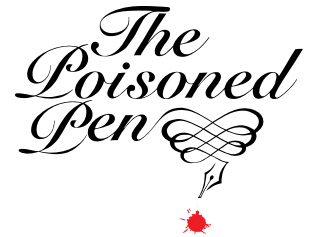


BOOKNEWS from

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sales@poisonedpen.com tel (888)560-9919
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4014 N. Goldwater Blvd.
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480-947-2974



Happy Halloween!

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 4 7:00 PM

Michael Koryta hosts
Martin Limon signs [The Nine-Tailed Fox](#) (Soho \$26.95)
Slicky Boys #12

THURSDAY OCTOBER 5 7:00 PM

Michael Koryta hosts and signs [Rise the Dark](#) (\$9.99)
Nelson DeMille signs [The Cuban Affair](#) (SimonSchuster \$28.99)
The Doubletree Hilton 5401 N Scottsdale Road 85250
Doors Open 6:00 PM Program 7:00 PM
Cash Bar. Free Valet Parking
Admission to the signing line only with the purchase of
The Cuban Affair from The Poisoned Pen

THURSDAY OCTOBER 12 7:00 PM

Tod Goldberg signs [Gangster Nation](#) (Counterpoint \$28)

SCIFI FRIDAY OCTOBER 13 7:00 PM

The club discusses Ben Winters' [Underground Airlines](#) (\$15.99)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 14 10:30 AM

Coffee & Crime Club discusses Elizabeth Daly's [The Unexpected Night](#) (\$14.95)
The first Henry Gammadge (vintage) Mystery

TUESDAY OCTOBER 17 7:00 PM

Joe Ide signs [Righteous](#) (Mulholland \$26) IQ #2
Joe sent us an annotated copy of *IQ* for a drawing among those who purchase *Righteous* at the event
John Sandford signs [Deep Freeze](#) (Putnam \$29)
Virgil Flowers #10. Our copies come with a custom designed magnet showing a high school ID

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18 7:00 PM

Bonnie MacBird signs [Unquiet Spirits](#) (Harper \$25.99)
A Sherlock Holmes Adventure

THURSDAY OCTOBER 19 7:00 PM

Wendall Thomas signs [Lost Luggage](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95)
A funny, edgy debut
Mark De Castrique joins in via Skype for his new novel Sam Blackman novel [Hidden Scars](#) (\$26.95 Signed; \$15.95)

FRIDAY OCTOBER 20 7:00 PM

Kevin Hearne signs [A Plague of Giants](#) (Del Rey \$28.99)
First in a new fantasy series

SATURDAY OCTOBER 21 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger Club discusses Greg Iles' [Natchez Burning](#) (\$9.99) Penn Cage #4

TUESDAY OCTOBER 24 7:00 PM

Tasha Alexander signs [Death in St Petersburg](#) (St Martins \$25.99)
Lady Emily #12 October History Pick
Stephen Weeks, author of [The Countess of Prague: Book One](#), joins us by Skype from Prague

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 25 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime Club discusses Percival Everett's [Assumption](#) (\$15)

THURSDAY OCTOBER 26 7:00 PM

Laura Caldwell and Leslie S. Klinger sign [Anatomy of Innocence](#) (Norton \$26.95) Testimonies of the wrongfully convicted
Leslie S. Klinger signs [Frankenstein](#) (Norton \$35)
New and Annotated Edition

FRIDAY OCTOBER 27 7:00 PM

James Sallis and the Three Legged Dog Band

MONDAY OCTOBER 30 7:00 PM

Sarah Bailey signs [The Dark Lake](#) (Grand Central \$26)
First Mystery Club Pick from Australia

TUESDAY OCTOBER 31

Happy Halloween – we close at 5:00 PM

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 2 7:00 PM

Hosted by Joe Ide
Michael Connelly signs [Two Kinds of Truth](#) (LittleBrown \$29)
Harry Bosch #20
The Doubletree Hilton 5401 N Scottsdale Road 85250
Doors Open 6:00 PM Program 7:00 PM
Cash Bar. Free Valet Parking
Admission to the signing line only with the purchase of *Two Kinds of Truth* from The Poisoned Pen
Can't attend? Order in the usual way

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5 2:00 PM

Diana Gabaldon signs [Dragonfly in Amber 25th Anniversary Edition](#) (Random \$40)
The Doubletree Hilton 5401 N Scottsdale Road 85250
Doors Open 1:00 PM Program 2:00 PM
Cash Bar. Free Valet Parking
Admission to the signing line only with the purchase of *Dragonfly 25* from The Poisoned Pen
Can't attend? Order in the usual way

MONDAY NOVEMBER 6 7:00 PM Peru with Photos

Natasha Pulley signs [The Bedlam Stacks](#) (Bloomsbury \$26)

.....

• **TUESDAY NOVEMBER 7 6:30 PM Mix and Mingle**

• **Clive Cussler and Boyd Morrison** sign [Typhoon Fury](#) (Putnam \$29) Oregon Files #12

• **Location:** Casablanca Rooftop Lounge 7134 E Stetson Drive, 3rd Floor, Scottsdale, AZ 85251

• **Cash Bar** featuring the *Typhoon Fury* cocktail made for the occasion

• Complimentary hors d'oeuvres.

• Casablanca cigars available for purchase

• **Admission:** the purchase of one copy of *Typhoon Fury* from The Poisoned Pen admits two people

• Can't attend? Please click on the title to order in the usual way

.....



school. Beautiful and inscrutable, Rosalind had been one of those high school magnets around which less popular or commanding kids circled, kids like Gemma. Her father was one of the town's richest men; she had three brothers, who were not supportive. Yet here she was, at age 28, back in Smithson, pulling together a controversial student production of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*...and murdered. Gemma, mother of a small son with one partner, having an affair with fellow and married cop Felix, and at a bit of a police career crossroads, leads the investigation as the clock ticks towards Christmas.... This debut has attracted fans like CJ Box, Lisa Gardner, and Douglas Preston.

Caldwell, Laura/Leslie S Klinger. [Anatomy of Innocence](#) (Norton \$26.95). Testimonies of the Wrongfully Convicted. Introduction by Scott Turow. The Innocence Project has become very influential in freeing wrongfully convicted persons using DNA testing and other legal tools. This book describes the organization's work as exemplified in 15 case studies of actual exonerations written by best-selling authors. Editors Caldwell and Klinger, both attorneys and authors, commissioned original work from authors including Sara Paretsky, Lee Child, Laurie R. King. "The narratives are brief but gripping, addressing common themes regarding unsubstantiated arrest, official misconduct, prison horrors, and post-release shocks. Chapters conclude with notes providing informative context and statistics drawn from the National Registry of Exonerations and other government and research sources. A spirit of advocacy pervades the work, which ends with a listing of national and international organizations affiliated with the Innocence Project. The true stories provide a unique perspective on the flaws of the U.S. criminal justice system and its forgotten victims. It will appeal to serious true crime readers and others interested in a richer understanding of the subject."—LJ

Connelly, Michael. [Two Kinds of Truth](#) (LittleBrown \$29). The 20th Harry Bosch investigation—wow! What we have are two cases the timing forces Harry to work in sync. They are not whodunits but howdunits since we know that one, where a serial rapist/murder has filed suit to vacate his conviction and 30 years on death row on the basis of a surprise bit of DNA found on the clothing of one of the murdered women, is not a consequence of Harry planting the piece of evidence that convinced the jury to find him guilty. The LAPD and a DA are not so sure but we readers know Harry is all about the mission and integrity. The other begins with what is set up to look like a *farmacia* raid where the father and son who own it were gunned down morphs into an intentional hit. Working this case for the San Fernando PD where he mostly reviews cold cases in time collides with Harry's determination to clear his name and keep Borders on Death Row. Both cases bring his old partners at the LAPD and his new ones at the SFPD into close orbit along with Harry's half-brother, defense attorney Mickey Haller, who has a move or two of his own to play. You can [order the first 19](#) Bosch and binge read yourself up to speed. If you watch *Bosch* you will realize that the cases for TV are not in chronological order but interweave (with variations).

De Castrique, Mark. [Hidden Scars](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). When Asheville, NC, private eyes Sam Blackman and Nakayla Robertson are asked by an eighty-year-old client to investigate the suspi-

EVENT BOOKS

Alexander, Tasha. [Death in St Petersburg](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Our October History/Mystery Club Pick carries you into the Tsarist capital of 1900 when Nicholas delighted his family with gifts from Fabergé (not just eggs....) and more or less ignored the fact that the Romanovs were not safe; when dissent was doing a slow build; and when the Mariinsky Theater brimmed with fans of ballet. Lady Emily's dashing husband Colin has gone to St Petersburg on one of his mysterious missions for the Crown. Lady Emily has been left behind in England, but then one of her society friends proposes they visit Princess Bolkonskaya. Thus Emily has arrived in the city and at the Mariinsky in time to spy the body of the Swan Lake lead ballerina lying dead in the snow, still in costume as the Queen. From there the narrative flows from Emily in 1900 and forward from 1889 as we learn the story of Irina Semenova Menetseva (dead) as her fellow ballet student and best friend Ekaterina Petrovna Sokolova tells it. As the two story streams merge we enjoy a marvelous portrait of the imperial city, of the culture of ballet, of the fissures in imperial rule, and finally, who did it. There are many wonderful historical mysteries publishing in October: I picked this one for our Book Buyers Club for the entry into the world of study and performance in a demanding art. This whole series is a delight; [order them all](#).

Bailey, Sarah. [The Dark Lake](#) (Grand Central \$26). We are seeing a rising tide of fiction coming from Australia, like PPP's own Kerry Greenwood and Sulari Gentill, and from other publishers Gary Disher, Barry Maitland, Michael Robotham, and the magical author of suspense Kate Morton (where is she lately?). Bailey is making her US debut, our **November First Mystery Club Pick**, with a book rich in atmosphere. And Bailey's is original, unpretentious, and introspective without slowing down the pace of the police investigation into the murder of a charismatic, enigmatic English and Drama teacher found floating in a lake, her body strewn with roses. Rosalind had been a classmate to Detective Sergeant Gemma Woodstock in rural Smithson's high

scious death of her brother, they warn her there is little chance of success. Paul Weaver died nearly seventy years earlier. The only documentation she has is the sole surviving copy of a coroner's report stating his death was caused by an accidental fall while hiking. There's a red flag: local son Weaver knew every inch of the mountain trails. The returning World War II veteran had enrolled at Black Mountain College, a liberal local school with an international reputation for innovation, thanks to its stellar faculty and advisers like Buckminster Fuller and Albert Einstein. The college of the 1940s is currently being portrayed in a film being shot on the site of its former location. The plot is based on a book by a local author. The research behind both may provide a lead in the Weaver case. That's the set up for another terrific story pulling the past into the present in the mountains where Sharyn McCrumb and Diana Gabaldon set stories. The film and local lore are compelling and fascinating. Note: We will do a Skype Event with Mark on October 19 when PPP author Wendall Thomas signs her fast, furious, and funny debut [Lost Luggage](#) (\$15.95)—think Evanovich if a Brooklyn girl and animal smuggling instead of bounty hunting—and just one hot guy in play.

Cussler, Clive/Boyd Morrison. [Typhoon Fury](#) (Putnam \$29). Oregon Files #12. Hired to search for a collection of paintings worth half a billion dollars, Juan Cabrillo and the crew of the Oregon soon find themselves in much deeper waters. The vicious leader of a Filipino insurgency is not only using them to finance his attacks, he has stumbled upon one of the most lethal secrets of World War II: a Japanese-developed drug, designed, but never used, to turn soldiers into super-warriors. **Join the authors at the publication day drinks and signing party November 7.**

DeMille, Nelson. [The Cuban Affair](#) (SimonSchuster \$28.99). "I was standing at the bar in the Green Parrot, waiting for a guy named Carlos from Miami who'd called my cell a few days ago and said he might have a job for me. Carlos did not give me his last name, but he had ID'd himself as a Cuban American. I don't know why I needed to know that, but I told him I was Scots-Irish-English American, in case he was wondering. My name is Daniel Graham MacCormick—Mac for short—age thirty-five, and I've been described as tall, tan, and ruggedly handsome." So opens our October Thriller Pick—sex, adventure, hidden treasures—what's not to like? Mac is a charter boat captain based in Key West (before Irma, obviously). He served in the Army infantry where he accumulated medals and scars. His finances are a little shaky. So why would he brush off a charter where fishing is just a cover and there are \$60 million at stake? Of course, it's much more complicated than that. Read Robert Anglen's [fabulous review](#) in the *Arizona Republic*.

Gabaldon, Diana. [Dragonfly in Amber 25th Anniversary Edition](#) (Random \$40). We have sent thousands of Signed copies of the [Outlander 20th Anniversary Edition](#) (\$40) with its handsome red cover, silk bookmark, new map plus a CD of *Outlander the Musical*, and a new Introduction by Diana to happy readers. The publisher will release anniversary editions for the subsequent Outlander novels. They will make a handsome matched set. In fact, a set of the first two anniversary editions is a wonderful Gift Idea.

Goldberg, Tod. [Gangster Nation](#) (Counterpoint \$28). It's been two years since the events of [Gangsterland](#) (\$15.95), when legendary Chicago hitman Sal Cupertine disappeared into the

guise of Vegas Rabbi David Cohen. It's September of 2001 and for David, everything is coming up gold: Temple membership is on the rise, the new private school is raking it in, and the mortuary and cemetery—where Cohen has been laundering bodies for the mob—is minting cash. But Sal wants out. He's got money stashed in safe-deposit boxes all over the city. He's looking at places to escape to, Mexico or maybe Argentina. He only needs to make it through the High Holidays, and he'll have enough money to slip away, grab his wife and kid, and start fresh. Across the country, former FBI agent Matthew Drew is now running security for an Indian Casino outside of Milwaukee, spending his off-time stalking members of The Family, looking for vengeance for the murder of his former partner. So when Sal's cousin stumbles into the casino one night, Matthew takes the law into his own hands—again—touching off a series of events that will have Rabbi Cohen running for his life, trapped in Las Vegas, with the law, society, and the post-9/11 world closing in around him... in an unexpected, page-turning examination of the seedy foundations of American life."

Patrick writes, "Goldberg is in top form here with a dark, and twisted trip down deep into the American underworld, revealing the criminal underpinnings that exist not very far below the surface. As always, Goldberg's writing reveals an infectious wit and a true sense of the absurd. Not to be missed."

Hearne, Kevin. [Plague of Giants](#) (Del Rey \$28.99). Myriad storylines form a cohesive whole, an epic fantasy in which every last string is carefully woven into an impressive, absorbing story for our **November SciFi Club Pick**. Hearne has chosen an unusual structure for *A Plague of Giants*. The entire narrative is framed as a bard's recollection of recent events, a series of happenings that has resulted in a land marred by war, sadness and refugees. Wrapped around that framing is the written account of the Bard's telling, as recorded by Dervan, a historian and out-of-work professor. What is most impressive about Hearne's double-framing is the way the bard's performance intertwines with the present-day stories of the bard and his historian, moving steadily toward the ending the bard—and therefore Hearne—has promised to reach by the culmination of this planned series: the arrival of two defensive armies to seek out and attack the army of the Bone Giants. *A Plague of Giants* is a novel of epic proportions: with 11 point-of-view characters spread across the narrative.

Ide, Joe. [Righteous](#) (LittleBrown \$26). Two cases with powerful personal aspects challenge Isaiah "IQ" Quintabe, known in his Long Beach, Calif., community for his crime-solving abilities, in Edgar-finalist Ide's outstanding sequel to 2016's [IQ](#) (\$15.99). The most painful open wound in Isaiah's life remains the hit-and-run death eight years earlier of his older brother, Marcus, which Isaiah witnessed. His perseverance in seeking justice seems to have paid off when he locates the car that killed Marcus, but new evidence that Marcus was deliberately targeted raises a slew of troubling questions. The revelation comes just as Marcus's girlfriend, Sarita Van, reenters Isaiah's life to request help; her half-sister, Janine, a Vegas deejay, has racked up gambling debts that can't be paid off. Since Isaiah still carries a torch for Sarita, he agrees to help. "Ide again makes his hero's deductive brilliance plausible, while presenting an emotionally engaging story that doesn't shy away from presenting the bleakest aspects of humanity."—Starred Review. *IQ* has just won the 2017 Shamus Award for Best First Private Eye Novel.

Patrick adds: “Ide takes us deep into the psyche of his protagonist, Isaiah Quintabe, exploring the real story behind his brother’s murder ten years ago. This is one hell of a page turner, and at the same time it carries an emotional punch that really resonates. It’s hard to imagine anyone improving on such an instant classic as I.Q., but Ide pulls it off with style.”

Klinger, Leslie S. [Frankenstein](#) (Norton \$35). Two centuries after the first publication of *Frankenstein*, Klinger revives Mary Shelley’s gothic masterpiece by reproducing her original text with the most lavishly illustrated and comprehensively annotated edition to date. Featuring over 200 illustrations and nearly 1,000 annotations, an introduction by Guillermo del Toro and an afterword by Anne K. Mellor, this sumptuous volume recaptures Shelley’s early nineteenth-century world with historical precision and imaginative breadth. Also available: [The New Annotated Dracula](#) (\$39/95); [The New Annotated HP Lovecraft](#) (\$39.95); [The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes](#) (\$59.95).

