

# BOOKNEWS from

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

4014 N. Goldwater Blvd.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
480-947-2974



## THE BEST PLACE TO BE...INSIDE (WITH) A BOOK

### AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

Listen to some of our programs on our new [podcast channel](#)

#### TUESDAY JANUARY 16 7:00 PM

**Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child** sign [City of Endless Night](#)  
(Grand Central \$28) Agent Pendergast

#### THURSDAY JANUARY 18 7:00 PM

**Hardboiled Crime** discusses Lionel White's [A Clean Break](#)  
(Stark House \$19.95)  
Read the book, watch the movie

#### FRIDAY JANUARY 19 7:00 PM

**SciFi/Fantasy Club** discusses Nil Schusterman's [Scythe](#) (\$11.99)

#### SATURDAY JANUARY 20 10:30 AM

**Croak & Dagger** discusses David Bell's [Bring Her Home](#)  
(Berkley \$16)

#### SATURDAY JANUARY 20 2:00 PM

##### What Do I Read Next?

Has your book group run out of great titles to discuss? Or are you just looking for something great to read yourself? Join us at the Poisoned Pen Bookstore for a preview of new and forthcoming titles that will make your book discussion group the talk of the town as well as have you booked up with great reading choices all year

#### TUESDAY JANUARY 23 7:00 PM

**Christopher Reich** signs [The Take](#) (Mulholland \$27.99)

#### WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24 7:00 PM

**James Anderson** signs [Lullaby Road](#) (Crown \$26)

#### THURSDAY JANUARY 25 7:00 PM

**Alafair Burke** signs [The Wife](#) (Harper \$26.99)

#### FRIDAY JANUARY 26 7:00 PM

**James Sallis and the Three Legged Dog Band**

#### SUNDAY JANUARY 28 2:00 PM

##### In conversation with John Sandford

John signs [Deep Freeze](#) (Putnam \$29) Virgil Flowers  
Mick Herron signs [This Is What Happened](#) (Soho \$23.95)  
British Crime Club Pick

#### TUESDAY JANUARY 30

##### In conversation with Stephen Coonts

**Stephen** signs [The Armageddon File](#) (Regnery \$27.99)

**Tom Hunt** signs [Killer Choice](#) (Berkley \$26) Debut

#### WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31

**Gregg Hurwitz** signs [Hellbent](#) (St Martins \$26.99) Orphan X

#### SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3 2:00 PM

##### In conversation with Shannon Baker

**Shannon** signs [Dark Signal](#) (Forge \$26.99) Kate Fox #2

**Terry Shames** signs [A Reckoning in the Back Country](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95) Samuel Craddock

#### TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6

**Meg Gardiner** signs [Into the Black Nowhere](#) (Dutton \$26)

“Unsub #2

**Lisa Gardner** signs [Look for Me](#) (Dutton \$27) DD Warren/Flora Dane

#### WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 7 6:30 PM

**The Transcendental Correspondence** meets to discuss “The Speckled Band.” “Conan Doyle named it as his best and favorite Sherlock Holmes story. For more information: [www.meetup.com/Phoenix-Sherlockians](http://www.meetup.com/Phoenix-Sherlockians)

#### THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8 7:00 PM

**Alex Berenson** signs [The Deceivers](#) (Putnam \$28) John Wells #12

#### SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10 10:30 AM

**Coffee and Crime** discusses Margery Allingham's [The Tiger in the Smoke](#) (\$12.99)

#### SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10 2:00 PM

##### Ian Hamilton is our 2018 Writer in Residence

**Ian** signs [The Imam of Tawi-Tawi](#) (Anansi \$15.95) Ava Lee #10

**Leslie S. Klinger** signs [In the Shadow of Agatha Christie](#) (Pegasus \$25.95)

## EVENT BOOKS

Anderson, James. [Lullaby Road](#) (Crown \$26). In the second of the Utah desert trilogy featuring lone wolf truck driver Ben Jones, Anderson cooks up a canny story with gusto and rich local color. The winter winds buffet the empty highways of Utah's high desert between Price and Moab where Lullaby Road's loner narrator, Ben Jones, runs his daily deliveries to the outcasts and oddballs that make the place home. A self-described "Indian-Jew, half-breed trucker," Tracy Kingsley of our staff reviews: Ben Jones, the wonderful character introduced in [The Never-Open Desert Diner](#) (\$16), is still trucking amongst the varied desert inhabitants on his route. He is still making deliveries and trying to keep head above water, both financially and emotionally. On a day where the winter weather may wreak havoc on his schedule, he finds himself with some unexpected company and despite his misgivings, heads out with a baby, a child and a dog in the cab with him. As much as Ben would like to be a loner, he has found himself to be the lifeline and keeper of secrets for more and more people. Mr. Anderson's first book was one of my favorites of that year and this sequel is equally impressive. He manages to evoke the sense of emptiness and loneliness that is part and parcel with living in such a vast and underpopulated environment. Loved it! So does Patrick who makes this the **January Hardboiled Crime Club Pick**. Lesa says she's putting the thrilling book video trailer on our blog close to Anderson's event here.

Berenson, Alex. [The Deceivers](#) (Putnam \$28). Edgar winner Berenson—[The Faithful Spy](#) (\$9.99)—honed his skills at the *New York Times* and translates his journalism expertise into cutting edge thrillers. Here he really taps into the news, pitting John Wells, still see-sawing about working for the CIA (mostly on his own terms) or putting his personal life first, into Russian meddling. They don't just want to influence American elections—they want it all! There's a devious beauty, a highly skilled sniper, a golden-boy Senator, and all manner of agendas and betrayals in skillfully composed plot for his 12<sup>th</sup> novel.

Burke, Alafair. [The Wife](#) (Harper \$26.99). This is a real rocket ride, more propulsive than Burke's earlier novels. "Angela Powell, the unreliable narrator of this plot-propelled roller-coaster of a domestic thriller from Edgar-finalist Burke," is the wife of a respected NYU economics professor and rising media star and the mother of a 13-year-old. She leads a privileged, if somewhat boring life—which is precisely what she craves after miraculously surviving, as a teen, the kind of ordeal that spawns true crime tomes. But then intern Rachel Sutton accuses her husband, Jason, of sexual harassment, and a second woman comes forward to claim rape and then suddenly vanishes. NYPD Detective Corrine Duncan doggedly investigates the initial allegations and later the disappearance of consultant Kerry Lynch, who Jason claims was his mistress. In the process, Corinne uncovers Angela's painstakingly buried past, and it starts to look as though almost no one, maybe least of all Angela, is who he or she seems. I like this comment from *Kirkus*: "Classic domestic-thriller elements—the too-perfect couple, the unreliable narrator, the troubled past—are given a good workout in this satisfying round of 'Who's the Psycho?'" This standalone where betrayal

follows betrayal should grab you who've never read Burke as well as her fans. It's interesting to have two Burke thrillers this month: one from Alafair, one from her dad James Lee. It's in the blood.

Coonts, Stephen. [The Armageddon File](#) (Regnery \$27.99). Coonts is hosting debut author Tom Hunt so we remind you of his November thriller with Tommy Carmellini. Clearly the plot hasn't gone out of date: After one of the most contentious and divisive elections in American history, the new president is finally settling into the West Wing. But when his chief of staff discovers evidence that voting machines in key counties in swing states were tampered with, the whole administration is in danger of unraveling. Did someone steal the election? Are America's enemies involved? Were the tampered-with machines actually rigged to swing the election the other way—and if so and the plot failed, what is the conspirators' backup plan? I recommend his previous book [The Art of War](#) (\$9.99), 12<sup>th</sup> in the Jake Grafton series.

Gardiner, Meg. [Into the Black Nowhere](#) (Dutton \$26). This January is a month of dynamite serial killer thrillers and Gardiner leads the pack. We first met Caitlin Hendrix in last year's Thriller Club Pick [Unsub](#) (\$9.99), a story inspired by the never-caught Zodiac Killer, familiar to Gardiner from her childhood. Caitlin survives (barely) and wins a place in the FBI. Newly assigned to its elite Behavioral Analysis Unit, and separated from her lover Sean Rawlins, an ATF Agent assigned to the Bay Area, Caitlin is eager to prove herself. She gets her wish when young Shana vanished from Solace, Texas. Shana is not the first to go missing—in fact, she's the 5<sup>th</sup>. An UNSUB may be in play, a killer working near I-35 and its access roads, his hunting ground. That's the set up. Where it goes is.... And in the end, Gardiner sets up a horrifying new investigation so she's not backing off the pace of this explosive series already headed for CBS-TV.

Gardner, Lisa. [Look for Me](#) (Dutton \$27). Boston cop DD Warren is preparing to hunt a puppy for their five-year-old son with her husband, when her phone buzzes. "Red ball," she says. Meaning all Boston homicide detectives are summoned. And with reason: the crime scene, an ordinary, small, two-story home contains the bodies of a man, a woman, and a young sister and brother, the former wrapped protectively around the latter. It's a slaughter by gun. Missing is the 16-year-old, the eldest child of the dead woman. Her three kids have different fathers; the dead man is her boyfriend, a nice guy, the one she moved back into the area with when she finally got sober after losing her kids to foster care. So is Roxanna a hostage? A runaway (with the family's two blind dogs?). Maybe the perp? To work this case DD reluctantly joins forces with Flora Dane, a survivor of horrendous captivity and now dedicated to saving others. Can they make sense of the clues left behind by Roxanna who may be silently pleading, "Look at me."

