

# BOOKNEWS from

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## JOIN OUR SPRING FLING!

**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](#)

### MONDAY APRIL 2 7:00 PM

Anne Hillerman signs [Cave of Bones](#) (Harper \$26.99)  
Leaphorn, Chee, & Manuelito #4

### TUESDAY APRIL 3 7:00 PM

Kevin Hearne signs [Scourged](#) (Del Rey \$27)  
Iron Druid Chronicles #9  
Luke Daniels who narrates Hearne's audio books joins the discussion and will sign a special poster for you. The Scourged Audio Book is available on Libro.fm, it's not a CD.

### WEDNESDAY APRIL 4 7:00 PM Texas Noir!

Joe R. Lansdale signs [Jackrabbit Smile](#) (Mulholland \$26)  
Hap & Leonard

### THURSDAY APRIL 5 7:00 PM

Liam Callahan signs [Paris by the Book](#) (Dutton \$26)  
April Modern Firsts Club Pick...a bookish mystery

### SATURDAY APRIL 7 2:00 PM

Kent Harrington signs [Last Ferry Home](#) (Polis \$25.99 or \$15.99)

### SUNDAY APRIL 8 2:00 PM

Sarah Tarkoff signs [Sinless](#) (Harper Voyager \$15.99)  
Eye of the Beholder #1 Ages 13-17

### MONDAY APRIL 9 7:00 PM Come Rock with Us!

The Doubletree Resort 5401 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ  
Free to attend, free valet parking. Cash bar!

Jeffery Deaver signs [The Cutting Edge](#) (Grand Central \$28)  
Lincoln Rhyme

Lisa Scottoline signs [After Anna](#) (St Martins \$27.99)  
Did the new husband murder Maggie's daughter?

### THURSDAY APRIL 12 7:00 PM

Anne Perry signs [Twenty One Days](#) (Ballantine \$28)  
Introducing lawyer David Pitt

### SATURDAY APRIL 14 10:30 AM

Coffee & Crime discusses Patricia Highsmith's [The Talented Mr. Ripley](#) (\$15.95)

### MONDAY APRIL 16 7:00 PM

Lee Goldberg signs [True Fiction](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95)  
Join a conversation with Lee's editor and Barbara

### WEDNESDAY APRIL 18 7:00 PM

Alex Grecian signs [The Saint of Wolves and Butchers](#) (Putnam \$27)  
Starts a new series

KJ Howe signs [Skyjack](#) (Quercus \$26.99)  
Thea Paris #2

### THURSDAY APRIL 19 7:00 PM

Stuart Woods signs [Shoot First](#) (Putnam \$28)  
Stone Barrington #45

### FRIDAY APRIL 20 7:00 PM

SciFi/Fantasy Club discusses Ada Palmer  
Ada Palmer signs [Too Like Lightning](#) (\$15.99); [Seven Surrenders](#) (\$17.99); [The Will to Battle](#) (\$26.99)  
The Terra Ignota Series Books #1-3

### SATURDAY APRIL 21 10:30 AM

Cloak and Dagger discusses J. Michael Orenduff's [The Pot Thief Who Studied Pythagoras](#) (\$15.99)

### SATURDAY APRIL 21 2:00 PM

David Ricciardi signs [Warning Light](#) (Berkley \$27)  
Debut, April Thriller Club Pick  
J Todd Scott signs [High White Sun](#) (Putnam \$26)

### TUESDAY APRIL 24 7:00 PM Book Launch Party

John Sandford signs [Twisted Prey](#) (Putnam \$29)  
Lucas Davenport

### THURSDAY APRIL 26 2:00 PM Tea

Jill Orr signs [The Bad Break](#) (Prospect Park \$16)  
April Cozy Crime Club Pick

### THURSDAY APRIL 26 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime discussed Jerome Charyn's [Blue Eyes](#) (\$14.99)

### FRIDAY APRIL 27 7:00 PM

James Sallis and the Band

### SATURDAY APRIL 28 2:00 PM

Celebrate Independent Bookstore Day with Us!  
Baron Birtcher signs [A Fistful of Rain](#) (Permanent Press \$29.95)  
Robert Dugoni signs [The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell](#)  
(Thomas & Mercer \$24.95)  
Neal Griffin signs [By His Own Hand](#) (Forge \$25.99)

### TUESDAY MAY 1 7:00 PM

Lisa Jewell signs [Then She Was Gone](#) (Atria \$26)

### WEDNESDAY MAY 2 7:00 PM

Ace Atkins signs [Robert B Parker's Old Black Magic](#) (Putnam \$27)  
Spenser!

### AND PLAN AHEAD FOR COZY CON

### SATURDAY MAY 5 1:00 PM

Tessa Arlen, Kate Carlisle, Jane Cleland, Vicki Delany, C.S. Harris, Jenn McKinlay, Ann Parker, Paige Shelton

## EVENT BOOKS

Atkins, Ace. [Robert B Parker's Old Black Magic](#) (Putnam \$27). Signed here May 2. Love this, a story clearly based upon the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum heist. "The heist was legendary, still talked about twenty years after the priceless paintings disappeared from one of Boston's premier art museums. Most thought the art was lost forever, buried deep, sold off overseas, or, worse, destroyed as incriminating evidence. But when paint chips from the most valuable piece stolen, Gentlemen in Black by a Spanish master, arrives at the desk of a Boston journalist, the museum finds hope and enlists Spenser's help. Soon the cold art case thrusts Spenser into the shady world of black market art dealers, aged Mafia bosses, and old vendettas. A five-million-dollar-reward by the museum's top benefactor, an aged, unlikable Boston socialite, sets Spenser and pals Vinnie Morris and Hawk onto a trail of hidden secrets, jailhouse confessions, and decades-old murders."

Birtcher, Baron R. [A Fistful of Rain](#) (Permanent \$29.95). Set in 1975, *Fistful of Rain* is the story of a nation, a rural county, and a small town coming to terms with turbulent change. The theft of a rancher's livestock ends in an assault that escalates into arson, and the murders of nearly a dozen people. Residents of a "hippie" commune are accused of having committed the acts that have led the small county to the brink of a range war, and of feeding the tensions between generations. Sheriff Ty Dawson, a cattle rancher himself, finds himself at the center of a battle between town residents and the "hippies" who appear to be threatening their way of life, a struggle that leads both sides to violence. Patrick adds: "Birtcher is a writer on the move. This is a terrific crime novel written with style and soul, not to mention an astute look at a turbulent time in our country's history. Don't miss it. I loved his last, [South California Purples](#) (\$28 Signed).

Callanan, Liam. [Paris by the Book](#) (Dutton \$26), our **April Modern Firsts Pick**, is also an Indie Next Pick which finds it, "equal parts *Madeline* and *The Red Balloon*, the children's books that shape Leah's view of the City of Light. I'd compare Callanan's engrossing third novel to *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* and *The Little Paris Bookshop*, but with its confounding but ultimately loveable heroine, there's a bit of *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* in the story as well. This captivating novel is filled with rich characters, a twisty plot, a bit of mystery, and a heaping dollop of joie de vivre." A perfect spring read getting big buzz.

Deaver, Jeffery. [The Cutting Edge](#) (Grand Central \$28). The 14<sup>th</sup> Lincoln Rhyme brings back not only Rhyme's usual cohort but one of his most formidable villains. Plus you can learn fascinating stuff about diamonds and the industry, bad stuff and good, while he plies misdirection (and a touching sentimentality) to keep you glued to the pages. [Order the Rhymes](#), especially *The Burial Hour*, for April thrills.

Dugoni, Robert. [The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95). Samuel James Hill is born with ocular albinism, a rare condition that makes his eyes red. Dubbed "the devil boy" by his classmates at Our Lady of Mercy, the Catholic school his mother, Madeline, fights to get him into, he faces loneliness, alienation, and daily ridicule, especially from David Freemon, a

merciless bully who keeps finding new ways to torment him, and Sister Beatrice, the school's principal and Freemon's enabler, who in her own subtler ways is every bit as vindictive as he is. Only the friendship of two other outsiders, African-American athlete Ernie Cantwell and free-spirited nonconformist Michaela Kennedy, allows him to survive... Dugoni has stepped aside from crime to that of the life of the Sam Hell, which is inspiring and aglow with the promise of redemption. Think of the 2017 movie *Wonder*.

Goldberg, Lee. [True Fiction](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95). Agatha Christie always wrote short books so her readers could keep the plot in their heads while reading them, ideally in one sitting. Goldberg crafts a thriller in this spirit that begins with a huge bang—a plane flying into a Waikiki hotel—and never lets up until the final 237<sup>th</sup> page. So refreshing to have a thriller that delivers...and fast. The concept is fun: Ian Ludlow, writer of the Clint Straker thrillers, is asked to deliver scenarios to a CIA study group and one day watches horrific news unfold to discover his plot has come true. And his fellow scribes have been picked off, so he must be next." Ian has written thrillers like this before, but this time he doesn't know how it's going to end! Well, I do—but you will need to read this propulsive series launch to find out. Goldberg delivers a whole new take on the dangers of working in the writers' room.

"A conspiracy thriller of the first order, a magical blend of fact and it-could-happen scary fiction. Nail-biting, page-turning, and laced with Goldberg's wry humor, *True Fiction* is a true delight, reminiscent of *Three Days of the Condor* and the best of Hitchcock's innocent-man-in-peril films." Plus it has a nifty set up for a second Ian Ludlow book.

Grecian, Alex. [The Saint of Wolves and Butchers](#) (Putnam \$27). Grecian moves from Victorian Scotland Yard to a chilling contemporary thriller about enigmatic hunter Travis Roan whose current war-criminal target is a 90-something Nazi who has secretly continued his devilish work here in America. Roan is supported by his giant canine companion called Bear, a dog who understands Esperanto. In Kansas. In its way it harks back to John Brown and is certainly brutally relevant to a rising anti-Semitism in America and the alt.right. Roan and his Foundation promise well for future books and the black Kansas Highway Trooper Skottie Fisher, a single mom, is surely too good to leave behind—although Roan may be Reacher on a well-defined mission. I'm interested in these two quotes, Roberts emphasizing the characters and Koryta the landscape: "With his artistry of painting a sense of place and time, Grecian delivers a compelling, twisty story driven by fascinating characters. *The Saint of Wolves and Butchers* makes breathless, gripping, up-all-night reading." —Nora Roberts. "Diabolical plotting, compelling characters, and razor-honed prose drive this thriller of old secrets and high stakes across eras and a beautifully rendered American landscape. Don't miss it." —Michael Koryta

Griffin, Neal. [By His Own Hand](#) (Forge \$25.99). "The police work is definitive, the emotions run high, and [the] hero is one you will root for. Griffin is a solid storyteller."—T. Jefferson Parker. Tia Suarez of the Newberg, Wisconsin, PD arrives at a

crime scene in the woods, where the body of an unidentified teenager lies on the ground, his head nearly obliterated by a shotgun blast. The two officers already at the scene are sure the boy shot himself. Tia has enough doubt to call in an investigator from the medical examiner's office, Livy Sorensen, who once on the scene concludes, as does Tia, that it's a murder rigged to look like a suicide. Tia works hard to convince her skeptical police bosses that she's right; fails to convince Livy's boss, the deputy medical examiner; and butts heads with the firebrand preacher at the Church of the Rock, where the victim, eventually identified as 17-year-old Henry Tyler Hayes, was a participant at a retreat. Griffin, a 25-year law enforcement veteran, paints a vivid picture of the difficulties of police work, in particular the harassment Tia endures from her male colleagues.

Harrington, Kent. [Last Ferry Home](#) (Polis \$25.99 or \$15.99). Another take on our **April Hardboiled Crime Club** previously reviewed by Patrick in the Easter Booknews: "San Francisco homicide detective Michael O'Higgins, the hero of this haunting tale of loss from Harrington, has yet to recover from the trauma of his wife's death in a boating accident outside the Golden Gate Bridge. A year after the tragedy, the sight of open water still paralyzes him. Therapy hasn't helped and he's sent his teen daughter to his sister in Sacramento. On his first day back at work after bereavement leave, O'Higgins realizes that investigating a double murder at a Pacific Heights mansion won't be routine, because one victim is Indian businessman Rishi Chaundry, whose father is poised to become India's next prime minister, and the other is Bharti Kumar, the family nanny. The police suspect Rishi's widow, Asha, who may have been jealous of her husband's attentions to the attractive young Bharti—and who later encounters a charming art dealer who could be a serial killer. O'Higgins' affair with a female cop who has severe anger issues complicates the case. San Francisco native Harrington uses his trademark narrative jumps to heighten the suspense in this long-awaited return to his dark hometown turf."—*PW*

Hillerman, Anne. [Cave of Bones](#) (Harper \$26.99). Anne heads to the Malpais, lava territory to the west of Albuquerque—you can visit the [National Monument](#) from I-40 driving south on Highway 53, or driving on 53 north from US 60. The Malpais wilderness borders the Ramah Navajo Rez. And it is just the place for a kind of Outward Bound overnight for some troubled kids. A place to get lost. A place to find bones.... 4<sup>th</sup> in the Leaphorn/Chee/Manuelito series. Why not read all the Hillermans beginning with Tony's *The Blessing Way*? [Listen to my podcast](#) with Tony's biographer, great stuff.

