

BOOKNEWS from

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Enjoy June...

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

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

Reminder of some recent past events:

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 on different missions

TUESDAY JUNE 12 7:00 PM

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

Gideon Crew #5 takes you to Egypt

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

Signed here in early December

THURSDAY JUNE 14 7:00 PM

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

Jack Ryan, Jr. #4 visits the Balkans.

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)

And going forward:

MONDAY JUNE 18 7:00 PM Bruno Returns

Martin Walker signs [A Taste for Vengeance](#) (Knopf \$25.95)

Bruno, Chief of Police, Lucky 13—and a wine and cheese gala

WEDNESDAY JUNE 20 7:00 PM

Matthew Pearl signs [The Dante Chamber](#) (Penguin \$28)

1870 Literati solve murders in London

Our June History Club Pick

THURSDAY JUNE 21 7:00 PM Paris x Two

Liam Callanan in conversation with Cara Black

Black signs [Murder on the Left Bank](#) (Soho \$27.95)

Aimee LeDuc #18

Callanan signs [Paris by the Book](#) (Dutton \$26)

SUNDAY JUNE 24 2:00 PM

Joe Ide in conversation with Matt Goldman – two scriptwriters turned novelists

Goldman signs [Broken Ice](#) (Forge \$25.99)

St. Paul PI Nils Shapiro #2

Ide signs [Righteous](#) (Mulholland \$26)

IQ #2

TUESDAY JUNE 26 7:00 PM

Daniel Wilson signs [The Clockwork Dynasty](#) (\$16.95)

An ingenious fantasy thriller by the author of [Robopocalypse](#) (\$16.95)

THURSDAY JUNE 28 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime discusses Raymond Chandler's [The High Window](#) (\$15.95)

A Philip Marlowe Novel

SATURDAY JUNE 30 2:00 PM A Cozy Tea

Two Cozy veterans and a debut author

Jennifer Ashley signs [Scandal Above Stairs](#) (Berkley \$15)

Kate Carlisle signs [Buried in Books](#) (Berkley \$25)

Bibliophile Mystery #12

Jane Willan signs [The Shadow of Death](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99)

Wales' Sister Agatha/Father Selwyn #1

SUNDAY JULY 1 2:00 PM Ice Cream Social

A Fourth of July Party with photos of and discussion of National Parks plus the role of Game Wardens from Maine to Wyoming

Paul Doiron signs [Stay Hidden](#) (St Martins \$26.99)

Maine Game Warden Mike Bowditch #9

Our copies come with an essay by CJ Box on why he too chose to write about a Game Warden

THURSDAY JULY 5

Dan Fesperman signs [Safe Houses](#) (Knopf \$26.95)

Kicks off our Summer of Spies

EVENT BOOKS

Ashley, Jennifer. [Scandal Above Stairs](#) (Berkley \$15). 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. Soon antiques are disappearing not only from the extravagant households of connoisseurs and collectors, but from the illustrious British Museum. As the thefts increase in frequency, Kat calls upon her friend Daniel McAdam, who has already set himself up in a pawnshop on the Strand as a seedy receiver of stolen goods. Then a man is murdered in the shop.... 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). 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 the boy's body turns up on the street two days later, the police rule the death a drug-related homicide. Éric asks his friend Aimée to investigate. Aimée, a new mother, reluctantly takes on the case only when she discovers that her late father is implicated by information in the now-missing notebook. 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. You can order the whole [Aimee LeDuc series](#).

Callanan, Liam. [Paris by the Book](#) (Dutton \$26). We sold out in April but Callanan returns June 21 to converse with Cara Black about Paris! And we have a stash of first prints for his book he can sign then. Here is the Indie Next Pick: Here is the Indie Next Pick: "In Paris, there is a bookstore called The Late Edition, where books are shelved geographically, and while readers can find any book by its story's setting, the store's proprietor Leah cannot locate her missing husband and searches for him throughout the city. Callanan's Paris is 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." I love the fact Leah's bookstore is devoted to dead authors.

Carlisle, Kate. [Buried in Books](#) (Berkley \$25). Carlisle's charming 12th Bibliophile mystery finds book restoration expert Brooklyn Wainwright about to marry the love of her life, Derek Stone, in San Francisco. Her well-planned wedding weekend happens to coincide with the big National Librarians Association conference, but, as Derek points out, attending the conference will help distract her from any pre-wedding jitters. Not everyone has been

as lucky in love as Brooklyn. The overachiever quickly runs into her old college roommates Heather and Sara. They'd lost touch twelve years ago when Sara stole Heather's boyfriend. Brooklyn was caught in the middle. But she's touched when the women seem willing to sort out their differences and gift her rare copies of *The Three Musketeers* and *The Red Fairy Book*. Then one of her formerly feuding friends is found murdered and Brooklyn determines that one of the rare books is a forgery. She can't help but wonder if the victim played a part in this fraud, or if she was targeted because she discovered the scam. Order the whole [Bibliophile Mystery](#) series.

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. **Order and get a free Signed copy of Tracy's 5th investigation, [The Trapped Girl](#).**

Fesperman, Dan. [Safe Houses](#) (Knopf \$26.95). Double Agents. Cold War Lies. A Secret Spy Sisterhood. Murder! Fesperman's new novel, praised by Lee Child and Chris Pavone, is a two track story with a tragic collision point. In 1979 West Berlin, Helen Abell, a low-level CIA functionary overseeing safe houses, accidentally overhears and tape records a violent encounter between a much higher ranking officer, Kevin Gilley, and a German woman. Helen intervenes, incurring Gilley's wrath; when the woman turns up dead, Helen seeks to bring Gilley to justice. In general, the resourceful Helen does the best she can to deal with the era's sexism with the help of a sisterhood of CIA women determined to make a difference. In 2014, Helen and her husband have been murdered on their Maryland farm, and their mentally ill son, Willard, confesses to the shooting after he walks to the population sign and lowers the number residing in the community. Helen's daughter Anna, rejecting Willard's guilt, hires the mysterious PI Henry Mattick, a man already surveilling the family, to investigate. Anna is shocked to discover that her mom was once a spy. This is a story for our time when questions about deep, dark secrets within the CIA and FBI are being bruited.

Goldman, Matt. [Broken Ice](#) (Forge \$25.99). 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. 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. When he's shot through the arm with an arrow, only the quick work of medical examiner Char Northagen saves PI Nil Shapiro's life. Nils should be in the hospital recovering from his near fatal injury, but he knows that the clock is ticking for Linnea..... It gets weirder from there, and it's freezing! I love a good PI story and this is Nils' second after 2017's [Gone to Dust](#) (\$9.99).

Ide, Joe. [Righteous](#) (Mulholland \$26 June 24). 2nd in his award-winning IQ series after [IQ](#) (\$16), a masterly conception of a modern Sherlock Holmes working in LA. 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.

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.

Pearl, Matthew. [The Dante Chamber](#) (Penguin \$28). 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. What joy to tour Victorian London with Pearl as a guide. And familiarize yourself with Pearl's fascination with Dante in [The Dante Club](#) (\$16) from 2003, bringing *Inferno* to life while tracking a serial killer in 1865 Boston.

Preston, Douglas/Lincoln Child. [The Pharaoh Key](#) (Grand Central \$28). 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 loca-

tion 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 yet another hostile Egyptian location... a nearly impassable swamp. Our 1000 double signed copies are sold out but you can still order one Signed by Preston with a lively postcard signed by Gideon Crew and Lincoln Child—and a cartouche filled with hieroglyphs, plus a personality-plus camel.

Walker, Martin. [A Taste for Vengeance](#) (Knopf \$25.95). 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. Bruno also manages to help one of the women's rugby players he's coached since childhood sort out some serious problems, run through some favorite Dordogne recipes while teaching a cooking class, and continue his on-again, off-again romance with a former colleague. As ever, delicious! UK Edition: [A Taste for Vengeance](#) (Quercus \$46). Order all the [Bruno, Chief of Police series](#) and binge – yum!

Willan, Jane. [The Shadow of Death](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). 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. A cozy debut.

Wilson, Daniel. [The Clockwork Dynasty](#) (\$16.95). A new novel from the author of [Robocalypse](#) (\$16.95). When an inventor, employed by Peter the Great, creates two human-like clockwork automaton robots using anima discovered near a stream, he has no idea about the history behind the two anima, nor can he imagine his creations' future. Weaving through the present and the past, this book creates a world where humans co-inhabit alongside a group of powerful automaton robots. Fun, intriguing and nearly impossible to put down!

Also by Wilson, [Guardian Angels and Other Monsters](#) (\$16), which begins with "Miss Gloria," in which a robot protector must rescue its young charge from kidnappers by transferring its consciousness from machine to machine as each of its bodies are destroyed. Tutor/babysitter/bodyguard Chiron's quest to free little Gloria is an oft-repeated theme in Wilson's collection—parents, lovers or siblings struggling against oppressive high-tech circumstances. The next tale, "The Blue Afternoon That Lasted Forever," is a stunningly imagined vision of astrophysics gone wrong, framed by a father's futile attempts to shield his daughter from danger. Many of Wilson's stories do not have happy endings.

PARIS.CON JUNE 18-25

With Martin Walker signing June 18 (OK, Bruno is in the Péri-gord, not Paris, but still...) and Cara Black and Liam Callahan June 21, we're celebrating the French. Here are a few recommended reads for the run up to the week of June 18 and on to Bastille Day, July 14:

A Jigsaw Puzzle: [The Paris Library](#) (\$17.95) – 1000 pieces
Belfour, Charles. [The Paris Architect](#) (\$14.99)
Bowen, Rhys. [City of Darkness and Light](#) (\$16.99), and [Naughty in Nice](#) (\$7.99)
Brown, Eleanor. [A Paris All Your Own: Bestselling Women Writers on the City of Light](#) (\$16)
Brydon, James. [The Moment Before Drowning](#) (Akashic \$25.95 July 13)
Blackwell, Juliet. [The Paris Key](#) (\$15); [Letters from Paris](#) (\$15)
Cahill, Susan. [The Streets of Paris: A Guide to the City of Light Following in the Footsteps of Famous Parisians throughout History](#) (\$19.99)
Callan, Jamie Cat. [Parisian Charm School: French Secrets for Cultivating Love, Joy, and That Certain je ne sais quoi](#) (\$19)
Furst, Alan. [Kingdom of Shadows](#) (\$16)
Gable, Michelle. [A Paris Apartment](#) (\$15.99)
George, Nina. [The Little Paris Bookshop](#) (\$16)
Harris, Joanne. [Chocolat](#) (\$16) and [Peaches for Monsieur le Cure](#) (\$30 Signed)
Helprin, Mark. [Paris in the Present Tense](#) (\$28.95)
Henaff, Sophie. [Awkward Squad](#) (Putnam \$26.99) Misfits in the Paris police are assigned to a cold case squad and work a lulu
Hornsby, Wendy. [Number 7, Rue Jacob](#) (\$15.95) Investigative film maker Maggie MacGowen inherits a Left Bank apartment as well as a predator
Hubbard, Janet. [Champagne; Bordeaux; Burgundy](#) (\$15.95 each), The Vengeance in the Vineyard wine trilogy
Inbinder, Gary. [The Devil Montmartre](#) (\$25.95) and two Fin-de-Siècle Paris sequels
Longworth, ML. [Death at the Chateau Bremont](#) (\$15) and its sequels, set in Provence
Mah, Ann. [The Lost Vintage](#) (\$26.99) Burgundy, wine, WWII secrets
Mayle, Peter. [The Marseille Caper](#) (\$14.95) and his other novels
McLain, Paula. [The Paris Wife](#) (\$16)
Mosse, Kate. [Labyrinth](#) (\$17) Carcassonne
Pryor, Mark. [The Bookseller](#) (\$15.95) and the Hugo Marston sequels
Simenon, Georges. [Maigret—48 of them](#) (\$13 each)
Spring, Justin. [The Gourmands' Way: Six Americans in Paris and the Birth of a New Gastronomy](#) (\$30)
Stewart, Mary. [Nine Coaches Waiting](#) (\$16.95), Victorian suspense
Thomas, Amy. [Paris, My Sweet: A Year in the City of Light \(and Dark Chocolate\)](#) (\$14.99)
Tucker, Holly. [City of Light, City of Poison: Murder, Magic, and the First Police Chief of Paris](#) (\$15.95)

SIGNED BOOKS

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.