Hamilton, Ian. [The Imam of Tawi-Tawi](#) (Anansi \$15.95). While [The Water Rat of Wanchai](#) (\$16) won Canada's Arthur Ellis Award for best first novel, this 10<sup>th</sup> is one of our 2018 Writer in Residence's best. I am crazy about Ava Lee, a lesbian Chinese beauty based in Toronto and Hong Kong. Her work as an asset

recovery ace and more recently as a venture capitalist—she’s a skilled forensic accountant—takes her all over the world to destinations I would never visit like Surinam, and to places I know like Wuhan, Milan, the Faroe Islands. Here in her 10<sup>th</sup> exciting outing, it’s the southern Philippines. The action begins when Ava receives a call from Manila businessman Chang Wang, an old friend of her late mentor, Uncle, with an urgent request: a local senator needs her forensic fact-gathering talents to quietly investigate a suspected jihadist training school on the island of Tawi-Tawi. Ava does what she does best: she follows the money used to finance the school, and much of the page-turning action involves Ava scouring through files and following leads at a keyboard. She teams up with CIA agent Alasdair Dulles, and once they realize the frightening scale of the terror plot they race to Tawi-Tawi to try to avert a catastrophe. “This time out Hamilton leaves aside Ava’s new life as a legitimate businesswoman and throws her into the dark and murky world of global politics and not-so-trustworthy intelligence agencies. Tightly plotted and quick-moving, this is a spare yet terrifically suspenseful novel.” Here is a series from a Canadian publisher I highly recommend for binge reading—and doing so in order. [Order them all.](#)

Herron, Mick. [This is What Happened](#) (Soho \$23.95). [Spook Street](#) (\$15.95) won Herron the CWA Ian Fleming Steel Dagger for best thriller, but I feel this story better fits the British Crime Club which normally doesn’t get a Signed copy. **John Sandford, a Herron fan, is flying in to chat with Herron on January 28, 2:00 PM at The Pen.** I must say that it’s a pleasure to see an author whose books I’ve read and admired from the first become so well recognized. “It would be criminal to even hint at the plot of Mick Herron’s new thriller *This Is What Happened*. With not an unnecessary word, Herron conjures a trio of deeply flawed Londoners and sets them hurtling down the path from bad to worse. Before you know it the sickening realization of what is actually happening hooks you like an armful of heroin. *This Is What Happened* is so fiendishly, perversely addictive that you’ll stay up late turning the pages and put the book down begging for more. Mute your phone, lock the door, and put yourself in the hands of a master storyteller.” —David Enyeart. “Profoundly disturbing. . . Fans who miss the startling and compelling psychological suspense of Ruth Rendell will relish this unsettling tale.” —*Booklist* Starred Review. “Herron has some fantastical twists in mind that Agatha Christie never dreamed of.” —*Kirkus Reviews* echoing Ian Rankin’s praise for Herron’s “frictionless plotting.”

Hunt, Tom. [Killer Choice](#) (Berkley \$26). “Tom Hunt’s debut speeds along like the best of Lee Child, and takes dark turns that would make Dean Koontz proud. *Killer Choice* is a harrowing ride into desperation, and Tom Hunt is a writer to watch.” —Jonathan Moore, award-nominated author of *The Dark Room* and *The Poison Artist*. The plot is Patricia Highsmith: a good man in a small Michigan town is desperate for the \$200,000 needed to help his brain-cancer stricken wife enter a last-ditch experimental treatment program. Plus, she’s pregnant. In the same town, a minor crime kingpin is desperate to kill off the crooked cop demanding protection money, i.e. never-ending blackmail. Gary Foster’s sporting goods business with his charming if formerly feckless younger brother is barely making it. So when Gary is offered a Highsmithian bargain—kill someone and the cash is

yours—what does he do? Classic noir spirals down from some instigating incident.

Hurwitz, Gregg. [Hellbent](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Evan Smoak—government assassin gone rogue—returns for a third wild ride. After he broke with the Orphan Program, Evan, aka Orphan X, disappeared and reinvented himself as the Nowhere Man, a man spoken about only in whispers and dedicated to helping the truly desperate. But this time, the voice on the other end is Jack Johns, the man who raised and trained him, the only father Evan has ever known. Secret government forces are busy trying to scrub the remaining assets and traces of the Orphan Program and they have finally tracked down Jack. With little time remaining, Jack gives Evan his last assignment: find and protect his last protégé and recruit for the program. But Evan isn’t the only one after this last Orphan—the new head of the Orphan Program, Van Sciver, is mustering all the assets at his disposal to take out both Orphan X and the target he is trying to protect. Best to begin with [Orphan X and then The Nowhere Man.](#)

Klinger, Leslie. [In the Shadow of Agatha Christie](#) (Norton \$25.95). Published now, Signed here February 10. I am working my way through the stories, such a treat to not only enjoy classics but the evolution of crime fiction. The *PW* Starred Review: “Klinger’s stellar fourth ‘In the Shadow Of’ reprint anthology after 2015’s [In the Shadow of Edgar Allan Poe](#) (\$15.99) educates readers about genre history and introduces them to talent that’s mainly obscure today. Much more than quaint curiosities, the 16 entries from women crime writers who preceded Christie are enjoyable in their own right. Sherlockians, in particular, will appreciate Baroness Orczy’s “The Regent’s Park Murder,” which appeared in 1901, two years before Conan Doyle’s “The Empty House,” and likewise features the baffling murder of a man who has won at cards. Other highlights include Ellen Wood’s “Mrs. Todhettley’s Earrings,” about a theft case with an amusing O. Henry twist, and C.L. Pirakis’s particularly well-done puzzle, “The Ghost of Fountain Lane,” which features a female rival to Holmes, Loveday Brooke, and links manifestations of the spirit of Napoleon Bonaparte with a stolen check. Klinger burnishes his credentials as a diligent researcher by retrieving even uncredited work (Australian author Mary Fortune’s “Traces of Crime”). This is a must-have volume for classic crime fans.

Klinger’s [The New Annotated Frankenstein](#) (Norton \$35) is a knockout, reviving Mary Shelley’s Gothic classic by reproducing her original text with over 200 color and black & white illustrations and Klinger’s 1000+ annotations. It’s a teaching gem as well as a treasure to own.

Preston, Douglas/Lincoln Child. [City of Endless Night](#) (Grand Central \$28). Join our launch party January 16 for a new Agent AXL Pendergast who’s in a weak state from the loss of Constance from his home and sent to work a case with the NYPD on a flimsy pretext – moving a body from NJ to NY, thus making it Federal – as punishment from his boss at the FBI. The murder inside a supposedly impregnable Upper East Side town house takes you through some very high tech security. Fun. And a bit scary. It all pits Pendergast against a cunning and ruthless predator operating in Manhattan, not the jungle. Our copies come with an original piece of art and a surprise signature.

Reich, Christopher. [The Take](#) (LittleBrown \$28). Here is a new start by Reich that defines a thriller! Rocket pace. Big stakes.

“A beautifully constructed heist is only the beginning of this spectacular thriller, which sets thief vs. thief, spy vs. spy, and even cop vs. cop. *The Take* is dazzling fun that surprises to the last page, with a hero who deserves an encore.”—Joseph Finder. And another plus, actually two: “There’s plenty of action, interesting bits of tradecraft, and well-sketched locales in London, Paris, and Marseille. Best of all is Reich’s succinct prose style.”—*Booklist*. I love it when an old pro is energized by a new concept to which he or she can apply well honed skills to create something fresh and compelling. Simon Riske is a freelance industrial spy who, despite his job title, lives a mostly quiet life above his auto garage in central London. He is hired to perform the odd job for a bank, an insurance company, or the British Secret Service. Riske has maintained his quiet life by avoiding big, messy jobs; until now. Gangster Tino Coluzzi has orchestrated the greatest street heist in the history of Paris: a visiting Saudi prince had his pockets lightened of millions in cash. And hidden within a stolen briefcase is a secret letter that could upend the balance of power in the Western world. The Russians have already killed in an attempt to get it back by the time the CIA comes knocking at Simon’s door. Coluzzi was once Riske’s brother-in-arms, but their criminal alliance ended with Riske in prison, having narrowly avoided a hit Coluzzi ordered. Now, years later, it is thief against thief, and hot on their trail are a dangerous Parisian cop, a murderous Russian femme fatale, her equally unhinged boss, and...spies? This is our **January Thriller Club Pick**.

Sandford, John. [Deep Freeze](#) (Putnam \$29). It’s hard to resist Virgil Flowers at any time. I like last year’s tiger-knapping case best – [Escape Clause](#) (\$9.99) – but a small town rife with such activities as turning out fake Barbie and Ken sex toys and bringing in a PI from Mattel to suss them out reflects Sandford’s original plot elements. In fact, why resist?

Shames, Terry. [A Reckoning in the Back Country](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). Tracy Kingsley of our staff writes, “Another reliably wonderful entry in the Samuel Craddock series finds Samuel dealing with missing pet dogs and a murder by dogs. While trying to connect whether the dog issues are related in any way, Samuel is also finding his personal life a little more complicated than usual with his interests torn in two directions. I’ve enjoyed all the books in this series and find Samuel a charming ambassador for small town Texas.”

#### SIGNED BOOKS

Cleveland, Karen. [Need to Know](#) (Random \$27). Publishes in January to be our **February First Mystery Club Pick**. “This is a compelling debut about a timely issue...Perfect for fans of Shari Lapena’s thrillers and Chris Pavone’s Edgar-winning debut, [The Expats](#) (\$16), and for just about everyone who loves the thrill of finding themselves in a book that can’t be put down.”—*Booklist* Starred Review. Vivian Miller is a dedicated CIA counterintelligence analyst assigned to uncover the leaders of Russian sleeper cells in the United States. On track for a much-needed promotion, she’s developed a system for identifying Russian agents, seemingly normal people living in plain sight. After accessing the computer of a potential Russian operative, Vivian stumbles on a secret dossier of deep-cover agents within America’s borders. A few clicks later, everything that matters to her—her job, her husband, even her four children—are

threatened. Vivian has vowed to defend her country against all enemies, foreign and domestic. But now she’s facing an impossible choice. And worse, her husband Tom confirms her discovery. Where can they go from there? The Indie Next Pick: “Vivian Miller is good at her job, and dedicated. But what she discovers will blow apart everything she thought she knew about her life. What do you do when the choice is country or family? How do you protect your children — and Vivian cares deeply about her children — while walking a tightrope between two superpowers? There are twists and turns aplenty as Vivian steps into a dangerous game that could destroy everything she loves and values. Cleveland keeps the tension going right to the very last page.”

Dorsey, Tim. [The Pope of Palm Beach](#) (Harper \$26.99). This is a Maybe. It is more likely to work out if we have preorders so please place one. A killer opening sentence sets the tone for bestseller Dorsey’s 21st comic novel featuring eccentric murderer Serge Storms “The sun was going down behind the Big Burger when the alligator came flying in the drive-through window.” Starting in the Florida Keys, Serge and his childhood friend, Coleman, embark on a literary tour of the state. Along the way, they make detours so Serge can mete out his own brand of justice to various bad guys, beginning with Sterling Hanover, a pharmaceutical company’s callous president. Dorsey is generally less about a plot and more about the wacky fun.

