

BOOKNEWS from

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JUNE BUSTS OUT ALL OVER...

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

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 Swagger, 1933! [Watch this great video](#) with Hunter

SATURDAY JUNE 10 10:30 AM

Coffee & Crime discusses Hannah Dennison's [Murder at Honeychurch Hall](#) (\$15.99)

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

MONDAY JUNE 12 7:00 PM

Laurie R. King signs [Lockdown](#) (Bantam \$28)

TUESDAY JUNE 13 7:00 PM

Martin Walker signs [The Templar's Last Secret](#) (Knopf \$25.95)

THURSDAY JUNE 15 2:00 PM Tea

Jillian Canter signs [The Lost Letter](#) (Riverhead \$26)

THURSDAY JUNE 15 7:00 PM

Joe Kanon signs [Defectors](#) (Atria \$27)

FRIDAY JUNE 16 7:00 PM

Robert Dugoni signs [The Trapped Girl](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95) Tracy Crosswhite #4

FRIDAY JUNE 16 7:00 PM The Annex

SciFi/Fantasy Club discusses Beth Cato, [Breath of the Earth](#) (\$14.99) First in a series

SATURDAY JUNE 17 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger discusses Vaseem Khan's [The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra](#) (\$15.99)

SATURDAY JUNE 17 2:00 PM

Karen Dionne signs [The Marsh King's Daughter](#) (Putnam \$26) Surprise Me! Club Pick

Joseph Finder signs [The Switch](#) (Dutton \$28)

MONDAY JUNE 19 7:00 PM

Hosted by Robert Anglen and Patrick

Don Winslow signs [The Force](#) (Morrow \$27.99)

Our copies will come with an exclusive special behind the book essay from Don that gives some insight into where Don came up with the plot, his inspiration

TUESDAY JUNE 20 7:00 PM

Ben Coes signs [Trap the Devil](#) (St Martins \$26.99)

Mike Maden signs [Tom Clancy: Point of Contact](#) (Putnam \$29)

WEDNESDAY JUNE 21 7:00 PM Great Landscapes

Christine Carbo signs [The Weight of Night](#) (Atria \$16) Glacier Mystery #3

Francine Mathews signs [Death on Nantucket](#) (Soho \$24.95)

James Ziskin signs [Cast the First Stone](#) (Seventh Street \$15.99) Ellie Stone

THURSDAY JUNE 22 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime Club discusses Elizabeth Sanxay Holding. [The Blank Wall](#) (Chicago Review Press \$14.95)

FRIDAY JUNE 23 7:00 PM

Haylen Beck signs [Here and Gone](#) (Crown \$26)

WEDNESDAY JUNE 28

Meg Gardiner signs [Unsub](#) (Dutton \$26) Thriller Club Pick

Spencer Quinn signs [The Right Side](#) (Atria \$26)

THURSDAY JUNE 29 7:00 PM

Brad Thor signs [Use of Force](#) (Atria \$27.99) Scot Harvath

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.

Beck, Haylen. [Here and Gone](#) (Crown \$26). Audra Kinney, the heroine of this suspenseful but deeply disturbing thriller from Beck (the pseudonym of Irish author Stuart Neville), is fleeing from New York to California with her two kids to prevent her abusive ex from getting custody. One minute Audra is submitting to what seems a routine traffic stop in an Arizona backwater, the next she's in a cell facing charges of marijuana possession with intent to distribute, 10-year-old Sean and six-year-old Louise have disappeared, and Sheriff Ronald Whiteside insists that no children were in the car when he pulled her over. When the story hits the media, the only person who credits Audra's frantic claims that the last she saw of her kids was Whiteside's ordering a deputy to drive them away to "somewhere safe" is a stranger, San Francisco gang member Danny "Knife Boy" Lee—because he's convinced something similar happened to his wife and daughter five years earlier. As the clock ticks down on the search for the lost children, he too is drawn into the desperate fight for their return. Our **June Hardboiled Crime Club Pick**.

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.

Cantor, Jillian. [The Lost Letter](#) (Riverhead \$26). Cantor uses a mysterious Austrian stamp of an edelweiss hidden within a church steeple as the subject of her affecting new novel, which unfolds in dual story lines. For what reason was the flower added, after Hitler annexed Austria, to a stamp already in circulation? Why, as Katie Nelson discovers decades later, did her increas-

ingly senile father seek out the stamp, still affixed to an unopened letter? Furthermore, what explains his outburst upon learning that Katie took his collection to appraiser Benjamin Grossman? It's all about the symbolism of the edelweiss, "an expression of love [and] proof of unusual daring," and a gentile artist named Kristoff, who lived with his mentor, renowned Jewish engraver Frederick Faber. The Faber family's Judaism, like the intense faith of Katie's father, stands in stark contrast to her secular lifestyle in 1989 Los Angeles. As Katie and Benjamin methodically trace the stamp's history and the letter's intended recipient, the Berlin Wall is being pulled down. Its destruction is a metaphor for the barriers that fall in the story which reflects yet another facet of WWII.

Carbo, Christine. [The Weight of Night](#) (Atria \$16) Glacier Mystery #3. In a national park famed for glaciers (once) and water, the forest is on fire. In digging a trench to hold back the flames, a skeleton is discovered. National park police officer Monty Harris and forensic anthropologist Gretchen Larson take turns narrating the resultant investigation, beginning with establishing his identity. They are also feverishly working to find a missing 13-year-old boy, Jeremy Corey, last scene at his family's campsite playing a game. Gretchen and Monty are each plagued by ghosts from their pasts: Gretchen, who was institutionalized as a teen in a Norwegian mental facility, suffers from parasomnia, causing her to act out unconsciously while sleepwalking. Her parasomnia recurs the night before the discovery of the young man's body. The hunt for Jeremy dredges up painful memories for Monty, who had a boyhood friend who similarly disappeared and was never found. The suspense builds as the pair race to stop a monster who apparently keeps victims alive for days before killing them. An intricate plot complements the compelling characters. And the fire is so well depicted it almost scorches you. [Order all three](#) Glacier Mysteries.

Carlisle, Kate. [Once Upon a Spine](#) (Berkley \$25). Bookbinder and heiress Brooklyn Wainwright coveting a rare edition of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland in a San Francisco book shop. But her main concern is the imminent arrival from England of the upper-class parents of her tall, dark, and handsome fiancé, Derek Stone, a former British secret agent who now runs an internationally renowned private security agency. How will these toffs get along with Brooklyn's own hippy-dippy family? Meanwhile, during a visit to the Rabbit Hole, a health food shop, she discovers the owner unconscious and the bare feet of a dead man poking out from beneath a section of heavy shelving. Detailed instructions on how to make handmade paper and remove bookplates, plus unusual recipes accompany the sleuthing.

Coes, Ben. [Trap the Devil](#) (St Martins \$26.99). In the exciting seventh Dewey Andreas thriller, bestseller Coes pumps new energy into a familiar plot: a secret cabal lies hidden within the upper reaches of the U.S. government. In 1981, CIA director William Casey huddles with Secretary of State Alexander Haig and outlines his plan to create a secret strike force made up of some of the country's most elite soldiers. Casey chooses disaffected CIA man Charles Bruner to lead the unit. "Stay and help defeat these crazy Muslims," Casey asks. Bruner, whose 10-year-old daughter died in a 1979 terrorist bombing in Madrid, accepts. More than two decades later, with their shadow government in place, Bruner and his group launch a treasonous plan, which

includes assassinating the speaker of the house, the vice president, and the president. Dewey and other members of the CIA Special Activities Division display their formidable skills as they race to thwart the plot. Coes creates a believable hero in Dewey, who's almost superhuman but never a cartoon.

Dionne, Karen. [The Marsh King's Daughter](#) (Putnam \$26). I've been in lockstep with William Kent Krueger and Steve Hamilton since their first novels and thought little could surprise me about Michigan's Upper Peninsula or Ojibwa skills and wilderness survival—Karen Dionne proves me so wrong. I thought Helena Pelletier was going to prove an unreliable narrator, but it turns out the person she lies to best is herself. Who could blame her given the fact she's the daughter of a ruthless abductor and a girl he kidnapped and repeatedly raped. When she was able to make a break at age 15, saving her mother too, her skill set didn't prepare her for life in ordinary society. But she reinvented herself, married and had children. And then word comes that her father has made a prison break, killing two guards and escaping into the wilds he knows so well. Who but the Marsh King's daughter will be able to track him and...? With this set up, the words of Hans Christian Anderson setting the pace, Dionne's thriller sucks you into the landscape and the characters with all their sins and contradictions. Amazing is the word for our **June Surprise Me Club Pick**.

Dugoni, Robert. [The Trapped Girl](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). Seattle Police Detective Tracy Crosswhite's fourth case takes her out of her hometown, out of her jurisdiction, and out of her comfort zone. Kurt Schill is nothing but a high school student who does a little illegal crabbing. Imagine his shock when he pulls a crab pot from Puget Sound with a dead woman stuffed inside. The corpse, identified as Lynn Cora Hoff, seems to have no history and no back story; she'd even retrieved the obligatory before-and-after photographs Dr. Yee Wu took at the time of her recent extensive plastic surgery... And soon enough, Tracy's investigation comes to focus on Strickland, whose bride, Andrea, mysteriously vanished during the couple's climb of Mount Rainier six weeks ago. Lynn's one close friend, Devin Chambers, is unavailable to shed any light on Lynn's death, and Andrea's aunt, Patricia Orr, though she's available, is no more helpful. Even worse, Tracy faces stiff competition from Detective Stan Fields, of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, over control of the case... "Tracy's vexed relationship with her boss, Capt. Johnny Nolasco, guarantees that this struggle will continue until the case is finally laid to rest. Dugoni drills so deep into the troubled relationships among his characters that each new revelation shows them in a disturbing new light. The dizzying descent into an unholy tangle of crimes makes this his best book to date."—*Kirkus Reviews*. Ok, this is a January release, the 4th for Tracy Crosswhite, but Bob and I are doing a gig for the Arizona State Bar Convention and then bringing a program to The Pen the night of June 16. I'm delighted to be hosting this charming author of legal and other thrillers again and he'll return September 5 with Marcia Clark when they each have a brand new book for you, and a lively program as well. Many of you purchased Bob's early novels so now you can catch up!

