, and impossible to put down, an accomplished thriller by a writer to watch. Alan Drew is a rising star, blending suspense and humanity with consummate style."—William Landay, author of *Defending Jacob*

Erdrich, Louise. [Larose](#) (\$15.99). The Next Pick: "When a hunting accident results in the death of his neighbor's son, Landreaux Iron follows native tradition and offers his own son, LaRose, to the bereaved family. Thus begins a powerful story of anger, love, hurt, and joy among a group of families and neighbors living in a small community in the North Dakota hinterland. Erdrich's luminous prose captures each character's struggle to overcome their worst impulses—whether it's a handicapped man's long-nurtured quest for revenge, or the pain of a mother withholding her love from her daughter—and reaches into the distant past to reveal the story of the young boy's namesake, the original LaRose. Muted on the surface, but with a heart that beats strong, Erdrich's latest novel is a book to be treasured."

Falconer, Ian. [Olivia the Spy](#) (SimonSchuster \$17.99). Olivia's birthday is days away. Plans must be made. Who makes plans? Moms! Who simply must know the plans? Olivia, who is NOT above eavesdropping. But when she not-so-accidentally-but-kindly overhears her mom talking about her not-so-squeaky-clean-and-possibly-very-bad-behavior, Olivia's imagination runs wild... because it sounds like not only will there be no birthday, but Mom might just be sending her to military school instead. What a BAD birthday that would be!

Farrow, John. [Perish the Day](#) (St Martins \$25.99). A most unusual plot unfolds in the final volume of Farrow's Storm Murders trilogy. Retired Montreal detective Émile Cinq-Mars and his wife, Sandra, are at a college town in New Hampshire to visit her dying mother. The couple also plans to attend the graduation of Sandra's niece Caroline from the Dowbiggin School of International Studies. The one of Caroline's friends, Addie Langford, is found murdered, her body clearly posed for effect on the stairs inside a campus clock tower. The killer had gowned his victim and applied makeup postmortem, adding a gem-studded necklace. The family connection to Addie leads Sandra to encourage Émile to play a part in solving the crime, despite intense opposition to

his involvement from the state trooper overseeing the inquiry. But two other murders complicate things in a story I can only say is both riveting and Baroque! A John Verdon fan, for one, will enjoy the demonstrations of Cinq-Mars' acuity in the face of an intricate and nearly unbelievable crime.

Funke, Cornelia. [The Book No One Ever Read](#) (Breathing Books \$16.99). What happens when books stand untouched on a shelf? Funke's story celebrates the life only readers bring to the printed word. Its hero is a young book, bored with life on the shelf, which yearns for the excitement of sharing its story with a child. The books and illustrations within *The Book No One Ever Read* pay homage to some of Cornelia Funke's favorite authors, who crowd the shelves of the library the story is set in: Robert Louis Stevenson, Victor Hugo, Shel Silverstein, and more. The inspiration for Maury is Maurice Sendak, author of *Where the Wild Things Are*. For ages 3 and up. IMHO adults can enjoy books for younger readers just as much, albeit differently.

Friis, Agnete. [What My Body Remembers](#) (Soho \$25.95). In her first solo, the Danish co-author of the Boy in the Suitcase series with Nina Borg writes a bleak tale of a woman whose life is warped by the shooting death of her mother, allegedly by her father. Ella Nygaard, 27, has been a ward of the state ever since. She doesn't remember anything about that night or her childhood before it—but her body remembers. The PTSD-induced panic attacks she now suffers incapacitate her for hours at a time, sometimes days. After one particularly bad episode lands Ella in a psych ward, she discovers her son, Alex, has been taken from her by the state and placed with a foster family. Desperate not to lose her son, Ella kidnaps Alex and flees to the seaside town in northern Denmark where she was born. And then... Ella is not the only devastated person in Friis' cast for a book that is ultimately about redemption.

Georget, Philip. [Crimes of Winter](#) (Europa \$18). Adultery and its dreadful consequences drive a mystery set in Perpignan, a part of France bordering Catalonia and its culture. Inspector Gilles Sebag is reeling from the shock of learning his beloved wife Claire has been having an affair. How ironic that he's plunged into investigating the apparent open-and-shut murder of a wife by her husband at the scene of an illicit hotel rendezvous. Also, it's Christmas. Something about the husband's story is off, thinks Sebag. And then more murders of straying spouses occur. This is a slow and reflective narrative but I give big points to Georget (and his translator) for a plot premise worthy of Jeffrey Deaver. So stick with this one to the end.

Goddard, Robert. [The Ends of the Earth](#) (Mysterious \$25). The early 20th Century fly-ace turned spy James Maxted's adventures have long been available in the UK but now have a US edition. Following his introduction in [The Ways of the World](#) (\$16), Maxted is now in 1919. The Treaty of Versailles has been signed so action shifts east to Tokyo where a team assembled at Max's behest has arrived at the Tokyo docks. Still pursuing answers to the suspicious death of his father, British diplomat Sir Henry, and the German spymaster Fritz Lemmer who has them, Max hopes to uncover the truth about Sir Henry's work as an agent in Japan, his death, and to take down Lemmer's spy network....

Goodman, Joanna. [Finishing School](#) (Harper \$15.99). A successful writer returns to her elite Swiss boarding school to get to the bottom of a tragic accident that took place while she was

a student twenty years earlier. One spring night in 1998 the beautiful Cressida Strauss plunges from a fourth-floor balcony at the Lycée Internationale Suisse with catastrophic consequences. Loath to draw negative publicity to the school, a bastion of European wealth and glamour, officials quickly dismiss the incident as an accident, but questions remain: Was it a suicide attempt? Or was Cressida pushed? It was no secret that she had a selfish streak and had earned as many enemies as allies in her tenure at the school. For her best friend, scholarship student Kersti Kuusk, the lingering questions surrounding Cressida's fall continue to nag long after she leaves the Lycée. Kersti marries and becomes a bestselling writer, but never stops wondering about Cressida's obsession with the Helvetian Society—a secret club banned years before their arrival at the school—and a pair of its members who were expelled. When Kersti is invited as a guest to the Lycée's 100th Anniversary, she begins probing the cover-up, unearthing a frightening underbelly of lies and abuse at the prestigious establishment. And in one portentous moment, Kersti makes a decision that will connect her to Cressida forever and raise the stakes dangerously high.

Gudenkauf, Heather. [Not a Sound](#) (\$15.99). When a tragic accident leaves nurse Amelia Winn deaf, she spirals into a depression that ultimately causes her to lose everything that matters—her job, her husband, David, and her stepdaughter, Nora. Now, two years later and with the help of her hearing dog, Stitch, she is finally getting back on her feet. But when she discovers the body of a fellow nurse in the dense bush by the river, deep in the woods near her cabin, she is plunged into a disturbing mystery that could shatter the carefully reconstructed pieces of her life all over again. “Heather Gudenkauf is one of my favorite new authors, and this novel explains why. You won't be able to put down this breathless story of a young nurse, Amelia Winn, who has lost everything after a tragic accident – her nursing career, her husband, her stepdaughter, and even her hearing. You'll root for Amelia as she battles to reclaim her life and even fights to get justice for a friend of hers, a nurse who was brutally murdered. *Not a Sound* is not only a riveting thriller, but it's a moving portrait of a woman who is stronger than she ever believed possible, against all odds.” –Lisa Scottoline