Olson, Neil. [The Black Painting](#) (Harper \$26). Our **January Surprise Me Pick** garners these comments. “The volatility of memory, the treacherous crucible of family lore, and the myths and mysteries of Goya’s Black Paintings all come hypnotically together in Neil Olson’s outstanding novel. With taut, confident prose and breathless plotting, Olson leads us through a dark and dazzling kaleidoscope of a story. Here is a writer to watch.” – Paula McLain. “Neil Olson’s *The Black Painting* is an expertly confected, delicious mystery/thriller, and also a deeper study of the family romance, with echoes of Cheever’s *Goodbye, My Brother*.”—Madison Smartt Bell. And from me: “Here we have a secluded mansion, fractious family, buried secrets, something big at stake. Olson enlivens the form by introducing a self-portrait by Goya, a painting not only hugely valuable but, if its rumored history is true, fatally dangerous...”

Petrie, Nick. [Light it Up](#) (Putnam \$26 Jan. 15). I keep saying that Petrie is a writer to watch and now that he’s published his 3<sup>rd</sup> knockout thriller...I’m proved right, and still saying it. A question I keep asking publishers is who is going to be the next generation of star authors of commercial fiction? Petrie is in my answer. And in Lee Child’s who says, “Lots of characters get compared to my own Jack Reacher, but Petrie’s Peter Ash is the real deal...The writing is terse and tense, full of wisdom and insight, and the plot is irresistible.” Plus Petrie knows how things work and here, it’s the marijuana trade in Colorado which is a cash business. That makes the guys in it vulnerable since standard banking is out. Moving all that money, it’s dangerous. As Peter Ash discovers when he agrees to help out an old friend for a day or two while Ash is traveling to meet up with his lover. This thriller starts with a bang and keeps rolling. Don’t miss it.

Post, Steph. [Walk in the Fire](#) (Polis \$26). Fresh out of prison, Judah Cannon has returned to rural Silas, Florida, in Post’s violent, emotionally wrenching sequel to 2017’s [Lightwood](#)

(\$15.99). Judah has his sights set on assuming the lead role in his family's criminal enterprise, left vacant after his father died in a fiery gun battle involving a ruthless Pentecostal preacher and an outlaw biker club. Meanwhile, a disgraced ATF agent, eager to redeem himself, arrives in town and asks questions about the fire that took down Sister Tulah Atwell's church but didn't seem to diminish her strange power over the town. And Judah learns that maintaining business as usual won't be so easy when Everett Weaver, a psychotic drug runner nursing a decades-old vendetta against the Cannons, sets out to destroy the entire family. Judah and Ramey, his lover and partner-in-crime, must trust in some unexpected allies if they intend to survive. Patrick is very high on Post's work: "Post combines classical genre tropes with a touch of Harry Crews-style Southern gothic in this terrific crime novel."

✠Rowland, Laura Joh. [A Mortal Likeness](#) (Crooked Lane \$28). As a photographer in 1889 London, Miss Sarah Bain also runs a private detective agency with her friends, Lord Hugh Staunton and former street urchin Mick O'Reilly. Their sole credential is that in their first bit of team work, they solved the Jack the Ripper case, a secret they can never tell because they did it outside the boundaries of the law. Their new big case arises when a wealthy banker, Sir Gerald Mariner, posts a handsome reward for finding his missing infant. All of London joins in the search. But Sarah has an advantage—a photograph she took during a routine surveillance job, which unexpectedly reveals a clue about the kidnapping... [The Ripper's Shadow](#) (\$15.99).

#### BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSICS

Farjeon, J. Jefferson. [Seven Dead](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). Due in late January, this gem earns a Starred Review: "Originally published in 1939, this reissue in the British Library Crime Classics series from Farjeon (1883–1955) is a standout, with a particularly horrifying opening. Ted Lyte, a small-time thief who usually contents himself with picking pockets, enters an apparently unoccupied house near the British coast only to encounter a grotesque tableau behind a locked door. The room he enters, whose shutters are not only bolted but nailed shut, contains seven emaciated corpses, six of them male; a mantelpiece is adorned by a silver vase supporting an old cricket ball. Lyte flees the scene in terror, only to run into the police. When Inspector Kendall arrives, along with freelance reporter Thomas Hazeldean, who saw Lyte run from the house, Kendall discovers further unsettling oddities, including a crumpled note under one of the dead men bearing the message: "with apologies from the suicide club." Kendall and Hazeldean complement each other nicely as they work toward a satisfyingly logical solution to this ingenious locked-room mystery." Farjeon's [Mystery in White](#) (\$12.95) has remained a bestseller since it republished in the BLCC series.

Edwards, Martin, ed. [The Long Arm of the Law](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). A reminder of another classic that has earned a Starred Review: Drawing on his encyclopedic knowledge of mystery fiction's golden age, Edwards has put together an anthology of 15 lost gems focused on the often-maligned official British detectives rather than the typically more eccentric and brilliant private investigators. The breadth of Edwards's expertise is demonstrated in the first entry, "The Mystery of Chenholt," by Alice and Claude Askew from *The Adventures of Police Constable Vane M.A., on Duty and off*, a 1908 volume so rare

that even the British Library lacks a copy. This clever tale establishes atmosphere and characterizations in just a few pages, as a constable named Reggie is dispatched to the quiet Surrey countryside to recover from a traumatic night in "the mummy house," only to be called upon by a butler desperate to save his employer's wife from her husband, whom he believes is poisoning her. Also notable are Christianna Brand's ingenious "After the Event," in which her series sleuth, Inspector Cockrill, investigates a murder during a production of *Othello*, and Freeman Wills Crofts's inverted mystery, "Fingerprints." Edwards also includes lesser-known tales by authors such as Michael Gilbert and Nicholas Blake.

#### MORE JANUARY LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Connelly, Michael. [The Late Show](#) (\$15.99). A once up-and-coming detective, Renee Ballard has been given the night beat, referred to as "the Late Show" in the LAPD, as punishment after filing a sexual harassment complaint against a supervisor that her then partner failed to back. But one night she catches two cases she doesn't want to part with which require her to proceed with craft, cunning, and resolution. And to go on little to no sleep as she works them by day while maintaining her shift with new partner Jenkins, a guy who wants to sign off at dawn so he can be home with his cancer-stricken wife, at night. Renee grew up on Maui so her days had been spent surfing and sleeping in a tent on the beach with her dog Lola as a guard, and keeping her wardrobe in her locker at the station. It's a perfect set up for running two-track, off track cases, cases where two women have met violent deaths. If you have never read Connelly, here is the place to start. And you fans will love this as did I. Signed first prints: [The Late Show](#) (LittleBrown \$28).

Delany, Vicki. [Body on Baker Street](#) (\$15.99). Gemma Doyle and Jayne Wilson are busy managing the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop and Emporium on Baker Street and adjoining Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room in anticipation of the store's upcoming book signing with the illustrious Renalta Van Markoff, author of the controversial Hudson and Holmes mystery series. But during the author Q&A session, dedicated Sherlockian Donald Morris verbally attacks Renalta and her series for disgracing Sherlock's legacy, only to be publicly humiliated when the author triumphantly lashes back and gains the upper hand. That is until Renalta collapses on the table—dead. A cozy by an author who truly enjoys making things up (or so she tells me). For the sequel see More New Books Below.

Duffy, Brendan. [House of Echoes](#) (\$16). Debut author Duffy has delivered a fluid, suspenseful yet subtle thriller, with touches of humor, evocative writing, and characters that are both familiar and uniquely fascinating. A wonderfully tense and heart-wrenching debut. When novelist Ben Tierney inherits a large estate overlooking the village of Swannhaven, it seems like the perfect opportunity for a fresh start in the country. Life in Manhattan was becoming increasingly difficult, with his wife, Caroline, diagnosed with bipolar illness after giving birth to their infant son and their 8-year-old boy, Charlie, being brutally bullied at school. Ben moves his family into the Crofts, built in the 1700s as the original home of the Swann family, with the idea of turning the house into an inn. He and Caroline begin to forge relationships with the villagers of Swannhaven while digging into the history of the estate. On the surface, the move was a

good idea. Debut novelist Duffy expertly builds suspense, leaving readers eager to know what happens while simultaneously dreading the outcome. This creepy page-turner will appeal to fans of Stephen King and anyone who loves a good ghost story.

✦Elgar, Emily. [If You Knew Her](#) (Harper \$15.99). When young, beautiful Cassie Jensen arrives unconscious to the intensive care ward at St. Catherine's hospital after being struck in a hit-and-run while out walking her dog, chief nurse Alice Marlowe thinks she looks familiar. She starts digging deeper into Cassie's relationships, only to discover something about her patient that she'd been keeping secret from everyone, including her devoted husband and family. Soon Alice finds herself obsessed with her patient's past and future, even willing to put her own career on the line in her single-minded search for answers. Frank, a patient on the same ward who has locked-in syndrome, can hear and see everything around him but cannot speak. Soon he comes to understand that Cassie's life is still in danger. While the police continue to look for clues, only Frank holds the truth, but he's unable to communicate it. As the novel flashes between points of view, the reader will get closer and closer to the truth of who Cassie Jensen was, and why she was out on the road that fateful night . . . Elgar writes with subtle clues and foreshadowing that will keep you turning the pages of her US debut.

Harper, Jane. [The Dry](#) (\$15.95) by Australian journalist was an international hit and won the UK's Gold Dagger for Best Novel. One of the most stunning debuts I've ever read. . . Every word is near perfect." —David Baldacci. A small town hides big secrets. After getting a note demanding his presence, Federal Agent Aaron Falk arrives in his hometown during a searing drought for the first time in decades to attend the funeral of his best friend, Luke. Twenty years ago when Falk was accused of murder, Luke was his alibi. Now Luke is dead. A reluctant Falk and the local detective question what really happened to Luke.