Finder, Joseph. [The Switch](#) (Dutton \$28). Calling all coffee lovers! This unusual thriller from Finder submerges you in the world of premium coffees as we follow the perils that pursue Michael Tanner, the owner of Tanner Roast, a specialty coffee company in

Boston. Having snubbed a Starbucks buyout, he's struggling to make a go of the business when, wiped out from a trip to LA, he, mistakenly picks up the laptop belonging to U.S. Senator Susan Robbins of Illinois after going through security at LAX (an all too easily imagined scenario if you have ever flown through this airport!). Unluckily the laptop bears a sticky note with Robbins' password (!) and access to highly classified files about a secret surveillance plan being considered by the NSA her chief of staff downloaded for her in defiance of protocols. When Tanner sees what he's got, he unluckily listens to his cynical investigative reporter buddy Lonny Roth and elects to hang on to it (although as the plot goes, it would not help Tanner to turn it in at this point). Meanwhile the Senator's chief of staff is under the gun to retrieve it and complete a cover up of the carelessness. I love it: a coffee roaster as an NSA adversary. Finder is truly an ace at making the commonplace extraordinary and his smooth style pulls you right along to the always stellar denouement.

Gabalton, Diana. [MatchUp](#) (SimonSchuster \$27), 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.

Diana will also discuss her collection of Outlander stories, [Seven Stones to Stand or Fall](#) (\$30) which publishes June 27. It's always a good idea to order a new Outlander book or story early!

Gardiner, Meg. [Unsub](#) (Dutton \$26). Our **July Thriller Club Pick**, signed June 28, earns a Starred Review: "Near the start of this outstanding series launch from Edgar-winner Gardiner, Caitlin Hendrix, a detective with San Francisco's Narcotics Task Force, visits a crime scene in an Alameda County cornfield—a brutal double murder. The killer pounded nails into the chests of the two victims, forming the symbol for mercury, the hallmark of the notorious serial killer known as the Prophet who struck the Bay Area during the 1990s, then disappeared. The Prophet is no stranger to Caitlin: her father, Mack Hendrix, was the lead detective on the original case, which left him an emotional wreck and tore his family apart. Soon reassigned to homicide, Caitlin is determined to bring the unsub—or unknown subject—down this time and finish what her father started. As the body count rises, the stakes become even more personal, as the Prophet targets those closest to Caitlin. Taut pacing and sympathetic characters play against a terrifying villain, who will crawl beneath your skin and trouble your sleep." I've always been a Gardiner fan and am pleased she's now back in the game, and in the US.

Hunter, Stephen. [G Man](#) (Blue Rider \$27). 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. In its Starred Review, *PW* avers, "Hunter's skilled ear for dialogue and idiom has never been better, and

some of the action scenes—especially a chapter describing the famous robbery of the Merchants National Bank in South Bend, Indiana, on June 30, 1934—are as elegant as they are disturbing.” Order Hunter’s fabulous backlist and binge read.

Kanon, Joseph. [Defectors](#) (Atria \$27). One of my favorite authors give us a tale of an American spy, the Cold War’s most notorious defector, who gave up his country for the safety—and prison—of Moscow, but never lost his gift for betrayal. In 1961, he elects to write his memoirs and sucks in his publisher brother who’d always adored him, for a meet-up in Moscow. I don’t know about you but I always speculate on what life was like after guys like Burgess and the Cambridge spies, or even leakers like Snowden, found themselves in new countries and cultures. Was it worth it, did it even make sense to them? Kanon has such a gift for putting himself inside his characters’ heads, and always gets his period detail not just convincing, but right.

King, Laurie R. [Lockdown](#) (Bantam \$28), says King, is about a school community, and how the lives of everyone there on one specific day—Career Day, at Guadalupe Middle School—become intertwined in catastrophe. Both the story and the structure of the book itself weave together threads—or, as Principal Linda McDonald reflects: ‘The school is a tapestry, yes—but not one woven from soft and malleable fibers. There was nothing soft or fraying about Guadalupe’s kids. Her kids. And what brought them together had nothing of a loom’s deliberation about it.’ No! Guadalupe was a tapestry built from jagged and mismatched pieces that, with care, could find a fit. Unlikely shapes, from a myriad of sources, joined by skilled hands and the eye of a believer. The broken, the lost, and the hidden from view, made into something new... Some of the characters in *Lockdown* have appeared elsewhere, from “Paleta Man” in 2001 (my Edgar-nominated short story!) to “The House” in 2008 – written as my Artist of the Year piece, in response to prompts from middle-school students. Thus, the story is a mosaic, a thriller composed of shapes from a myriad of sources.

Maden, Mike. [Tom Clancy Point of Contact](#) (Putnam \$29). Former U.S. Senator Weston Rhodes is a defense contractor with an urgent problem. His company needs someone to look over the books of Dalfan Technologies, a Singapore company—quickly. He turns to his old friend Gerry Hendley for help. Hendley Associates is one of the best financial analysis firms in the country and the cover for The Campus, a top-secret American intelligence agency. Rhodes asks for two specific analysts, Jack Ryan Jr., and Paul Brown, a mild-mannered forensic accountant. Both Ryan and Brown initially resist, for different reasons. Brown has no idea Jack works for The Campus but the awkward accountant is hiding secrets of his own. Rhodes has tasked him with uploading a cyberwarfare program into the highly secure Dalfan Technologies mainframe on behalf of the CIA. On the verge of mission success, Brown discovers a game within the game, and the people who now want to kill him are as deadly as the cyclone bearing down on the island nation. I am a big fan of Maden’s thrillers and expertise and am pleased to see him stepping into the Clancy franchise here while Mark Greaney pursues his own Gray Man thrillers.

Mathews, Francine. [Death on Nantucket](#) (Soho \$24.95). “What a treat to have a new addition to one of my very favorite series! Francine Mathews’ prose is elegant, her heroine appealing, her

setting vivid, and her characters shine. For mystery lovers, the Merry Folger books hit every note.”—Deborah Crombie. I too am delighted to see the first new Merry Folger since the 1990s which brings the whole Nantucket series up to date since Francine has revised the ones published then. Spencer Murphy is a national treasure. A famous correspondent during the Vietnam War who escaped captivity in Southeast Asia, he made a fortune off of his books and television appearances. But Spence is growing forgetful with age; he’s started to wander and even fails to come home one night. When a body is discovered at Step Above, the sprawling Murphy house near Steps Beach, Nantucket police detective Meredith Folger is called in to investigate. The timing couldn’t be worse: It’s the Fourth of July, Merry’s planning her wedding to cranberry farmer Peter Mason, and her new police chief is gunning for her job. Merry is inclined to call the death at Step Above a tragic accident...until another member of the Murphy clan comes to a brutal end. The dynamics of the Murphy family lead to one surprise after another in a surprisingly savage tale. [Order all the Folders](#) for more fun.

Quinn, Spencer. [The Right Side](#) (Atria \$26). Shattered by one last blow—the sudden death of her hospital roommate, Marci—LeAnne finds herself on a fateful drive across the country, reflecting on her past and seeing no future. Arriving in the rain-soaked small town in Washington State that Marci had called home, she makes a troubling discovery: Marci’s eight-year-old daughter has vanished. When a stray dog—a powerful, dark, unreadable creature, no one’s idea of a pet—seems to adopt LeAnne, a surprising connection is formed and something shifts inside her. As she becomes obsessed with finding Marci’s daughter, LeAnne and her inscrutable canine companion are drawn into danger as dark and menacing as her last Afghan mission. Stephen Kings calls the book, “Brilliant. Deeply felt, but totally under control. I loved it.” Harlan Coben adds, “You won’t forget the heroic LeAnne Hogan – and the same goes for her dog! Not to be missed.” And our Tracy adds: “Quinn takes a break from his wonderful Chet & Bernie series and introduces us to LeAnne Hogan, a female soldier wounded in Afghanistan. LeAnne is dealing with a host of issues including memory loss, disorientation, and anger. After “escaping” the army hospital, she sets off on a road trip which includes a stop in Phoenix before making her way to Washington State. There a stray dog makes herself LeAnne’s guardian angel in more ways than one. Very different from the Chet & Bernie books, but I found myself putting myself in LeAnne’s red tennis shoes and really enjoyed this!” I add that I absolutely loved every surprising tale Quinn wrote under his real name, Peter Abrahams, and can’t wait to see him back in that form.

Thor, Brad. [Use of Force](#) (Atria \$27.99). As a storm rages across the Mediterranean, a terrifying distress call is made to the Italian Coast Guard. Days later, a body washes ashore. Identified as a high value terrorism suspect (who had disappeared three years prior), his name sends panic through the CIA. Where was he headed? What was he planning? And could he be connected to the “spectacular attack” they have feared all summer? In a race against time, the CIA taps an unorthodox source to get answers: Navy SEAL turned covert counterterrorism operative, Scot Harvath. Hired on a black contract, Harvath will provide the deniability the United States needs, while he breaks every rule along the way.

Walker, Martin. [The Templar's Last Secret](#) (Knopf \$25.95). First go to the [Bruno Chief of Police website](#) and read about the award-winning cook book. And a lot of Bruno's personal story, who he is and why. In Walker's deftly plotted 10th mystery starring St. Denis, France, police chief Benoît "Bruno" Courrèges, the small-town cop with a knack for stumbling onto big cases rolls into action when an unidentified woman takes a fatal fall from the ramparts of the Château de Commarque, a long-ago Knights Templar stronghold which, along with the labyrinth of prehistoric caves beneath it, continues to draw the interest of scholars. She apparently fell before she could finish painting graffiti there that may relate to the medieval order of the Knights Templar. With the help of Amélie, a young justice official to the Dordogne, Bruno learns that the dead woman was an archaeologist. Prehistoric cave art, Crusader tales, and modern Islamic terrorism all figure into what becomes a murder case. An old flame of Bruno's is assigned to work it with him, and the two find time, *naturellement*, to enjoy the supreme pleasures of the wine, food, and beauty of the Dordogne. If you have not read the Brunos, [best done in order](#), waste no time! For those collecting the UK editions: [The Templar's Last Secret](#) (Quercus \$46).

Winslow, Don. [The Force](#) (Morrow \$27.99). Patrick reviews: Denny Malone, veteran NYPD detective and leader of the elite Manhattan North Task Force, didn't start out as a dirty cop. Over the years, however, the odd payoff and favor became routine, and a talented and effective cop slid past the point of no return, stealing millions in money and drugs. As Winslow shows us, keeping the citizens safe isn't always clean and easy work, but even Malone's and his team's corruption is chump change compared to the real players behind the scenes busy rebuilding the city after the Sept 11 attacks. A gutsy and uncompromising look at the dark heartbeat of modern America." Expect this book to be huge.