Koryta, Michael. [Rise the Dark](#) (\$9.99). With no new novel for 2017, our 2015 Writer in Residence visits to host Martin Limon and next, Nelson DeMille. If you missed his 2016 bestseller, get in now in paperback. *Rise the dark*. These were the last words written in Lauren Novak’s notebook before she was murdered in a strange Florida village. They’ve never meant anything to the police or to her husband, investigator Markus Novak. Now the man he believes killed her is out of prison, and draws Markus to the place he’s avoided for so long: the lonely road where his wife was shot to death beneath the cypress trees and Spanish moss in a town called Cassadaga. In Red Lodge, Montana, a senseless act of vandalism shuts the lights off in the town where Sabrina Baldwin is still trying to adjust to a new home and mourning the loss of her brother, who was a high voltage linesman just like her husband, Jay. Drawing all this together is a messianic villain who understands that you can never outpace your past. You can only rise against the future...

Limon, Martin. [The Nine-Tailed Fox](#) (Soho \$26.95). The marvelous Sueño and Bascom series following the two 8th Army CID detectives through challenging and immensely surprising cases in occupied South Korea blend the thriller, the police procedural, military fiction, with Limon’s deep grasp of Korean society and ancient and modern cultures with “the massive footprint of the 8th Army” on the culture (*Booklist* Starred Review). And he gets the seamy side of the encampments surrounding Army bases as well as local nightlife.” I may best admire the way George and Ernie learn to work with the Korean homicide detective Mr. Kill, a stark realist, as both sides balance the politics in play with a sense of (often unorthodox) justice. This 12th novel presents the Slick Boys (as I usually call George and Ernie) with another difficult problem: three GIs have gone missing from three different bases. A rumor is circulating that a woman, a *gumiho* or legendary nine-tailed fox disguised as a woman, is involved. Then one man is found dead. Meanwhile the boys are caught up in a power struggle between two wives of 8th Army officers (a refrigerator figures in). It’s not easy to work to appease the bosses (male and female), work the case, and cooperate with Mr. Kim.... My advice is to [order the whole series](#)—Lee Child says, “Limon is one of the best military writers ever” but I think he’s one of the best crime writers working today.

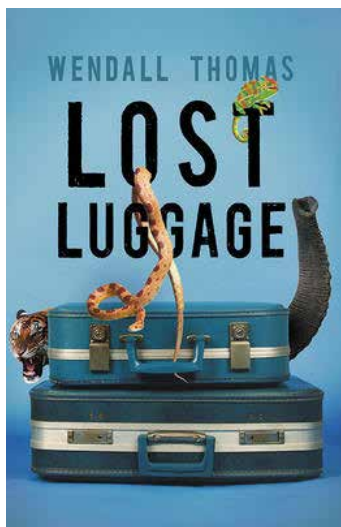
MacBird, Bonnie. [Unquiet Spirits](#) (Harper \$25.99). MacBird’s outstanding sequel to 2015’s [Art in the Blood](#) (\$15.99) melds a twisty, multilayered plot with a plausible exploration of Sherlock Holmes’s life before Watson. Holmes is unusually rude toward a prospective client, Isla McLaren, who arrives at 221b Baker Street seeking his help concerning a series of strange events at Braedern Castle, her husband’s ancestral home in the Scottish Highlands. A decade earlier, her mother-in-law died of exposure after being locked out of the castle. More recently, a servant fell to his death, and, a few days ago, a maid disappeared for two days before reappearing with all her hair shorn, reviving stories that Braedern Castle is haunted. Watson is somewhat taken aback when Holmes refuses to help. But then Mycroft requests Holmes and Watson to travel to France where an epidemic is devastating French vineyards. We now know it’s phylloxera, but Mycroft suggests a kind of industrial espionage at work here—that the pests are the product of British bioengineering. And who might benefit the most from a reduction in the imports and drinking of French wine? The McLarens, who are in the whiskey business. A clan McLaren dinner at its Montpellier retreat ups the stakes and the pace and sends our sleuths from France to Scotland (where light is also shed on Holmes’ past). “The risks that MacBird takes with her characterizations pay off and will make Sherlockians eager for more from her.”—*PW* Starred Review for our **October British Crime Club Pick**. We don’t usually do Signed books for this club, but MacBird’s is the outstanding choice this month.

Pulley, Natasha. [The Bedlam Stacks](#) (Bloomsbury \$26). This incredible narrative of a disabled adventurer’s journey through 19th-century Peru in search of quinine trees perfectly captures the disorientation of altitude sickness and culture shock in a setting where the nature of the fantastical elements remains ambiguous until the very end. This astonishing adventure, mystery, and slightly fantastic novel by the British author of the acclaimed [The Watchmaker of Filigree Street](#) (\$16)—a 2015 Pick—will be our **November History Club Pick** when she visits The Pen on November 6 where we will also enjoy a travelogue of Peru.

Sandford, John. [Deep Freeze](#) (Putnam \$29). Virgil knows the town of Trippton, Minnesota, a little too well. A few years back, he investigated the corrupt—and as it turned out, homicidal—local school board, and now the town’s back in view with more alarming news: A woman’s been found dead, frozen in a block of ice. There’s a possibility that it might be connected to a high school class of twenty years ago that has a mid-winter reunion coming up, and so, wrapping his coat a little tighter, Virgil begins to dig into twenty years’ worth of traumas, feuds, and bad blood. Plus there’s a PI from California in town on a mission from Mattel to quash from clearly counterfeit adult toys—Barbies and Kens—up for cheap sale. In the process, one thing becomes increasingly clear to Virgil—high school is murder. Which is why our custom collectible for *Deep Freeze* is a magnet sporting a high school ID. [Order all the Virgils](#) for hours of entertainment. And you learn stuff, too. *Escape Clause* is, IMHO, a gem!

Thomas, Wendall. [Lost Luggage](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). Cyd Redondo, a third-generation Brooklyn travel agent who specializes in senior citizens, has never ventured farther than New Jersey. Yet even Jersey proves risky when her Travel Agents Convention fling, Roger Claymore, leaves her weak in the knees—and

everywhere else—then sneaks out of her Atlantic City hotel room at 3:00 AM. Back in Brooklyn, when she reads about smugglers stopped at JFK with skinks in their socks or monkeys down their pants, she never imagines she will join their ranks. But days after



the pet store owner next door to Redondo Travel is poisoned, Cyd wins a free safari. Her boss, Uncle Ray, wants to cash it in for computers, but Cyd is determined to go. When Roger turns up at the Redondo clan's door, Cyd invites him along as her "plus one." And just like that she is thrown heels first into the bizarre and sinister world of international animal smuggling. Wondering if "plus one" Roger is actually a minus, Cyd dodges Interpol, faces off with a cobra, steals a diplomatic bag, hijacks a Fed-Ex truck, crashes an

eco-safari, winds up in a leopard trap, and is forced to smuggle snakes in her bra. It's a scramble to find the smugglers, save her clients, and solve Mrs. Barsky's murder before finding herself at the top of the endangered species list. A debut in the spirit of Janet Evanovich, Lisa Lutz, and Elaine Viets. Fabulous book jacket, too! The sequel is set in Australia.

SIGNED BOOKS

Aaronovitch, Ben. [The Furthest Station](#) (Gollancz \$32). What could be better for our **October SciFi Club Pick** than a ghost story? There's something going bump on London's Metropolitan line and Sergeant Jaget Kumar knows exactly who to call. It's PC Peter Grant's specialty—only it's more than going "bump." Traumatized travelers have been reporting strange encounters on their morning commute, with strangely dressed people trying to deliver an urgent message. Stranger still, despite calling the police themselves, within a few minutes the commuters have already forgotten the encounter—making the follow up interviews rather difficult. So with a little help from Abigail and Toby the ghost hunting dog, Peter and Jaget are heading out on a ghost hunting expedition.

Abramovitz, Adam. [Bosstown](#) (St Martins \$27). Some crime novel protagonists drive an old beater, some drive a hot Mustang and some just take the subway. In Adam Abramowitz's debut, ponytailed bike messenger Zesty Myers seems to have a GPS map of Boston in his head as he weaves his Fat Chance machine recklessly through the chaotic streets of the city. One hung-over morning, a Buick rams into him on Boylston, smashing his slick bike, knocking him unconscious and sending the contents of his torn delivery package into the street—a deluge of Grants and Benjamins. When Zesty slips out of the hospital ER to launch his own investigation into his "accident," it gets gnarly in a hurry. "Abramowitz gives his young narrator hero the mouthy jive of an old school Southie hip to rare Boston rock bands and closed down clubs. Zesty's father is an aging hustler who once ran a back-room poker game for dirty cops, small-time pols and courthouse trolls. His mother was a hippie firebrand put away for a robbery and homicide in her radical youth. His brother, Zero, runs a semi-legit moving company and is on-call muscle. As

Zesty and Zero try to sort out the story behind the money and their parents' shady pasts, *Bosstown* zips along like a good old-fashioned Beantown caper." —Bruce Jacobs. We have a limited number of Signed 1sts.

Adams, Ellery. [The Secret Book & Scone Society](#) (Kensington \$25). Miracle Springs, North Carolina, is a place of healing. Strangers flock here hoping the natural hot springs, five-star cuisine, and renowned spa can cure their ills. If none of that works, they often find their way to Miracle Books, where, over a fresh-baked "comfort" scone from the Gingerbread House bakery, they exchange their stories with owner Nora Pennington in return for a carefully chosen book. That's Nora's special talent—prescribing the perfect novel to ease a person's deepest pain and lighten their heaviest burden. When a visiting businessman reaches out to Nora for guidance, she knows exactly which novels will help. But before he can keep their appointment at Miracle Books, he's found dead on the train tracks.

Allende, Isabel. [In the Midst of Winter](#) (Atria \$28). The *PW* Starred Review: "Grief and loss are transformed into a healing friendship. Sixty-year-old scholar Richard Bowmaster and his coworker and tenant, 62-year-old Lucia Maraz, who is a visiting professor at NYU, are faced with a shocking dilemma when a young Guatemalan refugee enters their lives. Set primarily in Brooklyn and upstate New York, the book opens with a minor car collision between Richard and Evelyn Ortega—an undocumented immigrant working for an overbearing employer. Shaken and terrified because she borrowed her employer's Lexus without his permission, Evelyn comes to Richard's apartment. Unable to calm her, Richard solicits Lucia to come help and, with a snowstorm raging outside, the three nibble on pot brownies and share stories: Evelyn's harrowing, tortured childhood at the hands of the MS-13 gang, Lucia's youth amid the violence of the 1973 Chilean coup. Upon sobering up, Evelyn explains that she cannot return the Lexus, and that there is a dead body in the trunk, presumably murdered by her employer. With the threat that Evelyn could be deported if they notify the authorities, the three quickly plan to dispose of the body in upstate New York, launching a suspenseful, icy adventure."

Bardugo, Leigh. [The Language of Thorns](#) (Imprint \$18.99). Travel to a world of dark bargains struck by moonlight, of haunted towns and hungry woods, of talking beasts and gingerbread golems, where a young mermaid's voice can summon deadly storms and where a river might do a lovestruck boy's bidding but only for a terrible price. Perfect for new readers and dedicated fans, the tales in *The Language of Thorns* will transport you to lands both familiar and strange—to a fully realized world of dangerous magic that millions have visited through the novels of the Grishaverse. This collection of six stories includes three brand-new tales, each of them lavishly illustrated and culminating in stunning full-spread illustrations as rich in detail as the stories themselves. Ages 12-17 or for any adult who loves fantasy.

Cash, Wiley. [The Last Ballad](#) (Harper \$26.99). Cash, author of 2012 Modern Firsts Club Pick [A Land More Kind than Home](#) (\$14.99), transports readers into the world of real-life ballad singer Ella May Wiggins, a central figure in workers' battle for unionization in North Carolina textile mills, who was shot and killed on Sept. 14, 1929. Alone, pregnant, caring for six sick children, and frightened of losing her job if she takes another day off, Ella uses

her Sunday to hitch a ride to a union gathering. Quickly recognized for her courage after fighting off anti-union attackers, she's asked to share a song with the crowd. Her message connects, and she instantly becomes a sensation.—and attracts the wrath of union busters, segregationists, and the powerful wealthy class.

The Last Ballad is a top Library Reads Pick: “The story of little-known union hero Ella May Wiggins is central to this look at unionization during the late 1920s. Once she sings her first song at a union rally, she becomes a beacon for others. As her story becomes intertwined with the violence and fear of the clash between owners and workers, we are swept up in a powerful novel that exposes the prejudice and hatred among races, genders, and economic classes. The stories of Ella, her children, and friends woven throughout cement Cash’s place among our great living writers.” Cash’s story of struggle and personal sacrifice for the greater good will resonate with readers of John Hart and Tom Franklin, John Steinbeck, or Ron Rash.

Child, Lee. [The Midnight Line](#) (Bantam \$29). Both the US and the [UK editions](#) (\$44) publish November 7. Expect some delay for signed copies for each. Jack Reacher takes an aimless stroll past a pawn shop in a small Midwestern town. In the window he sees a West Point class ring from 2005. It’s tiny. It’s a woman cadet’s graduation present to herself. Why would she give it up? Reacher’s a West Pointer too, and he knows what she went through to get it. Reacher tracks the ring back to its owner, step by step, down a criminal trail leading west. Like Big Foot come out of the forest, he arrives in the deserted wilds of Wyoming. All he wants is to find the woman. If she’s OK, he’ll walk away. If she’s not ... he’ll stop at nothing. He’s still shaken by the recent horrors of *Make Me*, and now *The Midnight Line* sees him set on a raw and elemental quest for simple justice. Best advice: don’t get in his way.

Connelly, Michael. [Two Kinds of Truth UK Edition](#) (Orion \$45). The UK Edition. See Event Books for more on Harry Bosch #20. I add, Good news: *Bosch* Season 4 is in production. I like the way Connelly et al have structured the show around various bits of the novels rather than a one-by-one approach.

✂Cornwell, Bernard. [Fools and Mortals](#) (Collins \$44) takes us into the heart of the Elizabethan era, long one of his favourite periods of British history. *Fools and Mortals* follows the young Richard Shakespeare, an actor struggling to make his way in a company dominated by his estranged older brother, William. As the growth of theatre blooms, their rivalry—and that of the playhouses, playwrights and actors vying for acclaim and glory—propels a high-stakes story of conflict and betrayal.

Doyle, Roddy. [Smile](#) (Penguin \$25). Just moved in to a new apartment, alone for the first time in years, Victor Forde goes every evening to Donnelly’s pub for a pint, a slow one. One evening his drink is interrupted. A man in shorts and pink shirt brings over his pint and sits down. He seems to know Victor’s name and to remember him from school. Says his name is Fitzpatrick. Victor dislikes him on sight, dislikes too the memories that Fitzpatrick stirs up of five years being taught by the Christian Brothers. He prompts other memories too—of Rachel, his beautiful wife who became a celebrity, and of Victor’s own small claim to fame, as the man who says the unsayable on the radio. But it’s the memories of school, and of one particular Brother, that he cannot control and which eventually threaten to destroy his sanity.

Egan, Jennifer. [Manhattan Beach](#) (Scribner \$28). Longlisted for the National Book Award. 1940s, *Manhattan Beach* revolves around Anna Kerrigan, whose father, Eddie, a bagman for one of the principals of the “Wop Syndicate,” mysteriously disappeared half a decade earlier, leaving behind his wife, Anna, and her profoundly handicapped sister. Anna works as a parts inspector at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, but her ambition is to become a professional diver and repair the massive vessels she gazes at on her lunch hour. In order to overcome the undisguised sexism of that time and achieve her goal, she’s forced to prove herself even more skilled than the men against whom she’s competing. “One of the most impressive aspects of *Manhattan Beach* is the verisimilitude of Egan’s storytelling, a result of prodigious documentary and personal research she describes in the novel’s acknowledgements. The book’s epigraph is taken from *Moby Dick* and Egan delivers a terrifying description of a merchant ship crew’s battle to survive a U-boat attack in the Indian Ocean. It is Melvillean in its vivid detail, something that’s also true of her accounts of Anna’s diving exploits.”

Fink, Joseph. [It Devours, A Welcome to Nightvale Novel](#) (Harper \$21.99). Nilanjana Sikdar is an outsider to the town of Night Vale. Working for Carlos, the town’s top scientist, she relies on fact and logic as her guiding principles. But all of that is put into question when Carlos gives her a special assignment investigating a mysterious rumbling in the desert wasteland outside of town. This investigation leads her to the Joyous Congregation of the Smiling God, and to Darryl, one of its most committed members. Caught between her beliefs in the ultimate power of science and her growing attraction to Darryl, she begins to suspect the Congregation is planning a ritual that could threaten the lives of everyone in town.

Fowler, Christopher. [The Book of Forgotten Authors](#) (\$35). “Absence doesn’t make the heart grow fonder. It makes people think you’re dead.” So begins Christopher Fowler’s foray into the back catalogues and backstories of 99 authors who, once hugely popular, have all but disappeared from our shelves. Whether male or female, domestic or international, flash-in-the-pan or prolific, mega-seller or prize-winner—no author, it seems, can ever be fully immune from the fate of being forgotten. And Fowler, as well as remembering their careers, lifts the lid on their lives, and why they often stopped writing or disappeared from the public eye. These 99 journeys are punctuated by 12 short essays about faded once-favorites: including the now-vanished novels Walt Disney brought to the screen, the contemporary rivals of Sherlock Holmes and Agatha Christie who did not stand the test of time, and the women who introduced us to psychological suspense many decades before it conquered the world. The huge popularity of the British Library Crime Classics has revived interest in, and publishing of, past crime writers.

