

BOOKNEWS from

ISSN 1056-5655, © The Poisoned Pen, Ltd.
Volume 30, Number 8
Memorial Day Booknews 2018
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SWING INTO EARLY SUMMER

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](#)

THURSDAY MAY 31 7:00 PM A Chiller Thriller

Robin Burcell in conversation with Laird Barron

Barron signs [Blood Standard](#) (Putnam \$26)

June Surprise Me! Club Pick

Burcell signs [The Last Good Place](#) (Brash Books \$14.99)

SATURDAY JUNE 2 2:00 PM Small Press Party

CC Harrison signs [Death by G String](#) (Written Dream \$15.99)

Tonie Niesen signs [Parts Unknown](#) (Written Dream \$15.99)

WEDNESDAY JUNE 6 6:30 PM

The Transfixed Correspondence

Sherlock Holmes fans are invited to meet to discuss "The Valley of Fear," one of the original stories by Arthur Conan Doyle. Go to meetup.com/Phoenix-Sherlockians or e-mail transfixedcorrespondence@gmail.com for more information.

THURSDAY JUNE 7 7:00 PM

Christine Carbo signs [A Sharp Solitude](#) (Atria \$16)

Murder near glorious Glacier National Park

Christi Dougherty signs [The Echo Killing](#) (St Martins \$24.99)

Murder in picturesque Savannah

FRIDAY JUNE 8 7:00 PM SciFi Debut

Laure R. King in conversation with Peng Shepherd

Shepherd signs [The Book of M](#) (Harper \$26.99)

SATURDAY JUNE 9 10:30 AM

Coffee & Crime discusses Margaret Millar's classic

[The Beast in View](#) (\$14.95)

SATURDAY JUNE 9 2:00 PM

A Venetian Party with prosecco, biscotti, masks, and photographs

Laurie R. King signs [Island of the Mad](#) (Bantam \$28)

Russell & Holmes do Venice

TUESDAY JUNE 12 7:00 PM

Douglas Preston signs [The Pharaoh Key](#) (Grand Central \$28)

Gideon Crew #5 takes you to Egypt

Lincoln Child joins the discussion by Skype

Our copies come with a delightful photo and surprise signatures

WEDNESDAY JUNE 13 7:00 PM

Bryan Gruley in conversation with Robert Dugoni

Dugoni signs [A Steep Price](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95)

Tracy Crosswhite #6

Gruley signs [Starvation Lake](#) (SimonSchuster \$16)

Gruley publishes a new novel [Bleak Harbor](#) (\$24.95) in

December and will sign it here.

THURSDAY JUNE 14 7:00 PM

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

FRIDAY JUNE 15 7:00 PM

SciFi Friday discusses Josiah Bancroft's [Senlin Ascends](#) (\$15.99)

SATURDAY JUNE 16 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger discusses Peter Heller's gem, [Celine](#) (\$16)

EVENT BOOKS May31-June 14

Barron, Laird. [Blood Standard](#) (Putnam \$26). A classic noir for fans of James Ellroy and John D. Macdonald. Isaiah Coleridge is a mob enforcer in Alaska—he’s tough, seen a lot, and dished out more. But when he forcibly ends the moneymaking scheme of a made man, he gets in the kind of trouble that can lead to a bullet behind the ear. Saved by the grace of his boss and exiled to upstate New York, Isaiah begins a new life, a quiet life without gunshots or explosions. Except a teenage girl disappears, and Isaiah isn’t one to let that slip by. And delving into the underworld to track this missing girl will get him exactly the kind of notice he was warned to avoid and brings in the very guys he left Alaska to avoid. Hardboiled stuff. And Isaiah is the stuff of a series. Barron is an award-winner in other genres and while it’s technically his first mystery, I can’t call our **June Surprise Me! Club Pick** a debut novel.

Burcell, Robin. [The Last Good Place](#) (Brash Books \$14.99). Robin Burcell has worked as a cop, hostage negotiator, and as an FBI-trained, forensic artist. She’s also the author of award-winning thrillers. Now she uses that unparalleled experience to continue Carolyn Weston’s groundbreaking series of books, which were the basis for the hit TV show “The Streets of San Francisco.” Sergeant Al Krug and his younger, college-educated partner Casey Kellog are investigating a string of strangulation killings when another victim is found at the Presidio...but a surprising, violent incident at the crime scene makes them wonder if everything is what it seems. The two miss-matched cops, with sharply conflicting approaches to detective work, are under intense pressure to get results. It’s a race-against-the-clock investigation that propels them into the deadly intersection of politics, real estate, media and vice... the fertile, fog-shrouded killing field of a ruthless murderer.

NOTE: While she is in town Burcell will add her signature to that of Clive Cussler for the 10th Fargo adventure, [The Gray Ghost](#) (Putnam \$29).

Carbo, Christine. [A Sharp Solitude](#) (Atria \$16). For those missing Nevada Barr’s Anne Pigeons set in National Parks, look no farther. Carbo is focused on just one, Glacier National Park, but she limns it brightly and ferociously in all its moods, landscapes, and dangers as well as its beauties. “It is in depicting Nature’s drama that Carbo’s writing thrives” (*NY Times Book Review*). FBI investigator Ali Page is a worthy guide as well as a dogged, often inspired investigator. And here she has a rough assignment, the murder of a journalist up in a remote region near the Canadian border. And it looks like Reeve Landon, doing field work with his chocolate Labrador on a program where dogs are trained to detect bear scat as aids to monitoring the beasts, is the chief suspect. Landon, private and paranoid and feeling he deserves this as a karmic punishment for a horrific crime he committed as a boy, is also Ali’s ex and the father of her daughter. Ali too has serious childhood trauma issues—abandonment—and wants to spare her own child the pain of having a father jailed for murder. So here we have two flawed characters working to solve a brutal crime in a stunning place. [Order all 4 Carbos](#) and consider planning a visit to the park.

Daugherty, Christi. [The Echo Killing](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Too few novels are set in Savannah, an historic, picturesque port city set along the river flowing past and down Georgia to the Atlantic. Harper McClain, reporter, is a native. Her passion for the crime beat stems from a murder—her mother’s—when Harper was only 12. And she’s been lucky that the lead cop, now Lt Smith, stayed in her life and drew her into his family. On the job she takes risks like stepping into a gang shooting. But she is completely unprepared for the murder of a young mother in a quiet neighborhood—and the woman’s 12-year-old daughter being led from the scene, hand in hand with Lt. Smith. Truly *déjà vu*. Taking a chance, Harper sneaks a view of the murder scene. Yes, the woman was killed and displayed just like her own mother had been. What kind of killer returns 15 years later? In trouble in the newsroom and with the cops, Harper can’t stop herself from investigating....

Dugoni, Robert. [A Steep Price](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.99). Dugoni’s 6th in his millions-of-copies-sold Tracy Crosswhite series gets this enthusiastic review: Thriller Award–finalist Dugoni’s engrossing sixth Tracy Crosswhite finds Tracy and the other members of the Seattle PD violent crimes division investigating the murder of Monique Rodgers, a mother and an activist against gangs and drugs gunned down in a neighborhood playground. Meanwhile, Tracy looks into the disappearance of Indian American Kavita Mukherjee, who was applying for medical school. Kavita is somewhat estranged from her parents because they want her to agree to an arranged marriage she wants no part of. The case dredges up painful memories for Tracy of her sister’s abduction more than 20 years earlier. The stakes rise when another team member, Vic Fazzio, is framed for a key witness’s murder in the Rodgers case. Complicating things further, Tracy is pregnant and fearful that a new hire, Andrea Gonzalez, is being groomed to take her place. Fully developed characters and a fast-moving plot that builds to a shocker of an ending distinguish this crime novel. **Those who attend the June 13 event will get a free Signed copy of Tracy’s 5th investigation, [The Trapped Girl](#).**

Gruley, Bryan. [Starvation Lake](#) (SimonSchuster \$16). This debut was an Edgar Best First Novel finalist in 2010 and remains a favorite with me. In the dead of a Michigan winter, pieces of a snowmobile wash up near the crumbling, small town of Starvation Lake—the same snowmobile that went down with Starvation’s legendary hockey coach years earlier. But everybody knows Coach Blackburn’s accident happened five miles away on a different lake. As rumors buzz about mysterious underground tunnels, the evidence from the snowmobile says one thing: murder. Excellent for fans of Steve Hamilton and William Kent Krueger. Gruley is publishing anew and a new series in December and we will have a few ARCs of [Bleak Harbor](#) (\$24.95) to give away at his June 14 event with Robert Dugoni. Don’t miss it – their publishing story is an interesting one and underlines our position at The Pen – friendship and loyalty first!

Harrison, CC. [Death by G String](#) (\$15.99). A Coyote Canyon Ladies Ukulele Club Mystery begins when the club is gearing up for a ukulele competition. Their flamboyant star player, Kiki Jacquenette, is found strangled with a G-string. Not only do

they lose Kiki, a first place win is in jeopardy and the entire folk music festival is put on the verge of collapse when news of a murderer on the loose is sure to keep tourists away. *Chronicle* editor Viva Winter had hoped to make Coyote Canyon the folk music capital of the Colorado mountains, and was also trying to raise money to help repay the townspeople bilked by her father's phony investment scheme. With much to gain by Kiki's death, Viva soon comes under suspicion and resolves to uncover the truth before her whole life turns into one sour note.

King, Laurie R. [Island of the Mad](#) (Bantam \$28). With Mrs. Hudson gone from their lives and domestic chaos building, the last thing Mary Russell and her husband, Sherlock Holmes, need is to help an old friend with her mad and missing aunt. Lady Vivian Beaconsfield has spent most of her adult life in one asylum after another, since the loss of her brother and father in the Great War. And although her mental state seemed to be improving, she's now disappeared after an outing from Bethlem Royal Hospital... better known as Bedlam. Mary wants nothing to do with the case—but she can't say no. And at least it will get her away from the challenges of housework and back to the familiar business of investigation.