Ziskin, James. [Cast the First Stone](#) (Seventh Street \$15.99). Set in February 1962, Edgar-finalist Ziskin's riveting fifth Ellie Stone takes the intrepid reporter from New Holland, N.Y., to Hollywood, Calif., to profile Tony Eberle, a New Holland native recently cast in his first film. Tony has disappeared with no explanation, however, and when the police find the body of the movie's producer, he quickly becomes the prime murder suspect. With her own career at stake, Ellie races to solve the crime and prove Tony's innocence. Her search is complicated by the machinations of a conniving female studio executive, whose own career hinges on concealing actors' and producers' unsavory activities. Ziskin's depiction of the era's everyday sexism, homophobia, and racism is pitch-perfect, and Ellie's narration adds compassion and humanity to sensitive topics. Complex, richly drawn supporting characters—a crude but conscientious cop; Tony's roommate, who prostitutes himself to help the actor's career; their wickedly funny landlady; a middle-aged reporter struggling after a recent layoff—round out the cast of our **June Fresh Fiction Club Pick**. [Order Ellie's earlier cases](#).

SIGNED BOOKS

Binet, Laurent. [The 7th Function of Language](#) (Harvill UK \$52). Roland Barthes is knocked down in a Paris street by a laundry van. It's February 1980 and he has just come from lunch with Francois Mitterrand, a slippery politician locked in a battle for the Presidency. Barthes dies soon afterwards. History tells us it

was an accident. But what if it were an assassination? What if Barthes was carrying a document of unbelievable, global importance? A document explaining the seventh function of language - an idea so powerful it gives whoever masters it the ability to convince anyone, in any situation, to do anything. Police Captain Jacques Bayard and his reluctant accomplice Simon Herzog set off on a chase that takes them from the corridors of power and academia to backstreet saunas and midnight rendezvous. What they discover is a worldwide conspiracy involving the President, murderous Bulgarians and a secret international debating society. In the world of intellectuals and politicians, everyone is a suspect. This is a gorgeous special hardcover edition for the new book by the author of First Mystery Club Pick and bestseller [HHhH](#) (\$17) being republished here in September. You can preorder it now.

Cussler, Clive/Graham Brown. [Nighthawk](#) (Putnam \$29). When the most advanced aircraft ever designed vanishes over the South Pacific, the NUMA crew is called in. Kurt Austin and Joe Zavala are drawn into a deadly contest to locate the fallen drone; its technology is coveted by Russia and China but the US has a darker problem—if the payload is mishandled the results could be catastrophic.

Doiron, Paul. [Knife Creek](#) (St Martins \$27). When Maine game warden Mike Bowditch is tasked with shooting invasive feral hogs that are tearing up the forest in his district, he makes a horrific discovery — a dead baby buried in a shallow grave on the edge of a swamp. Even more disturbing: evidence suggests the infant was the child of a young woman who was presumed to have died four years earlier after she disappeared from a group rafting trip. As Bowditch assists the reopened investigation, he begins to suspect that some of his neighbors aren't who they seem to be and a horrific secret could cost Bowditch his life.

Easley, Warren. [Blood for Wine](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 or \$15.95).). "In Easley's fine fifth mystery featuring Portland, Oregon, lawyer Cal Claxton, Cal is shocked to learn that vintner Jim Kavanaugh, a friend and neighbor, is the prime (and only) suspect in the brutal murder of Jim's estranged wife, Lori. Cal agrees to represent Jim until the two know whether the case is solid enough for trial. With scant evidence and even less cooperation from the local constabulary, Cal decides to look into the murder. When another body turns up, with a time of death very close to Lori's, he's convinced it's related. As Cal delves into Jim and Lori's troubled marriage, he stumbles onto other community secrets—including a blackmail scheme—all tied to the area's booming wine business. Meanwhile, senseless acts of violence that hit too close to home upend Cal's personal life—but only serve to strengthen his resolve. Oenophiles and aspiring vintners will enjoy the wine lore in this well-wrought tale of love and betrayal."—*PW*

Evanovich, Janet. [Dangerous Minds](#) (Bantam \$28). Buddhist monk Wayan Bagus lost his island of solitude and wants to get it back. The island was about two hundred miles northeast of Samoa. It had a mountain, beaches, a rain forest, and a volcano. And now it's gone. Poof! Vanished without a trace. Brilliant and boyishly charming Emerson Knight likes nothing better than solving an unsolvable, improbable mystery. And so....

Harper, Jordan. [She Rides Shotgun](#) (Harper \$28). What a voice. This debut reminds me a bit of the darkly funny, propulsive work of Johnny Shaw where love and loyalty lay alongside violence

and a constant threat of death. It began when Nate made enemies in prison of the Aryan Steel gang which, despite its head being confined in solitary, puts out a bounty on him figuring that its members on the outside will nail him. To up the score, they murder his ex, and target his 11-year-old daughter Polly. Father and daughter go on the lam with scarcely any time to prepare or for Polly to mourn her mother. She's forced to transform from a child into a warrior, and her dad to learn to love her unconditionally. But will this be enough for them to survive the existence he's carved out for them, to evade whatever stone-cold killer(s) is coming their way propelled by Steel? *True Grit* is too soft an analogy, but you get the idea.... Our June **First Mystery Club Pick**.

Hewson, David. [Sleep, Baby, Sleep](#) (Pan \$36). Annie Schrijver is just 22. 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. Detective Pieter Vos—seen here in his 4th case—knows that if he is to outwit the murderer, he will need to employ everything he has to avert a greater tragedy.

Hobb, Robin. [Assassin's Fate: Book III of the Fitz and Fool Trilogy](#) (Del Rey \$32 post Elevengedden May 24). “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....

James, Peter. [Need You Dead](#) (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.

Kadrey, Richard. [Kill Society](#) (Harper \$25.99). Sandman Slim #9 is out in early June but Kadrey delays signing it here to July 17.

Koontz, Dean. [The Silent Corner](#) (Bantam \$28). A new series, a pure adrenaline rush, debuts with Jane Hawk. “A proven specialist in action scenes, Koontz pulls off some doozies here...The book is full of neat touches...and the prose, as always in a Koontz novel, is first-rate. Perhaps Koontz's leanest, meanest thriller, this initial entry in a new series introduces a smart, appealing heroine who can outthink as well as outshoot the baddest of bad dudes.”—*Kirkus* Starred Review. Which comment is understated, if anything. The action never lets up, the pace keeps you glued to the page, and Jane and her predicament which includes trying to keep her young son hidden and alive compels you to root for her. The bio-engineering is fascinating. Koontz has thrown himself into a story for our time with a real vengeance and thus writes our **June Thriller Club Pick**.

Lancet, Barry. [The Spy Across the Table](#) (SimonSchuster \$26). When two theater friends are murdered backstage at a Kennedy Center performance, Jim Brodie, antiques dealer, Japan expert, and second-generation private investigator, is devastated—and determined to hunt down the killer. He's not the only one. Brodie is summoned to the White House. The First Lady was the college roommate of one of the victims, and she enlists Brodie—off the books—to use his Japanese connections to track down the assassin. Homeland Security head Tom Swelley is furious that the White House is meddling and wants Brodie off the case. Why? For the same reason a master Chinese spy known only as Zhou, one of the most dangerous men alive, appears on the scene: Those murders were no random act of violence. Brodie often lies to Tokyo to attend the second of two funerals, when his friend's daughter Anna is kidnapped during the ceremony. It is then Brodie realizes that the murders were simply bait to draw her out of hiding....

Maron, Margaret. [Take Out](#) (Grand Central \$27). It's the 1990s. NYPD detective Sigrid Harald is still reeling from the untimely death of her boyfriend, acclaimed painter Oscar Nauman, when a new murder investigation falls into her lap. Two homeless men are found dead on a bench in the West Village, just around the corner from a diner where Sigrid was, just the previous evening, discussing plans for the retrospective of Nauman's work that is shaping up to be the talk of the art world. The police at first assume an overdose, until they realize that one of the men shows no signs of drug use. Then containers of poisoned takeout food are found nearby. As Sigrid investigates, she uncovers an intriguing neighborhood history: a haughty mafia widow and her disgraced godson, a retired opera star with dark secrets, an unsolved hit-and-run, and the possible discovery of a long-missing painting that will rock the art world.... Maron writes to me that, “In addition to a dead Mafia don and a retired opera diva, we get a Dutchman over from Holland, who claims to be Oscar Nauman's son and therefore entitled to a share of the fortune that the artist left her.” What a wonderful chance this is to learn more about Sigrid, especially now that Deborah Knott's story is done.

Mukherjee, Abir. [A Necessary Evil](#) (Random UK \$32). Mukherjee's debut in [A Rising Man](#) (Pegasus \$25.95 Unsigned) was one of our biggest 2016 History Club Picks. I'm thrilled he's back with another mystery of India under the Raj. It's 1920. Captain Wyndham and Sergeant Banerjee of the Calcutta Police Force

investigate the dramatic assassination of a Maharajah's son. The fabulously wealthy kingdom of Sambalpur is home to tigers, elephants, diamond mines and the beautiful Palace of the Sun. But when the heir to the throne is assassinated in the presence of Captain Sam Wyndham and Sergeant 'Surrender-Not' Banerjee, they discover a kingdom riven with suppressed conflict. Prince Adhir was a modernizer whose attitudes – and romantic relationship – may have upset the more religious elements of his country, while his brother – now in line to the throne – appears to be a feckless playboy. As Wyndham and Banerjee desperately try to unravel the mystery behind the assassination, they become entangled in a dangerous world where those in power live by their own rules and those who cross their paths pay with their lives. And reminder: if you were riveted to *The Jewel in the Crown* and the earliest Barbara Cleverly mysteries, you will love Arjun Gai'd's [A Very Pukka Murder](#), the first Maharaja Mystery. I'll be getting the second, *Death at the Durbar*, to edit at the end of June to publish in November.

Nicorvo, Jay Baron. [The Standard Grand](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Patrick reviews our **June Modern Firsts Club Pick**: "Baron's addictive, shambolic novel opens with a female combat vet, struggling with PTSD, going AWOL before her third deployment and hitting the road, ending up in New York City. Camping out in Central Park she meets a Vietnam vet and a widower who run The Standard, a kind of halfway house for homeless vets up in the Catskills. The rundown former resort sits over a shale formation and is coveted by a Texas multinational company. There she meets a truly diverse cast of fellow combat vets, all struggling to get peaceably by. With three violent acts at the center of the novel—a mauling, a shooting, and a mysterious death decades in the past—this is full of surprises. It's refreshing to read about a female combat veteran, who have been too often ignored, and Baron's very twisted sense of humor and his fresh, lively writing really impress."