Hanks, Tom. [Uncommon Type: Some Stories](#) (Knopf \$26.95). A collection of 17 stories showing that two-time Oscar winner Tom Hanks is as talented a writer as he is an actor. “Hanks writes about characters that he would love to play in the movies, had they been written. This collection of stories holds a myriad of emotions, settings, and time periods with two common threads: the typewriter and uncommonly normal men and women. You love the characters because you have something in common with all of them—some win, some lose, some are heroic and

some timid, but they are all borne of the human existence and go largely unnoticed. Hanks' charm and wit come through."

Hart, Carolyn G. [Ghost on the Case](#) (Penguin \$26). Publishes in October. Signed here on November 19 (yes, with Hallinan, also Rhys Bowen, Jenn McKinlay, and more). Bailey Ruth Raeburn finds herself comforting a distraught sister when she's sent to Adelaide, Oklahoma, on her latest mission. Susan Gilbert receives a \$100,000 ransom demand for her younger sibling. When the caller wants Susan to pay a visit to her wealthy boss and take the cash from his safe, Bailey Ruth follows Susan to the home. But she finds herself in a quandary, knowing that robbery is hardly a Heavenly pursuit. While Susan waits to hear back from the kidnapers, Bailey Ruth attempts to piece together how the criminals targeted Susan and how they know about her boss's money...

Hill, Joe. [Strange Weather](#) (Harper \$27.99). "Hill's four short novels expose the individual and societal pressures that motivate our sometimes fateful decisions. The first story is a coming-of-age tale with an added bit of horror. The second story is an unflinching look at what has become a common tragedy: mass shooting. The third story is an unrequited-love-meets-the-Twilight-Zone story that touches on loneliness. The final story is poignant and introspective. All four tales often gave me pause and made me think. I would recommend this book to anyone who is a fan of character-driven works of horror and/or drama." Explore other [work by the talented Hill](#), son of Stephen King so it's the genes.

Hoffman, Alice. [The Rules of Magic](#) (Simon Schuster \$27.99). Our final **Modern Firsts Club Pick for 2017** is a magical book about witches and magic and the costs as well as the pluses of being different. It's also the prequel to [Practical Magic](#) (\$15). I've picked books for the holiday season that celebrate its spirit, and life. With Hoffman we imagine what the descendants of Salem's Maria Owens might experience given their family powers. And the effect of the curse visited upon the Owens women by a witch-gone-wrong they quashed. Sisters Franny and Jet, and their charismatic younger brother Vincent, feel caged by the rules their mother, protective, has set up to keep them safe. But blood tells. The teens are allowed to spend a summer with their aunt where they explore their heritage and their powers and set the stage for the future. The Indie Next Pick underlines this: "I was enraptured by this fabulous book, which is filled with magic and charm."

✎Hollinghurst, Alan. [The Sparsholt Affair](#) (Picador \$44). In October 1940, the handsome young David Sparsholt arrives in Oxford. A keen athlete and oarsman, he at first seems unaware of the effect he has on others—particularly on the lonely and romantic Evert Dax, son of a celebrated novelist and destined to become a writer himself. While the Blitz rages in London, Oxford exists at a strange remove: an ephemeral, uncertain place, in which nightly blackouts conceal secret liaisons. Over the course of one momentous term, David and Evert forge an unlikely friendship that will color their lives for decades to come. From the Man Booker Prize winner, here is a group of friends bound together by art, literature and love across three generations. It explores the social and sexual revolutions of the most pivotal years of the past century, whose life-changing consequences are still being played out to this day.

✎Horowitz, Anthony. [The Word Is Murder](#) (Century \$45). This is fabulous, Horowitz detailing his own career and qualifications to be a very reluctant Watson to a London cop kicked off the force for traits like those of Holmes. And Horowitz throws in a look at the writing process as well. Tongue in cheek but spot on. It begins with a scene: an ordinary middle-aged and wealthy woman takes a bus to a funeral home, arranges her own funeral, heads off on her afternoon...and is strangled some six hours later in her own home. And discovered two days later. Is this coincidence? From the creator of TV hits *Foyle's War* and *Midsomer Murders*, and recently the author of Holmes and Christie sorts of mysteries.

Johns, Roger. [Dark River Rising](#) (St Martins \$28). A love/hate relationship develops into a working partnership between a Baton Rouge police detective and a Drug Enforcement Administration agent. Baton Rouge cop Wallace Hartman has caught a strange case of homicide: a drug dealer murdered with a ghastly (OK, and imaginative) weapon. She knows that Ronnie Overman was a major coke distributor with plenty of enemies, but which of them would kill him in such a bizarre way? Mason Cunningham, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Intelligence at the DEA, rarely leaves his D.C. office, but something about Overman's death draws him to Louisiana to see this one for himself. The case becomes more complicated as a killer with a mysterious agenda threatens even greater violence, which may engulf them both. "As the detectives struggle to figure out what Matt was doing to arouse so much interest from drug dealers, the evidence points to a shocking development that will require some very creative detective work indeed. Johns' first novel is an exciting police procedural rolled into a romantic thriller that hints of more to come."—*Kirkus*. *LJ* adds, "Featuring a fine ensemble cast, this solid debut is strong on atmosphere and tension." Johns' voice is assured but it's the landscape of Louisiana that drew me, a James Lee Burke fan, solidly in.

Kelly, Scott. [Endurance: A Year in Space](#) (Knopf \$29.95). "Scott Kelly's saga is a deeply absorbing and vivid look at a year in space and the many trials and rigors of living weightless inside a football field-sized machine traveling at 17,000 miles per hour. But *Endurance* satisfies far more than the reader's technological curiosities; it is replete with humor, thrills, surreal details, and recurring moments of ordinary humanity that turn Kelly's tale into a loving tribute to the pioneering individuals who risk all to shepherd man's exploration of the vast beyond."—Khaled Hosseini, author of *The Kite Runner*. "At once compelling and cautionary... Fascinating stuff... A worthy read for space buffs, to say nothing of anyone contemplating a voyage to the stars." —*Kirkus*

Lansdale, Joe R. [Bubba and the Cosmic Blood-Suckers](#) (Subterranean \$40). Probably not in stock until mid-November, but wise to order now as our supply is limited. Before *Bubba Ho-Tep*, there was *Bubba and the Cosmic Blood-Suckers*. Part of a secret government organization designed to protect civilians, Elvis Presley and a handful of hardcore warriors set out to save the world from an invasion of hive-minded, shape-shifting vampire-like creatures from a dark dimension who have taken up residence in a New Orleans junkyard. Besides Elvis, among these righteous warriors is a hammer-wielding descendent of John Henry of railroad fame, a Blind Man who sees more than those with sight, Jack, a strategic wizard, and Elvis's right hand man and journal

writer, Johnny, all thrown in with Raven (real name Jenny) a female recruit who is also a budding pop star, and like Elvis, high on the charisma chart. Their leader is none other than Colonel Parker, Elvis's cutthroat manager, and a warrior himself, directly in contact with President Nixon, or possibly one of his doubles. It's an unnerving peek into a secret world, and a possible delusion. It's what happened before Elvis, aka Sebastian Haff, found himself in an East Texas rest home, mounted on a walker, fighting an Egyptian mummy. Strange monsters, wild fights, sex with a beautiful ghost, a drug-induced trip into another dimension, and all manner of mayhem ensue, along with a Mississippi riverboat ride on a giant paddle wheel and a few hard working zombies.

✠Lawton, John. [Friends and Traitors](#) (Grove \$27). The lives of Scotland Yard detective Frederick Troy and real-life historical figure Guy Burgess, the English traitor who spied for the Russians, intersect in Lawton's superb eighth Inspector Troy novel. After their initial meeting in 1935 at a party in Hertfordshire, Troy views Burgess as "an endless blabbermouth," and his older brother warns him about being seen in Burgess's company because Burgess is "queer as a coot," and his father tells him Burgess is a spy. Despite all this, Troy finds the man intriguing. Through WWII and into the cold war era, as Troy rises in the ranks at Scotland Yard, Burgess is always hovering somewhere nearby, until he defects to the Soviet Union in 1951. Then in 1958, their paths cross again in Vienna after a concert; Burgess indicates that he wants to return to England. Troy alerts MI5, who send an agent to debrief Burgess. But when the agent is shot dead outside the British embassy, Troy becomes a suspect in the man's murder. Lawton's portrayal of Burgess as far less dangerous than seen in most accounts adds to the interest of this smart, fascinating historical thriller. I've always found Lawton's books to be truly superior fiction. Start with [Black Out](#) but [order them all](#).

Maguire, Gregory. [Hiddensee: A Tale of the Once and Future Nutcracker](#) (Harper \$26.99). Tip-ins. Maguire twins an origin legend of the famous Nutcracker with the life of Drosselmeier, the toymaker who carves him.

Mayor, Archer. [Trace](#) (St Martins \$27). The inventive Mayor writes a classic police procedural for his 28th Joe Gunther. The three-track investigations are distinct and at least one is truly surprising—making this our **October Surprise Me Club Pick**. Joe is sidelined, off caring for his injured mother, for most of it, leaving his VBI team in the reluctant charge of Sammie Martens, the partner of Willy Kunkle, the team's non-team player. One case is linked to Albany, NY, and to Joe's lover, the Vermont Medical Examiner, through her daughter, the roommate of the girl in trouble, and is fairly straightforward although there's a nice touch in the end game. One is a new look at a cold case that left a motorist dead as well as a Vermont state trooper murdered. This one falls to the team's Lester Spinney and begins with evidence that fingerprints might have been planted to mislead the investigators. And the third, that begins when a rather feral urchin finds some bloody teeth alongside a train track, is clever and surprising, not to mention so challenging that only the dogged Willy Kunkle would actually see it through. "Mayor keeps the suspense high as he showcases each of his detectives' special talents—Spinney's patience and doggedness, Kunkle's unorthodox but effective rule-bending, and Martens' bravery and resourcefulness—in this welcome addition to the long-running series." You can [order all the Gunthers](#)—one of my all-time favorite series.

Mullen, Thomas. [Lightning Men](#) (Atria \$26). This book was Signed September 28 and was overshadowed by the Lagercrantz and by Harlan Coben's [Don't Let Go](#) (Dutton \$28). Patrick says this: "Mullen's brilliant, assured debut [Darktown](#) (\$16) was one of my favorite books of 2016. Set in 1948, it introduced readers to Atlanta's original eight black police officers, including war veterans Lucius Boggs and Tommy Smith. Hired by federal mandate, they are deeply resented and ridiculed by their white peers. With the second book, the story moves forward to 1950. Progress is inching along slowly in the Jim Crow South, but black families are slowly moving into white neighborhoods, creating a wave of violence, bolstered by a reinvigorated Ku Klux Klan. Mullen is a supremely skilled writer, and he doesn't slip into revisionism, but lets his characters show us the complicated, often ugly reality behind what is often touted (especially these days) as a golden era." *Lightning Men* was the lead review in the *NY Times* crime column with a real rave.

Ng, Celeste. [Little Fires Everywhere](#) (Riverhead \$27) is "both an intricate and captivating portrait of an eerily perfect suburban town with its dark undertones not-quite-hidden from view and a powerful and suspenseful novel about motherhood. When the eccentric and itinerant artist Mia Warren and her 15-year-old daughter, Pearl, move into a rental house in Shaker Heights, Ohio, one summer, neither they nor their more conventional, affluent landlords, the Richardsons, have any reason to anticipate how dangerously enmeshed the two families will become...Ng explores the complexities of adoption, surrogacy, abortion, privacy, and class, questioning all the while who earns, who claims, and who loses the right to be called a mother." The *NY Times* review adds, "Witnessing these two families as they commingle and clash is an utterly engrossing, often heartbreaking, deeply empathetic experience...It's this vast and complex network of moral affiliations—and the nuanced omniscient voice that Ng employs to navigate it—that make this novel even more ambitious and accomplished than her debut...Our trusty narrator is as powerful and persuasive and delightfully clever as the narrator in a Victorian novel..." Only 8 left.

Pamuk, Orhan. [The Red Haired Woman](#) (Knopf \$28). The Indie Next Pick for our **October Modern Firsts Club Pick**: "Beguiling is the perfect word to describe *The Red-Haired Woman*, which feels like an entrancing fairy tale." Critic Scott Neuffer says this: "At first, the story is narrated by a young boy named Cem, whose father, a leftist dissident, is taken to prison. Desperate for money, Cem finds a job as an apprentice for a renowned well digger, Master Mahmut, in the small town of Öngören. The two work together on a barren plateau to find water for a client. They become like father and son, and at night they visit the town for supplies and leisure. That's where Cem meets the alluring "red-haired woman," who is part of a traveling theater troupe. As he falls in love, his obedience to his master and the well wavers, precipitating a tragic accident that follows him into adulthood and shapes his destiny. Pamuk writes with the lean, archaic simplicity of parable, gradually adding moral weight to his tale with each successive chapter. Cem and Mahmut's search for water takes on mythical qualities. In the red-haired woman's narrative section, she comments on the prevalence of Oedipal struggle: "Whether it was fathers killing their sons, or sons killing the fathers, men always emerged victorious, and all that was left for me to do was weep... the logic of the universe turns on the tears of

mothers.' *The Red-Haired Woman* is a novel of uncommon moral power. It blends myth and life, fatalism and freedom, into a harrowing literary experience. It's the work of a master writer."

Turkey was one of my favorite travel destinations and while it's less enticing to visit now, it's wonderful to spend time there with its Nobel Prize (for Literature) laureate, author of the truly splendid mystery [My Name Is Red](#) (\$16), set in 16th Century Istanbul and a kind of bibliomystery as well as a "brilliant symposium on the power of art" and a dive into religious intrigue.

Riordan, Rick. [Magnus Chase Book 3 The Ship of the Dead](#) (Disney \$19.99). Angry sea gods, hostile giants, and an evil fire-breathing dragon faced down by a once-homeless teen now resident in Valhalla and solid with a group of unusual helpers. The Gods of Asgard... Tolkien meets Wagner.

Rushdie, Salman. [Golden House](#) (Cape \$39). Legendary writer Salman Rushdie takes on American identity and politics in this tragic novel that reads like a postmodern update of *The Great Gatsby*. The zeitgeist is terrifyingly familiar. Americans, their bigotries, their horrors, as well as their aspirations and humanity, are deconstructed and reconstructed in this grand and sweeping tragedy. The narrator, René, is an aspiring filmmaker who theorizes on history, art, cinema, literature and the nature of the auteur. In a modern nod to *Gatsby*, René relays the story of his neighbor Nero Golden, an Indian immigrant and widower with a mysterious past and ostentatious amount of wealth. René earns the man's trust, befriends his three sons—Petya, Apu and D—but becomes dangerously entangled in family affairs when Nero's new wife, Vasilisa, makes an offer he can't refuse. Throughout the novel, René is making a probing film about the Golden family. At the heart of his endeavor is the question of identity, particularly American identity.

Tan, Amy. [Where the Past Begins](#) (Harper \$28.99). By delving into vivid memories of her traumatic childhood, confessions of self-doubt in her journals, and heartbreaking letters to and from her mother, Tan gives evidence to all that made it both unlikely and inevitable that she would become a writer. Through spontaneous storytelling, she shows how a fluid fictional state of mind unleashed near-forgotten memories that became the emotional nucleus of her novels. Tan explores shocking truths uncovered by family memorabilia—the real reason behind an IQ test she took at age six, why her parents lied about their education, mysteries surrounding her maternal grandmother—and, for the first time publicly, writes about her complex relationship with her father, who died when she was fifteen.

☞ Thomas, Will. [Old Scores](#) (St Martins \$27). It's 1890. The first Japanese diplomatic delegation arrives in London to open an embassy. Private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker who does the occasional gig for the Foreign Office is enlisted to display his personal Japanese garden to the dignitaries. And so he does. Later that night Ambassador Toda is shot and killed and Cyrus is discovered across the street, watching the murder scene at the home a Lord has loaned to the Japanese for its embassy, and armed with a revolver. It has one spent cartridge. The Special Branch quickly arrests Barker, but his ace assistant Thomas Llewelyn and his solicitor get him released. And then General Mononobe, who's stepped up as the new Ambassador, hires Barker to find the actual killer—and the motive for so bizarre a crime? Barker takes the case and in doing so inevitably opens up his own fraught past,

a real plus for fans of this terrific series that is inspired by the classic Holmes/Watson partnership. [Order it all.](#)

Woods, Stuart. [Quick and Dirty](#) (Putnam \$28). Stone Barrington, art, sex... When a slam-bang of a crime brings a beautiful new client into Stone Barrington's office, little does he know his association with her will pull him into a far more serpentine mystery than usual in the exclusive world of art. It's a business where a rare find could make a career—and a collection—and mistakes in judgment are costly. And under its genteel and high-minded veneer lurks an assortment of grifters and malfeasants eager to cash in on the game.