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.

Butcher, Jim. [Brief Cases](#) (Ace \$28). In a collection that follows *Side Jobs*, 12 stories, including a trio of Bigfoot tales and the never-before-published "Zoo Day," star wizard Harry Dresden and his associates. John Marcone shows that even criminals have rules when he defends those seeking shelter with him in "Even Hand." Apprentice Molly Carpenter learns WWHD—What Would Harry Do?—as she searches for vampire Thomas Roth in "Bombshells," then uncovers the truth of her new role as the Winter Lady in "Cold Case." It's been four years since the last full Dresden novel (*Skin Game*) was released, so readers will

become reacquainted with Dresden's gritty wit, the Chicago setting, and the not-so-happy endings typical of these urban fantasy tales. Butcher shows there is a dark side, even to those considered heroes. These are actual signed books, not tip ins.

Connolly, John. [The 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. Personally I would snag one of few remaining UK true firsts: [The Woman in the Woods](#) (Hodder \$40).

✎Cumming, Charles. [The Man Between](#) (Collins \$35). One of my favorites in the Summer of Spies for 2018. He risked it all to become a spy. Now he must pay the price. One simple task for British Intelligence takes him into a world of danger. Successful novelist Kit Carradine has grown restless. So when British Intelligence invites him to enter the secret world of espionage, he willingly takes a leap into the unknown. But the glamour of being a spy is soon tainted by fear and betrayal, as Carradine finds himself in Morocco on the trail of Lara Bartok – a mysterious fugitive with links to international terrorism. Bartok is a leading figure in Resurrection, a violent revolutionary movement whose brutal attacks on prominent right-wing politicians have spread hatred and violence throughout the West. As the coils of a ruthless plot tighten around him, Carradine finds himself drawn to Lara. Caught between competing intelligence services who want her dead, he soon faces an awful choice: to abandon Lara to her fate or to risk everything trying to save her.

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. This debut, our **June First Mystery Club Pick** by a former cop, is one. 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....

Hirsch, Paddy. [The Devil's Half Mile](#) (Forge \$26). Journalist Hirsch makes his fiction debut—our **July History/Mystery Club Pick but it arrives mid-June**—with a superb historical whodunit. In 1799, after four years studying law in Ireland, Justy Flanagan returns to Manhattan in search of the truth about the death of his father, Francis, a stock trader who reportedly hanged himself when Justy was 14. Convinced by new evidence that his father was murdered, Justy wants answers from William Duer, a "reckless speculator" and former ally of George Washington and Alexander Hamilton, who was Francis's business partner before the 1792 financial crisis sent Duer to debtors' prison. But when Justy goes looking for Duer in Manhattan's New Gaol, he learns that his quarry is dead, and when he reunites with his uncle Ignatius, a powerful landowner who funded his education, he's met with skepticism about his theory. Justy persists, nonetheless, and Hirsch effortlessly incorporates the political and economic background of the time into the mystery. Fans of Lyndsay Faye's *Gods of Gotham* books will welcome this engrossing look at New York a half-century before that series takes place.

✎James, Peter. [Dead If You Don't](#) (Pan \$43). Kipp Brown, successful businessman and compulsive gambler, is having the worst run of luck of his life. He's beginning to lose big style. However, taking his teenage son, Mungo, to their club's big Saturday afternoon football match should have given him a welcome respite, if only for a few hours. But it's at the stadium where his nightmare begins. Within minutes of arriving at the game, Kipp bumps into a client. He takes his eye off Mungo for a few moments, and in that time, the boy is gone. Then he gets the terrifying message that someone has his child, and to get him back alive, Kipp will have to pay. Defying instruction not to contact the police, Kipp reluctantly does just that, and Brighton's Detective Superintendent Roy Grace is brought into investigate. At first it seems a straightforward case of kidnap. But rapidly Grace finds himself entering a dark, criminal underbelly of the city, where the rules are different... A parent's worst nightmare is the engine driving the story in the Diamond Dagger winner's latest in the Roy Grace series.

✎King, Laurie R. [Island of the Mad](#) (Bantam \$28). 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 off Donna Leon. *Island of the Mad* is built around a haunted island in the Venice lagoon. Poveglia has a long history of...eeriness. It was one of several islands used to quarantine suspected ships before they could reach Venice—and because of this, the island soil is permeated by the bones of the dead.

✎Kristian, Giles. [Lancelot the Betrayal](#) (Random \$32). The legions of Rome are a fading memory. Enemies stalk the fringes

of Britain. And Uther Pendragon is dying. Into this fractured and uncertain world the boy is cast, a refugee from fire, murder and betrayal. An outsider whose only companions are a hateful hawk and memories of the lost. Yet he is gifted, and under the watchful eyes of Merlin and the Lady Nimue he will hone his talents and begin his journey to manhood. He will meet Guinevere, a wild, proud and beautiful girl, herself outcast because of her gift. And he will be dazzled by Arthur, a warrior who carries the hopes of a people like fire in the dark. But these are times of struggle and blood, when even friendship and love seem doomed to fail. But the young renegade who left his home in Benoic with just a hunting bird and dreams of revenge is now a lord of war. He is a man loved and hated, admired and feared. A man forsaken but not forgotten. He is Lancelot. Set in a 5th century Britain besieged by invading bands of Saxons and Franks, Irish and Picts, Giles Kristian's epic new novel tells—through the warrior's own words—the story of Lancelot, that most celebrated of all King Arthur's knights. I've always favored the Lancelot of TH White's *The Once and Future King* so I look forward to this version of him.

Koryta, Michael. [How It Happened](#) (Mulholland \$27). This gem deserves one more push from me so I am quoting the *NY Times* review with which I completely agree: “Perhaps because of the personal angle — or just because Koryta is such a skilled writer — the story feels like the real deal. Rob Barrett, an agent with the Boston division of the F.B.I., is dispatched to Port Hope, Me., to work on an unusual murder case. A 22-year-old woman named Kimberly Crepeaux has graphically described her involvement in a double homicide and someone has to obtain an official confession. More to the point, Barrett must oversee the recovery of the two victims from the pond where Kimberly claims that she and a friend dumped the bodies. “They’re down there between the raft and the dock,” she explains. “You’ll find them there. I don’t know how deep. They aren’t down there very far, though. It’s just dark water, and a lonely place. You’ll find them easy.” That passage gives me goose bumps, a credit to Koryta’s descriptive powers. It doesn’t say much, though, for Kimberly’s reliability, because despite multiple attempts by professional divers, no bodies can be found in the 24-acre pond. Barrett is something of an authority on interrogation methods, and since he has staked his reputation on his interviews with Kimberly, his job is suddenly in jeopardy. Especially when two bodies turn up 212 miles away, wrapped in garbage bags and stashed in the woods. ‘The Bureau rarely fires agents,’ a colleague reassures him, unkindly. ‘We just bury them.’”

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**. Debut novelist Lillian Li pulls open the kitchen doors of a Chinese American family’s restaurant, revealing the devoted if dysfunctional relationships of its owners and staff. “With echoes of Stewart O’Nan’s *Last Night at the Lobster*, Li’s insightful debut takes readers behind the scenes of a Chinese restaurant, the Beijing Duck House, in Rockville, Maryland. Jimmy Han, son of the restaurant’s deceased original owner, runs the business but is trying to sell it to transition to a more upscale venue, the Beijing Glory, an Asian fusion restaurant on the Georgetown waterfront. Jimmy and his older brother, Johnny, have had a running argument about the direction of the

Duck House—Johnny wants the restaurant to remain traditional—since the death of their father. Their manager, Nan, and Ah-Jack, a waiter, have been friends for 30 years but lately have become romantically involved. Meanwhile, Nan’s troubled 17-year-old son, Pat, a dishwasher, and Johnny’s disaffected daughter, Annie, a hostess, have been having not-so-secret sex in the storage closet. And hovering over all of them is Uncle Pang, a mysterious, nine-fingered godfather who might hold the key to their futures. Despite the novel’s leisurely plotting, Li vividly depicts the lives of her characters and gives the narrative a few satisfying turns, resulting in a memorable debut” that rolls up “a smart combination of Chinese American life, service industry travails and the ups and downs of belonging to a family.”

✠Marston, Edward. [Fugitive from the Grave](#) (Allison \$44). Set in 1817, Marston’s rollicking fourth Bow Street Rivals mystery pits bounty hunter twin brothers Peter and Paul Skillen against the Bow Street Runners, London’s first official police force. Three straightforward story lines keep the action moving. One follows the mainly failed attempts of the official police to beat the brothers in their quest to apprehend wily and rather likable thief Harry Scattergood. Another involves Peter’s efforts on the behalf of Clemency van Emden, a well-to-do woman who has come to London in search of her estranged father. In the third, Paul hunts for the dastardly highwaymen who robbed the coach carrying his attractive companion, Hannah Granville, the “finest actress of her generation.” Kidnapping, grave robbing, stalking, theatrical peccadilloes, and miraculous inventions keep the reader entertained, as do visits to inns, pubs, restaurants, and brothels, not to mention some daring gallops along the road between London and Bath. Marston skillfully creates a lively sense of derring-do.

Perri, Camille. [When Katie Met Cassidy](#) (Putnam \$27). Perri’s debut [The Assistants](#) (\$16), a 2016 Modern Firsts Club Pick, was a delicious novel of revenge with a Big Apple power setting. I haven’t had time to read the ARC yet but here’s a taste of her second: “As timeless, warm, and funny as *When Harry Met Sally*, with the same irresistible Big Apple backdrop and a modern tribe of bar-hopping friends who become as close as family. Perri’s latest will inspire you to go after what you want and hold on to what you already have with both hands.”—Elisabeth Egan, *Glamour*. “A gutsy book that breathes a breath of fresh air into the genre of romance novels. Brimming with joy and humor, this quick-paced plot opens a window into the LGBTQ community.”—*RT Book Reviews*

✠Waites, Martyn. [The Old Religion](#) (Zafire \$32). Welcome to the dark heart of Cornwall. The village of St Petroc is the sort of place where people come to hide. Tom Killgannon is one such person. An ex-undercover cop, Tom is in the Witness Protection Programme hiding from some very violent people and St Petroc’s offers him a chance to live a safe and quiet life. Until he meets Lila. Lila is a seventeen-year-old runaway. When she breaks into Tom’s house she takes more than just his money. His wallet holds everything about his new identity. He also knows that Lila is in danger from the travellers’ commune she’s been living at. Something sinister has been going on there and Lila knows more than she realizes. But to find her he risks not only giving away his location to the gangs he’s in hiding from, but also becoming a target for whoever is hunting Lila.