Jones, Stephen. [August Snow](#) (\$15.95). A 2017 Hardboiled Crime Club Pick, now in paperback. August Snow is a survivor. The son of a Mexican-American mother and an African-American father, Snow straddled both worlds growing up in Detroit's Mexicantown. After he was run out of the Detroit police force after attempting to expose some corrupt cops, Snow fought back against the city and won a wrongful dismissal lawsuit, earning him a \$12 million settlement and persona non grata status. After a wilderness year spent mostly drinking and carousing all over the world, Snow is back living in his mother's old house and investigating the suspicious death of a wealthy business magnate. This is a very solid debut, and Jones does a great job of depicting modern day Detroit, in all of its embattled, contradictory glory." While the obvious analog authors for Detroit are Estleman and Leonard, I feel that Chandler is an inspiration to this author, Jones' affection for Detroit akin to Chandler's for Los Angeles.

Miller, Derek B. [Girl in Green](#) (\$14.99). The author, who lives in Sweden, debuted with a staff favorite, [Norwegian by Night](#) (\$14.95), where he introduced readers to an elderly Korean War veteran finding his place in the modern world. "In his sophomore novel, international affairs specialist Miller takes a giant step out of Norway to follow two unlikely heroes on an errand of mercy in one of the most dangerous places on Earth—modern-day Iraq, where the label "postwar" clashes with the reality of life for its citizens. As daring in execution as imagination, this adventure

tale crackles with heart, charm and dark honesty. In Arwood and Benton, readers will see the kind of big personalities that carry movie franchises. Whether our heroes are wondering where they went wrong (usually Benton), or introducing a new half-baked plan sure to save the day unless it gets them killed (usually Arwood), just going along for the ride would be entertaining enough, but Miller also provides ample food for thought and an ending that roars. A word of advice: buy *The Girl in Green* rather than borrow it. With the proliferation of sharp one liners, occasional droplets of poetry like 'the buzuq sings a song for which there will never be any words' and insightful distillations of the intricacies and contradictions of an American conflict that slides from phase to phase without ever ending, the urge to highlight and dog-ear will overcome even the most book-proud reader."—Shelf Awareness. The Starred *PW* review ends, "Miller caps his stellar, electrifying story with a knockout ending."

✦Monroe, JS. [Find Me](#) (\$15.99). Jarlath "Jar" Costello, a London-based Internet click-bait content writer and the hero of Monroe's thrilling debut, has started seeing a dead person. Specifically, he's been seeing glimpses of Rosa Sandhoe, his girlfriend who leapt to her death into the sea off Norfolk in 2012 when she was a student at Cambridge University. Five years later, Jar is certain of two things: that Rosa and he are soul mates and that she's still very much alive. A body was never recovered. When he gets hold of an encrypted file containing Rosa's journal, his faith is confirmed and his search for her kicks into high gear. A gear so high that the pages all but turn themselves as the story unfolds in taut chapters alternating between Rosa's journal entries and Jar's frantic quest. Monroe adds more voices in the book's second half, keeping the guess-who's-crazy/guilty ball in the air until the all-consuming reveal. Pacing is crisp and the plot is credible, but it's the cast of expertly crafted, psychologically ambiguous characters that rivets. Monroe is the pseudonym of a well-known British author and journalist

Nijkamp, Marieke. [Before I Let You Go](#) (Sourcebooks \$17.99). Days before Corey is to return home to the snow and ice of Lost Creek, Alaska, to visit her best friend, Kyra dies. Corey is devastated—and confused. The entire Lost community speaks in hushed tones about the town's lost daughter, saying her death was meant to be. And they push Corey away like she's a stranger. Corey knows something is wrong. Lost is keeping secrets—chilling secrets. But piecing together the truth about what happened to her best friend may prove as difficult as lighting the sky in an Alaskan winter. . .

Silvis, Randall. [Walking the Bones](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.99). 2017's [Two Days Gone](#) \$15.99) generated loads of interest as it introduced Sergeant Ryan DeMarco of the Pennsylvania State Police working a case that rocked a small college town with a gruesome murder and a beloved professor as chief suspect. De Marco is still reeling from the fallout. On a visit to the small Southern hometown of his new sweetheart, Trooper Jayne Matson, a trio of elderly vigilantes pulls the pair with their history of solving violent crimes into an off-the-books investigation into the deaths of seven young black women, whose skeletons were discovered behind a false wall in a local church several years earlier. "Filled with the psychological language of memory and dreams, this solid procedural offers heart-pounding moments of suspense. Childhood history and relationship drama keep the lead's personal life as interesting as the case he is

chasing. Silvis smoothly blends moments of exquisite beauty into a sea of darker emotion to create a moving story heavy with the theme of the ‘past is never past.’” I recommend reading the books in order, i.e. *Two Days Gone* first.

### MORE BOOKS FOR JANUARY

Albert, Melissa. [The Hazel Wood](#) (Flatiron \$16.99). Alice is surrounded by cult followers of creep fairy tales written by her celebrated grandmother whose books are set in a supernatural world called the Hinterland. Grandmother lives in a pretty creepy, menacing actually, estate called the Hazel Wood. When she dies, Alice’s mother is snatched by a shadowy character who claims to come from the Hinterland. So Alice joins some of her grandmother’s superfans on a quest to bring her mother back, even though mom had ordered her to stay away from the Hazel Wood.... One critic writes of the book, “It returned that singular feeling of reading as a kid—back when all of the adult responsibilities weren’t crowding in and you could wrap a story around yourself like a blanket.” A lovely image, no?

✚Bradley, Alan. [The Grave’s a Fine and Private Place](#) (Random \$26). Set in England in 1952, Agatha-winner Bradley’s outstanding ninth Flavia de Luce novel finds 12-year-old Flavia contemplating suicide in the wake of a family tragedy. To relieve the increased tension between Flavia and her two older sisters, Dogger, the de Luce family’s long-serving and devoted servant, proposes an extended boat trip on the river. All is uneventful until the skiff nears the site where a notorious poisoner, Canon Whitbread, discarded the chalice he used in his crimes. Flavia’s hand, trailing behind the boat, comes into contact with the corpse of the canon’s son, Orlando. Unperturbed, Flavia uses her handkerchief to swab liquid from the dead man’s lips, and she and Dogger jury-rig a forensic lab to examine the sample. Though disappointed when the evidence shows Orlando was drowned instead of poisoned, Flavia persists with her amateur detecting, even as she runs afoul of the local constable. As usual, Bradley makes his improbable series conceit work and relieves the plot’s inherent darkness with clever humor

Benjamin, Melanie. [The Girls in the Picture](#) (Bantam \$27.99). Hollywood, 1914. Frances Marion, a young writer desperate for a break, meets “America’s Sweetheart,” Mary Pickford, already making a name for herself both on and off the screen with her golden curls and lively spirit. Together, these two women will take the movie business by storm. Mary Pickford becomes known as the “Queen of the Movies”—the first actor to have her name on a movie marquee, and the first to become a truly international celebrity. Mary and her husband, Douglas Fairbanks, were America’s first Royal Couple, living in a home more famous than Buckingham Palace. Mary won the first Academy Award for Best Actress in a Talkie and was the first to put her hand and footprints in Grauman’s theater sidewalk. Her annual salary in 1919 was \$625,000—at a time when women’s salaries peaked at \$10 a week. Frances Marion is widely considered one of the most important female screenwriters of the 20th century, and was the first writer to win multiple Academy Awards. The close personal friendship between the two stars was closely linked to their professional collaboration and success. This is a novel about power: the power of women during the exhilarating early years of Hollywood, and the power of forgiveness. It’s also about the imbalance of power, then and now,

Brown, Pierce. [Iron Gold](#) (Del Rey \$28). Red Rising #4. They call him father, liberator, warlord, Slave King, Reaper. But he feels a boy as he falls toward the war-torn planet, his armor red, his army vast, his heart heavy. It is the tenth year of war and the thirty-third of his life. A decade ago Darrow was the hero of the revolution he believed would break the chains of the Society. But the Rising has shattered everything: Instead of peace and freedom, it has brought endless war. Now he must risk all he has fought for on one last desperate mission. Darrow still believes he can save everyone, but can he save himself? And throughout the worlds, other destinies entwine with Darrow’s to change his fate forever.

Connolly, Sheila. [Many a Twist](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). In Connolly’s smart sixth County Cork mystery, John Byrne, one of the new American owners of a high-class hotel at Crann Mor, and his management team meet with American transplant Maura Donovan at Sullivan’s, the pub she owns in the Irish village of Leap, to discuss arranging for hotel guests to visit the pub. Hours later, John is found dead, having fractured his skull after apparently falling down a hill on the hotel grounds. During the subsequent police investigation, Helen Jenkins, the marketing manager of John’s company, asks to speak to Maura. When Helen confesses to Maura that she’s her long-lost mother, Maura can’t sort out her feelings about the woman who abandoned her more than 20 years earlier, but she also can’t ignore the bond. For her mother’s sake, Maura, who’s been involved in solving crimes before, decides to look into the suspicious circumstances of John’s death. Connolly vividly evokes rural Ireland, and her characters seem like real human beings trying their best to navigate their lives.

Copperman, EJ. [Hostess with the Ghostess](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). While renovating an old inn on the Jersey Shore, licensed PI Alison Kerby received a blow on the head that gave her the ability to see and hear ghosts. She has since been advising ghosts with problems. One ghost, recently deceased lawyer Richard Harrison, needs help from his previously deceased brother, Paul, a ghost pal of Alison’s who inhabits the guesthouse but is traveling at the moment. Alison warily agrees to get involved and summon Paul home. Richard, killed during a murder trial, believes that he was close to proving wealthy client Cassidy Van Doren innocent of murdering her stepfather. Subsequent snooping by Alison, Paul, and tech-wiz ghost Maxie Malone shows that Cassidy may not be as guiltless as Richard hoped. 9<sup>th</sup> in series and its first hardcover.

Cross, Mason. [Don’t Look for Me](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). Carter Blake, manhunter, is used to searching for someone who doesn’t want to be found. He’s a cool pro, not emotionally involved with his targets. Until now. Carter recognizes that the woman he once loved, the woman who disappeared ten years ago making him promised never to look for her, is in danger. She was a woman on the run, a woman who needed to stay hidden. But now hitman Trenton Gage is after her. He too has a talent for finding people whether they are dead or alive. So, which man will find Carol first?