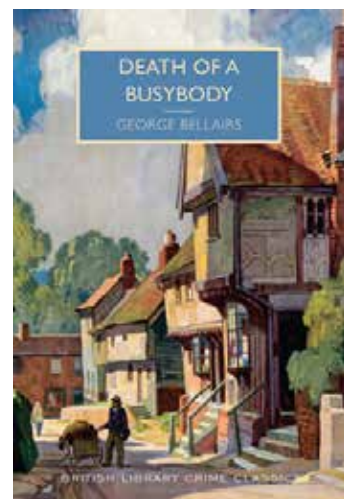
We now have Signed copies of his August book, Herbie Fisher #1 with Parnell Hall: [Barely Legal](#) (\$28).

BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSICS

You can order the full range of them to date [HERE!](#)

Bellairs, George. [The Dead Shall Be Raised and the Murder of a Quack](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). Two classic cases featuring Detective Inspector Littlejohn. One: In the winter of 1940, the Home Guard unearths a skeleton on the moor above the busy town of Hatterworth. Twenty-three years earlier, the body of a young textile worker was found in the same spot, and the prime suspect was never found—but the second body is now identified as his. Soon it becomes clear that the true murderer is still at large... Two: Nathaniel Wall, the local quack doctor, is found hanging in his consulting room in the Norfolk village of Stalden—but this was not a suicide. Against the backdrop of a close-knit country village, an intriguing story of ambition, blackmail, fraud, false alibis and botanical trickery unravels. "...worthy of Agatha Christie at her fiendish plotting best, centers on an elaborately staged crime scene and a vast field of suspects, including village doctors who are envious of the victim (a "bone-setter," or homeopath). Both of these tales are deeply satisfying reads..." —*Booklist* Starred Review. *PW* adds, "The two mysteries with their village settings are prosaic—no car chases, no master criminals—but assured prose, well-drawn characters, and the atmosphere of 1940s wartime England make them well worth the reader's time."

Bellairs, George. [Death of a Busybody](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). If you missed this Inspector Littlejohn case in September, here's a reminder: Miss Tither, the village busybody, is not the best-loved resident of Hilary Magna. She has made many enemies: bombarding the villagers with religious tracts, berating drunkards, and informing the spouses of cheating partners. Her murder, however, is still a huge shock to the Reverend Ethelred Clapdady and his parish. Inspector Littlejohn's understanding of country ways makes him Scotland Yard's first choice for the job. Basing himself at the village inn, Littlejohn works with the local police to investigate what lay behind the murder. A second death does little to settle the collective nerves of the village, and as events escalate, a strange tale of hidden identities, repressed resentment, religious fervor and financial scams is uncovered....



Postgate, Raymond. [The Verdict of Twelve](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). “Rosalie van Beer disliked her 11-year-old nephew, Philip, who was in her charge, and went out of her way to torment him. But did she kill him? That’s for the jury to decide in this mystery, first published in 1940, by Postgate (1896–1971), a welcome entry in the British Library Crime Classics series. This extended portrait of an English murder trial peers into the psyches of the jurors—including an unsuspected murderer and a religious fanatic—from their swearing in, to the presenting of evidence, the eventual verdict, and an unexpected revelation in the last pages. The reader follows the events leading up to Philip’s death by poisoning, along with the people involved, such as the bumbling doctor, the nosy tutor, and the uncurious housekeeper. The prosecution and defense present their cases, and the jury retires to consider aspects of the evidence that would startle the court. The characters are well drawn, at times frighteningly so, and the ending is perversely satisfying.”—*PW*

COOL STORY COLLECTIONS

Penzler, Otto. [The Big Book of Rogues and Villains](#) (Vintage \$25). Two stories feature out-and-out bad guys, such as Bram Stoker’s Dracula, and others whose morality is more ambiguous, such as Leslie Charteris’ the Saint. In addition to the many expected names (Donald Westlake, Edgar Wallace, Cornell Woolrich), Penzler resurrects such now-obscure writers as Everett Rhodes Castle, May Edginton, and George Randolph Chester. Chester weighs in with perhaps the most intriguing title, “The Universal Covered Carpet Tack Company,” which centers on a clever and elaborate stock swindle. Bertram Atkey’s gifted pickpocket “Smiler” Bunn demonstrates his “celebrated imitation of a gentleman pinching a blood-orange” at the start of “The Adventure of ‘The Brain.’?” Like many entries, this tale boasts a killer opening line. Another example is H.G. Wells’ “The Hammerpond Park Burglary” (“It is a moot point whether burglary is to be considered as a sport, a trade, or an art”).

Sandford, John, ed. [Best American Mystery Stories 2017](#) (Houghton \$15.99 Signed by Sandford). The 21st annual best-of volume in general editor Otto Penzler’s series demonstrates the care that went into selecting its 20 entries. Two stories come from [The Highway Kind](#) (\$15.99) edited by our own Patrick Millikin: by Wallace Stroby and by CJ Box. Doug Allyn’s “Puncher’s Chance,” in which a man hopes to save his family from a thug, is a perfect illustration of how a gifted writer can bring readers into an unfamiliar world—here professional boxing—and combine that with deft characterizations and an intelligent plot within the confines of a short story. Geri Brightwell’s “Williamsville” deviates wickedly from its opening narrative pathway, in which a gun for hire in the Old West seeks the man his cuckolded client has paid him to kill. Charles John Harper’s hard-boiled yarn, “Lovers and Thieves,” will make fans of the subgenre hope that its PI lead, Darrow Nash, will walk the mean streets of L.A. again. In Brendan Dubois’s “The Man from Away,” another high point, a man whose wife is killed in an accident seeks his own form of justice, despite her harsh treatment of him. Fans of such notables as C.J. Box, Peter Straub, and Joyce Carol Oates chiefly known for their novels will be pleased to see how well they write at shorter length.

Smirnova, Natalia, ed. [St Petersburg Noir](#) (\$15.95). Contemporary stories to read alongside Tasha Alexander’s new mystery—see Event Books and October 24 on the Event calendar. We have a wide range of Noirs for cities worldwide. Search for them [HERE](#). New cities coming in November: [Montreal](#) and [Buenos Aires](#).

FOR YOUNGER READERS

Bowling, Dustin. [Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus](#) (Sterling \$14.95). In this charming, funny middle-grade novel, a 13-year-old girl with no arms deals with insensitive peers and a mystery when she moves to a western-themed amusement park in Arizona. Aven Green’s missing arms have never been an issue for her or her family. Adopted as a two-year-old, her parents taught her to be a “problem-solving ninja” so that she could do everything people with arms can do. At home in Kansas, Aven is sociable, athletic (soccer is her game) and a prankster. When her father accepts an offer to run Stagecoach Pass, a western-themed amusement park in Arizona, she’s not thrilled at the idea of having to make new friends. Sure enough, her new middle school is a challenge. When she meets Connor, a boy with Tourette syndrome, the two immediately bond over the way people behave around them. “They just act weird around me,” Aven says, “like they don’t know whether to look or not, to ask about it or not. But no one has talked to me like I’m an actual person.” When they find a strange room in the park with boxes of intriguing old papers, they join forces to investigate the whereabouts of the mysterious, unseen Stagecoach Pass owner. Ages 8-12 (and up).

Brown, Margaret Wise. [Good Day, Good Night](#) (Harper \$18.99). The collaboration of Margaret Wise Brown’s never-before-published text and Loren Long’s illustrations begins with a double-page spread featuring a familiar-looking bunny watching the sun rise. From the title page, featuring our bunny waking up to the first light of day, to the final spread with our bunny cozily tucked into bed, *Good Day, Good Night* welcomes the reader into the world of the “great green room” and imaginatively expands it into a great big world. This year marks the 70th anniversary of *Goodnight, Moon*, which has sold 32 million copies in various formats worldwide. *Good Day, Good Night* is being published not as a sequel, but as a companion to this beloved children’s book. Ages 4-8

☞ Pullman, Philip. [La Belle Sauvage: The Book of Dust #1](#) (Random \$22.99). Eleven-year-old Malcolm Polstead and his dæmon, Asta, live with his parents at the Trout Inn near Oxford. Across the River Thames (which Malcolm navigates often using his beloved canoe, a boat by the name of *La Belle Sauvage*) is the Godstow Priory where the nuns live. Malcolm learns they have a guest with them, a baby by the name of Lyra Belacqua....

Rundell, Katherine. [The Explorer](#) (Simon & Schuster \$16.99). “Stranded in the Amazon after a plane crash, four tenacious children band together, summoning courage and creativity to find their way back home. Readers will be transfixed as the survivors build a raft, mimic monkeys to harvest honey, discover the unique fishy-chicken flavor of tarantula, and adopt an orphaned sloth. Rundell’s story of adversity and friendship is a must for readers who love survival stories like Hatchet, and anyone with an adventurous spirit! Ages 8-12

OUR OCTOBER LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

✚Bradley, Alan. [Thrice the Brindled Cat Hath Mew'd](#) (\$16). In spite of being ejected from Miss Bodycote's Female Academy in Canada, twelve-year-old Flavia de Luce is excited to be sailing home to England. But instead of a joyous homecoming, she is greeted on the docks with unfortunate news: Her father has fallen ill, and a hospital visit will have to wait while he rests. Only too eager to run an errand for the vicar's wife, Flavia hops on her trusty bicycle, Gladys, to deliver a message to a reclusive wood-carver. Finding the front door ajar, Flavia enters and stumbles upon the poor man's body hanging upside down on the back of his bedroom door. The only living creature in the house is a feline that shows little interest in the disturbing scene. Curiosity may not kill this cat, but Flavia is energized at the prospect of a new investigation. "Mystery fans seeking novels of wit, an immersive English countryside setting, and rich characterizations will be rewarded with this newest entry in the award-winning series."—*LJ* Starred Review. If you have not discovered this award-winning series of eccentric and unbridled charm, [order them all here](#).

Collins, Max Allan. [Quarry's Climax](#) (Hard Case Crime \$9.95). For you fans of classic pulp fiction... Memphis, 1975. "Raunchy" doesn't begin to describe Max Climer's magazine, *Climax*, or his all-hours strip club, or his planned video empire. And evangelists, feminists, and local watchdog groups all want him out of business. But someone wants more than that, and has hired a killer to end Max's career permanently. Only another hit man—the ruthless professional known as Quarry, a former Marine sniper and now star of the acclaimed series on Cinemax—can keep Climer from becoming a casualty in the Sexual Revolution. Comes with a classic pulp cover.

De Castrique, Mark. [Hidden Scars](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). See Event Books for more on a Sam Blackman mystery combining Appalachian history and lore with a look at modern movie making, murder, and more as the Asheville NC PI investigates a 70-year-old crime that elicits arson and modern murder. "De Castrique's sixth delivers a vivid gallery of suspects, lively dialogue, and an attractive pair of sleuths."—*Kirkus*. [Order all six](#) Sam Blackmans.

Hallinan, Timothy. [Fields Where They Lay](#) (\$15.95). This glorious Christmas-time romp is wonderful escape reading. Tim will sign copies November 19 which we recommend as a top Gift Idea. But there's more to it than fun: Tracy Kingsley of our staff is a rabid Junior Bender fan, and says this about his 6th caper: "Junior Bender is plunged into the rather sad world of shopping malls when his newest "client" wants to know why the hard-luck mall he and his mobster partners own is suddenly losing big bucks to theft. As Junior learns the ins and outs of mall security, he also grapples with his personal feelings about the upcoming Christmas holiday. Once again the very moral Junior finds that the problem with being the go-to investigator for the criminal element in LA is that your client isn't always worth helping. Mr. Hallinan continues to write very thoughtful books disguised as detective fiction." The Juniors have been a big hit with readers of all stripes. [Order them all](#)—but *Fields* is the best!

Hamilton, Ian. [The Couturier of Milan](#) (House of Anansi \$15.95). I'm addicted to the unconventional Ava Lee thrillers so full of action, travel to fascinating places, and underscored with how business, finance, and chicanery/strong arming –business is

war!—works. I have learned a lot about leveraging money. In time the Canadian publisher will make them all available in the US. This one comes in time after [The King of Shanghai](#) and the [Princeling of Nanjing](#) (\$15.95 each) which I recommend you read first. They will bring you up to date on Ava Lee's life after her original partner in the asset recovery business has died and she's now, in The Triad Years phase, an investor with two Chinese women in the Three Sisters Fund. And one of the businesses they've sunk serious money into is high fashion, the PÖ brand. A world of polite war. So the three are in London for Fashion Week. Their show is a stunning success (due in part to movie star Pang Fai). The downside is that now the famous Dominic Ventola of the giant VLG luxury line wants to buy the majority interest in PÖ. Ventola is enraged by their refusal and begins a dirty campaign to run them out of the business. He's a bully used to winning. But Ava Lee, thanks to Triad leader Xu and her own connections, takes it China and Hong Kong and employs tactics just as dirty to fight back. This book, like all the Ava Lee novels, is pure fun. The first four Ava Lees are phasing out at the first publisher but we have a few and before long they will be republished.

Lansdale, Joe R. [Paradise Sky](#) (\$15.99). "With great humor, Lansdale turns Nat into the dime-novel sensation Deadwood Dick, through the agency of a charming half-scoundrel named Bronco Bob. Lansdale covers familiar territory indeed, but he does it very well, bringing to mind Larry McMurtry and Thomas Berger in their prime. *Paradise Sky* is a rowdy, funny, suspenseful, and often quite moving yarn."—*Booklist* starred review

Littlejohn, Emily. [Inherit the Bones](#) (\$16.99). *LJ* made this a Debut of the month in 2016. : "The story's plotting is sure-footed, and the characters are well developed and believable...Highly recommended." In the summer, hikers and campers pack the small Colorado town's meadows and fields. And in the winter, skiers and snowboarders take over the mountains. Season by season, year after year, time passes and the lies, like the aspens and evergreens that surround the town, take root and spread deep. Now, someone has uncovered the lies, and it is his murder that continues a chain of events that began almost forty years ago. Detective Gemma Monroe's investigation takes her from the seedy grounds of a traveling circus to the powerful homes of those who would control Cedar Valley's future. "Compelling writing, a stunning setting in a Colorado ski town, a plot that twists with surprises, and a police deputy who happens to be six-months pregnant. I loved all of it."—Margaret Coel, echoing Deborah Crombie.

Mayne, Andrew. [The Naturalist](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). You serial killer thriller fans will have an unusual experience reading Mayne if you have missed his earlier novels. He is fascinated with science. So when computational biologist Theo Cray, a professor up in Montana in late summer from his university in Austin, studying frogs in yet a different environment, is arrested by the local cops who connect him to a brutal death, he's programmed to ask questions, to look for patterns where others see none, or see chaos. A former student has been savaged, hence the arrest, but the cops decide the killer was a local bear and send a hunter to kill it. Cray accidentally gets a sample of Juniper's blood which contains a bear hair and manages to identify the hair as one from the wrong bear. And decides the hair is a signal that

a human predator is at work, one who carefully plans. Follow the investigation from there. I am intrigued although I do wonder if Cray can hold on to his university post given his prolonged absence and other factors. We'll see where Mayne takes him. (I'm not intrigued by the cover art which clearly depicts the hide of a bear; don't let it put you off).

Rosenfelt, David. [The Twelve Dogs of Christmas](#) (\$15.99). A holiday treat arrives early. "Rosenfelt, who continues to write some of the best hooks in the genre, saddles attorney Andy Carpenter with a client who's got only six months to brighten her Paterson, NJ, neighborhood—if a guilty verdict doesn't remove her from her home first. Despite all Andy's coaching and beseeching, irrepressible Martha Boyer, universally known as Pups, is already on record as having threatened Randy Hennessey, the neighbor who filed a legal complaint against her houseful of two dozen rescue dogs, in open court. Andy gets the case dismissed, but before he can begin to gloat properly, Hennessey is dismissed, too—by a handgun that turns up in Pups' basement shortly after a neighbor sees her leaving his house. Her story that her former legal adversary had asked her to come over so he could apologize and give her a present sounds highly implausible even to Andy. What really complicates the case, though, are a pair of unwelcome developments that seem to come out of nowhere...Rosenfelt's canine-loving hero is always good company—especially when he deals with someone who's gone to the dogs even more completely than him."—*Kirkus*

Thomas, Wendall. [Lost Luggage](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95 Signed). The *LJ* Starred Review: "Cyd Redondo works for her family's travel agency in Brooklyn and yearns for adventure. Her escapades kick off when she finds her elderly neighbor, the owner of a pet shop, dead. After the funeral, Cyd escapes to Atlantic City for a travel agents' convention and has a brief fling with Roger Claymore. When Roger shows up at the Redondo Sunday dinner, she grabs him as her plus-one for an excursion she won to Tanzania. No trip could be more disastrous, with lost luggage, two elderly clients in an African jail, and Cyd hip-deep in the world of international animal smuggling while topping the suspect list for her neighbor's murder. Only an intrepid, self-sufficient woman could find her own way off the endangered list. Thomas makes a rollicking debut with this comic mystery featuring an unconventional protagonist who proves to have the skills of MacGyver. With its sexy overtones, this fun, character-driven novel will appeal to Janet Evanovich fans. Readers who enjoy Betty Webb's "Gunn Zoo" mysteries will also delight in this adventure." See Event Books for more.