☞Ware, Ruth. [The Death of Mrs. Westaway](#) (Harvill \$32). When Harriet Westaway receives an unexpected letter telling her she's inherited a substantial bequest from her Cornish grandmother, it seems like the answer to her prayers. She owes money to a loan shark and the threats are getting increasingly aggressive: she needs to get her hands on some cash fast. There's just one problem—Hal's real grandparents died more than twenty years ago. The letter has been sent to the wrong person. 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.... Already a big US bestseller.

GIFTS FOR DAD

My apologies that this section comes so late it isn't useful on Father's Day itself other than the Gift cards or picking a title up at the store. The only one not in stock yet is the McEnroe.

A **Poisoned Pen Gift Card** in any amount is our No. 1 Gift Idea for Father's Day. Can be mailed or emailed, so perfect for that last minute impulse.

July starts a new six month club membership cycle for all of our book clubs except The Mystery of the Month Club which is ongoing. **If you sign Dad up for a club July-December he'll get a \$25 gift card to spend at the end of December. Why not?** And enroll yourself, too! Email sales@poisonedpen.com to join a club. You are charged only when the monthly book pick ships.

☞Boyd, Damien. [Dead Lock](#) (\$15.95). Boyd's 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—you know where you are. The DI Nick Dixon written by a lawyer delivers. 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.](#)

Chabon, Michael. [Pops: Fatherhood in Pieces](#) (Harper \$19.99). Pulitzer-winning novelist Chabon brings together a deeply affecting collection of essays that scrutinize and celebrate the complexities of relationships between fathers and their children. Selections range from the quietly heartbreaking, as when Chabon describes the inadvertent hurt a father can impart on a child, to the hilarious, as he describes his son taking his idiosyncratic sense of style into the "heteronormative jaws of seventh grade." Avoiding an overly sentimental tone or rose-colored perspective, Chabon doesn't shy away from reflecting on parental failures as well as successes. In the particularly moving essay "Little Man," he regrets missing the signs one son sends as he struggles to create his own identity ("You are born into a family and those

are your people, and they know you and they love you, and if you are lucky, they even on occasion manage to understand you. And that ought to be enough. But it is never enough"). "Chabon is a gifted essayist whose narratives lead to unexpected and resonant conclusions. His work here packs an outsized emotional punch that will stick with readers significantly longer than it takes them to read this slim volume."—*PW* Starred Review

Kurson, Robert. [Rocket Men](#) (Random \$28). The author of our second bestselling nonfiction ever – [Shadow Divers](#) (\$18), a daring hunt for a sunken WWII sub – turns his attention upwards rather than down into the briny deep with "The Daring Odyssey of Apollo 8 and the Astronauts." Kurson's version of Wolfe's *The Right Stuff*. What is our bestselling nonfiction? Douglas Preston's [The Lost City of the Monkey God](#) (\$15.95), by 1000+. Who doesn't love adventure and treasure hunts?

McEnroe, John. [But Seriously](#) (\$17). An elder statesman of tennis, McEnroe has won over his critics as a brilliant commentator at the US Open, Wimbledon, and other Grand Slam tournaments – with outspoken views on the modern game, its top players, and the world of twenty-first-century sports and celebrity. Who are the game's winners and losers? What's it like playing guitar onstage with the Rolling Stones, hitting balls with today's greats. "Vintage McEnroe... He appears nostalgic and even reflective on some of his past behavior and comments, especially when it comes to issues with his family."—*Washington Post*

Preston, Douglas. [The Lost City of the Monkey God](#) (\$15.95). A five-hundred-year-old legend. An ancient curse. A stunning medical mystery. And a pioneering journey into the unknown heart of the world's densest jungle. What is better than to go on a treasure hunt that involves miserable conditions, dangerous animals and disease, and hostile terrain—from the comfort of one's armchair or hammock? This bestselling book, featured on many 2017 Best Lists, is just the ticket to adventure. I absolutely loved it! Dad will, too.

OR WHAT ABOUT THIS BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSIC?

Edwards, Martin, ed. [Blood on the Tracks](#) (\$12.95). What could be better for thinking summer travel than a collection of 15 railway-themed stories? **Or a good gift for Father's Day?** You can explore unfamiliar authors along with the landscapes. Trains have been a favourite setting of many crime writers, providing the mobile equivalent of the "locked-room" scenario. Their enclosed carriages with a limited number of suspects lend themselves to seemingly impossible crimes. In an era of cancellations and delays, alibis reliant upon a timely train service no longer ring true, yet the railway detective has enjoyed a resurgence of popularity in the twenty-first century. Both train buffs and crime fans will delight in this new BLCC. "This is the perfect volume for fans of short, high-quality, fair-play detective fiction." I'm delighted to see Ernest Bramah's blind detective Max Carrados at work as well as R Austin Freeman's noteworthy "first inverted detective story" where the reader knows everything and the detective nothing.

And other classics reissues:

Holding, James. [The Zanzibar Shirt Mystery and Other Stories](#) (Crippen & Landru \$19). The stories, now almost impossible to find, were published more than a half-century ago in *Ellery*

Queen's Mystery Magazine. And there was a reason why Ellery Queen (Frederic Dannay and Manfred Lee) liked the stories so much. The stories featured two writers, King Danforth and Martin Leroy – both of whom, including their detective, Leroy King, were based on Ellery Queen. And the stories are very Queenian, from their titles (“The Norwegian Apple Mystery,” “The Borneo Snapshot Mystery,” and so on) to their emphasis on fair-play cluing.

Rhode, John. [Invisible Weapons](#) (Collins \$12.99). The murder of old Mr. Fransham while washing his hands in his niece's cloakroom was one of the most astounding problems that ever confronted Scotland Yard. Not only was there a policeman in the house at the time, but there was an ugly wound in the victim's forehead and nothing in the locked room that could have inflicted it. The combined efforts of Superintendent Hanslet and Inspector Waghorn brought no answer and the case was dropped. It was only after another equally baffling murder had been committed that Dr Lancelot Priestley's orderly and imaginative deductions began to make the connections that would solve this extraordinary case.

OR CONSIDER AN AUDIO BOOK

Open a [Libro.fm](#) account with us for Dad—[click here](#) to get started

Libro.fm May Audio Book Bestsellers

1. *Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders
2. *Circe* by Madeline Miller
3. *Less* by Andrew Sean Greer
4. *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman
5. *Tangerine* by Christine Mangan
6. *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate
7. *The Female Persuasion* by Meg Wolitzer
8. *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi
9. *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah
10. *The Woman in the Window* by A.J. Finn

OUR JUNE LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

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. “Blauner has crafted two strong and complex leads in Natty and Lourdes and given readers an intricate plot that never feels forced.” 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 Cit.” Blauner returns September 5 with a new book, [Sunrise Highway](#) (\$27.99).

✚Bolton, Sharon. [Dead Woman Walking](#) (\$16.99; \$32 Signed UK Firsts). Just before dawn in the hills near the Scottish border, a man murders a young woman. At the same time, a hot-air balloon crashes out of the sky. There's just one survivor. She's seen the killer's face – but he's also seen hers. And he won't rest until he's eliminated the only witness to his crime. Alone, scared, trusting no one, she's running to where she feels safe – but what if it's the most dangerous place of all? This has a terrific opener and nail-biting plot. Bolton is one of my favorite rising stars in British crime

✚Boyd, Damien. [Dead Lock](#) (\$15.95). See Gifts for Dad above for a DI Nick Dixon that features Somerset canal boat life among its other pleasures. A solid procedural leading through a strong storyline is wonderfully relaxing as well as exciting.

Carbo, Christina. [Sharp Solitude](#) (\$16 Signed). While Glacier National Park remains the unifying element of this so-far 4 book series, the characters here are strong. The researcher with the damaging past pursues collecting bear scat for scientific purposes and prefers his solitude. FBI Agent Ali Page, mother of his child, has overcome childhood abuse in her NJ home to make a good life for herself and Emily in Montana. Is she willing to put it all, especially her career, at risk when Reeve Landon is accused of the murder of reporter Anne Marie Johnson? Yes, she is.... I recommend Carbo's series, another good one for Father's Day gifting. [Order all four](#).

Cash, Wiley. [The Last Ballad](#) (\$15.99). “A powerful book that speaks to contemporary concerns through historical injustice... Cash vividly blends the archival with the imaginative... With care and steadiness, (Cash) has pulled from the wreckage of the past a lost moment of Southern progressivism. Perhaps fiction can help us bear the burden of Southern history.”—*New York Times Book Review*. Don't miss Cash's earlier novels: [A Land More Kind Than Home](#); [This Dark Road to Mercy](#) (\$15.99 each).

Child, Lee. [The Midnight Line](#) (\$17). This thriller emphasizes various Reacher traits. After the end of a romance, Reacher's response is to get on a bus and ride it to wherever it is going where his curiosity and sense of righting wrongs will present a new quest (think the knights of old). He may have left the Army MPs—terminal at Major—but he's West Point and loyal to the core. So when he spots a WP class ring, a very small size so surely earned by a female, in the window of a pawn shop, his gut tells him the soldier who earned it would not easily have given it up. Was it voluntarily, or was she forced? And three, this investigation runs from Rapid City into Laramie and south and really is a Wyoming book. So if you are a CJ Box or a Craig Johnson fan and have never read Lee Child, this is the book to give him a try.

DeMille, Nelson. [The Cuban Affair](#) (\$17). “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? This is a lively reboot from DeMille—take it to the beach or the hammock.

✠Flanders, Judith. [A Cast of Vultures](#) (\$16.99). London book editor Samantha Clair agrees to help an elderly friend, Viv, locate a missing neighbor. They actually break into Dennis' flat, news Sam doesn't share with her live-in partner, DI Jake Field. Days later, Dennis' body is discovered in an abandoned building that caught fire and was home to a group of assorted squatters who are an asset to a gentrifying neighborhood. When the police write off Dennis as dealing drugs and random arson, Sam resolves to help Viv clear him despite Jake's discouragement. Meanwhile a shakeup at Sam's publishing house bodes ill: management consultants are calling books "product" and editors are pushed into placing publicity above quality." Flanders adroitly avoids chick-lit clichés, opting for nuanced, multidimensional characters, including Sam's high-powered attorney mother, Helena, and her reclusive upstairs neighbor, Mr. Rudiger, in her uniquely elegant and humorous mix. A delight. Grab the first two, [A Murder of Magpies](#) (\$16.99); [A Bed of Scorpions](#) (\$15.99), and the fourth, [A Howl of Wolves](#) (\$26.99) for more great British crime filled with sharp humor and lots of bookish moments.