The idea of a retired, bee-keeping Sherlock Homes marrying a much younger American, a half-Jewish girl with money of her own and firmly self-reliant, raised some eyebrows in the mystery world back in 1994. Across a range of remarkable books, employing a fluidity of dates, landscapes, and cultures, Russell and Holmes have won a dedicated readership and a load of awards for the author. This is the 15th. It may be set in the mid-1920s but King's plot built upon the treatment of mental illness, the powerlessness of women (think Wilkie Collins and *The Woman in White*), and the realities of Fascism under Benito Mussolini and his Black Shirts, affirms we've learned nothing from history except to repeat it. To create a novel at once historical and timely is a remarkable achievement. Plus King's brilliant portrait of Venice should dazzle readers of Donna Leon. **Join us for a prepublication party—3 days early so we'll get King to date our copies.**

Maden, Mike. [Tom Clancy: Line of Sight](#) (Putnam \$29). Maden's first in the Clancy franchise, [Tom Clancy: Point of Contact](#) (\$9.99), was a real zinger with cyber warfare programs in play, a dangerous game within a game, and Singapore as part of the landscape! He brought his own expertise (much of about drones) to it. Now we move to the former Yugoslavia as Jack Ryan, Jr. agrees to do a favor for his mom. A renowned surgeon, years ago she saved the eyesight of young Bosnian Aida, injured during the Balkans cataclysm. Now Aida has been swept up off the streets of Sarajevo, and Jack learns that the war still reverberates as he searches for her, opposed by everyone from Serbian mobsters to Croatian paramilitary units. The Balkan War may have ended two decades ago, but the region still seethes with ethnic animosities. And complicated identities. I am a big fan of Dan Fesperman's multi-award winning debut in [Lie in the Dark](#) (\$14.99), set in the Sarajevo war theater, and recommend it and the new Maden highly.

Niesen, Toni. [Parts Unknown](#) (Written Dream \$15.99). As winter approaches Anchorage, flight instructor Beri Quinn races to find a student who took off in one of her planes, and hasn't been seen since. She's convinced he's still alive despite the Civil Air Patrol

calling off their search. She draws on her knowledge of aviation and musters the emotional strength necessary to overcome unseen adversaries and protect her family—a single mother, Quinn fears losing custody of her son. What with missing gold, sabotaged aircraft, and unsolved murder, the stakes are high and Beri must answer one crucial question: did her student misjudge the weather and make a fatal mistake, or was he the victim of an elaborate murder plot?

Preston, Douglas. [The Pharaoh Key](#) (Grand Central \$28). **Signed by both and with a special collectible included.** In a cross between Elizabeth Peters' Amelia Peabody and Indiana Jones, a new Gideon Crew takes the professional thief and his courageous sidekick, Manuel Garza, from New York City—where their employer, Effective Engineering Solutions, has suddenly ceased operations—to Egypt in search of a treasure that was the object of EES's last, unfinished case. Before their departure, Gideon and Manuel make a final visit to EES's Manhattan office, where they surreptitiously download a picture of the ancient Phaistos Disk; they soon succeed in breaking the code inscribed on the disk and revealing the treasure's exact location in the remote and ferociously hostile Hala'ib Triangle. In the course of their quest, Gideon and Garza escape from a sinking ship on the Red Sea, join forces with an attractive British geologist named Imogen Blackburn, and discover a lost civilization in a remote valley. There are camels! And that's not all... 5th in this rollicking series and akin to Child's terrific solo thriller [The Third Gate](#) (\$7.99), 3rd in the Jeremy Logan series and placed in another hostile Egyptian location... a nearly impassable swamp.

Shepherd, Peng. [The Book of M](#) (Harper \$26.99). Our **June SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick**. An apocalyptic future in which an epidemic dubbed the Forgetting robs large swaths of the world's population of their shadows and memories—causing them to work dangerous magic—sets the scene for Shepherd's exciting debut. Husband and wife Ory and Max have been holed up in an abandoned hotel outside Arlington, Va., for two years, living hand-to-mouth off beef jerky and scavenged goods, and hiding from the predatory world outside, where the shadowless wreak havoc and misremember the old world into a new one (in one instance, a shadowless forgets what a house looks like; it is rebuilt with its roof on the floor). Then Max's shadow disappears. The couple devises protective rules, and Ory gives Max a tape recorder to document her memories. But then... Love the book-collecting army, just one key element in this graceful debut. "First-time novelist Shepherd has crafted an engaging and twisty tale about memory's impact on who or what we become."—*LJ*. Peng will be in conversation with Laurie R King who has one SciFi Novel of her own under her own belt.

TO BE SIGNED LATER IN JUNE

Ashley, Jennifer. [Scandal Above Stairs](#) (Berkley \$15 June 30). Priceless artwork has gone missing from the home of a wealthy baronet, and his wife stands to take the blame. When Kat's employer asks for help in clearing her friend's name, Kat trades her kitchen for the homes of Mayfair's wealthiest families. Start this series with [Death Below Stairs](#) (\$15) and enjoy the Mrs. Beeton touches and the food.

Black, Cara. [Murder on the Left Bank](#) (Soho \$27.95 June 21). Aimée LeDuc, a new mother, reluctantly takes on a case when she discovers that her late father is implicated by information

in a missing notebook compiled by aging accountant Léo Solomon—the nephew of the lawyer to whom the notebook had been entrusted for delivery to *la proc* (French for prosecutor) was murdered while on his errand. When a killer next threatens her daughter, Aimée is forced to accept help from the source she trusts least: her family. Once again Black combines a twist-filled mystery with a convincing look at the culture and politics of the City of Lights. Her knockoff designer clothes and shoes and the unexpected hidden gems of Paris are also a source of delight.

Carlisle, Kate. [Buried in Books](#) (Berkley \$25 June 30). San Francisco book-restoration expert Brooklyn Wainwright has her wedding to security expert Derek Stone covered. Or so she thinks.... 12th in the Bibliophile Mysteries.

Callanan, Lian. [Paris by the Book](#) (Dutton \$26 June 21). Callanan, author of this March Modern Firsts Club Pick, returns to meet Black and regale us with more of the charms of Paris and in particular, of one impulsively purchased bookstore.

Goldman, Matt. [Broken Ice](#) (Forge \$25.99 June 24). . Nils Shapiro has been hired to find missing Linnea Engstrom, a teenager from the small northern hockey town of Warroad, MN. Most of Warroad is in Minneapolis for the state high school hockey tournament, and Linnea never returned from last night's game. Linnea's friend Haley Housch is also missing—and soon found dead. Shot through the arm with an arrow... It gets weirder from there, and it's freezing!

Ide, Joe. [Righteous](#) (Mulholland \$26 June 24). 2nd in his Edgar-etc-winning IQ series. Join us as two Hollywood veterans, Goldman in conversation with Joe Ide, talk about craft and careers and why publishing is more fun than the movie or TV writing room.

Pearl, Matthew. [The Dante Chamber](#) (Penguin \$28 June 20). I'm thrilled to see Pearl back, and with our **June History Club Pick**. The year is 1870. Five years after a series of Dante-inspired killings disrupted Boston, a man is found murdered in the public gardens of London with an enormous stone around his neck etched with a verse from the Divine Comedy. When more mysterious murders erupt across the city, all in the style of the punishments Dante memorialized in Purgatory, poet Christina Rossetti fears her brother, the Dante-obsessed artist and writer Gabriel Rossetti, will be the next victim.

Walker, Martin. [A Taste for Vengeance](#) (Knopf \$25.95 June 18). Bruno Courrèges, the police chief of the Dordogne village of St. Denis, goes looking for English tourist Monika Felder after she fails to show up for a cooking class. Bruno learns that Monika, who left her husband back in England, was traveling with Patrick McBride, an Irishman with a house in the area. Monika turns up at the house, fatally stabbed in the bathroom; McBride's body is found hanging from a tree in the nearby woods. What at first appears to be a murder-suicide proves to be a double homicide, and the case widens way beyond St. Denis.

Willan, Jane. [The Shadow of Death](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99 June 30). Wales' Sister Agatha and Father Selwyn debut. Gwenafwy Abbey in picturesque rural Wales is dwindling in human and financial resources as its religious age. It depends heavily on the income from its cheese, Heavenly Gouda. Sister Agatha, a die-hard mystery fan and eager listener to a podcast, How to Write a Mystery Novel, is forced to abandon fiction for reality when the Abbey's sexton is found—murdered by an avalanche of the cheese.

JUNE BOOK CLUB PICKS

British Crime Club One Unsigned paperback or hardcover per month

Gentill, Sulari. [Gentlemen Formerly Dressed](#)

Cozy Crimes Club One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Khan, Vaseem. [Murder at the Grand Raj Palace](#)

Discovery Club One Unsigned paperback or hardcover per month

LeBor, Adam. [District VIII](#)

First Mystery Club One Signed First per month

McLaughlin, James A. [Bearskin](#)

Hardboiled Crime Club One Signed First per month

Boyle, William. [The Lonely Witness](#)

History/Mystery Club One Signed First per month

Pearl, Matthew. [The Dante Chamber](#)

History Paperback One per month

Sweazy, Larry D. [See Also Proof](#)

Modern First Editions One Signed First per month

Li, Lillian. [Number One Chinese Restaurant](#)

SciFi/Fantasy/Horror Club One Signed First per month

Shepherd, Pen. [The Book of M](#)

Surprise Me! Club One Signed First per month

Barron, Laird. [Blood Standard](#)

Thriller Club One Signed First per month

Horowitz, Anthony. [Forever and a Day](#)

A SELECTION OF SIGNED BOOKS

✂Billingham, Mark. [Killing Habit](#) (LittleBrown \$43). We all know the signs. Cruelty, lack of empathy, the killing of animals. Now, pets on suburban London streets are being stalked by a shadow, and it could just be the start. DI Tom Thorne knows the psychological profile of such offenders all too well, so when he is tasked with catching a notorious killer of domestic cats, he sees the chance to stop a series of homicides before they happen. Others are less convinced, so once more, Thorne relies on DI Nicola Tanner to help him solve the case, before the culprit starts hunting people. It's a journey that brings them face to face with a killer who will tear their lives apart. 15th in the Tom Thorne series.

