

BOOKNEWS from

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New Year Booknews 2018
sales@poisonedpen.com tel (888)560-9919
http://poisonedpen.com

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



Happy New Year!

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

Next Booknews January 16th

THURSDAY JANUARY 4 7:00 PM

Thomas Perry signs [The Bomb Maker](#) (Mysterious Press \$26)
Jeff Siger signs [An Aegean April](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 or \$15.95) **Andreas Kaldis** #9

SATURDAY JANUARY 6 2:00 PM

Jennifer Ashley signs [Death Below Stairs](#) (Berkley \$15) New series start
Jenn McKinlay signs [Every Dog Has His Day](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Bluff Point #3
Paige Shelton signs [Comic Sans Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99) A Dangerous Type #3

SUNDAY JANUARY 7:00 PM

Sujata Massey signs [The Widows of Malabar Hill](#) (Soho \$26.95) New series start

TUESDAY JANUARY 9 7:00 PM

Brad Taylor signs [Operator Down](#) (Dutton \$27) Pike Logan #12

SATURDAY JANUARY 13 10:30 AM

Coffee and Crime discusses Jill Orr's [The Good Byline](#) (\$16)

SUNDAY JANUARY 14 2:00 PM

Hosted by Tasha Alexander
Tasha signs [Death in St. Petersburg](#) (St Martins (\$25.99) Lady Emily #12
Deanna Raybourn signs [A Treacherous Curse](#) (Penguin \$26) Veronica Speedwell Mystery #3
Lauren Willig signs [The English Wife](#) (St Martins \$26.99) A Gilded Age Gothic

MONDAY JANUARY 15 7:00 PM

Hosted by Hank Phillippi Ryan
Hank signs [Say No More](#) (\$7.99) Jane Ryland #5
Andrew Grant signs [False Witness](#) (Ballantine \$27) Det. Cooper Devereaux #3
Nick Petric signs [Light It Up](#) (Putnam \$26) Peter Ash #3

TUESDAY JANUARY 16 7:00 PM

Douglas Preston and (by Skype) 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

EVENT BOOKS THROUGH JANUARY 16

Alexander, Tasha. [Death in St. Petersburg](#) (St Martins (\$25.99)). A terrific combination of Nicholas II and St Petersburg history plus Russian ballet frames the latest Lady Emily mystery. We sold out in October but Tasha returns January 14 to host Deanna Raybourn and Loren Willig so we restocked. If you missed this well wrought Victorian mystery series, [all 12 of the novels](#) are in print... for a New Year's treat.

Ashley, Jennifer. [Death Below Stairs](#) (Berkley \$15). Set in 1881, this exceptional series launch introduces Kat Holloway, a brilliant cook employed in the lavish London home of Lord Rankin. The cast of distinctive, well-drawn characters includes Lady Cynthia, Lord Rankin's cross-dressing sister, who embodies the plight of Victorian women forced into lives that don't fit them; Daniel McAdam, a charming, secretive delivery man who helped Kat in a time of great need before she joined Lord Rankin's household; and James, Daniel's sweet, fiercely independent 15-year-old son. Kat and Daniel, aided by James and Lady Cynthia, investigate the murder of a young servant, battle Fenians, and race to thwart an act of terrorism. Ashley, author of the terrific Captain Lacey Regency mysteries, draws inspiration from Mrs. Beeton and her knowledge of household management. Any foodie will love this.

Grant, Andrew. [False Witness](#) (Ballantine \$27). A woman disappears on her twenty-first birthday. The following day her body is found, wrapped neatly like a gift in a crumbling, sun-speckled graveyard. What does Detective Cooper Devereaux have to go on? Very little. No motive, no suspects. Then another victim is discovered in a crematorium parking lot. Again, she was killed on her twenty-first birthday. Again, her body was wrapped like a gift. By the third murder the tabloids have dubbed the homicidal monster the Birthday Killer—and Devereaux is under the gun. While Devereaux's own violent and mysterious past nips at his heels, and his fragile home life threatens to unravel, he can't afford to be anything but totally obsessed with the frantic search through the many layers of Birmingham, Alabama. Start with [False Positive and False Friend](#) (\$9.99 each).

Massey, Sujata. [The Widows of Malabar Hill](#) (Soho \$26.95). Our **January History/Mystery Club Pick** starts a new series set in Bombay, 1921, and is written not from the point of view of the Raj but of the Indians. It has earned four and more Starred Reviews. Here is one: "This outstanding series launch from Agatha-winner Massey introduces Perveen Mistry, Bombay's first female solicitor, who works for her father's law firm, handling contracts and estate work. Faisal Mukri, the trustee of the estate of recently deceased textile-mill owner Omar Farid, writes to the Mistry firm to request changes in the estate settlement, claiming that Farid's three widows want to donate all their assets to a charitable foundation that would benefit the needy while paying them an annuity. The paperwork documenting the widows' intentions appears suspect, and Perveen's visit to their home and her conversation with Mukri only strengthen her conviction that something irregular is at work. Her due diligence in insuring that the widows' interests are protected eventually enmeshes her in a murder investigation. The period detail and thoughtful characterizations, especially of the capable, fiercely

independent lead, bode well for future installments." And yet another Star: "In addition to getting an unusual perspective on women's rights and relationships, readers are treated to a full view of historical downtown Bombay—the shops and offices, the docks and old fort, and the huge variety of conveyances, characters, and religions—in an unforgettable olio that provides the perfect backdrop to the plot and subplots. Each of the many characters is uniquely described, flaws and all, which is the key to understanding their surprising roles in the well-constructed puzzle." —*Booklist*. Many of you have read and enjoyed Massey's Rei Shimura mysteries in the past.

Perry, Thomas. [The Bomb Maker](#) (Grove \$26). "A gripping, clock-ticking plot, awash in fascinating details about bomb making and detection." powers a classic Thomas Perry who delivers "An explosive (pun intended) new book." Perry has skillfully captured the super stressful world of the LAPD Bomb Squad, and gotten deep into the head of a mad bomber. This is the ultimate cat-and-mouse game, a story so tense and riveting that you'll find yourself holding your breath as the timer ticks off the seconds. *The Bomb Maker* is a unique achievement, a wonderful mix of psychological thriller and high-tech entertainment. Perry always delivers."—Nelson DeMille. Who sums up this latest thriller by an author always fascinated with how things work as well as the chase. Movie rights are already sold, too. And don't overlook Perry's 2016 gem, [The Old Man](#) (\$16), one of our New Year's Large Paperback Picks, below. It's especially fun for Chicagoans.

Petrie, Nick. [Light it Up](#) (Putnam \$26). Petrie, a nominee for many awards and winner of a Thriller and a Barry, brings you combat veteran Peter Ash's 3rd propulsive thriller. If you start no other new author this year, make it Petrie who, I predict, will become one of the greats. The action is high starting with a gutsy block-and-grab on a Colorado highway that underscores the risks in the marijuana trade, essentially a cash operation in a state where it is legal but federal law doesn't agree. Ash, who's been rebuilding hiking trails in Oregon where he met and fell hard for the hardy June Cassidy, is on his way to rendezvous with her when he stops off by Denver to do a favor by helping old friend Henry Nygaard's Heavy Metal Protection team deliver a truckload of medical marijuana to Denver-area shops, then deliver the money collected. When the ambush leaves Ash the sole survivor, he's bent on avenging his friends while recovering the money and unmaking the conspirators responsible for the massacre. I'd never bet against Ash and it has to be said that June and ex-Marine Lewis are as fearless as he. "Petrie is a master of orchestrating convincing mayhem" but his characters are not mere tools serving the action, they leap off the page too. [The Drifter](#) (\$16) and [Burning Bright](#) (\$16), start with them.