Howe, KJ. [Skyjack](#) (Quercus \$26.99). In the sequel to 2017 First Mystery Club Pick [The Freedom Broker](#) (\$16.99), international kidnap expert Thea Paris is escorting two former child soldiers on a plane from an orphanage in Kanzi, Africa, to adoptive parents in London when the Boeing Business Jet is hijacked and forced to land on a deserted airstrip in the Libyan desert. On the ground, Thea comes face-to-face with a former nemesis, a Sicilian don who wants something, or someone, on that plane. As an ace negotiator, what can she do when the Sicilian don imprisons her in a hanger and flies away with the boys and the passengers, refusing to return them until she hijacks a truck for him. What is the don really after? And how can Thea possibly thwart him without a massacre of those on the plane? Thea is part of that cadre of damaged yet unbowed women leads who are

knocking it out of the park this spring. And like them, she has some interesting baggage.

Jewell, Lisa. [Then She Was Gone](#) (Atria \$26). More than a whiff of *The Lovely Bones* wafts through this haunting domestic noir. The disappearance of beautiful, brainy 15-year-old Ellie Mack in May 2005 from her north London neighborhood takes a terrible toll on her parents and siblings, even a decade later. Most profoundly affected is her now-divorced mother, Laurel. After a shocking development in the cold case jolts Laurel from her lonely limbo, Laurel stuns herself by agreeing to dinner with a man she meets in a café, genial author Floyd Dunn, and quickly falls into a relationship with him and the younger of his daughters, precocious nine-year-old Poppy—who reminds Laurel eerily in so many ways of Ellie. But then unsettling coincidences start to emerge, most notably Laurel's discovery that Floyd's former partner, Noelle Donnelly, who he claims vanished five years earlier after dumping Poppy with him, was Ellie's math tutor. Skillfully told by several narrators (some of them ghostly). "Part psychological fiction, part ghost story, both tragic and uplifting. A decade after the disappearance of her teenage daughter, Laurel Mack meets a charming single father with two daughters, the youngest of whom reminds Laurel deeply of her lost daughter Elle, and she becomes obsessed with her unanswered questions."

Lansdale, Joe R. [Jackrabbit Smile](#) (LittleBrown \$26). In his trademark take-no-prisoner's prose laced with a kind of deadpan satire, Lansdale stands Hap and Leonard up against bigotry—or just plain ignorance—in the heart of rural Texas. It's funny and wrenching at the same time and the deadpan style is more effective than sarcasm or rants. Plus he tells a great story. Here's the *NY Times*: "Talking dirty can be great fun, especially when the trash talkers are Hap Collins and Leonard Pine, the cutup private eyes. Here the partners are tasked with finding Jackie (Jackrabbit) Mulhaney, the daughter of white supremacists who don't care that Hap is irreverent and Leonard is black and gay. 'We want her back,' her Pentecostal mother says, 'be it flesh, or be it bones.' Jackie's father, Sebastian, a fire-breathing preacher, lived hard and died a sad and lonely death. But her brother, Thomas, is carrying the burning torch. For such a freewheeling stylist, Lansdale can write a sensitive obituary... as well as boisterous action scenes for his irrepressible leads. And he has compassion for places like Hell's Half Mile, 'a line of honky-tonks full of drunken patrons trying to wash down poverty, bad marriages and gone-to-hell children.'"

Orr, Jill. [The Bad Break](#) (Prospect Park \$16). In Orr's sequel to 2017's delightful comedic cozy [The Good Byline](#) (\$16)—be sure to order this and read it first—Tabitha St. Simon, Riley Ellison's coworker at the *Tuttle Times*, calls up scrappy Riley, aspiring journalist and obituary underling at the newspaper who left her sinecure at the library for the challenges of print journalism. Tabitha has found her future father-in-law, the prominent cardiologist Arthur Davenport, lying dead on the office floor of his Tuttle, Virginia, home. Riley calls acting sheriff Carl Haight and deputy Chip "Butter" Churner, who are convinced by the knife in Arthur's chest that it's a homicide. Riley seizes the chance to pitch writing the obit to editor Kay Jackson, who agrees, but when Haight arrests Tabitha's fiancé, Arthur's son Thad, Tabitha pressures Riley to switch over to investigating the crime. Since Arthur played around, suspects, including incensed husbands, are easy to find. Riley makes lots of missteps along the rocky way

to solving the crime as well as sorting out her complicated love life. Her accidental and automatic enrollment in Bestmillenniallife.com—which makes her path cross with Personal Success Concierge and Beyoncé enthusiast Jenna B—results in social media interactions that show Orr at her (straight-faced) best. Enjoy our **April Cozy Club Pick**.

Palmer, Ada. [Too Like Lightning](#) (\$15.99); [Seven Surrenders](#) (\$17.99); [The Will to Battle](#) (\$26.99). The Terra Ignota Series Books #1-3. The winner of the 2017 John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer joins our SciFi club to discuss her trilogy, called “a venture into a human future of extraordinary originality where she mixes “Enlightenment-era philosophy with traditional science fiction speculation to bring to life the year 2454, not a perfect future, but a utopian one, threatened by cultural upheaval.” Cory Doctorow says, “More intricate, more plausible, more significant than any debut I can recall...If you read a debut novel this year, make it *Too Like the Lightning*.” And *Romantic Times* makes *Too Like the Lightning* a Top Pick: “Astonishingly dense, accomplished and well-realized, with a future that feels real in both its strangeness and its familiarity.”

Perry, Anne. [Twenty One Days](#) (Ballantine \$28). Introducing Daniel Pitt as the lead, taking over from his father, Thomas, who has risen in rank so far he doesn't do a lot of active investigation now. 1910: Twenty-five-year-old Daniel Pitt is a junior barrister in London and eager to prove himself. And the new case before him will be the test. When his client, arrogant biographer Russell Graves, is found guilty of murdering his wife, Daniel is dispatched by his superior to find the real killer before Graves faces the hangman's noose—in only twenty-one days. Perry sets up this series start with a ticking clock, possible career peril for Thomas who with Charlotte forms part of Daniel's support team, and a wish to save the reputations of others dear to the Pitts.

Ricciardi, David. [Warning Light](#) (Berkley \$27). What a lucky spring this has been. First a killer thriller debut by Jack Carr in [The Terminal List](#) (\$26). And now this debut by Ricciardi, our **April Thriller Club Pick**, “one of the best thrillers you'll read this year.”—Lee Child. I was hooked from the nail-biting opener as a plane does a near-fatal forced landing in Iran right through Zac Miller's jousts with Iran's Revolutionary Guard... wait, here's a summing up by *Kirkus*: “A Ulysses-like odyssey... If only he'd run into a whirlpool and a monster, readers might mistake this adventure for a tale by Homer...Let's hope for more Zac Miller adventures.”—*Kirkus Reviews*. I compare Carr to the late Vince Flynn but Ricciardi is more like Adam Hall or Robert Ludlum or Mark Greaney. Let's hope for both authors to continue these excellent starts. As was true with our Jack Carr book launch, the wonderful rising thriller star J. Todd Scott will lead the conversation with Ricciardi!

Sandford, John. [Twisted Prey](#) (Putnam \$29). A Publication Day Party. Our copies will come with something special for Lucas designed by Putnam. Lucas Davenport had crossed paths with her before. A rich psychopath, Taryn Grant had run successfully for the U.S. Senate, where Lucas had predicted she'd fit right in. He was also convinced that she'd been responsible for three murders, though he'd never been able to prove it. Once a psychopath had gotten that kind of rush, though, he or she often needed another fix, so he figured he might be seeing her again. He was right. A federal marshal now, with a very wide scope of investigation,

he's heard rumors that Grant has found her seat on the Senate intelligence committee, and the contacts she's made from it, to be very...useful. And she might run for President. So when political consultant Cecily Whitehead is driving Porter Smalls, a former U.S. senator from Minnesota, back to Washington, D.C., from his cabin in West Virginia when a pickup truck plows into their vehicle, knocking it off the road down a steep hill, and Smalls comes to Lucas with the idea this was an assassination attempt organized by Gran, Davenport, who's certain that Grant has committed three murders but doesn't have the proof, is only too happy to get another crack at her. And the cat-and-mouse game gathers momentum.... Every new Davenport that publishes I am thankful the title isn't “Final Prey.”

Scottoline, Lisa. [After Anna](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Lisa tells me “it's a family drama with shifting viewpoints that keep you guessing.” The Indie Next Pick: “The twists and turns of Scottoline's new family thriller kept me captivated as a reader, spouse, and parent. After Anna is the story of a family torn apart by the return of the wife's beautiful teenage daughter, Anna, who then is brutally murdered. With this event, Maggie not only loses her daughter, but her world is turned upside down by the possibility that her husband might be the killer. After Anna kept me guessing about who was telling the truth in this once-normal marriage. Scottoline is a master thriller writer, and her dazzling prose breathes life into her vibrant characters. Not only will the author's extensive fan base love After Anna, but new readers will enjoy it as well.”

Woods, Stuart. [Shoot First](#) (Putnam \$28). Business takes wealthy New York lawyer Stone Barrington to Key West where he meets Silicon Valley entrepreneur Meg Harmon, whose company has recently developed software for a self-driving car. Unfortunately, a former partner of Meg's, Gino Bellini, feels she cheated him out of his fair share of the profits from the software design, and sets a pair of assassins on her trail. In between dodging bullets first on a golf course and then on a beach, Meg and Stone find time to get to know each other and have great sex. They later retreat to Stone's Manhattan townhouse, though trips on Stone's private plane to his place in Maine and his house in the English countryside also prove necessary for their safety and give Woods a chance to write his passion for planes although boats figure into this one as well; plus collecting houses...” 45<sup>th</sup> in this bestselling, diverting series.

#### **COZY CON BOOKS FOR APRIL BUT SIGNED MAY 5**

*Order early—think gifts for Mom*

✶Arlen, Tessa. [Death of an Unsung Hero](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Clementine Talbot, the Countess of Montfort, embarks on a controversial new venture in 1916—a hospital at her family's Haversham Hall dedicated to treating soldiers who have returned from France with mental scars, overseen by her loyal servant, Mrs. Jackson. You *Downtown* fans can replay that scenario from Series 2, no? And if you are missing Maggie Smith, there's a charming 2005 movie with her and Judi Dench to watch: *Ladies in Lavender* Rob and I found on Acorn and enjoyed.

Carlisle, Kate. [Once Upon a Spine](#) (\$7.99). Bibliophile Mystery #11, now in paperback. [Buried in Books](#) publishes June 26.

Cleland, Jane K. [Antique Blue](#) (St Martins \$25.99). When amateur sleuth and antiques expert Josie Prescott is called in to appraise a Japanese woodblock print and vintage guitar for her friend Mo, she's thrilled—until Mo is murdered.

Delany, Vicki. [The Cat of the Baskervilles](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). A Sherlock Holmes Bookshop Mystery, plus her Canadian Constable Molly Smith series.

✦Harris, CS. [Why Kill the Innocent?](#) (Berkley \$26). “Harris’s fascinating 13th mystery set in Regency-era London centers on the plight of Princess Charlotte, heiress presumptive to the throne, who’s being encouraged to marry William, Prince of Orange, a union designed to benefit her father’s political agenda. This chapter in a wonderful series draws more on real history for the plot than on the complicated relationships of the characters. Harris works to keep it all fresh.

McKinlay, Jenn. [Wedding Cake Crumble](#) (Berkley \$7.99). For the Fairy Tale Cupcake crew, wedding bells turn to death knells.

Parker, Ann. [A Dying Note](#) (\$26.95 or \$15.95). Inez Stannert, partner in a Leadville saloon and high-end bordello, relocates to bustling San Francisco. Though managing the respectable D&S House of Music, she soon confronts her shady past—and murder.

Shelton, Paige. [Lost Books and Old Bones](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Kansan Delaney Nichols third investigation at the Cracked Spine, a mysterious bookstore specializing in rare manuscripts and historical objects. “Shelton’s lovely depictions of Edinburgh, its denizens, and its bookshops will enchant lovers of cozies with a Scottish setting.”

#### SIGNED BOOKS

Albert, Susan Wittig. [Queen Anne’s Lace](#) (Berkley \$27). Albert’s fascinating 26th mystery featuring Pecan Springs, Texas, herbalist China Bayles elegantly weaves the third-person account of lace maker Annie Duncan, set in the late 1880s, with China’s first-person narrative in the present day. When China decides to clear out a storage room above her shop, Thyme and Seasons, she discovers a box of old photographs that were taken when the building was still in the hands of its original owners. Her desire to find out more about the people in the photos leads into the story of Annie Duncan, whose life utterly changes after her husband, Douglas, is killed in a train accident and she goes into early labor and gives birth to a stillborn boy. In the present, China’s 14-year-old daughter’s prize rooster is stolen at a local fair. Albert chiefly focuses on motherhood in this gentle outing, while schooling the reader on herbal remedies, such as those used as contraceptives at a time when the only alternative was abstinence. “Albert’s long-running series shows no sign of flagging,” says *PW*. April is the perfect month to [order all of China’s cases](#).

Baldacci, David. [The Fallen](#) (Grand Central \$29). Memory Man #4. Something sinister is going on in Baronville. The rust belt town has seen four bizarre murders in the space of two weeks. Cryptic clues left at the scenes—obscure Bible verses, odd symbols—have the police stumped. Amos Decker and his FBI colleague Alex Jamison are in Baronville visiting Alex’s sister and her family. It’s a bleak place: a former mill and mining town with a crumbling economy and rampant opioid addiction. Decker has only been there a few hours when he stumbles on a horrific double murder scene. Then the next killing hits sickeningly close to home. Order the [first three Memory Man](#) to get started.