Tiraboschi, Robert. [The Apothecary's Shop: Venice 1118 AD](#) (Europa \$18). I was mesmerized reading [The Eye Stone](#) (\$17) where the elder son of the noble Grimani family, a physically tormented and nearsighted scribe, travels from Bobbio Abbey to the marshy lagoon where a cluster of islands and shoals is home to Venetia in quest of a crystal that will allow him to see and continue his work. Arabic texts, glass blowers on Amurium (today, Murano), a brave young woman and a surprising mission by Edgardo's fellow monk from Bobbio are part of the story, but the whole is stolen by an incredible portrait of the geographical conglomerate that is 12th Century Venice. In the sequel, Edgardo, who rejects returning to Bobbio, is searching for a missing child from one of Venetia's most formidable families who has vanished into one of its perilous alleyways. Here we see a rising trade capi-

tal (trade flowed from the East, thus across the Adriatic, not yet from the West and the Atlantic) and "the underground network of malice that is tied to this ascent." Some years ago I edited a magnetic story set in the 18th Century where Venice's trade links to Constantinople play the lead role too: Beverle Graves Myers [Interrupted Aria](#) (\$14.95), the first Tito Amato Venetian Mystery, which remains one of my favorite historicals (and series). Gorgeous covers, too.

White, Kate. [Even If it Kills Her](#) (Harper \$15.99). While White drops into cliché ("be there for you") more than I like, her plots are well conceived and in this latest for true crime writer Bailey Weggins, surprising in the forces that led to the old murders. In fact what Bailey has here is a cold case, the murder of two parents and two children in a small town in the Berkshires. The lone family survivor, Jillian, was a classmate and friend of Bailey's at Brown and Bailey has always felt she let Jillian down with a tepid response to this slaughter. She hasn't seen Jillian for 16 years when suddenly there she is waiting for Bailey at a book program/signing at NY's 92nd Street Y. Far from angry with Bailey, Jillian comes with a request: she wants Bailey to "find the person who murdered my family." The youth who confessed and has been in prison has just died, but an Innocence Project review of the bloodstains at the scene reveals an unknown presence. And Jillian wants the youth's reputation exonerated as a tiny reparation for his ruined life. Bailey, her curiosity on red alert, and her need for a new book idea pressing, agrees. It may upend her relationship with her live-in lover Beau but she can clear her conscience by helping Jillian....

SOME NEW BOOKS FOR OCTOBER

Please check our much expanded inventory, [sorted by categories](#)

Archer, Jeffrey. [Tell Tale: Stories](#) (St Martins \$24.99). *The Times* describes Archer as 'probably the greatest storyteller of our age'. This is a collection of stories based on tales and countries he has visited during the past ten years. Find out what happens to the hapless young detective from Naples who travels to an Italian hillside town to find out "Who Killed the Mayor?" and the pre-tentious schoolboy in "A Road to Damascus," whose discovery of the origins of his father's wealth changes his life in the most profound way.. Or what of the 1930's woman who dares to challenge the men at her Ivy League University in "A Gentleman and A Scholar" while another young woman who thumbs a lift gets more than she bargained for in "A Wasted Hour"? If not sold out we will have a Signed UK edition, [Tell Tale](#) (Macmillan \$32), in November.

✉Arlidge, MJ. [Hide and Seek](#) (Penguin \$15). I quote a review because I am not a fan of this series. "Arlidge's harrowing sixth Helen Grace thriller finds the former detective inspector languishing in London's Holloway Prison awaiting trial for three murders. Already convicted of the crimes by the media and her fellow inmates—some of whom Grace put in Holloway herself—Grace must fight daily for her life and her sanity. On the outside, only one of her former officers, Charlie Brooks, believes in Grace's innocence. Both Grace and Brooks know that Grace's nephew Robert Stonehill painstakingly and brilliantly framed Grace, but locating him and proving his guilt is difficult, especially since Brooks is under pressure from above to let the case go. Meanwhile, a serial killer is gruesomely killing inmates in their locked

cells in Holloway, and Grace is compelled to investigate these murders or risk becoming one of the victims. Parallel cat-and-mouse manhunts create relentless tension in this dark and twisted nail-biter filled with strong, well-defined characters—hero and villain alike.” Don’t take that as an endorsement from here.

✦Beaton, MC. [The Witches’ Tree](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Margaret Darby, an elderly spinster, is discovered by the vicar and his wife hanged in the village’s witches’ tree—and the Cotswolds inhabitants are bewildered as to who would commit such a crime. The police want to rule it a suicide, but private enquiry agent Agatha Raisin rises to the occasion (a little glad for the excitement, to tell the truth, after a long run of lost cats and divorces on the books). Dour and dark Sumpton Harcourt is a small and private village—a place that poses more questions than answers. And when two more murders follow the first, Agatha begins to fear for her reputation—and even her life. That the village has its own coven of witches certainly doesn’t make her feel any better.... Beaton starts really well, framing village life as an Agatha Christie vision with loads of suspects. But she is no Miss Marple and after some pages the dynamic between Agatha and Charles, Agatha and everyone, goes flat. Beaton has a gift for premise, and snarky dialogue, but she can’t stay the course to write more than a kind of pop mystery. I’m not sure if the TV Series has affected the Agatha Raisin series.

✦Birkby, Michelle. [The House at Baker Street](#): (Harper \$15.99). After years of watching his habits, cleaning up his mess, and eavesdropping on interviews through a grate in the kitchen, Mrs. Hudson has learned a thing or two. So when Sherlock turns away the case of persecuted Mrs. Laura Shirley, she and Mary Watson resolve to help a fellow woman in need and take on the investigation themselves. Blackmail, libel, extortion, murder—Mary and Mrs. Hudson quickly discover that Mrs. Shirley is not the only woman at risk, and as they put together the pieces of an increasingly complicated and dangerous puzzle, the investigation becomes far bigger than either of them could have ever imagined. Enlisting the help of the Baker Street Irregulars and the infamous Irene Adler, she and Mary follow a trail of clues leading to the darkest corners of Whitechapel, where the feared Ripper is still rumored to stalk. But can Mrs. Hudson actually solve the case? Unread by me as yet but I include it in case you can’t get enough of Sherlock with the MacBird adventure in Events Books.

Carpenter, Elisabeth. [99 Red Balloons](#) (Harper \$12.99). Eight-year-old Grace is last seen in a sweetshop. Her mother Emma is living a nightmare. But as her loved ones rally around her, cracks begin to emerge. What are the emails sent between her husband and her sister? Why does her mother take so long to join the search? And is there more to the disappearance of her daughter than meets the eye? Meanwhile, ageing widow Maggie Sharples sees a familiar face in the newspaper. A face that jolts her from the pain of her existence into a spiraling obsession with another girl—the first girl who disappeared...

Chance, Maia. [Teetotaled](#) (\$16.99). “Period details, including language and especially fashion, provide much of the appeal in this clever adventure, which will make a nice fit for fans of Australian flapper Phryne Fisher in Kerry Greenwood’s popular series.”—*Booklist*. After her philandering husband died and left her penniless in Prohibition-era New York, Lola Woodby escaped

with her Swedish cook to the only place she could—her deceased husband’s secret love nest in the middle of Manhattan. Her only comforts were chocolate cake, dime store detective novels, and the occasional highball (okay, maybe not so occasional). But rent came due and Lola and Berta were forced to accept the first job that came their way, leading them to set up shop as private detectives operating out of Alfie’s cramped love nest. Now Lola and Berta are in danger of losing the business they’ve barely gotten off the ground—work is sparse. So when a society matron offers them a job, they take it although if it means sneaking into a slimming and exercise facility and consuming only water and health food until they can steal a diary from Grace Whiddle, a resident at the “health farm.” But barely a day in, Grace and her diary escape from the facility and Grace’s future mother-in-law is found murdered on the premises. Just out, the sequel: [Gin and Panic](#) (St Martins \$25.99)

Speaking of Kerry Greenwood there is a Miss Fisher movie in the works! And a release with Essie Davis on the cover of [A Question of Death](#) (\$16.95)

Charyn, Jerome. [Winter Warning](#) (Norton \$25.95). Isaac Sidel has slowly climbed the ranks from detective to police commissioner to mayor, letting his Glock lead the way throughout this outstanding and unpredictable series; in the final installment, he goes even further and becomes the president of the United States. But his hardboiled attitude remains.... The conclusion to a well-reviewed series.

Clines, Peter. [Paradox Bound](#) (Crown \$26). The hero and heroine of this lively, likable tale cover a lot of territory and zigzag through a lot of history as they drive a Model A Ford through secret passages in time. After Eli Teague encounters Harriet “Harry” Pritchard fleeing from a murderous faceless man, he joins her on a road quest to recover the lost American Dream. They are part of a loose swarm of travelers who can move forward or back in time in their various vehicles, pursued by the ubiquitous, indistinguishable, and apparently indestructible government agents who want to stamp out individual freedom. The menace is convincing, as is Eli and Harry’s friendly romance. Like Eli, readers will be surprised by revelations about some characters’ true identities, and they’ll be pleased to see how Clines connects details that looked like mere decorative flourishes. This adventure makes no attempt to be deep; it’s a superior time-passer, a wonderfully amusing yarn.

Copperman, EJ/Jeff Cohen. [The Question of the Absentee Father: An Asperger’s Mystery](#) (Midnight Ink \$14.99). I paged this open without paying attention to the subtitle so it took me some pages to realize that the voice of the narrator doesn’t stem from the fact that the author should be writing nonfiction, but rather that Samuel Hoenig, proprietor of Questions Answered, is a man with Asperger’s. It’s very well realized. So is Questions Answered which is a kind of inquiry agency that a man like Samuel can run, conceived by his wonderfully supportive mother and staffed with a Ms. Washburn who has requisite skills for dealing with the public. And with Samuel for whom we realize she has feelings—a question is, will he cope with having any for her? This 4th case begins with the arrival of an odd letter that asks him, does he know where his estranged father lives? I’d recommend reading this series in order; [buy them here](#).

Corbett, Ron. [Ragged Lake](#) (ECW \$14.95). While working one afternoon on the Northern Divide, a young tree-marker makes a grisly discovery: in a squatter's cabin near an old mill town, a family has been murdered. An army vet coming off a successful turn leading a task force that took down infamous biker criminals, Detective Frank Yakabuski arrives in Ragged Lake, a nearly abandoned village, to solve the family's murder. But no one is willing to talk. With a winter storm coming, Yakabuski sequesters the locals in a fishing lodge as he investigates the area with his two junior officers. Before long, he is fighting not only to solve the crime but also to stay alive and protect the few innocents left living in the desolate woods.

Delany, Vicki. [The Body on Baker Street](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Canadian Delany is just one of the many Berkley cozy paperback authors who migrated to Crooked Lane when 600 of 900+ such books were cut by Berkley. For you who were used to paying \$7.99 for them, this is a huge price jump. And in some cases the cozies written by those authors begin something new, as here where [Elementary, She Read](#) (\$15.99) introduced Delany's idea that a distant relative is running a Sherlock Holmes Bookshop adjoining a Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room in Massachusetts. Gemma is pushed into amateur sleuthing again when Renalta Van Markoff, a bestselling author, asks to hold a book signing in two days. Renalta's romance series, featuring Mrs. Desdemona Hudson as Holmes's lover, has a devoted following, and the event draws a huge crowd. But tragedy strikes when the flamboyant author is poisoned after drinking from a bottle of water Gemma supplied.... Indulge your craving for Sherlock instead with Bonnie MacBird's second Sherlock Adventure reviewed in Event Books, our October British Crime Club Pick.

Dowling, Gregory. [The Four Horsemen](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Deploying a sly sense of humor, Dowling successfully builds on the clever premise he introduced in 2016's [Ascension](#) (\$25.99), his first novel featuring 18th-century Venetian spy Alvis Marangon—the premise being that Dowling has uncovered a folder buried in the Venetian state archives recounting Alvis's exploits. Alvis divides his time between working as a tour guide, principally for English travelers, and serving as a confidential agent for the Missier Grande, the man responsible “for all matters of common criminality.” The Missier Grande charges Alvis with investigating the death of a fellow operative, Paolo Padoan, who apparently fell from his roof by accident. A few days earlier, Paolo reported his discovery of a mysterious secret society, the Four Horsemen, some of whose members may have belonged to noble families. Apart from looking into the possibility that Paolo was murdered, Alvis must tread carefully to avoid incurring the wrath of the Missier Grande's archrival, the Council of Ten, in particular the three Inquisitors on the council who are in charge of inquiries related to state security.

Driscoll, Sara. [Before It's Too Late](#) (Kensington 25). This is an interesting serial killer story with a wicked premise: a predator in the DC area has taken a young woman, a vet with PTSD and a dog, and buried her in a box, then sent the FBI a coded message. He wants to play a game with them; the FBI's role is to decipher the cues, find the grave save the girl. Their top cryptanalyst goes to work while Special Agent Meg Jennings and her K-9 Hawk scramble among false leads to find the woman. They almost succeed. Yet it's game on for the SK who repeats the pattern; most of

the clues are tied to the Civil War and local sites. Meg decides to break in Bureau protocol and bring in her sister, a genius at word games. It's a career risk, but lives are at risk too.... The Civil War clues are really well done and there's a lot of medical technology deployed as well as the K-9s.

Dueñas, Maria. [The Vineyard](#) (Atria \$26). A story of ambition, heartbreak, and desire set in the 1860s Mexico, Cuba, and Spain—perfect for fans of Kate Morton and Kristin Hannah. I admire this author and her earlier books and, being out of time to enjoy this one to review, I'm doing a November Booknews feature called Wine and Crime featuring Ellen Crosby's new vineyard mystery, Dueñas, Janet Hubbard's French wines trilogy, and more.

✚Dunmore, Helen. [Birdcage Walk](#) (Grove \$26). Dunmore's final novel, written before she knew she was dying but oddly prescient, is one to read slowly and savor. It's very rich in the landscape and history of Bristol, England, and the rise of 18th Century Radicals. And it “addresses the very issues with which all authors must grapple: What does one leave behind as a writer? What is the mark writers leave upon time?” The layered story begins with a man coming across the 18th-century headstone of Julia Elizabeth Fawkes, inscribed, “Her Words Remain Our Inheritance.” But no record of her writing survives. Dunmore then leads the reader back 200 years to the cover-up of a murder, and then to Lizzy Fawkes Tredevant—daughter of the aforementioned Julia, raised among radicals in the English city of Bristol during the tumultuous period of the French Revolution. The willful Lizzy has married John Diner Tredevant, an ambitious builder with a dark past, who is hostile to the new political ideas making their way to England from Paris, ideas he believes may destroy his business prospects. He also resents Lizzy's susceptibility to the influence of her mother and Julia's entourage of English radicals. As the revolution in France comes to its frenzied zenith, Tredevant's creditors balk, and his project for a terrace of houses in Bristol collapses. As her husband's debts overwhelm them, Lizzy's very life is threatened and John spirals into desperate acts. Dunmore says in her poignant Afterword that she wanted to depict characters “whose struggles and passions have been hidden from history.... But even so, did they not shape the future?” Which she has done, brilliantly.

Dunn, Matthew. [Act of Betrayal](#) (Harper \$26.99). I think of Dunn and Alex Berenson as authors of long-running, intelligent thrillers featuring agents with excellent skills and messy lives, lives not always on mission. Will Cochrane, “ruthless yet noble” former intelligence assassin, is on the Most Wanted List. A few years back, Cochrane was directed to assassinate a terrorist financier in Berlin by a Delta Force colonel who promptly disappeared. A CIA agent now investigating the case turns up poisoned, but when Will pokes his nose out he is immediately subject to an FBI manhunt. Is he a spy who will come in from the cold? It's smart to [order these](#) and read them I order.

Elias, Gerald. [Spring Break](#) (Severn \$28.99). The sixth in the Daniel Jacobus series finds the blind violin teacher taking a speaking engagement at a prestigious music conservatory that's hosting a symposium on Baroque music. When a member of the conservatory's faculty dies, the question is: Was it natural causes, or murder? Elias carries you into Jacobus' world of classical music within a rarified, cloistered conservatory. “As in Elias’

Silverstein, Seuss, and even Ogden Nash: “If I ever find myself holding a gecko.../ I’ll lecko.” Ages 6–up. Way up.

✦Harris, Joanne. [Different Class](#) (\$16). Or buy the [Signed UK edition](#) (\$26). Here’s a sociopathic young outcast at an antiquated prep school and the curmudgeonly Latin teacher who uncovers his dangerous secret. After thirty years at St. Oswald’s Grammar in North Yorkshire, England, Latin Master Roy Straitley has seen all kinds of boys come and go. Each class has its own clowns, rebels, and underdogs—all who hold a special place in the old teacher’s heart. But every so often there’s a boy who doesn’t quite fit the mold. A troublemaker. A boy with darkness inside. With insolvency and academic failure looming, a new headmaster arrives at the venerable school, bringing with him new technology, sharp suits, and even girls to the dusty corridors. But while Straitley does his sardonic best to resist these steps toward the future, a shadow from his past begins to stir again. “It’s Goodbye, Mr. Chips meets The Bad Seed. Joanne Harris’s latest novel has a killer elevator pitch and, what’s more, it delivers on its intriguing premise....[A] rich, dramatic tale that builds to a surprising conclusion.” —*The Washington Post*. The *NY Times* adds, “Harris delivers mischief and murder to an English prep school in *Different Class*, a delightfully malicious view of privileged students with overly active imaginations.”