Boyle, William. [The Lonely Witness](#) (Pegasus \$28). Patrick selects the **June Hardboiled Crime Club Pick**: "Boyle's is one of the best new voices I've come across in a long time. The protagonist of this subtle, intense modern noir, Amy, leads a quiet life in a basement apartment in Brooklyn. She was once a wild child but now she does odd jobs and volunteers for the local Catholic church, bringing communion to elderly house-bound residents. One of her favorite regulars, Mrs. Epifanio, tells Amy that she hasn't seen her usual caretaker, Diane, in a few days, but that a creepy man claiming to be her son Vincent has been showing up and making her uncomfortable. After a brief run-in with the man confirms Amy's suspicions that something ain't right, she decides to follow Vincent. This isn't a spoiler, as it happens early in the book, but Amy witnesses Vincent get murdered on the street in broad daylight. Instead of calling the cops, however, Amy collects the murder weapon off of the sidewalk and starts to trail the killer herself. A brilliant character study that recalls the best of

Patricia Highsmith, *The Lonely Witness* will dig itself into your psyche and won't let go."

Brown, Rita Mae. [Probable Claws](#) (Bantam \$28). Postmistress Mary Minor "Harry" Haristeen and friends, both two-legged and four-legged led by Mrs. Murphy, follow up on a mystery, hinted at in [A Hiss Before Dying](#) (\$7.99 or \$27 Signed), that originated in Virginia's post-Revolutionary past. In a parallel story line set in 1787 on a plantation, Virginians of that era struggle to launch a new nation.

Connolly, John. [Woman in the Woods](#) (Atria \$26.99). "Connolly's 16th thriller featuring PI Charlie Parker perfectly blends the natural and the supernatural. After a woman's corpse is found in the woods near Parker's Maine home, attorney Moxie Castin asks him to trace the child to whom the woman gave birth shortly before her death. Castin is moved to do so by a Star of David etched into a nearby tree, which suggests to him that the dead woman was a fellow Jew. A terrifying pair—an English lawyer known only as Quayle and a remorseless assassin, Pallida Mors—are also interested in finding the infant. In addition, they have been killing members of an informal underground group protecting refugees from domestic violence, who may have helped a woman named Karis Lamb elude an abusive man. Quayle's quest involves enabling the "return of the Not-Gods, thus bringing about the end of days." Several of the victims, all of whom are fully developed characters, choose death rather than betrayal, and the end result is both unnerving and moving. Fans will agree that this is Connolly's masterpiece," says the *PW* Starred Review.

Cussler, Clive. [The Gray Ghost](#) (Putnam \$29). The 10th adventure for Sam and Remi Fargo will be signed by Cussler and Robin Burcell. We also include a Fargo bookmark we've designed. Clive's love for vintage cars is on display. In 1906, a groundbreaking Rolls-Royce prototype known as the Gray Ghost vanishes from the streets of Manchester, England, and it is only the lucky intervention of an American detective named Isaac Bell that prevents it from being lost forever. Not even he can save the good name of Marcus Peyton, however, the man wrongly blamed for the theft, and more than a hundred years later, it is his grandson who turns to Sam and Remi Fargo to help prove his grandfather's innocence

☞Horowitz, Anthony. [The Word Is Murder](#) (Harper \$27.99). A wealthy woman strangled six hours after she's arranged her own funeral. A very private detective uncovering secrets but hiding his own. A reluctant author drawn into a story he can't control. What do they have in common? Unexpected death, an unsolved mystery and a trail of bloody clues.... From the creator of TV hits *Foyle's War* and *Midsomer Murders*, and recently the author of Holmes and Christie sorts of mysteries and James Bond spy stories. Like the one below that publishes May 31.

☞Horowitz, Anthony. [Forever and a Day](#) (Canongate \$45). A spy is dead. A legend is born. This is how it all began in an explosive prequel to *Casino Royale*. "M laid down his pipe and stared at it tetchily. 'We have no choice. We're just going to bring forward this other chap you've been preparing. But you didn't tell me his name.' 'It's Bond, sir,' the Chief of Staff replied. 'James Bond.' One body. Three bullets. 007 floats in the waters of Marseille, killed by an unknown hand. It's time for a new agent to step up. Time for a new weapon in the war against organized crime. It's

time for James Bond to earn his license to kill. This is the story of the birth of a legend, in the brutal underworld of the French Riviera. NOTE: **No restock is possible so to avoid disappointment please order ASAP! This is our June Thriller Club Pick.**

Li, Lillian. [Number One Chinese Restaurant](#) (Holt \$27). I think the Modern First Club Picks should from time to time take us out of our comfort zone and into worlds that aren't familiar. So it is with this debut, our **June MFC Pick**. It's a human drama, a family drama where you don't like a lot of them and the mother is a real piece of work. And the engine driving it is the family restaurant business so here's a look inside The Beijing Duck House in Rockville, Maryland, not only a beloved go-to setting for hunger pangs and celebrations, but its own world, inhabited by waiters and kitchen staff who have been fighting, loving, and aging within its walls for decades. So a look too at immigrant experiences. Those who've read SJ Rozan and Lisa See know that Chinese family, business, and community dynamics are shaped by forces and loyalties forged in China. I quote a few sources to give you the feel of Li's novel: "Li takes us into the world of restaurants that many Americans frequent, but don't understand. The Beijing Duck House . . . is a neighborhood staple, but the labor of the owner, staff, and cooks is invisible. Li brings that world to life, giving readers a glimpse into what it takes to keep establishments running and serving soul-stirring food."—Bitch Media, "25 Fiction Books You Must Read in 2018". Chang-Rae Lee, an author of an earlier Modern Firsts Club Pick, says, "I adored the vitality of this deviously charming and smart debut. Full of impassioned and ever-yearning characters, the novel practically thumps with heartache and sharp humor. The prose sparkles, too, with the rhythm and sting of exquisitely close observation and hard-earned wisdom, announcing Lillian Li as a striking new literary talent." And Britt Bennett, author of another, adds, "A darkly comic novel about complicated families—those created by blood and those forged through circumstance. With wit and heart, Li explores a Chinese-American community torn between ambition and loyalty as each character strives for a world bigger than the restaurant that has bound them together. An exciting debut."

McLaughlin, James. [Bearskin](#) (Ecco \$26.99). Ecco, a relatively new division of Harper Collins, is publishing some very fine crime. The Starred Review for this, our **June First Mystery Club Pick**: "As taut as a crossbow and as sharp as an arrowhead, McLaughlin's debut unfolds in the Appalachian wilderness of Virginia, a landscape whose heart of darkness pulses viscerally through its characters. Rice Moore is working as a biologist caretaker at the vast Turk Mountain Preserve when he discovers that poachers are killing bears to sell their organs on overseas drug markets. Rice's efforts to curtail their activities antagonizes locals who raped the last caretaker and left her for dead, and—worse—it alerts agents of Mexico's Sinaloa drug cartel, from which Rice has been fleeing for reasons revealed gradually, to his whereabouts. McLaughlin skillfully depicts Rice, revealing quirks and peculiarities of his personality that show how "his hold on what he'd always believed was right and what was wrong had grown fatigued, eventually warping to fit the contours of the world he inhabited"—a disconcerting revelation that helps establish the suspenseful feeling that anything can happen. Rice's story builds toward violent confrontations with the poachers, the cartel, and nature itself. The novel's denouement, a smoothly or-

chestrated confluence of the greater and lesser subplots, plays out against a tempest-tossed natural setting whose intrinsic beauty and roughness provide the perfect context for the story's volatile events. This is a thrilling, thoroughly satisfying debut."

Mosse, Kate. [The Burning Chambers](#) (Macmillan \$40). Bringing 16th Century Languedoc vividly to life, Mosse' rich historical traces a gripping story of love and betrayal, mysteries and secrets; of war and adventure, conspiracies and divided loyalties ... Her bestseller [The Labyrinth](#) (\$17) remains a favorite with me.

Mukherjee, Abir. [Smoke and Ashes](#) (Random \$32). From the winner of the 2017 CWA Historical Dagger Award, and set against the backdrop of the fervent fight for Indian independence, and rich with the atmosphere of 1921 Calcutta. Haunted by his memories of the Great War, Captain Sam Wyndham is battling a serious addiction to opium that he must keep secret from his superiors in the Calcutta police force. When Sam is summoned to investigate a grisly murder, he is stunned at the sight of the body: he's seen this before. Last night, in a drug addled haze, he stumbled across a corpse with the same ritualistic injuries. It seems like there's a deranged killer on the loose. Unfortunately for Sam, the corpse was in an opium den and revealing his presence there could cost him his career. With the aid of his quick-witted Indian Sergeant, Surrender-not Banerjee, Sam must try to solve the two murders, all the while keeping his personal demons secret. [Order the earlier Mukherjees.](#)

✚Shaw, William. [Salt Lane](#) (River Run \$39). DS Alexandra Cupidi has stepped into it again. She should have learnt to keep her big mouth shut, after the scandal that sent her packing—resentful teenager in tow—from the London Met to the lonely Kent coastline. Even murder looks different in this landscape of fens, ditches and stark beaches, shadowed by the towers of Dungeness power station. Now she has a new and snarky Sergeant and a hideous murder to solve: a man drowned in a farm's slurry Pit. Turns out the victim was North African, like many of the fruit pickers in this fertile county. But the fiery death of the suspect in another murder, that of an elderly woman found in a waterway, puts Cupidi and her boss in career jeopardy. Shaw does well depicting how protests and druggy days of the 1980s still resound today in one of England's oldest regions. We first met Cupidi in 2017 British Crime Club Pick [The Birdwatcher](#) (\$26) where we experienced the way tactless stuff falls out of her mouth and her affair with a colleague that pushed her to relocate from the Met to marshy Kent. This is hardboiled stuff; a good analogue for Shaw is Tana French, even Ian Rankin.