Pronzini, Bill. [Endgame](#) (Forge \$26) is a classic Nameless twisty novel, two cases that will test his agency's resources. Love is in the air—love gone awry. One case involves a woman whose husband died accidentally in a remote cabin in the Sierras. The wife isn't buying that her husband was alone, and is determined to find out his secret and get closure...in spite of any potential heartbreak. The other case is a missing person...but the person missing was agoraphobic and never left the house. The husband swears that while their relationship was strained due to his wife's condition, he was still in love with her. He begs Nameless to clear him and find his wife before the cops come for him.

Repino, Robert. [D'arc](#) (Soho \$26.95). Our **June Sci/Fi Fantasy Pick** gets this Starred Review: In Repino's fantastic follow-up to 2015's *Mort(e)*, human civilization is in ruins after the ants started the "war with no name," elevating the abilities and intelligence of other animals to help them in their fight. House-cat-turned-warrior Mort(e), who, with the help of the human/animal resistance, killed the ant queen, now lives with his friend, the dog Sheba, on a quiet ranch where they raise docile alpha ants. When a spiderlike creature threatens a nearby beaver village, the beavers ask for Mort(e)'s assistance, but he's not keen on leaving his quiet life. However, Sheba, desperate to venture beyond the ranch, wants to help. Meanwhile, in nearby Hosanna, a killer is on the loose, and water creatures called sarcops are ascending from the deep to eradicate humanity. Once

again, Mort(e) may be the only one who can save the day. Sheba (who renames herself D'arc), with her genuine goodness and wide-eyed fascination with everything, is immensely likable. Curmudgeonly, weary Mort(e) carries the weight of this brave new world firmly on his shoulders. Well-drawn characters and emotional heft are hallmarks of this unusual series about the power of myth, love, and redemption in a dangerous time.

Toyne, Simon. [The Boy Who Saw](#) (Collins \$32). Solomon Creed, first met in 2015's [The Searcher](#) (\$9.99), has no recollection of who he is, or where he comes from. The only solid clue to his identity is a label stitched in his jacket that reads: "This suit was made to treasure for Mr. Solomon Creed." The jacket fits perfectly, and so does the name, but there is a second name on the label, the name of the tailor who made the suit and an address in southern France. Solomon heads to France in search of this man, hoping to discover more about who he is. But instead of answers he finds a bloody corpse, the Star of David carved into his chest and the words "Finishing what was begun" daubed in blood on the wall. When the police discover Solomon at the crime scene they suspect he is the murderer and lock him up. Solomon must escape to clear his name and solve the mystery of why the last remaining survivors of a notorious Nazi death camp are being hunted down and murdered. Only by saving these survivors from evil can Solomon hope to piece together the truth about a decades-old conspiracy as well as discover the key to his own identity.

Walker, Martin. [The Templar's Last Secret](#) (Quercus \$46). See Signed Books for a review.

Welsh, Kaite. [The Wages of Sin](#) (Headline \$39). Sarah Gilchrist has fled from 1890s London to Edinburgh in disgrace and is determined to become a doctor, despite the misgivings of her family and society. As part of the University of Edinburgh's first intake of female medical students, Sarah comes up against resistance from lecturers, her male contemporaries, and – perhaps worst of all – her fellow women, who will do anything to avoid being associated with a fallen woman... When one of Sarah's patients turns up in the university dissecting room as a battered corpse, Sarah finds herself drawn into Edinburgh's dangerous underworld of bribery, brothels and body snatchers – and a confrontation with her own past. The publisher recommends this to fans of Antonia Hodgson.

BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSIC

Edwards, Martin, ed. [Miraculous Mysteries: Locked Room Mysteries and Impossible Crimes](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). Included in this collection are pieces by recognizable names such as Arthur Conan Doyle, G.K. Chesterton, Dorothy L. Sayers, and Margery Allingham. The seemingly impossible locked-room murders are solved often by the authors' best-known characters, who are usually clever and explain their logical conclusions. Edwards provides a wealth of background information in brief sketches before each story. Readers who appreciate careful plot development, slightly unusual detectives, and logical denouements will relish this volume. For lovers of Agatha Christie, John Dickson Carr, and other masters of that period.

AKASHIC NOIRS

Lovelace, Earl, ed. [Trinidad Noir](#) (\$15.95). 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; e.g., 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.

JUNE LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Atkins, Ace. [The Innocents](#) (\$16). Patrick reviews: Things have gotten downright ugly in Tibbehah County, Mississippi, the setting for Atkins’ exceptional series of crime novels featuring former ex-Ranger and sometime-sheriff Quinn Colson. After being voted out of office in a previous novel, Colson finds himself working as a deputy under the inimitable Lillie Virgil (a nice reversal of roles). Virgil finds herself with a horrific new murder victim: a young woman is found walking by the side of the road doused in gasoline and engulfed in flames. As Virgil and Colson investigate her death, they discover a darkness and depravity that belies the genteel, placid surface of the small town. Atkins has always had a love/hate relationship with the south and he writes hard-hitting, uncompromising morality tales that don’t shy away from tackling tough subjects. I always recommend the Quinn Colson books to fans of Burke’s Dave Robicheaux series. Probably best to start at the beginning with *The Ranger*; but not absolutely necessary. To do so, order all the Colsons [here](#)

✦ Bolton, Sharon. [Daisy in Chains](#) (\$16.99). Famous killers have fan clubs. Hamish Wolfe is no different. Locked up for the rest of his life for the abduction and murder of three young women, he gets countless adoring letters every day. He’s handsome, charismatic and very persuasive. His admirers are convinced he’s innocent, and that he’s the man of their dreams. Maggie Rose is different. Reclusive and enigmatic; a successful lawyer and best-selling true-crime writer, she only takes on cases that she can win. Hamish wants her as his lawyer, he wants her to change his fate. She thinks she’s immune to the charms of a man like this. But maybe not this time.... There’s an amazing twist at the end.

Burton, Jessie. [The Muse](#) (\$15.99). Spain, 1936. Olive Schloss, the daughter of a Viennese Jewish art dealer and an English heiress, follows her parents to Arazuelo, a poor, restless village on the southern coast. She grows close to Teresa, a young housekeeper, and Teresa’s half-brother, Isaac Robles, an idealistic and ambitious painter newly returned from the Barcelona salons. A dilettante buoyed by the revolutionary fervor that will soon erupt into civil war, Isaac dreams of being a painter as famous as his countryman Picasso. Raised in poverty, these illegitimate children of the local landowner revel in exploiting the wealthy Anglo-Austrians. England, 1967. Odelle Bastien is a Caribbean émigrée trying to make her way in London. When she starts working at the prestigious Skelton Institute of Art, she discovers a painting rumored to be the work of Isaac Robles, a young artist of immense talent and vision whose mysterious death has confounded the art world for decades. The excitement over the painting is matched by the intrigue around the conflicting stories of its discovery. Burton is the author of [The Miniaturist](#) (\$16.99), a 2014 History Club Pick.

✦ Cannon, Joanna. [The Trouble with Goats and Sheep](#) (\$16). A mystery of British suburbia is set in the famously hot summer of 1976 and narrated by 10-year-old Grace, and the first 30 or so pages skate along on her charm, her oblique moments of perception, and her humorous observations. Meanwhile, the central mystery of the novel is being set up – the disappearance of the neighbor Mrs. Creasy. There are several other mysteries in this novel, including the brief kidnapping of a baby, a case of arson, and what a group of neighbors did nine years previously – something they discuss frequently without ever letting the reader get an idea of what exactly it was. In order to explore all this, Grace’s story is interspersed with six other perspectives, giving the reader insight into the inner lives of some of the secretive neighbors. “Cannon obviously has an interest in the everyday tragedies of ordinary people, individuals mired in grief and open to making life-changing errors, and she makes their disappointments real and painful for the reader, though tempered with levity.”—*The Guardian*

Carr, Matthew. [The Devils of Cardona](#) (\$16).). This is a terrific if in places grisly historical—a thriller, but with digressive scenes—taking you to Spain, 1584, when Phillip II is on the throne and the Inquisition is in full force. Licenciado Mendoza, a local magistrate in Aragon, is sent to Belamar de la Sierra near the French border where the priest has been murdered in his own church. It’s a time when Muslims are being forced into converting to Catholicism. Most of the townsfolk are Moriscos. With a royal visit, a wedding pending, the king wants to clear up the crime and prevent more violence, even an ethnic and civil war. Is there a mysterious Muslim avenger at work in the region or is something else going on, something in Cardona where the Countess was violently widowed two years back, leaving just a daughter as the heir.... This is a story for our time as well.

DeSilva, Bruce. [A Scourge of Vipers](#) (\$14.99). Edgar-winner DeSilva’s excellent fourth Liam Mulligan novel finds the Providence, R.I., investigative journalist on hard times professionally. His newspaper, *The Dispatch*, has been reduced to a shell of its former self, publishing fluff rather than substance and largely staffed by wet-behind-the-ears newcomers. His jerk of an editor, Charles Twisdale, is more concerned with the bottom line and advertising revenue than reporting the news, leaving Mulligan feeling like a dinosaur on the verge of extinction. But if that’s to be his fate, the reporter is determined to go down swinging, pursuing the truth behind a series of murders that appear linked to the governor, colorfully known as “Attila the Nun,” who hopes to solve the state’s public-pension crisis by legalizing sports gambling. The lean prose and clever plotting will remind hard-boiled fans of Loren Estleman’s Amos Walker novels. Rhode Island seems to be a hard sell for crime fans but it’s the perfect background for a series with real bite!

Flynn, Rory. [Dark Horse](#) (\$14.99). “Boston cop Eddy Harkness returns in a second turbocharged adventure that kicks off with an apocalyptic flood and incorporates Colonial bylaws, big-city corruption, and a highly entertaining cast of characters.”—*Boston Globe*. *Dark Horse*—an especially pure and deadly brand of heroin—has infiltrated the gritty Lower South End. Harkness soon finds that the drug is also at the center of an audacious land grab by the city’s corrupt new mayor and his shadowy power brokers. Meanwhile, Lower South End residents displaced by the

storm use an obscure bylaw to take refuge in Eddy's hometown of Nagog, and soon tensions are running high along its quaint tree-lined streets.