✦Heley, Veronica. [Murder for Nothing](#) (Severn \$28.99). “The action of Heley’s enjoyable 18th mystery takes place almost entirely around the kitchen table of Ellie’s London home. At the start of the series, Ellie was the widow of an abusive husband; she’s now the wife of a retired clergyman and heads a charity organization that funds good works. Friends, relatives, and troublesome strangers who enter Ellie’s world are typically offered a place to stay, a good hot meal, or—at the very least—a nice cup of tea. Most recently, Ellie has let Angelica, a 21-year-old self-described party girl, have a room in her house. Then the doorbell starts ringing: in come delivery men, drug dealers, murderers, sexy baristas, a handsome money lender, a selfish newlywed, and a suffering policewoman, among many others. Although there is a murder—a body turns up in Ellie’s garden—and assorted other crimes, the most serious offense in Ellie’s world is often a lack of good manners. Heley’s strength is in creating unpleasant people that the reader loves to hate.”—*PW*. Ordered Upon Request

✦Henry, Veronica. [How to Find Love in a Bookshop](#) (Penguin \$25). For Emilia Nightingale, her father’s cozy bookshop in the Cotswolds isn’t just the family business: it’s always been her home. But after her father’s death, Emilia is faced with a pile of bills and paralyzing grief. Determined to save Nightingale Books from a predatory property developer, Emilia enlists the help of her staff, a few regular customers and her accountant best friend to revitalize the shop and rescue its bottom line. But it’s an uphill battle, and Emilia grows weary. She and her compatriots dig deep into the stacks of her beloved bookstore to unearth hope, the courage to move forward and even a bit of romance in this Henry’s US debut.

Holm, Chris. [Red Right Hand](#) (\$15.99). If the good guys can’t save you, call a bad guy. When viral video of an explosive terrorist attack on San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge reveals that a Federal witness long thought dead is still alive, the organization he’d agreed to testify against will stop at nothing to put him in the ground. FBI Special Agent Charlie Thompson is determined

to protect him, but her hands are tied; the FBI’s sole priority is catching the terrorists before they strike again. So Charlie calls the only person on the planet who can keep her witness safe: Michael Hendricks. Once a covert operative for the US military, Hendricks makes his living hitting hit men... or he did, until the very organization hunting Charlie’s witness—the Council—caught wind and targeted the people he loves. Teaming up with a young but determined tech whiz, Cameron, on the condition she leave him alone after the case, Hendricks reluctantly takes the job of finding a man desperate to stay hidden. Ouch! This tense thriller is up for a 2017 Anthony Award for Best Novel.

✦Huber, Anna Lee. [This Side of Murder](#) (Kensington \$15). Meet Verity Kent, a young woman dealing with the piercing grief of losing her soldier husband in the Great War and putting on her best face in the peace. It’s 1919 and she’s invited to the engagement party of her husband Sidney’s best man on Umbersea Island off the Channel port of Poole. Walter’s fiancée has invited a group of Sidney’s fellow officers to the party which is an unsettling mix. More unsettling is both someone’s knowledge that Verity worked for the Secret Service during the war, and a rumor that perhaps Sidney was engaged in treason. Then a murder occurs demonstrating that even more dark secrets are swarming over the manor house. It’s a kind of Agatha Christie spy-story with the promise of more of Verity to come.

Johansen, Iris. [Mind Game](#) (St Martins \$27.99). It’s really Eve Duncan #21. Impressive. It combines a rapid-fire plot with some mystical elements in a Highlands setting. Artist Jane MacGuire, Eve’s adopted daughter who has the ability to see actual events in her dreams, is in Gaelkar, Scotland, helping Lord MacDuff search for a treasure associated with Cira, a woman who lived in ancient times. Jane’s been hunting the treasure for years and dreams of Cira—but also of a woman in the present who’s being held captive. She eventually identifies the woman as Lisa, the 19-year-old sister of a man from her past....

Isaacson, Walter. [Leonardo Da Vinci](#) (SimonSchuster \$35). Isaacson moves from Steve Jobs to Jobs’ 15th Century analog. I’ve read the Introduction which alone is impressive. Paramount won the film rights following a competitive bidding war. The film, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, will be produced by DiCaprio and Jennifer Davisson. Read more from [Deadline](#), [Variety](#), [Entertainment Weekly](#), and [Cosmopolitan](#)!

Kaur, Ruupi. [The Sun and Her Flowers](#) (Andrews \$16.99). Longing for an oasis from the *sturm und drang* of daily life? Poetry as in this lovely illustrated volume, a perfect Gift Idea. Kaur is a true artist in every sense of the word; the drawings that accompany her poetry are often startling and brave. She cross-pollinates her poems in “Rising” with words of joy and excitement, and the uncertainty of moving forward in life. The beauty industry does not escape the simple honesty of this poet’s artistic reach. In the final chapter, ‘Blooming,’ Kaur writes, ‘it is a trillion-dollar industry that would collapse/ if we believed we were beautiful enough already.’ At her rawest, Kaur peers into our hearts and distills complicated and intertwined emotions into a perfectly simple sentence, much the way a magician with a hat full of individual scarves waves his magic wand and pulls out one long string of colored handkerchiefs linked together. Kaur guides readers toward a better version of themselves. She takes hopes, fears and yearnings and brings forth words of such

beauty and grace that readers are left stunned, shaking our heads and wondering, “How did she know I felt that way?” –Shahina Piyarali

Kellerman, Faye. [Killing Season](#) (Harper \$15.99). Faye draws on her time in New Mexico to set a story in quiet River Remez where four years ago, then 15-year-old Ellen Vicksburg went missing. Ellen was kind, studious, and universally liked. Her younger brother, Ben, could imagine nothing worse than never knowing what happened to her until, on the first anniversary of her death, he found her body in a shallow grave by the river’s edge. Ben, now sixteen, is committed to finding the monster who abducted and strangled Ellen. Police believe she was the victim of a psychopath known as the Demon. But Ben a math geek too smart for his high-school classes continues to pore over the evidence at the local police precinct, gaining an unlikely ally in his school’s popular new girl, Ro Majors. In his sister’s files, Ben’s analytical mind sees patterns that don’t fit, tiny threads that he adds to the clues from other similar unsolved murders. As the body count rises, a picture emerges of an adversary who is as cunning and methodical as he is twisted.

Kenda, Joe. *I Will Find You* (Center Street \$27). Detective Lt. Joe Kenda, star of *Homicide Hunter*, shares his deepest, darkest, and never before revealed case files from his 19 years as a homicide detective for Colorado Springs, where he did solve most of his cases.

Kiernan, Denise. [The Last Castle](#) (Touchstone \$28). The Biltmore House at Asheville, NC, has adapted remarkably well to become a tourist destination and self-sustaining at that. Its history which is also part of the Vanderbilt family’s, is presented here in a kind of biography of the house. Mark De Castrique set his knockout first Sam Blackman Mystery [Blackman’s Coffin](#) (\$14.95) in part on the grounds—and PP Press got into trouble for using an image of the house on the book jacket (since resolved). If you are able to arrange a visit to this beautiful part of the Smoky Mountains region, go for it! When I lived nearby you could just stroll up to the door but I doubt that gives you entry anymore. If you haven’t read the Blackman mysteries, see Event Books and our October Large Paperback Picks—they are filled with the region’s landmarks, history, and literary or other creative connections. I love them.

MacInnes, Marti. [Infinite Ground](#) (Melville \$25.99). “Stunning—a totally original, surreal mystery shot through with hints of the best of César Aira, Vladimir Nabokov, Angela Carter, and Julio Cortázar. Smart, clever, and honest. I doubt you’ve read anything quite like it.” —Jeff VanderMeer. On a sweltering summer night at a restaurant in an unnamed Latin American city, a man at a family dinner gets up from the table to go to the restroom ... and never comes back. He was acting normal, say family members. None of the waiters or other customers saw him leave. A semi-retired detective takes the case. The corporation for which the missing man worked seems to be a front for something else; the staff describes their colleague as having suffered alarming, shifting physical symptoms; a forensic scientist examining his office uncovers evidence of curious microorganisms. As the detective relives and retraces the man’s footsteps, the trail leads him away from the city sprawl and deep into the country’s rainforest interior ... where, “amidst the overwhelming horrors and wonders of the natural world, a chilling police procedural explodes into a

dislocating investigation....”

✉Malliet, GM. [Weycombe](#) (Midnight Ink \$24.99). Abandoning Vicar Max Tudor for the moment, Malliet writes a Trust No One novel of suspense set in the wealthy, gated village of Weycombe. Our narrator is American Jillian White, a woman who marvels that her dream of the secure, perfect up-scale village life has come true with her marriage to her titled husband Will. At first it was perfect, but lately cracks have appeared in its glossy surface—she can’t get pregnant. She begins to fill like Anne Boleyn. And then the murder of a local estate agent sets the village, and the police, abuzz. Worried there is a killer on the loose, lacking any allies, at perpetual war with her unyielding mother-in-law Rossalind, Jillian begins to piece together clues hidden in the various versions of truth provided by suspicious neighbors. Clever and amusing—and frightening. I debated this as the British Crime Club Pick for October but as I’ve said, this genre is overworked. Of course you could argue that so is Sherlock Holmes (see the actual Pick under MacBird) but there the unexpected can better flourish.

Mann, George. [Ghosts of Karnak](#) (Titan \$9.99). Mann has written Sherlock pastiches and Dr. Who adventures. Now he’s having fun with a Ghost series—but it’s not keyed to Halloween. A woman is found dead on the streets of New York, ancient Egyptian symbols carved into her flesh. A ghostly figure is seen floating over the rooftops of the city. And an expedition returns from Cairo to exhibit their finds at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Gabriel’s old friend and lover, Ginny Gray, was part of the expedition, but when Gabriel goes to meet the ship, Ginny is not on board. Ancient forces are stirring and the Ghost, Ginny and Gabriel’s friend Donovan are caught right in the middle...

[Ghosts of Empire](#) (\$14.95). In the aftermath of the events seen in *Ghosts of Karnak*, and with the political climate somewhat eased, Gabriel takes Ginny to London by airship to recuperate. But he isn’t counting on coming face-to-face with a man who claims to embody the spirit of Albion itself, sinister forces gathering in the London Underground and an old ally—British spy, Peter Rutherford—who could desperately use his help.

Mathews, Brendan. [The World of Tomorrow](#) (LittleBrown \$28). Three Irish brothers tumble through New York during an eventful two weeks in June 1939, in Mathews’ masterful debut novel. Francis, temporarily released to attend his father’s funeral from the prison where he was being held for distributing pornographic literature, is in possession of some IRA cash he bungled into in the wake of a bomb blast. Francis has conceived an audacious plan to make it to America posing as a Scottish aristocrat, and is turning a few American heiresses’ heads in the process. With him is his brother Michael, on leave from the seminary for the same funeral, who was shell-shocked by the explosion that netted Francis his money and has struck up a friendship with the ghost of Irish poet William Butler Yeats. Their older brother, Martin, is already in New York, where he is trying to make a living as a jazz musician, to the chagrin of his politically connected in-laws. Once reunited, the brothers are pursued by Cronin, a former IRA hit man who has retired to a farm on the Hudson River, and his menacing boss Gavigan, who concocts a sinister plan involving the visit of the British royalty to the World’s Fair being held at that time in New York. “Despite its length, this novel is a remarkably fast and exhilarating read, reminiscent of Michael Chabon’s

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay.”

McBride, James. [Five-Carat Soul](#) (Riverhead \$27). A Starred Review: Humming with invention and energy, the stories collected in McBride’s first fiction book since his National Book Award–winning *The Good Lord Bird* again affirm his storytelling gifts. In the opening story, “The Under Graham Railroad Box Car Set,” vintage toy dealer Leo Banskoff gets a lead on a priceless collectible: the long-lost train set made for Robert E. Lee’s son Graham by one of Smith & Wesson’s founders. In one of several surprises that upend his assumptions about value, Banskoff prepares for fierce negotiation but finds that the train’s impoverished, devoutly evangelical owner wants to give it away.... McBride adopts a variety of dictions without losing his own distinctively supple, musical voice; as identities shift, “truths” are challenged, and justice is done or, more often, subverted.

McCauley, Terrence. [A Conspiracy of Ravens](#) (Polis \$16). A clandestine spy team refuses to buckle under to the CIA, causing its members to find themselves under siege from all sides. When an overeager sheriff’s deputy interrupts the surveillance of a suspicious BMW by James Hicks, dean of the University, a top-secret group of international operatives, Hicks is forced to eliminate the two “probably Russian” occupants of the BMW in rescuing the dazed deputy. Unfortunately, his action leads to a meeting with Charles Demerest, head of Clandestine Services at the CIA. A collegial meeting quickly escalates into a showdown; Hicks is on the trail of a deadly terrorist group known as the Vanguard, and Demerest demands that he share all his evidence. Hicks’ resistance pushes Demerest to a bold decision: to take Hicks down. While there is little nuance here, “McCauley’s third account of the University boasts tech savvy, international settings, nail-biting action, and an arsenal of twists.”—*Kirkus*. Begin with [Sympathy for the Devil](#) and [A Murder of Crows](#) (\$15.95 each).

McCrumb, Sharyn. [Unquiet Grave](#) (Atria \$26). Lakin, West Virginia, 1930. Following a suicide attempt and consigned to a segregated insane asylum, attorney James P. D. Gardner finds himself under the care of Dr. James Boozer. Fresh out of medical school, Dr. Boozer is eager to try the new talking cure for insanity, and encourages his elderly patient to reminisce about his experiences as the first black attorney to practice law in 19th century West Virginia. Gardner’s most memorable case was the one in which he helped to defend a white man on trial for the murder of his young bride—a case that the prosecution based on the testimony of a ghost. Greenbrier, West Virginia, 1897. Beautiful, willful Zona Heaster has always lived in the mountains of West Virginia. Despite her mother’s misgivings, Zona marries Erasmus Trout Shue, the handsome blacksmith who has recently come to Greenbrier County. After weeks of silence from the newlyweds, riders come to the Heasters’ place to tell them that Zona has died from a fall, attributed to a recent illness. Mary Jane is determined to get justice for her daughter. A month after the funeral, she informs the county prosecutor that Zona’s ghost appeared to her, saying that she had been murdered. An autopsy, ordered by the reluctant prosecutor, confirms her claim. The Greenbrier Ghost is renowned in American folklore, but Sharyn McCrumb is the first author to look beneath the legend to unearth the facts using a century of genealogical material and other historical documents.

McGregor, John. [Reservoir 13](#) (Catapult \$16.99). From the UK, longlisted for the Man Booker Prize, the story of an English

village in the wake of a teenage girl’s disappearance. This isn’t a crime novel. It’s an experience of community and country life, beautiful to read if in the end, resolutionless. “To read John McGregor’s novel *Reservoir 13* is to read a thousand tiny poems in quick succession,” says David Enyeart. “In fragments and glimpses of a small village in England, McGregor brilliantly contrasts the urgency of life with the banality of living.”

Mejia, Mindy. [Everything You Want Me to Be](#) (\$16). Hattie Hoffman has spent her whole life playing many parts: the good student, the good daughter, the good girlfriend. But Hattie wants something more, something bigger, and ultimately something that turns out to be exceedingly dangerous. When she’s found brutally stabbed to death, the tragedy rips right through the fabric of her small-town community. “Readers drawn to this compelling psychological thriller because of its shared elements with Gillian Flynn’s *Gone Girl* (2012) will be pleasantly surprised to discover that Mejia’s confident storytelling pulls those themes into an altogether different exploration of manipulation and identity.” — *Booklist* Starred Review

Moore, Alison. [The Lighthouse](#) (Biblio \$14.95) follows Futh (his first name is rarely, if ever, mentioned) on the walking tour, tracing a path along the Rhine that begins and ends at a hotel run by Ester and Bernard. An abusive and jealous husband, Bernard erroneously assumes Ester has had a fling with Futh, sending him into a rage that looms over the story. Futh, unaware of the trouble brewing at the hotel, is awash in memory as he walks. *The Lighthouse* alternates between chapters that focus on Futh and the growing tension between Ester and Bernard at the hotel, which he will walk right into upon his return. That tension generates more propulsion than is associated with Sebald’s work, though they are equally dreamy and interested in memory. Moore’s triumph is that she manages to thread the needle, creating a haunting, elegiac book that is very hard to put down.

Mundy, Liza. [Code Girls](#) (Little Brown \$27.99). For those who’ve devoured the Bletchley Park stories, here’s the story of an American army of female cryptographers who work played a crucial role in the Allied victory. Recruited by the Army and Navy from elite colleges and small towns, these women moved to DC and learned the meticulous work involved in breaking codes. A strict vow of secrecy nearly erased their efforts from history but Mundy has interviewed the surviving women and dug into archives to rescue a forgotten piece of history.