Walker, Martin. [A Taste for Vengeance](#) (Quercus \$46). A new Bruno, Chief of Police, in the UK edition. See Event Books for more.

Winchester, Simon. [The Perfectionists](#) (Harper \$29.99). Plan ahead for Father's Day gifts. "Winchester smoothly mixes history, science, and biographical sketches to pay homage to the work of precision engineers, whom he credits with the creation of everything from unpickable locks to gravity wave detectors and the Hubble Telescope. He credits the start of modern precision engineering to "iron-mad" John Wilkinson, an eccentric 18th-century English engineer whose method for casting and boring iron cannons led to the manufacture of smooth-running pistons and cylinders that were then used in the steam engines of James Watt. The son of a precision engineer, Winchester clearly delights

in the topic, relating his stories with verve, enthusiasm, and wit. Henry Royce and the Rolls-Royce automobiles he designed contrast with Henry Ford's inexpensive, "reliably unreliable" bare-bones assembly line cars. The author paints historic characters vividly, including engineer Joseph Whitworth, described as "large and bearded and oyster-eyed"; cabinet-maker Joseph Bramah, who patented the flush toilet; tech aficionado Prince Albert; and rapacious businessman Eli Whitney, who lied about using Frenchman Honoré Blanc's idea for standardized parts for flintlocks in his winning bid for a U.S. government contract for 10,000 muskets. Winchester's latest is a rollicking work of pop science that entertains and informs."—*PW* Starred Review

BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSIC REDUX

Lorac, ECR. [Fire in the Thatch](#) (\$12.95). I quoted a review in May as I generally do for PPP books. But now I add that for fans of British country life this June BLCC is a gem. Loving and beautiful descriptions of the landscape and of the cottage sporting the thatch in question enhance warm but real look at rural life. Colonel St. Cyres, the landowner is a decent man with solid 1944 values, his daughter likewise, and the war veteran who leases the property and his plans to restore it illustrate the joys and rigors of the small landowner's life. The Colonel's London daughter-in-law and her set are generally loathsome, the murder comes as a surprise, and so does the resolution. While sad, this is a satisfying, solid investigation by Inspector Macdonald.

PERFECT FOR A YOUNG READER

Fan, Terry/Eric. [Ocean Meets Sky](#) (SimonSchuster \$17.99). As summer arrives, and lazy days, there's bound to be one that's a good day for sailing. Finn, who lives by the sea, misses his grandfather and his s stories. So he decides to build his own ship and sail out to find the magical place where the ocean meets the sky. From the creators of the gorgeous bestseller [The Night Gardener](#) (\$17.99) comes a stunning new picture book for Ages 4-8 (and seniors who read to kids, or love the dream and the art).

SOME NOTABLE NEW BOOKS

Alkemade, Kim van. [Bachelor Girl](#) (Touchstone \$16). From the bestselling author of [Orphan #8](#) (\$14.99) comes a novel fitting into today's empowered women and inspired by the true story of Jacob Ruppert, the millionaire owner of the New York Yankees, and his mysterious bequest in 1939 to an unknown actress, Helen Winthrop Weyant. When Ruppert, takes Helen Winthrop, a young actress, under his wing, she thinks it's because of his guilt over her father's accidental death—and so does Albert Kramer, Ruppert's handsome personal secretary. Helen and Albert develop a deepening bond the closer they become to Ruppert, an eccentric millionaire who demands their loyalty in return for his lavish generosity. New York in the Jazz Age is filled with possibilities, especially for the young and single. Yet even as Helen embraces being a "bachelor girl"—a working woman living on her own terms—she finds herself falling in love with Albert, even after he confesses his darkest secret. When Ruppert dies, rumors swirl about his connection to Helen after the stunning revelation that he has left her the bulk of his fortune, which includes Yankee Stadium. But it is only when Ruppert's own secrets are finally revealed that Helen and Albert will be forced to confront the truth about their relationship to him—and to each other. Reading this reveals a lot of interesting history I, and very like you, never knew.

✂Atherton, Nancy. [Aunt Dimity and the Widow's Curse](#) (\$15). Lori Shepherd, who's privy to the ghostly Dimity Westwood's written communications from beyond, hears something disturbing from elderly quilter Annabelle Craven, a fellow resident of the English village of Finch. Annabelle casually confesses to murdering Zach Trotter, her first husband, in the nearby town of Old Cowerton many years earlier. At Aunt Dimity's suggestion, Lori travels to Old Cowerton, accompanied by her quirky friend, Bree Pym. In Old Cowerton, the women find opinion sharply divided: former neighbor and gossip Minnie Jessop and her cadre of friends accuse Annabelle of killing five men, including Zach; Penelope Moorecroft, "the current lady of the manor," and the members of her circle say Annabelle is entirely innocent. Lori returns home to confront Annabelle.

Backman, Fredrik. [Us Against You](#) (Atria \$28). The author of [A Man Called Ove](#) (\$16) pens yet another chapter for the citizens of Beartown. This small community in the Swedish forest has sustained another blow: their local hockey team might soon be disbanded. Worse, some former members now play for a rival team in Hed and are gloating. Then along comes an unlikely new coach and a chance to form new bonds.... I read in something recently, probably the new Mike Maden Clancy, that Sweden is becoming the new Balkans with all the immigration.

Barker, JD. [The Fourth Monkey](#) (\$14.99) is an offbeat thriller about a serial killer plaguing Chicago and in particular the two lead cops on the case. When one day a man falls in front of a city bus while on his way to post the killer's signature package to his next target who will receive a severed body part, then more, from a kidnapped loved one, do Porter and Nash relax? No, their immediate goal is to find the missing person before she or he is killed. At the Talbot mansion they find the man's wife and stepdaughter safe. So, they conclude, Talbot must have a mistress or unacknowledged child. Meanwhile the dead man had a diary on him that tells a history of the killer's pathology from childhood on. Will all these plot strands come together? The 4th monkey inspiring the killer's nickname and the title is "Do No Evil" which means I can't tell you more without committing one in the form of a spoiler.

Blauner, Peter. [Proving Ground](#) (\$16.99). Nathaniel Dresden never really got along with his father, an infamous civil rights lawyer who defended criminals and spearheaded protest movements. As an act of rebellion, Natty joined the U.S. Army and served in Iraq, coming back with a chest full of commendations and a head full of disturbing memories for the funeral of his murdered father. Dresden. The senior Dresden, always swinging left as encouraged by his activist wife, was suing the FBI and had received a favorable ruling when he was gunned down in Prospect Park one night. David was the lawyer cops loved to hate for his defense work; but who else had it in for him? Tough detectives Lourdes Robles [brash Latina] and Kevin Sullivan [canny but aging out] catch the case, working to find David's missing Mercedes, trace his activities and his phone—why so many calls to the FBI office? Natty, at first a suspect and never stable, begins to help his father's partner and his own father figure, Benjamin Grimaldi, continue the suit, hoping to discover more about his father's murder, keep his fiery mother in control, clear himself and maybe fix himself for he suffers terrible guilt from a bad op in Iraq. The story is told in alternating chapters, Natty vs. Lourdes, and

packed with fully alive characters, even the dead man, David, the most admirable in the book. This complex story showcases "the Minotaur's maze that is New York City," and Brauner's singular voice—one you won't easily forget. He returns in September with a new novel.

✂Boyd, Damien. [Dead Lock](#) (\$15.95). The 6th, [Death Sentence](#) (\$15.95), was a wildly successful 2016 British Crime Club Pick. I like this series a lot—in fact as more and more Domestic Noir with ever more outlandish permutations pours out of England I find myself gravitating towards solid procedurals—where you know where you are. The DI Nick Dixon written by a lawyer delivers. Here is the newest in this solid series enlivened by brilliance in surprise plot twists even as the police pursue their orderly investigation. Early on a cold Somerset morning, ten year old Alesha Daniels is reported missing by her father, a violent alcoholic. Her mother, a known drug addict, is found unconscious, but it's her mother's boyfriend, a known pedophile, the police are keen to trace. As the hunt for Alesha gathers pace, a second local girl, also age ten, is taken, plunging another family into the depths of despair. She's the granddaughter of a colleague so DI Nick Dixon races home from climbing in the Lakes to join the Major Investigation Team. I love the way he discards one assumption and false trail after another, brushing off his superiors. But what really lifts this is Boyd's loving evocation of the Somerset canal system and its narrowboats. He is so tuned in to the countryside, its culture and special features. [Order all of the Boyds.](#)

✂Buckley, Fiona. [The Reluctant Assassin](#) (Severn \$28.99). March, 1581. Queen Elizabeth is once again being urged to consider marriage to the Duke of Alençon, a French Catholic twenty years her junior. The prospect of the match is causing unrest throughout the kingdom. Ursula Blanchard however has more immediate matters to worry about when her 9-year-old son is snatched away while out riding. If she is ever to see him again, Ursula must undertake an impossibly difficult and dangerous mission – and commit an act of high treason. Can she rely on her half-sister, Queen Elizabeth, a notoriously fickle ally? Ordered Upon Request.