✦Bolton, Sharon. [The Craftsman](#) (Trapeze UK \$32). In a fascinating introduction Bolton reveals she’s from the North of England, connected through family to Pendle where, in 1612,

women were hanged for witchcraft. It’s a “dark place” she says. And she’s wanted to write a book about women who dare to stand out and be different. Here it is. It’s 1999. Lancashire Assistant Commissioner Florence Lovelady’s police career was made when she convicted coffin-maker Larry Glassbrook of a series of child murders 30 years ago. Like something from our worst nightmares the victims were buried alive. Larry confessed to the crimes; it was an open and shut case. But now he’s dead, and events from the past start to repeat themselves. Did Florence get it wrong all those years ago? Or...? Bolton, an author I much admire, pens a startling Gothic with a truly arresting ending.

Brodsky, Jordanna. [Olympus Bound](#) (Orbit \$27). “Intense and compelling.... Brodsky has delivered a terrific series that brings mythology to life as the gods struggle to survive in the modern reality. Great stuff!”—*RT Book Reviews*. “This rich, clever, and thoughtful concluding installment of the Olympus Bound trilogy picks up six months after the events of 2016’s [Winter of the Gods](#), with Selene DiSilva, once known as the goddess Artemis, tracking her grandfather Saturn and the remnants of his Mithraic cult in order to stop them from sacrificing the kidnapped Zeus to usurp his power. Meanwhile, Selene’s lover, the mortal historian Theo Schultz, believes Selene is dead and researches ancient rituals and traditions in hopes of resurrecting her. When they reunite in the Vatican, it’s the prelude to a new quest that takes them to Mount Olympus itself, where the remaining gods gather for the first time in centuries. As in the previous volumes, Brodsky expertly weaves together ancient mystery cults, mythology, and science, producing a syncretic masterpiece that challenges the reader’s assumptions and expectations at every turn. Her gods, with their numerous epithets and faded dignity, feel real and complicated, burdened by the weight of centuries’ worth of legend and reinvention. This is a wholly satisfying conclusion to a story that adds another dimension to ancient themes and elements.”—*PW* Starred Review. I love this series: Rick Riordan for grown ups. I devoured Bullfinch’s *Age of Fables* in the 5th grade and all my life have found a working knowledge of the gods is vital. So order the trilogy’s first, [The Immortals](#) (\$15.99), and dig in. And to learn about Mithraism read the [John, the Lord Chamberlain Mysteries](#)

Connolly, John. [The Woman in the Woods](#) (Hodder \$39). It is spring, and the semi-preserved body of a young Jewish woman is discovered buried in the Maine woods. It is clear that she gave birth shortly before her death. But there is no sign of a baby. Private detective Charlie Parker is engaged by the lawyer Moxie Castin to shadow the police investigation and find the infant, but Parker is not the only searcher. Someone else is following the trail left by the woman, someone with an interest in more than a missing child, someone prepared to leave bodies in his wake. And in a house by the woods, a toy telephone begins to ring.... Not all Charlie Parkers are in print but [order what we have](#).

Davis, Lindsey. [Pandora’s Boy](#) (Hodder \$44). Private investigator Flavia Albia is always drawn to an intriguing puzzle—even if it is put to her by her new husband’s hostile ex-wife. On the Quirinal Hill, a young girl named Clodia has died, apparently poisoned with a love potion. Only one person could have supplied such a thing: a local witch who goes by the name of Pandora, whose trade in herbal beauty products is hiding something far more sinister....

✂Duffy, Stella and Ngaio Marsh. [Money in the Morgue](#) (Collins Crime Club \$35). Wow, what good news. Roderick Alleyn is back in a crime novel begun by Ngaio Marsh during the Second World War and now completed by Stella Duffy, who signs it. It's business as usual for Mr. Glossop as he does his regular round delivering wages to government buildings scattered across New Zealand's lonely Canterbury plains. But when his car breaks down he is stranded for the night at the isolated Mount Seager Hospital, with the telephone lines down, a storm on its way and the nearby river about to burst its banks. Trapped with him at Mount Seager are a group of quarantined soldiers with a serious case of cabin fever, three young employees embroiled in a tense love triangle, a dying elderly man, an elusive patient whose origins remain a mystery ... and a potential killer. When the payroll disappears from a locked safe and the hospital's death toll starts to rise faster than normal, can the appearance of an English detective working in counterespionage be just a lucky coincidence – or is something more sinister afoot? I'm indebted to Sophie Hannah for telling us about this.

Estleman, Loren D. [Black and White Ball](#) (Forge \$27). PI Amos Walker has had a long run. I muse about how he's adjusting to a rebooted Detroit. Here in his 27<sup>th</sup> investigation, he gets caught in a family crossfire. Hitman Peter Macklin forces shamus Walker to provide protection for Macklin's estranged wife Laurie while Macklin goes after whoever has threatened to kill her. His chief suspect is his own grown son! Roger Macklin has inherited all the instincts, and acquired all the training, necessary to carry out the hit. Told partly by Walker in first-person and partly by Macklin in third, *Black and White Ball* places the detective squarely between two remorseless killers. One thing to love about veteran Estleman is he keeps moving and shaking things up. My late Mother was a real Amos Walker fan, like me.

✂Fowler, Christopher. [Bryant and May: Hall of Mirrors](#) (Bantam UK \$40). This is so much fun, a troll through the 1960s, Swinging London, why it was so after so many "grey" years, and where it went wrong. Fowler takes Bryant and May back to their young partnership in 1969. But sends them out of London. In disgrace, their supervisor at the Peculiar Crimes Unit gives them what he expects to be their final assignment before he pushes them off. They are to serve as bodyguards to a whistleblower whose testimony on the Monday will take down an old-school-tie friend. Why is he turning Queen's Evidence? But for the weekend he and his reluctant protection detail head for a country house party at a once magnificent property now being sold to a Chicago tycoon who plans to turn it into a business training center. So Agatha Christie (intentionally). And as in a Christie, nothing is quite what it seems as one murder follows another. Love the butler.

✂Goddard, Robert. [Panic Room](#) (Random \$43). High on a Cornish cliff sits a vast uninhabited mansion. Uninhabited except for Blake, a young woman of dubious background, secretive and alone, currently acting as house sitter. The house has a panic room. Cunningly concealed, steel lined, impregnable – and apparently closed from within. Even Blake doesn't know it's there. She's too busy being on the run from life, from a story she thinks she's escaped. But her remote existence is going to be invaded when people come looking the house's owner, missing rogue pharma entrepreneur, Jack Harkness. Suddenly the whole world wants to know where his money has gone. That's the set up for a very different kind of Gothic that swerves into a 21<sup>st</sup> Century

thriller with a touch of *Person of Interest*. The landscape and the writing are both gorgeous. Goddard is a master at taking you someplace you didn't expect to go.

✂Harvey, John. [Body and Soul](#) (Heinemann \$34). When his estranged daughter Katherine suddenly appears on his doorstep, Frank Elder knows that something is badly wrong. The breakdown of her relationship with a controversial artist has sent her into a self-destructive tailspin which culminates in murder. And as Elder struggles to protect Katherine and prove her innocence, the terrors of the past threaten them both once more. This is the book Harvey swore he's never write which of course makes it more compelling to find out why by reading it.

✂Harvey, Samantha. [The Western Wind](#) (Canongate \$39). I ordered this on spec since I love most novels medieval. I'm not at all sure how to describe it—it doesn't fit any genre. Not that a book needs to. We're in Oakham, a tiny country village near Bruton parish. It's Shrove Tuesday, 1491, and everything is waterlogged. A body is found in the river drowned. It proves to be Thomas Newman, Oakham's wealthiest and most industrious man. Parish priest John Reve, the village's confessor, has many difficult decisions to make, made the more so when the stern rural dean arrives to determine what has happened. This is not a crime novel, it's more "a lyrical enquiry into ideas of certainty and belief" and "gloriously strange" in its uncertainties.

Miller, Madeline. [Circe](#) (LittleBrown \$27). In this glorious book, a must for anyone who loves ancient myths, Circe is immortal, so Miller plausibly covers large swaths of legend in one narrative as Circe performs the duties of midwife at the birth of the Minotaur, faces down a monster of her own making, clashes with the all-powerful gods, and has run-ins and relationships with Daedalus, Athena, Prometheus, Jason, Medea and, of course, the wily and obligatory Odysseus. However, while readers will expectantly await Odysseus, King of Ithaca, the man she famously seduced, here he represents only one brief episode in a life rich with striving, triumph and disappointment—a welcome change for a female character most famous for sharing his bed. What is more compelling is the life she constructs on her island, and the choices she makes. Yes, she's portrayed as an irresistible bewitcher, but this Circe breaks that mold. How lucky we are to have two imaginative novels about the Greek gods and myths this month, a classical version of the Marvel heroes we hope will come to save us. Why not prep for this big April book with Miller's [The Song of Achilles](#) (\$16.99)? And be sure to [read a terrific review of Circe](#) in the *NY Times*.

Moore, Christopher. [Noir](#) (Harper \$27). Moore spoofs hard-boiled detective fiction in this irreverent send-up set in 1947 San Francisco. One evening, a dame named Stilton, who has "the kind of legs that kept her butt from resting on her shoes," walks into Sal's Saloon, where she meets bartender Sammy "Two-Toes" Tiffin. Sammy soon falls madly in love with Stilton, and then she disappears. Meanwhile, Sal Gabelli, the saloon's proprietor, orders Sammy to provide a bevy of broads for an Air Force general in command of a base in Roswell, New Mexico, who needs the women for an event at the Bohemian Club camp in redwood country. Sammy's subsequent discovery of Sal's snake-bitten corpse in the stock room and the arrival of men in black suits wearing sunglasses complicate matters. From there, things just get stranger in this work that puts an amusing spin on the noir

subgenre. An author's note gives fair warning of "the characters' era-appropriate language and attitudes." The pulp cover is arresting, like the wildly irreverent Moore's wacky plots and take-no-prisoner's prose. Here's the Indie Next Pick: A love letter to hard-boiled detective fiction, a thorough and loving bath in the atmosphere of 1947 San Francisco, and loads of laughs along the way. Aliens? Yes. Romance? Also yes. Add in a cast of characters with heart, moxie, and beguiling banter and you've got Noir, a recipe for pure enjoyment."

Panowich, Brian. [Like Lions](#) (Headline \$46). Clayton Burroughs is sheriff of Bull Mountain and last surviving member of the brutal and blood-steeped Burroughs clan. It's been a year since a rogue government agent systematically crippled the family's criminal empire, leaving two of his brothers dead and Clayton broken and haunted by wounds that may never heal. Now Bull Mountain is vulnerable, ripe for predators wanting to re-establish the flow of dope and money through the town. And the death of a boy belonging to a rival clan brings the wolves straight to Clayton's door. Patrick adds, "Like many readers, I've been jonesing for the sequel to Panowich's outstanding debut and First Mystery Club Pick [Bull Mountain](#) (\$16) for a long time, so when I heard that his UK publisher had published the new book (and that his US publisher hasn't announced a release date) I managed to score some of these true first editions. We will sell out fast, so don't delay."

Palmer, Michael. [The First Family](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Every once in awhile a good medical thriller comes along and this, our **April Surprise Me Pick**, is one. Instead of a hospital setting we're in the White House where live President Hilliard and his family. Cam, the son, a sixteen-year-old chess champ, begins to experience extreme fatigue, moodiness, and violent outbursts. It's easy to dismiss this as teen behavior, if a bit extreme, but Secret Service Agent Karen Ray believes Cam's condition is such she should seek a second opinion outside Dr. Gleason's, the White House physician. And that comes from her ex-husband., Dr. Lee Blackwood, a brilliant diagnostician. That kicks things off. At the heart of this well conceived and written story is the question of whether it is possible to unlock a person's creative potential without any reliance on drugs or alcohol (probably I should add sex to this in the context of today's headlines...) which is very much a hot topic. The late Michael's son Daniel, a skilled writer of suspense, creates a compelling scenario and credits all his physician relatives for its accuracy in matters medical. That plus a little imagination such as picturing a functional First Family in the White House.

Scalzi, John. [Head On](#) (Tor \$25.99). Out in April but I note that Scalzi joins us on May 23 for Elevegedden. Hilketa is a frenetic and violent pastime where players attack each other with swords and hammers. The main goal of the game: obtain your opponent's head and carry it through the goalposts. With flesh and bone bodies, a sport like this would be impossible. But all the players are "threeps," robot-like bodies controlled by people with Haden's Syndrome, so anything goes. No one gets hurt, but the brutality is real and the crowds love it. Until a star athlete drops dead on the playing field. Is it an accident or murder? FBI agents and Haden-related crime investigators, Chris Shane and Leslie Vann, are called in to uncover the truth—and in doing so travel to the darker side of the fast-growing sport of Hilketa,

where fortunes are made or lost, and where players and owners do whatever it takes to win, on and off the field. Scalzi pens a follow-up to 2015's [Lock In](#) (\$8.99).