Gentili, Sulari. [Miles Off Course](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). Much of the third Rowland Sinclair mystery takes us up into Australia's high country and into what readers will feel is a 1930s American western. We get there when Wil, the older brother managing the Sinclair fortune, sends Rowly to check up on a stockman, an Aborigine with a very long, loyal history with the family, who appears to have gone missing. The easy answer is that Harry has gone walkabout, but neither Sinclair brother believes this to be true. Plus there are the Sinclair cattle to round up. The plot dances inventively around actual historical events and there is more than one cameo appearance made by famous Australian historical figures. The privileged background of the Sinclairs lets Rowly penetrate all walks of life, more so than his right-leaning brother Wil can or will do. I love the Rowland Sinclair series for the picture it paints of the fractured 1930s in a setting less familiar to American readers than Europe. And because it reflects currents fracturing our society today. I do recommend reading [A Few Right-Thinking Men](#) and [A Decline in Prophets](#) first.

Hawley, Noah. [Before the Fall](#) (\$15.99). The 2017 Edgar winner now in paperback. Emmy-, Golden Globe-, and Peabody Award-winning television producer and screenwriter Hawley's fifth novel is a masterly blend of mystery, suspense, tragedy, and shameful media hype. When a corporate jet carrying 11 crashes into the ocean just 16 minutes into a nighttime flight from Martha's Vineyard to New York in August 2015, only two people survive—Scott Burroughs, a middle-aged former drunk and minor artist, and a four-year-old boy. Scott saves the boy, swimming to shore and into a frenzy of media-shaped hero worship, federal investigations of terrorism and criminal activity, and sudden media-driven accusations of financial exploitation. Hawley cleverly uses flashback chapters for each of the passengers to reveal that one victim was a wealthy mogul, head of a 24-hour cable news network that didn't just report the news, but proudly manufactured it; one victim was a Wall Street financier about to be indicted for money laundering; and the other victims, including an armed bodyguard, also had curious pasts. Scott's life is an escalating nightmare of media hounding and federal suspicion. His only salvation is a thoughtful, deliberate NTSB investigator who focuses on facts, not speculation. This is a gritty tale of a man overwhelmed by unwelcome notoriety, with a stunning, thoroughly satisfying conclusion.

Limon, Martin. [Ping-Pong Heart](#) (\$15.95). "At the start of Limón's compelling 11th novel set in 1970s South Korea featuring U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division agents George Sueño and Ernie Bascom, Major Frederick Schultz makes an official complaint, accusing a prostitute, Jo Kyong-ja, of taking his money without providing the agreed-upon services. When Sueño and Bascom question Jo, she denies the allegation and claims that Schultz was upset when he was unable to perform. Shortly after that interview, someone roughs up Jo, and a few weeks later, Schultz, the logical suspect in that assault, turns up dead himself, the victim of a knifing in a back alley behind a Seoul nightclub. Complicating the murder inquiry is the involvement of the South Korean police and the unsettling revelation that Schultz was doing classified work involving the review of potential irregularities in the running of a military intelligence unit. Major developments

in the lives of Limón's leads complement the intricate whodunit."—*PW* Starred Review on another astonishing story from one of my favorite crafters of crime fiction.

McCafferty, Keith. [Buffalo Jump Blues](#) (\$16). OK, first, this is not a mystery with or about fishing, although indeed there are some epic battles with trout. If you read him you already know the survival and outdoor skills editor of *Field & Stream* (who won the 2016 Spur Award from the Western Writers of America for his amazing crime fiction) started Sean Stranahan off as a New England water color artist, now resident of Big Sky Country and doing both fishing guiding and PI work on the side. In short, he cobbles together an income while still residing in his tipi and is usually broke. And he takes on some work from Sheriff Martha Ettinger with whom he has a complicated friends-with-benefits thing going. But the investigative work has risen to take over Sean's life and here it begins with a truly terrible event: a buffalo jump where a small herd that has strayed out of Yellowstone into Montana where by law the animals are to be shot (long story, you will learn why) is lured over the cliffs of an ancient hunting ground to their deaths. Sadly not all the buffalo die in the fall so Sean is forced to put the survivors down. Except for one little calf which involves him and Martha and Martha's current lover in a clandestine rescue op. So who instituted the buffalo jump, and why? And, who is the young Indian who ended up gutted and dead? McCafferty returns to The Pen on July 11 with [Cold Hearted River](#) (Viking \$26).

Mullen, Thomas. [Darktown](#) (\$16). "Mullen uses the lens of a twisted murder mystery to unsettle readers with his unflinching look at racism in post-WWII Atlanta. That city has just hired its first black police officers, but the eight men given the responsibility for guarding black neighborhoods are still relegated to second-class status.... This page-turner reads like the best of James Ellroy."—*PW* Starred Review for a 2016 Hardboiled Crime Club Pick. Mullen signs [The Lightning Men](#) (Atria \$26) here in late September.

Rosenfelt, David. [Outfoxed](#) (\$15.99). Edgar-finalist and Shamus Award winner Rosenfelt once again leads Andy Carpenter from the comfort of the couch or bar watching football into the courtroom thanks to a dog. In his 14th case, Andy has been running a program called Prison Pals, which uses inmates to help train and socialize rescued canines. White-collar criminal Brian Atkins, who's up for parole in four months from East Jersey State Prison, has bonded with Fox Terrier Boomer. When to everyone's amazement Brian stages an escape by posing as Boomer's trainer and then is espied driving away from the scene of a bloody double homicide, whose victims are his estranged wife and his former business partner, Andy, Brian's attorney, is puzzled. When he inadvertently leads to cops to a highway rest stop where Brian has driven with Boomer, and Brian saves Boomer from a speeding truck, Andy is impelled to take on Brian's defense—if he can persuade his client not to plead Guilty. Look for the sequel in July: [Collared](#) (St Martins \$28 Signed).

NEW BOOKS

Adenle, Leye. [Easy Motion Tourist](#) (Cassava Republic Press \$14.95). Nigerian author Adenle introduces fans of crime fiction to the staggeringly corrupt city of Lagos with his debut novel. In a spare style reminiscent of Raymond Chandler, Guy Collins, an inexperienced British journalist new to Lagos, navigates the city. His misadventures begin abruptly when he stumbles upon

a horrible crime: the all-too-real phenomenon of ritual killing, a gruesome practice involving the removal of human body parts in order to perform black magic. When he's arrested and interrogated by local police, he's acquainted with the brand of rough justice that leads many Nigerians to be "as scared of their police as they were of killers." Collins is also introduced to Amaka, a cross between a vigilante and a guardian angel, who tries her best to look after the working girls of Lagos and get revenge on the men who abuse them. "In what could be read as a hat-tip to Elmore Leonard, even the most hardened criminals often come off as pathetic and impulsive rather than cartoonishly evil. The novel is a wild read, surging back and forth from seedy underbelly to the equally threatening halls of wealth and power with uncompromising speed."

Barrett, Lorna. [A Just Clause](#) (Berkley \$26). Set in Stoneham, N.H., a town that rivals Hay-on-Wye as a destination for book lovers, Barrett's delightful 11th Booktown mystery opens at a signing party for thriller writer Steven Richardson at Haven't Got a Clue, a bookstore owned by the intelligent and inquisitive Tricia Miles. The event is marred by the surprise arrival of Tricia's ne'er-do-well father, John Miles, and the slap in the face he receives from Carol Talbot, a recent widow and Tricia's rival in the village darts competition. Shortly after closing the shop, Tricia and her sister, Angelica, owner of the Booked for Lunch café, find Carol dead; an autographed copy of Steven's book is nearby. It doesn't take long for Grant Baker, chief of the Stoneham PD and Tricia's former flame, to suspect John of the murder.

Black, Benjamin. [Wolf on a String](#) (Holt \$28). SIGNED UK copies available in July entitled [Prague Nights](#) (Macmillan \$34). Black, aka Ireland's John Banville, "displays his mastery of yet another mystery subgenre in this brooding, atmospheric whodunit set in 16th-century Prague. Christian Stern, the bastard son of the Prince-Bishop of Regensburg, has arrived in that city in the hopes of winning the favor of Rudolf II, the ruler of the Holy Roman Empire, and obtaining a place among the court's learned men, such as Johannes Kepler and Tycho Brahe. The first night he spends in Prague, Stern finds Magdalena Kroll—the teenage daughter of Dr. Ulrich Kroll, Rudolf's physician and "one of his chief wizards"—lying in a snowy street with her throat slit. Initially a suspect, Stern soon becomes the emperor's designated investigator. In order to discover the truth behind the murder, he must navigate a realm in which no one can be fully trusted. Superior prose complements the intricate plot."

Brown, Rita Mae. [A Hiss Before Dying](#) (Bantam \$29, possibly Signed). Autumn is in the air in the Blue Ridge Mountain community of Crozet, Virginia—and all the traditions of the changing seasons are under way. Mary Minor "Harry" Haristeen cleans her cupboards, her husband, Fair, prepares the horses for the shorter days ahead, and the clamorous barking of beagles signals the annual rabbit chase through the central Virginia hills. But the last thing the local beagles and their hounds expect to flush out is a dead body. Disturbingly, it's the second corpse to turn up, after that of a missing truck driver too disfigured to identify. The deaths seem unrelated—until Harry picks up a trail of clues dating back to the state's post-Revolutionary past. The echoes of the Shot Heard Round the World pale in comparison to the dangerous shootout Harry narrowly escapes unscathed. Next time, it may be the killer who gets lucky. But not if Harry's furry friends Mrs. Murphy, Pewter, and Tucker can help it.

Carpenter, Emily. [The Weight of Lies](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$14.94). Well-to-do New Yorker Megan Ashley, the unhappy narrator of this fascinating suspense novel from Carpenter, is estranged from her mother, bestselling author Frances Ashley. Forty years earlier, Frances's first novel, *Kitten*, became an instant hit, spawning millions of cult followers. The story told in *Kitten* is based on the murder of a child named Kim Baker, which occurred on Bonny Island off the Georgia coast, where young Frances was staying at a secluded hotel. While the murder was ascribed to Kim's mother, Frances's novel names eight-year-old Kitten, a character based on one Dorothy Kitchens, as the psychotic killer. Having gotten a deal to write a book about life with Frances, Megan travels to Bonny Island to interview Dorothy about how the novel affected her. With each shocking new discovery, the reader's sympathies shift. Who can Megan trust? Her fast-talking agent? Her unreliable mother? Dorothy? The islanders who work for Dorothy? The multiple perspectives help make this an unputdownable read.