Preston, Douglas/Child Lincoln. [City of Endless Night](#) (Grand Central \$28). When Grace Ozman, the beautiful and reckless daughter of a wealthy tech billionaire, first goes missing, the NYPD assumes she has simply sped off on another wild adventure. Until some boys bent on mischief end up hiding in a derelict garage and dig into a pile of leaves.... Lieutenant CDS Vincent D'Agosta quickly takes the lead. He knows his investigation will attract fierce scrutiny, so D'Agosta is delighted when FBI

Special Agent A.X.L. Pendergast shows up at the crime scene, assigned to the case. “I feel rather like Brer Rabbit being thrown into the briar patch,” Pendergast tells D’Agosta, “because I have found you here, in charge. Just like when we first met, back at the Museum of Natural History.” It’s unusual for the NYPD and FBI to be working in concert, but Agent Pendergast has been sent to the scene under the pretext that Grace’s headless body crossed state lines—NJ to NY. Pretty thin, but his Associate Director wants to teach him a lesson. The second one comes when a lawyer to the mob is killed in his impregnable town house on East 66th Street. How likely is it two killers are roaming Manhattan decapitating victims? As hysteria builds with more savagery, and the media fans it, D’Agosta and Pendergast press to zero in on a skilled opponent who in turn zeroes in on them... **Note: our copies are signed by both authors and come with an original piece of art—and a surprise signature. Time and volume do not permit personalizations** unless you attend the event when Doug will do that. Lincoln signed the books in NYC before they shipped to us for the publication day launch party.

Don’t overlook Preston’s fabulous true adventure into the Central American wilderness in search of [The Lost City of the Monkey God](#) (\$16) which he can sign for you, too. It has been named one of the 100 Best Nonfictions of 2017 by various reviewers including the *NY Times*.

Raybourn, Deanna. [A Treacherous Curse](#) (Penguin \$26). Our blogger Lesa Holstine reviews: In 1888 London, Victorian adventuress Veronica Speedwell is intrigued by the newspaper reports about the calamities of the Tiverton expedition in Egypt, including stories of the appearance of Anubis, god of the underworld, and a curse attached to a recovered sarcophagus. In addition, the project’s photographer, John de Morgan, and his wife have disappeared with a priceless diadem taken from the newly discovered tomb of an Egyptian princess. It’s only when she and her working partner, the scientist Stoker, are called to meet with the head of Special Branch that she learns Stoker was once married to Mrs. de Morgan. Her husband had been the friend who had abandoned Stoker to die in the Amazon. To save Stoker’s reputation, the duo team up to investigate the truth behind the expedition and the couple’s disappearance. While readers of Elizabeth Peters’ “Amelia Peabody” mysteries will enjoy this title, it is fans of *Jane Eyre* who will truly appreciate the third volume in Raybourn’s historical series. Her intricately plotted and dramatic story features a strong-willed, independent woman who is the intellectual equal of the brooding Stoker.” I add I much enjoyed all the Egyptology. [A Curious Beginning](#) and [A Perilous Undertaking](#) (\$15 each) come first.

Siger, Jeffrey. [An Aegean April](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 or \$15.95). “Siger has taken on the task of making a very complex set of circumstances comprehensible, showing us why it matters, and done both well.”—Thomas Perry, with whom Siger appears at The Pen January 4 in a double book launch party. To which the Greek press adds, “Jeff is so adept at capturing the plight of Greece and its crises, while at the same time, showing his love for his adopted country.” Siger’s ripped-from-the-headlines ninth mystery featuring Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis combines a convincing police procedural with thriller elements. When an elderly Greek philanthropist is sliced in half with a sword on Lesbos, the police grab Ali Sera, who works at a refugee-aid NGO on the island, as a handy scapegoat. Dana McLaughlin, Ali’s feisty boss, isn’t con-

vinced. Neither are Kaldis and his tough Athens-based team of cops, who begin a tortuous investigation that must not only deal with physical evidence but also work around government corruption and the distrust between Greece and Turkey. Meanwhile, a crazed but clever assassin, who calls himself Aryan, has decided he wants to take over the refugee-smuggling racket in the eastern Mediterranean and is eliminating the Turkish gangsters who stand in his way. “Vivid local color, agreeable central characters, and exciting action scenes make this a winner.” Our own Lesa Holstine adds, “Fans of Adrian McKinty’s Sean Duffy books and other police procedurals that handle violence and political issues with black humor will welcome this outstanding crime novel.” [Order all the Kaldis](#), each set in a different and fascinating Greek landscape, marrying the ancient and the new.

Taylor, Brad. [Operator Down](#) (Dutton \$27). “Former Delta Force officer Taylor relies on his familiarity with modern combat logistics to create credible characters and complex plots that pulse with intense intrigue, authenticity, and realism. Fans of military thrillers will enjoy how this narrative mirrors current events in the worldwide war on terror.”—*LJ*. What starts as a surveillance job for Pike, pal Knuckles, and sidekick and love interest Jennifer—all members of the extralegal counterterrorism group known as Taskforce—takes a deadly turn after a coup in the African kingdom of Lesotho. Diamonds are involved, as is an arms dealer who’s bartering trigger components for nuclear devices to pay for the coup. Meanwhile, Pike’s Israeli spy friend, Aaron Bergmann, gets captured and needs to be rescued. Shoshana, is always entertaining, as she can be counted on to kill, in the most horrific manner, anyone who gets in her way or threatens her beloved Aaron. Pike has been partially tamed by Jennifer, but he’s still happy to go off reservation when needed, much to the dismay of his Taskforce boss.

Willig, Lauren. [The English Wife](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Willig, having taken time out for a second baby, is back with a story that, despite its title, moves back and forth from 1894 London to 1899 Gilded Age New York: in the van Duyvil family mansion on the Hudson, and in New York City. And she lets her inner Gothic rip! Janie Van Duyvil, mousy daughter of an old Knickerbocker family, feels insignificant and out-of-place at a fancy Twelfth Night dinner party that her brother, Bay, and his English wife, Annabelle, throw at the Van Duyvil family home. Her self-pity is quickly superseded by horror after a cousin of hers stumbles on Bay lying on the ground outside the house, bleeding from a dagger wound. Bay’s last word is “George.” Annabelle’s subsequent disappearance and a tabloid’s instant assertion that Bay murdered her before committing suicide heighten the tragedy of his death—and the puzzle, for theirs had been a fairy-tale romance. Determined to exonerate her sibling, Janie turns investigator despite the opposition of her martinet, socialite mother as flashbacks acquaint us with Annabelle’s history and Bay’s, neither as one would expect it to be.

SIGNED BOOKS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Anderson, James. [Lullaby Road](#) (Crown \$26). Our **January Hardboiled Crime Club Pick** publishes January 16. Signed January 23. 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.

Benjamin, Chloe. [The Immortalists](#) (Putnam \$26). **The No. 1 Indie Next Pick for January is our Modern Firsts Pick**. "In 1969, four siblings visit a fortune teller, who tells each child the date of their death. We follow the Gold siblings both separately and together over the next four decades and see how these revelations affect their choices, their behavior, and their relationships with one another. Apart from raising the obvious question (would you want to know the date of your death?), Benjamin brilliantly explores how family members can be both close to and distant from one another, and ponders the point at which our actions cease to matter and fate steps in. I LOVED *The Immortalists*, and if there's any justice in bookselling, this book will find the massive audience it so deserves." So here we are, doing our bit. The portraits of the Gold parents, immigrants with difficult histories, are to me more interesting than how the lives of the children play out in ways that break your heart for what their parents worked so hard for them to achieve. In its way this is a powerful story of immigrant dreams.

Box, CJ. [The River God Deluxe Edition](#) (ASAP Press \$45). An original Joe Pickett short story plus 6 non-fiction essays. Introduction by T. Jefferson Parker, Afterword by Ace Atkins. Signed by all three authors. Order now as we cannot obtain more copies.

Burke, James Lee. [Robicheaux](#) (SimonSchuster \$27.99). During a murder investigation, Dave Robicheaux discovers he may have committed the homicide he's investigating, one which involved the death of the man who took the life of Dave's beloved wife. As he works to clear his name and make sense of the murder, Robicheaux encounters a cast of characters and a resurgence of dark social forces that threaten to destroy all of those whom he loves. What emerges is not only a propulsive and thrilling novel, but a harrowing study of America: this nation's abiding conflict between a sense of past grandeur and a legacy of shame, its easy seduction by demagogues and wealth, and its predilection for violence and revenge. Burke says, "Louisiana is a gift from God to the artist. It a microcosm of our entire history. It is also a fresh-air mental asylum, what Clete calls Guatemala North. It's also filled with Damon Runyon eccentrics and bohemians. Could a writer ask for more? As in San Francisco, it is impossible to shock anyone who lives in South Louisiana. Humor aside, many of the events of our time have been visible first in Dave's beloved state, one of which is the rise of the dictator in denim. In this novel we meet him in the person of Jimmy Nightingale, whose antecedents are Huey Long and Joseph McCarthy." Now "I'm writing a sequel to *Robicheaux* titled *Ball and Chain*. This baby is in full-tilt, E-major overdrive and deals with the blues and a mojo-hand band and bucket-kicking, country-picking, and believe it or not the film 'My Darling Clementine.'"