Haines, Carolyn. [Sticks and Bones](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Hollywood comes to Zinnia, Miss., in Haines's enjoyable 17th cozy featuring PI Sarah Booth Delaney. Filmmakers are scouting locations for a screen adaptation of the memoir *Dead and Gone* by snooty, self-absorbed Frangelica “Sister” McFee, a former Zinnia resident who has achieved fame and fortune as a bestselling author in New York. They also have some doubts about the book's truthfulness and want to get the real story behind the deaths of Sister's mother and brother. Sarah Booth and her partner in the Delaney Detective Agency, Tinkie Richmond, take on the job of investigating the sordid history of the less-than-loving McFee clan. Clearly, Sarah Booth and Tinkie are getting too close for comfort when the bullets start to fly and the bodies drop. Jitty, the headstrong ghost who shares Sarah Booth's family home, is just one of the many well-drawn characters

Hämäläinen, Karo. [Cruel Is the Night](#) (Soho \$25.95). A Finnish author makes his English-language debut with a darkly humorous, carefully crafted Finnish take on the classic British locked-room mystery. Telegraphing the ending first—no one is alive in millionaire banker Robert's London apartment—Hämäläinen re-

winds to the events of a dinner party, to which Robert has invited his old school friend Mikko, whose sense of righteousness as an investigative journalist fighting financial corruption leads him to take the occasion as an opportunity to poison Robert for the good of the world. Mikko's wife, Veera, who is fiercely attached to him despite a long secret affair with Robert, and Robert's beautiful wife, Elise, whose simplicity hides a complex background, round out the group. Hämäläinen is at ease with using the four distinct character voices to shift the apparent power balance constantly over the course of the evening, providing both thrilling surprises and the dread of inevitability, all in the context of some truly delightful dinner dialogue. While one could cite Agatha Christie as an analog author, the Nordic sensibility infusing this story is not British.

Hamilton, Ian. [The Princeling of Nanjing](#) (Anansi \$19.95). I live for a new chapter in the exciting, high-flying life of Ava Lee, forensic accountant and kickass asset recoverer supreme. Her home is Canada where her father's 2nd wife lives, but she has tight family ties in Hong Kong and a global focus. Now, Ava is in Shanghai for the launch of the PÖ clothing line she is in part financing. She has invited Xu, a potential investor, and over the course of the glitzy event and a late-night dinner, she detects a certain hesitancy in him. He confides that the Tsai family, headed by Tsai Lian, the governor of Jiangsu Province and a “princeling” — he is the son of a general who was on the Long March with Mao and a member of China's power elite — is trying to force him and his Triad organization back into the drug business. Xu is already paying millions of dollars a year to various Tsai businesses, but the family wants more and thinks the new venture can deliver it. Xu believes this move would lead to his eventual destruction and feels he has nowhere to turn. If he opposes them, they will crush him. If he goes along with them, he thinks that inevitably the police and military will hunt him down. Ava sets out to help Xu deter the Tsai family. As she digs into the breadth and depth of the family's wealth and corruption, she gets caught up in a huge tangled web, extending all the way to the U.S. and the U.K. [Order this series](#) and binge on adventure.

Hammer, Joshua. [The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu](#) (\$16). For centuries the city was a thriving intellectual, cultural, and literary hub, home to manuscripts and treatises too rich to describe. But today's jihadists have no respect for the tolerant Islam of that earlier era and systematically work to destroy it. Which is where the bad-ass librarians come in, determined to save all they can. Savanarola and the Nazis burned books. This is a new instance of an age-old intolerance. For a delightful look back at a famous Islam scholar and Timbuktu in its glory days order a copy of Vasudev Murthy's [Sherlock Holmes, The Missing Years: Timbuktu](#) (\$15.95) which Vasu can sign May 30.

✻Hawkins, Paula. [Into the Water](#) (Penguin \$28). See Signed Books for a review of the second book by the author of *The Girl on the Train*.

Hill, Nathan. [The Nix](#) (\$17). It's 2011, and Samuel Andresen-Anderson—college professor, stalled writer—has a Nix of his own: his mother, Faye. He hasn't seen her in decades, not since she abandoned the family when he was a boy. Now she's re-appeared, having committed an absurd crime that electrifies the nightly news, beguiles the internet, and inflames a politically divided country. The media paints Faye as a radical hippie with a sordid

past, but as far as Samuel knows, his mother was an ordinary girl who married her high-school sweetheart. Which version of his mother is true? Two facts are certain: she's facing some serious charges, and she needs Samuel's help. To quote another bookseller: "There could have been no better moment for the publication of *The Nix* than during the 2016 election year. To achieve peak irony, actually, the novel ought to have appeared in time for the presidential conventions, since the sustained firepower at its core comes from that other convention, twelve elections before, where the clash between police and citizenry, and between conservative and progressive Americans, erupted with more fury than it had since the Civil War. Still, as Hill shows in this book, time is more fluid now than ever before, as cameras, screens, digital manipulation, and the Internet have erased the stamp of time, removing the primacy of the 'now.'"

Hughes, Andrew. [The Coroner's Daughter](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). Dublin, 1816. A young nursemaid conceals a pregnancy and then murders her newborn in the home of the Neshams, a prominent family in a radical Christian sect known as the Brethren. Rumors swirl about the identity of the child's father, but before an inquest can be held, the maid is found dead after an apparent suicide. When Abigail Lawless, the eighteen-year-old daughter of the city coroner, by chance discovers a message from the maid's seducer, she sets out to discover the truth. From the author of *The Convictions of John Delahunt*, which earned this comment from the *NY Times*: "A remarkable first novel...at once a close character study and a sweeping panorama of the era, this fascinating book is a stirring work of fiction and a perceptive chapter in Ireland's social history."

Jordan, Neil. [The Drowned Detective](#) (\$18). A peripatetic detective without a clue meanders through the cobbled streets of an unnamed Mitteleuropean city. Originally from Cornwall, he's more or less on a case, looking for a long-lost girl who disappeared decades ago. His wandering feet and mind, though, stray far afield from that investigation. There's his troubled family, the psychic with her pet Pomeranian, the city beautiful in its ruins, and always the Bach cello suites in the background. Jordan, a noted film director and novelist, is a master of sleight of hand, and shows his skill here. What starts off as a gritty hardboiled detective yarn very soon, and almost imperceptibly, glides into a surreal journey through the doors of perception for a stranger in a strange land. *LJ* adds, "If you've ever deliberately chosen to amble through the streets of an unfamiliar city, with no map or even Siri in hand, and no destination in mind, you'll enjoy getting lost in this beautifully rendered hallucinatory trip."

Kies, Thomas. [Random Road](#) (\$15.95). A debut. See Event Books.

✠Kilpack, Josie. [The Vicar's Daughter](#) (Shadow Mountain \$15.99). Here's the courtship story of the French classic *Cyrano de Bergerac*, translated to the Regency. Cassie, the youngest of six daughters in the Wilton family, is bold, bright, and ready to enter society. There's only one problem: her older sister Lenora, whose extreme shyness prevents her from attending many social events. Lenora is now entering her third season, and since their father has decreed that only one Wilton girl can be out at a time, Cassie has no choice except to wait her turn. Evan Glenside, a soft-spoken, East London clerk, has just been named his great-uncle's heir and, though he is eager to learn all that will be required of him, he struggles to feel accepted in a new town and

in his new position. A chance meeting between Evan and Lenora promises to change everything, but when Lenora proves too shy to pursue the relationship, Cassie begins to write Mr. Glenside letters in the name of her sister. Her good intentions lead to disaster when Cassie realizes she is falling in love with Evan. But then Evan begins to court Lenora, thinking she is the author of the letters.