Chancellor, Bryn. [Sycamore](#) (Harper \$26.99). "A newly divorced woman is starting life over in a small Arizona town. She comes across the skeletal remains of what the locals think is the body of a seventeen-year-old girl named Jess who disappeared almost two decades ago. The discovery forces community members to recall memories and secrets that have been buried a long time. Readers are treated to a cast of characters with distinct personalities who, with each piece of the puzzle, form a patchwork that reveals the truth surrounding Jess's disappearance. The Indie Next Pick: "Eighteen years after high school junior Jess Winters vanished without a trace from Sycamore, Arizona, human bones are found near where Jess was last seen alive. Everyone in the small community, from family to friends to teachers, was profoundly affected by the unsolved mystery. Told from multiple points of view, this deeply moving story explores the fateful events that led to Jess' disappearance and slowly reveals the mistakes, secrets, and regrets, but also the humanity and the good, that reside in each of the characters. Heart-wrenching and compassionate in the manner of Kent Haruf's stories, this is a flawless first novel."

De La Motte, Andrea. [Ultimatum](#) (Atria \$17). De la Motte follows his memorable [MemoRandom](#) (\$17) with a shattering thriller that starts deceptively quietly in a Stockholm morgue. Initially, the few bloodied survivors of the battle royale that ended *MemoRandom* seem hors de combat: broken former Intelligence Unit officer David Sarac locked in a psychiatric facility; Atif Kassab, the Iraqi MP turned cop killer, imprisoned in a maximum security unit; fraudster Natalie Aden trying to fly under the radar as a receptionist; and whip-smart Det. Insp. Julia Gabriellson chafing at babysitting a civilian investigator with powerful political connections. But all that quickly changes with the discovery of a dismembered body in the depths of Lake Mälaren, not far from the country retreat of überambitious and equally ruthless Minister of Justice Jesper Stenberg. Once again the author demonstrates his legerdemain in manipulating disparate story lines—as well as avoiding allowing the plot, gripping as it is, from overshadowing so many characters readers will care about.

Drew, Alan. [Shadow Man](#) (Random \$27). The Indie Next Pick: "*Shadow Man* is supposed to be the story of a serial killer who was horribly abused as a child and the efforts of the police to track him down and keep him from killing others. However, this book is really about Ben Wade, one of the detectives on the case. While the victims of the serial killer greatly affect Wade, who

gives his all to catch him, it is the apparent suicide of a young teenager that really shakes up his world. Much more than just a search for a killer, *Shadow Man* is about living in the shadows of what happened in the past. It could be called a thriller, but it is really much more than that, with characters that are so real you can feel their pain.”

Elsberg, Marc. [Blackout](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.99). The Indie Next Pick: “Already a huge bestseller internationally, and poised to be a sensation in the U.S. this June. In *Blackout*, hackers are able to take down all the electrical grids across Europe, resulting in a total blackout more far-reaching than anything previously thought possible. Once it becomes clear that this event is not a glitch and the depths of the crisis — no lights, no heat, no Internet, no cell service — become evident, chaos ensues. Piero Manzano is an activist and a former hacker whose investigation into the cause of the disaster soon makes him a prime suspect and forces him to run from the authorities. This is a taut, fast-paced thriller about a frighteningly plausible scenario.”

Everett, Perceval. [So Much Blue](#) (Graywolf \$16). The Indie Next Pick: “The newest release from Percival Everett provides ample proof that he is one of the most underrated writers in American literature. *So Much Blue* jumps among three different points in protagonist Kevin Pace’s life that have shaped his artistry as a painter and his misgivings as a man. These vignettes are sardonic, shocking, and sexy. Like life, Everett’s latest doesn’t give you an easy tie-it-up-in-a-nice-bow revelation — instead, it leaves you thinking about these characters days after you’ve closed the book, mulling over their futures as well as yours.”

✦ Flynn, Kathleen A. [The Jane Austen Project](#) (Harper \$15.99). The Indie Next Pick: “The Austen fan genre is expanded by an original new novel set both in the past and the near future. Two employees of a time travel company are assigned to go back to Austen’s day, ostensibly to retrieve the full copy of “The Watsons,” lost for all time... until now. The blending of historical fiction, fantasy, and romance with a beloved classic author thrown in the mix is a daring combination which succeeds.”

Gentill, Sulari. [Miles Off Course](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Set in Australia in 1933. Soon after artist Rowland Sinclair is recognized for his work with an invitation to contribute a painting to an exhibition at the prestigious Art Gallery of New South Wales, he barely escapes being abducted from his Sydney hotel suite by three thugs, an attempt that may be part of a pattern of kidnappings in the city targeting the affluent. The obvious motive is greed, given Rowland’s family’s financial resources, but he can’t rule out the possibility that he was targeted by a business or political enemy of his influential and powerful older brother, Wilfred. Meanwhile, Rowland learns that a longtime Sinclair employee, Harry Simpson, one of Wilfred’s most trusted men, has disappeared after being asked to look into discrepancies in the records of the family cattle holdings. Gentill matches Kerry Greenwood’s skill at blending suspense with a light touch. The paperback edition can be found in our June Large Paperback Picks section.

Grisham, John. [Camino Island](#) (Doubleday \$28.95). “The story came out of nowhere a couple of years ago, and the more I wrote the more I enjoyed it,” Grisham told the *Jackson Clarion-Ledger*. “It’s a fun trip through the murky world of stolen rare books, with an ending that everyone has liked so far. I almost got through with the story avoiding all lawyers, but, alas, a couple

was needed at the very end.” It’s a love letter to the real analog experience of what books mean, what bookstores mean and what writers mean to bookstores, what bookstores mean to writers and what reading means to a community.

Guran, Paula. [Ex Libris](#) (Diamond \$15.95). Anthologist extraordinaire Guran compiles 24 fantastical reprints that are linked by libraries and librarians. Ellen Klages’s charming “In the House of the Seven Librarians” is about the librarians who inhabit the abandoned Carnegie Library, and an orphaned baby girl who changes them forever. In Norman Partridge’s nightmarish “Special Collection,” a murderous librarian comes face to face with a vicious killer right out of the history books. Ray Bradbury’s delicate, dreamlike “Exchange” tells the story of a librarian who, through books, helps a soldier remember his golden childhood, then ushers him on to his next destination. Ken Liu’s tender “Summer Reading” imagines a future Earth that’s a museum with robot curators; when a seven-year-old girl asks CN-344315 to read one of the physical books that he fastidiously maintains, they escape to another world, if only for a short, precious time. “A Woman’s Best Friend” by Robert Reed features a librarian of many worlds who helps a man after he saves an angel’s life on Christmas Eve, putting an otherworldly twist on a classic film. This solid collection has something for everyone and includes a comprehensive introduction by Guran.

Harris, Charlaine, et al. [Indigo](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Harris and nine other authors have collaborated on a fantasy suspense novel, which calls to mind a story told around a campfire, with each participant adding to (or subtracting from) the previous participant’s contribution. New York journalist Nora Hesper must deal with her alter ego, Indigo, a brutal shape-shifting vigilante, as well as the evil cult known as the Children of Phonos, whose rites include the ritual murder of young children. As Nora battles various demons and monsters, she gets hints about her childhood, her parents’ murder, and her own connections to the cult. Enemies may become allies, and friends may not be who they seem. Harris and the others, who include such genre notables as Christopher Golden, Kelly Armstrong, Jonathan Maberry, and Cherie M. Priest, appear to have had fun concocting this herky-jerky tale. Their respective fans may enjoy trying to figure out who wrote what.

Harrison, Colin. [You Belong to Me](#) (Farrar \$27). Once again Harrison, a distinguished editor at Scribner, writes of New York. Each of the novel’s chapters is titled with a location described as a local might, e.g., Chapter 1: “West Forty-Ninth Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues.” “Crime novel” is perhaps too restrictive a label for Harrison’s story of money, power, sex and the obsession to possess—both objects (rare maps) and people (spouses, family and friends). It’s noir, but as Harrison said in a recent interview: “The city is always noirish. Noir is never going to leave us. We are noir.” Twice-divorced and in his 50s, with “some money but not big money... rumpled and wrinkled, his best years already behind him,” Paul Reeves runs a lucrative boutique immigration law firm and collects old maps of New York City—a long-sought 1766 Stassen-Ratzer is available on the market for the first time. With Paul competing with another mysterious bidder to lock up the Stassen-Ratzer purchase, and concealing Jennifer and Billy’s affair to avoid Ahmed’s network of mercenary operatives, the action ratchets up.

Holt, Anne. [Odd Numbers](#) (Scribner \$26). Karen reviews: Hanne Wilhelmsen is brought out of her self-imposed exile from police work when a bomb goes off in the Islamic Cooperation Council's offices. The target seems to have been a Muslim group called Prophet True Ummah, but, there is little proof of its existence. It doesn't take long for law enforcement to realize they are dealing with a culture they know little about. At the same time, her one-time friend and colleague, Billy T., comes to her pleading for help to discover the quiet, and troubling, changes he sees in his son, Linus. Hanne is sent a young man, Henrik Holme, to assist her with the bombing investigation. He is a bit peculiar to a point where Hanne asks if he has Aspergers. At the same time, Chief of Police, Silje Sorensen, works with another young assistant, Hakon Sand, who is jealous of her money and the fact that she was given the job he thought he should have. There are many pieces to bring together in the solution to the bombing, the threat of another, and the strange behavior of Billy T.'s son, Linus. Holt is a bestselling crime writer, called "the godmother of Norwegian crime fiction" by fellow writer, Jo Nesbø. Her characters are funny, flawed, decent people.

✦ Horowitz, Anthony. [Magpie Murders](#) (Harper \$27.99). The #1 Indie Next Pick was our British Crime Club Pick in the 2016 UK edition. "Who better than the talented Anthony Horowitz to create this marvelous mystery within a mystery. Yes, we're treated to two mysteries for the price of one: One set in a peaceful village in England during the 1950s with the one and only Detective Atticus Pund taking the case, and the other set in contemporary times with a book editor who becomes an amateur sleuth. Horowitz pays tribute to the golden age of British crime with references to mysteries created by the likes of Dorothy Sayers and Agatha Christie. How many hidden gems can you come up with? A perfect book to read in a cushy chair with a cup of tea (hot or iced)." This gem from Horowitz was a 2016 British Crime Club Pick in its UK edition.