Cash, Wiley. [The Last Ballad](#) (\$15.99). Cash, author of 2012 Modern Firsts Club Pick [A Land More Kind than Home](#) (\$14.99), transports readers into the world of real-life ballad singer Ella May Wiggins, a central figure in workers' battle for unionization in North Carolina textile mills, who was shot and killed on Sept. 14, 1929. Alone, pregnant, caring for six sick children, and frightened of losing her job if she takes another day off, Ella uses her Sunday to hitch a ride to a union gathering. Quickly recognized for her courage after fighting off anti-union attackers, she's asked to share a song with the crowd. Her message connects, and she instantly becomes a sensation.—and attracts the wrath of union busters, segregationists, and the powerful wealthy class. Cash's story of struggle and personal sacrifice for the greater good will resonate with readers of John Hart and Tom Franklin, John Steinbeck, or Ron Rash.

Davis, Krista. [The Diva Cooks Up a Storm](#) (Kensington \$26). When a trendy, underground dinner club leaves some guests six-foot-under the table, entertaining professional and amateur sleuth Sophie Winston hopes she has all the right ingredients to put a murderer on ice....

DeMille, Nelson. [The Cuban Affair](#) (\$17). A line from the novel perfectly describes this page-turner: “Sex, money, and adventure. Does it get any better than that?” We’re in 2015, in the early days of the thaw in US-Cuban relations (can we already be nostalgic for them?). Key West charter fishing boat skipper Daniel (Mac) McCormick is approached by three Cuban Americans who want his help extracting \$60 million stashed in a Cuban cave since the 1959 Cuban Revolution. The trio has their Cuban and American contacts ready, dates picked out, and a harebrained proposition ready for Mac. It seems they need his brawn, his brains, and his boat to get the money to the United States. Mac’s not a stranger to danger, having served in Afghanistan, but he’s crippled by debt—he has a \$250,000 bank loan on his boat—and feeling existentially adrift. So for the small fortune on offer he agrees. The cover is a fishing tournament. What could go wrong? Among the starred reviews this from *LJ* is the most over the top: “His affably irreverent protagonist, fantastic believable supporting characters, and tense, realistic Cuba-set scenes including some jaw-dropping revelations make this a must-read for his many fans.” And I add, for any fan of Randy Wayne White.

Dry, Stephanie/Lara Kamoie. [My Dear Hamilton](#) (Morrow \$16.99). The musical *Hamilton* has renewed interest in not just Alexander but our Founding Fathers. Dry and Kamoie pen a novel about his wife, then widow, Eliza Schuyler Hamilton. While fiction, not biography, it hews to actual events and people, and reminds us that political sex scandals and sniping (although we no longer duel with actual guns) is nothing new.

Dueñas, Maria. [The Vineyard](#) (\$17). Mauro Larrea’s fortune, the result of years of hardship and toil, comes crashing down on the heels of a calamitous event. Drowning in debt and uncertainty, he gambles the last of his money on daring ploy that wins him a neglected house and a vineyard in Spain, an ocean away. He journeys to Jerez de la Frontera in Andalusia with every intention of selling the property and returning to Mexico—until Soledad Montalvo, the wife of a London wine merchant, bursts into his life, determined to regain the property which was her family’s legacy. A story of ambition, heartbreak, and desire set in the 1860s Mexico, Cuba, and Spain—perfect for fans of Kate Morton and Kristin Hannah.

✦Fleet, Rebecca. [The House Swap](#) (Viking \$26). It sounded like a good idea—swapping their London flat for a town house in a leafy suburb. A week away from home, their son, a break in the pattern of their strained marriage. But as Caroline and Francis settle in to an unusually stark interior and try to mend their relationship, their neighbor shows an undue and intense interest in their activities. More unnerving, Caroline begins to find signs of life—signs of her life—in touches like the flowers in the bathroom. Does the person they swapped with, in theory a stranger, know Caroline... and her secrets? This is a sad story filled with secrets and regrets, stifled in that British way, yet with some kind of promise for Caroline.

✦Gentill, Sulari. [Gentlemen Formerly Dressed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). *Booklist* writes, “The fifth installment of Gentill’s historical mystery series, set in 1930s Europe and Britain, continues the ‘gathering storm’ motif as Hitler power-mongers his way to war. The story is a Lord Peter Wimsey–like case involving an English viscount found dead in exceedingly embarrassing circumstances. The hero of the series... Australian Rowland Sin-

clair, has fled in 1933—with his two male and one adored female companions—to London from Germany after being captured and tortured for what the Reich considered ‘degenerate’ art. Contrast that with the apparent degeneracy of Viscount Pierrepont’s murder at an exclusive London club—the body, impaled by a sword, is found in a woman’s negligee, wearing makeup. The murder case, however, is just an entrée into what Gentill does so well: serve up intensely realized period details and reminders of the intersections of crime, art, society, and politics....” —*Booklist*. *PW* adds, “As they mix with members of every class, Rowland and his friends are threatened by British Blackshirts in their attempt to free Allie and convince the aristocrats, who are often sympathetic to the Nazi cause, to wake up to the approaching danger. Rowland’s determined attempts to open British eyes to the gathering storm combine mystery, rousing adventure, and chance meetings with eminent figures from Churchill to Evelyn Waugh.” I am indebted to Rhys Bowen for lending her expertise on the upper crust to the editing process and for her enthusiastic blurb for our **June British Crime Club Pick**. It’s way much fun to spend time with these people.

Harris, Joanne. [The Testament of Loki](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99). Harris is so versatile. Here she presents a new fantasy, the sequel to [The Gospel of Loki](#) (\$15.99 July). He’s the god of deception in Norse mythology. Stuck now in a degrading purgatory after Ragnarok where all the gods died and the nine worlds were cast adrift, he hasn’t given up hope of a return from annihilation. Suddenly he senses hope in the form of a high school girl who begins playing a new online fantasy game loosely based on the Norse myths. This game has a unique doorway feature... unfortunately it was supposed to be Thor who stepped on through. You could say this is Rick Riordan for grownups.

✦Hawkins, Paula. [Into the Water](#) (\$16). In the last days before her death, Nel called her sister. Jules didn’t pick up the phone, ignoring her plea for help. Now Nel is dead. They say she jumped. And Jules has been dragged back to the one place she hoped she had escaped for good, to care for the teenage girl her sister left behind. But Jules is afraid. So afraid. Of her long-buried memories, of the old Mill House, of knowing that Nel would never have jumped. And most of all she’s afraid of the water, and the place they call the Drowning Pool.... I would call this more Gothic than *Trust No One*—and I’d skip it. The runaway success of [The Girl on the Train](#) (\$16) is no excuse for publishing this disappointing second novel.

Heath, Jack. [Hangman](#) (Hanover \$26.99). An Australian debuts an American thriller with a spin on *Dexter*. FBI consultant Timothy Blake has a rep for solving impossible cases. Deserved. But his expertise comes at price: for every life he saves, he takes one. Childhood trauma has made him a cannibal.

Hilburn, Robert. [Paul Simon, The Life](#) (SimonSchuster \$30). For more than fifty years, Paul Simon has spoken to us in songs about alienation, doubt, resilience, and empathy in ways that have established him as one of the most beloved artists in American pop music history. Songs like “The Sound of Silence,” “Bridge over Troubled Water,” “Still Crazy After All These Years,” and “Graceland” have moved beyond the sales charts and into our cultural consciousness. But Simon is a deeply private person who has resisted speaking to us outside of his music. He has said he will not write an autobiography or memoir, and he has refused to

talk to previous biographers. Finally, Simon has opened up—for more than one hundred hours of interviews—to Robert Hilburn, whose biography of Johnny Cash was named by Michiko Kakutani of the *New York Times* as one of her ten favorite books of 2013. Bono says, “There are two great storytellers colliding here.”

Howard, Linda. [The Woman Left Behind](#) (Morrow \$26.99). While I am writing of empowered women and military thrillers, here is a knockout that embodies both. Jina Modell works in Communications for a paramilitary organization, and she really likes it. She likes the money, she likes the coolness factor—very cool, even for Washington, DC. She likes being able to kick terrorist butts without ever leaving the climate-controlled comfort of the control room. When Jina displays a really high aptitude for spatial awareness and action, she’s reassigned to work as an on-site drone operator in the field with one of the GO-teams, an elite paramilitary unit. The only problem is she isn’t particularly athletic, to put it mildly, and in order to be fit for the field, she has to learn how to run and swim for miles, jump out of a plane, shoot a gun...or else be out of a job. Team leader Levi, call sign Ace, doesn’t have much confidence in Jina—he dubbed her Babe as soon as he heard her raspy, sexy voice—making it through the rigors of training. The last thing he needs is some tech geek holding them back from completing a dangerous, covert operation. In the following months, however, no one is more surprised than he when Babe, who hates to sweat, begins to thrive in her new environment, displaying a grit and courage that wins her the admiration of her hardened, battle-worn teammates. She’s smokin’—he’s hot for her. Meanwhile a Congresswoman who is less empowered than entitled is at work to bring down the GO Team and sets up an ambush for it in Syria, leaving Jina, rocked by explosives and flung into the desert, to recover her crew. It’s great stuff.

Iles, Greg. [Mississippi Blood](#) (\$17.99). Now comes a large paperback edition of the conclusion to Iles’ Natchez Burning Trilogy—a single manuscript published in three parts and arching across the city’s mayor Penn Cage’s family history. Stephen King finds it to be, “extraordinarily entertaining and fiendishly suspenseful. I defy you to start it and find a way to put it down; as long as it is, I wished it were longer... This is an amazing work of popular fiction.” One can also call it the 6th Penn Cage thriller.