Murphy, Devin. [The Boat Runner](#) (Harper \$15.99). WWII is a never-ending source of drama and conflicts and, as Murphy eloquently illustrates in this debut, of wrenching moral dilemmas. The Dutch were in a geographically perilous position. The story begins in the summer of 1939 when fourteen-year-old Jacob Koopman and his older brother, Edwin, enjoy lives of prosperity and quiet contentment. Many of the residents in their small Dutch town near the mouth of the Ems River have some connection to the Koopman light-bulb factory; the family is held in high esteem. Now and then, Jacob and Edwin help their lone-wolf Uncle Martin on his fishing boat in the North Sea, where German ships have become a common sight. But conflict still seems unthinkable, even as the boys’ father naively sends his sons to a Hitler Youth Camp in an effort to secure German business for the factory. Then war breaks out and Jacob’s world is thrown into chaos. Before long he loses nearly everyone and, never having been

brave, has yet to find himself. As he travels through the forests of France, the stormy beaches of England, and deep within the secret missions of the German Navy, he is eventually confronted with the moral dilemma that will change his life—and his life’s mission—forever. *The Boat Runner* should be read with Mark Sullivan’s remarkable bestseller [Beneath a Scarlet Sky](#) (\$14.95 Signed) where a young Italian boy is thrown into the conflict, rescues Jews, and survives to live a life totally altered by war.

Olsen, Ella Joy. [Where the Sweet Bird Sings](#) (Kensington \$15). A year after the death of her young son, Emma Hazelton is still deep in her grief. She and her husband, Noah, were blindsided when their Joey was diagnosed in infancy with Canavan disease, a rare genetic disorder. Then, Emma’s grandfather dies, too. As she helps her mother clean his house, Emma finds her great-grandparents’ wedding picture, which unlocks Emma’s curiosity about how she could have been a Canavan carrier. As far as she knows, she has no Jewish ancestors, and the disease primarily occurs when both parents have Ashkenazi Jewish heritage. As her life spirals out of control, Emma pushes Noah and her mother away. Avoiding thoughts about the future, she focuses solely on the past and the mystery of who her grandfather really was. Can she unlock the secrets of her ancestors before she irreversibly damages all her relationships? Olsen has created an absorbing novel. Emma’s grief is vivid, and her quest to find out more about herself is universal. Avid genealogists are sure to enjoy reading about Emma’s research, and even novices will be intrigued by the way Olsen slowly unfolds the story, connecting events from Emma’s past with the fraught relationships of her present. A charming, interesting story, *Where the Sweet Bird Sings* is an excellent blend of history, mystery, loss and familial connection. —Jessica Howard

Pembrey, Daniel. [Night Market](#) (No Exit \$14.95). Like Amsterdam cop Henk van der Pol’s first case, [The Harbour Master](#) (\$14.95), this is a very dark but atmospheric book. Awarding a Star, one reviewer writes, Hen is “A complex protagonist, who can’t always be taken at his word, [which] distinguishes Pembrey’s bleak, convoluted sequel. In the first of three sections, van der Pol goes undercover in Driebergen to try to unmask the crooked cop who leaked information about an operation to take down highly placed child abusers. Part two, is set mainly in the gloomy Amsterdam docklands, where crime and respectability are ‘close neighbors.’ Part three turns van der Pol’s whole narrative upside down when his wife, Petra, makes him realize that his personal vendetta against Amsterdam police commissioner Joost van Erven is really about himself, not Joost. Pembrey excels at revealing the psychological price police pay for investigating child pornography while sparing the reader the sordid details. That extreme right-wing elements have a hand in much of the villainy makes this outing especially timely.” I’m always interested in what makes a critic award a Star, signaling a book way above the ordinary. I don’t always agree, but you should be able to find a variety of opinions in the Booknews.

Perry, Sarah. [After the Eclipse](#) (Houghton \$27). True crime buffs may have heard of Perry: when she was 12, her mother, Crystal, was murdered in their home in rural Maine, outside Perry’s bedroom. Her riveting memoir navigates the absences, silences, and solitudes that follow trauma. Perry wonderfully evokes her mother even as she struggles to unravel the mystery of her death. In the 12 years between Crystal’s murder and the killer’s conviction,

Perry tried to move forward, even as she faced police interrogations and scrutiny from officers who believed she remembered more from the night than she was telling. “Perry reveals a family shattered in the wake of tragedy. She was shuttled among relatives and friends, living in Texas and then in Maine again, where she worried the killer still lived, haunting her small-town streets. Perry vividly portrays her mother, and she introduces the troubled men in her mother’s life. Other men and women move in this circle, all with secrets of their own, such as Teresa, Tom’s new girlfriend. Perry’s memoir is a testament to one child’s ability to survive the unspeakable, one woman’s ability to recapture what was lost, and a fascinating small-town mystery with breathtaking revelations at the end.”—PW Starred Review

Ragan, TR. [Her Last Day](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). Unread by me but given this Starred Review: “Sacramento, California, PI Jessie Cole, the heroine of this exciting, intricately plotted series launch from Ragan, was drawn to detective work after her sister, Sophie, disappeared one night a decade earlier. Crime reporter Ben Morrison, who has suffered for years from amnesia caused by a car accident, approaches Jessie to do a series of articles focusing on the search for the still-missing Sophie. By focusing on Sophie’s disappearance anew, Jessie hopes to uncover something overlooked in the original investigation. Meanwhile, Jessie has full responsibility for her 14-year-old niece; is facing charges for shooting a stalker she was following on one of her cases; and has to deal with her fear of rejection when a former lover, police detective Colin Grayson, reappears. Colin, she discovers, is pursuing the Heartless Killer, a serial murderer who in the past six years has claimed at least 13 victims. As old wounds are reopened for both Ben and Jessie, the tense plot builds to a startling and satisfying resolution.”

✦Ripley, Mike. [Mr. Champion’s Abdication](#) (Severn \$28.99). A blast from the past near and far. I’ve always been an Albert Champion fan, reading and rereading Margery Allingham’s Golden Age mysteries about the enigmatic gentleman sleuth. Here we have an elderly Mr. Champion. His wife is still active in the airline industry. His son Rupert and wife are actors and have been cast in a dramatized documentary about the Abdication of Edward VII as the King and Mrs. Simpson. Mr. C is serving as the technical adviser. They are all at Heronhoe Hall, the Suffolk manor house where Edward and Mrs. Simpson held weekend trysts in 1936. Legend has it that, after marrying Mrs. Simpson in 1937, Edward sent an expensive present to the then-owner of Heronhoe. A representative of the crown is worried that Mr. C is using the movie as pretext to look for this item. But of course, it’s someone else engaged in the treasure hunt. Ripley makes the most of a clever mystery plot that’s not centered on a murder. Ordered Upon Request.

Rothfuss, Patrick. [The Name of the Wind 10th Anniversary Deluxe Edition](#) (DAW \$40). Rothfuss writes, “We have illustrations by the marvelous Dan Dos Santos and new maps (one a world map) by friend and frequent artistic collaborator Nate Taylor, who has also graciously agreed to provide illustrations in the supplementary materials here at the end of the book. What materials are those, you might ask? Well, for those of you who want to go deep, deep down the obsessive, geeky rabbit-hole of my world building, we have appendices which provide information about the history of the world, the calendar, and my multifarious currency systems. There’s a pronunciation guide, too. For those of

you who are into that sort of thing . . .” I don’t know if Rothfuss has signed this, but the illustrations etc. make this a gift for his many fans.

Sanders, Lauren. [The Book of Love and Hate](#) (Akashic \$15.95). Jennifer Baron is a failed Olympic speed skater now running her family’s foundation and trying to stay sober, when her billionaire father disappears. She travels to Israel in search of him, becoming recklessly entangled in his illegal dealings and with his enigmatic lover, Gila, a former Mossad agent gone bad. Along the way, she is drawn into the shadow worlds of the Promised Land, where career-jockeying government agents, fake Orthodox Jews, queer Palestinians on the run, and other displaced wanderers scramble to find home amid the endless cycles of war, occupation, and heartbreak. *The Book of Love and Hate* is an unraveling of white-collar crime and its motivations. It’s a testament to the magnificent oblivion of love and a shattering of inherited trauma, both personal and historical.

Schmidt, Sarah. [See What I Have Done](#) (Grove \$26). “A bloody good read . . . A taut, lyrical account of the destruction of the Borden family, both through ax murder and subtler means . . . Schmidt inhabits each of her narrators with great skill, channeling their anxieties, their viciousness, with what comes across as (frighteningly) intuitive ease. Everything about Schmidt’s novel is hauntingly, beautifully off. It’s a creepy and penetrating work, even for a book about Lizzie Borden.” —*USA Today*. This novel has had lots of press, favorable, that makes me, who hasn’t read it, wonder how many readers and reviewers who are not seasoned mystery buffs have heard of Lizzie Borden and her (purported) crimes before. I haven’t been interested in revisiting it since I read Walter Satterthwait’s *Miss Lizzie*.

Simenon, Georges. [Maigret and the Man on the Bench](#); [The Man Who Watched the Trains](#) (Penguin \$13 each). More reprints of cases worked by the famous and prolific French detective. This has been a major publishing commitment by Penguin. [View them all here](#).

Smith, Lachlan. [Wolf’s Revenge](#) (Grove \$25). Unread by Patrick or me as yet. A Starred Review says, “Operating at the top of his game, Smith is as good as anyone writing today at combining a mystery with the overlay of existential dread that noir fans relish.” Attorney-detective Leo Maxwell seeks an exit strategy from his family’s deepening entanglement with a ruthless prison-based gang. Caught between the criminals and the FBI, Leo charts his own path in defending a young woman who was manipulated into brazenly murdering a member of the Aryan Brotherhood in San Francisco’s Tenderloin neighborhood. When the consequences strike heartbreakingly close to home, Leo, his brother Teddy, and the rest of the family are forced into a winner-takes-all confrontation with men who don’t care how many innocents they harm in achieving their goals. As Leo’s world collapses, long-held secrets are revealed, transforming his perspective on the aftermath of the tragedy that derailed his childhood and fractured his family twenty-one years ago.

Smith, Wilbur. [The Tiger’s Prey](#) (Harper \$28.99). I mention this new Courtney Family series entry because I’m a big fan of Tom Harper who is writing with Smith. This swashbuckler features seafaring adventurer Tom Courtney, one of master mariner Sir Hal’s four sons and a bitter rival to one, and a voyage into the

unknown that is the India of the Company. It all propels Tom’s family towards its future (in South Africa).

Stanley, Michael. [Dying to Live](#) (St Martins \$27.99). David Bengu, in shape and temperament much like the hippopotamus that inspired his nickname of Kubu, is an assistant superintendent in the Botswana CID. But let’s not forget that the hippo is one of Africa’s most dangerous beasts. Plenty of malefactors have learned that Kubu is as fearsome. Headquartered in Gaborone, his cases can take him around Botswana and fascinatingly, into the Kalahari desert which is home territory to the Bushman. An earlier case made fans of this winning series aware of the Bushman culture. And here is a new case that begins when the body of a Bushman is autopsied by Ian McGregor, the pathologist for the Botswana Police Service. Ian discovers some striking anomalies when he performs an autopsy—the victim appeared to be unusually old for a man of his culture, but his youthful organs do not match his exterior. A bullet found inside him has no visible surface point of entry. Soon afterward, the corpse is stolen from the morgue, strongly suggesting that it held secrets someone wanted kept hidden. Clues are hard to come by, but Kubu learns that Heiseb had recently met with anthropologist Christopher Collins, a researcher from the University of Minnesota. Collins, who has gone missing, was studying the Bushmen’s oral traditions, which included a mode of storytelling in which the narrator pretends to have been present at events that predated his birth. What if instead Heiseb had witnessed them? Where does Kubu go from there? We recommend you [order the entire Kubu series](#).

Sundstol, Vidar. [Devil’s Wedding Ring](#) (Trice \$25.95). Ancient myth and contemporary detection collide in a thriller set in Norway’s Telemark region, the author’s own home. After 30 years in Florida, Norwegian PI Max Fjellanger returns to his homeland for the funeral of Knut Abrahamsen, once his friend and fellow sheriff’s deputy who, supposedly committed suicide. But Max has questions and one of them has to do with an unsolved case from thirty years before. A case that ended his career. With the help of a single mom librarian he finds links to the more recent disappearance of a young woman. Sundstol has written a suspenseful tale of strange cults, ancient rituals and superstitions, all centered on the legends surrounding a 13th century stave church and its wooden statue of Saint Nikuls. It comes to a thrilling climax on the dreaded Midsummer’s Eve.

✶Tolkien, Simon. [No Man’s Land](#) (\$17). Inspired by the real-life experiences of his grandfather, J. R. R. Tolkien, during World War I, Simon Tolkien delivers “a perfectly rendered novel rife with class tension, period detail, and stirring action, ranging from the sharply divided society of northern England to the trenches of the Somme. Tolkien brings to the fore the social injustice, poverty and attrition of war in early 20th-century England. The scenes underground in the mines of Scarsdale are every bit as shocking as the harrowing descriptions of trench warfare when Adam and his comrades are repeatedly sent over the top.” —*Sunday Express*

Tucker, James. [Next of Kin](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). NYPD Detective Buddy Lock receives a call from attorney Ray Sawyer, who’s representing 10-year-old Ben Brook, a member of a wealthy Manhattan family. Three days earlier, on New Year’s Eve, while the Brook families were gathered at their camp in the Adirondacks, someone had slaughtered Ben’s parents and his sister. Ben managed to activate access to a hidden tunnel, escape,

and call 911. Sawyer, who's now Ben's guardian, begs Buddy to help find the killer. Buddy is reluctant for fear work will jeopardize his relationship with new lover Mei Adams as it had in his past, but the crime scene convinces him Ben is in real danger. Another murder proves him right, as does further decimation of the Brookses. It comes down to solid detecting and a surprise ending in a debut one can hope leads to a series.

✚Upson, Nicola. [Nine Lessons](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). A series of murders inspired by the ghost stories of English author M.R. James challenges Scotland Yard's Det. Chief Inspector Archie Penrose in Upton's superlative seventh outing for Penrose and his close friend and investigative assistant, real-life mystery author Josephine Tey. Tey is in Cambridge, a town gripped by fear and suspicion as a serial rapist stalks the streets, and in the shadow of King's College Chapel, Detective Chief Inspector Archie Penrose faces some of the most horrific and audacious murders of his career. The investigation takes the reader on a journey from 1930s Cambridge to the bleak and desolate Suffolk coast—a journey which will ultimately leave Archie's and Josephine's lives changed forever. "Upson successfully incorporates moving and complex interpersonal conflicts involving her main characters into an intricate, credible whodunit story line."—*PW* Starred Review

Volker, Christine. [Venetian Blood](#) (She Writes Press \$16.95). I recommend this only to those who relish loving descriptions of Venice. It's 1992 and Anna Lucia Lottol, an American visiting Venice to escape a failing, childless marriage, is dragged into the police station and interrogated about a brutal murder. Fearful of foreign justice, she lies to police about knowing the dead man, a money-laundering count who had threatened her after seducing her. A US Treasury Department employee talented in mathematics and science, she struggles in an irrational city filled with illusions. For someone who is proud of her logical mind, Anna is emotionally messy and begins by lying to the police on flimsy grounds.

Wendelboe, CM. [Hunting the Five Point Killer](#) (Midnight Ink \$15.99). Retired detective Arn Anderson never thought he'd be broke enough to take on a cold murder case. Or desperate enough to team up with a TV reporter. Or pathetic enough to go back to his rundown childhood home after he swore he'd left Cheyenne for good. But here he is, on the tenth anniversary of a series of unsolved murders, hunting a serial killer who also appears to have come out of retirement.

HORRORS! SCARY, WICKED, WITCHY STUFF

✚Aaronovitch, Ben. [The Furthest Station](#) (Gollancz \$32). What could be better for our **October SciFi Club Pick** than a ghost story?

Abraham, Brad. [Magicians Impossible](#) (Forge \$25.99). The book follows twenty-something bartender Jason Bishop, whose world is completely flipped upside down after his estranged father's apparent suicide — and even more unsettled after he learns of the shadowy cabal of witches and warlocks actually behind his death, and of the secret magical powers he must use to fight them.

✚Beaton, MC. [The Witches' Tree](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Agatha Raisin #28. See New Books for a review of his Agatha Christie-style village mystery of great promise but the usual Beaton execution.

Crawford, Isis. [A Catered Costume Party](#) (Kensington \$25).

When sisters Bernie and Libby Simmons agree to cater an extravagant Halloween party in their little upstate New York town of Longely, they figured a ghost or two and a blood curdling scream might be part of the menu, but they never expected to be haunted by the deadly specter of murder

Ellison, JT, ed. [Stories from the Gothic South](#) (Two Tales Press \$13.99). Spooky stories. In this eclectic and impressive collection, 13 novelists were asked to build their tales around the photo of a dilapidated mansion. They were given two requirements—the house must appear in the story, and it should be a Southern Gothic tale. And they delivered. From childish demons to a mad novelist, from the Mississippi delta to the Appalachians, this collection explores what happens when secrets that lie beneath the dust are disturbed—and our worst nightmares begin. Watch out... darkness lurks behind every corner, especially dead ends. Contributors include: Jeff Abbott, David Bell, Laura Benedict, Patti Callahan Henry, Dana Chamblee Carpenter, Paige Crutcher, Helen Ellis, J.T. Ellison, Ariel Lawhon, Lisa Morton, Bryon Quertermous, Amanda Stevens, and Dave White.

Hart, Carolyn G. [Ghost on the Case](#) (Penguin \$26). Publishes in October. Signed here on November 19. A new case for Bailey Ruth. See Signed Books.