Dearman, Lara. [The Devil’s Claw](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). The discovery of a young woman’s body on a Guernsey beach puts news reporter Jennifer Dorey, the heroine of Dearman’s dark debut and series launch, on a tortuous trail into the island’s murky

past. Eighteen-year-old Amanda Guile appears to have drowned by accident, but a prologue reveals that she was murdered. Over the next few days, Jennifer learns that five other young women died of drowning in 1966, 1974, 1985, 1994, and 2002; like Amanda, they all had fair hair and blue eyes. Jennifer shares her findings with Det. Chief Insp. Michael Gilbert, who agrees a serial killer is at work and begins to interview the victims' surviving relatives. The suspense rises as the narrative shifts between the points of view of frustrated, increasingly anxious Jennifer and steady, plodding Michael. Glimpses into the mind of the unknown killer heighten the tension. A native of Guernsey, Dearman makes good use of the British dependency's unusual topography and history. I thought about this for the British Crime Club—love the landscape—but the outcome was too predictable.

Ellis, Karen. [A Map of the Dark](#) (Mulholland \$26). Ellis is a pseudonym for author Katya Lief so this is not a debut but the start of a new crime series with FBI Agent Elsa Meyer in the lead. It begins when the NYPD sends a call to assist in the search for Ruby, a teenager missing from Forest Hills, Queens (see the Douglas Preston writeup in Event books when Agent Pendergast is sent to assist the NYPD where cooperation between agencies is possible). False leads obscure the real truth—Ruby has been taken by a serial offender. The danger is high in those first hours and Ruby may not be the only one in danger. All this causes the carefully compartmentalized world Elsa has constructed to collapse. So the real story is who and what is Elsa and the story of her family, and pressure is added because her father is dying in a hospital north of the city. I am reminded of Gillian Flynn's [Sharp Objects](#) (\$15) and can say this book pairs very well with the Lisa Gardner in Event Books which also focuses on a missing teen who may have assisted in her own disappearance....

Eriksson, Kjell. [Stone Coffin](#) (\$16.99). For the most part, I'm burned out on Scandinavian crime (not, of course, on Nesbø!), but this 2017 book by Eriksson, now in paperback, is a gem. I agree with the *Wall Street Journal* which says, "An outstanding series...riveting in tone and spirit...resembles the books of Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahloo, not to mention those of the modern master Henning Mankell." And with this from the *NY Times*: "Scandinavian authors are famously unsentimental, but Kjell Eriksson could move a man-eating shark to tears. Eriksson acknowledges deep emotion without becoming maudlin." And there is a wallop thereof in a trickily plotted story that begins when a young woman and a child are run over by a car and killed after, on that same morning, the woman's husband has disappeared. This does not go where you might think....

♀Fellowes, Jessica. [The Mitford Murders](#) (Minotaur \$25.99). It's no surprise that Julian Fellowes' niece would tap into something of the *Downton Abbey* world—here, 1920s England, for a murder mystery. It is one based on a real unsolved murder. I've always found the Mitfords fascinating and wildly disparate. The youngest, Deborah, who became the Duchess of Devonshire and showed a firm grasp of obligation and, in time, the country house business, is my favorite. I was interested to learn at dinner in New York that Joseph Kanon is a Mitford fan too, and very knowledgeable. Louisa Cannon dreams of escaping her life of poverty in London. Louisa's salvation is a position within the Mitford household at Asthall Manor, in the Oxfordshire countryside. There she will become nursemaid, chaperone and confidante to the Mitford sisters, especially sixteen-year-old

Nancy, an acerbic, bright young woman in love with stories. But then a nurse—Florence Nightingale Shore, goddaughter of her famous namesake—is killed on a train in broad daylight, and Louisa and Nancy find themselves entangled in the crimes of a murderer who will do anything to hide their secret... This is our inaugural **Cozy Crimes Club Pick**—despite it's being an historical. *Downton* trumps time.

Freeman, Brian. [The Voice Inside](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95). Four years after serial killer Rudy Cutter was sent away for life, San Francisco homicide inspector Frost Easton uncovers a terrible lie: his closest friend planted false evidence to put Cutter behind bars. When he's forced to reveal the truth, his sister's killer is back on the streets. Desperate to take Cutter down again, the detective finds a new ally in Eden Shay. She wrote a book about Cutter and knows more about him than anyone. And she's terrified. Because for four years, Cutter has been nursing revenge day after stolen day. Staying ahead of the game of a killer who's determined to strike again is not going to be easy. Not when Frost is battling his own demons. Not when the game is becoming so personal. And not when the killer's next move is unlike anything Frost expected...

Gates, Suzanne. [The Glamorous Dead](#) (Kensington \$15). 1940, on a Hollywood movie set while Preston Sturges films his classic screwball comedy, *The Lady Eve*. Between takes and after hours, the film's leading lady, Barbara Stanwyck, plays amateur sleuth. This debut will remind genre lovers of Dorothy B. Hughes's darker noir crime fiction, especially the fever dream atmosphere and unreliable narrator in her 1947 classic, *In a Lonely Place*. When her beautiful roommate disappears on Halloween and is later found buried in a shallow grave, film extra Penny Harp becomes the LAPD's top murder suspect. It doesn't help matters that Penny (the narrator) has a lot of secrets and seems to alienate everyone around her, with the exception of the film's star. Why is Stanwyck suddenly best buddies with this background performer? Was Stanwyck's husband, dashing actor Robert Taylor, having an affair with the murdered girl? The narrative alternates between chapters of the two women trying to solve the murder with flashback chapters that begin to explain why neither woman is being completely honest with the other. This moody and retro noir mystery pulls readers along with carefully revealed twists, complex characters and unnerving apprehension.

Harkaway, Nick. [Gnomon](#) (Knopf \$28.95). "Harkaway's inventive, mind-bending, and mesmerizing novel interweaves a detective story set in the future with disparate tales of a Carthaginian alchemist, a Greek investment banker, and an Ethiopian painter. Harkaway imagines London in the not-too-distant future as a city where technology meets all security, medical, transportation, informational, and scheduling needs; facilitates democratic decision-making; and monitors emotional well-being. When 61-year-old refusenik Diana Hunter (she prefers books to electronics) dies in custody, Inspector Mielikki Neith investigates. Using the Witness machine to examine Hunter's last thoughts, Neith discovers a puzzling mix of narratives: the story of alchemist Athenais Karthagonensis, Saint Augustine's former lover, kidnapped and taken to the Chamber of Isis; the adventures of Constantine Kyriakos, a financial shark who gains wealth and fame after a near-fatal encounter with an actual shark; and the recollections of Berihun Bekele, a



painter from Addis Ababa who comes out of retirement to create artwork for his granddaughter, the designer of a computer game so powerful the British government wants to buy her company. As Neith separates clues from red herrings, Harkaway reveals a digital dystopia of constant communication, information saturation, and diminishing humanity. Literary spelunkers in particular will enjoy decrypting his social science fiction, rich in literary, historical, and pop culture references and laced with humor and linguistic sleight of hand.”—*PW* Starred Review

Hendricks, Greer/Sarah Pekkanen. [The Wife Between Us](#) (St. Martin’s \$26.99). Here’s a new rave, from Indie Next, for a book I recommended in the New Year’s Booknews: “Oh. My. God! For readers looking for a book that has an absorbing and unique plot line, intriguing but flawed characters, and commands attention until the end of the story, *The Wife Between Us* is perfect! Nellie is suffering from a recent divorce when she learns that her ex will soon marry again. She simply cannot allow this to happen. Why? This amazing story gallops along at breakneck speed and its ending will smack you between the eyes and take your breath away. These authors are destined to become trailblazers in the genre of psychological suspense books.”

Horn, Dara. [Eternal Life](#) (Norton \$25.95). And another January Indie Next Pick: “*Eternal Life* is a stunningly moving and lively investigation of mortality. It is also a story of profound love — young love, eternal love, and the love of parents for their children. Rachel, whose inability to die animates the plot, is a strong, willful, and complex woman. Dara Horn, whom I have long admired, infuses the book with her profound knowledge of Judaism, without ever becoming dull or didactic. This is an ode to the joys, sorrows, and brevity of existence as seen through the improbable lens of eternal life — and it made me cry! Highly recommended.”

✂Kennard, Luke. [The Transition](#) (Farrar \$27). Do you or your partner spend more than you earn? Have your credit card debts evolved into collection letters? Has either of you received a court summons? Has either of you considered turning to a life of a crime? You are not alone. We know. We can help. “Welcome to the Transition.” While taking part in the Transition, you and your partner will spend six months living under the supervision of your mentors, two successful adults of a slightly older generation. Freed from your financial responsibilities, you will be coached through the key areas of the scheme—Employment, Nutrition, Responsibility, Relationship, Finances, and Self-respect—until you are ready to be reintegrated into adult society. At the end of your six months, who knows what discoveries you’ll have made about yourself? The “friends” you no longer need. The talents you’ll have found time to nurture. The business you might have kick-started. “The sort of book that cuts you off from your family and has you walking blindly through seven lanes of traffic with your face pressed obliviously to the page.” —*The Times*. Note: contemporary British humor, often directed at the “Nanny State,” doesn’t always translate well to American.

Larsen, Craig. [The Second Winter](#) (Other Press \$17.95). “A great historical novel, a touching family saga, and a noir wartime thriller all rolled into one terrific narrative.” —Lee Child. It is 1941. In occupied Denmark, an uneasy relationship between the Danish government and the Germans allows the country to function under the protection of Hitler’s army, while Danish

resistance fighters wage a bloody, covert battle against the Nazis. Fredrik Gregersen, a brutish, tormented caretaker of a small farm in Jutland laboring to keep his son and daughter fed, profits from helping Jewish fugitives cross the border into Sweden. Meanwhile, in Copenhagen, Polina, a young refugee from Krakow, finds herself impressed into prostitution by Germans and Danes alike. When Fredrik steals a precious necklace from a helpless family of Jews, his own family’s fate becomes intertwined with Polina’s, triggering a ripple effect that will take decades to play out.