King, Crystal. [Feast of Sorrow](#) (Touchstone \$26.99). I've immersed myself in novels of Ancient Rome for decades (Lindsey Davis, John Maddox Roberts, Steven Saylor, Robert Graves, etc), but the staggeringly rich gourmet Marcus Gavius Apicius somehow hadn't come my way. An inheritor of great wealth, his ambition was not to increase it but spend it in pursuit of his ambition to become the culinary advisor of Augustus Caesar, an honor that would cement his role as Rome's leading epicure. To that end he purchases a young chef (*coquus*) at a slave market for the unheard of sum of 20,000 denari. Thrasius had been the *coquus* to Flavius Maximus and well trained, but Maximus had died. You know you're in for a feast when Apicius quizzes Thrasius about his skills and dishes on page 4: "sausages of pheasant; roasted peacock with damson raisin soaked in myrtle wine; ham in pastry with honey and figs; truffles with pepper, mint, and rue; roasted salt belly pork with a special mixture of *garum*, cumin, and lovage." And indeed King immerses you in Roman food and menus as well as thee etiquette (9 couches at a dinner to honor the 9 Muses) and ceremony attached to Roman banquets. Apicius buys Thrasius to make himself famous, but what he gets is a man so loyal that the vicissitudes that attack his family and drive it to ruin along with his own overspending don't sunder them even as the one is destroyed and the other rises. It's a tale akin to *I, Claudius* (with many of the same characters) of love, family, friends, rivals, betrayals, political maneuverings—plus food—as well as vividly bringing to life a real man who inspired the world's oldest cookbook. Yum!

Kutscher, Volker. [Babylon Berlin](#) (Sands \$16). James Ellroy fans will welcome Kutscher's first novel and series launch, a fast-paced blend of murder and corruption set in 1929 Berlin. DI Gereon Rath has been transferred after his role in a controversial fatal shooting to Berlin's vice squad, a move arranged by his influential father, a legendary police officer, to keep him out of trouble. Against the backdrop of widespread unrest resulting from clashes between the police and Communist demonstrators, Rath gets involved in a murder inquiry after the corpse of an unidentified man is retrieved from the Landwehr canal. The dead man was battered with a hammer, but died from a heroin overdose before he entered the water. The plot thickens when Rath learns that Stalin has sent agents to Berlin to search for a huge trove of gold rumored to be in the city that could be used to fund counterrevolutionary efforts to topple him. Kutscher keeps the surprises coming and doesn't flinch at making his lead morally compromised. For fans of Philip Kerr.

Lennon, Robert. [Broken River](#) (Graywolf \$16). In this intense, literary thriller, a dissolving family — Karl, Eleanor, and their daughter, Irina — moves into a long-vacant house where many years prior a brutal murder occurred. As Karl and Eleanor drift further apart and young Irina grows convinced that a new girl in town is connected to the crime, the mysterious Observer watches over the characters and their interconnected storylines. "Lennon's ability to invent and inhabit the inner worlds of men, women,

children, and unexplained phenomena with equal nuance makes the novel's multiple perspectives shift and blend seamlessly. The #1 May Indie Next Pick: "Imagine a sentence that has the slow-burn intensity you feel when reading your favorite mystery novels and the nuance and music of your icons of prose style. Now imagine a whole book of them. Set that book in a small town in Upstate New York, move a family of city folk into a Shirley Jacksonian home, and tell part of the story from the point of view of an 'Observer' who could represent the reader, the author, a house spirit, God, or something else entirely. Now cede your imagination to J. Robert Lennon, whose new novel will transport and move you. A perfect union of breezy and deep, *Broken River* has something for everyone."

Lovelace, Earl, ed. [Trinidad Noir](#) (Akashic \$15.95). The *PW* Starred Review: "To travel through the 19 works of poetry and prose in this remarkable anthology is to experience Trinidad and Tobago through a kaleidoscopic lens. The writings are grouped into four historically significant periods ('Leaving Colonialism,' 'Facing Independence,' 'Looking In,' and 'Losing Control'). It's an effective construct; the reader experiences island culture and history as a part of its time, formed by a pastiche of nationality, culture, and social class. Standouts abound. The central character in V.S. Naipul's 'Man-man' is a reputedly mad man in a community whose reactions to him move between bemused and violent. Harold Sonny Ladoo tells, in 'The Quiet Peasant,' of an impoverished farmer who unwittingly digs his own grave. An island lilt and sharp humor spice Robert Antoni's 'Hindsight,' about a doctor confronting a singular medical condition. This is not a noir collection in the traditional crime-based sense. Instead, as noted in the introduction, the selections direct attention to the violence of a society that has not quite settled accounts with the casualties of enslavement and indentureship."

Magson, Adrian. [Dark Asset](#) (Severn \$28.99). Marc Portman's latest assignment is providing back-up for a French intelligence agent sent to recover a hard drive from one of the most dangerous cities on the planet: Mogadishu in Somalia. What he hasn't been told is that the device records secret negotiations between two leading western nations and a hardline terrorist organization responsible for killing thousands of innocent people. When the decision is taken to abandon the talks, anybody in the know immediately becomes a target to be silenced. Ordered Upon Request.

Marzano-Lesnevich, Alexandria. [The Fact of a Body](#) (Flatiron \$26.99). Before Alexandria begins a summer job at a law firm in Louisiana, working to help defend men accused of murder, she thinks her position is clear. The child of two lawyers, she is staunchly anti-death penalty. But the moment convicted murderer Ricky Langley's face flashes on the screen as she reviews old tapes—the moment she hears him speak of his crimes—she is overcome with the feeling of wanting him to die. Shocked by her reaction, she digs deeper and deeper into the case. Despite their vastly different circumstances, something in his story is unsettlingly, uncannily familiar. Crime can happen to any one of us. As Alexandria pores over the facts of the murder, she finds herself thrust into the complicated narrative of Ricky's childhood. And by examining the details of Ricky's case, she is forced to face her own story, to unearth long-buried family secrets, and reckon with a past that colors her view of Ricky's crime. But another surprise awaits: She wasn't the only one who saw her life in Ricky's.

This memoir is not only about how the story of one crime was constructed—but about how we grapple with our own personal histories.

Mackay, Malcolm. [The Night the Rich Men Burned](#) (\$15.99). Oliver Peterkinney and Alex Glass, two friends from Glasgow's desperate fringes, become involved in one of the city's darkest and most dangerous trades: debt collection. While one rises quickly through the ranks, the other falls prey to the industry's addictive lifestyle, accumulating steep debts of his own. Meanwhile, the three most powerful rivals in the business—Marty Jones, ruthless pimp; Potty Cruickshank, member of the old guard; and Billy Patterson, brutal newcomer—vie for prominence. And now Peterkinney, young and darkly ambitious, is beginning to make himself known. Before long, violence will spill out onto the streets, as those at the top make deadly attempts to out-manuever one another for a bigger share of the spoils. Peterkinney and Glass will find themselves at the very center of this war....