Sharpe, Tess. [Barbed Wire Heart](#) (Grand Central \$27). No stranger to the remote forests of California's Del Norte County on the Oregon border, Tess Sharpe was raised by a punk-rock mother in the area's unpopulated backwoods. Our **April First Mystery Club Pick**, follows the "flinty, crack-shot, unschooled feminist narrator Harley McKenna through the region, as she fights to claim her place in a violent world run by her formidable father, Duke. Her mother was killed in a meth lab explosion triggered by McKenna family rival Carl Springfield, 'a redneck peacock of a man in a dirty wifebeater and Wranglers... sunken cheeks and jutting bones that come only from years of tweeking.' Although the McKenna and Springfield multi-generational feud rests in an uneasy truce, it won't last. The family patriarchs are aging, and Duke has raised Harley to replace him as kingpin of the county. Carl's not buying it. Harley sees only one way out of her family fate: both Duke and Carl have to go. A soft touch for the underdog, Harley oversees the Ruby, a former motel converted into a safe house for abused women and children. Seeing the human toll from Duke's meth, opiates and heroin trade, she plans to run only the soon-to-be legal and less harmful marijuana business, and she'll arm her 'rubies' to protect themselves from the violent men who upended their lives. As she says, 'There is nothing stronger than a woman who's risen from the ashes of some fire a man set.'" —Bruce Jacobs

Smith, Michael Farris. [The Fighter](#) (Little Brown \$27). Patrick reviews: "Mississippi writer Smith follows up last year's [Desperation Road](#) (\$15.99)—a Hardboiled Crime Club Pick—with a bold and emotionally wrought novel about a former bare knuckle fighter who's taken too many hits over the years. Jack's life is slipping away from him, and his lifetime of concussions has left him addled. He gobbles painkillers and keeps a notebook to keep straight his list of friends and enemies. His debt to Big Momma Sweet keeps mounting, and now the queen of the Delta underworld wants the balance paid. Jack finds an unlikely ally in Annette, a young temptress carnival worker who pushes Jack towards one last bout in the fighting pit that will clear the stakes one way or another. Peopled with a great cast of misfits doing their best in a world that's chewed them up and spit them out, Smith's new novel confirms his place as one the finest writers at work today."

Soule, Charles. [Oracle Year](#) (Harper \$21.99). Out in April, Signed for us May 23 at Elevegedden, our annual SciFi blast. Soule, best known for his work on such comics as *Death of Wolverine*, *She-Hulk*, *Darth Vader*, *Lando*, *Curse Words*, *Letter 44*, *Daredevil*, *Swamp Thing*, and *Inhuman*, is making his debut as a novelist with *The Oracle Year*. One hundred and eight: That's how many seemingly random predictions come to Will Dando one night in a dream. When they actually begin to occur, he starts selling his critical economic predictions to international interests and makes mountains of money. In the process, though, he also makes powerful enemies - not least of which is the U.S. government. When Will realizes that the dream wasn't as random as it seemed and is forced into hiding, what was almost a lark becomes deadly as he tries to survive long enough to counter the global chaos he's caused. With enough humor to lighten the seriousness of Will's

predicament, this debut, our **May SciFi Club Pick**, keeps readers guessing right to the surprising end. Order it before we run out.

✦Taylor, Andrew. [The Fire Court](#) (Collins \$35). The Great Fire has ravaged London, wreaking destruction and devastation wherever its flames spread. Now, guided by the incorruptible Fire Court, the city is slowly rebuilding, but times are volatile and danger is only ever a heartbeat away. James Marwood, son of a traitor, is thrust into this treacherous environment when his ailing father claims to have stumbled upon a murdered woman – in the very place where the Fire Court sits. Then his father is run down and killed. Accident? Or another murder...? Determined to uncover the truth, Marwood turns to the one person he can trust – Cat Lovett, the daughter of a despised regicide. And first met in [The Ashes of London](#) (\$26.99 Unsigned).

Wolitzer, Meg. [The Female Persuasion](#) (Riverhead \$27.99). Out in April but our **May Modern First Editions Pick**. “It will be tempting for most critics to approach *The Female Persuasion* through the lens of the current political climate—perhaps nigh impossible for them not to. Meg Wolitzer’s 12th novel begins with a campus assault that leads to a protest that leads to an intergenerational feminist debate that takes a turn for the toxic. It’s as if a healthy portion of the Twittersphere were aggregated, swallowed and spit back out as the plot of a literary novel. And who will blame these critics? The novel’s protagonist, Greer Kadetsky—who starts the book as a faceless college freshman ‘absorbed in her own unhappiness, practically curating it’ — is the living embodiment of today’s growing number of young white women whose own processes of politicization are equally inspiring and problematic. Her budding friendship with a self-actualized queer girl named Zee Eisenstat, as well as an utterly clinical and horrific groping at a frat party, set Greer — all the while consumed with her boyfriend, who is miles away at Princeton — on the activist path. And it is this path that leads her straight to Faith Frank, a notorious figure in the women’s empowerment movement who reads as part Gloria Steinem, part Eve Ensler, part Dame Helen Mirren. Faith’s confidence, passion and good humanitarian deeds (which she allows Greer to join in as part of her undertaking) come to define the next half-decade of Greer’s life, as her bond with Zee and her seemingly idyllic romance with said boyfriend, Cory, fracture and eventually combust... The novel’s timeliness cannot be overstated, but it also invites a bigger question: What do we as readers, as a society, want from our fiction? Is it enough for it just to speak to the zeitgeist? Or are we also committed to words working their magic and characters growing hotter to the touch with each passing page?”—Lena Dunham, *The NY Times*.

### BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSIC

Lorac, E.C. [Bats in the Belfry](#) (\$12.95). This entry in the British Library Crime Classics series, originally published in 1937 and part of Lorac’s Chief Inspector Macdonald series, effectively builds on its opening scene’s gallows humor to a satisfying fair-play resolution. After the funeral of Anthony Fell, an Australian gentleman who died in a car accident, Fell’s cousin Bruce Attleton discusses with other mourners the best way to conceal a murder. Attleton’s ward, Elizabeth Leigh, belongs to a London club that meets monthly to discuss an intellectual exercise, and she shares with its members this challenge—to devise a method for disposing of a corpse that’s “not only ingenious, but pos-

esses the elements of practical common sense.” The parlor game becomes more serious when Attleton disappears, and the mystery deepens after a headless corpse turns up in a creepy London studio known as the Morgue. Macdonald, a nicely sardonic and plausible lead, investigates. Fans of golden age mysteries will look forward to seeing more of Lorac, a pseudonym of Edith Caroline Rivett (1894–1958).

### OUR APRIL TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

*I highlight some small press books here. For more new large paperbacks refer to the Easter Booknews where you will see titles by Steve Burrows (our April British Crime Club Pick), ML Longworth, Lisa See, Paul Vidich, and Ruth Ware, all of which I highly recommend*

Dionne, Karen. [The Marsh King’s Daughter](#) (\$16). I’ve been in lockstep with William Kent Krueger and Steve Hamilton since their first novels and thought little could surprise me about Michigan’s Upper Peninsula or Ojibwa skills and wilderness survival—Karen Dionne proves me so wrong. I thought Helena Pelletier was going to prove an unreliable narrator, but it turns out the person she lies to best is herself. Who could blame her given the fact she’s the daughter of a ruthless abductor and a girl he kidnapped and repeatedly raped. When she was able to make a break at age 15, saving her mother too, her skill set didn’t prepare her for life in ordinary society. But she reinvented herself, married and had children. And then word comes that her father has made a prison break, killing two guards and escaping into the wilds he knows so well. Who but the Marsh King’s daughter will be able to track him and...? With this set up, the words of Hans Christian Anderson setting the pace, Dionne’s 2017 First Mystery Club Pick, now in paperback, sucks you into the landscape and the characters with all their sins and contradictions.

Evans, Mary Ann. [Undercurrents](#) (\$15.95). “The Longchamp mysteries combine history and mystery in a gritty way that makes them feel different from most amateur-sleuth fare—dark edged rather than cozy. Faye, too, is not your traditional amateur sleuth; she could just as easily anchor a gritty thriller series and give some of the giants in that genre a run for their money.” —*Booklist*. Evans will sign the hardcover at our Labor Day Conference. And you can read [a terrific review here](#).

Edwards, Martin. Ed. [Ten Year Stretch](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). “In honor of a decade of CrimeFest, Edwards and Muller have assembled top-notch talent in this entertaining anthology of 20 original short stories. Highlights include two impossible crime tales: Simon Brett’s “The Last Locked Room,” about a retired policeman’s attempts to solve the cold case of the locked-room death of his grandfather, a mystery novelist specializing in concocting such crimes; and Ann Cleeves’s “Moses and the Locked Tent Mystery,” set during a safari in Tanzania’s Serengeti National Park. Mick Herron’s “How Many Cats Have You Killed?” pokes fun at the double standards of mystery readers, who easily tolerate the fictional slaughter of people, but not of cats. Maj Sjöwall fans will revel in “Long Time, No See,” about the chilling aftermath of an uncomfortable reunion of schoolmates almost 40 years after their last encounter. High-quality entries from the likes of Lee Child, Jeffery Deaver, and Ian Rankin, as well as from lesser-known authors such as Bill Beverly, elevate this above similar volumes.”—*PW*. You can collect some signatures for more fun.



✂Jewell, Lisa. [I Found You](#) (\$16). We are excited about international bestseller Jewell's May 2 event at The Pen, a writer of whom the *New York Times* writes, "Jewell's novel explores the space between going missing and being lost....how the plots intersect and finally collide is one of the great thrills of reading Jewell's book. She ratchets up the tension masterfully, and her writing is lively." In the windswept British seaside town of Ridinghouse Bay, single mom Alice Lake finds a man sitting on a beach outside her house. He has no name, no jacket, and no idea how he got there. Against her better judgment, she invites him inside. Meanwhile, in a suburb of London, newlywed Lily Monrose grows anxious when her husband fails to return home from work one night. Soon, she receives even worse news: according to the police, the man she married never even existed. Twenty-three years earlier, Gray and Kirsty Ross are teenagers on a summer holiday with their parents. The annual trip to Ridinghouse Bay is uneventful, until an enigmatic young man starts paying extra attention to Kirsty. Something about him makes Gray uncomfortable. Who is the man on the beach? Where Lily is's missing husband? And what ever happened to the man who made such a lasting and disturbing impression on Gray? "Readers of Liane Moriarty, Paula Hawkins, and Ruth Ware will love." —*Library Journal* Starred Review. See Event Books for her 2018 novel.

King, Crystal. [Feast of Sorrow](#) (\$15.99). I've immersed myself in novels of Ancient Rome for decades (Lindsey Davis, John Maddox Roberts, Steven Saylor, Robert Graves, etc), but the staggeringly rich gourmet Marcus Gavius Apicius somehow hadn't come my way. An inheritor of great wealth, his ambition was not to increase it but spend it in pursuit of his ambition to become the culinary advisor of Augustus Caesar, an honor that would cement his role as Rome's leading epicure. To that end he purchases a young chef (*coquus*) at a slave market for the unheard of sum of 20,000 denari. Thrasius had been the *coquus* to Flavius Maximus and well trained, but Maximus had died. King immerses you in Roman food and menus as well as the etiquette (9 couches at a dinner to honor the 9 Muses) and ceremony attached to Roman banquets. Apicius buys Thrasius to make himself famous, but what he gets is a man so loyal that the vicissitudes that attack his family and drive it to ruin along with his own overspending don't sunder them even as the one is destroyed and the other rises. It's a tale akin to *I, Claudius* (with many of the same characters) of love, family, friends, rivals, betrayals, political maneuverings—plus food—as well as vividly bringing to life a real man who inspired the world's oldest cookbook. Yum!

Kovac, Christina. [The Cutaway](#) (\$16). The *PW* Starred Review for our April 2017 First Mystery Club Pick, now in paperback: "Washington, D.C., TV producer Virginia Knight, the narrator of TV journalist Kovac's nail-biting first novel, takes an interest in the case of a missing woman, attorney Evelyn Carney, who was last seen running out of a Georgetown restaurant after a public fight with her husband. When Evelyn's body is found in a cove on the Maryland side of the Potomac, Virginia applies her reporter instincts and nose for a good story to investigate the murder. Meanwhile, she's beleaguered by Nick Mellay, a new manager at her station, who starts firing members of her staff and takes over her job, supposedly temporarily. Still, she manages to follow leads from police commander Michael Ledger, an ex-boyfriend of hers, and from Paige Linden, a law firm colleague of Evelyn's, which point toward Ian Chase, an assistant U.S.

attorney, as a person of interest. As Virginia starts uncovering information being withheld from the investigation and irregularities in witness statements, she's left in doubt about whom to trust. Readers will want to see more of this tenacious, lovable heroine." I certainly do!

Kukafka, Danya. [Girl in Snow](#) (\$16). When a beloved high-schooler named Lucinda Hayes is found murdered, no one in her community is untouched. I somehow missed this in hardcover. Lots of raves, including these: "An exciting debut from a talented new voice. *Girl in Snow* is a propulsive mystery set in a suburban community marked by unsettling voyeurism. Danya Kukafka patiently reveals layers of her characters' inner lives—their ugliness and vulnerabilities—in prose that sparkles and wounds. I couldn't put this one down." —Brit Bennett. "Combining elements of Bill Clegg's *Did You Ever Have a Family* with Dennis Lehane's contemporary classic *Mystic River*, Danya Kukafka's debut novel is an intricate, seductive murder mystery, in which a single awful crime exposes conflicts and traumas in an entire community... *Girl in Snow* is not just an impressive debut but one of the best literary mysteries to come along in some time." —Bookpage

MacLeod, Torquil. [A Malmö Midwinter](#) (Global \$12.95). Inspector Anita Sundström is called away from Christmas with her mother to help investigate a domestic death. Her initial relief at escaping a dull festive season soon fades when she and sidekick, Hakim Mirza, find themselves dealing with a difficult case involving the murder of an unloved father and disliked neighbor. Though suspects and motives abound, they are having difficulty identifying the murder weapon. Has the killing something to do with the victim's past, or is the reason closer to home? It's not the Christmas Anita was anticipating, nor the conclusion she was expecting.