La Seur, Carrie. [The Weight of an Infinite Sky](#) (Harper \$26.99). The only son of a cattle rancher, Anthony Fry chafed against the expectation that he would take over the business that had belonged to his family for generations. While his ancestors planted deep roots in the unforgiving Montana soil, Anthony wanted nothing more than to leave Billings for the excitement, sophistication, and culture of city life. After college he fled to New York, hoping to turn his lifelong love of the theater into a career. But New York wasn’t the dream Anthony thought it would be. Now, with the unexpected death of his father, Anthony suddenly finds himself back in the place he swore he’d left behind. While the years have transformed the artistic dreamer, they’ve also changed Billings. His uncle Neal, always the black sheep of the Fry family, has become alarmingly close with Anthony’s mother, and a predatory mining company covets the Fry land. Anthony has always wanted out of Montana, away from his father’s suffocating expectations. Yet now that he may be freed from the burden of family legacy, he’s forced to ask himself what he truly finds important. “A great follow up to *The Home Place*. Continuing characters from her debut in a style similar to Louise Erdrich’s family sagas, La Seur captures the trials and tribulations of life in middle Montana and the middle of the U.S. Her characters are realistic and their situations are authentic to the experience of life in the West.”

Lee, JM. [The Boy Who Escaped Paradise](#) (\$15.95). Lee pays homage to the beauty of numbers with the extraordinary story of a math savant told through his own words. From a prison hospital—where he’s being held by U.S. officials on suspicion of murder and 11 international crimes—21-year-old Ahn Gil-mo relates his journey across the globe to a nurse who shares his love of numbers. The son of an esteemed physician in North Korea, Gil-mo attends an excellent school catering to his mathematical gift. Lee offers the first glimpses of North Korea’s hostile human rights environment when Gil-mo’s father’s medical license is revoked. The family continues to survive amid famine until officials arrive at their front door and drag Gil-mo’s parents away. His father returns long enough to collect him, and the two are banished to a prison camp because, as the boy learns, his father was discovered practicing Christianity. He never sees his mother again, and his father soon dies. Gil-mo’s affinity for numbers lands him an easier job with Mr. Kang, working with foreign currency. It is here that Gil-mo makes the promise he spends his life fulfilling, no matter the cost: looking after Kang’s daughter, Yeong-ae. With regular allusions to Homer, Lee takes his modern-day Odysseus on a journey of epic proportions after he escapes the camp in order to keep his promise to Kang.

Lee, Mira T. [Everything Here is Beautiful](#) (Mulholland \$26). The Indie Next Pick calls this, “a remarkable debut about two sisters and the strength of their bond. At the heart of this story is

Lucia — a sister, mother, and woman who struggles with mental illness and refuses to be defined by any doctor’s diagnosis. Told from alternating points of view, Mira T. Lee gives an honest and emotional look at living with mental illness and its impact on not only your own life but the lives of those you love most. Captivating doesn’t begin to cover this novel. You will find me eagerly waiting on the edge of my seat for the next book by this talented author.”

Luna, Louisa. [Two Girls Down](#) (Doubleday \$25.95). Best known as a YA author, Luna ventures into adult thriller territory with a real nail-biter. Single mother Jamie Brandt parks in a shopping center in Denville, Pa., leaving her two daughters—10-year-old Kylie and eight-year-old Bailey—in the car while she goes into a Kmart to buy a birthday present. When she returns to the car, the children have disappeared. The devastated Jamie’s take-charge aunt, Maggie Shambley, asks California bounty hunter Alice Vega to locate the girls. The complicated, blunt-talking Alice, who may be on the autism spectrum, has an uncanny knack for finding people. When the Denville police chief rejects Alice’s help, despite being besieged by budget cuts, low morale, and a rising oxycodone and meth epidemic, she teams up with Max Caplan, a disgraced former cop turned PI who knows the local area. Luna nicely charts how the aloof Alice comes to embrace a personal relationship. The brisk plot combines psychological suspense with solid action. The Indie Next Pick: “At last, a book with girl in the title that is about actual girls. Kylie and Bailey, ages 8 and 10, disappear from a strip mall. Their mother is frantic and the police are making no progress. When the family hires Alice Vega, an out-of-state bounty hunter, to find the girls, she teams up with Max Caplan, a former cop turned private investigator, and they combine their skills to try to find the missing girls before it is too late. A suspenseful and all-too-real scenario that will drive readers to finish the story before doing anything else.”

Mason, Richard. [Who Killed Piet Barol?](#) (\$16.95). Mason introduced us to Piet in *History of a Pleasure Seeker*, where the young Dutchman escapes the drabness of the provinces to enter the employ of the wealthiest family in Amsterdam—“*Downton Abbey*, in Amsterdam, with lots of sex, and not always between the usual suspects.” Now furniture maker Piet, avoiding the trauma of WWI, is on an adventure in colonial Capetown and the magical forest of Gwadana in search of precious wood. With a business to build and secrets to escape, he’s running out of time to make his own luck. His African guides have reasons of their own for taking him to their ancestral lands – where he finds a prize beyond his wildest imaginings. To get it, he must use every weapon at his disposal. As the story moves to its devastating conclusion, every character becomes a suspect, and Piet’s gamble sets him on a collision course with forces he cannot control. “An exquisite, deeply human tale of temptation and theft, set against the extraordinary backdrop of history in the making.” One of the Best Books of the Year: *Newsday*, *The Times*, *The Observer*; *Mail on Sunday*.

Moore, Jonathan. [The Night Market](#) (Houghton \$24). It’s late Thursday night, and Inspector Ross Carver is at a crime scene in one of the city’s last luxury homes. The dead man on the floor is covered by an unknown substance that’s eating through his skin. Before Carver can identify it, six FBI agents burst in and remove him from the premises. He’s pushed into a disinfectant trailer,

forced to drink a liquid that sends him into seizures, and then is shocked unconscious. On Sunday he wakes in his bed to find his neighbor, Mia—who he’s barely ever spoken to—reading aloud to him. He can’t remember the crime scene or how he got home; he has no idea two days have passed. Mia says she saw him being carried into their building by plainclothes police officers, who told her he’d been poisoned. Carver doesn’t really know this woman and has no way of disproving her, but his gut says to keep her close.

Moyes, Jojo. [Still Me](#) (Viking \$27). Louisa Clark arrives in New York ready to start a new life, confident that she can embrace this new adventure and keep her relationship with Ambulance Sam alive across several thousand miles. She is thrown into the world of the superrich Gopniks: Leonard and his much younger second wife, Agnes, and a never-ending array of household staff and hangers-on. Lou is determined to get the most out of the experience and throws herself into her job and New York life within this privileged world. Before she knows what’s happening, Lou is mixing in New York high society, where she meets Joshua Ryan, a man who brings with him a whisper of her past. As Lou tries to keep the two sides of her world together, she finds herself carrying secrets—not all her own—that cause a catastrophic change in her circumstances. And when matters come to a head, she has to ask herself, who is Louisa Clark? #3, *Still Me Before You*.

✎Newman, Kim. [The Man from the Diogenes Club](#) (Titan \$14.95). The debonair psychic investigator Richard Jeperson is the Most Valued Member of the Diogenes Club, the least-known and most essential branch of British Intelligence. While foiling the plot of many a maniacal mastermind, he is chased by sentient snowmen and Nazi zombies, investigates an unearthly murderer stalking the sex shops of 1970s Soho, and battles a poltergeist to prevent it triggering nuclear Armageddon. But as a new century dawns, can he save the ailing Diogenes Club itself from a force more diabolical still? Newman’s ten mischievous tales, with cameos from the much-loved characters of the *Anno Dracula* universe, are great fun.

Nguyen, Viet Thanh. [The Refugees](#) (\$16). Fiction supposedly “gives voice” to its characters, but what can it do for those who would rather not speak? “In Viet Thanh Nguyen’s superb new collection, *The Refugees*, men and women displaced from wartime Saigon and resettled in California don’t say much about the journey, having practiced many versions of silence—from state censorship to language barriers—along the way. To illustrate their plight, Nguyen homes in on their bodies rather than their words, so that a more accurate description of what the book does is “give flesh” to characters at risk of fading from memory, sometimes their own... If at times I found myself missing the playful, voice-driven punch of *The Sympathizer*, it’s a tribute to Nguyen’s range that these eight stories cast a quieter, but no less devastating, spell.”—*NY Times Book Review*

Parra, Nancy J. [A Case of Syrah, Syrah](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Taylor O’Brian is a new businesswoman, founder of “Taylor’s Off The Beaten Path Wine Tours,” who lives on a small winery with her Aunt Jemma. She plans to take small groups around romantic Sonoma County to discover some of the county’s outdoor gardens. It’s all running as smooth as can be until Laura, the leader of the group of yoga instructors she’s leading, is found

dead. And it's Taylor's corkscrew that's found buried in Laura's neck. Starts a series by an established cozy author.

Patterson, James/Alan Abromovich. [All-American Murder](#) (LittleBrown \$28). Football coaches, players, and fans called Aaron Hernandez unstoppable. His four-year-old daughter called him Daddy. The law called him inmate #174594. Aaron Hernandez's every move as a professional athlete played out in the headlines, yet he led a secret life—one that ended in a maximum security prison. What drove him to go so wrong, so fast?

New in paperback with Howard Roughan: [Murder Games](#) (\$15.99). In New York, a serial killer called the Dealer leaves behind a playing card hinting at his next victim. Eye-catching cop Elizabeth Needham works with Professor Dylan Reinhart to shut down this game cards aren't a signature, they're a deadly hint—pointing directly toward the next victim.

Phillips, Adam Walker. [The Perpetual Summer](#) (Prospect Park \$15.95). If you are open to something offbeat then meet Chuck Restic. He's completely jaded by life as a corporate HR exec. And desperate to regain some sense of purpose. Then an old nemesis, and LA real estate mogul, needs Chuck's help—his granddaughter has disappeared and the mogul wants Chuck to discreetly track her down. So he has to team up with a switchblade-toting chauffeur, contend with an angry LAPD detective, a life coach, a guy named Badger, and an ex-wife while wondering if the girl's disappearance could be connected to plans for a new art museum. Everyone's working an angle, no? John Charles recommends meeting Chuck in [The Silent Second](#) (\$15.99)—*Chinatown* for the Human Resources Department.

Pink, Daniel. [When: The Scientific Secrets of Perfect Timing](#) (Riverhead \$27.99). Everyone knows that timing is everything. But we don't know much about timing itself. Our lives are a never-ending stream of "when" decisions: when to start a business, schedule a class, get serious about a person. Yet we make those decisions based on intuition and guesswork. Timing, it's often assumed, is an art. Pink digs into the research to make his case that timing isn't an art: it's a learnable science. Bookworm says, "Daniel H. Pink shines the stage lights on *Perfect Timing*, bringing it out of the shadows of mystic good ol' fashioned luck and showcasing it as a learnable, teachable, and accomplishable part of the show of life." We may have Signed copies in March.