Indridason, Arnaldur. [The Shadow Killer](#) (St Martins \$26.99). The second book in a new series starring Reykjavik cops Flóvent and Thorson in Occupied Iceland as the Americans are taking over from the Brits, turning the small town into something unrecognizable. A man is found shot in the head in a small apartment and is not who he is first identified to be. Has one of the foreign soldiers done the deed, or is an Icelander the killer? And how are the two locals to work this case? Enter a “Western Icelander”—a man raised in Canada but fluent in Icelandic—to work alongside Flóvent and Thorson, a man with some agenda of his own. A very good story set in a WWII theater with which few are now familiar. Start with [The Shadow District](#) (\$25.99—paperback to come in August).

Irving, Nicholas/AJ Tata. [Reaper: Ghost Target](#) (St Martins \$26.99). While you are waiting for the new Brad Thor, [Spymaster](#) (Atria \$27.9), Signed here July 9, here is a “Sniper Novel” for you. It’s not Hunter, either, or Brad Taylor, but is full of similar high action and military expertise. Vick “The Reaper” Harwood

is an esteemed sniper with a record kill count—33 kills in 90 days—when he is knocked out under mortar attack in Afghanistan. He wakes up back in the United States with little memory of what happened, his spotter and gun both unrecovered from the battlefield. Harwood has resigned himself to slowly picking up the pieces of his life, training Special Forces snipers in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and starting a promising relationship with an Olympic medalist named Jackie. But when a series of assassinations start occurring in the area, Harwood can’t explain why he just happens to be nearby for each killing—or how a sniper rifle that matches the description of the one he lost seems to be involved. His memory of the past few days is hazy and full of blackouts, and even he has to wonder, is he being framed? Or is he the killer?

John, DB. [Star of the North](#) (Crown\$27). Here’s one that could hardly be more timely! I haven’t gotten to it so this is the Starred Review: “This outstanding thriller from John brings to life the seldom-seen underbelly of North Korea, which the author visited in 2012. In 2010, Jenna (born Jee-min), an academic at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., joins the CIA in part to find her twin sister, Soo-min, whom North Korean commandos abducted off a South Korean island in 1998. Meanwhile, Cho Sang-ho, a lieutenant colonel in North Korea’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs who knows about Pyongyang’s kidnapping program (and many of the country’s other dark episodes), travels on a diplomatic mission to New York. There, at a reception at the 21 Club, he meets Jenna, who tells him about Soo-min. Cho is initially unhelpful, but in the end he agrees to assist Jenna in her quest to locate her sister. As an undercover CIA agent, Jenna goes to North Korea, where she poses as a translator for a U.N. peace mission while engaging in a dangerous search for her sister. John excels at drawing the everyday details of life in a closed society—the drug use of the lower classes, the paranoia and fear of those who have gained access to the upper ranks, the omnipotence of the Bowibu, the state security force. Those seeking a realistic, highly readable look at North Korea will be richly rewarded.”

Krueger, William Kent. [Sulfur Springs](#) (\$16). An author whose stories are rooted in landscapes as well as character, Minnesotan Krueger has inevitably been drawn to Arizona (he took a 2017 spring break in Sedona). The state’s southern border is as unforgiving as some of Minnesota’s territories. On the Fourth of July, just as fireworks are about to go off in Aurora, Minnesota, Cork O’Connor and his new bride Rainy Bisonette listen to a desperate voicemail left by Rainy’s son, Peter. The message is garbled and full of static, but they think they hear Peter confess to the murder of someone named Rodriguez. When they try to contact him, they discover that his phone has gone dead. Arriving in Coronado County, they learn Peter had been fired six months earlier from his job at a drug-rehab center. Their only lead to him is the nearby little desert town of Sulfur Springs where Peter has been receiving his mail. But no one in Sulfur Springs seems to know him. They do, however, recognize the name Rodriguez. Carlos Rodriguez is the head of a cartel that controls everything illegal crossing the border from Mexico into Coronado County. Take it from there, as does Cork, who’s a bit uneasy that Rainy knows more than she’ll say. And if he can’t trust Rainy, who can he trust?

Lancet, Barry. [The Spy Across the Table](#) (\$17). When two theater friends are murdered backstage at a Kennedy Center performance,

Jim Brodie, antiques dealer, Japan expert, and second-generation private investigator, is devastated—and determined to hunt down the killer. He’s not the only one. Brodie is summoned to the White House... Read more in the Spies of Summer section of the coming June Booknews.

LeBor, Adam. [District VIII](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). Life’s tough for a Gypsy detective in Budapest. The cops don’t trust you because you’re a Gypsy. Your fellow Gypsies, even your own family, shun you because you’re a cop. The dead, however, don’t care. So when Balthazar Kovacs, a detective in the city’s murder squad, gets a mysterious text message on his phone, he gulps down his coffee and goes to work. The message has two parts: a photograph and an address. The photograph shows a man, in his early thirties, lying on his back with his eyes open, half-covered by a blue plastic sheet. The address is 26 Republic Square, the former Communist Party headquarters, and once the most feared building in the country. But when Kovacs arrives at Republic Square, the body is gone... Inspired by true events, the novel takes the reader to a hidden city within Budapest and an underworld that visitors never get to see: the gritty back alleys of District VII. Set in the long, hot Hungarian summer of 2015, *District VIII* is the first novel in the new Detective Balthazar Kovacs mystery series and our **June Discovery Club Pick**. I think of it as an interesting update to Martin Cruz Smith’s [Canto for a Gypsy](#) (\$16).

LeCarre, John. [A Legacy of Spies](#) (\$17). The first Smiley novel in more than 25 years summons retired British Secret Service officer Peter Guillam back to London as his Cold War past comes to claim him. Elderly and retired to France, the ex-spy Peter Guillam, an old acquaintance of the attentive Le Carré reader, is made to answer for long-buried sins when the adult children of the two principal casualties in *The Spy Who Came In From the Cold* suddenly bring a lawsuit against the security services. Guillam is forced to revisit the dubious setup and muddy justification for that operation, answering awkward questions from humorless young officials who have no patience for or understanding of how the agency operated in the old days. Even George Smiley himself makes an appearance.

I add that I am a huge fan of Le Carré’s memoir [Pigeon Tunnel: Stories from My Life](#) (\$17) for its candor, the adventures and memories, and for the total lack of bitterness in the long chapter about his con-man sponging father. This takes on resonance if you [Read this interview](#) between John Le Carré and Ben Macintyre, two men recruited by British intelligence services when they were young, in the *NY Times*!

✂Lindley, Maureen. [The Beloveds](#) (Gallery 16). In the sense that this story of a woman obsessed is all about a house, this is a new version of *Rebecca*. Pipits is an ancient (1760) and grand manor found near Bath. Elizabeth Stash, called Betty, is the oldest child who loathes her beautiful and kind younger sister Gloria. Gloria is a Beloved whose allure has ensnared Henry as well as Betty’s close friend Alice now the local librarian. When her marriage to an older art dealer is failing, Betty returns to Pipits with a diagnosis of a “possible objectophile”—the object being Pipits. Mother has died. Betty got most of the money, but Gloria and Henry got Pipits and the land, which they are transforming. And the story goes from there in a number of chilling ways, sucking you in. Betty is not an unreliable narrator, she’s a true psychopath.

Nugent, Liz. [Lying in Wait](#) (Gallery \$26). It begins with this line: “*I expected more of a reaction the first time I hit her.*” Karen reviews: By her own account, Lydia was born to be “presentable, beautiful, charming,” a description she spent her life maintaining, no matter what happened. She married Andrew, who became a judge thanks to her influential father. They lived in her family mansion along with their son, Laurence, who was navigating the challenges of adolescence and excessive weight. All went well until Andrew lost much of their wealth when a trusted friend, ran off with the money he was supposed to be managing. Lydia was not discouraged. Their son had to change schools, Andrew modified his golf membership, Lydia’s spending was curtailed, but the image persisted through reasonable explanations formulated by Lydia. She created a scheme to add another member to the family, and when that went awry, there was the murder. Lydia set in motion a plan causing Andrew much angst and frustration. And then, he died. Undeterred in maintaining her image, Lydia enlisted Laurence in the fight to save their property, using the importance of family as leverage to win him over to her side. His non-compliance came at a stunning price. Nugent has created a new twist on the dysfunctional family theme that is sure to be noticed. She received a starred, boxed review in *PW* as well as one in *Library Journal*. Her first novel is [Unraveling Oliver](#) (\$16).

O’Neal, James Anderson. [Riley and the Great War](#) (Three Oceans Press \$19.95). In a rollicking tale spanning most of the 1910s, small-town Missouri boys Riley and Cornelius chase Pancho Villa through the Mexican desert, battle in the trenches of World War I, stop a sadistic German secret agent from assassinating Winston Churchill, and spark Berlin’s Communist revolution. Featured in the story are Operation Blücher (May 27–June 4, 1918) and the Battle of Cantigny (May 28, 1918), among various other historical events such as the Punitive Expedition in Mexico and the Spartacist Uprising in Germany. The Battle of Cantigny was the first significant victory for American forces in the war, though it gets little attention. “Captivating and engaging, James Anderson O’Neal’s *Riley and the Great War* is a blend of historical fiction and nonstop adventure. ... The dynamic between Riley and Cornelius definitely steals the show.” —*Foreword Reviews*

✂Paris, BA. [The Breakdown](#) (\$16.99). If you accept the weak opening premise that a woman drives late away from a party and, despite promising her husband she won’t take the dangerous, isolated track through the woods to get to their secluded cottage in Nook’s Corner, does it anyway. And as she drives down the dark road in sheets of rain she sees a car parked on the verge, and a woman inside. More afraid to irk her husband of just a year than be a Good Samaritan, getting only a blurry image of the woman, she pulls away for home. The next morning she learns a woman, undoubtedly the same woman, has been found brutally murdered. Riddled with guilt, Cass is thrown into despair and paranoia which in time begins to feel/be real. I thought this story implausible and contrived although the end game is clever. But we have tricks, not an organic suspense story. Skip it but if you missed the slow-building but electric [Behind Closed Doors](#) (\$15.99), a debut, we recommend it.