Hogsett, Annie. [Murder to the Metal](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). Ten months ago Allie Harper—smart, feisty, too broke to get her car fixed—rescued Thomas Bennington III—a hot, blind, college professor—from a crosswalk in her dicey Cleveland neighborhood in [Too Lucky to Live](#) (\$15.95). When Allie saved Tom and his groceries from traffic, she unwittingly retrieved his winning \$550 million MondoMegaJackpot ticket. The payout steered the two of them into a wild dash from romance to mayhem and multiple murders. Now they've established the T&A Detective Agency to solve "mysteries of the heart" by using Tom's money, Otis's P.I. credentials, and Allie's moxie. And they have their first case. That's where the real trouble kicks in. Lloyd Bunker's obsession with avoiding stoplights has run him and his '67 Pontiac GTO off the road, maybe for keeps. As they race to figure out what's happened to Lloyd, T&A follows a lethal trail of escalating crimes ranging from scrapping to pushing opioids to multiple murders. It's no longer just about Lloyd. An assault on the T&A mansion's high-tech security system by a talented hacker signals the presence of a formidable adversary, one with big bucks and a ruthless plan to destroy the lucky couple.... Hogsett appears at our conference Sept. 2 and will sign both her books.

Joy, David. [The Weight of This World](#) (\$16). "Appalachia provides the evocative setting for this tale of a brutal world filled with violence and drugs from Edgar finalist Joy for 2016 First Mystery Club Pick [Where All Light Tends to Go](#) (\$16). After a tour in Afghanistan as a soldier, Thad Broom returns to North Carolina more damaged than when he left, unable to forgive or forget what he did there. With nowhere else to go, Thad settles in his dilapidated trailer down the mountain from his mother, April Trantham, who, he knows, has never loved him and is pursued by her own demons. Thad reestablishes an aimless life with his

best friend, Aiden McCall, who at age 12 saw his father shoot his mother dead. The two friends suddenly have a windfall of drugs and cash after witnessing the accidental death of their drug dealer. But neither Todd nor Aiden is capable of climbing out of his self-imposed rural prison. Lyrical prose, realistic dialogue, and a story that illuminates the humanity of each character make this a standout."—*PW* Starred Review

✠LeCarre, John. [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 muddied 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.

Ritter, Krysten. [Bonfire](#) (\$16). It has been ten years since Abby Williams left home and scrubbed away all visible evidence of her small-town roots. Now working as an environmental lawyer in Chicago, she has a thriving career, a modern apartment, and her pick of meaningless one-night stands. But when a new case takes her back home to Barrens, Indiana, the life Abby painstakingly created begins to crack. Tasked with investigating Optimal Plastics, the town's most high-profile company and economic heart, Abby begins to find strange connections to Barrens' biggest scandal from more than a decade ago, involving the popular Kaycee Mitchell and her closest friends—just before Kaycee disappeared for good. Abby knows the key to solving any case lies in the weak spots, the unanswered questions. But as she tries desperately to find out what really happened to Kaycee, troubling memories begin to resurface and she begins to doubt her own observations. A 2017 First Mystery Club Pick.

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.... Rosenfelt visits us in July with a new Andy Carpenter: [Rescued](#) (\$26.99).

Tallent, Gabriel. [My Absolute Darling](#) (\$16). The tale of Turtle, a teenage girl being raised by her unstable widower father in the Northern California wilderness, will draw you so intimately into the heart and mind of this troubled captive that you'll almost feel her anguish—emotional and physical—as your own... Tallent's

brehtaking debut is a harrowing and at times psychologically difficult journey on the scale of *A Little Life* or *The Goldfinch*, but it's worth it. The unflagging tenacity of this young heroine as she navigates her path to adulthood against seemingly insurmountable odds is a true inspiration." An excellent novel for fans of Karen Dionne's remarkable debut, [The Marsh King's Daughter](#) (\$16), set in the wilds of Michigan. We have 4 [Signed Firsts](#) left of this 2017 Modern Firsts Club Pick.

WHAT TO READ DURING DROUGHTLANDER

I call this book by Robb to your attention since The Debateable Land and its reivers and feuds form the backdrop to a favorite series of Diana and me. You can start with the first of 8 Sir Robert Careys and then grab the December release of the 9th, A Suspicion of Silver, for the holidays. Diana wrote the Introduction to Carey #4 and a long essay on her love for Carey for #8.

Chisholm, PF. [A Famine of Horses](#) (\$9.99). The first Sir Robert Carey, a real Elizabethan gentleman, a cousin of the Queen through his father, the son of Mary Boleyn and Henry VIII with some Cornish in him from his mother, who has won the Queen's warrant to a post in Carlisle on the edge of the border. He's in love with Lady Elizabeth Widdrington, who is married and miserable. Read it and then revel in the rest and you will see why it's just the ticket while you wait for *Outlander 9* in 2019. [Order them here](#).

Robb, Graham. [The Debateable Land](#) (Norton, \$27.95). Robb's relocation to the singular "Debateable Land" on the border of present-day England and Scotland inspired this combination bicycle travelogue, regional history, and declaration of admiration. Covering 33,000 acres on either side of the Scottish-English border, this uninhabited middle ground originally, in ancient times, served as communal ("bateable") livestock pastures, Robb explains, preserving a historically delicate balance in a region where family loyalty rules and accents vary significantly over a few miles. Later, a core group of families, like the Armstrongs and Nixons, made up the "reivers," who made their living stealing livestock and household goods, leaving burned houses in their wake and introducing the words "blackmail" and "bereaved" into English. "Focusing on this one remarkable region, Robb's two-wheeled perspective and highly observant eye allow him to ruminate through the Celtic, medieval, and present eras with ease; readers are lucky to join him on his enthralling journey."

SOME SUMMER READS

Blundell, Judy. [The High Season](#) (Random \$27). The Indie Next Pick for a summer read: "What would you do to keep your home by the sea on Long Island? Maybe rent it out for the summer in order to get some cash to pay the bills? But what if the person who rents the house this summer is out to get more than the house? Ruthie's about to find out what she's capable of when the rich and famous Adeline Clay takes over her nest. The parties, invited guests, and nasty business keep building, until, finally, Ruthie reaches the end of her patience and there's only one thing left to do. You'll be glad you decided to go along on this ride!"

Hilderbrand, Elin. [The Perfect Couple](#) (Little Brown \$28). We're on Nantucket where yet another fictional police chief is awakened by a call to the Summerland estate where the island's

gold-star wedding planner has arrived at dawn to check preparations for the ceremony later in the day and found the maid of honor drowned in the Atlantic. The bride is hysterical and has to be sedated. The best man, curiously neither of the groom's two brothers, is missing. The groom's mother, a mystery novelist married to a wealthy Brit, is in complete control of the wedding and the bride's mother is dying of Stage 4 cancer and prays to make it through the three-day weekend. And the groom's father is under suspicion of philandering by his wife. That's the set up and various narrative voices give us both back story and drive the day forward. This is not a conventional mystery although there is definitely a young woman dead in suspicious circumstances nor is it filled with unreliable narrators. Yay.

Honeyman, Gail. [Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine](#) (Penguin \$16). "Here's to quirky lead characters! From movies to TV to, especially, books, these outside-of-the-norm people help us recognize our own difficulties dealing with life's challenges. "After living in self-imposed seclusion, Eleanor Oliphant meets her company's IT guy. Together they help a man who has fallen, and from there the three find friendship and a way out of their lonely lives. "What I like most about quirky characters is that they help show the need for connection we all share.

Kepnes, Caroline. [Providence](#) (Random \$27). I haven't read this novel which has had reactions all over the place. Charles Finch reviews it for the [NY Times](#) along with 5 other thrillers. Here's his take: "A veteran TV writer, in her new novel, Kepnes takes a huge swing, aiming to create the kind of star-crossed, decade-hopping, supernatural crime romance that bursts at all the right seams. Its beginning is both terrifically conceived and executed. Jon and Chloe are neighbors who shouldn't really be friends — he's a quiet misfit, she's the opposite — but have an intuitive connection. They meet in a shed in the woods, bonding over the show 'The Middle' and the band Hippo Campus. (I had to look up if they're real. They are.) Then, one day, Jon gets kidnapped. Chloe's the last person to give up hope, and finally, after years, he suddenly reappears — handsome, strong, without any memories, and briefly a media sensation, the boy who lived. Their bond is as strong as it's always been, but when weird things start to happen around him, he makes himself leave her behind. 'Does he know he's making me crazy?' Chloe wonders. "Does he know I go to sleep with makeup on in case he shows up?" Just when we're maximally invested in them, though, *Providence* loses its momentum. I've rarely been more excited to pick up a book again than I was after 30 pages of it, or more reluctant after 300. It's a technical problem: Nothing happens." I recommend reading Finch on Burton's *Social Creatures* as well.

Pierce, Tamora. [Tempests and Slaughter](#) (Random \$18.99). The Indie Next Pick for a summer Teen read: "This is the first book I've read by Tamora Pierce, and I now understand why she is referred to as a master of fantasy writing! *Tempests and Slaughter* tells the story of Arram Draper, a young boy with the potential to become one of the world's most powerful mages. With the support of his three friends—a «leftover» prince, a clever girl, and an extremely sassy bird—Arram faces the challenges and adventures of student life at one of the most well-renowned universities for young mages. This fun and magical world Pierce has created was such a pleasure to experience!» Book One in the Numair Chronicles.

White, Karen. [Dreams of Falling](#) (Penguin \$26). “Set in the Lowcountry of South Carolina, this story does what Southern fiction does best: family, lies, and secrets. For fans of Patti Callahan Henry and Mary Alice Monroe.”

MORE NEW BOOKS FOR JUNE

There is a huge number of large paperbacks published in June with the idea of providing summer reading—beach, hammock, travel, whatever. You can search for books not included here in [New by Category](#) in Trade Paperbacks

Ballinger, Bill S. [Portrait in Smoke/The Longest Second](#) (Stark House \$19.95). A classic noir rerelease by a publisher that specializes in them. “An extraordinary book... a fascinating, eerie experience in irresistible, non-stop reading.”—Anthony Boucher, *NY Times*. New introduction by Nicholas Litchfield. Pair it with Henry Kane’s [Frenzy of Evil](#) (\$9.99) Black Gat #15, a twisted tale of male menopausal murder when a sadistic lawyer decides to get rid of his young wife’s new lover. “Kane has an unnerving hyper-real way of writing dialogue ... reminded me of David Mamet’s terse, realistic dialogue in his early plays.”

Brown, Dale. [The Moscow Offensive](#) (Harper \$28.99). “An off-the-books mercenary unit is the world’s best bet against unchecked Russian aggression. Brown returns with the ongoing saga of legendary American pilot Patrick McLanahan, who is now more machine than man and employed, along with his fighter pilot son, Brad, by former American president Kevin Martindale’s private security force, Scion. It’s set in the not-too-distant future of 2020, when the American president, Stacy Anne Barbeau, described as “astonishingly petty and willfully blind,” fails to recognize a looming Russian threat. As a consequence, the responsibility of saving the free world rests on the shoulders of Martindale’s private army, working in partnership with the recently established Alliance of Free Nations in Eastern Europe. In particular, Scion’s Iron Wolf Squadron of human piloted robots, known as Cybernetic Infantry Devices, has the capability to hinder any possible moves by Russia. But.... A fun read that really shines with the author’s convincing knowledge of military aircraft.”—*Kirkus Reviews*. In it’s high tech way this is good prep for Daniel Silva’s [The Other Woman](#) (\$28.99) signed here July 21.