Mathews, Francine. [Death in a Cold Hard Light](#) (\$15.95). Nantucket cop Merry Folger begrudgingly agrees to take a leave from work to meet her fussy future in-laws in Greenwich, but it isn't long before she is summoned back to Nantucket. The body of a 21-year-old was discovered in the frigid waters of the Sound in the days leading up to the annual Christmas celebration, and the death isn't sitting well with Merry's father, the local police chief, who fears the track marks on the victim's arms may be indicative of a growing drug problem on the island. Feeling a constant need to live up to her father's expectations, Merry rushes home to her fiancé, Peter's, annoyance, only to find that heroin isn't the only destructive force blowing into the island. 4th in the Merry Folger series. [Order all four and the 5th](#) coming in June.

McCarry, Charles. [Old Boys](#) (\$16.95). McCarry, an ace of the old school spy thrillers, has come back to publishing, very welcome news. Agent Paul Christopher was thought to have died in a remote corner of China. Upon receiving Christopher's ashes, his cousin, Horace, a onetime spy himself, nevertheless doubts their authenticity. He recruits a team of old boys from "the Outfit" (think CIA) to track down any evidence that their friend is alive and can be saved. Their investigations take them not just hither and yon over the globe but also deep into the minds of terrorists and religious extremists of the sort that American readers will recognize today. Truly unusual aspects of this rambunctious excursion into the exotic include a son's lasting love for his kidnapped mother, lost back in the Nazi heyday and her profound attachment to a mysterious scroll connected to Judas of the New Testament. McCarry, a wizard writer, transforms the sturdy ingredients of the spy and suspense genres into a magical brew for our new age.

McGarrity, Michael. [The Last Ranch](#) (\$17). McGarrity's American West trilogy has engaged his fans in the saga of the Kearney family over generations as well as in the history of New Mexico. The Kevin Kearney mysteries gain extra resonance from this vivid historical fiction that runs from a rough frontier past WWI and the Great Depression on target to hit Kevin's own story. "McGarrity's writing is as clear as the desert air at the Kerneys' 7-Bar-K Ranch, and he has a talent for telling good stories." —*The Santa Fe New Mexican*

McInerney, Lisa. [The Glorious Heresies](#) (\$16). "...Irish sons are

brought up to honor their mothers. To Jimmy Phelan, the most feared gangster in the city of Cork, that means cleaning up his mother's kitchen after she bashes an intruder to a bloody pulp with a gaudy religious artifact she calls her 'holy stone.' This tragicomic scene captures the wonderfully offbeat voice of Lisa McNerney, whose irreverent first novel descends into the city's seedy underworld and finds a community of alcoholics, prostitutes, drug dealers and their customers, who live like rats but speak like street poets. McNerney's characters aren't what anyone would call saints, but they're so richly drawn you have to respect the way they think and sympathize with their moral conflicts. ... When Maureen Phelan's guilty conscience kicks in, sending her to confession and devising ways to make reparation for her sins, the words that come out of her mouth are hard as stones, but pure poetry."—*NY Times*

Mills, Mark. [Where Dead Men Meet](#) (Bloomsbury \$26.99) is a grand adventure, in the tradition of Graham Greene's 'entertainments,' and John Buchan's before that — a sweeping race through Europe for the highest possible stakes, in the year before the Anschluss. Here's hoping it's only the first of many exploits for Luke and Pippi." —Joseph Finder. Mark Pryor adds, "The best novel I read this year. *Where Dead Men Meet* is an exhilarating and hair-raising charge through pre-War Europe, with danger at every stunningly beautiful turn. Mills' descriptions of Paris, Venice, and Zurich are filled with both elegance and lurking menace. Mark Mills is Alan Furst with after-burners, and this book is a powerful tale of revenge, love, and self-discovery, all packed into an utterly compelling historical thriller."

Mina, Denise. [The Long Drop](#) (LittleBrown \$26). In 1950's Glasgow, a household of women were found slaughtered in their beds. The father, William Watt, had a cast iron alibi but police were convinced he was guilty. Determined to clear his name, Watt let it be known that he would pay for information. Step forward career criminal Peter Manuel, with compelling details only the murderer could know. Watt agreed to meet him. They spent twelve hours together, driving and drinking in Glasgow pubs and clubs. No one knows what happened that night. The next time they met was in the High Court where Peter Manuel was defending himself against the murder charges. He called Watt as a witness and quizzed him about their long, shady night together. A fictionalized imagining of a real life case, *The Long Drop* is an explosive novel earning a Booklist Starred Review: "The emerging story is an intricate and suspenseful unveiling of a murderer's mind while taking readers on a compelling journey through Glasgow's historic underworld... This stand-alone thriller showcases Mina at her best, capturing the nuanced psychological suspense and ethical shadows of her Alex Morrow series as well as the electric dialogue and tangible grit of her Paddy Meehan novels."

Mukherjee, Abir. [A Rising Man](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). Captain Sam Wyndham, former Scotland Yard detective, is a new arrival to Calcutta. Desperately seeking a fresh start after his experiences during the Great War, Wyndham has been recruited to head up a new post in the police force. But with barely a moment to acclimatize to his new life or to deal with the ghosts who still haunt him, Wyndham is caught up in a murder investigation that will take him into the dark underbelly of the British Raj. A senior official has been murdered, and a note left in his mouth warns the British to quit India: or else. With rising political dissent and

the stability of the Raj under threat, Wyndham and his two new colleagues — arrogant Inspector Digby and British-educated, but Indian-born Sergeant Banerjee, one of the few Indians to be recruited into the new CID — embark on an investigation that will take them from the luxurious parlors of wealthy British traders to the seedy opium dens of the city. The first in an atmospheric and enticing new historical crime series.

✦Muriel, Oscar de. [Fever of the Blood](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). The *PW* Starred Review: Murder, potions, curses, an asylum, a devastating snowstorm, and late-Victorian manners and morals—all figure in de Muriel's delicious witches' brew of a mystery, the worthy sequel to 2016's well-received *The Strings of Murder*. In this outing, the mismatched detectives Insp. Ian Frey and Adolphus "Nine Nails" McCray—"a lanky Londoner who fancies himself a duke, travelling with a scruffy Scotsman who wears ridiculous clothes," as one character puts it—chase an escapee from an asylum who has poisoned his nurse with strychnine. The duo start in Edinburgh and end on the desolate moor of Pendle Hill, infamous home of the real-life Lancashire witches, who were executed in the 17th century. The well-paced and suspenseful plot hurtles readers through a centuries-old conspiracy coming to a head in 1883, marked by eerie questions of occult powers. But the most impressive aspect of the novel is its detailed, vivid characters, driven by powerful emotions and full of surprises.

The *NY Times* adds, "In de Muriel's mad romp, the comically ill-matched detectives are called out on New Year's Day in 1889 to recapture Lord Joel Ardglass, who has broken out of the lunatic asylum after apparently poisoning a nurse. Nine-Nails may be the colorful character in this partnership, but when he begins acting oddly, it's Frey the skeptic who finds the courage to consult ... yes, a bona fide witch."

Nettmann, Nadine. [Uncorking a Lie](#) (Midnight Ink \$14.99). For wine lovers, sommelier Katie Stillwell is an excellent sleuth using her specialized knowledge to unmask crimes. She's working at a San Francisco restaurant (with a boss too good to be true) and is studying for higher ranking than Master Sommelier. A good customer, a serious wine collector invites her to a dinner party at his Sonoma mansion. Paul Rafferty is eager for his eight guests to sample a 1975 bottle of Chateau Clair Bleu, a bottle he's sought for years. Decanting and pouring the wine, tasting it, Kate realizes the wine is a fake, a much younger wine. As a guest, she doesn't want to spoil her host's moment of glory, and no one else at the table seems to realize something's wrong. She conveys her concerns to Rafferty's assistant, Cooper Maxwell, who is, a few minutes later, found dead in Rafferty's wine cellar. The mystery is not complex but following Kate around as she solves it, makes for a delightful tour of California's wine world. Nettmann, a certified sommelier, certainly knows her stuff. Start with the first Sommelier Mystery, [Decanting a Murder](#) (\$14.99).