Hill, Joe. Hill, Joe. [Strange Weather](#) (Harper \$27.99). "Hill's four short novels expose the individual and societal pressures that motivate our sometimes fateful decisions. Don't overlook his 2008 [20th Century Ghosts](#) (\$14.99), a collection of short fiction

Holt, Catherine. [Midnight Reynolds](#) (Whitman \$14.99). When 12-year-old misfit Midnight Reynolds takes a job helping out eccentric Miss Appleby in the mansion down the street, she never imagined her work would involve battling ghosts. But as it turns out, Midnight and her new employer have quite a bit in common—they were both born on Halloween and have the power to see spirits of the dead. But when Midnight learns more about the history of her town, she starts to wonder if she's fighting on the right side. Ages 9-2.

Jones, Stephen, ed. [In the Footsteps of Dracula](#) (Pegasus \$29.95). Jones has assembled nearly 700 pages of Tales of the Undead Count from Bram Stoker and Ramsay Campbell to modern masters like Christopher Fowler, Charlene Harris, Brian Lumley, Michael Marshall Smith, and F. Paul Wilson. This is a lovely, leisurely browsing collection with thoughtful introductions to each story by Jones. A perfect Gift, too. Pairs brilliantly with Klingner's Annotated Dracula, below.

King, Stephen and Owen. [Sleeping Beauties](#) (Scribner \$32.50). In a future so real and near it might be now, something happens when women go to sleep: they become shrouded in a cocoon-like gauze. If they are awakened, if the gauze wrapping their bodies is disturbed or violated, the women become feral and spectacularly violent. And while they sleep they go to another place, a better place, where harmony prevails and conflict is rare. One woman, the mysterious "Eve Black," is immune to the blessing or curse of the sleeping disease. Is Eve a medical anomaly to be studied? Or is she a demon who must be slain? How will men get along without women? Don't overlook the movie tie-in edition of Stephen's [It](#) (\$19.99).

Kingsbury, Kate. [Doom with a View: A Merry Ghost Mystery](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). With the arrival of six senior reading group members at the Merry Ghost Inn, the long-awaited Grand Opening week has finally begun for Melanie West and her grandmother, Liza. All is well with the Oregon coast-side B&B until Melanie's dog, Max, finds the dead body of one of their guests. Everyone at the inn immediately falls under suspicion, including the innkeepers themselves. Melanie and Liza are not sure who they can trust. To make matters worse, the curmudgeonly town detective wants them to steer clear of the investigation, but doesn't seem too inspired to solve the case in a timely fashion himself. To clear their own names and to avoid the blight on the inn's reputation that yet another dead body will bring, Melanie and Liza dive headlong into the murder investigation with a little help from their chuckling ghost.

Klinger, Leslie S. [Frankenstein](#) (Norton \$35 Signed). Featuring over 200 illustrations and nearly 1,000 annotations, an introduction by Guillermo del Toro and an afterword by Anne K. Mellor, this sumptuous volume recaptures Shelley's early nineteenth-century world with historical precision and imaginative breadth, tracing the social and political roots of the author's revolutionary brand of Romanticism. Braiding together decades of scholarship with his own keen insights, Klinger recounts Frankenstein's indelible contributions to the realms of science fiction, feminist theory, and modern intellectual history—not to mention film history and popular culture. The result of Klinger's exhaustive research is a multifaceted portrait of one of Western literature's most divinely gifted prodigies, a young novelist who defied her era's restrictions on female ambitions by independently supporting herself and her children as a writer and editor. Born in a world of men in the midst of a political and an emerging industrial revolution, Shelley crafted a horror story that, beyond its incisive commentary on her own milieu, is widely recognized as the first work of science fiction. Klinger will also sign copies of [The New Annotated Dracula](#) (\$39/95); [The New Annotated HP Lovecraft](#) (\$39.95), more perfect treasures and Gift Ideas.

Morgan, Louise. [A Secret History of Witches](#) (Redhook \$25). This is not horror but a nearly romantic entry into WWII literature, not military fiction but more in the spirit of those stories about how women coped. Here, witches. Brittany, 1821. After Grand-mere Ursule gives her life to save her family, their magic seems to die with her. Even so, the Orchires fight to keep the old ways alive, practicing half-remembered spells and arcane rites in hopes of a revival. And when their youngest daughter comes of age, magic flows anew. The lineage continues, though new generations struggle not only to master their power, but also to keep it hidden. But when World War II looms on England's horizon, magic is needed more urgently than ever....

✎Morton, Mandy. [Cat Among the Pumpkins](#) (St Martins \$24.99). As All Hallows' Eve approaches, Hettie Bagshot of The No. 2 Feline Detective Agency has more than just a ghost and warlock tart on her plate. Along with her faithful sidekick, Tilly, the tabby duo set out to investigate an old crime and a spate of new murders. Why is Mavis Spitforce dressed as a pumpkin? Can Irene Peggle-drip really talk to cats from the spirit world? Did Milky Myers murder his family on Halloween, longer ago than anyone can remember? As the November fog closes in, where will the killer strike next? This is a very eccentric British series, mystery #2.

Norton, Lisa/ Ellen Datlow, eds. [Haunted Nights](#) (Knopf \$16.95). Sixteen never-before-published chilling tales that explore every aspect of our darkest holiday, Halloween, co-edited by Ellen Datlow, one of the most successful and respected genre editors, and Lisa Morton, a leading authority on Halloween. In addition to stories about scheming jack-o'-lanterns, vengeful ghosts, otherworldly changelings, disturbingly realistic haunted attractions, masks that cover terrifying faces, murderous urban legends, parties gone bad, cult Halloween movies, and trick or treating in the future, *Haunted Nights* also offers terrifying and mind-bending explorations of related holidays like All Souls' Day, Dia de los Muertos, and Devil's Night. Stellar authors include Armstrong, Maberry, and Nix.

Sapkowski, Andrzej. [The Last Wish](#) (Orbit \$15.99). More sci-fi/adventure but still a powerful ride during the scary season. "The *Last Wish* is a great collection of short stories centered around a witcher, Geralt, a rare sorcerous breed who hunts down the monstrous but is feared by the innocent. With a wondrous mix of Eastern European folklore and myth, beautiful princesses, mischievous demons and where all is not as it seems, *The Last Wish* is a great read—perfect for dipping into or just reading cover to cover."

✎Underdown, Beth. [The Witchfinder's Sister Signed](#) (Penguin \$30). There are no actual witches here, but rather a 17th Century hunt after imagined ones led by one of those Puritans who were far scarier than an actual demon. This is an excellent historical novel, richly textured. I recommend it alongside Deborah Harkness' bestseller [The Discovery of Witches](#) (\$17) which too is not Halloween reading per se but an exploration of ideas, legends, an even past truths.

And from John Charles, some paperback tricks and treats

Aarons, Kathy. [Behind Chocolate Bars](#) (Berkley \$7.99). While preparing for the annual West Riverdale Halloween Fair, business partners Michelle and Erica find themselves trick-or-treating for the truth as they try to prove the innocence of one of Erica's comic-book club members when he is accused of murder.

Andrews, Donna. [Lord of the Wings](#) (\$7.99). Reluctantly volunteering her home after a haunted house exhibit burns down during her town's over-the-top Halloween festival activities, Meg Langslow is challenged to save the day upon discovering a real murder victim among the creepy displays.

✎Beaton, M.C. [Death of a Witch](#) (\$8). Suspicious of a local woman who has been charming the villagers and using questionable potions, Scottish police officer Hamish Macbeth faces strong opposition from the woman's supporters and becomes romantically involved with a forensics expert.

Childs, Laura. [Bedeviled Eggs](#) (Penguin \$7.99). While the ladies of the Cackleberry Club café prepare for Halloween by baking pumpkin bread and carving jack-o'-lanterns, a killer terrorizes the townspeople of Kindred and it's up to widows Suzanne, Toni and Petra to beat him at his own game.

Finch, Kay. [The Black Cat Sees His Shadow](#) (Berkley \$7.99). 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.

Goodwin, Carol. [The Widow's House](#) (HarperCollins \$15.99). Moving to a Hudson River valley community in hopes of revitalizing their literary ambitions and marriage, Jess and Clare Martin are confronted by a menacing force that controls the estate they live and work at.

LeFanu, J. Sheridan. [Best Ghost Stories](#) (\$14.95). Joseph Sheridan LeFanu (1814–1873) is regarded by many critics as the greatest master of the English ghost story. A product of the decaying Anglo-Irish culture of the early and middle nineteenth century, he sums up in his work better than any of his contemporaries the fears and dreads that may haunt the sensitive individual. The reasons for his preeminence are many. He was a remarkable craftsman, whose work has been admired by critics as varied as V. S. Pritchett and H. P. Lovecraft, Henry James and M. R. James. More imaginative and more perceptive than his contemporaries who worked in the same form, he achieved depths and dimensions of terror that still remain otherwise unexplored. And although he was Victorian in his dates, he was in many respects un-Victorian in his writing: his ideas looked both backward to the great supernatural tradition of Romantic fiction and forward to the modern age.

Levin, Ira. [Rosemary's Baby](#) (\$15.95). In this new Fiftieth Anniversary edition of the classic masterpiece of spellbinding suspense, evil wears the most innocent face of all... Witchcraft and terror await Rosemary and Guy Woodhouse when they move into the ominous Bramford apartment house.

Shelton, Paige. [A Killer Maize](#) (Penguin \$7.99). When a Ferris wheel operator at the Swayton County Fall Festival is murdered and her ex-husband might be involved, Becca Robbins, who is selling her farm-made jams and preserves, must cut through the layers of lies, secrets and superstition to find the truth.

OUR OCTOBER SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Cussler, Clive. [Odessa Sea](#) (\$9.99) Dirk Pitt #24. Dirk Pitt and his NUMA team race to prevent a global war linked to the 1917 effort to preserve the Romanov Empire, the loss of a Cold War bomber's deadly cargo, mysterious Black Sea deaths and modern-day nuclear materials smugglers. *PW* ended their review with "The pages whip by as the characters, at least the good guys, survive one deadly encounter after another, and the bad guys get their comeuppances. Readers will anxiously await Dirk's next adventure."

Doiron, Paul. [The Poacher's Son](#) (\$9.99) Mike Bowditch #1 First time in this format. After his hard-drinking poacher father becomes the prime suspect in the murder of a beloved local cop, Mike Bowditch is one of the few who believes the violent womanizer didn't do it and, with the help of a retired pilot, journeys deep into the Maine wilderness to find his fugitive kin—and the real killer. *Kirkus* said "C.J. Box goes East. Like Box, Doiron will have his hands full trying to top his accomplished debut."

Gardner, Lisa. [Right Behind You](#) (\$9.99) After a double murder begins a shooting spree through the wilds of Oregon, Quincy and Rainie's main suspect is the older brother of the 13-year-old orphan they plan to adopt. *PW* loved this saying "Bestseller Gardner's edge-of-your-seat thriller brings back law-enforcement couple Pierce Quincy and Rainie Conner, last seen in 2008's *Say Goodbye*. Devilishly clever twists propel Gardner's tale of family bonds fractured, mended, and sometimes destroyed."

Hart, Carolyn G. [Ghost Times Two](#) (\$7.99) Bailey Ruth Raeburn #7. Assigned to guide the spirit of a deceased young man to the next life, Bailey Ruth Raeburn assists her charge in his efforts to prove the innocence of his girlfriend, who has been falsely accused of murdering a manipulative senior partner. *PW* concluded with "Replete with relatable characters, this cleverly plotted tale will keep readers guessing until the end."

Hillerman, Anne. [Song of the Lion](#) (\$9.99) Bernie Manuelito #3. While investigating a car bomb meant for a mediator for a development planned at the Grand Canyon, tribal police officers Manuelito, Chee, and their mentor Lieutenant Leaphorn piece together clues that link the bombing to a cold case and a very patient killer with a long-range plot for revenge. *LJ* said "Fans of Leaphorn, Chee, and Manuelito, characters created by the author's father, Tony Hillerman, will savor this multilayered story of suspense, with its background of contemporary environmental vs. development issues."

Kava, Alex. [Reckless Creed](#) (\$9.99) Ryder Creed #3. Ex-Marine Ryder Creed, his K9 search-and-rescue dogs and FBI agent Maggie O'Dell team up for a dire and mysterious case involving two suspicious suicides and a lake where a huge flock of snow geese is found dead. *PW* ended with "Kava does a fine job depicting the work of the search-and-rescue canines."

Kellerman, Jonathan. [Heartbreak Hotel](#) (\$9.99) Alex Delaware #32. Ninety-nine-year-old Thalia Mars asks Alex Delaware for his opinion on criminal behavior but dies before their second session, leading Alex and Milo Sturgis to investigate whether her unusual interests had anything to do with her sudden death.

Novak, Brenda. [Hello Again](#) (\$7.99) Evelyn Talbot #2. A psychiatrist at a maximum-security prison in remote Alaska, Evelyn Talbot discovers her new client is not the ice pick killer when a new murder occurs on the outside that is linked to her past and to her high school boyfriend Jasper Moore who tortured her and left her for dead when she was 16. Readers who like their scary suspense stories served up with a soupçon of romantic sizzle will definitely want to check out Novak's chilling new series.

Penny, Louise. [The Brutal Telling](#) (\$9.99) Gamache #5 Reprint. A stranger is found murdered in the village bistro and antiques store and all clues point to bistro owner Olivier being the killer. Once again, Chief Inspector Gamache and his team are called in to strip back layers of lies, exposing both treasures and rancid secrets long buried—but not forgotten. *PW* "Readers keen for another glimpse into the life of Three Pines will be well rewarded."

Swanson, Denise. [Dead in the Water](#) (Sourcebooks \$7.99) Welcome to Scumble River #1. After councilman Zeke Lyons appears to have died when a tornado hits her hometown of Scumble River, Sky Denison-Boyd becomes worried when her police chief husband is reported missing while investigating suspicious evidence involving Zeke's death.

NEW IN SMALL PAPERBACKS

Barker, Clive. [The Scarlet Gospels](#) (\$9.99). An epic good-versus-evil thriller from the early days of two iconic characters pits long-beleaguered supernatural detective Harry D'Amour against priest of hell Pinhead.

Becker, James. [The Templar Brotherhood](#) (Penguin \$9.99) Lost Treasure of the Templars #3. After narrowly escaping the crosshairs of a dangerous cult, Jessop and Mallory attempt to solve a

centuries-old mystery involving the Knights Templar after they make a startling find that could shake Christendom to its very core.

Buettner, Robert. [The Golden Gate](#) (\$7.99). When the world's richest man is the victim of a car bomb and literally blown off the Golden Gate Bridge the attack is attributed to terrorists and the world moves on. However, tech journalist Kate Boyle and recovering Iraq war veteran Ben Shepard race through the Bay Area chasing the only clues the reclusive Colibri left behind. They discover not only each other but a cosmic secret that can change human history—and may cost them their lives.

Childs, Laura. [Crepe Factor](#) (\$7.99) Scrapbooking Mystery \$14. When a hated restaurant critic is murdered in the Winter Market, scrapbook-shop owner Carmela Bertrand must prove the innocence of prime suspect Quigg Brevard, a former flame, against the approval of her current beau, Detective Edgar Babcock.

Cline, Ernest. [Ready Player One](#) (\$9.99) Reprint. Immersing himself in a mid-twenty-first-century technological virtual utopia to escape an ugly real world of famine, poverty, and disease, Wade Watts joins an increasingly violent effort to solve a series of puzzles by the virtual world's creator.

Grippando, James. [Most Dangerous Place](#) (\$9.99) Jack Swyteck #13. When an old school friend's wife is accused of murdering the man who had assaulted her, Jack Swyteck finds the case unexpectedly complicated, in a thriller based on true events.

James, Delia. [Familiar Motives](#) (Penguin \$7.99) Witch's Cat #3. When her veterinarian turns up dead and a valuable spokes-cat goes missing, witch Anna and her familiar, Alistair, must claw their way through the clues to catch a killer and find a cat before even more fur begins to fly.

James, Miranda. [Fixing to Die](#) (Penguin \$7.99) Southern Ladies #4. Southern belles Angel and Dickce Ducote investigate the strange goings-on at the mansion of an old friend, where they are faced with a murder and, to catch a killer, must sift through a haunted family history.

Johansen, Iris. [No Easy Target](#) (\$9.99). Threatened by an enemy from her past, animal psychic Margaret Douglas goes on the run and finds the limits of her powers tested by her effort to outmaneuver the man who would kill her.

Land, Jon. [Strong Cold Dead](#): (\$8.99). Fifth-generation Texas Ranger Caitlin Strong races against time to obtain a deadly toxin that looks like a promising cancer treatment, but is also being hotly pursued by ISIS for use in an unstoppable weapon of mass destruction.

Taylor, Patrick. [The Irish Doctor in Love and at Sea](#) (\$8.99). Decades after enduring painful losses throughout his World War II service, Dr. Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly tends to a series of medical challenges in the colorful Irish village of Ballybucklebo while struggling to let go of the ghosts of his past.

Tremel, Joyce. [A Room with a Brew](#) (Penguin \$7.99) Brewing Trouble #3. During Oktoberfest in Pittsburgh, brewpub owner Maxine "Max" O'Hara must investigate the murder of one of the band members she hired to play during the boozy celebration—a crime that causes trouble to spill over for both Max and best friend Candy, who has been acting strangely.