Burton, Tara Isabella. [Social Creature](#) (Doubleday \$26.95). I’m quoting two favorable reviews for a book not for me. “Fans of the cult classic *Poison Ivy* will appreciate the mousy girl–wild girl dynamic on display in Burton’s fiendishly clever debut. At 29, insecure Louise Wilson is a would-be writer living in fear of the dictum, “if you haven’t made it in New York by 30, you never will.” All that changes when she meets 23-year-old socialite Lavinia Williams, who seems to be channeling the free spirit of the late Zelda Fitzgerald (with flapper dresses to match). Larger-than-life Lavinia takes Louise under her wing and introduces her new bestie to a Manhattan she never knew existed, including parties in haunted hotels and secret bookstores and people with names like Beowulf Marmont and Athena Maidenhead, all the while dressing as if for a costume ball that never ends. Only later does Louise experience the hateful, spiteful, jealous side of Lavinia’s personality in what becomes an ingenious dark thriller in the Patricia Highsmith Tom Ripley mode. Louise and Lavinia are bold, brilliant characters. This devious, satisfying novel perfectly captures a very narrow slice of the Manhattan demimonde.” The *NY*

Times writes: “a diabolical debut...a wicked original with echoes of the greats (Patricia Highsmith, Gillian Flynn). Burton knows her way around good, evil and the eternally reader-friendly realm in between.”

Butler, JL. [Mine](#) (Harper \$26.99). An engrossing British legal/psychological thriller with a bipolar narrator. Barrister Francine Day, who can’t get up the gumption to claim a position as Queen’s Counsel, does big divorces well. And she’s doing well until she falls unwisely into lust with a client. But is Martin still involved with Donna, the wife who wants to take all? Unwisely following Martin and Donna to the family home, Francine can’t recall what happened thereafter the next day...but Donna is missing. Is Martin a murderer? And what was her own role? While the characters may not be fully convincing, the plot clicks along through London’s dark side and the glamour isn’t tarnished. Francine may not be reliable as a narrator but the story doesn’t hinge on that. I enjoyed it.

Celt, Adrienne. [Invitation to a Bonfire](#) (Berkley \$26). The Indie Next Pick finds this to be “a propulsive literary thriller masterfully constructed and written with an extraordinary, raw urgency that will leave readers breathless. Inspired by the marriage of Vladimir and Vera Nabokov, Celt explores the love and ambition of two strong-willed women who compete for the passions and artistic control of a literary icon. The novel’s characters are original and vividly drawn, with all the complexity and contradictions of their emotions and intensions fully realized. This is a story that you will not be able to put down, and certainly one of the most memorable and satisfying reads of the year. Adrienne Celt is a writer to watch.” I add that we will host two authors, one August 23 and one September 27, who have written a novel (Greenwood) and a true crime (Weinman) about a kidnapping that inspired Nabokov’s *Lolita*. So in a way 2018 is his year.

Clinton, Bill/James Patterson. [The President Is Missing](#) (Little Brown \$30). It’s hard to imagine any of you have missed the massive PR for this book, or that surrounding Clinton’s interrogation by the media while on book tour in this #MeToo age. Anyway.... President Jonathan Lincoln Duncan is under fire from the House Select Committee for allegedly ordering a team of Special Forces and CIA operatives to Algeria to thwart an attempt on the life of Turkish-born terrorist Suliman Cindoruk, leader of the Sons of Jihad. Hostile committee members repeatedly ask him questions about the raid that he refuses to answer. But Duncan’s concerns about the out-come of congressional hearings into his actions are secondary to his fears that a computer virus is about to be activated that would completely cripple the United States. In order to avert that calamity, Duncan leaves the White House and his protective detail behind and attempts to gain the confidence of the shadowy figures who revealed the existence of the threat. “The authors keep the suspense high as Duncan dodges bullets from a master assassin, deals with his deteriorating health from a blood clotting disorder, and strives to unmask a traitor among his inner circle of advisers. For fans of the TV series *24* and the movie *Air Force One*.”

Connolly, Sheila. [Murder at the Mansion](#) (St Martins \$24.99). A Maryland businesswoman is caught up in a Victorian mystery. It begins when Katherine Hamilton’s high school bestie, Lisbeth, arrives in Baltimore to ask for her help in saving their hometown of Asheboro from extinction. The local infrastructure has been

damaged in a storm, and there's been no money for repairs ever since the town bought the Barton Mansion, a Victorian house built by a Civil War veteran whose factory long supported the local economy. Kate develops a plan to turn Asheboro into a living history site like Old Sturbridge Village, using the stunning Barton place as a centerpiece. Things get both better and worse when Cordelia is found dead on the steps of the mansion. Cleared by the police, Kate decides to do a little sleuthing in this start of a cozy series that blends some history and romance into a light plot.

Crais, Robert. [Wanted](#) (\$16). When single-mother Devon Connor hires private investigator Elvis Cole, it's because her troubled teenage son Tyson is flashing cash and she's afraid he's dealing drugs. But the truth is devastatingly different. With two other partners in crime, he's been responsible for a string of high-end burglaries, a crime spree that takes a deadly turn when one of them is murdered and Tyson and his girlfriend disappear. They stole the wrong thing from the wrong man. Determined to get it back, he has hired a team that is smart and brutal, and to even the odds, Cole calls in his friend Joe Pike. But even they may be overmatched!

Donlea, Charlie. [Don't Believe it](#) (Kensington \$26). Here's a double spin on Trust No One where in the end the reader knows more than the characters but the author leaves you believing the gap will close. The question is did Grace Sebold murder her boyfriend while on spring break in St Lucia, or did shoddy police work land her in an island jail? A reporter, Sidney Ryan, gets a desperate appeal from Grace ten years on and sets out to do a documentary that opens things up and leads to the case being reopened. Sensational developments follow and Sidney begins to wonder if she's in a genuine innocence project, or is she being played?

Dybek, Nick. [The Verdun Affair](#) (Scribner \$27). This cleverly constructed page-turner travels back and forth in time between a European continent devastated by World War I and 1950s Hollywood. Tom Combs is an American ambulance driver who stays on in the war's aftermath to work for a priest, collecting the bones of dead soldiers from the battlefields of Verdun. He falls in love with Sarah Hagen, a fellow American, but she has come to France looking for news of her "missing, believed dead" husband. Sarah goes off in search of information, and Tom takes a job as a journalist in Paris. They meet again in Bologna in 1922, when a soldier creates a sensation after showing up in a hospital there with no recollection of who he is. Sarah believes the mysterious soldier is her husband, though others have reason to believe otherwise. Years later, Tom, working in Hollywood, comes across Paul, a fellow journalist from those heady days in Italy, and, reliving their unresolved past, they discover each entertains a different version of the truth. Dybek is a master at creating an atmosphere of war, of decadence amid the rubble, and at dipping in and out of history, teasing the reader with beguiling clues concerning the secrets each character harbors about the amnesiac. Dybek's novel is a complex tale of memory, choice, and the sacrifices one sometimes makes by doing the right thing.

✦Dyer, Ashley. [A Splinter in the Blood](#) (Harper \$26.99). DS Ruth Lake holds the gun that just shot her partner, DCI Greg Carver, who's been pursuing the Thorn Killer. Greg is slumped on the sitting room floor of his Liverpool house and, amazingly, alive. Before calling in the shooting, Ruth wipes all surfaces she

touched and stashes in her car the box of evidence on the Thorn Killer, who has been terrorizing the city using poison-drenched thorns to kill his victims. When Greg wakes up in the hospital, he can't remember anything that happened on the day he was shot, but he's sure that his shooting is a warning not to get too close to the killer. While Greg recuperates in the hospital, Ruth, a former crime scene investigator, clandestinely pursues the Thorn Killer. But Ruth is harboring a dark secret that she'll do almost anything to keep hidden. The skillfully constructed plot complements the intriguing characters, including a deliciously creepy killer who lurks in the background.

Egan, Jennifer. [Manhattan Beach](#) (\$17). Set in Brooklyn in the 1940s, the novel tells the story of Anna Kerrigan, a young woman who has dropped out of Brooklyn College to contribute what she can to the American war effort. Unsatisfied with her job of inspecting and measuring machine parts, she attempts to enter the male-only world of deep-sea diving. *Manhattan Beach* is rich and atmospheric, highlighting a period when gangs controlled the waterfront while jazz streamed.

Flynn, Gillian. [Sharp Objects](#) (\$16). With the movie coming, a reissue of Flynn's first (and IMHO best) thriller, one where the woman copes with past trauma by cutting. It was a 2006 First Mystery Club Pick.

Follett, Ken. [The Modigliani Scandal](#); [Paper Money](#); [Triple](#) (Penguin \$16 each). Reissues of earlier work by Follett.

✦Francis, Felix. [Pulse](#) (\$16). Dr. Christine Rankin suffers from panic attacks and an eating disorder. Her troubles mount with the death of a patient under her care, an unidentified middle-aged man who was found unconscious in a Cheltenham Racecourse restroom and later died while she was attending to an accident victim. After a complaint is filed against Rankin, she's suspended from work, and suicidal thoughts lead to her confinement in a psychiatric institution. After she's released and finds work as a doctor at the Cheltenham Racing Festival, she eagerly finds out more about the dead man's identity and the circumstances of his death. Rankin's obsession grows after she learns that an injured jockey she's treating lies to her about recognizing the dead man. In Rankin's case reckless behavior is rewarded, a trademark of the original Francis series.

Gardner, Lisa. [Right Behind You](#) (\$16). Gardner's 7th FBI Profiler thriller transitions from small to large paperback.

✦Gentill, Sulari. [Gentlemen Formerly Dressed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 or \$15.95). *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 Sinclair, 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..." *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**: "This book has it all: intrigue among the British aristocracy, the Nazi threat and a dashing Australian hero. I didn't want it to end!" says Rhys. It's way much fun to spend time with these people.

✎Goldberg, Leonard. [A Study in Treason](#) (St Martins \$26.99). On the eve of WWI, Sir Harold Whitlock, First Sea Lord, asks Joanna Blalock, whom we now know is the daughter of Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler, for help in finding a sensitive document that has disappeared from a locked room on the foreign secretary's estate. The police suspect the butler's son and the German-born groundskeeper of colluding to sell the document to the Germans, but a careful examination of the clues leads Joanna to conclude otherwise. In Goldberg's telling, Holmes died in 1903, and Joanna is married to John Watson Jr., M.D., the son of Holmes's original sidekick, Dr. Watson, who's still around to point out the similarities between Joanna and her late detective father. I liked Joanna's debut in [The Daughter of Sherlock Holmes](#) (\$16) better, but another reviewer says, "Avid Sherlockians will be delighted by the many echoes of the original Holmes canon, from the dog who did not bark to Joanna's unlikely disguises and knack for martial arts." Start with *The Daughter* and go from there.