Crais, Robert. [The Wanted](#) (Putnam \$28). When single-mother Devon Connor hires Elvis Cole, it's because her troubled teenage son Tyson is flashing cash and she's afraid he's dealing drugs. But the truth is devastatingly different. With two others, he's been responsible for a string of high-end burglaries, a crime spree that takes a deadly turn when one of them is murdered and Tyson and his girlfriend disappear. They stole the wrong thing from the wrong man, and, determined to get it back, he has hired two men who are smart and brutal and the best at what they do. To even the odds, Cole brings in his friend Joe Pike, but even the two of them together may be overmatched. The police don't want them anywhere near the investigation, the teenagers refuse to be found, and the hired killers are leaving a trail of bodies in their wake. Pretty soon, they'll find out everything they need to know to track the kids down—and then nothing that Elvis or Joe can do may make any difference. It might even get them killed. Crais mixes in Jon Stone, who's made popular cameo appearances in previous books. This was originally scheduled for June, 2017.

Finn, A J. [The Woman in the Window](#) (Harper \$26.99). This is a crackerjack debut by Finn, pseudonym of an editor at William Morrow. I've read a lot of debuts for January – I READ BAD BOOKS SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO – and only a few live up to their hype, this being one. You can figure out the back story of the narrator but not likely the plot twists. As the title clues you, it's a spin on Hitchcock's *Rear Window* with many nods to classic film noir. Here's the Indie Next Pick: "Touted as one of the hottest releases of early 2018, and with excellent reason. A.J. Finn's debut novel is told through the eyes of a narrator trapped inside her beautiful house by a severe case of agoraphobia and separated from her husband and young daughter. She copes with her condition by spying on her neighbors and living vicariously through their drama, until the night she witnesses what appears to be a murder and finds herself swept up in its wake. Once this story gets rolling, it will bowl you over. Fans of psychological thrillers should take note of this banger of a tale!" Much smitten, I ordered extras; the first printing has sold out; movie rights have sold. We have the **First Mystery Club** covered. If you are not a member, order quickly.

Goodkind, Terry. [Shroud of Eternity](#) (Tor \$29.99). *Shroud of Eternity* picks up where [Death's Mistress](#) (\$9.99), Vol. 1 in the Nicci Chronicles, left off. The formidable sorceress Nicci and her companions—the newly powerless Nathan and the youthful Bannon—set out on another quest after driving ruthless Norukai slavers out of Renda Bay. Their mission: restore Nathan's magic and, for Nicci, save the world. Guided by the witch-woman Red's mysterious prophecy, the trio makes their way south of Kol Adair towards a wondrous city shrouded behind time, Ildakar. But the grotesque omens on their path to Nathan's salvation—severed Norukai heads on pikes, a genetically modified monster, and a petrified army of half a million—are just a taste of the unimaginable horrors that await within the Shroud of Eternity.

Ifkovic, Ed. [Mood Indigo](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). "Set in New York during the winter of 1933, Ifkovic's outstanding ninth mystery featuring writer Edna Ferber opens at British playwright Noel Coward's 33rd birthday party at his penthouse overlooking the East River. The guests, who include such celebrities as composer Irving Berlin and actor Leslie Howard, are singing Christmas carols when the hapless scion of old Manhattan money, and his showgirl lover, Belinda Ross, enter the room

and start to dance. When Belinda later turns up strangled in a Times Square Automat, many believe hot-tempered Dougie is the culprit. Edna sets out to prove his innocence. Many scenes crackle with tension—especially the confrontations between Edna and Dougie’s ferocious widowed mother, Lady Maud, with whom he lives in a Fifth Avenue mansion. Ifkovic adroitly squeezes research into the story, with glimpses of people in the arty New York scene as well as the poor on the streets. The novel’s main strength, though, is its vivid depiction of a country in crisis in the depths of the Depression.”—*PW* Starred Review. I never saw the resolution of this gem coming. And spending so much time with Noel Coward is a treat. For the paperback edition, see New Books. **And to read Ferb’s first investigation which takes place on the set of *Giant*, go for [Lone Star](#) (\$9.99). Introduction by David Morrell, a fan of James Dean, the movie *Giant*, and Ferber.**

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.

Wilson, F. Paul. [The God Gene](#) (Forge \$28). Dr. Laura Fanning, a New York City medical examiner, and her sidekick, Rick Hayden, go in search of Rick’s brother, Keith Somers, in Wilson’s exciting sequel to 2016’s first in the ICE Sequence, 2016’s [Panacea](#) (\$9.99). An NYU zoologist, Keith vanished after mapping the genome of an exotic monkey, a creature he killed before destroying all evidence from his research center. As Laura and Rick begin to piece together the fragments of Keith’s life, they realize that he may have contrived his own disappearance. Their quest takes them to Mozambique, where the strange monkeys known as dapis may hold the key to a revelation more stunning than the missing link. Standing in their way are the poacher Amaury Lafite and entrepreneur Marten Jeukens, an Afrikaner who wishes to unleash a dark plan for the dapis to save humankind. Looming over the twisting plot is the enigma of ICE, the “intrusive cosmic entities” that may connect this series with Wilson’s Repairman Jack books. Tight writing keeps this science adventure tale churning with the pace of James Rollins toward a conclusion worthy of Michael Crichton. Our **January SciFi Club Pick**.

NEW BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSICS

Bude, John. [Death Makes a Prophet](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). “The “stranger in a strange land” premise works really well in this revived mystery first published in 1947. “Bude, a prolific writer of mysteries with picturesque settings, sets this later one in an idyllic garden city inhabited by a bohemian, freewheeling cult known as Cooisism. The cult is a soup of beliefs, with lashings of Egyptian gods, numerology, astrology, vegetarianism, and handmade clothing. Bude sends up the cult itself, the pretentiousness and ambition of its acolytes, and the opportunism of its high prophet. Into this mix comes Peta Penpeti, robed and exotic-looking, perhaps Egyptian, an espouser of mysticism. And quicker than

you can say “Osiris,” the cult is infested with jealousy, blackmail, fraud, and a double murder. Bude infuses the tale with comic commentary throughout. Veteran mystery writer and anthologist Martin Edwards’ introduction gives an overview of other writers, including Agatha Christie, Ngaio Marsh, Dashiell Hammett, and Ellery Queen, who have all used exotic cults as their mysteries’ springboards.”—*Booklist*. *PW* adds, “Bude (1901–1957) easily sustains interest as he wryly describes the Children of Osiris, a faith ‘compounded of a belief in magic numbers, astrology, auras, astral bodies, humility, meditation, vegetarianism, immortality, hand-woven tweeds and brotherly love.’”

Edwards, Martin, ed. [The Long Arm of the Law](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). Drawing on his encyclopedic knowledge of mystery fiction’s golden age, Edwards (Continental Crimes) 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.

Postgate, Raymond. [Somebody at the Door](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). In the winter of 1942, England lies cold and dark in the wartime blackout. One bleak evening, Councillor Grayling steps off the 6.12 from Euston, carrying £120 in cash, and oblivious to the fate that awaits him in the snow-covered suburbs. Inspector Holly draws up a list of Grayling’s fellow passengers: his dis-trusted employee Charles Evetts, the charming Hugh Rolandson, and an unknown refugee from Nazi Germany, among others. Inspector Holly will soon discover that each passenger harbours their own dark secrets, and that the councillor had more than one enemy among them. “First published in 1943,” says Martin Edwards in his Introduction, “Raymond Postgate’s wartime murder mystery combines thrilling detection with rich characters and a fascinating depiction of life on the home front.”