Patterson, James/Maxine Paetro. [The 16th Seduction](#) (Little-Brown \$29). Fifteen months ago, Detective Lindsay Boxer's life was perfect—she had a beautiful child and a doting husband, Joe. But Joe wasn't everything that Lindsay thought he was, and she's still reeling from his betrayal as a wave of mysterious, and possibly unnatural, heart attacks claims seemingly unrelated victims across San Francisco. As if that weren't enough, the bomber she and Joe captured is about to go on trial, and his defense raises damning questions about Lindsay and Joe's investigation in this

Women's Murder Club chapter. New in paperback: [Cross the Line](#) (\$16.99) with Alex Cross.

Penny, Louise. [A Great Reckoning](#) (St Martins \$16.99). See also [Our May Small Paperback Picks](#). Inspector Gamache and wife Reine-Marie are settled in Three Pines. Yet Gamache summons up the fortitude to come out of retirement to clean up the corrupt Sûreté Academy du Québec. How he does it, and what he unveils, are remarkable, plus a bonus for readers is spending more time in the magical village. Good news for Penny's legions of fans: she has a new book publishing August 29. More on that to come.

Persson, Leif G. [The Dying Detective](#) (Pantheon \$27.95). Karen reviews: Former head of the National Criminal Police has stopped at his favorite kiosk to indulge in his usual artery clogging treat. After getting into his car, he suffers a stroke, is taken to the hospital, and begins the long road to recovery. One of the doctors in attendance, Ulrika Stenholm, knows of him, approaches him about a 25-year-old kidnapping and murder of a 9-year-old girl, Yasmine Ermegan. She has information about the case and asks him if he could look into it even though it was past the time a suspect could be prosecuted. With the help of his former colleague and best friend, Bo Jarnebring they start putting together the puzzle pieces from old records. Lars' caretakers, Max and Matilda, become assistants in the effort of collecting information as well as looking out for Lars' well-being. His once reputation of "being able to see around corners" diminishes and his confusion over what has happened to him interrupts his concentration. He blurts out thoughts, or thinks in his head, ideas that are foreign to him. He has random headaches, memory lapses that further frustrate him. Matilda keeps him on his track with him medical appointments with gentle humor and Max keeps him away from the food and drink he craves, knowing it could be deadly. The story is well plotted, the characters relatable, and an enjoyable read. *PW* adds, "Johansson demonstrates real brilliance in identifying the killer, but equally impressive is what he does with the knowledge. Persson provides plenty of domestic details and lengthy asides."

Potzsch, Oliver. [Play of Death](#) (Houghton \$18). The *PW* Starred Review: "Pötzsch brilliantly juggles multiple story lines in his highly suspenseful sixth historical centered on the family of Magdalena Fronwieser, the daughter of Bavarian hangman Jakob Kuisl. In 1670, Magdalena's husband, Simon, a bathhouse keeper with some medical training, travels to the town of Oberammergau so that their precocious seven-year-old son, Peter, can attend a boarding school headed by an old friend of Simon's. The pair arrives as the community is in an uproar over a gruesome tragedy. Dominik Faistenmantel, who was cast as Jesus in a Passion play that was still being rehearsed, was crucified on the set, and Simon winds up investigating. Meanwhile, Jakob arrives in Oberammergau to obtain a confession from a suspect by torture, even as his other daughter, Barbara, is accused of witchcraft for possessing some forbidden books. The town's creepy, oppressive atmosphere enhances the intricate plot."

Pyper, Andrew. [Only Child](#) (SimonSchuster \$25). As a forensic psychiatrist at New York's leading institution of its kind, Dr. Lily Dominick has evaluated the mental states of some of the country's most dangerous psychotics. But the strangely compelling client she interviewed today—a man with no name, accused of the most twisted crime—struck her as somehow different from

the others, despite the two impossible claims he made. First, that he is more than two hundred years old and personally inspired Mary Shelley, Robert Louis Stevenson, and Bram Stoker in creating the three novels of the nineteenth century that define the monstrous in the modern imagination. Second, that he's Lily's father. To discover the truth—behind her client, her mother's death, herself—Dr. Dominick must embark on a journey that will threaten her career, her sanity, and ultimately her life.

✠Ribchester, Lucy. [The Hourglass Factory](#) (Norton \$15.95). It's 1912 London. Amid the drama of the suffragette movement, the disappearance of a famous trapeze artist in the middle of her act leads a young Fleet Street reporter to an underworld of circus performers, fetishists, and society columnists. Frances "Frankie" George is chasing an interview with trapeze artist Ebony Diamond. Frankie finds herself fascinated by the tightly-laced acrobat and follows her to a Bond Street corset shop that seems to be hiding secrets of its own. When Ebony Diamond mysteriously disappears in the middle of a performance, Frankie and Primrose are both drawn into the shadowy world of a secret society with ties to both London's criminal underworld and its glittering socialites. How did Ebony vanish, who was she afraid of, and what goes on behind the doors of the mysterious Hourglass Factory?

Riggs, Cynthia. [Trumpet of Death](#) (St Martins \$25.99). When 92-year-old poet/sleuth Victoria Trumbull takes her city-bred tenant Zack Zeller on a nature walk on one of Martha's Vineyard's conservation areas and shows him a mushroom she calls black trumpet of death, he's sure he's found the way to rid himself of his troublesome girlfriend, Samantha. But the mushrooms he's given Samantha end up on her daddy's dinner table, and Zack, one of the invited guests, is sure he's doomed the diners to an untimely death. Meanwhile, dead bodies are cropping up on the Island....

✠Robb, Candace. [Twisted Vengeance](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). The *PW* Starred Review: Lovers of Shakespeare's *Richard II* will find Robb's intricate sequel to 2016's *The Service of the Dead* a particular treat, as it charts the course of Richard's downfall and his cousin Henry of Bolingbroke's rise through the fears and uncertainties of the residents of the city of York in July 1399. These anxieties are worsened by a series of strange deaths connected to the extended family of Kate Clifford, a fierce young widow struggling to cope with not only her own household of jostling servants and the recently arrived illegitimate children of her late husband but also the return of her quarrelsome mother, Eleanor, from Strasbourg with religious women in tow. The character of Clifford is compelling and finely drawn, and for those readers who are patient enough to manage an unusually large number of secondary characters, the answers to a series of mysteries, starting with the reason for an intruder's attack on a beguine (or poor sister) in the middle of the night, are highly satisfying.

Now in paperback: [Service of the Dead](#) (\$15.95). Set in York in 1399, this series launch from Robb (*A Vigil of Spies*) works better as a historical novel than a mystery. Richard II's decision to forfeit Henry Bolingbroke's inheritance raises the prospect of a civil war. Against this backdrop, Kate Clifford, who operates a guesthouse, is put in a difficult position by the real-life mayor of York, William Frost, a cousin of hers. Kate was expecting William and a lady friend to use one of her rooms for a discreet rendezvous, but instead, the mayor persuaded

her housekeeper to accommodate a stranger and a well-known prostitute. The deception would have been a trivial one had the unknown man not been strangled. When Kate confronts William, he refuses to identify the corpse, though he agrees to dispose of the remains to avoid a scandal.