Here’s my review for *Behind Closed Doors*: Everyone knows a couple like Jack and Grace. He has looks and wealth; she has charm and elegance. He’s a dedicated attorney who has never lost a case; she is a flawless homemaker, a masterful gar-

dener and cook, and dotes on her disabled younger sister. Though they are still newlyweds, they seem to have it all. You might not want to like them, but you do. And they are inseparable. Is this enviable, or worrisome? This is a superior suspense that doesn't answer the full question until the very last sentence.

Pötzsch, Oliver. [The Council of Twelve](#) (Houghton \$18). This German author consistently earns starred reviews for his historicals. Here is the new one: "Set in 1672, Pötzsch's enthralling seventh Hangman's Daughter whodunit takes Bavarian hangman Jakob Kuisl, daughter Magdalena, and other family members to Munich, where Jakob and 11 fellow professionals are meeting to discuss such business as standardizing fees and changes threatening their livelihood, including a push by physicians in the German empire to bar hangmen from acting as healers. Meanwhile, Jakob is looking to marry off his unmarried daughter, Barbara, and Magdalena's husband, Simon Fronwiesser, hopes that his medical treatise will find a publisher, but these efforts are sidelined by the discovery of the bodies of three young women. One victim was impaled, one drowned, and one sealed behind a wall—all methods commonly used by executioners. The superstitious locals blame the hangmen, and Jakob, Magdalena, and Simon must act fast to identify the killer. Pötzsch does his usual excellent job of making the period vivid, while offering surprising twists en route to an eminently fair solution. This is a superior historical mystery." Actually, they all are. Order them whole set of [Hangman's Daughter Tales](#). Excellent travel guides too—much of Bavaria and Munich remain the same.

Rosenfelt, David. [Collared](#) (\$16.99). Every witty and affectionate Andy Carpenter mystery begins with a pickle for a dog. This time the pet is tied to the door of the shelter Andy and his friend Willie run (on Andy's dimes) along with a note. When they scan the dog for an embedded chip, they discover this is the "DNA dog." A dog that generated evidence in a criminal case. Some 30 months before the dog and the baby adopted by single mom Jill Hickman were kidnapped in broad daylight in Eastside Park. Neither dog nor baby Dylan has been seen since. When a tip came in that a former boyfriend of Hickman's who also worked in her company was the kidnapper, hair from the DNA dog proved the clincher in Keith Wachtel's arrest. He's doing life. But here's the dog and here's Andy, debating whether to renew his New Jersey law license and now under pressure from Laurie to help her friend Jill find the baby, convinced that the real kidnapper may not be Keith. So he gains a new client and begins to investigate.... As ever Rosenfelt displays an ingenious mind for crime such that I am glad he's an author and not a practicing crook. For a great summer escape, order all [Rosenfelt's amusing, tricky books](#), some of them not Andy Carpenters. Rosenfelt returns July 23 with a new Carpenter:

Rovin, Jeff. [Tom Clancy's Op-Center: For Honor](#) (St Martins \$16.99). In conjunction with the new Jack Ryan, Jr. Clancy by Mike Maden in Event Books, is this new entry in a series created by Clancy and Stee Pieczenik and written by Rovin. It's 1962, the height of the Cold War. The Soviets sent a convoy of nuclear missiles to Cuba. But while all eyes were on the Caribbean and the threat of WWII, some of the ships slipped from the flotilla and headed for a fishing village in a remote Soviet frontier—not far from Alaska. Some 60 years later, that silo and its missiles are intact and Iranians want to bring them to Iran. Enter the Op Center, one heading to Havana and another after unknown actors, one of whom may be an Iranian defector....

Ryan, Annelise. [Dead Calm](#) (Kensington \$25). Why not Sorenson, Wisconsin, for a police procedural? The news has just brought us coverage of a serial killer in Michigan—all cop novels don't have to be urban. At long last married to Detective Steve Hurley, who's the father of her toddler son, Matthew, deputy medical examiner Mattie Winston gets a call about another couple that isn't so lucky. The bodies of Craig Knowlton and Meredith Lansing turn up at the Grizzly Motel with gunshot wounds suggesting that Craig shot his lover and then himself. The Sorenson coroner's office has been short-staffed since the murder of Mattie's co-worker Hal Dawson, and Mattie's distracted not only by energetic Matthew and teenage stepdaughter Emily, but by the return of her father, Cedric Novak, with a shocking explanation of why he abandoned her when she was only 4. So her growing suspicion that Craig couldn't have killed Meredith is as unwelcome as it is urgent. But Mattie presses forward. A pleasant read for those who enjoy forensic detail, humor, and a dash of romance.

Segura, Alex. [Blackout](#) (Polis \$25.99). In the 4th Pete Fernandez, startling new evidence in a cold case that's haunted Pete drags the exiled PI back to his hometown of Miami. But as Pete and his partner Kathy Bentley delve deeper into the unsolved murder, they become entangled in Miami's obsession with a charismatic and dangerous cult leader and his even more menacing followers. At the same time, the detectives find themselves at odds with a Florida politician's fixation on wealth, fame and power. It all converges in the heart of the Magic City and Pete is left scrambling to pick up the pieces—or die trying. The Pete Fernandez novels have always run on two tracks – the long-buried Miami mystery that Pete is forced to solve, and Pete's often unpredictable evolution from self-destructive alcoholic to somewhat functional private eye. Now those two tracks blend into one dark, personal and deadly tale.

Shepphird, John. [Bottom Feeders](#) (Blackstone \$16.99). A debut set in the wilds of a remote movie ranch, *Bottom Feeders* describes the hapless Hollywood cast and crew that eke out a living working on low-budget fare. Their ambitious TV movie needs to be made fast and cheap, but a brutal murder grinds production to a halt. An approaching forest fire forces everyone to evacuate. In the confusion not everyone gets out. Eddie is the alcoholic director, Sheila the vulnerable camera assistant, Tom the self-centered actor, and Sondra the spurned sheriff's deputy. Who will survive? Death comes sudden and silent. The camouflaged killer's weapon-of-choice is a high-tech hunting bow capable of firing razor-sharp arrows four hundred feet per second. "Classic Hollywood noir, complete with racetracks, drunks, has-been movie stars, and murder. I absolutely devoured this book, and still can't believe it's a debut novel...I'll be waiting for whatever he writes next!" –Steve Hamilton

Smith, Julie, [Murder on Magazine](#) (BooksBnible \$12.99). A blast from the past—the 10th Skip Langdon from Edgar winner Smith—*New Orleans Mourning*, 1991—who has been on hiatus since Hurricane Katrina hit the city in 2005. The six-foot cop who blew her life as a deb in California for one where she can unleash her inner-bad girl as well as catch the bad guys, is chuffed she's made Sergeant. She worked out her relationship with main-squeeze Steve and life is good. Then a murder goes down in an apartment over a store and it appears that the tenant was renting it out on Airbnb and a serial killer was a client. Somehow a teenage girl escaped his grasp and is in the wind. Did

she kill the guy and is the SK out stalking the city—or what? The book is a sized-down large paperback produced on an interesting new platform.

Sweazy, Larry D. [See Also Proof](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). This wonderful book full of unexpected moments is our **June History Paperback Pick**. I am crazy for the recently widowed Marjorie Trumaine whose much loved husband broke his back out hunting. She is holding their farm in Dickinson, North Dakota, together and continuing her work as a freelance indexer for publishers—a process Sweazy, who has done the work, explains in clear and compelling detail. Marjorie is stoic yet intuitive, resolute yet kind, battling loneliness and spurning self pity. It's a harsh winter in 1965 and so deeply scary when the disabled daughter of a neighbor disappears. Wishing to help the Rinkermans, Marjorie joins Sheriff Guy Reinhardt in the search for Tina. Where this takes them is the heart of this moving story that brilliantly showcases the rural landscape, community, and the Midwest mores of a time that seems increasingly remote. My highest recommendation as a mystery and a slice of American history. I like the whole series—[order them all](#).

Ware, Ruth. [The Death of Mrs. Westaway](#) (Gallery \$26.99). Ware now moves her stage to Cornwall. A struggling young woman in London receives a letter from a solicitor she believes is misaddressed, but mentions a substantial inheritance and a trip to the Duchy. Hal figures her gig as a tarot card reader has honed her cold-reading skills and will let her bluff her way to and through this. When she arrives at the funeral and then at the family home, well.... It's not Daphne DuMaurier, nor Agatha Christie, but is filled with complex family dynamics. If you fancy the Signed UK edition, it publishes in late June. IMHO the best of Ware is her last one, [The Lying Game](#) (\$16).

Wechsler, Pamela. [The Fens](#) (St Martins \$27/99). Parker forever imprinted Boston on me so I'm pleased to see a third—the the best – investigation for Abby Endicott, chief of the Boston DA's homicide unit. A daughter of wealth, the aggressive Abby has been cut off to discourage such a dangerous career choice and is trying to scale down her lifestyle while working cases. It adds tension to the plots. This one begins when the star catcher for the Red Sox goes missing on opening day! And then another player turns up dead so this isn't just a local cause célèbre over a missing celebrity, especially when mysterious sums of cash turn up. And greased baseballs (hmm... maybe Deflategate inspired Wechsler...). The action is fast and the personal dynamics gripping. All in all, I recommend you [order all three of Abby's cases](#) and dig in. With no Linda Fairstein until January 2019, or Marcia Clark, Wechsler makes a fine pinch hitter.