Grisham, John. [The Rooster Bar](#) (\$17). Mark, Todd, and Zola came to law school to change the world, to make it a better place. But now, as third-year students, these close friends realize they have been duped. They all borrowed heavily to attend a third-tier, for-profit law school so mediocre that its graduates rarely pass the bar exam, let alone get good jobs. And when they learn that their school is one of a chain owned by a shady New York hedge-fund operator who also happens to own a bank specializing in student loans, the three know they have been caught up in The Great Law School Scam.

Groff, Lauren. [Florida](#) (Riverhead \$27). The Indie Next Pick: "After wowing readers (former President Barack Obama included) with 2015's *Fates and Furies*, Lauren Groff returns with a collection of stories just as wise and meticulously constructed. Within the sun-kissed, palmetto-strewn swampland of Groff's Florida, we encounter a pair of abandoned sisters, anxious mothers, and a woman being pushed to the edge. Looking inward and out, Groff examines the lives of her characters with a surveyor's eye, capturing the sense of dread and desire that pervades their existence. Florida is an exploration of time and place, both sensual and terrifying, and seems to me both timely and timeless."

Hannah, Sophie. [Keep Her Safe](#) (\$15.99). A standalone suspense set here in Phoenix with a killer premise. He's the most famous murder victim in America. What if she's not dead? Pushed to the breaking point, Cara Burrows flees her home and family and escapes to a five-star spa resort [Sanctuary, or The Phoenician?] she can't afford. Late at night, exhausted and desperate, she lets herself into her hotel room and is shocked to find it already

occupied—by a man and a teenage girl. A simple mistake at the front desk . . . but soon Cara realizes that the girl she saw alive and well in the hotel room is someone she couldn't possibly have seen: the most famous murder victim in the country, Melody Chapa, whose parents are serving natural-life sentences for her murder. Cara doesn't know what to trust: everything she's read and heard about the case or the evidence she saw with her own eyes. Did she really see Melody?

Haohui, Zhou. [Death Notice](#) (Doubleday \$26.95). A blockbuster cat-and-mouse game thriller from China sucks you right in. It begins with a respected Chengdu police officer photographing computerists in internet cafes. He is soon brutally murdered, sending shock waves through the modern Sichuan metropolis, and its police department. The dead Sergeant Zheng proved to be linked to an 18-year-old double murder of two young police academy members. One Captain Pei from the Longzhou PD shows up at Zheng's murder scene, revealing he too was linked to the older crime, losing his best friend and also his lover in the bomb blast. The orchestrator of all this calls himself Eumenides after the Greek goddess of retribution and he sets up the complicated scenario that rapidly unfolds, using death notices in elegant calligraphy to taunt the cops. Han, the leader of the reformed task force 4/18 that failed to solve the 18-year-old crime, takes it all as a personal challenge. One twist follows another and it ends with the revelation that . . . no, not telling you. This is a challenging, rapid read, and recommended.

✎Harris, Sarah J. [The Color of Bee Larkham's Murder](#) (Touchstone \$26). T. Jefferson Parker among others has written about synesthesia, a medical condition that paints sounds in a kaleidoscope of colors that no one else can see. In its way it can be as isolating as autism. Harris "gifts" this to 13-year-old Jasper Wishart to pen a debut inevitably compared to Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*. It takes skill and perseverance to narrate a book in the voice of such a teenager without breaking stride. So here is Jasper, on a Friday, when he discovered a new color – the color of murder. Isolated in his Technicolor world, Jasper, who lives alone with his disinterested father and suffers from learning disabilities, spends much of his time gazing out his window at an oak tree filled with parakeets. The parakeet-occupied tree across the street belongs to Bee Larkham, a new girl who has been causing trouble in the neighborhood by playing her music too loudly and feeding the noisy birds. Jasper's synesthesia hampers his ability to recognize people's faces, and when Bee suddenly disappears, Jasper, who keeps seeing the "ice blue crystals" of murder, must paint the events leading up to that night to get things straight and solve the mystery. The mystery itself is not hard to solve, nothing original, and I think the book goes on too long, but I recommend spending time with Jasper in his world as a way to see your own more clearly. The bird stuff is fascinating, too.

Hartsuyker, Lin. [The Half Drowned King](#) (\$15.99). Bad me. I missed the hardcover of this. Apologies. But here you go: Inspired by the Icelandic sagas, this action-packed first volume in a planned trilogy will transport you to Viking Norway, where Ragnvald battles his treacherous stepfather in order to claim his true birthright after his father's death. Meanwhile, Ragnvald's sister Svanhild seeks a marriage that will give her the freedom she craves despite the era's restrictive social roles for women. An adventurous summer read, in which vivid historical detail meets

a fast-moving plot bringing an era roaring to life. “Hartsuyker is fearless as she navigates a harsh, exacting and hair-raising world, with icy fjords and raiding seasons and ancient blood feuds. But the book’s fiercest magic shines in the characters of Ragnvald and Svanhild, as unforgettable a brother and sister duo as I can remember in recent literature...”—Paula McLain

Hasburgh, Patrick. [Pirata](#) (Harper \$15.99). “Compellingly written... Surfing and crime have come together before, most notably in Kem Nunn’s cult classic *Tapping the Source* and in Don Winslow’s *The Dawn Patrol*, but Hasburgh ups the ante.”—*Booklist*. The American ex-pat is living and surfing in Mexico when he witnesses a murder. His surf-bum narrator is a new classic—think of Philip Marlowe, on a longboard.” —Carl Hiaasen

Henaff, Sophie. [The Awkward Squad](#) (Putnam \$26.99) Misfits in the Paris police are assigned to a cold case squad and work a lulu. I’m a fan of TV’s *New Tricks* which worked off a somewhat similar premise. The fun is in assembling the team, learning who Commissaire Anne Capestan is (she’s been on suspension for six months for “firing one bullet too many and returns to duty not busted in rank but given this odd assignment) as well as the histories of the other team members. You have to read to the end to appreciate the full workings of the plot and you can have fun on the way.

Hornsby, Wendy. [Number 7, Rue Jacob](#) (\$15.95) Investigative film maker Maggie MacGowen inherits a Left Bank apartment as well as a predator. She expected a romantic reunion with her fiancé, Jean-Paul Bernard, but what she gets is a phone call that sets off a shared and nightmarish odyssey across Europe, dodging every kind of surveillance device deployed to stalk them. I enjoy this series and especially its recent relocation to France.

Hill, Joe. [Strange Weather](#) (\$16.99). A collection of four chilling novels, ingeniously wrought gems of terror from the son of horrormeister Stephen King.

✎Horowitz, Anthony. [The Word Is Murder](#) (Harper \$27.99). “This spectacular series launch from bestseller Horowitz a scrupulously fair whodunit, features a fictionalized version of himself. The author’s doppelgänger—who, like his creator, has written a Sherlock Holmes pastiche, [The House of Silk](#) (\$15), and a Tintin movie script for Steven Spielberg—is approached by Daniel Hawthorne, a former detective inspector who once consulted on one of his TV series. Hawthorne wants Horowitz to turn his ‘real-life’ cases into books, and eventually gets him to agree. Their first joint investigative venture concerns the strangulation of Diana Cowper in her London home, mere hours after she visited a funeral parlor and made detailed arrangements for her own funeral. An interrupted text Diana sent to her son shortly before her death leads the duo to look into a long-ago hit-and-run tragedy that claimed one twin child’s life and seriously injured the other. Deduction and wit are well-balanced, and fans of Peter Lovesey and other modern channelers of the spirit of the golden age of detection will be delighted.” Horowitz is a truly busy author, so imaginative.

Jennings, Luke. [Codename Villanelle](#) (LittleBrown \$25). Two women—one an intelligence operative, the other an assassin—engage in a deadly international game of cat-and-mouse. Three years ago, Oxana Vorontsova ceased to exist. That’s when the young Russian woman with that name was plucked from prison and turned into one of the world’s most notorious assassins, code

name Villanelle. She already had the requisite experience—she’d killed three men to avenge the murder of her father, a battle instructor who had trained her well. It helps that she’s unable to feel human emotions, like guilt and repulsion and love, but can fake them well. She’s not only drop-dead gorgeous but whip-smart, too. On her tail is another brainy woman. Former MI-5 officer Eve Polastri is recruited by the Secret Intelligence Service to head up an effort to track down and capture Villanelle. As the hunt intensifies, Eve becomes obsessed with her prey, putting strain on her marriage and her husband’s desire for them to have a baby. The closer Eve gets to Villanelle, the more she risks losing everything she cares about. Jennings’s book is the basis for the BBC hit *Killing Eve*.

Jeong, You-Jeon. [The Good Son](#) (Penguin \$16). Here’s a nail-biter portraying a psychopath. “The smell of blood woke me.” So says Han Yu-jin, a would-be law student with a history of seizures who lives in Incheon, at the start of South Korean author Jeong’s superlative thriller, her first to be translated into English. After he regains consciousness, Yu-jin follows an increasingly ominous trail of bloody handprints and footprints to the kitchen, where he finds his mother’s body. Her throat has been slit and her hands posed, clasped, on her chest. All Yu-jin can recall about the previous night is that he went out for a run around midnight in the rain to relieve his restlessness and saw a girl get off a bus. Did he kill his mother? His desperate efforts to sort out exactly what happened are intensified when his stepbrother and his aunt call to ask after his mother. Readers who enjoy grappling with the issue of a narrator’s reliability will relish Yu-jin, who believes that “being true to life wasn’t the only way to tell a story.” I’m a fan of Martin Limon’s superb 1970s Korea crime novels and recommend *The Good Son* to his readers and those of James Church also (sadly Church hasn’t written a new one in some time).

Kamal, Sheena. [The Lost Ones](#) (\$15.99). This top-notch thriller, a 2017 First Mystery Club Pick, features a fascinating main character; a wounded, tough as nails, biracial and scarred street survivor called Nora Watts. A woman who gave up her newborn for adoption 15 years ago as best for mom and child. And now comes a call from the child’s adopted family—Bonnie is missing and Nora is their best hope of finding her thanks to her freakish ability to detect truth from lies. The cops have labeled Bonnie a chronic runaway into the streets of Vancouver, but Nora can’t help herself in rejecting the runaway scenario. And so we move to a truly surprise ending! And did I mention Whisper, the dog to match Nora? “Nora out-Salanders Lisbeth Salander. The atmospheric PNW setting is suitably dark, wet and creepy. The villains are memorably villainous. This novel is fresh and compelling.” Recommended by Lee Child and by me.

✎Kasasian, MRC. [The Secrets of Gaslight Lane](#) (\$15.95). London, 1883. All is quiet at 125 Gower Street. Private detective Sidney Grice is studying up on the anatomical structure of human hair whilst his ward, March Middleton, sneaks upstairs for her eighth secret cigarette of the day. The household is, perhaps, too quiet. So, when a beautiful young woman turns up at the door, imploring London’s foremost private detective to solve the mystery of her father’s murder, Grice can barely disguise his glee. Mr. Nathan Garstang was found slaughtered in his bed, but there is no trace of a weapon or intruder. A classic locked-room case. But what piques Grice’s interest is the crime’s link to one of London’s most notorious unsolved murders. Ten years ago, Nathan’s

uncle aunt and servants were murdered in their sleep in the very same house. Is the Garstang murderer back? I liked the first of the Gower Street Detectives series a lot, books two and three not so much. [See them here](#). This is the 4th and I will read it.