Mukherjee, Abir. [A Rising Man](#) (Pegasus \$15.95). How I love this book: a History Club Pick in the Signed UK edition, then one of my Picks in the US hardcover, and now an April Large Paperback Pick. Did I mention it's also a 2018 Edgar nominee for Best Novel? Wat we can is an introduction to 1920s Calcutta Police Captain Sam Wyndham who, with Sergeant Banerjee, works a tricky case. The sequel, [A Necessary Evil](#) (\$25.95) pushes the duo into an unofficial investigation into the assassination of progressive Prince Adhir, next in line to the throne of Sambalpur, whom they were assigned to guard. As is true with a Christie country house, the duo learns that a palace is the place to look for suspects in Adhir's murder.

Viskic, Emma. [Resurrection Bay](#) (Pushkin Press \$18.95). Our **April Discovery Club Book** was recommended to me by Sulari Gentill and draws this Starred *PW* Review: "The arresting opening of Australian author Viskic's terrific debut finds PI Caleb Zelic holding the bloody body of Senior Constable Gary Marsden, a close friend who has been brutally tortured and slaughtered in his Melbourne home. Caleb drove over a short time before after receiving a text message from Gary saying that someone named Scott was after him. Since there's no sign of forced entry, Caleb wonders why Gary would have admitted his killer. The circumstances of the murder lead the police to suspect that Gary was involved in something dirty. They also suspect Caleb, because Gary was working on an insurance case for Caleb's PI firm. After Caleb is attacked, he seeks refuge with his ex-wife, Kat, in their hometown of Resurrection Bay. The hearing-

impaired Caleb must rely on his keen ability to read faces as he tries to figure out whom, if anyone, he can trust. The truth behind the violence is both stunning and fairly clued, and Caleb is a sufficiently complex lead to easily sustain a series. James Ellroy and Paul Cleave fans will relish this hard-edged crime novel.” This is more evidence of the building Australian Crime Wave.

Whittle, Tina. [Necessary Ends](#) (\$15.95). From a reader: “There is something about the narrative of this intoxicating tale that pulled me in like no other. The writing style, the tone, the dialogue, the setting, the suspense, all wrapped up in an exhilarating package that thrilled me as I traversed this fast-paced and action-packed drama where something is amiss and it’s not only the long ago murder case and the present attempt. Who really killed Jessica Talbot? Who wants Nick Talbot dead? The answers are found in this complicated maze of deduction that had me looking closely at what was being presented. The author did a great job in staging this story to keep me reading and absorbing all that I was privy to as the field of suspects and the role they played all culminated in a finale that boasted several twists and turns that greatly enhanced my reading pleasure. This is the best book in the series and I hope there are more adventures with this dynamic duo.”

Tina did a recent interview. Here’s an excerpt: Life could go sideways in the blink of an eye. It is a world view that my characters and I share. Life is divided into a before and after moment, whether an accident or the loss of a loved one. Everything gets flipped in a second. This is what my characters wrestle with and something I think about philosophically. Yet, we still have to make plans, make choices, and move forward. There is a famous philosopher who said, ‘know the tides to which you move.’”

### SOMETHING SPECIAL

✕Curran, Katie/Larissa Zageris. [My Lady’s Choosing](#) (Quirk \$14.99). This is so much fun, and fascinating for you as it lets you choose plot points to take the story in various directions. It’s like an interactive game but in a print book. So clever. And much fun. I played once, choosing my path for the plucky but penniless heroine of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Society for whom the courtship season has begun. Which of the four (or more) suitors, one of them Lady Evangeline Youngblood, will you choose for her in your wish to break away from her tartar of an employer, Lady Craven? I am reminded a bit of Rupert Holmes’ production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* where the play stopped at a point and the audience then voted for which of the various outcomes would conclude it. But this interactive romance novel demands you start choosing at Page 12.

### SOME NEW BOOKS FOR APRIL

Adkins, Roy/Lesley. [Gibraltar: The Great Siege in British History](#) (Viking \$30). I spent a fascinating day on Gibraltar where history oozes from every rock and stone. So this rip-roaring account of the dramatic four-year siege of Britain’s Mediterranean garrison by Spain and France—an overlooked key to the British loss in the American Revolution caught my eye. Plus it earned a Starred Review: “A page-turning tale of one of the era’s longest and most significant sieges, described from the perspective of those who lived through it and situated in wider military and diplomatic contexts. Gibraltar, a small territory at the bottom of the Iberian peninsula that’s considered the key to the western Mediterranean, had been in British hands since 1704. Spain attempted

to retake it during the American Revolution; in June 1779, the Great Siege began. As the noose around Gibraltar tightened over the next three and a half years, sicknesses and shortages overshadowed battle and bombardment. A particular strength of this work is its domestic dimension; the besieged had ample time to write, and to air fears and grievances. The authors use primary accounts to bring to life the experience of Gibraltar’s residents, including the roughly 1,500 wives and children of soldiers who lived there, and demonstrate that Gibraltar’s defense depended more on endurance than heroics.”

Bannalec, Jean-Luc. [The Fleur de Sel Murders](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Martin Walker fans, Cara Black too, will be delighted with this series set in Brittany and featuring the somewhat dour but always dogged (and frequently inspired) Commissaire Dupin. He’s actually more in line with the mysteries by Fred Vargas. And in his third investigation here he is at harvest time on the ancient salt marshes of the Guerande Peninsula. Legend has it the violet scent of the Fleur de Sel (the salt carefully evaporated over time from the drying pans) can cause hallucinations. But surely not the bodily attacked Dupin suffers in the salt works where he was doing a bit of poking around at the behest of Lilou Breval, a journalist he admires. Then Lilou disappears. His secretary Nolwenn helps him overcome jurisdictional issues so he can work the case but Sylvaine Rose, the local and formidable cop, assumes command. Their uneasy team runs into false alibis, personal feuds, conflicts of commercial interests, and ancient Breton legends, all fascinating stuff. [Death in Brittany; Murder on Brittany Shores](#) (\$15.99 each).

Brewer, Gil. [Flight to Darkness / 77 Rue Paradis](#) (Stark House \$19.95). “Murder, madness, swamps, gators, a savagely beautiful woman... it doesn’t get much better than this for noir fans.”—James Reasoner. New introduction by David Rachels.

Carroll, James. [The Cloister](#) (Putnam \$27.95). In Cluny, France, in the year 1142, Mother Heloise of the Prelate comes to collect the corpse of theologian Peter Abelard, a recently excommunicated priest and, secretly, her husband. She also takes his writings, planning to hold them in trust at her abbey against the day when the views that brought about his damnation find their place as the true interpretation of God’s love. In Manhattan in 1950, Father Michael Kavanagh ducks into the Cloisters, reconstructed buildings from French abbeys that house the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s collection of medieval art. Seeking solace after a startling encounter, he instead finds Rachel Vedette, a Jewish museum docent. As their acquaintance deepens, Rachel shares with Kavanagh her copy of *Historia Calamitatum*, Abelard’s memoir of his affair with Heloise and eventual downfall, taken from the very same papers Heloise received in 1142. In it, Kavanagh sees a turning point in the history of the Church that led, centuries later, to the prejudices that brought on both the Holocaust and a personal tragedy perpetrated against his best friend in seminary. A must read for those who, like me, enjoyed Sharan Newman’s wonderful medieval mysteries featuring Heloise and her nuns.

Camp, Bryan. [The City of Lost Fortunes](#) (Houghton \$24). “Camp succeeds in creating an alluringly magical fantasy realm, and he also knits it seamlessly into the reality of a vibrant New Orleans. The two worlds overlap each other like transparent layers and combine into a luminous landscape that beckons the reader with its bewitching charm. The various gods spanning time and belief systems send the story’s tendrils snaking far beyond U.S. cultures,

embracing universal concepts for life and death, mortal and god. And throughout the exceptional complex plot Camp gives us vivid, morbidly riveting characters, dark humor and hair-raising suspense. *The City of Lost Fortunes* is a composition as stunning as the music that springs from its Louisiana setting. Play on, Bryan Camp, play on.” –Jen Forbus,

✦ Clarke, Angela. [Follow Me](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Set in London, British author Clarke’s “exciting debut and series launch boasts a terrific premise: a serial killer targets trolls on the internet and then develops an ever-growing Twitter following because of the publicity surrounding the murders. The first to figure out what’s going on is Freddie Venten, a part-time journalist and full-time barista, who happens into the investigation of the first murder through a chance encounter with a childhood friend, Nasreen Cudmore, now a police sergeant. Freddie nearly compromises the case and Nasreen’s career by interfering. Making matters worse, the two had a falling-out as teenagers over a mysterious incident, which adds a layer of tension in the incident room when Freddie joins the team as the social media adviser. She’s needed because the police turn out to be hapless at social media and in making connections between what happens there and the murders—a bit too hapless to be plausible. Freddie’s too-frequent explanations of Twitter and social media are made up for by a riveting finale that pays homage to Agatha Christie.”—*PW*. Unread by me, so more later...

Cameron, Claire. [The Last Neanderthal](#) (\$15.99) is centered on two women separated by millennia but bound by timeless truths, this is an effortlessly told story that illuminates the connections that the two – one modern woman, one prehistoric Neanderthal—across boundaries of time and species. “It’s perhaps a strange thing to say about a novel that’s fundamentally about extinction, but *The Last Neanderthal* is a pleasure to read.”—Jezebel. Claire Cameron, a staff writer for *The Millions*, is also the author of *The Bear*, which became a #1 national bestseller in Canada and was longlisted for the 2014 Baileys Women’s Prize for Fiction.

✦ Cleves, Ann. [The Glass Room](#) (St Martins \$27.99). This is the 5<sup>th</sup> Vera Stanhope, now published in the US for the first time. The Northumberland DI, played on TV by Brenda Blethyn, doesn’t make friends easily but she’s lucky in her hippie neighbors. When one goes missing, Vera tracks her down to the Writer’s House, a country retreat for aspiring authors wishing to work on their stories. And someone on a murder when a body is discovered—and Vera’s kindly neighbor is discovered with a knife in her hand...

Cook, Lucy. [The Truth About Animals](#) (Basic Books \$28). An Oxford zoologist’s modern bestiary is rooted in fact and observation and truly funny as it riffs on stoned sloths, lovelorn hippos, moose are not melancholy but bad-ass beasts, the wild panda as a secret stud. I’m fascinated by the mistakes we’ve made,” writes the award-winning documentary filmmaker and zoologist. And she cites myths and mistakes such as planting a baby chimp into a human family. At age 3 the chimp developed a thirst for alcohol after swiping a drink from a nervous visiting academic. “We are in the throes of a massive extinction crisis caused by human behavior. The natural world is in a state of emergency. In order to protect animals we have to understand them. Anthropomorphising animals makes us think they are like us, when they are not. Because of their cute anthropomorphic faces and antics we think

pandas, for example, are sex-shy evolutionary mishaps that need our help to exist—the only way to save them is for us to take charge and breed them in captivity. The reverse is true—we just need to leave them alone and stop destroying their habitat.”

Coyle, Cleo. [Shot in the Dark](#) (Berkley \$27). Here’s a review from our blogger Lesa: “Thanks to a smartphone dating app called Cinder, the Greenwich Village coffee shop managed by Clare Cosi has become a hot meet-up spot until a customer is arrested for threatening a former date. When the drama goes viral on social media, Clare worries not only about her business but also about the people involved, including her ex-husband. When she recognizes a murder victim as a customer, her concerns seem justified. With help from her employees, former mother-in-law, and daughter, Clare attempts to link the killer and victim to the dating app and discovers the cops are working the case from a drug angle. In her 17th series entry, Coyle, the pseudonym for Alice Alfonsi writing with husband Marc Cerasini, combines timely social issues (dating apps, designer opioids) with a gripping and entertaining mystery....”

Dodd, Christina. [Dead Girl Running](#) (\$15.99). Out April 24; signed here along with the hardcover on May 12. Dodd’s new thriller takes place on the dark, rainy North Pacific Coast. Kellen Adams is running away from a past she can’t completely remember. After a stint in the army, she becomes the assistant manager of an isolated resort in Virtue Falls, Wash., where she makes an effort to hire fellow veterans. She’s comfortable leading the hotel team until she discovers a woman’s mutilated body on the property. With Sheriff Kateri Kwinault, familiar to fans from [The Woman Who Couldn’t Scream](#) (\$8.00), not close enough to provide consistent support, Kellen reluctantly investigates the hotel staff and guests to determine whether they might be behind the gruesome murder. “Christina Dodd reinvents the romantic thriller. Her signature style—edgy, intense, twisty, emotional—leaves you breathless from first page to last. Readers who enjoy Nora Roberts will devour Dodd’s electrifying novels.”—Jayne Ann Krentz, who appears at The Pen with Dodd on Saturday May 12 in a Mother’s Day Tea.