OUR NEW YEAR’S LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Boylan, Jennifer. [The Long Black Veil](#) (\$16). “At the start of this madcap thriller full of hidden identities from Boylan, a night of goofy post-college mischief goes horribly amiss in Philadelphia’s shut-down Eastern State Penitentiary in 1980. When human remains surface at the site decades after the party, one of the six revelers, Jon Casey—now a top chef in Philadelphia—is charged, although the gumshoe assigned to review the cold case files senses more than a possible crime of passion has been covered up. In the interim, it appears that another party participant, a friend of Casey’s, may have faked his own death. In rural Maine, freelance writer Judith Carrigan, who knew both the victim and Casey back when, knows the latter to be innocent. But to help Casey would

put her family and happiness on the line... And embedded in the whodunit is a heartwarming midlife love story, in which hard-won candor, tenacity, and a generous sense of humor are the most saving of graces.”—*PW* Starred Review for a book recommended to fans of Megan Abbott and, once again, Donna Tartt.

Chaon, Dan. [III Will](#) (\$17). Our April 2017 Modern First Club Pick was also an Indie Next Pick: “*III Will* is a house of mirrors reflecting intergenerational psychodramas in which the abuses of a parent insidiously infect subsequent generations. Violent paricide, false memories, drugs, and sex fuel a double plot line and vivid character development and taut dialog propel the reader as scene shifts blur the roles of the offender and the injured. Chaon adroitly leads us through a literary haunted house, then leaves us to find our own way out.”

Cogman, Genevieve. [The Lost Plot](#) (Ace \$15). Time-traveling librarian Irene and her apprentice, the dragon prince Kai, become embroiled in the machinations of draconic nobility in this enjoyable fourth Invisible Library fantasy adventure (after *The Burning Page*). Minister Zhao of the court of the dragon queen of the Southern Lands has been assassinated. In order to fill his post, the queen sets a series of challenges for the two candidates, Qing Song and Jin Zhi. Irene confers with Kai after Jin Zhi approaches her for help and decides that she must proceed with the utmost caution. When it becomes apparent that another agent of the interdimensional library is already involved, Library Security has no choice but to assign Irene to investigate in order to maintain the library’s strict neutrality. Irene travels to a version of 1920s New York where mobsters and police have their own dangerous agendas, as do the two powerful dragons in human form competing for the ministerial post. Irene has the difficult task of deducing what is truly happening while evading capture by the various factions. Cogman nicely balances the political intrigue and action with the complex relationship between Irene and Kai. I really enjoy this imaginative series of which this is the 3rd. Start with [The Invisible Library](#) (\$15) and [The Burning Page](#) (\$16).

Coleman, Reed Farrel. [What You Break](#) (\$16). Coleman is always a tricky plotter. In this sequel to his new series start [Where It Hurts](#) (\$16), he does a masterful job portraying Long Island and Brooklyn in a story reaching deep into the past. Here’s one of the Starred Reviews: “Shamus Award–winner Coleman delves deep into the wounded psyche of his ex-cop lead. Gus Murphy is still struggling with the sudden death of his 20-year-old son, John Jr., and kills time working as a courtesy-van driver shuttling between a ratty Suffolk County hotel and Long Island’s MacArthur Airport. Meanwhile, the hidden past of his friend Slava Podalak, the hotel’s night bellman, has resurfaced with a vengeance, and Gus becomes a witness to murder. In addition, Gus’s confidant, Bill Kilkenny, a former priest, asks him to help the wealthy Micah Spears find out not who butchered his granddaughter but why. Spears makes Gus an offer impossible to resist—funding a youth sports foundation in John Jr.’s name. Coleman doesn’t pull any punches or settle for pat character arcs in presenting a realistically flawed Gus, who realizes that his morality “was not so much a search for the truth as a set of rationalizations that let sleep at night.”

Corbett, Ron. [Ragged Lake](#) (ECW \$14.95). *Kirkus* writes of our **January Discovery Club Pick**: “Familiar ingredients rarely combined—a starkly etched natural setting, a gung-ho cop, a

series of soulful flashbacks, a violent climax—are expertly blended and brought to a full rolling boil.” In its way this is a locked room mystery, or rather a locked-cabin mystery set deep in Canada’s wilderness at the Northern Divide, “a land of lush green forests and running water—so much running water there was a hum in the air for much of the year.” The cabin is near the abandoned Five Mile Camp on the Springfield River, near the HQ of O’Hearn Forest Products. No one knew where the family so ruthlessly slaughtered came from or why they remained. In fact no one in Ragged Lake knew they had been murdered until an O’Hearn tree cutter puzzled by the cabin’s presence (it was not on any map) looked through a window and hot-footed into town to the Mattamy Fishing Lodge, open year round. Detective Frank Yakabuski of the Springfield Regional Police gets the call, heads to Ragged Lake, and it rolls from there in unpredictable ways, filled with betrayals. An excellent book for fans of Paul Doiron and John Sandford which I hope heralds more Yakabuskis to come.

Deaver, Jeffery. [The Burial Hour](#) (\$15.99). The abduction of a business executive on Manhattan’s Upper East Side by a man calling himself the Composer kicks off the 13th novel featuring forensic expert Lincoln Rhyme. A witness finds a small hangman’s noose at the scene, as well as a torn currency exchange receipt, which suggests to Rhyme that the man was intending to leave the country. When the Composer later kidnaps a traveler at a remote bus stop near Naples, Italy, he leaves a little noose hanging from the bus stop bench. Rhyme and his lover, the NYPD’s Amelia Sachs, wing off to Naples where they join forces with the Italian investigating team led by hard-nosed prosecutor Dante Spiro, who’s initially dismissive of Rhyme. There’s an excellent young officer in the Forestry Service who takes a role after being foiled in arresting a truffle trafficker. Meanwhile, Charlotte McKenzie, a legal liaison with the U.S. State Department, needs Rhyme’s help with the case of an American college student in Naples who’s been arrested....

*Duncan, Francis. [Murder Has a Motive](#) (Sourcebooks \$14.99). Originally published in the U.K. in 1947, the first mystery William Underhill wrote under the Duncan pseudonym introduces amateur sleuth Mordecai Tremaine, an unassuming retired tobaccoist. When Tremaine arrives in Dalmering to visit his friends Paul and Jean Russell, they share the sad news that their friend Lydia Dare was stabbed to death the night before and ask him to find her killer. Lydia had been walking home after dining with Martin Vaughan, a man admittedly in love with her despite her engagement to another, and who was slated to portray a murderer in a local theatrical production of a play, *Murder Has a Motive*, which Lydia was stage-managing. Earlier that evening, she had shared her fear that the outwardly beautiful community concealed “something rotten.” Tremaine’s closest friend at Scotland Yard, Jonathan Boyce, arrives on the scene in time to assist. The self-effacing Tremaine is a plausibly astute detective who diligently works through Dalmering’s secrets. Fans of classic fair-play whodunits set in small English villages will find this just their cup of tea, as we did here with the first Duncan republication, [Murder for Christmas](#) (\$14.99), a 2017 British Crime Club Pick.

Eastland, Sam. [The Red Moth](#) (\$14.95). As Hitler’s forces smash into Soviet territory, annihilating the Red Army divisions in its path, a lone German scout plane is forced down. Contained with-

in the briefcase of its passenger is the seemingly inconsequential painting of a *hyalophoria cecropia*, otherwise known as a red moth. Military Intelligence dismisses the picture as insignificant, but in the state of emergency Stalin suspects a German plot. He summons his old adversary, Inspector Pekkala—the elusive Finn who was once Tsar Nicholas II’s personal detective—to discover the real significance of this strange wartime cargo. As the storm gathers around them, Pekkala, together with his assistant from the shadowy Bureau of Special Operations, soon find themselves on the path of the most formidable art thieves in history. Their real target is a secret and prized possession of the Romanovs, once considered to be the eighth wonder of the world. First published in the UK in 2013 and 4th in the Inspector Pekkala series.

Greaney, Mark. [Gunmetal Gray](#) (\$16). So Court Gentry, hunted by the CIA, does a switcheroo and is now back on the agency’s inside where he’s as formidable an assassin as ever in his 6th thriller. The force is with him as this Starred Review clearly shows: Bestseller Greaney’s outstanding sixth Gray Man novel finds Court Gentry, now a contract employee of the CIA, joining an effort to locate one of the world’s greatest computer hackers, 26-year-old Fan Jiang, a sergeant in the Chinese People’s Liberation Army, who’s on the run after escaping from mainland China. Teams of agents from Russia and China are also involved in the hunt for Fan. Court pretends to join the Chinese, because they have captured and are threatening to kill an old spy buddy, Sir Donald Fitzroy, a British agent who once saved Court’s life. The Russians are led by Zoya Feodorovich Zakharova, an SVR operative, who’s working with an elite SVR paramilitary unit known as Zaslou. Court eventually captures Zoya, who quickly becomes a love interest. The tension mounts as Court, with the help of the talented Zoya, chases Fan all over Eastern Asia. I add that it’s a treat to be battling the Chinese instead of ISIS (in a book). [Order the first 4 Gray Man thrillers](#). Greaney signs the next one here on February 21.