Romney, Rebecca. [Printer's Error](#) (Harper \$26.99). A renowned rare-book dealer teams up with a researcher to unveil the wacky and fascinating history of print. 11 chapters unfold episodically to reveal little-known facts about famous authors and print innovators who made the book what it is today. Johannes Gutenberg, William Shakespeare and Benjamin Franklin are a few prominent figures subjected to the authors' prying, ribald treatment. The overall result portrays a publishing legacy that's rife with whimsy, error, human folly and, from one century to the next, a degree of self-interest belying literature's noble image. With sharp, detailed prose—and a persistently uproarious sense of humor—the authors revel in the historical ironies of the book business, such as when Charles Dickens, trying to secure foreign copyright protections, was excoriated by capitalist Americans for being greedy. They adroitly draw parallels between 19th-century pirated books and the profusion of pirated material in the digital age. As much fun as *Printer's Error* is to read, it uncovers darker aspects of society that shouldn't be forgotten. A chapter devoted to Mary Wollstonecraft serves as a reminder that the brilliant “mother of feminism” was vilified in her own time for perceived promiscuity. Here is another terrific gift book for Mom, Dad, anyone who is a book person.

✦Rosnay, Tatiana de. [Manderley Forever: A Biography of Daphne DuMaurier](#) (St Martins \$27.99). As a bilingual bestselling novelist with a mixed Franco-British bloodline and a host of eminent forebears, Tatiana de Rosnay (*Sarah's Key*) is well placed to write a biography of Daphne du Maurier. As a thirteen-year-old de Rosnay read and reread *Rebecca*, becoming a lifelong devotee of Du Maurier's fiction. Now de Rosnay pays homage to the writer who influenced her so deeply, following Du Maurier from a shy seven-year-old, a rebellious sixteen-year-old, a twenty-something newlywed, and finally a cantankerous old woman who was an intriguing, hugely popular and, (at the time), critically underrated writer.

This is a good time to read or reread [Rebecca](#), which was chosen this year to be included in Knopf's prestigious Everyman's Library classics series and is now available in a lovely hardcover edition with a fascinating introduction by Lucy Hughes-Hallett. It's a seminal Gothic and I've been surprised at recent book events to see it's unfamiliar to many avid readers.

✦Runcie, James. [Sidney Chambers and the Persistence of Love](#) (Bloomsbury \$17). For the latest chapter in the sleuthing career of the post-war Cambridgeshire vicar, see Signed Books. This is the US edition, a paperback original.

Scott, Justin. [Rampage](#) (Norton \$24.95). Chris Taggart is a ruthless, driven, real estate entrepreneur whose buildings have changed the skyline of New York. Young, handsome, irresistible to women, Taggart has won it all with his bare hands and fierce ambition. But his dazzling success can never erase the bitter memory of his father's death at the hands of the mob. And now Taggart sets out to use his wealth and power to destroy the men whom he holds responsible. It is a secret vendetta—a war?—that Taggart launches single-handedly against the Five Families of

New York. “In the thirtieth anniversary edition of this classic thriller, Rampage gives a stunning twist to the expression ‘war on crime.’ The dizzying action ranges from Manhattan's towering spires to the labyrinths of the city's underworld; its plot has the speed and impact of a jackhammer.”—David Morrell. You who have enjoyed the Isaac Bell series Scott writes with Clive Cussler will feel right in sync here.

Sendker, Jan-Philipp. [The Language of Solitude](#) (Atria \$26). The author of 2015 First Mystery Club Pick [Whispering Shadows](#) (\$16) picks up the story of ex-pat and self-imposed exile Paul Leibovitz who lives alone on a small island in Hong Kong Bay. Although his emotions froze with the tragic death of his small son, he's gradually learned to love Christine Wu who travels in from the city to spend time with him. Paul now learns that Christine is a believer in fortune-telling and that a renowned Hong Kong astrologer has predicted “You will lose life.” She wants to split to protect Paul. But she has also received a letter from her longestranged brother. Over her objections Paul journeys with her to a remote village outside Shanghai where a chemicals conglomerate is polluting a lake and protected by a complicit government. Legal action will almost certainly prove more dangerous than the disease to the locals. The story from there traverses China's present and its Maoist past, searingly reminding us what tragedies dot life under a reactionary regime like the Cultural Revolution. This textured and thoughtful novel is both a thriller and a love story and recommended to you. But I'd start with *Whispering Shadows* to avoid spoilers and to better understand Paul, a wonderful creation.

Shea, Susan C. [Love & Death in Burgundy](#) (St Martins \$24.99). The ex-pat life in France is not all Peter Mayle. For Katherine Goff and her family, Reigny-sur-Canne is a difficult village society to penetrate. The proud Burgundians observe a local hierarchy ruled by an elderly woman (think Mrs. Astor). Then an elderly Frenchman who lives in the local chateau is found dead at the bottom of a staircase he's traversed for decades and the village seethes with gossip and suspicions, not to mention secrets. Both the locals and the foreigners mix it up; cultures clash along with rebellious youths. In one sense this is an Agatha Christie mystery (there's an aspiring crime writer among the ex-pat residents). This start of a series is recommended to you by Cara Black and Rhys Bowen

✦Shoemaker, Sarah. [Mr. Rochester](#) (Grand Central \$27). Lyndsay Faye's bold reimagining of *Jane Eyre* as a serial murderer in [Jane Steele](#) (\$16) is one riff on a classic. Here is one painting Edward Fairfax Rochester's life story from his childhood as motherless and exiled from Thornfield Hall to Jamaica and his tragic marriage, and showing us how *Jane Eyre* unfolds through his eyes.

Stembridge, Gerard. [What She Saw](#) (Harper \$15.99). Irish author Stembridge provides a satisfyingly twisty 24-hour thrill ride through the heart of contemporary Paris. Lana Gibson, an American living in Dublin, decides on a whim to fly to Paris, where she intends to see an art exhibition and not think too hard about an old lover living in the city. At the posh Hotel Le Chevalier, she talks to a beautiful woman in the bar. An hour later, the impulsive Lana slips into the hotel's private elevator, which she knows goes up to a private suite. When the elevator doors open, she spots the woman from the bar resisting the advances of a naked older man. Lana takes photos with her cell phone before the doors close. The

man turns out to be Jean-Luc Fournier, an important French politician, and Lana soon finds herself in big trouble. The secondary viewpoint of a frustrated small player in Fournier's organization adds complexity and raises the tension.

Stewart, Amy. [Lady Cop Makes Trouble](#) (\$14.99). It's 1915. Constance Koop and her sisters made the news fighting back against a ruthless silk factory owner and his gang of thugs. And after Bergen County's Sheriff Heath sees Constance in action, he appoints her as one of the nation's first female deputies. He knows she's a powerful addition to his force, and she knows she can do the job, but when the wiles of a German-speaking con man threaten her position and her hopes for this new life and risk the honorable sheriff being thrown in his own jail Constance is forced to prove herself again after [Girl Waits with Gun](#) (\$14.99).