✦ Dolan, Eva. [This Is How It Ends](#) (Bloomsbury \$27). We’ve imported Signed UK Dolans. And now she is introduced to a US audience in “A complex and nuanced psychological thriller... [that] pays off in a stunning conclusion that makes you want to reread the whole book to figure out how you missed what was really going on.”—*Booklist* Starred Review. The building was once home to families, friends, children, couples, love, life. Now, almost every apartment is empty, the inhabitants forced out by the developers tearing down the old social housing to build luxury homes. One night, Ella returns home to find a horrible scene awaiting her—the dead body of a mysterious man. Panicked, she calls her neighbor Molly, who convinces her that the police won’t believe she’s innocent. Together the two women concoct a gruesome plan to hide the body. But the secret won’t stay buried for long. As truth hangs in the balance, a neighbor tells Molly he had heard Ella arguing with a man in the hallway and mistrust grows between Ella and Molly, as repercussions of that night threaten to change both women’s lives.

Evans, Mary Ann. [Undercurrents](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 or \$15.95). Evans will sign the hardcover Sept 2 at our RebusFest 30. But it’s out now and gets this review: “Evans’s appealing

11th mystery featuring compassionate archeologist Faye Longchamp, the state of Tennessee hires Faye's cultural resources firm to examine land intended for a new campground in Sweetgum State Park, on the outskirts of Memphis, for any historically valuable relics that might be found there. On the first day of the dig, Faye hears unusual sounds in the woods, which lead her to a woman who has been badly beaten and hastily buried alive. The unfriendly police detective who arrives on the scene interrogates Faye, who has left her ID in her car. For the first time in her life, Faye, a person of color, starts to worry about "being considered guilty-while-black." Wary of the police and concerned about the victim's young daughter, Faye is drawn into an investigation that points to a serial killer. Evans expertly juggles a host of likely suspects, all the while breathing life into the city of Memphis, from its tourist-filled center to its marginal neighborhoods and the spectacular wilderness of the state park.

Flanagan, Richard. [First Person](#) (Knopf \$26.95). I have mentioned the rising Australian crime wave for months. Booker Prize winner Flanagan isn't really part of it but this new novel will add punch. Narrator Kif Kehlmann is a desperate man. Determined to finish his first novel, nearly destitute, and responsible for a toddler daughter and a wife pregnant with twins, he agrees to take a job that seems too good to be true. If he can ghostwrite the autobiography of a notorious Australian con man convicted of embezzling \$700 million, he'll earn \$10,000; if he fails to complete the contract in six weeks, however, he'll get nothing. "A powerful, funny, disturbing, moving—and, not ironically, albeit paradoxically—real distillation of the themes that have preoccupied Flanagan [throughout his career]. . . . While some Booker winners struggle to achieve the same critical acclaim for their next book, Flanagan, with this intensely personal novel, may have written an even better one. And when he candidly and honestly confronts the raw truths of the writing life and the family life, material and spiritual poverty, love and despair and desire, he touches on genuine brilliance." —*The Australian*

Frazier, Charles. [Varina](#) (Ecco \$27.99). Frazier dedicated this novel to the late Nancy Olsen, a bookseller who early championed *Cold Mountain*. Here is the Indie Next Pick from another bookseller: "In the elegant and compelling prose that made *Cold Mountain* an award-winning bestseller, Charles Frazier brings to life Varina Howell Davis, the wife of the president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis. Varina is told in two voices: Varina's and Jimmie Limber's, the black boy she raises as a son and is forced to abandon as she and her children flee Richmond while the Confederacy crumbles. Varina settled in the North. When Jimmie and Varina reunite years later and relive the cataclysmic events of the war years, they examine the morality and consequences of Varina's—and a nation's—choices."

Fredericks, Marina. [A Death of No Importance](#) (St Martins \$24.99). An American Gilded Age *Upstairs, Downstairs* debuts. The mystery is told by a young and reticent—but gimlet-eyed—ladies' maid. She's employed by an Edith Wharton-esque New York City family, but after the murder of a young cad who was engaged to her mistress, she's drawn into the police investigation. Crossing social class lines and making tart observations, she succeeds at both finding the murderer and keeping secrets. Fredericks has written a taut, suspenseful, and complex murder mystery with gorgeous period detail."—Susan Elia MacNeal

Fredrickson, Jack. [Tagged for Murder](#) (Severn \$28.99). The discovery of a man's lifeless body on top of a boxcar in a little-used railway siding drives Fredrickson's well-crafted seventh mystery featuring wily, wise-cracking Chicago PI Dek Elstrom, a winner of the (now defunct?) St Martins Press Best Private Eye Debut some years ago. Clues to the dead man's identity are contradictory: he's wearing an expensive suit, but his teeth are rotting and his skin has the appearance of someone who has been living on the street. Well-known cheapskate and small-time realtor Herb Sunheim offers Dek \$500 to take photos of the crime scene. Unclear on why Sunheim would pay for something already done by the police, Dek nonetheless accepts the task in order to earn some much-needed cash. Soon he is caught up in several tangled skeins of corruption, and, one by one, people connected with the case disappear or turn up dead. Will Dek be the next to meet his maker? Elements of farce, including a pack of geriatric dames in 1950s poodle skirts, enliven the proceedings. Ordered Upon Request.

Friis, Agnete. [What My Body Remembers](#) (\$15.95). Fans of Nordic noir will be struck by Friis' first solo crime novel wherein a woman with a lifetime of bad choices and incapacitating PTSD kidnaps her son from his foster home and flees to her grandmother's abandoned home in an isolated town on Denmark's north coast. Ella, 27, makes an unreliable though unrelenting narrator as she struggles to learn what happened when her mother died and her life went sideways. The story "reveals the damaging effects of virulent religion and a devastating love triangle" on more than one life.

Gibbins, David. [Inquisition](#) (St Martins \$27.99). I have a lifelong love of adventure thrillers probably birthed reading H Rider Haggard, *Scaramouche*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, and Dumas thrillers. Gibbins is a rising star in this genre as evidenced by this Starred Review: "A sophisticated plot lifts bestseller Gibbins' superior 10th thriller featuring archeologist Jack Howard. When the wreck of an English ship that sank off Cornwall in 1684 while transporting 'equipment and people back from the failed colony of Tangier' yields a silver coin marked with a Star of David, Jack is baffled. The vessel would have had to pass through waters controlled by the Inquisition, and it made no sense for it to contain any evidence of the merchant's Jewish faith. To resolve that conundrum, Jack delves into an obscure chapter in British history—the abandonment of the North African colony in favor of a focus on consolidating the British Empire's control of India. His pursuit of an explanation takes him to Portugal and Bolivia, since the initial mystery proves to be just the tip of a large iceberg with major ramifications. Steve Berry fans eager for an intelligent blend of suspense and reality, including some horrific contemporary developments, will be rewarded." Don't miss the excellent real-life Notes in the back of the book by the author whose own life is much like Jack's. Wow.

Goldsborough, Robert. [The Battered Badge](#) (\$14.99). Goldsborough does a nice job of shaking up the status quo in his 13th Nero Wolfe and Archie Goodwin pastiche. Lester Pierce, the director of the Good Government Group known as Three-G, who singled out Insp. Lionel Cramer, the head of NYPD's homicide squad, for criticism over the department's subpar record cracking down on the mob, has been gunned down in an apparent gangland hit. Cramer is suspected of involvement in the murder, leading his loyal sergeant, Purley Stebbins, to swallow his pride

and go to the famous West 35th Street brownstone to ask for help. After Cramer's suspension, Wolfe eventually gets involved in probing the crime from the comfort of his armchair. He pursues the less obvious theory that organized crime wasn't responsible by sending Archie, his leg man, out to interview Pierce's surviving relatives and a colleague at Three-G who may have coveted the top slot. The denouement is a clever inversion of the usual resolutions in Rex Stout's iconic Nero Wolfe novels of the last century, even if the solution is not Goldsborough's best.

✦Grimes, Martha. [The Knowledge](#) (Grove \$26). Many of you will be disappointed we could not obtain signed copies of the 24<sup>th</sup> Richard Jury. I certainly am. When we first meet London cabbie Robbie Parsons, "his latest fare has just shot two people to death at the door of an exclusive gambling club, then jumped into Robbie's cab and demanded to be taken to Waterloo Station. Whatever Robbie was expecting at the end of this tense trip, it wasn't a big tip and a compliment on his driving. But that's the way it is with Grimes: Great characters who say and do the most unexpected things are her stock in trade. The charmer here is 10-year-old Patty Haigh ('looks like a little girl, but acts like MI6'), one of a group of loosely parented children who hang around the stations at Waterloo and Heathrow, practicing the skills needed to be cops. Patty even talks her way into a first-class seat on a plane to Nairobi by attaching herself to the murderer she's pursuing. Meanwhile, Grimes's irresistibly attractive Scotland Yard man is busy solving the murder of his newly acquired friends David Moffit, an American astronomer, and his wife, Rebecca. With enthusiastic assistance from his wealthy friend Melrose Plant and Plant's fellow drinkers at the Jack and Hammer pub, Jury manages to have multiple sets of eyes on his suspect. But our eyes are glued to Patty, off in Africa and having the time of her life," says *The NY Times*. *PW* adds, "Jury's investigation centers on gem smuggling, tax dodging, and greed. The real mystery is how to find a cab drivers' pub, the Knowledge, so secret that even Scotland Yard can't force its patrons to reveal its location.... Readers will appreciate the elements that have made this a long-running bestselling series, notably a complicated case and distinctive characters."

Grisham, John. [Camino Island](#) (\$17). Grisham writes light, a bookstore mystery. Bruce Cable owns a popular bookstore in the sleepy resort town of Santa Rosa on Camino Island in Florida. He makes his real money, though, as a prominent dealer in rare books. Very few people know that he occasionally dabbles in unsavory ventures. Mercer Mann is a young novelist with a severe case of writer's block who has recently been laid off from her teaching position. She is approached by an elegant, mysterious woman working for an even more mysterious company. A generous monetary offer convinces Mercer to go undercover and infiltrate Cable's circle of literary friends, to get close to the ringleader, to discover his secrets. But soon Mercer learns far too much....

Hagberg, David. [Flash Points](#) (Forge \$25.99). Early in Edgar-fan Hagberg's well-plotted, lightning-quick 22<sup>nd</sup> novel featuring superspy Kirk McGarvey, McGarvey, who's been teaching philosophy at a "semi-private ultra-liberal and prestigious small college" in Sarasota, Fla., is about to climb into his '56 Porsche Speedster when he senses something wrong. He's lucky to survive the ensuing explosion. As McGarvey and his team of Pete Boylan (his girlfriend and super badass agent in her own

right) and CIA computer wizard Otto Rencke dig deeper, they realize that the murder attempt is only one element in a complex plot being carried out by McGarvey's nemesis, ruthless assassin Kamal al-Daran. But who's behind the plot? And, even more disturbing, are there two parallel terrorist schemes in the works? One of these could lead directly to the inner circle of U.S. president T. Wallace Weaver, whose impulsive behavior has alienated historic allies and provoked the ire of nations armed with nuclear weapons, etc, etc—but this is fiction....

Heaberlin, Julia. [Paper Ghosts](#) (Ballantine \$26). This is simply a stunner. I devoured it. As my hands are cramping I quote LJ rather than typing up a review, but I endorse it. "What do you do with a criminal who has escaped justice and now has dementia? Carl Feldman—a documentary photographer now residing in an assisted-living facility—may be just such a person. And though he was acquitted for one murder, he's probably committed many more. That last fact is what brings a young woman to Carl's door; she says she's his daughter and wants to get to know him, but in reality she is determined to delve into the reaches of his memory. She's determined to find the man who killed her older sister, and believes Carl is responsible. And while Carl isn't fully convinced that she's his daughter and claims not to remember killing anyone, he does agree to accompany the woman on a death trip, which will take them to the sites where he is suspected to have enacted the crimes. Heaberlin's latest is a tense, gripping read with a cat-and-mouse game that will keep readers riveted.—*LJ*. Yes, I did try to work out Signed copies but....

Hill, Sasscer. [The Dark Side of Town](#) (St Martins \$26.99). "Hill brings an insider's knowledge to the world of high-stakes racing and accompanying crime. Filled with sense-laden descriptions and ever-tightening suspense, this is gripping mystery fare and a terrific successor to the racecourse mystery world first carved out by Dick Francis."—*Booklist* Starred Review. I'm a mad Dick Francis fan so Hill's series has been a treat. Made the more so here in Fia McKee's second investigation by its location at Saratoga Racetrack, NY—Rob and I spent a day in the historical town, home to Yaddo and springs where FDR sought polio relief, and more. Fia, now an official employee of the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau is sent in undercover to investigate trainer Mars Pizutti. His horses are suspiciously luck and lucrative. Fia is confronted by the suspicious suicide of a jockey—and it gets worse. Start with [Flamingo Road](#) \$25.99), a 2017 Surprise Me Club Pick.