Howe, KJ. [The Freedom Broker](#) (\$16.99). A 2017 First Mystery Club Pick leads you into the world of international kidnapping. Kidnap and rescue expert Thea Paris has suffered from survivor’s guilt ever since her brother, Nikos, was kidnapped 20 years earlier at age 12—despite Niko’s safe return. In the present day, the stakes get personal again when Thea’s wealthy father, Christos, is kidnapped on his 60th birthday from his yacht, which was moored at the Greek island of Santorini. A powerful oil baron about to make the deal of a lifetime, Christos has certainly made his share of enemies. Thea expects a ransom demand, but instead a series of foreboding messages in Latin come to her father’s phone. With no way to know whether her father is still alive, or who’s behind the kidnapping, Thea must fight the clock, her own secrets, and those of her closest family members for some kind of resolution, no matter how damaging. “A fast-moving thriller featuring kidnapped oil tycoon Christos Paris and his kidnap-negotiator daughter, Thea. She’s tough. She’s smart. She’s diabetic. . . . A spectacular start for what promises to be a great Thea Paris series.” —*Kirkus (Starred Review)*

Ifkovic, Ed. [Mood Indigo](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). See Signed Books for a review of a mesmerizing entry into the world of 1930s New York City theater in the company of Edna Ferber, Pulitzer Prize-winning author (and shrewd sleuth) and Noel Coward. I can tell you I didn’t see the ending coming!

Perry, Thomas. [The Old Man](#) (\$16). I’ve never met a Perry I didn’t like, all the way from Edgar winner [The Butcher’s Boy](#) (\$17) to 2016’s fabulous caper [Forty Thieves](#) (\$16: \$26 Signed). And he’s outdone himself again with a lead similar to Petrie’s Peter Ash in some ways, and laced with Jane Whitefield, for Dan Chase is a man on the run (with two black Labs called Dave and Carol who steal the book). The why of it and from whom are gradually revealed. Love the scenes in Chicago. The Indie Next Pick: “Dan Chase is a wealthy old man living a quiet life after the death of his wife and his daughter’s move to another part of the country. But wait — he is being followed, and then his house is broken into and he has to kill the intruder. Next, the old man turns to his ‘go’ bag as it seems he has many identities, stashes of currency, and a plan to disappear. There are secrets to be discovered all throughout this tale and Perry keeps readers wondering what will come next. This is definitely one of Perry’s best!”

Winawer, Melodie. [The Scribe of Siena](#) (\$16). Neurosurgeon Beatrice Trovato has always been a deeply empathetic person. But when she begins having sudden, deeply emotional reactions while performing surgery, she worries that her new sensitivity will interfere with her job. When her beloved brother dies suddenly in Siena, she bitterly regrets postponing visiting him in favor of career demands. She heads to the city to sort out his affairs, decide what to do with the home he’s left her, and retrieve his research on Siena’s history with the Black Death, by every measure more severe in Siena than anywhere. What she doesn’t expect is to be pulled into his studies, as she compulsively attempts to complete what he started. Stumbling across fresco painter Gabriele Accorsi, who mysteriously seems to have painted her into his work, she finds herself physically transported across time into the 14th century, just before the plague strike. (You *Outlander* fans will be OK with this). The vivid descriptions of the people, way of life, food, and other details of medieval Italy deepen the plot, making this 2017 First Mystery Club Pick a truly immersive experience.

NEW BOOKS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Barrett, Casey. [Under Water](#) (Kensington \$25). The author of this debut comes with gold credentials to write about a competitive swimmer whose Olympic dreams swirled away when his fraudster father lost the family’s wealth and went to prison while his mother descended into drink—Barrett is a Canadian Olympian and cofounder of a NYC learn-to-swim school. So he knows the world of sports, its pressures and its dreams, whether met or busted. However I don’t find anything original in the PI as a drunk and addict. Here’s the *LJ* review: “Duck Darley is not exactly what most people would want in a private investigator. Having spent 13 months in prison for drug dealing, he’s now addicted to alcohol and painkillers, with a dominatrix as a partner. But Duck’s also a ‘finder,’ and many wealthy clients are happy to have him quietly take care of things. When 18-year-old Madeline McKay goes missing, her mother asks Duck to find her. Madeline and her Olympian older brother had been part of Duck’s youthful world of competitive swimming. As Duck is pulled back into this environment, he discovers its darker side, a culture of brutality, violence, and depravity. Duck’s search for Madeleine soon makes him a target. This gritty debut by a Canadian Olympic swimmer is an intense, action-packed mystery, with an unconventional, flawed protagonist. The bleak tone and main character will not appeal to every reader, but those who remember Steve Ulfelder’s

Conway Sax, a convicted felon and recovering addict and alcoholic, may appreciate this sometimes graphically violent novel.” And I agree with the coda to another review: “The expected if still satisfying ending leaves Darley so broken that it’s hard to imagine how he’ll be enticed into the next investigation.”

*Brody, Frances. [A Death in the Dales](#) (\$16.99). Brody’s series is set in post-WWI Yorkshire where Kate Shackleton, presumptive widow of an army doctor, has forged a life as an investigator. Brody is no romantic as her portrait of Yorkshire village life in the years following WWI shows. Widowed Kate Shackleton, a fledgling investigator of the Maisie Dobbs ilk, has come to Langcliffe with a doctor who’s been romancing her. He offered Kate the house of his recently deceased aunt where Kate and her niece Harriet, who is recovering from diphtheria. Aunt Freda had a view from her bedroom and believed she saw a murder, and that the wrong person had been arrested and convicted. Kate gradually realizes that Freda has left her a crime to solve and that things are not as they seem in the village. Life is pretty much a grind in this rural area and Brody shows it to you as Kate’s investigation progresses. You [can order all of the Kate Shackletons](#).

Butler, Dave. [Full Curl](#) (Dundurn \$14.99). I love national parks as landscapes for fiction and here we get one in Canada’s Banff National Park. Jenny Willson is a hard-edged, caustic-witted warden who considers poachers and ladder-climbing bureaucrats equally repulsive and worthy of the same painful fate. Does keeping her promise to protect her park from them mean crossing lines and putting her career at risk? When Willson discovers animals disappearing from Canada’s mountain parks, she begins a complex investigation that follows a trail of deceit, distraction, and murder. With a growing list of victims, both animal and human, Willson finds herself in a race for justice that criss-crosses the Canada-U.S. border and pushes her to a place from which she might not return. Perfect for fans of Nevada Barr, CJ Box, and Scott Graham who began his series in Yellowstone (although for you Rollins fans, my uttering the word “Yellowstone” means more than the actual park in Wyoming).

Camilleri, Andrea. [Pyramid of Mud](#) (Penguin \$16). On a gloomy morning in Vigàta, a call from Fazio rouses Inspector Montalbano from a nightmare. A man called Giugiù Nicotra has been found dead in the skeletal workings of a construction site, a place now entombed by a sea of mud from recent days of rain and floods. Shot in the back, he had fled into a water supply system tunnel. The investigation gets off to a slow start, but all the evidence points to the world of construction and public contracts, a world just as slimy and impenetrable as mud. *Montalbano* and *The Young Montalbano* are two of the best ever crime series shown on MHZ-TV.