Khan, Vaseem. [Murder at the Grand Raj Palace](#) (Orbit \$15.99). In our **June Cozy Crime Club Pick** PI Ashwin Chopra and his elephant sidekick go undercover to investigate a murder at Mumbai's grandest hotel. For a century the iconic Grand Raj Palace Hotel has welcomed the world's elite. From film stars to foreign dignitaries, anyone who is any one stays at the Grand Raj. In Khan's outstanding fourth mystery, a friend on the force, Rohan Tripathi, asks Chopra to look into the death of American billionaire Hollis Burbank, who was found in his room at the opulent Grand Raj Palace hotel. Burbank was stabbed through the chest by a knife bearing only his fingerprints. Shortly before his demise, the tycoon bid \$10 million to win a painting at auction, making suicide unlikely. Chopra is fired as a police consultant by a rival of Tripathi's invested in the suicide explanation, but he's back in the game after Lisa Taylor, an attractive employee of the auction house who stood to get a hefty commission had the transaction been finalized, hires him to continue. Khan's depiction of Chopra's marriage to Poppy, a restaurateur who has her own mystery to solve involving a vanished bride, adds emotional depth to the often funny plot. For fans of Alexander McCall Smith and Tarquin Hall. Why not order the whole [Baby Ganesh Agency Investigation](#) series?

Kies, Thomas. [Darkness Lane](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 or \$15.95) is the sequel to [Random Road](#) (\$15.95), the May 2017 *Library Journal* Debut Mystery of the Month. And now, having survived that bloody case and personal tragedy, Geneva's story still includes alcoholism and career challenges compounded by the rocky finances of her newspaper employer. But she's working. She's fighting the urge to reconnect with a magnetic yet married lover. And she's raising a rebellious young lady who is not her daughter but a cherished legacy. Nevertheless the newshound in Geneva spurs her to bad if not downright dangerous choices as two unrelated crimes unexpectedly collide. A fifteen-year-old-girl at her ward's high school has vanished along with her English teacher. Is this same-old, same-old, or something more? And then there's the abused woman who torched her sadistic husband, and how to keep her out of the clutches of powerful mobsters—and thus, out of the news. Out on the crime beat, Geneva works to unravel the connection, if any, between these two disparate stories while her newspaper is put up for sale, a high-flying Hollywood production lights up the town, and her personal battles accelerate. Jarring twists and turns include charming movie stars, treacherous diamond merchants, adultery, sex traffickers, and murder. While the clock ticks and Geneva works desperately to find the missing student, she comes to the horrible realization that she's in over her head. Kies will sign this September 2 at our Conference, but it publishes in June.

Knecht, Rosalie. [Who is Vera Kelly?](#) (Tin House \$15.95). The Indie Next Pick: "Find out in this twisty, turny spy thriller set in 1960s Argentina as Vera, working for the CIA, becomes stuck in the country during a hostile takeover. Through flashbacks, we learn about Vera's past and the forces that worked together to create this devilishly smart, very sexy woman. The book reads like the love child of John le Carré and Rita Mae Brown. I loved Vera immensely, even more so as the plot progressed and the threats

became deadlier. What a fun read and what a terrific character! I can't wait for the next installment." Charles Finch, reviewing adds, "Knecht is the real deal. She writes beautifully — Vera, marooned in her quiet fears, watches the dawn over Buenos Aires alone, 'the trees undulating softly, the birds muted and confused' — and lets us grasp in our own time that the C.I.A. will fail its charge as surely as the youth center did. Who is Vera Kelly? Nobody's business, really. This is a cool, strolling boulevardier of a book, worldly, wry, never rushed but never slow, which casts its gaze upon the middle of the last century and forces us to consider how it might be failing us still." Doesn't that make you want to read it? It does me.

Kubica, Mary. [Every Last Lie](#) (\$15.99). As Clara Solberg mourns the loss of her husband in a car crash from which four-year-old daughter Maisie miraculously escaped unharmed, Maisie starts having night terrors suggesting that this crash was no accident. Told in the alternating perspectives of Clara's investigation and Nick's last months leading up to the crash.

Lagercrantz, David. [The Girl Who Takes an Eye for an Eye](#) (\$16.95). The ink embedded in her skin is a constant reminder of Lisbeth Salander's pledge to fight against the injustice she finds on every side. Confinement to the secure unit of a women's prison is intended as a punishment. Instead, Lisbeth finds herself in relative safety. Flodberga is a failing prison, effectively controlled by the inmates, and for a computer hacker of her exceptional gifts there are no boundaries. Mikael Blomkvist makes the long trip to visit every week, and receives a lead to follow for his pains, one that could provide an important expose for Millennium: Salander tells him to check out Leo Mannheim, a seemingly reputable stockbroker from Stockholm, somehow connected to the long-ago death of a child psychologist—and to the psychiatric unit where Lisbeth was an involuntary patient as a child. Lisbeth knows she is coming closer to solving the mysteries of her early life; and even within the confines of the prison, she feels the deadly influence exerted by her twin sister. And the manipulations of criminals outside the prison walls....

Lapena, Shari. [A Stranger in the House](#) (\$16). The cops can't figure out what upstate New York housewife and bookkeeper Karen Krupp was doing in the sketchiest part of town before running a red light and smashing her Honda Civic headfirst into a utility pole—and neither can Karen, who comes to in the hospital with no memory of that night beyond an underlying feeling of dread. But with the discovery of a murdered man just blocks from the scene, bells start to sound for detectives Rasbach and Jennings, setting in motion an investigation that quickly threatens to expose some unsavory secrets beneath the cozy suburban life Karen and her husband of two years, Tom, have constructed for themselves—not to mention the downright creepy activities of the couple's intrusive neighbor, Brigid, who's Karen's putative best friend. The plot is twisty but the characters are really just "well to do suburbanites behaving badly."

LeBor, Adam. [District VIII](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). I'm headed for Hungary in September with family and Laurie R King so naturally this strong review caught my eye to make our **June Discovery Club Pick**. "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. The premise and the intelligent character construction make this a welcome addition to crime novels about honest, if flawed, cops who fight to expose the truth despite working under corrupt regimes." I think of it as an interesting update to Martin Cruz Smith's [Canto for a Gypsy](#) (\$16).

MacKay, Malcolm. [For Those Who Know the Ending](#) (Mulholland \$26). I like this *NY Times* review: "Martin Sivok ('31, short, stocky and standing in a foreign country') realizes that the criminal contacts he made back in the Czech Republic aren't such big shots here. Unfortunately, the English he acquired watching American TV won't advance his current aspirations, and he's reduced to performing menial jobs for "an absurdly hairy Polish guy" with a better command of the Queen's own English. Mackay himself is a prose master who seems to take real pleasure in assigning a street-smart Pakistani named Usman Kassar to teach Martin the local lingo. It's even more fun watching cocky Usman struggling to pronounce a name like Przemek Krawczyk."

Mah, Ann. [The Lost Vintage](#) (Harper \$26.99). I enjoyed this trip through Burgundy, family secrets, and fine wines. Kate, in quest of passing the Master of Wine Examinations but oddly failing at the gate, returns to her family's ancestral vineyard in Burgundy and unexpectedly uncovers a lost diary, an unknown relative, and a secret her family has been keeping since World War II. The Indie Next Pick for a novel that helps celebrate our week we're calling Paris.Con: "Mah brings her delightful writing in this tale of a sommelier who visits the vineyard that has been in her family for generations. The story includes finding an invaluable wine collection that was hidden during WWII, the mystery of an aunt who may have been a Nazi collaborator, and her early love. This family intrigue has all the right ingredients for a juicy mystery."

Meyerson, Amy. [The Bookshops of Yesterday](#) (Harper \$22.99). Bookshop treasure hunts that resolve mysteries and create bonds and community fascinate authors—and readers. Miranda Brooks grew up in the stacks of her eccentric uncle Billy's bookstore, solving the inventive scavenger hunts he created just for her. But on Miranda's twelfth birthday, Billy has a mysterious falling-out with her mother and suddenly disappears from Miranda's life. She doesn't hear about him again until sixteen years later when she receives unexpected news: Billy has died and left her Prospero Books, which is teetering on bankruptcy, and one final scavenger hunt. When Miranda returns home to Los Angeles and to Prospero Books—now as its owner—she finds clues that Billy has hidden for her inside novels on the store's shelves, in locked drawers of his apartment upstairs, in the name of the store itself. Miranda becomes determined to save Prospero Books and to solve Billy's last scavenger hunt.

Mullen, Thomas. [The Lightning Men](#) (\$16). [Darktown](#) (\$16), a 2016 Hardboiled Crime Club Pick, gets a knockout follow up. Officer Denny Rakestraw and "Negro Officers" Lucius Boggs and Tommy Smith have their hands full in an overcrowded and rapidly changing Atlanta. It's 1950 and racial tensions are simmering as black families, including Smith's sister, begin moving into formerly all-white neighborhoods. When Rake's brother-in-law launches a scheme to rally the Ku Klux Klan to "save" their neighborhood, his efforts spiral out of control, forcing Rake to choose between loyalty to family or the law. Across town, Boggs and Smith try to shut down the supply of white lightning and drugs into their territory, finding themselves up against more powerful foes than they'd expected. Battling corrupt cops and ex-cons, Nazi brown shirts and rogue Klansmen, the officers are drawn closer to the fires that threaten to consume the city once again. "Mullen is a wonderful architect of intersecting plotlines and unexpected answers. But you also want justice, which you know neither Mullen nor our own time can provide... Compelling works of fiction such as Mullen's walk a fine line between art that reminds us of horrors past and art that trades on them with pieces too unfinished to play with."—*Washington Post*.

Orange, Tommy. [There There](#) (Knopf \$25.95). It's too late for us to offer first prints of this No. 1 Indie Next Pick, but for you readers I call it to your attention as it clearly a book demanding discussion. Orange's commanding debut chronicles contemporary Native Americans in Oakland, as their lives collide in the days leading up to the city's inaugural Big Oakland Powwow. Bouncing between voices and points of view, Orange introduces 12 characters, their plotlines hinging on things like 3-D–printed handguns and VR-controlled drones. Tony Loneman and Octavio Gomez see the powwow as an opportunity to pay off drug debts via a brazen robbery. Others, like Edwin Black and Orvil Red Feather, view the gathering as a way to connect with ancestry and, in Edwin's case, to meet his father for the first time. Blue, who was given up for adoption, travels to Oklahoma in an attempt to learn about her family, only to return to Oakland as the powwow's coordinator. Time and again, the city is a magnet for these individuals. The propulsion of both the overall narrative and its players are breathtaking as Orange unpacks how decisions of the past mold the present, resulting in a haunting and gripping story.