Pryor, Mark. [Dominic](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). A charming psychopath, Dominic sees Bobby as "a younger version of me, too young to actually be diagnosed as a psychopath, but headed in the right direction." Dominic accepts Bobby's offer to help stop the homicide detective investigating the unsolved murder he committed a year earlier. Another person who poses a threat to Dominic is Brian McNulty, his hapless officemate, whose ordinary first-person narrative nicely contrasts with Dominic's. Brian has his eye on a judgeship that Dominic wants for himself. The plot takes some surprising and often convenient turns, at times straining credulity. Fans of Bret Easton Ellis's *American Psycho* may be okay with Dominic.

✦Quincy, DM. [Murder in Mayfair](#) (\$15.99). Lesa Holstine writes, Fans of Finch's Charles Lenox mysteries will want to try D.M. Quincy's debut historical mystery, *Murder in Mayfair*. The wit, clothing and setting bring Regency London to life in a mystery

with satisfying twists. Adventurer Atlas Catesby rescues a woman by buying her when her husband auctions her off. However, the two become suspects when her husband is murdered.

Rich, Nathaniel. [King Zenó](#) (Farrar \$27.9). New Orleans, 1918. The birth of jazz, the Spanish flu, an ax murderer on the loose. The lives of a traumatized cop, a conflicted Mafia matriarch, and a brilliant trumpeter converge.

Roslund, Anders. [Pen 33](#) (\$16.99). Detective Superintendent Ewert Grens is about to encounter the most profoundly appalling case in his career, and perhaps in Stockholm's history. Bernt Lund harbors a sickness. He is a monster, an unrepentant child molester and serial killer. In the mind of society, in the minds of his nine-year-old victims' parents, and in the minds of his fellow inmates, he is a waking nightmare. And now he has escaped from custody—the worst scenario imaginable for Aspsås Prison's Department for Sexual Crimes. During the course of one long, hot summer, Sweden will face an explosive series of events that spread across the country like wildfire....

✦Sinclair, Ian. [The Last London](#) (Oneworld \$24.99). Multigenre Welsh author Sinclair (*London Overground*) investigates London—his home and the almost exclusive focus of his work for half a century—and the extremes of capitalist development that have transformed it "to the point of obliteration." In Sinclair's estimation, London has become more similar to and intertwined with "other expanded conurbations" internationally, such as Berlin, Madrid, and Vancouver, than to England. Navigating his city and what he dubs "the strategic destruction of the local," Sinclair compares Camden's Munster Square, a seedy "nowhere" that he nonetheless praises for still being itself, with Hackney, whose recent gentrification into "riparian bohemianism" has displaced the area's less prosperous residents and threatens to erase its rich history. "As he crosses London, Sinclair explores the relationship between cycling and neoliberalism,, and watches in fascinated horror as the city's richest residents burrow ever deeper into the ground in order to build subterranean personal gyms and cinemas. Mourning London's alteration into a site in which 'everything is pop-up, nothing is true,' Sinclair is nonetheless the liveliest of guides."—*PW* Starred Review

Smith, Gregory Blake. [The Maze at Windermere](#) (Viking \$27). A Starred Review: "In his emotionally expansive new novel, Smith spins out five narratives set in Newport, R.I., from its beginnings as a British colony to its later incarnation as the playground of the very rich. In 2011, tennis pro Sandy Alison falls in love with Alice du Pont, the crippled heiress of the Windermere estate, despite the machinations of Alice's jealous sister-in-law and scheming best friend. In 1896, Franklin Drexel, a closeted gay man known as a lapdog of society ladies, tries to court the well-off Ellen Newcombe over the objections of her father. In 1863, a callow Henry James—yes, that Henry James—having decided to forsake his law studies to become a writer, comes under the spell of a young woman, Alice Taylor, forcing him to choose between art and life. In 1778, Major Ballard, a British officer charged with the defense of Newport during the Revolutionary War, becomes obsessed with a young Portuguese Jewish woman, Judith Da Silva, leading him to commit a shocking breach of military decorum. And in 1692, Prudence Selwyn, a Quaker woman whose father was lost at sea, strives mightily to make good matches for herself and her slave, Ashes. Taken individually,

each story is dramatic and captivating, but as the author makes ever-increasing connections among the stories and shuffles them all into one unbroken narrative, the novel becomes a moving meditation on love, race, class, and self-fulfillment in America across the centuries.”

Stahl, Lauren. [The Devil's Song](#) (Akashic \$15.95). This debut is so crammed with bad deeds and agendas there are scarcely enough pages to contain them. Mission County, Pennsylvania, Prosecutor Kate Magda is the daughter of a powerful judge, a mixed blessing. When she gets what appears to be a plum assignment, lead counsel on what is called The Reds, two murders of women with red hair killed by cyanide, it's a coup. But in fact it's a personal blow since events begin to revive childhood nightmares when she was a victim, nearly killed. While Kate intends to show her boss, her colleagues, her family, and the public that she's more than a privileged daughter, she can't shake off feeling The Reds killer is linked to her in some way. And...she's right. As I've said, January is a serial killer thriller month, this being one with a twist.

Tata, AJ. [Direct Fire](#) (Kensington \$26). Jake Mahegan kills two gunmen who confront him late one night at a cabin on the grounds of a North Carolina golf resort, where he was supposed to meet two of his former Delta Force teammates, Patch Owens and Sean O'Malley. Patch and Sean have been taken prisoner, along with Jake's mentor, Major General Bob Savage, as part of a terrorist plot masterminded by Chechen war orphan Zakir Lecha, who has managed to sneak into the U.S. Aided by fighters smuggled into the country among legitimate Syrian refugees, Zakir succeeds in kidnapping the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Bartholomew Bagwell, and his wife, from their Arlington, Virginia, home. Their daughter, Army Ranger Cassie Bagwell, works with Jake, already on the trail of his missing buddies, to take down the terrorists. The high-octane action scenes make this a must-read for military thriller fans. 4<sup>th</sup> in a series whose books Mark Greaney says “are absolute rollercoaster rides and he brings a pace and scope to his novels that make them especially fun and fascinating reads.” Recommended to his fans by Brad Taylor.

Thibodeau, David. [Waco](#) (\$16.99). As a tie-in to the upcoming Paramount Network miniseries starring Michael Shannon, Taylor Kitsch, and Melissa Benoist and commemorating the 25th anniversary of the siege at Waco, comes an updated reissue of the critically acclaimed book by Branch Davidian survivor, David Thibodeau, who tells his inside story of the massacre for David Koresh's Branch Davidian followers and “what really happened at the religious compound in Texas.” When he first met the man who called himself David Koresh, David Thibodeau was drumming for a rock band that was going nowhere fast. Intrigued and frustrated with a stalled music career, Thibodeau gradually became a follower and moved to the Branch Davidian compound. He remained there until April 19, 1993, when the compound was stormed and burnt to the ground after a 51-day standoff. Thibodeau explores why so many people came to believe that Koresh was divinely inspired.

☞Vaughan, Sarah. [Anatomy of a Scandal](#) (Atria \$26). I gave this book a lot of thought for the January British Crime Club Pick and in the end decided that despite its many virtues, it's too much like a #MeToo ripped from the newspapers. What we have is a

wife to a rising Junior Minister star, a public figure she fell for while at Oxford. James is a handsome, charismatic public figure, a good father, her husband... and then one day he's accused of raping his Parliamentary assistant Olivia. In an elevator. Sophie is shocked and hurt. James says his affair with Olivia was short, a one-off, this is revenge. The PM, an old friend, supports him. Kate is a lawyer who believes Olivia and is certain that James is guilty and she will make him own up to this crime, perhaps other crimes. And so, through these various narrators, the story builds. This technique is a condensed version of Lawrence Durrell's structure for *The Alexandria Quartet*. And it brings Nicola Upson's December History/Mystery Pick, [Nine Lessons](#) (\$26.99) up to date from 1937 Cambridge to 2017 London. Another reason I didn't make Vaughan's book a BCC Pick.

Wexler, Django. [The Infernal Battalion](#) (Ace \$28). Military might and arcane power clash in the new Shadow Campaigns novel. The Beast, the ancient demon imprisoned beneath the fortress-city of Elysium for a thousand years, has been loosed on the world. It absorbs mind after mind, spreading like a plague through the north. The fell army it has raised threatens the heart of Vordan, and it is under the command of the Beast's greatest prize: legendary general Janus bet Vhalnich. As Queen Raesinia Orboan and soldiers Marcus D'Ivoire and Winter Ihernglass grapple with the aftermath of a hard-fought military campaign, they soon discover a betrayal they never could have foreseen. The news arrives like a thunderbolt: Janus has declared himself the rightful Emperor of Vordan. Chaos grips the city as officers and regiments are forced to declare for queen or emperor. And then....

Winnette, Colin. [The Job of the Wasp](#) (Soft Skull Press \$16.95). A January Indie Next Pick for “a witty, grisly Gothic”: “What is it that stories about adolescent boys and orphanages so often seem abnormally rife with tragedy, allure, and horror? Such is the setting for Colin Winnette's fantastic new novel, which follows a boy recently admitted to such an institution, only to uncover a murder mystery that will cause him to question his own existence and purpose. Winnette successfully balances an atmosphere of the fantastic alongside the gritty reality of 30-odd orphaned boys and their headmaster, creating a world where answers are nearly impossible to manufacture and wild theories percolate. *Lord of the Flies* meets Guillermo del Toro's *The Devil's Backbone* in this incredibly haunting book, which might leave you wondering about the possibility of the paranormal within your own life. You've been warned; now pick it up.”