✦Horowitz, Anthony. [The Magpie Murders](#) (\$16.99). *Magpie Murders* is a story within a story. First, there's editor Susan Ryeland. She sets out to edit a manuscript by Alan Conway, who is famous for his character, detective Atticus Pünd. Conway's novel is the second book. As Ryeland makes her way through Conway's manuscript, she begins to suspect that something is hidden in his words. "If you're a fan of mysteries or simply appreciate clever storytelling—all the better if both—you can't go wrong with this book which was a British Crime Club Pick in the UK hardcover edition. "*Magpie Murders* is a double puzzle for puzzle fans, who don't often get the classicism they want from contemporary thrillers."—Janet Maslin, *The New York Times*

Howarth Paul. [Only Killer and Thieves](#). (Harper \$26.99). I mentioned this in March but here is a review from Library Reads: "An unforgettable first line propels this debut novel about two

brothers on the Australian frontier who are drawn into a world of conflict and revenge that tests their beliefs and morals to the ultimate degree. The age-old conflict between settlers and indigenous people is played out on the southern continent much as it was in the American West and Russian East. As the brothers become deeply embroiled, they enter a savage and unforgiving landscape, both physically and culturally, and it becomes the ultimate test of their growth and humanity. This is a work that is as unrelenting as the world it describes and will long linger with the reader.”

Johnson, Kirk Wallace. [The Feather Thief](#) (Viking \$27). The bizarre theft of 100-year-old bird carcasses in 2009 sends journalist Wallace on a five-year odyssey through history, police stations and the Internet black market to chronicle this intriguing crime. He took a peek into a world of dazzling natural variety and an underworld of subterfuge and crime—a realm “filled with quirky and obsessive individuals, strange birds, dusty museums, archaic fly recipes, Victorian hats, plume smugglers, grave-robbers, and, at the heart of it all, a flute-playing thief.” Richly informative, with handy illustrations, endlessly fascinating and cracklingly entertaining, *The Feather Thief* is the kind of true-crime narrative that gives Erik Larson’s much-lauded *The Devil in the White City* a run for the money. —Bruce Jacobs. The *Smithsonian* devoted a long article to the book. And here is the Indie Next Pick: “A fascinating true crime book recounts the theft of more than 200 bird skins from a museum in England. Along the way, Johnson also covers Darwin contemporary Alfred Russel Wallace’s travels to acquire birds of paradise, the theory of evolution, and the decimation of bird species in the name of fashion. It is a book about obsession, from the fly-tying community’s hunt for specific bird species to Johnson’s own need for justice and closure after the case is resolved. This is a gripping, multifaceted book about our need to possess beauty in the name of historical authenticity.”

✎Kidd, Jess. [Mr. Flood’s Last Resort](#) (Atria \$26). The tale of a lonely caregiver and a cranky hoarder with a Gothic West London house full of secrets The Indie Next Pick: “I absolutely loved her first book, [Himself](#) (\$16), and her latest does not disappoint. This tale of Mr. Flood and his caregiver, Maud, brings together eccentric characters, ghosts, saints, a crumbling mansion, missing children, and a suspicious suicide. It perfectly balances tragedy with dark comedy; the dialogue crackles and every detail enchants. I will miss spending time in Maud’s world.” This book was titled *The Hoarder* in its UK edition.

✎Law, JS. [The Fear Within](#) (\$18). “Law makes the ace investigator of the Royal Navy’s Special Investigation Branch, Lieutenant Danielle “Dan” Lewis, both authentic and almost superhuman, as she tries to juggle several spiraling investigations. Nearly a decade earlier, Dan helped catch notorious predator Christopher Hamilton, who used his military position to murder dozens of women. She’d hoped to never speak to him again, but now body parts of some of his victims have been mailed to headquarters. Does this mean he had a partner, who’s remained at large all this time? She reluctantly heads to prison to speak with Hamilton, at his request. Meanwhile, Natasha Moore, 18, has gone missing from her ship, the *Defiance*. As Dan and her partner start to investigate the *Defiance*’s crew, they begin to suspect something truly terrible is roiling beneath the apparently placid surface of the crew’s personnel. Fast-paced, shocking and full of twists and turns, *The Fear Within* is perfect for thriller-readers and

NCIS-watchers alike, offering American readers an interesting glimpse into what’s probably an unfamiliar world.” I quote that so I can refute it on your behalf. Actually, both Steve Berry in [The Bishop’s Pawn](#) (\$28.99 Signed) and Anne Wilson in [Hover](#) (\$14.99) take us into the Navy, and Berry also into JAG.

Leonard, Elmore. [Elmore Leonard: Westerns](#) (Library of America \$40). A definitive collection: *Last Stand at Saber River / Hombre / Valdez is Coming / Forty Lashes Less One / stories*

Lescroart, John. [Fatal](#) (\$16). Here’s a fine blend of a police procedural with a whodunit. A few days after meeting at a dinner party in San Francisco, Kate Jameson, who’s married, phones lawyer Peter Ash about a private legal matter and suggests they rendezvous at a downtown hotel, where she has a room. After they end up having sex, Kate doesn’t want a repeat, but Peter becomes obsessed with her. Soon afterward, Kate and her best friend, Beth Tully, a San Francisco homicide inspector, survive a terrorist attack. Six months later, Beth and her partner, Ike McCaffrey, are called to a beach where Peter’s body has washed up. The corpse, which was in the water for over a day, has a bullet hole in the chest, but the bullet is missing. “On its own, this is a terrific stand-alone thriller that melds police procedural with plenty of suspense and action, and it should appeal to Harlan Coben or Gillian Flynn fans.”—*Booklist* Starred Review

Malerman, Josh. [Unbury Carol](#) (Del Rey \$27). The Indie Next Pick: “This horror novel, set in the Old West, is creepy, atmospheric, and suspenseful. A husband has nefarious plans for his comatose wife Carol. James Moxie, a legendary outlaw, sets off on The Trail to save her. Hot on James’ tail is a sinister hit man with a thirst for murder-by-fire and a supernatural entity, Rot, who wants to collect Carol.”

✎Malliet, G.M. [In Prior’s Wood](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Handsome vicar Max Tudor prefers a predictable routine at St Edwold’s, Nether Monkship. But as he’s composing a sermon on Bathsheba, the lady of a local manor is found dead in what appears to be a suicide pact with her lover. The village is alive with murmurs that Lord Duxter has rallied too quickly from his wife’s death; having offered it to a group of writers for a retreat, he insists the show go on. Then a young girl goes missing and an insufferably smug crime writer becomes a target and once again DCI Cotton requests Max and his MI expertise to lend a hand. This charming, sly, and mostly surprising series is a treat to read.

Massing, Michael. [Fatal Discord](#) (Harper \$45). Massing, a former executive editor for the *Columbia Journalism Review*, superbly accomplishes the mammoth task of writing a dual biography of Desiderus Erasmus (1466–1536) and Martin Luther (1483–1546) that places the pair within their historical context. Massing argues that the schools of thought represented by Erasmus and Luther—a pluralistic humanism and an evangelical religion, respectively—still shape Western religious and political thought today, and is a timely read. Massing manages to juggle the complicated biographies and life work of both Erasmus and Luther while giving the reader a well-written, comprehensive background of pre-Reformation theology.

Miller, Derek B. [American by Day](#) (Houghton \$26). Miller’s debut with [Norwegian by Night](#) (\$14.95) has remained a staff favorite and brisk store seller. Miller, who lives in Norway with his family, is back with another intriguingly plotted, sly and witty probe into how people in both countries live, touching

on issues of race and war in a tale bridging the Atlantic. Oslo's Chief Inspector Sigrid Ødegård's missing brother prompts her to make the trip to America where she learns he's implicated in the mysterious death of a prominent academic who is African-American. Facing a fractured society she works with—and sometimes against—the local police while navigating the backwoods of the Adirondacks, hoping to solve the case before it escalates out of hand.

Mukherjee, Abir. [A Necessary Evil](#) (Pegasus \$25.95) pushes Captain Wyndham and Sergeant Banerjee of the 1920 Calcutta Police Force into an unofficial investigation into the assassination of progressive Prince Adhir, next in line to the throne of the fabulously wealthy kingdom of Sambalpur, whom they were assigned to guard. As is true with a Christie country house, the duo learns that a palace is the place to look for suspects in Adhir's murder. Wyndham's and Surrender-Not's failure to apprehend the killer only makes things worse, and, though they eventually track the man down, he takes his own life, leaving the investigators still in the dark about his motives. The road to the truth takes them to Sambalpur, a hive of intrigue and suspects. This successful evocation of the Raj in the service of a brilliant whodunit demonstrates that Mukherjee's debut, the Edgar-nominated *A Rising Man*, is no fluke. See our April Large Paperback Picks for more. Preorder your signed copy of the 3<sup>rd</sup> in series, [Smoke and Ashes](#) (\$32), out in June.

Nesbø, Jo. [Macbeth](#) (Crown \$27). The title's the thing... This really is the play, the latest entry in the Hogarth Shakespeare series, updating the plays to today. Nesbø updates Macbeth to a crime novel set in 1970s Scotland. "Macbeth heads the SWAT team in a dreary city called Capitol, determined to take down criminal gangs and to clean up the corrupt local government, a goal shared by Duncan, Capitol's upstanding police chief. But local drug kingpin Hecate wants to be rid of Duncan and schemes to put Macbeth, something of an outsider and an addict to a drug called "brew," in charge. Hecate sends Macbeth three sisters (the witches in Shakespeare's original), who foretell his future: that he will be head of the Organized Crime Unit and then chief commissioner. Macbeth is promoted to the first post by Duncan, and 'Lady,' Macbeth's consort and a local casino magnate, has the manipulative wiles to ensure Macbeth does whatever it takes to eliminate Duncan and rule the city."

Patterson, James. [People vs. Alex Cross](#) (\$15.99). Alex Cross has never been on the wrong side of the law—until now. Charged with gunning down followers of his nemesis Gary Soneji in cold blood, Cross is being turned into the poster child for trigger-happy cops who think they're above the law. Cross knows it was self-defense. But will a jury see it that way? The evidence is, after all, shocking... 2th in this series.

Persson, Leif G. [The Dying Detective](#) (\$17). Winner of The Glass Key Award for Best Scandinavian Crime Novel; Winner of The Danish Academy of Crime Writers' Palle Rosenkrantz Prize; Named Best Crime Novel of the Year by both the Swedish Academy of Crime Writers and the Finnish Academy of Crime Writers. "At the outset of a yarn whose very title tells the reader that things will not go well for the Swedish Sherlock, Johansson has been discovered slumped behind a steering wheel, the victim of a stroke. His doctors warn him that not only is his brain bleeding, but he's also got heart problems, dietary troubles, and

other woes. His doctor spins out a little tale from the cold-case file, one involving her late father, who—Sweden being a small country—connected at an oblique angle with the rape and murder of a young girl three decades earlier. Johansson cannot remember the details, and it bothers him.... The crux of the story lies in Johansson's wrestling with an appropriate solution to a crime that, incredibly, is fast slipping to the other side of the statute of limitations: does he let the bad guy get away, or does he take justice into his own hands? A knotty, sinuous story that leads to a hard-won resolution—and a decidedly conclusive end."—*Kirkus Reviews*

Silver, Mitch. [The Bookworm](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). The story follows two different timelines: in one, an undercover British operative in WWII hides a Bible in a Belgian monastery; in the other, a present-day construction site digs up a grisly discovery. It's up to one skilled historian to connect the seemingly disparate pieces that culminates in an embarrassment for the US and Russian Presidents....

Simenon, George. [The Snow Was Dirty](#) (Penguin \$13). Nineteen-year-old Frank—thug, thief, son of a brothel owner—gets by surprisingly well despite living in a city under military occupation, but a warm house and a full stomach are not enough to make him feel truly alive in such a climate of deceit and betrayal. During a bleak, unending winter, he embarks on a string of violent and sordid crimes that set him on a path from which he can never return. Back in a new translation as is another Inspector Maigret: [Maigret and the Headless Corpse](#) (\$13).

Smith, Martin Cruz. [Gorky Park](#) (\$16). As the Cold War continues to heat up it's an apt time to reread Smith's classic introducing Moscow chief homicide cop Arkady Renko in a reissue where to solve a triple murder he battles the KGB, FBI, and the New York City police as he pursues a rich, ruthless, and well-connected American fur dealer.

Stephenson, Neal/Nicole Galland. [The Rise and Fall of D.O.D.O.](#) (\$17.99). When Melisande Stokes, an expert in linguistics and languages, accidentally meets military intelligence operator Tristan Lyons in a hallway at Harvard University, it is the beginning of a chain of events that will alter their lives and human history itself. The young man from a shadowy government entity approaches Mel, a low-level faculty member, with an incredible offer. The only condition: she must swear herself to secrecy in return for the rather large sum of money.

Suarez, Daniel. [Change Agent](#) (\$16). Suarez delivers an exhilarating sci-fi thriller exploring a potential future where CRISPR genetic editing allows the human species to control evolution itself.

Swanson, Peter. [All the Beautiful Lies](#) (Morrow \$26.99). The Indie Next Pick: "The latest from psychological thriller master Swanson is a whirlpool of darkness, taboos, and secrets. When his father commits suicide, Harry Ackerson returns home to Maine. Harry finds more questions than answers as he faces his attractive young stepmother, the attentions of a seductive stranger, and the many questions posed by the local investigators."

Thomas, August. [Liar's Candle](#) (Scribner \$25). Excellent—a debut thriller with a woman in the lead of a story akin to an Olen Steinhauer or Matthew Palmer's amazing [Enemy of the Good](#) (\$28). IMHO one of the very best thrillers of 2017. Picture Penny

Kessler, an intern at the US Embassy in Ankara, who awakes one morning in a Turkish hospital to find herself in the center of a crisis. She's a survivor of a horrendous terrorist attack at the Embassy that killed hundreds of her friends and colleagues and a photo of her emerging from the rubble goes viral. Everyone is interested in what she recalls, if only she could remember anything. Who can she trust? And does her own government want her dead? A rookie intelligence officer fresh from the Navy is her sole ally in race to remember before Penny is permanently erased. This may be our May Thriller Club Pick if I can sort out Signed Firsts. More later....