D’Andrea, Luca. [Beneath the Mountain](#) (Harper \$16.99). This Italian thriller debut has earned rave reviews, better ones IMHO than it actually merits. I like the set up, the scenery, the insular nature of the community. But Salinger recklessly creates the first tragedy and takes up way too much space massaging his guilt before moving the story off the aftermath and into its dark heart with a touch of Stephen King. Here’s one review: “D’Andrea’s superb debut thriller mines the darkness that hides beneath the surface of Siebenhoch, a beautiful, remote Italian village. New Yorker Jeremiah Salinger, a documentary filmmaker, nearly loses his mind after he’s the only one to survive a disastrous shoot in

the Dolomite mountains involving the region’s rescue group. With the support of his Italian wife, his five-year-old daughter, and his father-in-law, Salinger comes back from the brink. Meanwhile, he becomes obsessed with the never-solved murder and dismemberment of three students in the Bletterbach Gorge in 1985. His interest in the case comes to the attention of the local head of the forest rangers, who warns him not to dig up the past. Undeterred, Salinger unearths some sinister secrets, but revealing the truth could cost him his family and his life. D’Andrea makes excellent use of his unusual setting, its idiosyncratic denizens, and the troubled Salinger’s outsider status. A genuinely unexpected denouement hits like a freight train.” Another praises “a dramatic and unusual setting that will appeal to armchair travelers eager to explore beyond Venice or Rome.” For more on the Dolomites read Mark Sullivan’s bestselling [Beneath a Scarlet Sky](#) (\$14.95 Signed) and David Wagner’s [Death in the Dolomites](#) (\$14.95).

Dorsey, Tim. [Clownfish Blues](#) (\$15.99). As he’s shooting an homage to the classic *Route 66* TV series (filmed partly in Florida), lovable Sunshine State maniac Serge A. Storms contends with money-laundering drug cartels, bent bodega owners, and weasely venture capitalists all trying to game the state lottery system. There’s plenty of sharp cultural commentary (“The sidewalks were thick with street crazies talking to themselves, and executives with Bluetooths talking to themselves”). We have two Signed Firsts also: [Clownfish Blues](#) (\$16.99).

*French, Nicci. [Sunday Silence](#) (Harper \$15.99). Lover of London, gifted psychologist, frequent police consultant — Frieda Klein is many things. And now she’s a person of interest in a murder case. A body has been discovered in the most unlikely and horrifying of places: beneath the floorboards of Frieda’s house. The corpse is only months old, but the chief suspect appears to have died more than seven years ago. Except as Frieda knows all too well, he’s alive and well and living in secret. And it seems he’s inspired a copycat... As the days pass and the body count rises, Frieda finds herself caught in a fatal tug-of-war between two killers: one who won’t let her go, and another who can’t let her live. I find this series uneven, or rather I find the character of Freida difficult.

Furlong, Susan. [Splintered Silence](#) (Kensington \$26). We meet military MP Brynn and her cadaver dog Wilco, both suffering from PTSD and the dog blind as well, as they return to the insular community of Irish Travellers in Bone Gap, Tennessee, that Brynn had tried to leave behind by enlisting in the Marines. Almost immediately the two discover a body and are plunged into a deepening mystery as well as deteriorating relationships between the Travellers and the locals as well as inside the clan. As well as Brynn’s family dynamics with her dying grandfather and a grandmother who’s been keeping secrets. Brynn is tough yet vulnerable, especially where Wilco is concerned. I’m assuming this is a series opener so it has a lot of backstory. The local sheriff, not a lovely man but honest, ends up wanting to recruit her into police work which complicates her attempts to find her place among her family and in the unwelcoming outside community.

Gentill, Sulari. [Paving the New Road](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). The author who comes to mind when reading *Paving the New Road* is Philip Kerr and his fantastic Bernie Gunther series. While he has explored many facets of Nazi Germany and its fallout, I

don't recall that both Unity Mitford and Eva Braun have taken the stage as two women mesmerized by Adolf Hitler, whether the man himself or the power he wields is something that Sulari leaves to the reader to judge. But her delineations of both women (not to mention the Mitford clan) are razor sharp. I can say that the brief appearance of William Somerset Maugham when Rowley and his three-man backup team touchdown in Singapore on one leg of their flight to Munich from Sydney with famous airman Sir Charles Kingsford Smith does tie into Kerr's *The Other Side of Silence*, one of his best. Although in Gentill Maugham is slinging back Singapore Slings at Raffles while in Kerr he's playing bridge with Bernie on the 1950s Riviera. The depiction of international flight in the Southern Cross Fokker F.VII, a long distance craft of its day where wicker armchairs were bolted to the floor and a failing "push rod" could force a near-crash landing near Darwin on the first leg of the flight, makes electrifying reading. Spending time in Munich among goose-stepping Nazis, rising hate crimes, book burnings, and children spewing destructive sentiments alongside their parents is alarming while the friends' investigation of the killing of the previous Australian man on the ground and thwarting the plans of New South Wales' leading Fascist to make connections over cocktails to bring European fascism to Australia, is also. Yet, as Sulari tells me, discovering Albert Göring, younger brother to Hermann, was "very heartening." In her Afterword, she lets us know that Hermann, the Allies' most prized Nazi prisoner, committed suicide in 1946 shortly before he was to be hanged, while Albert was freed. His character and actions in *Paving the New Road* illuminate the terrible balancing acts of "good Germans." He's one of many, but because of his connection to power has the most impact, plus he gets a role in the denouement of this 4th Rowland Sinclair Mystery. [Order all four of the Rowland Sinclair mysteries](#) for a view of the 1930s from Down Under.

Harris, Robert. [Munich](#) (Knopf \$27.95). Returning to the territory of his alt-history classic [Fatherland](#) (\$17), Harris visits the Munich Conference, with two friends from 1920s Oxford in conflict. British diplomatic up-and-comer Guy Legat serves as private secretary to placating Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, while German Foreign Office staffer Rikard von Holz secretly belongs to the anti-Hitler Resistance. The old friends reunite in hopes of derailing Hitler's war machine.

*Harwood, Clarissa. [Impossible Saints](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). Escaping the constraints of life as a village schoolmistress, Lilia Brooke bursts into London and into Paul Harris's orderly life, shattering his belief that women are gentle creatures who need protection. Lilia wants to change women's lives by advocating for the vote, free unions, and contraception. Paul, an Anglican priest, has a big ambition of his own: to become the youngest dean of St. John's Cathedral. Lilia doesn't believe in God, but she's attracted to Paul's intellect, ethics, and dazzling smile. As Lilia finds her calling in the militant Women's Social and Political Union, Paul is increasingly driven to rise in the church. They can't deny their attraction, but they know they don't belong in each other's worlds. Lilia would rather destroy property and serve time in prison than see her spirit destroyed and imprisoned by marriage to a clergyman, while Paul wants nothing more than to settle down and keep Lilia out of harm's way. Paul and Lilia must reach their breaking points before they can decide whether their love is worth fighting for.

Hendricks, Greer. [The Wife Between Us](#) (St Martins \$26.99). A novel by Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen aimed at outdoing the betrayals and twists of *Gone Girl*. The set up seems conventional: You will assume the narrator Vanessa is a jealous ex-wife mourning her husband, hedge-fund manager Richard, and their enviable life in Westchester and bitterly envying her replacement – a beautiful, younger woman who is about to marry the man they both love. You will assume you know the anatomy of this tangled love triangle. You will be wrong. There is lots of well-deserved excitement over this including an Indie Next Pick: "Hendricks and Pekkanen chronicle a marriage gone wrong through the alternating accounts of the shattered Vanessa in the present and her vibrant younger self in the past. This is not another eye-rolling story about the jealous ex-wife stalking her replacement, as readers will discover as Vanessa's motivations are revealed."

Henshaw, Mark. [The Last Man in Tehran](#) (Touchstone \$24.99). Kicking off in 1979 as the Shah is being toppled from his Peacock Throne, an agent of the Shah's intelligence service and one of the Mossad have a conversation that reverberates down the years. When modern Haifa suffers a devastating attack the CIA's Red Cell soon learns that a mole in Langley is helping Mossad wage a cover war in retaliation. And the thrills spin off from their as various betrayals are unmasked and lead to more. An interesting thriller for those who would learn more about Iran and its role with its neighbors and on the world stage written by a CIA analyst who has written 3 earlier entries in the Red Cell series.

Hillerman, Tony. [Dance Hall of the Dead](#) (\$15.99). A large paperback reissue of Hillerman's 2nd mystery with the legendary Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn which carries him into the Zuñi reservation and into a terrible crime complicated by an important archaeological dig. While Hillerman's first, [The Blessing Way](#) (\$9.99 or \$15.99), is filled with Navajo beliefs, *Dance Hall* demands that Leaphorn respect the unique laws and sacred rites of the Zuñi.