✂Sykes, Plum. [Party Girls Die in Pearls](#) (Harper \$26.99). Fortune favors Ursula Flowerbutton, the spunky "fresher" (first-year student) and aspiring reporter who stars in this frothy series launch set at Oxford University in 1985 from bestseller Sykes (*Bergdorf Blondes*). The orphan from Gloucestershire become instant besties with American gardening tools scion Nancy Feingold—thereby gaining entrée to the most exclusive soirées, as well as borrowing rights to a bottomless stash of Dynasty-worthy regalia. But then she discovers, on the morning of her first tutorial, the white satin-swathed corpse of one of the campus's It Girls, putting her instantly on the journalistic fast track. Ursula's subsequent sleuthing pulls her and the title-besotted Nancy, whose expressed goal is "minoring in Earl-Catching," below the fictional Christminster College's glossy surface, into the depths where greed, lust, and ambition roil. Though Sykes's plotting proves serviceable enough, it's her fizzy cocktail of satire and style that will leave readers thirsty for another round.

Thompson, Victoria. [Murder in the Bowery](#) (Berkley \$26). Gaslight Mystery #19. Sarah Brandt and Frank Malloy are searching for a connection between a murdered newsie and a high society woman with dangerous habits. It begins with Frank's latest client, the well-dressed Will Bert. He's searching for his brother, a newsboy named Freddie, so he can share his new financial good fortune. Frank makes quick work of the case and locates Freddie, but a happy reunion between brothers is not in the cards. When Will's name is mentioned, Freddie runs off—only to be found dead a short time later. Suspicious, Frank tracks down Will who spins a tale of lust and deceit involving a young society woman, Estelle Longacre, also recently deceased. Frank can't be sure if Estelle's risky behavior and the company she kept were to blame, or if her own ruthless family had a hand in her death. Frank will need Sarah's help to unearth the dark secrets of the wealthy Longacres and to discover if there is a connection between Estelle and Freddie's death.

Wechsler, Pamela. [The Graves](#) (St Martins \$25.99). If a strong-willed, adrenaline-fueled powerhouse—a cross between Marcia Clark and Hank Phillippi Ryan—lights you up, then this thriller featuring Boston's Abby Endicott, the chief of the District Attorney's Homicide Unit, works. Abby in part fights the expectations of her upper-crust family including living with her musician lover, Ty. And in part she battles the system. So when two coeds are murdered and a serial killer suspected, and the sons of a prominent senator are linked to the murders, she wades into battle despite all the risks.

✂Wein, Elizabeth. [The Pearl Thief](#) (Disney \$18.99). The author of [Code Name Verity](#) (\$999) gets a Starred Review for a prequel: In 1938, Lady Julia Beaufort-Stuart, 15, returns from boarding school for one last idyllic summer at her late grandfather's Scottish estate, which has been sold to pay his medical bills. Her plans are upended when she's assaulted near the river where she and her grandfather harvested mussels for their pearls. Rescued by tinkers who worked her family's estate for centuries, Julia awakens with no memory of who knocked her unconscious and is startled to learn that a scholar hired to catalogue the estate's antiquities is missing. Julia enlists the tinkers, Euan and Ellen McEwen, to help unravel what's happened, partly to ensure that discrimination against the tinkers doesn't result in their arrest for crimes they didn't commit. Each thread of this novel is exquisitely woven; Wein is a deft plotter—the complex narrative is paced like a mystery—and vivid Scottish slang adds humor and texture. It isn't necessary to have read *Code Name Verity* to enjoy this prequel, but readers who fell in love with Julia the spy will appreciate learning about where she first discovered what it means to be a friend. Ages 12–up.

✂Wilde, Darcie. [A Purely Private Matter](#) (Berkley \$15). Rosalind Thorne has slowly but assuredly gained a reputation as "a useful woman"—by helping respectable women out of some less-than-respectable predicaments. Her latest endeavor is a tragedy waiting to happen. Desperate Margaretta Seymore is with child—and her husband is receiving poisoned pen letters that imply that her condition is the result of an affair with the notorious actor Fletcher Cavendish. Margaretta asks Rosalind to find out who is behind the scurrilous letters. But before she can make any progress, Cavendish is found dead, stabbed through the heart. With the help of the charming Bow Street runner Adam Harkness, Rosalind hopes to avert a sensational London murder trial before more lives are ruined. Start with [A Useful Woman](#) (\$15).

Williams, Timothy. [The Second Day of the Renaissance](#) (Soho \$26.95). It's been 20 years since Commissario Piero Trotti, whose beat is in the north along the River Po, has worked a case for readers. Now retired, he responds to a summons to Siena from an old friend. There he learns that a notorious hit man has returned to Italy to kill Trotti. Trotti isn't surprised to learn of the vendetta against him, but with so many possible perps to choose from, what to do? Traveling across Italy to escape his pursuer, Trotti revisits his own past and searches for clues, especially to the cold-case of murdered Valerio Gracchi, a leftist radical who became a national media sensation. But even the right answers may not save Trotti and his loved ones.

Winter, Ariel S. [Barren Cove](#) (\$15). The aged robot Sapien becomes obsessed with his rented beach house landlords, the peculiar robot family living on the rambling estate perched at the top of the cliff. He is convinced that the elusive and enigmatic Beachstone, the head of the family, holds the answers to his existential quandary. Invoking the works of the great supernatural and science fiction writers Mary Shelley, Isaac Asimov, and Philip K. Dick, Barren Cove is a gothic tale in an unusual future.

OUR MAY SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Andrews, Donna. [Die Like an Eagle](#) (\$7.99) Meg Lanslow #20. When the twin brother of a vindictive youth baseball manager is found dead, supermom Meg investigates suspicions that the wrong twin was killed, a case that is complicated by the survi-

vor's caustic personality. *PW* said "As always, Meg turns sleuth and jumps to the rescue when needed. With its well-spun plots and distinctive characters, Andrews's amusing avian-named series shows no signs of growing stale."

Atkins, Ace. [Robert B Parker's Slow Burn](#) (\$9.99) Spenser #45. When a firefighter is ostracized for claiming that a deadly three-alarm blaze was set by an arsonist, Spenser discovers that the fire may be linked to a string of new arsons plaguing one of Boston's oldest neighborhoods. *PW* ended their review with "Though the story is mostly formulaic—Spenser spars with thugs, crosses a high-level mobster, shares good food, banter, and a bed with his long-time love interest—Atkins tosses in a surprising change to his lead's status quo, and series fans will be eager to see what he does with it in Spenser's next outing."

Carlisle, Kate. [Books of a Feather](#) (\$7.99) Bibliophile #10. Brooklyn Wainwright investigates the murder of the president of a bird watching society, right after he asks her to restore a rare edition of Audubon drawings. Carlisle will be headlining at the Poisoned Pen with her new Brooklyn Wainwright on Saturday June 3rd at 2 PM with Jenn McKinlay so mark your calendars now!

Child, Lee. [Night School](#) (\$9.99) Reacher Prequel. A military policeman fresh off a mission in 1996, Jack Reacher is assigned to a covert task force with two government experts to track down an American who is about to make a mysterious sale to Middle Eastern radicals. *LJ* had this to say "This way-back novel, with its old-school investigating, street-smart tactics, and classic Reacher attitude, is an edge-of-your-seat book readers won't want to put down."

Coes, Ben. [First Strike](#) (\$9.99) Dewey Andreas #6. When hundreds of American college students are taken captive by a radical Islamic group who demands a massive arms shipment in return for the hostages' safety, Dewey Andreas obtains proof that the group has been secretly funded by a Pentagon black-ops program. *PW* ended their starred review with "Fans of the *Die Hard* movie franchise will find the swift pacing and escalating threats and complications to their taste."