Woods, Stuart. [Turbulence](#) (Putnam). For his 56th Stone Barrington, Woods uses his own experience of owning a home in Key West to write of the approach of Hurricane Irma. The nonchalance with which Stone schedules a flight out on his Gulfstream for himself and his houseguests at the last possible moment – Dino and wife, Holly Barker who has just told sold their future is again on hold as she's running for President – can only come from a man with such high connections as he. And how likely is it that Holly, Secretary of State, is without security? What she isn't without is US Senator Joe Box, the junior from Florida, who is just a jump ahead from #MeToo. And has abetted that notorious arms dealer Selwyn Owaki's release from Federal

detention. So the scene moves from bunkering down in the storm to London where an operation to capture Owaki is being staged, etc. This is more unbelievable than usual and some of antics among the politicians are distressingly akin to those playing today in the real world.

Yang, Jy. [The Black Tide of Heaven](#); [The Red Threads of Fortune](#) (Tor.com \$15.99 each). I was caught by the covers. So I asked Pat King of our staff to write a review: “Last fall, I asked Kevin Hearne what he was reading and particularly loved and he insisted that I try Singapore's JY Yang—a journalist and novelist who just recently had a two books published by Tor.com. The two novellas stand-a-lone and tie together at the same time. Within *The Black Tides of Fortune*, JY Yang focuses on two twin children whose prophetic powers (one who can see what could be, and the other what *would* be) have been used to shape a kingdom. When one twin, Akeha, decides to steal away from the empire and join the rebellion, how will Akeha's departure impact the kingdom and the relationship with the twin? Being heralded as one of the fresh voices in a new subgenre of fantasy known as ‘Silkpunk,’ , Yang brings us to a fascinating and bold new world.”

OUR EARLY SUMMER SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Carlisle, Kate. [Once Upon a Spine](#) (\$7.99) Bibliophile #11. A visit by in-laws, a plan to demolish the charming shops across the street in favor of a high-rise, a string of petty vandalism, and a dispute over a rare book overwhelm Brooklyn and Derek, who become embroiled in the case of a suspicious death. *PW* found this another charmer stating “Carlisle rounds out this cozy with recipes for such dishes as “hot buttered rump bites” and “perky breast nibbles.”

Castillo, Linda. [Down a Dark Road](#) (\$9.99) Kate Burkholder #9. When an Amish man convicted for murdering his wife eight years earlier escapes and abducts his five children, Chief of Police Kate Burkholder races to the scene, only to be ambushed by the man, who implores her to prove his innocence. *PW* ended its review with “Kate's true love, John Tomasetti, an agent with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, has her back as always, and Castillo skillfully sets each scene, compelling readers to fear the raging stream, sense the tension in a room, and yes, even smell the manure.”

Coben, Harlan. [Don't Let Go](#) (\$9.99) When he gets a lead on Maura, an ex who left him without explanation fifteen years earlier, Nap Dumas searches for answers and uncovers dark secrets about the woman he once loved and the real reason behind his twin brother's death. *LJ* was just one review source that loved this saying “Coben (*Stay Close*; *Gone for Good*) knows how to deliver an exciting thriller expertly. His latest novel is no exception. Longtime readers will be lining up for this new stand-alone and new fans will be made.”

Coes, Ben. [Trap the Devil](#) (\$9.99) Dewey Andreas #7. Dispatched to prevent a powerful cabal from completing an invisible coup of the U.S. government, Dewey Andreas finds himself on the run when he is framed for the murder of the Secretary of State. *PW* concluded its review with “Dewey and other members of the CIA Special Activities Division display their formidable skills as they race to thwart the plot. Coes creates a believable hero in Dewey, who's almost superhuman but never a cartoon”

Finder, Joseph. [The Switch](#) (\$9.99) Picking up a politician's laptop by mistake, Michael Tanner discovers stolen files before finding himself targeted by an unscrupulous fixer at the same time the owners of the files hatch a deadly plot. *Kirkus* gave one of their rare raves for this saying, "A master of what might be called the "man in over his head" thriller, Finder delivers a tense, uncannily relevant tale about government secrets falling into the wrong hands."

Gerritsen, Tess. [I Know a Secret](#) (\$9.99) Rizzoli and Isles #12. Investigating the death of a horror film producer whose murder scene has been gruesomely staged, detective Jane Rizzoli and medical examiner Maura Isles are baffled by an apparent lack of a cause of death, a case that is further complicated by a second, equally bizarre murder. *PW* ended its review with "Gerritsen smoothly blends her leads' domestic dramas with the hunt for the ruthless killer."

Keller, Julia. [Bitter River](#) (\$9.99) Reprint Bell Elkins #2. An investigation into the murder of a pregnant teenage girl is complicated by county prosecuting attorney Bell Elkins's separation from the daughter who is living with her ex, Sheriff Nick Fogelson's strange behavior, and a person from her past. *LJ* said "Recommend to mystery lovers who enjoy richly drawn settings and whip-smart heroines."

Koontz, Dean. [The Whispering Room](#) (\$9.99) Jane Hawk #2. Her husband dead and her son in hiding, rogue FBI agent Jane Hawk finds a connection between a schoolteacher's murderous, and ultimately suicidal, rampage; the teacher's secret journal; and a cabal of power players bent on controlling America. *LJ*: "Koontz delivers another winner."

Peters, Elizabeth. [The Painted Queen](#) (\$9.99) Amelia Peabody #20. After someone saves her from a would-be assassin, Amelia Peabody, accompanied by her husband, Emerson, witnesses the discovery of a precious Egyptian artifact while navigating the murderous activities of master-of-disguise Sethos. *Kirkus* said, "Fans will cherish the legacy; newcomers will be forgiven for fidgeting through the busy plot and arch humor."

Silva, Daniel. [House of Spies](#) (\$9.99) Gabriel Allon #17. Gabriel Allon heads to France in search of the shadowy ISIS mastermind known as Saladin and finds unlikely partners in his pursuit in former fashion model Olivia Watson and wealthy drug lord Jean-Luc Martel. *Kirkus* ended its review with, "Another chilling glimpse inside global terror networks from a gifted storyteller."

NEW IN SMALL PAPERBACKS

Abel, James. [Vector](#) (Berkley \$9.99) A scientist's investigation into different strains of malaria during a gold rush in the Amazon is interrupted by the mysterious disappearances of his partner and several miners, a situation that is further complicated by a pandemic outbreak, terrorist threats and a world-changing revelation

Burton, Mary. [Dying Scream](#) (Kensington \$9.99) When Adrianna Barrington begins receiving messages and flowers from her late husband Craig, she begins to doubt her sanity until she discovers the truth about Craig's dark past—and his involvement in the brutal killings of three women.

Cochran, Peg. [Bought the Farm](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Farmer's Daughters #3. While transforming Love Blossom Farm into the

perfect wedding venue for her friend, Kelly, food-and-lifestyle blogger Shelby McDonald must quickly solve the murder of the lead singer of the wedding band before the killer decides to put another victim out to pasture.

Dratch, Dana. [Confessions of a Red Herring](#) (Kensington \$7.99) When her agency's double-dealing CEO is murdered, PR rep Alex Vlodnachek, out of a job and under suspicion, to keep herself out of jail returns to her reporter roots, going undercover to reclaim her life, break the story and expose the real killer who has his own to-do list—and she is at the top of it.

Golemon, David. [Beyond the Sea](#) (\$8.99) When the *USS Houston* crew makes a discovery that sets in motion the answers to one of the great mysteries of World War II, the Event Group joins forces with the Russian Navy to investigate the mysterious appearance of the Soviet battle cruiser Simbirsk, which launched in 1940 and was reported sunk in 1944.

Greaney, Mark. [Gunmetal Gray](#) (\$9.99) Gray Man #6. Investigating an attempt on his life after his return to the CIA, Court Gentry follows clues to an old friend, who has been taken hostage by the Chinese for his role in tracking down an insider from a Chinese covert computer warfare unit.

Greenlaw, Linda. [Shiver Hitch](#) (\$7.99) Visiting remote Acadia Island to assess the damages from a house fire, former homicide detective-turned-insurance investigator Jane Bunker discovers the body of the house's owner in the rubble before learning that the victim had many enemies and died from other cause.

Levine, Laura. [Death of a Bachelorette](#) (\$7.99) *Jaine Austen* #15. While working on a knock-off reality TV show in the tropics, freelance writer Jaine Austen finds murder entering the script when one of the finalists, determined to win her prince, dies in a freak accident, which traps them all on the island while the police investigate, forcing Jaine to join in the fray before any of the other contestants suffer the same fate.

Pressey, Rose. [A Passion for Haunted Fashion](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Folks say the Sugar Creek Theater is haunted. But that doesn't scare off Cookie Chanel, owner of Georgia's chicest vintage clothing store It's Vintage Y' All—especially since Cookie talks to the ghost of her grandmother every day through her cat Wind Song. Still, after she agrees to be in charge of costumes for a production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Cookie is surprised to find the specter of a young woman in the theater, keeping watch over a trunk of 1950s dresses, and then one of the actors is found murdered.

Simon, Misty. [Grounds for Remorse](#) (Kensington \$7.99) When her best friend is accused of murdering her new beau, who, as it turns out, is married, cleaning business owner Tallie Graver, who works part time at her family's funeral parlor, sweeps in to save her, but she needs to tread carefully or she might end up her family's next client.

Smith, Karen Rose. [Murder with Cinnamon Scones](#) (Kensington \$7.99) When her employee Tessa's boyfriend Reese is found dead and Tessa stands accused of the crime, Daisy Swanson, who runs a tea shop in Pennsylvania's Amish country, must stir up the secrets of Reese's past in order to find out who steeped this quaint little town in murder.

Wortham, Reavis. [Hawke's War](#) (Kensington \$9.99) While investigating a sniper attack in West Texas's Big Bend National Park, Texas Ranger Sonny Hawke is caught in the same sniper's crosshairs as a drug and human smuggling cartel seeks payback for an old grudge, and is the target of an even more dangerous enemy whose thirst for revenge could incite an international conflict. 2nd in the series.