Wirkus, Tim. [The Infinite Future](#) (Penguin \$27.99). I wish I had gotten an early copy of this, sounds like such fun. “An exhilarating, original novel, set in Brazil, Idaho, and outer space, about an obsessive librarian, a down-at-heel author, and a disgraced historian who go on the hunt for a mystical, life-changing book—and find it. It “melds two page-turning tales in one. In the first, we meet three broken people, joined by an obsession with a forgotten Brazilian science-fiction author named Salgado-MacKenzie. There's Danny, a writer who's been scammed by a shady literary award committee; Sergio, journalist turned sub-librarian in São Paulo; and Harriet, an excommunicated Mormon historian in Salt Lake City, who years ago corresponded with the reclusive Brazilian writer. The motley trio sets off to discover his identity, and whether his fabled masterpiece—ever published—actually exists. Did his inquiries

into the true nature of the universe yield something so enormous that his mind was blown for good? In the second half, Wirkus gives us the lost masterpiece itself—the actual text of *The Infinite Future*, Salgado-MacKenzie’s wonderfully weird magnum opus.” Meta fiction is not for every reader, not always for me although I adore Sulari Gentill’s [Crossing the Lines](#) (\$15.99) cached in the mystery genre. Here’s *Kirkus*’ comment on Wirkus: “Wirkus offers more than 150 pages of *The Infinite Future*, a pulpy yet literary nugget that reads like a cross between Flash Gordon and *The Seventh Seal*. An experimental, deeply meta novel about the search for meaning and the disappointments of reality.”

Yates, Christopher. [Grist Mill Road](#) (Picador \$26). In 1982, three children play parts in a senseless act of violence. The setting is an Edenic hamlet some 90 miles north of New York City. There, among the craggy rock cliffs and glacial ponds of timeworn mountains, three friends—Patrick, Matthew and Hannah—are bound together by a single, terrible, and seemingly senseless crime. Twenty six years later, in New York City, living lives their younger selves could never have predicted, the three meet again—with even more devastating results. Here is a triple helix of a story structure, a sharp-edged love triangle complete with an Atonement style revelation and all that roils beneath the surface of a small town, and it’s expertly plotted.

Zander, Joakim. [Believer](#) (\$16.99). Yasmine Ajam has fled her past in the rough Stockholm borough Bergort, reinventing herself as a trendspotter in New York City. One day she receives a startling message: there are riots erupting on the streets of Stockholm and they appear to be connected with the disappearance of her brother, Fadi. Following rumors that Fadi died fighting for ISIS in Syria, Yasmine returns to Stockholm to discover what really happened to her brother. Meanwhile, in London, Klara Walldén has landed a job at a human rights research institute working on a report to predict the effects of privatizing police forces. When Klara travels to Stockholm to present her findings to European Union policymakers, her laptop is stolen and one of her colleagues is pushed in front of an oncoming subway train. As her path collides with Yasmine’s, Klara begins to realize that she may unwittingly be contributing to sinister agendas.... Zander wrote the international bestseller [The Swimmer](#) (\$15.99).

Zumas, Leni. [Red Clocks](#) (Little Brown \$26). When a new law makes abortion illegal, a group of women in a small Oregon fishing town must deal with the repercussions. “A chillingly poignant piece of dystopian fiction that, much like Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale* and Alderman’s *The Power*, comes uncomfortably close to our reality.” The Indie Next Pick: “I never understood what it meant for someone’s writing to be ‘lyrical’ until I picked up *Red Clocks*. With beautiful prose, Leni Zumas tells the story of a young girl seeking an abortion in a world where abortion is illegal and dangerous; a woman on the quest to have children when in-vitro fertilization is illegal and folks aren’t allowed to adopt without a partner; a woman in a dead-end marriage desperate to escape from her husband and children; and a woman considered a witch by most who provides homeopathic reproductive healthcare, including illegal abortions. Zumas beautifully weaves these stories together and gives each individual a strong and unique voice, while also maintaining suspended disbelief. These characters felt real and this world felt possible. I suspect this will be one of the best books published in 2018.”

## MORE JANUARY SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Barr, Nevada. [Boar Island](#) (\$9.99) Anna Pigeon #19. When her paraplegic friend’s adopted daughter attempts suicide in the face of cyber-bullying and stalking, National Park Service Ranger Anna Pigeon investigates the person behind the increasingly violent harassment, who follows the troubled teen when Anna tries to move her to a safe haven. *PW* concluded their review with “Barr excels at conveying the often harsh realities faced by lobstermen and their families, though her depiction of the antagonist is less compelling and fails to achieve nuance or dimension. Still, readers looking for a lively escape in a rugged, brutal, but magnificent landscape should find plenty to enjoy.”

Box, C J. [Vicious Circle](#) (\$9.99) Joe Pickett #17. The Cates family had always been a bad lot. Game warden Joe Pickett had been able to strike a fierce blow against them when the life of his daughter April had been endangered, but he’d always wondered if there’d be a day of reckoning. He’s not wondering any longer. Joe knows they’re coming after him and his family now. He has his friend Nate by his side, but will that be enough this time? *Kirkus* had this to say “Bracingly familiar pleasures expertly packaged. The two families’ fraught history, tangled enough to fuel a whole season of high-country soap opera, keeps this installment from being the best place to take the initial plunge into the franchise, but first-timers will be intrigued and fans amply rewarded.”

Gardiner, Meg. [Unsub](#) (\$9.99) Gardiner, Edgar award-winning author of *China Lake*, was inspired by the unsolved case of the Zodiac Killer in her latest psychological suspense novel which follows the efforts of a young detective, who resolves to apprehend the serial murderer who destroyed her family and terrorized a city twenty years earlier. This garnered lots of rave reviews including this one from *LJ* “Gardiner, long praised for developing full-bodied characters while spinning intense psychological thrillers, does herself proud here. Think Thomas Harris at his most frightening, and hope to see more of Caitlin Hendrix.”

Herbert, A L. [Murder with Fried Chicken and Waffles](#) (\$7.99) Mahalia Watkins Soul Food #1. Halia Watkins, the owner of a well-loved soul food restaurant in Prince George’s County, Maryland, investigates after a smooth-talking, shady entrepreneur turns up murdered in her kitchen, right next to her cast iron frying pan. *PW* had this to say “Foodies will welcome Herbert’s amusing debut, the first in a new cozy series complete with recipes.”

Klein, Libby. [Class Reunions Are Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Forced by her best friend to attend their 25-year reunion, newly widowed Poppy McAllister, armed with Spanx, finds herself accused of murder when the mean girl who taunted her in high school is found dead in front of Poppy’s old locker and she must unlock a combination of clues from her past to clear her name.

Randall, Shari. [Curses, Boiled Again!](#) (St Martins \$7.99) Recovering from an injury, prima ballerina Allie Larkin returns home to Mystic Bay where she encourages her Aunt Gully, the owner of the Lazy Mermaid Lobster Shack, to enter her lobster rolls into a televised cooking contest, but when the competition is taken out and foul play is to blame, Allie must catch the culprit before this case boils over.

Scottoline, Lisa. [Keep Quiet](#) (\$8.99) After a terrible car accident, Jake Whitmore makes a split-second decision that saves his son from formal punishment, but plunges them both into a world of guilt, lies, and secrecy where a dangerous enemy comes forward threatening to expose them. LJ's review ended with "Scottoline (*Don't Go*) has written another winning novel of unparalleled suspense. Fans of psychological suspense and family dynamics will want to snap this one up."

Taylor, Brad. [Ghosts of War](#) (\$9.99) Pike Logan #10. Traveling to Poland to investigate artifacts believed hidden in a fabled Nazi gold train, Pike Logan and Jennifer Cahill are swept up by a Russian incursion into Belarus before a horrific attack against U.S. forces, prompting NATO to prepare for a war that is being manipulated by a mysterious interest.

#### **MORE JANUARY SMALL PAPERBACKS**

Blackmoore, Stephanie. [Murder Borrowed, Murder Blue](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Wedding Planner #3. Actress Dakota Craig is set to tie the knot with her famous musician boyfriend at Mallory's Pennsylvania B&B on the most romantic day of the year. Best of all, the whole thing will air on the reality TV show *I Do*. But the maid of honor has dropped out of the wedding party—by dropping dead.

Brennan, Allison. [Breaking Point](#) (\$9.99) Lucy Kincaid #13. Despite the case being out of her jurisdiction, FBI Agent Lucy Kincaid investigates the disappearance of her close friend's estranged sister, an ex-cop who was working undercover to find a teenager sold into the sex trade by her stepfather, and must face her deepest fears to rescue her and save the innocent.

Burton, Mary. [The Seventh Victim](#) (\$9.99) Reissue. The only survivor of the Seattle Strangler, who disappeared seven years ago, Lara Church finds her chance at a normal life shattered by the return of this killer who is determined to finish what he started.

Day, Maddie. [Biscuits and Slashed Browns](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Country Store #3. When Professor Connelly, a much-hated know-it-all academic, is murdered right before the National Maple Syrup Festival, country store owner Robbie Jordan, to avoid a sticky situation, must help the police crack the case before an innocent woman is accused of the crime.

Fluke, Joanne. [Banana Cream Pie Murder](#) (\$7.99) Hannah Swensen #21. Returning from an extravagant honeymoon only to learn that an unpopular neighbor has been murdered, Hannah Swensen doubts a police ruling about a random intruder while sifting through a growing number of suspects.

Ludlum, Robert. [The Prometheus Deception](#) (\$9.99) Reissue. Nicholas Bryson, an agent for a covert American group called the Directorate, comes out of retirement after learning the Directorate is actually a traitorous group and joins forces with the CIA to put a stop to their actions.

Lutz, John. [Honorable Traitors](#) (Kensington \$9.99) When a Washington, D.C. insider is killed in a bomb explosion secret operative Thomas Laker must team up with cryptographer Ava North to stop another act of terrorism and as they search for clues, they discover one of history's greatest—and deadliest—secrets.

Martin, Kat. [Beyond Danger](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Accused of murdering his 60-year-old former state senator father who impregnated a teenager, Texas mogul Beau Reese must place his trust in detective Cassidy Jones who, believing in his innocence, sets out to find the truth, while trying to deny her attraction to this desperate man.

O'Connor, Carlene. [Murder at an Irish Wedding](#) (Kensington \$7.99) The O'Sullivan clan of County Cork, Ireland, are thrilled to be catering the matrimonial affairs of a celebrity couple—until a cunning killer turns an Irish wedding into an Irish wake.

Washburn, Tim. [Day After Oblivion](#) (Kensington \$9.99) When the Department of Defense and the NSA computer networks are hacked, resulting in humanity's worst nightmare as countless millions are dead or dying due to mass destruction, a group of survivors find the real battle beginning as they try to rebuild a new world.