Cussler, Clive. [The Emperor's Revenge](#) (\$9.99) Oregon Files #11. Juan Cabrillo and the crew of the Oregon join forces with a former CIA colleague to track down a rogue hacker and a ruthless former Ukrainian naval officer who are behind a violent bank heist that occurred during the Monaco Grand Prix. *Kirkus* ended their review with "The Cussler conglomerate holds the patent on the "don't analyze, turn the page! manly action adventure."

Doiron, Paul. [The Widower](#) (\$9.99) Bowditch #7. After a mysterious woman gives Mike Bowditch disturbing news, the game warden goes looking for a family secret in a Maine ski town and discovers a vigilante who seems to be targeting sex offenders. *LJ* says "The seventh Mike Bowditch novel (after *The Precipice*) continues to deliver vivid descriptions of rural Maine, a satisfying mystery (this one with tantalizing loose ends), and a conflicted main character. Those who relish outdoor mysteries, especially ones set in New England, will appreciate this latest entry."

Farnsworth, Chris. [Killfile](#) (\$9.99) John Smith, a former CIA operative who can hear other people's thoughts, is hired by billionaire software genius Everett Sloan to track a former em-

ployee who stole some valuable intellectual property. *Kirkus* said "Though Farnsworth takes his time detailing Smith's past and the military's interest in "mind warfare," that doesn't diminish the appeal of his flip, unusually compelling hero or the up-to-the-minute freshness of the story. Farnsworth, author of the fantastical Nathaniel Cade series (*Red, White, and Blood*, 2012, etc.), stands to expand his following with this clever, offbeat thriller."

Penny, Louise. [A Great Reckoning](#) (\$9.99) Gamache #12. Receiving a mysterious old map that has been found stuffed in the walls of a bistro, former Quebec homicide investigator Armand Gamache follows clues to the site of a dead Sûreté academy professor and an unlikely cadet with whom he is implicated in a murder case. *Bookpage* ended their review with "The magic of Penny's books lies in the details: the intricacies of the relationships; the vivid rendering of small village life; the thematic overlays of weakness vs. power, malleable youth vs. world-weary experience and corruption vs. innate honesty."

Slaughter, Karin. [The Kept Woman](#) (\$9.99) Linton and Trent #6. Georgia detective Will Trent and medical examiner Sara Linton look into the murder of an ex-cop whose body was found at an abandoned construction site, an investigation that uncovers links to Will's troubled past. *LJ* found this to be a winner saying "Slaughter excels at complications—both for her characters and in the mysteries they're investigating. This is a page-turner, of course, but it's also a multilayered exploration of choices and consequences and the lasting effects of damage done."

Thor, Brad. [Foreign Agent](#) (\$9.99) Harvath #15. When an American safe house near the Syrian border is attacked, halting a high-risk operation targeting ISIS, an ensuing political and PR nightmare places counterterrorism operative Scot Harvath at the center of a maelstrom of blame and betrayal.

NEW IN SMALL PAPERBACKS

Adams, Ellery. [Killer Characters](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Books by the Bay #8. When her friend, fellow Bayside Book Writer Laurel, is arrested for the murder of her husband's lover, Olivia protests her arrest, and with her fellow Bayside Book Writers divided, must race against time to prove Laurel's innocence before her story ends in tragedy.

Alten, Steve. [Meg: Nightstalkers](#) (\$9.99) Meg #5. Bela and Lizzy, the dominant Megalodon siblings from Angel's brood, have escaped the Tanaka Institute to roam the Salish Sea in British Columbia. While Jonas Taylor and his friend Mac attempt to either recapture or kill the "sisters," Jonas's son, David, embarks on his own adventure, motivated by revenge. Mix Jurassic Park with Jaws and you get an idea of the flavor of this series.

Bridge, Kathleen. [Ghosal Living](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Hampton Home and Garden #3. When rare books begin disappearing from the Bibliophile Bed & Breakfast, resulting in the death of an F. Scott Fitzgerald manuscript authenticator, Hamptons interior designer Meg Barret becomes caught up in catching a killer before the book closes on another victim.

☞Brightwell, Emily. [Mrs. Jeffries Rights a Wrong](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Mrs. Jeffries #36. When the body of business man Thomas Mundy is found in London's Wrexley Hotel, Inspector Witherpoon is on the case, and Mrs. Jeffries and the household staff uncover that Mundy was more of a duplicitous con man with enemies on both sides of the Atlantic, giving Witherpoon a long

list of suspects.

with a bohemian past and numerous enemies.

Brown, Rita Mae. [Tall Tail](#) (\$7.99) Mrs. Murphy #24. When a confidante to the former governor of Virginia dies under suspicious circumstances, Harry and her furry detective cohorts look for answers in the eighteenth century, where they discover a secret ancestry that originated in brutality and silence.

Buckley, Julia. [Death in Dark Blue](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Writer's Apprentice #2. After being under attack by the media and his neighbors, Lena London's new boyfriend Sam West has recently been cleared of suspicion for murder. Journalists and townsfolk alike are remorseful, and one blogger would even like to apologize to him in person. But when she's found dead behind Sam's house, Lena must find the real killer before Sam is once again put behind bars.

Cattrell, Bailey. [Nightshade for Warning](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Enchanted Garden #2. When the journalist who is writing a feature on her tiny house and the Enchanted Garden for a national design magazine is murdered, Ellie is stunned when her brother's girlfriend, Robin, is accused of the crime and must dig through the clues to find a killer among a huge bouquet of suspects.

Cochran, Peg. [Dead and Berried](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Cranberry Cove #3. When the local beekeeper's assistant, the venomous Lori Wenk, is murdered, Rick Taylor is accused of the crime and cranberry farm owner Monica Albertson must clear her friend's name before someone else gets stung by a killer. You would think Ocean Spray would want to do some kind of cross marketing with the author.

Coughlin, SGT J. [Long Shot](#) (St Martins \$9.99) Kyle Swanson, working as a special contractor with the CIA, interviews a defector who happens to be a top Russian intelligence agent and finds he is full of amazing secrets, but soon suspects the defector's goal is to spark a fight with NATO and the United States.

Hoag, Tami. [The Bitter Season](#) (\$9.99) While Nikki spends time with her family and misses more satisfying work with her former partner, Sam struggles with a rookie new partner and investigates a double homicide before unexpectedly teaming up with Nikki to stop a threat against a former foster child.

Lustbader, Eric. [Last Snow](#) (\$9.99) In the aftermath of an American senator's death on a political trip, presidential Special Advisor Jack McClure is dispatched to investigate a perilous trail throughout Eastern Europe, an assignment that is complicated by his efforts to protect two unlikely companions.

McFate, Sean. [Shadow War](#) (\$9.99) Elite American mercenary Tom Locke navigates perilous obstacles and deadly enemies throughout a secret mission to save a businessman's family in Eastern Europe.

Thompson, Victoria. [Murder in Morningside Heights](#) (\$7.99) Gaslight #19. Adjusting to married life in New York high society, Frank and Sarah Malloy investigate the suspicious death of a recent graduate from a prestigious women's college whose effort to live a life of independence and civic duty had been built on dangerous secrets.

Viets, Elaine. [The Art of Murder](#) (\$7.99) Dead End Job #15. Touring a gorgeous mansion-turned-museum in Fort Lauderdale, Helen and her friend, Margery, are hired for an undercover assignment investigating the murder of an up-and-coming artist