Karp, Larry and Casey. [The Ragtime Traveler](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). The inventive Larry Karp wrote a wonderful trilogy of Ragtime and Scott Joplin. PPP is delighted to be able to publish his final work, completed with his son Casey before Larry's death. Here is the *PW* review: "In Larry Karp and son Casey's welcome addition to Larry's Ragtime trilogy (which concluded with 2010's *The Ragtime Fool*), ragtime music authority Alan Chandler and his 16-year-old grandson, Tom, travel from Seattle to Sedalia, Mo., to meet pianist Mikey Potash, who claims to have discovered a trove of unknown compositions by Scott Joplin. Potash shows them an old duffel bag filled with handwritten sheets of music, notes, and revisions undoubtedly by Joplin and tells how he came to buy it from a Kansas City antique dealer. In his hotel room, Alan, who takes drugs for his fourth-stage prostate cancer, somehow visits 1899 Sedalia and Scott Joplin—hallucination or reality? After Potash is murdered and the duffel bag stolen, Alan, who continues to time-travel, and Tom go after the killer and the stolen bag. In the course of their search, the sleuths discover two branches of a family—the Nolands and the Nowlins—intimately and acrimoniously involved with Joplin and his music. Lovers of Joplin and ragtime will enjoy this trip to the past. [Order the Ragtime trilogy too.](#)

✦ Kelly, Erin. [He Said/She Said](#) (St Martins \$25.99). A continuing trope of crime fiction and the trust no one genre is infidelity. This lengthy, textured novel, our **June British Crime Club Pick**,

deploys variations on betrayals: friendships, marital, etc. There is also a chilling portrait of one of those entitled, predatory sort of man. But the real reason I pick this book is for the whole culture of eclipse chasing, the passion of Kit and his fellow enthusiasts. I've read about storm chasing; this is a variation. When Kit took his girlfriend Laura to a festival in Cornwall back in 1999 to see a total eclipse of the sun, a chance turn one way by Laura instead of another puts her, and them, into the path of two people whose lives begin to twist theirs. 15 years later Kit and Laura are living completely off the grid, having taken new names. Or are they....?

Ludwig, Benjamin. [Ginny Moon](#) (Park Row Books \$26.99). "What an amazing debut novel! Ludwig effectively captures the voice, thought process, and behaviors of a young autistic girl who has escaped a harrowing living situation and has finally settled into a new "forever" home. Unfortunately, she becomes obsessed with returning to her old home to find her "baby doll," jeopardizing both her own and her new family's safety. Ginny truly is an original, and readers will be captivated by her story."

Moore, Kate. [The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.99). The Indie Next Pick: "This is the story of hundreds of young, vibrant women who were sentenced to death by their employers. The so-called "Radium Girls" painted luminescent faces on clock and watch dials using a paint mixture that contained radium. Instructed to "lip-point" their brushes as they painted, they absorbed high doses of radium into their bodies. When the effects of the radium led to horrific disfigurement and pain, the company refused to take responsibility. This heartrending book was one I could not put down."

Mouron, Quentin. [Three Drops of Blood and a Cloud of Cocaine](#) (Bitter Lemon \$14.95). Mouron makes his English-language debut with a knife-edged noir set in Watertown, Mass., which combines spare prose with a compelling murder mystery plot. Sheriff Paul McCarthy must deal with an unusual homicide; his decades-long casual acquaintance, Jimmy Henderson, has had his throat cut while sitting in his pickup truck on a quiet street one night. Beforehand, the killer slashed Henderson's eyes, cut out his tongue, and gashed his cheeks. Nothing was stolen, and there seems to be no motive for the killing and the subsequent butchery. There is, however, an obvious suspect—drug dealer Alexander Marshall, a local ne'er-do-well with a record for attempted homicide, who shackled up with Henderson's daughter, Laura, and sexually abused her child. But McCarthy is unwilling to settle for an easy answer to the case. Cornell Woolrich readers will recognize Mouron's portrayals of "simple folk, disturbed by life," who "commit only rational murders, justified by drunkenness or necessity and tempered by tears and regrets."

✦ Perry, Sarah. [The Essex Serpent](#) (Harper \$26.99). Recent widow Cora Seaborne leaves London with her 11-year-old son, Francis, and loyal companion, Martha, and goes to Colchester, where a legendary, fearsome creature called the Essex Serpent has been sighted. Scholarly Victorian Cora, who is more interested in the study of nature than in womanly matters of dress, tramps about in a man's tweed coat, determined to find proof of this creature's existence. Through friends, she is introduced to William Ransome, the local reverend; his devoted wife, Stella; and their three children. Cora looks for a scientific rationale for the Essex Serpent, while Ransome dismisses it as superstition. This puts them at odds with one another, but, strangely, also acts

as a powerful source of attraction between them. When Cora is visited by her late husband's physician, Luke Garrett, who carries a not-so-secret torch for her, a love triangle of sorts is formed. In the end, a fatal illness, a knife-wielding maniac, and a fated union with the Essex Serpent will dictate the ultimate happiness of these characters. Like John Fowles's *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, whose Lyme Regis setting gets a shout-out here, this is another period literary pastiche with a contemporary overlay. Cora makes for a fiercely independent hero. The Indie Next Pick adds: "If you love mystery, Victorian England, and exploring the tension between science and religion, you will love *The Essex Serpent*. With beautiful sentences and characters and landscapes so well-crafted you feel you've been there, Perry captures the imagination and manages to deliver the sense of wisdom only good literature can." I add it has a gorgeous book jacket!

Roberts, Nora. [Come Sundown](#) (St. Martin's, \$27.99). The Indie Next Forever: "This is the story of the Bodine family, which runs a successful ranch resort. As you learn about Bodine Longbow, who helps to run the family business, and her new relationship, you also learn about Bodine's Aunt Alice, who took off when she was 18 and never came home. The family never learned what happened to Alice, so when she is found alive they have to find out to keep her from disappearing again. *Come Sundown* is suspenseful, slightly creepy, and also touching. I would recommend this to anyone who enjoys a mystery with some romance."

Schutt, Bill. [The Himalayan Codex](#) (Harper \$26.99). From the same publisher as the "new" Michael Crichton novel published in May comes the second Crichton-esque thriller by Schutt featuring field zoologist R.J. MacCready. In 1946, Maj. Pat Hendry visits Mac at his offices in New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Natural History and shows him jawbones from a dwarf mammoth that suggest the creature had two trunks. Hendry reveals that the bones came from a remote part of Tibet known as the Labyrinth, which may also be the site of an even more amazing discovery—an incomplete codex believed to have been written by Pliny the Elder, which describes the ancient Roman naturalist's encounter with something in the Labyrinth that could be "the key to shaping life itself." Mac agrees to travel to the Himalayas to find and recover whatever that something is. Schutt and Finch enhance their suspenseful plot with descriptions of unusual but convincing life forms. An extended author's note at the end explains that such speculation is grounded in science. Start with *Hell's Gate*.—*PW* Starred Review

Sullivan, Matthew. [Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore](#) (Scribner \$26). This is such a sad book I could hardly bring myself to finish it. It begins with a suicide in a bookstore and in time reveals the truth of a shocking murder and the why of the boy's death. I truly disliked two of the characters, one for obvious reasons, the other for being complicit. Here's the Indie Next Pick with which I do not agree: "Still reeling from witnessing a tragic event many years ago, Lydia is thrown headfirst into yet another tragedy after one of her favorite bookshop patrons commits suicide in the store and mysteriously leaves all his possessions to her. As Lydia follows the thread that he leaves her, she finds out more about him, her town, and even her own past."

Westlake, Donald E. [Forever and a Death](#) (Hard Case Crime \$22.99). This high-stakes standalone from MWA Grand Master

Westlake (1933–2008) originated as a script treatment that was never used for a 1990s James Bond movie, as film producer Jeff Kleeman reveals in a fascinating afterword. Businessman Richard Curtis is out for revenge against the entire city of Hong Kong, having been driven out of the place, recently returned to China, by "mainland bastards." He and his mostly unwitting minions plot to steal the gold from Hong Kong's bank vaults, remove it through tunnels crisscrossing under the city, and then set off explosions in the tunnels. The explosions will create a soliton wave, causing the ground to liquefy and the buildings above to come crashing down, killing thousands but covering his tracks. George Manville, a brilliant engineer, and Kim Baldur, a volunteer with an ecological guardian group, inadvertently interfere and then fall in and out of danger as they try to figure out and thwart Curtis's plan. Credible characters and tangible suspense distinguish this highly readable thriller, which is longer and more complex than most of Westlake's work.

Youers, Rio. [Forgotten Girl](#) (St. Martin's \$27.99). "A Canadian makes his US debut with a paranormal thriller. Some vicious thugs abduct street musician Harvey Anderson from his apartment building in Green Ridge, N.J., and give him a savage beating. They want to know the location of Sally Starling, a name he doesn't recognize, even after they show him a copy of the rental agreement that he and Sally signed in 2010 for the Green Ridge apartment. Later, a man, whom Harvey dubs "the spider," shows up and explains this memory lapse. The spider reveals that Sally used her power to erase Harvey's memories of her and that he has a similar ability to probe people's minds. But despite the spider's best, excruciatingly painful efforts, all Harvey can summon up is a vague recollection of a dancing woman and the boardwalk at Asbury Park. Harvey's compelling, moving search for Sally and the truth offers everything that fans of intelligent suspense could wish for."—*PW* Starred Review

OUR JUNE SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Ayres, DD. [Physical Forces](#) (St. Martin's \$7.99). A pet detective dedicated to tracking down missing dogs and cats, Macayla Burkett finds herself in the middle of a serious case when two famous racing greyhounds disappear and turn up dead and she becomes the target of the thieves—until the gorgeous Australian co-owner of K-9 Search and Rescue steps in to save her. Smart dogs and hot guys seem to be a winning formula for Ayres!

Bass, Jefferson. [Without Mercy](#) (\$9.99) Body Farm #10. Investigating the most brutal and bizarre case of his career, forensic anthropologist Bill Brockton and his assistant, Miranda, are shocked by the prison escape of serial killer Nick Satterfield, who would destroy everything Brockton cares about. *Kirkus* ended their review with "Bass (*The Breaking Point*, 2015, etc.) balances anthropological instruction with a twisty tale of suspense."

Chazin, Suzanne. [No Witness But the Moon](#) (Kensington \$9.99). A tense stand-off between Hispanic police officer Jimmy Vega and an undocumented immigrant leads to a horrible mistake, and the discovery of links between the immigrant and the brutal unsolved murder of Vega's moth. *Kirkus* loved this saying "Chazin's pulse-pounding procedurals (*A Blossom of Bright Light*, 2015, etc.) excel at plucking stories from the headlines. This one combines a complex mystery with a heartbreaking look at both sides of police shootings."