Howrey, Meg. [The Wanderers](#) (\$16). A 2017 SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick now in paperback. An inventive novel about three astronauts training for the first-ever mission to Mars, an experience that will push the boundary between real and unreal, test their relationships, and leave each of them—and their families—changed forever. "A transcendent, cross-cultural, and cross planetary journey into the mysteries of space and self.... Howrey's expansive vision left me awestruck."—Ruth Ozeki. For fans of Andy Weir's *The Martian* and John Sandford's [Saturn Run](#) (\$9.99), IMHO one of John's best thrillers.

Krentz, Jayne A. [Promise Not to Tell](#) (Berkley \$27). Seattle gallery owner Virginia Troy has spent years battling the demons that stem from her childhood time in a cult and the night a fire burned through the compound, killing her mother. And now one of her artists has taken her own life, but not before sending Virginia a last picture: a painting that makes Virginia doubt everything about the so-called suicide—and her own past. Like Virginia, private investigator Cabot Sutter was one of the children in the cult who survived that fire...and only he can help her now. As they struggle to unravel the clues in the painting, it becomes clear that someone thinks Virginia knows more than she does and that she must be stopped.

MacRae, Molly. [Scones and Scoundrels](#) (Norton \$25.95). "The deaths of an author and a tourist pose complications for the operators of Yon Bonnie Books in MacRae's lively follow-up to

2016's [Plaid and Plagiarism](#) (\$15.95). The bookstore and café partners—motherly Janet Marsh, sharp ex-lawyer Tallie (Janet's daughter), imperious Christine Robertson, and gifted baker Summer Jacobs—have their hands full when environmental author and former resident Daphne Wood returns to the Highland town of Inversgail with a long list of demands for her accommodations and her signings. Daphne alienates much of the town through her rude and cruel behavior as well as her fixation on an American tourist who died outside a local pub, so it is little surprise when her body is found. The bookshop investigators wonder whether her death might relate to that of the tourist, the disappearance of a high school teacher who moonlights as a photographer, and the members of a mysterious secret society. An array of neighbors, such as a clueless mystery writer who styles himself a super-sleuth, adds color..." I enjoyed the setting of *Plaid and Plagiarism*, thought the story went on too long. When I get my hands on a copy of this new release I'll see if the same is true again.

*Maxwell, Alyssa. [A Devious Death](#) (Kensington \$25). Lady Phoebe Renshaw and her sister Julia are eager for a summer getaway at High Head Lodge, the newly purchased estate of their cousin Regina. But they are not the only houseguests. Regina's odd friend, Olive, is far from friendly, and Regina's mother and brother—bitter over the unequal distribution of her father's inheritance—have descended on the house to confront Regina. In addition to the family tension, Lady Phoebe's maid Eva is increasingly suspicious of Lady Julia's new maid. And why does Regina seem ill at ease around the maid, as if they were previously acquainted? Everyone, it appears, is on edge. Then their hostess meets an untimely end—mysteriously murdered in her bed with no signs of struggle. 3rd in the Lady and Lady's Maid mysteries, pleasant enough but nothing special in British crime.

Rooney, Kathleen. [Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk](#) (\$16). "It's New Year's Eve, 1984, and indomitable octogenarian Lillian Boxfish has places to go. Manhattan is her playground, and she's not going to let a subway vigilante or the winter chill keep her indoors. Outfitted in her beloved mink coat, which she bought for herself in 1942, Lillian briskly sets off from her Murray Hill apartment, reminiscing about her illustrious career as the highest-paid woman in advertising, her first love, Max, and her darling son, Gian. She joins a family of strangers at Delmonico's for dinner, charms a Filipino convenience store clerk, smartly tells off a boor at a trendy loft party, and unflappably transforms a mugging into a business transaction. Lillian's needle-sharp observations are astute and her unceasing love for New York City shines through. Her life has not always been breezy, but she keeps putting one fashionable foot in front of the other."—*LJ Starred Review*

Scrivner, Melissa Love. [Lola](#) (\$16). A 2017 First Mystery Club Pick drew this Starred Review: "...a messenger from the Los Liones cartel visits the Huntington Park, California, home of 26-year-old Lola Vasquez and extends an offer to her boyfriend, Garcia. If Garcia's gang, the Crenshaw Six, can intercept a drop between one of Los Liones' former dealers and the man's new supplier, the gang will get 10% of the loot and control of the dealer's territory; if they fail, Lola dies. Garcia accepts, but the ambush goes awry, forcing Lola—the Crenshaw Six's true leader—to emerge from the shadows and fight for her own survival and the safety of those she holds dear. This powerful read is at once an intelligently crafted mystery, a reflection on the cycles

of violence and addiction, and a timely mediation on the double standard facing women in authority. Love's writing is artful and evocative, her story's sense of place and culture are strong, and, in *Lola*, Love has created a fully fleshed-out and uniquely compelling antihero who commands fear, respect, and adoration in equal measure." For fans of Joe Ide.

Shattuck, Jessica. [The Women in the Castle](#) (\$16.99). Amid the ashes of Nazi Germany's defeat, Marianne von Lingensfeld returns to the crumbling Bavarian castle of her husband's ancestors, an imposing stone fortress now fallen into ruin following years of war. The widow of a resister murdered in the failed July 20, 1944, plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler, Marianne plans to uphold the promise she made to her husband's brave conspirators: to find and protect their wives, her fellow resistance widows. First Marianne rescues six-year-old Martin, the son of her dearest childhood friend, from a Nazi reeducation home. Together, they make their way across the smoldering wreckage of their homeland to Berlin, where Martin's mother, the beautiful and naive Benita, has fallen into the hands of occupying Red Army soldiers. Then she locates Ania, another resister's wife, and her two boys, now refugees languishing in one of the many camps that house the millions displaced by the war. As Marianne assembles this makeshift family from the ruins of her husband's resistance movement, she is certain their shared pain and circumstances will hold them together. But she quickly discovers that the black-and-white, highly principled world of her privileged past has become infinitely more complicated, filled with secrets and dark passions that threaten to tear them apart.

Siger, Jeffrey. [An Aegean April](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). See Event Books for some of the raves for Athens Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis who's drawn into a horrendous crime on the isle of Lesbos in his 9th investigation.

Simenon, George. [Maigret Goes to School](#) (Penguin \$13). Maigret is called from his usual duties in Paris to investigate a murder in a small village located close to La Rochelle. A local postmistress has been killed and suspicion has fallen on the local schoolmaster. When Maigret gets there, he discovers a very inward-looking community of people who hated the victim because she knew all their secrets. Maigret must determine if one of those secrets was enough to make someone into a killer. 44th in the Penguin republication of the work of the iconic and prolific French crime writer.

*Starr, Mel. [Deeds of Darkness](#) (Lion \$14.99). This 10th Chronicle of Hugh de Singleton, Surgeon, is a small and intelligent medieval mystery on the scholarly side. It begins when Bampton's coroner Hubert Shillside does not return from a trip to Oxford. Concerned for his old friend, Hugh takes to the road to investigate and finds a body that has been stabbed and left to rot. But it is not the body he expected to find.... When more crimes strike the roads out of Oxford, Hugh must work out whether the pillaging and attacks are random or whether something more sinister is afoot....

*Tudor, CJ. [The Chalk Man](#) (Crown \$26). The Indie Next Pick: "The *Chalk Man* is an unusually gripping mystery reminiscent of Arthur Conan Doyle's story 'The Adventure of the Dancing Men.' It is amazingly well-written, and the pace does not let up, from the shocking beginning all the way through to the unsettling ending. This suspenseful page-turner is definitely a cut above and

will keep you riveted.” Actually it didn’t me, which is why it isn’t the January British Crime Club Pick. I didn’t like the characters of Eddie and his mates as burgeoning teens in 1986, or as grown men using chalk men as a form of communication, and if you don’t like the characters you don’t care what happens to them, no?