Togawa, Mosako. [The Master Key](#) (Pushkin/Vertigo \$13.95). Originally published in 1962, Togawa's first novel is an outstanding puzzle mystery. In a prologue, set in 1951 Tokyo, an unidentified man, dressed as a woman, tries to cross a busy street against the light and is fatally struck by a van. A nameless woman living in the K Apartments for Ladies waits alone for seven years for the dead man's return—and is still waiting. Flash back to three days before the accident. The man carries a traveling bag containing a child's corpse to the woman's apartment. Hours later they bury the body in the building's basement, an act witnessed—unbeknownst to them—by a third person. Most of the action takes place seven years after these events, when the tenants of the building, mainly women leading secluded and lonely lives, are scheduled to be moved and their numerous secrets are threatened to be revealed. The gradual, logical, but still surprising unfolding of the Russian nesting doll of a plot is a delight

Yocum, Robin. [A Perfect Shot](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). Ohio's steel country forms the landscape of this somber tale that focuses not only on what time has brought to the mid-America manufacturing belt, but what happens to a high school sports legend—he made the winning shot in the state basketball championship game—when he hits forty and realizes he is defined by that moment when he was eighteen. Duke's Restaurant gets up and running, but then his mob enforcer brother-in-law Tony DeMarco murders Duke oldest friend. De Marco thinks he's untouchable. Can Duke take him down? Follow this cleverly plotted book to find out.

#### FOR TEEN READERS

Johnson, Maureen. [Truly Devious: A Mystery](#) (Harper \$17.99). The Indie Next Pick: "Johnson delivers on everything a great YA book needs: a bit of romance, some quirky teen characters at a quirky boarding school, and a delicious murder mystery that leaves the reader guessing at every turn. I couldn't put it down!"

Killeen, Matt. [Orphan Monster Spy](#) (Viking \$18.99). Her name is Sarah. She's blonde, blue-eyed, and Jewish in 1939 Germany. And her act of resistance is about to change the world. After her mother is shot at a checkpoint, fifteen-year-old Sarah meets a mysterious man with an ambiguous accent, a suspiciously bare apartment, and a lockbox full of weapons. He's part of the secret resistance against the Third Reich, and he needs Sarah to hide in plain sight at a school for the daughters of top Nazi brass, posing as one of them. If she can befriend the daughter of a key scientist and get invited to her house, she might be able to steal the blueprints to a bomb that could destroy the cities of Western Europe. Nothing could prepare Sarah for her cutthroat schoolmates, and soon she finds herself in a battle for survival unlike any she'd ever imagined. But anyone who underestimates this innocent-

seeming girl does so at their peril. She may look sweet, but she's the Nazis' worst nightmare.

#### OUR APRIL SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Adams, Ellery. [Murder in the Locked Library](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Book Retreat #4. When a collection of unusual bones and the remains of a very old book are unearthed during Storyton Hall's renovations, resulting in an unexpected historical mystery and murder, manager Jane Steward must uncover a killer before someone else meets an unhappy ending.

Blackwell, Juliet. [A Magical Match](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Witchcraft #9. While planning a 1950s-themed brunch to benefit the local women's shelter, witch and vintage-store owner Lily Ivory, after her fiancé stands accused of murder, begins to suspect that one of her magical enemies is targeting her loved ones in an attempt to weaken her.

Chien, Vivien. [Death by Dumpling](#) (St Martins \$7.99). Noodle Shop #1. When Thomas Feng, one of the property managers of the shopping plaza that houses Lana Lee's family restaurant, is found dead, the police immediately suspect Lana Lee and her relatives, and Lana, with her family's restaurant at stake, must find the real killer before they are all in even more hot water. Readers who like their amateur sleuths with a sense of humor will definitely find Chien's first mystery to be to their literary tastes. *Kirkus* was one of the review sources that lauded *Death by Dumpling* say "A charming debut with plenty of red herrings. The heroine's future looks bright."

Dodd, Christina. [The Woman Who Couldn't Scream](#) (\$8.99). Following her wealthy husband's death, Merida reinvents herself and vows revenge on those responsible for a traumatic accident years earlier that cost her the ability to speak and left her bound to her elderly partner's obsessions. *Kirkus* had this to say "Dodd's (*Because I'm Watching*, 2017, etc.) new title delivers complex storytelling, a rollicking pace, and surprising twists and turns, plus sly humor, a touch of the supernatural, and a full cast of interesting and diverse characters. Readers will be thrilled to get back to Virtue Falls."

Hamilton, Steve. [Exit Strategy](#) (\$9.99). Nick Mason #2. Nick Mason is assigned by Darius Cole to infiltrate WITSEC and kill the three men who put him behind bars, and who could condemn him for life if they testify at his appeal, but Nick himself is pursued by an assassin who once betrayed Darius. *Kirkus* found much to enjoy weighing in with "The book starts turning up the heat from the start with an office building bombing and maintains its breathless pacing until the end. Though this book lacks the depth of the series opener, its hard-wired plot and adrenaline-fueled scenes make it another must-read for fans of lean, mean crime fiction."

Maden, Mike. [Tom Clancy Point of Contact](#) (\$9.99). An ordinary audit turns deadly when Jack Ryan, Jr. helps investigate a potential investment opportunity, only to discover the dangerous past of his seemingly harmless assistant. *Kirkus* again "With typhoons; deadly Chinese and North Korean operatives wielding bats, knives, and guns; and a weaponized thumb drive, the action reaches Clancy levels early and stays there."

Martin, William. [Back Bay](#) (\$9.99) reissue. Six turbulent generations of the determined Pratt clan pursue a lost Paul Revere treasure, in a saga that brings readers from the grit and romance



of old Boston to the Back Bay of modern day. Long out of print, this terrific book by Martin is now once again available. If you loved the *National Treasure* movies, this delivers the same mix of history and treasure hunting.

McKinlay, Jenn. [Wedding Cake Crumble](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Cupcake Bakery #10.

To give everyone a happily ever after, Melanie Cooper and the bakery crew of Fairy Tale Cupcakes must stop a killer with a sweet tooth from further sabotaging both Angie and Tate's big wedding and the book signing of a controversial author.

Sandford, John. [Golden Prey](#) (\$9.99). Lucas Davenport #27. A series of audacious robberies compels newly appointed U.S. marshal Lucas Davenport to investigate the possible return of a gang leader who once killed two FBI agents. *PW* was just one of the review sources that loved this saying, "Sandford's trademark blend of rough humor and deadly action keeps the pages turning until the smile-inducing wrap-up, which reveals the fates of a number of his quirky, memorable characters."

### MAY AND MOTHERS' DAY

*Consider the China Bayles Mysteries by Susan Witting Albert for Mom, so perfect for spring*

Adler, Rebecca. [Cinco De Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99). A Taste of Texas #3. When her uncle is accused of murdering the competition during the first annual chili cook-off in Broken Boot, Texas, Tex-Mex waitress and part-time reporter Josie Callahan must serve some Lone Star justice and catch the real killer before things get even hotter.

Rosetti, Sara. [Mother's Day, Muffins, and Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Forced to team up with her rival after a dead body is discovered inside the school's supply closet during the annual Mother's Day breakfast, professional organizer Ellie Avery leaves no desk unturned to protect her kids and expose a clever killer before another victim is fatally expelled.

### MORE APRIL SMALL PAPERBACKS

Betley, Matthew. [Oath of Honor](#) (\$9.99). Two former marines working as members of a special task force with the FBI investigate a possible Russian black ops team trying to steal new technology in Dutch Harbor, Alaska.

Blum, Christine. [Murder Most Fermented](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Rose Avenue Wine Club #3. When she digs up the body of an elderly woman in her tiny SoCal dream vineyard, New York transplant Annie "Halsey" Hall, along with the women of the Rose Avenue Wine Club, must stomp out the clues to solve this case of sour grapes.

Brown, Rita Mae. [A Hiss Before Dying](#) (\$7.99). Mary Minor Haristeen #25. When Mary Minor "Harry" Haristeen—together with her feline companions—investigates two seemingly unrelated deaths in her Blue Ridge Mountain community, she discovers a trail of clues connected to Virginia's post-revolutionary past. Clark, Mary Higgins. [All by Myself, Alone](#) (\$8.99). Taking a cruise to escape the humiliation of her fiancé's arrest, gems expert Celia Kilbride befriends octogenarian passenger Emily Haywood, who is found dead three days out to sea at the hands of someone, who has stolen the victim's priceless emerald necklace.

Brown, Sandra. [Fat Tuesday](#) (\$8.99). In the French Quarter during Mardi Gras week, New Orleans narcotics cop Burke Basile sets out to avenge the acquittal of the murderer of his partner by kidnapping the sheltered wife of the defense attorney.

Campbell, Rick. [Blackmail](#) (\$9.99). When Russia makes a bold strike as the first assault in a plan to rebuild the old Soviet Union, the U.S. government realizes the country is dangerously vulnerable and makes a desperate choice to stop Russia from gaining control of much of the world.

Delaney, Devon. [Expiration Date](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Cook Off #1. Taking part in a food competition with a 10,000 prize at stake, Sherry Frazzelle finds murder on the menu when one of the judges falls face first into the Seafood Flatbread Pizza and her dish is deemed suspicious, forcing her to stir through a stew of rule-breaking, corruption and gossip to clear her name.

Hollis, Lee. [Death of a Cookbook Author](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Food and Cocktails #10. At the seaside estate of her idol, a cookbook author and TV personality, food and cocktails columnist Hayley Powell, while in the throes of food poisoning, thinks she overhears a murder plot, and when a body is found at the bottom of a cliff, she dives headfirst into the case.

Howell, Dorothy. [Pocketbooks and Pistols](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Haley Randolph #12. When Haley Randolph discovers former Holt's Department Store employee Asha McLean shot dead behind the store during orientation training, she must sort through the woman's shady, secret life to find the killer and save the store's reputation and her job.

Johansen, Iris. [Look Behind You](#) (St. Martin's \$9.99). Kendra Michaels #5. Cooperating with the FBI when a serial killer begins leaving mysterious relics at his crime scenes, Kendra Michaels discovers that the objects are souvenirs from other unsolved murders and that the new killings have been orchestrated to taunt her personally.

Kenyon, Sherrilyn. [Deadmen Walking](#) (\$8.99). Deadman's Cross is danger on the high seas during the golden pirate age. Join Thorn and other Hunter/Hellchaser favorites as they hold the line against the latest evil the Mavromino has unleashed against humanity.

Muller, Marcia. [The Color of Fear](#) (\$7.99). Sharon McCone #34. When her famed Shoshone artist father is left in a coma by a racially driven beating during San Francisco's holiday season, private investigator Sharon McCone resolves to bring the attackers to justice, only to find herself targeted by hate-filled, racist threats.

O'Brien, Kevin. [Killing Spree](#) (\$9.99) reissue. Years after capturing the man responsible for the Schoolgirl Murders that terrorized Seattle, a new killing spree, involving a series of seemingly unconnected murders, begins, and only Seattle writer Gillian McBride sees the terrifying coincidences between all the killings and realizes that she is the only link between past and present and to a twisted serial killer.

Olsson, Fredrik. [Chain of Events](#) (\$7.99). When a depressed military cryptologist is abducted by a top-secret organization to decode formidable prophecies hidden in human DNA, the man's estranged wife joins an eclectic cast of characters in an Alpine chateau to discover the truth.

Reilly, Matthew. [Four Legendary Kingdoms](#) (\$9.99). Jack West, Jr. #5. Awakening in a kidnapper's underground cell, Jack West, Jr. discovers that he has been chosen along with a dozen other elite soldiers to compete in a series of deadly challenges to fulfill an ancient ritual to save the Earth. I loved the earlier books in the Jack West Jr. series but thought this entry was completely nonsensical.

Sennefelder, Debra. [The Uninvited Corpse](#) (Kensington \$7.99). While in the quaint town of Jefferson, Connecticut, newly divorced lifestyle entrepreneur and food blogger Hope Early must set aside her business plans to prove her sister's innocence in the murder of reviled real estate agent Peaches McCoy—her sister's biggest rival.

Swanson, Denise. [Tart of Darkness](#) (Sourcebooks \$7.99). After unexpectedly inheriting a huge old house in a small college town, Dani, to fund her new personal chef business, takes in boarders, but when one of them is murdered and she becomes the prime suspect, she must serve up the real killer to clear her name and save her business.

Thompson, Victoria. [Murder in the Bowery](#) (\$7.99). Frank Malloy and Sarah Brandt investigate the death of a newsboy named Freddie after his brother Will Bert spins a tale of deceit involving a recently deceased young society woman.

Van Lustbader, Eric. [Fallen](#) (\$9.99). When the Testament of Lucifer is discovered in a Lebanese mountain cave, Gnostic Observatine sect leader Bravo Shaw, his sister Emma and Fra Leoni become the world's defenders against the devil's advance guard and an End of Days plot to enslave the human race.

Van Lustbader, Eric. [Testament](#) (\$9.99). For centuries, a hidden splinter sect of the Franciscans has guarded secrets that could transform the world. Now the safety of those secrets—and much more—depends on one man.