Eaton, J. C. [Booked 4 Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Sophie Kimball #1. Sophie “Phee” Kimball is not a cop. She’s a divorced, middle-aged mom who works as an account clerk for the police department in a small city in Minnesota. But her retired mother, Harriet Plunkett, is convinced Phee is the only one who can solve the mystery of a cursed book. According to Harriet, four members of her book club have already succumbed to the deadly curse. Harriet insists Phee catch the next plane to her retirement community in Sun City West, Arizona, to investigate. Eaton is the pseudonym for the wife and husband writing team of Ann I. Goldfarb and James E. Clapp. They will be talking about their debut mystery at the Poisoned Pen on Saturday July 29th at 2 PM so mark your calendars now and come out and support a local author.

Finder, Joseph. [Power Play](#) (\$9.99). Jake Laundry, a mild-mannered junior exec with a not-so-mild past, is the only guy who can save the day when armed men crash Hammond Aerospace’s off-site (very off-site) meeting. *LJ* ended their review with “Juggling the dog-eat-dog ethics of corporate life with a tense, scary plot, Finder’s nail biter of a read is recommended for all popular fiction collections.”

Hamilton, Glen. [A Hard Cold Winter](#) (\$9.99) Van Shaw #2. Former Army Ranger Van Shaw investigates the brutal murder of a member of an influential Seattle family while he deals with his PTSD, which is making an unwelcome resurgence. *LJ* loved this saying “From the very first page, this thriller is clever, timely, and definitely an attention grabber. Readers of the first book will be delighted with the backstory, and aficionados of the genre will eat this one up.”

Keller, Julia. [A Killing in the Hills](#) (\$8.99). Bell Elkins #1 Reprint. Prosecuting attorney Bell Elkins and her estranged teenage daughter, Carla, try to protect their town and each other in the aftermath of a shocking triple murder committed by an unknown shooter whose identity is gradually realized by Carla. *PW* said “Keller does a superb job showing both the natural beauty of Appalachia and the hopeless anger of the people trapped there in poverty. Some characters turn out to be better than they appear, some much worse, but the ensemble cast is unforgettable. So is this novel.”

Larsson, Stieg. [The Girl in the Spider’s Web](#) (\$9.99). After receiving a call from a trusted source claiming to have vital information to the United States, journalist Mikael Blomkvist turns to hacker Lisbeth for help. *Kirkus* said “Fast-moving, credible, and intelligently told. Larsson fans won’t be disappointed.

Sheldon, Sidney. [The Other Side of Midnight](#) (\$5.99). In Paris... Washington...and a fabulous villa in Greece, an innocent American girl becomes a bewildered, horror-stricken pawn in a game of vengeance and betrayal. She is Catherine Douglas, a woman caught in a web of four lives intertwined by passion as her handsome husband pursues an incredibly beautiful film star... and as Constantin Demiris, a legendary Greek tycoon, tightens the strands that control them all. This best-selling glitz and glam novel by Sheldon, who has An Oscar, a Tony, and 300 million books in print in 51 languages, is back in print just in time for summer beach reading

Sheldon, Sidney. [Rage of Angels](#) (\$5.99). Jennifer Parker is a brilliant, lovely attorney on her way up. But less than twenty-four hours after joining the district attorney’s office in Manhattan,

Jennifer finds her career threatened by a Mafia prince. Michael Moretti is a compelling, charismatic crime lord who seeks to expand his domain. He will let no one stand in his way...no matter her beauty or ambition.

Wilson, F. Paul. [Panacea](#) (\$9.99). Investigating two burned bodies connected by a mysterious tattoo and a string of baffling miracle cures, medical examiner Laura Hanning follows leads to a cult that claims to possess a fabled healing substance and a violent brotherhood that believes that God intends for humanity to suffer. *Kirkus* ended its review with “An intelligent, intriguing, fast-moving blend of science fiction and thriller.”

NEW IN SMALL PAPERBACKS

Abel, James. [Cold Silence](#) (Berkley \$9.99) Joe Rush #3. Entreated by a geologist from his former military unit to investigate a biblical malady spreading through Somalia, ex-Marine doctor and bio-terror expert Joe Rush races to halt the pandemic, only to be targeted by a local warlord at the same time the illness breaks out in America.

Barrett, Lorna. [Title Wave](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Booktown #10. Taking a Mystery Lovers cruise with her sister while her bookstore is rebuilt, Tricia Miles is shocked by the murder of a fellow passenger and risks her safety to determine if a famous author, a zealous fan, or a crewmember is the killer.

Berenson, Laurien. [Live and Let Growl](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Melanie Travis #19. When her Aunt Peg lands a gig as judge at a Kentucky dog show, Melanie Travis welcomes the opportunity for a road trip. Too bad a killer has planned a deadly detour .

Casey, Elizabeth. [Patterned After Death](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Southern Sewing Circle #12. When Margaret Louise’s son, Jake, is accused of murdering his rival and business partner, Noah Madden, the other members of the Southern Sewing Circle, including librarian Tori Sinclair, come to her aid.

Collins, Kate. [Yews with Caution](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Flower Shop #18. When her best friend, Nikki, asks her to investigate the disappearance of a co-worker’s husband, flower shop owner Abby Knight is faced with an abundance of suspects who all had it out for the two-faced business owner, all while dealing with a tragedy involving her husband, Marco.

Corrigan, Maya. [The Tell-Tale Tart](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Five-Ingredient #4. It’s a cold January in the Chesapeake Bay area, but Cool Down Café manager Val Deniston has plenty to sweat over—like catering a book club event, testing recipes for her Granddad’s cookbook, and catching the author of a deadly tale of murder.

Erickson, Alex. [Death By Vanilla Latte](#) (Kensington \$7.99). When her father, a famed mystery writer, shows up at her café, stirring up trouble, Krissy Hancock must prove his innocence in the murder of his boorish agent, while fending off one of his obsessed fans who is determined to lock him away for safekeeping, which gets her into some hot water.

Evanovich, Jane. [Scam](#) (\$8.99). Nicolas Fox is a charming con man and master thief on the run. Kate O’Hare is the FBI agent who is hot on his trail. At least that’s what everyone thinks. In reality, Fox and O’Hare are secretly working together to bring down super-criminals the law can’t touch like brutal casino magnate Evan Trace.

Fee, Vickie. [One Fete in the Grave](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Party planner Liv McKay finds her highly successful 4th of July celebration marred by the murder of town councilman Bubba Rowland and, when the dust clears, must prove that her mother's fiancé, Earl, had nothing to do with the crime despite a recent altercation between Earl and the deceased.

Finch, Kay. [The Black Cat Sees His Shadow](#) (Penguin \$7.99). Bad Luck Cat #3. When, while at the fall festival, she comes face-to-face with her doppelgänger—Tia Hartwell, a caricature artist—Sabrina discovers that Tia has an enemy and soon must prove her newfound friend's innocence in the murder of a bad-tempered jewelry vendor.

Gilstrap, John. [Final Target](#) (Kensington \$9.99) After a relatively routine mission, ends in an ambush, Jonathan Grave must take refuge in a remote orphanage and then lead its children to safety through a hundred miles of treacherous jungle.

Golemon, David. [The Traveler](#) (St Martins \$8.99). Jack Collins and the Event Group are tasked with bringing home Captain Carl Everett, a man who fought in an ancient battle to save the world, but they will have to travel 300,000 years into the past to find him.

Graham, Heather. [Dying Breath](#) (Mira \$8.99). Seeing a ghost for the first time while escaping a violent attack in her teens, historian Vickie is recruited to aid the authorities in tracking down a brutal serial killer with the assistance of a murder victim's ghost.

Hollis, Lee. [Death of a Lobster Lover](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Food and Cocktails #9. While on a girls' weekend in the quaint fishing village of Salmon Cove, Maine, Hayley engages in some undercover detective work when her friend Liddy's handsome tourist beau is found dead at the town's Lobster Bake.

Hyzy, Julie. [Grace to the Finish](#) (Penguin \$7.99). Manor House #8. The new heir to the Marshfield fortune, Grace Wheaton must quickly solve a murder so that her friends' new business venture can move forward.

Johansen, Iris. [Night Watch](#) (\$9.99). When the surgeon who made it possible for her to see goes missing, Kendra Michaels recruits government agent Adam Lynch to accompany her on a trail that leads to the snowy California mountains, where the discovery of one of the doctor's brutally murdered colleagues reveals the work of a killer.

Laurie, Victoria. [A Grave Prediction](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Psychic Eye #14. On a trip to help train FBI agents how to use their intuition, professional psychic Abby Cooper uses her abilities to reveal the location of four buried bodies no one expected to find.

Logan, Kylie. [French Fried](#) (Penguin \$7.99) Ethnic Eats #2. The residents of Hubbard, Ohio, desperate to attract tourists, create a gala event for the Statue of Liberty's 230th birthday and Laurel Inwood and her aunt, the owners of an ethnic eatery, offer French food for the week until Sophie's friend, a former French chef, is found murdered.

Mann, Don. [Seal Team Six: Hunt the Dragon](#) (\$7.99). After conducting a training exercise outside Las Vegas, Chief Warrant Officer Thomas Crocker must investigate when a brilliant scientist goes missing during a city-wide blackout.

Mclaughlin, Staci. [Marriage is Pure Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99). When her florist and friend, Bethany Lancaster, is shot dead,

bride-to-be Dana Lewis is shocked to discover that Bethany was a busybody with a blackmail list longer than her wedding train and, with herself being considered a suspect, must find the culprit faster than she can say "I do."

Pressey, Rose. [If the Haunting Fits, Wear It](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Beyond excited to be chosen to provide vintage hats for a high-society Kentucky Derby party, Cookie Chanel and her psychic cat race to Kentucky where her enthusiasm is dampened when she is saddled with the ghost of a recently murdered jockey.

Sefton, Maggie. [Knit to Be Tied](#) (\$7.99). House of Lambspun #14. Welcoming an expectant mom into the fold, the House of Lambspun knitting-shop friends discover that the baby's father is a less-than-ideal partner before his dramatic hit-and-run death reveals the work of a killer in their midst.

Smith, Wilbur. [Pharaoh: A Novel of Ancient Egypt](#) (\$9.99). Royal advisor and former slave Taita is caught up in a whirlpool of ruthless intrigue that tests the limits of his intelligence, alchemy and cunning as he endeavors to protect the empire, his Pharaoh and those he loves.

Wortham, Reavis. [Hawke's Prey](#) (Kensington \$9.99). It's a stunning attack, lightning quick and chilling in its execution. A merciless gang of terrorists seizes the Presidio County Courthouse in the midst of the worst blizzard West Texas has seen in a century. Loaded down with enough fire power to outfit an army, the attackers slaughter dozens, take all survivors hostage, and assume complete control. The nation—and the U.S. government—are at their mercy. Or so they think. They don't know that a seasoned Texas Ranger Sonny Hawke is also inside the courthouse.