Wirestone, Max. [The Questionable Behavior of Dahlia Moss](#) (Orbit \$14.99). Wirestone effortlessly integrates comedy into a murder inquiry in his outstanding third Dahlia Moss mystery. Emily Swenson, a mercenary attorney acting on the behalf of an unnamed client, hires Dahlia, who is studying to be a PI, to commit corporate espionage. Emily plants Dahlia as a temporary receptionist at Cahaba Apps, a game-development company in St. Louis. Dahlia’s mission is to steal the code for a new game Cahaba is developing. Cahaba proves to be full of eccentrics whose struggle to complete the new project on time is complicated by an intensely negative blog post about its oppressive working conditions. Dahlia’s efforts to complete her covert assignment become even more difficult after she finds a dead woman in the ladies’ room. The wry and self-deprecating Dahlia is an endearing lead with a knack for humorous asides (the investigating cop is “the sort of person who, if suddenly killed in action, would be proclaimed as being a couple of weeks away from retirement”). Wodehouse fans will find much to like.

Woods, Stuart. [Unbound](#) (Putnam \$28). Hollywood producer Billy Barnett (aka former CIA agent Teddy Faye) learns his wife has been called by a drunk driver while she’s lawfully crossing the street in Beverly Hills. The driver is the addicted wife of Dax Baxter, a nasty and juiced Hollywood producer, who uses his clout to make charges go away. Billy, in shock, takes a leave of absence from his studio and starts driving east. He ends up stopping in Santa Fe, NM, where Ed Eagle lives. And where, coincidentally, Dax Baxter is making a western. We expect more than the low key actions of Billy/Teddy who fakes up a new name resumé and gets a job on the set where he begins exacting revenge on Dax (the wife is in rehab) in small ways. Yet Dax senses Billy is a threat and hires a Russian hitman to take Billy out. Naturally Billy proves more than a match for the thugs, and for Dax, while Ed and Stone Barrington, who’s flown to the scene, do little more than maintain a watching brief. The only caveat I have is Billy’s too-easy vault into a new woman’s bed. Anyone who knows Santa Fe will enjoy Woods’ tour of the city and the region. This 44th “Stone Barrington” will work for a newcomer to “Woods’s alluring world of wealth, power, and crime.”

OUR NEW YEAR’S SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Berenson, Alex. [The Prisoner](#) (\$9.99) John Wells #11. Forced to resume an old undercover identity as an al-Qaida jihadi to unmask a CIA mole, John Wells gets close to an ISIS prisoner in a secret Bulgarian prison, where he confronts the profoundly cruel and ambitious plans of increasingly formidable terrorist organizations. *PW* ended its rave review with “Wells is an appealing combination of brains and brawn, and Shafer remains an active behind-the-scenes player who knows how to keep an operation on course.” Berenson signs the sequel at The Pen February 8.

Berry, Steve. [The Lost Order](#) \$9.99) Cotton Malone #12. When rival factions of a dangerous clandestine organization begin a race to find billions in stolen treasure hidden by their progenitors,

Justice Department agent Cotton Malone finds the case complicated by his unsuspected ties to the organization and the political schemes of an unscrupulous politician. Here’s *PW* again “The fusion of contemporary and historical adventure makes this a page-turner of the highest order.” Berry signs the sequel at The Pen on March 20.

Bradford, Laura. [Dial M for Mousse](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Emergency Dessert Squad #3. When she stumbles upon the dead body of her new client while delivering desserts at an artists’ retreat, Winnie Johnson, the owner of the Emergency Dessert Squad, must whip up the clues to catch a killer. If you have already gobbled up all the Joanne Fluke mysteries and need a new culinary cozy, Bradford’s series could prove to be equally tasty.

Iles, Greg. [Mississippi Blood](#) (\$9.99) Grief-stricken and with his world collapsing around him, Natchez attorney Penn Cage is shut out of trial preparations by his once-revered Southern doctor father, who is about to be tried for murder in the wake of revelations about a mixed-race child and KKK associations. *LJ* had this to say “From his opening line, Iles draws you back into Penn Cage’s deep South in this phenomenal trilogy’s final novel (after *Natchez Burning*; *The Bone Tree*). His heart-racing, enthralling thriller brings to the forefront the racial divisiveness that still plagues this country.

Parsons, Kelly. [Under the Knife](#) (9.99) A socially awkward biotechnology tycoon, obsessed with exacting vengeance against a surgeon after his wife dies from medical complications, uses his resources to try to destroy the doctor’s life while she reconnects with an ex to try to survive. *PW* concluded with “Rita makes a great doctor-in distress, and Parsons does a good job dramatizing how patients often become commercial cogs in medical institutions.” Robin Cook fans may want to invest in this, just don’t read it while you are in the hospital.

Shelton, Paige. [Of Books and Bagpipes](#) (\$7.99) Scottish Bookshop #2. Thriving in her new home in Edinburgh, historical book seller Delaney Nichols pursues a rare manuscript, only to stumble upon the murdered body of her contact, a crime that she links to a complicated plot. Kirkus ended their review with “This sequel to [The Cracked Spine](#) (\$7.99) is rich in Scottish dialect and eccentric characters, including a well-meaning heroine who brings on most of her own troubles.”

NEW IN SMALL PAPERBACKS

Alexander, Ellie. [Another One Bites the Crust](#) (St Martin’s \$7.99) Bakeshop Mysteries #7. When a strapping thespian named Anthony is murdered after the opening night of the Shakespeare Festival, Jules Capshaw, baker-turned-actress for this event, must cut through backstage betrayals and catty co-stars to catch a killer before the final act.

Blaedel, Sara. [Night Women](#) (\$9.99) Copenhagen’s Detective Louise Rick investigates the grisly murder of a young woman and the discovery of an abandoned baby and uncovers ties to human trafficking.

Blaedel, Sara. [Running Girl](#) (\$9.99) After a school party is ruined by a gang of violent teenagers seeking alcohol and valuables, a woman whose daughter was injured at the scene vows revenge and becomes the first suspect after the gang is targeted in a vicious attack.

Blaedel, Sara. [Stolen Angel](#) (\$9.99) A race against the clock ensues after a group kidnaps the seriously ill granddaughter of a very wealthy family and demands in ransom a piece of art, worth millions, that had recently been stolen from the family home.

Gibbins, David. [Testament](#) (\$9.99) A marine archeologist discovers a surprising ancient artifact while hunting for Nazi gold on the edge of the continental shelf and tries to discover how it got there. Fans of Clive Cussler's adventure thrillers will not want to miss Gibbins' equally entertaining novels.

Hearon, Leigh. [Unbridled Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Stumbling upon the dead body of a sleazy feedlot owner while trying to save as many horses from slaughter as possible, horse trainer and rancher Annie Carson must navigate the herd through unfamiliar territory while trying to rein in a killer.

Higgins, Jack. [Midnight Bell](#) (\$9.99) Sean Dillon #22. When the assistant to the head of a secret White House department is killed by a hit-and-run driver, the event is tied to a warning to the U.S. president by a London branch of al-Qaida that is determined to prove its resilience.

James, Miranda. [Twelve Angry Librarians](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Cat in the Stacks #8. Attending the Southern ALA annual meeting only to be confronted by an old nemesis from library school, interim library director Charlie Harris is wrongly implicated in his rival's murder and must discover which of their fellow librarians is the true killer.

Knott, Robert. [Robert B Parker's Revelation](#) (\$7.99) When a particularly intimidating criminal and his cold-blooded posse escape from prison, Cole and Hitch join their Territorial lawmen team to capture the fugitives and rescue a woman who was kidnapped during the escape.

Robb, J D. [Secrets in Death](#) (\$8.99) Eve Dallas #45. When a professional gossip informant is murdered in a chic Manhattan hotspot, Eve Dallas learns that the woman had been hiding her most shocking information through a system of strategic blackmail, a situation that forces Eve to uncover sordid secrets that threaten her own safety.

Ryan, Annelise. [Dead in the Water](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Mattie Winston #8. While planning her wedding to Detective Steve Hurley, deputy coroner Mattie Winston must investigate the murder of the newest member of the medical examiner's staff, whose floating body was found trapped against a dam with his throat slashed.

Smith, Karen Rose. [Murder with Lemon Tea Cakes](#) (Kensington \$7.99) When her Aunt Iris is accused of murdering her wealthy and not-quite-divorced boyfriend Harvey Fitz, Daisy Swanson must put her soups, scones and soothing teas on the back burner while her shop is under police investigation and hopes that Jonas Groft, an ex-detective from Philadelphia, can help her solve the case before her aunt is in more hot water.