The author writes: "I wanted a prologue, and originally there wasn't an interlude, but my editor wanted to break it up—there were 14 pages of it. The way it worked out was perfect. It did always feel like I was trying to write something in a collective voice—the royal "we." As Native people, sometimes we feel we have to explain ourselves or set the record straight because our stories have been told wrong or not told for so long. I really wanted to reach back and update, and to explain what urban Indians are...."

✶Paris, BA. [Bring Me Back](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Finn and Layla are young, in love, and on vacation. They're driving along the highway when Finn decides to stop at a service station to use the restroom. He hops out of the car, locks the doors behind him, and goes inside. When he returns Layla is gone—never to be seen again. That is the story Finn told to the police. But it is not the whole story. Ten years later Finn is engaged to Layla's sister, Ellen. Their shared grief over what happened to Layla drew them close and now they intend to remain together. Still, there's something about Ellen that Finn has never fully understood. His

heart wants to believe that she is the one for him...even though a sixth sense tells him not to trust her. Then, not long before he and Ellen are to be married, Finn gets a phone call. Someone from his past has seen Layla—hiding in plain sight... I much admired Paris' debut in [Behind Closed Doors](#) (\$16.99), a 2016 British Crime Club Pick, and found the premise of [The Breakdown](#) (\$16.99) way less compelling.

Percy, Benjamin. [The Dark Net](#) (\$14.99). An Indie Next Pick and *NY Times Book Review's* Editor's Choice gets this review from *LJ*: "There's a deep global net in the virtual world, accessed only by those wishing to remain anonymous. Black-market trading and illicit dealings occur here, along with programs that provide prurient services. Keeping their operations vital but nearly untraceable is the task of people who are well paid to keep these servers up and running. What happens when demonic forces acquire log-in abilities at these dark levels? Can a computer hacker, a onetime child evangelist, a technophobic journalist, and a little girl with prosthetic eyes come to grips with hell on earth if it's only a keystroke away? Percy turns in a fast-paced dark thriller with crisp, honest dialog and well-imagined characters. His premise is fanciful yet anchored in believability."

Persson, Leif G. [Sword of Justice](#) (Black Lizard \$16.95)." DS Evert Bäckström receives the best news of his life at the start of Persson's riotous third novel featuring the outrageous, libidinous, thoroughly contemptible, yet oddly magnetic Swedish policeman" who last appeared in [He Who Kills the Dragon](#) (\$15.99): his greatest personal and professional enemy, Thomas Eriksson (aka the "Muslim mafia's favorite lawyer," according to one evening paper), has been murdered. "Bäckström is pleased to visit the crime scene, Eriksson's opulent country villa, where someone bashed in the victim's head with a blunt instrument. He's less happy about investigating the many suspects in the case, which hinges on a Pinocchio-shaped Fabergé music box made as a gift for the son of Russia's last tsar, Nicholas II, a priceless object that later fell into the hands of Winston Churchill and eventually Vladimir Putin. In the end, Bäckström, whose only friend was his deceased goldfish, Egon, muddles into a crime-solving epiphany. Persson hilariously skewers contemporary police work and society's corrupted demands on the profession in, as he calls it in an author's note, this 'wicked tale for grown-up children.'"—*PW Starred Review*

Quick, Matthew. [The Reason You're Alive](#) (\$15.99). A veteran tries to come to terms with the traumatic experiences he had a generation earlier in Vietnam. At the core of the novel is the voice of David Granger, a combination of Archie Bunker and Marlow of Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. When the novel opens, Granger is 68, and he's still haunted by his experiences in Vietnam. There, he'd witnessed darkness and violence on an unimaginable scale and was complicit in that violence. After a terrible car crash that leads to the discovery of a brain tumor David attributes to his long-ago exposure to Agent Orange, he decides to "right a wrong" he committed during the war. He stole a knife from Clayton Fire Bear, a Native American who collected scalps as part of his own traumatic war experience. With the help of a buddy of his from his Vietnam days, Granger goes on a quest to find the elusive Fire Bear. The results are surprising in a book well worth reading and discussing by the author of *The Silver Linings Playbook*.

Reardon, Bryan. [The Real Michael Swann](#) (Dutton \$26). Michael going missing after a bombing at New York City's Penn Station. As Julia searches for her husband—and tries to determine whether he's alive—she thinks back on their marriage and wonders if he's really the man she thought she knew. Reardon explores questions about how careers and lifestyles have changed, with sureties like company loyalty and retirement pensions increasingly going to the wayside. Julia and Michael, he says, belong to a generation of middle-aged people who "built a life they expected they would have based on how they grew up. They thought it was untouchable. All of a sudden, they're finding out that all this stuff they bought, all these mortgages they have, all these car payments—they've become like Marley's chains." How all of this links together is the stuff of spoilers. You'll tear up at the resolution. "But, for Reardon, the novel is more than its thrilling premise: 'We're so afraid of this concept of terrorist attacks and foreign terrorists. But no one's talking about the far more likely scenario that, all of a sudden, the person supporting your family is going to lose his job.'"

Ribchester, Lucy. [Amber Shadows](#) (\$15.95). Bletchley Park, 1942: Halfway across the world, Hitler's armies are marching into Leningrad, leaving a trail of destruction and pillaging the country's most treasured artworks, including the famous Amber Room—the eighth wonder of the world. As reports begin filtering into Bletchley Park about the stolen loot, Honey Deschamps receives a mysterious package, hand-delivered from a man that she has never seen before who claims that he works at the Park as well. The package is postmarked from Russia, and inside is a small piece of amber. More arrive. When she examines them together she realizes that someone, relying on her abilities to unravel codes, is trying to tell her something. Honey can't help but fear that the packages are a trap set by the authorities to test her loyalties—surely nothing so valuable could get through the mail during a time of war. And yet, something about the packages reminds her of stories that her brother used to tell her about her absent father, and when her brother is found brutally murdered on his way to visit Honey, she can't help but assume that the events are connected. But at Bletchley Park, secrecy reigns supreme, and she has nowhere to turn for help...

Roberts, Nora. [Shelter in Place](#) (St. Martin's, \$27.99). It was a typical evening at a mall outside Portland, Maine. Three teenage friends waited for the movie to start. A boy flirted with the girl selling sunglasses. Mothers and children shopped together, and the manager at the video-game store tending to customers. Then the shooters arrived. The Indie Next Pick: "As you read this book, coincidence and life forever changing in a brief moment will be on your mind. The rash of mass shootings we have experienced over the past few years comes to gruesome life in this book. The news and our memories of the horrors we saw on it fade with time, but what if you were there and the memory never disappeared? How would it change your life? This book is an excellent exploration of that situation."

Schepp, Emelie. [Slowly We Die](#) (Mira \$15.99). Karen reviews: Three grisly murders terrorize the town of Norrköping. Initially, there seems to be no connection among the victims, but the brutality of their deaths suggest otherwise. The police begin a painstaking journey to connect the dots in an effort to find a motive and a suspect. History reveals an odd picture as to what the victims had in common and a clue suggesting who will be next.

Special prosecutor, Jana Berzelius's personal challenges from long ago, come in to play, distracting her from the investigation and causing confusion among co-workers. Schepp's skill in creating and maintaining suspense, dropping clues like bread crumbs, is enticing and addictive. This is the third in Schepp's trilogy and, by some accounts, her best. Schepp wins high praise from Kirkus as one of the "smoothest storytellers among the new crop of Nordic noir aces..." In addition, it has been suggested "move over Jo Nesbo", and she has been named the 2017 Swedish Crime Writer of the Year.

Simon, [Dogs Don't Lie](#) (\$9.99). "Simon writes a high-quality cozy mystery, well paced and plotted, with plenty of twists, and set in a New England small town full of intriguing characters. Pru's struggles to deal with her abilities make this stand out among other animal mysteries, and the sad story of Floyd, the heartbroken Persian, will touch the heart of cat lovers everywhere. Recommend this series to fans of Blaize Clement and Rita Mae Brown.

Simenon, George. [Maigret's Failure](#) (Penguin \$13). When a childhood bully reappears in Maigret's life, he struggles to put aside his own feelings and carry out his duties as a policeman. #49 in the Inspector Maigret series; See Paris Con above for a short comment on Maigret.

Smith, Alexander McCall. [The House of Unexpected Sisters](#) (\$15.95). Mma Ramotswe and Mma Makutsi are approached by their part-time colleague, Mr. Polopetsi, with a troubling story: a woman, accused of being rude to a valued customer, has been wrongly dismissed from her job at an office furniture store. Never one to let an act of injustice go unanswered, Mma Ramotswe begins to investigate, but soon discovers unexpected information that causes her to reluctantly change her views about the case. Other surprises await our intrepid proprietress in his latest installment of the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series.

☞Smith, Alexander McCall. [The Good Pilot Peter Woodhouse](#) (Knopf \$25.95). Val Eliot, a land girl working on an English farm during the war, finds herself in charge of protecting a (very cute) rescued border collie named Peter Woodhouse from the owner who mistreated him. When Val meets Mike, an American air force pilot stationed nearby, she realizes that the safest place for the little dog is alongside Mike at the base. With the love and attention of the pilots, Peter Woodhouse becomes Dog First Class, the mascot of the U.S. Air Force, boldly accompanying the officers on their missions—until a disaster jeopardizes the future of them all. It is then that Peter Woodhouse brings Ubi, a German corporal, into their orbit.

Straley, John. [Angels Will Not Care](#); [Cold Water Burning](#); [The Curious Eat Themselves](#); [Death and the Language of Happiness](#); [The Music of What Happens](#) (\$15.95 each); and the first Cecil Younger, [The Woman Who Married a Bear](#) (\$9.99). Wishing you were heading north, to Alaska, but can't make the trip? Good news: Soho Press has re-released Sitka author Straley's earlier mysteries in support of the publication of a new Criminal investigator Cecil Younger: [Baby's First Felony](#) (\$25.95) which publishes in July. Straley appears at our September 2 conference where he and Dana Stabenow will discuss Alaska as a landscape (for criminals, and characters....) and he will sign his books.

Tremblay, Paul. [The Cabin at the End of the World](#) (Harper \$26.99). "An exciting and unique take on the classic home invasion horror story with a large dash of the apocalypse thrown in for good measure. Tremblay's story hits the ground running and doesn't let up until the final page." Tremblay has fashioned an unholy marriage between the home invasion genre and apocalyptic thrillers. The novel opens with Wen, a seven-year-old girl, on a vacation with her two adoptive fathers at a remote cabin. Wen is interrupted while collecting grasshoppers by an imposingly large but friendly man, who tells her, with unnerving kindness: "None of what's going to happen is your fault. You haven't done anything wrong, but the three of you will have to make some tough decisions." That turns out to be a dramatic understatement: soon there's a violent siege of the cabin, and Wen and her fathers, Eric and Andrew, struggle desperately to keep their family safe. What at first seems like an unusual riff on the home invasion thriller evolves into a story that can't easily be pigeonholed. Without ruining any of Tremblay's nasty surprises, it is safe to say that the four strangers turn out to have very earnest motivations that they believe to involve the fate of the human race. As in his previous novels, Tremblay likes to leave room for alternate interpretations. Are the strangers deluded fanatics or is there an apocalypse waiting in the wings? The question comes to torment Eric and Andrew, just as it might torment the reader.

Unger, Lisa. [The Red Hunter](#) (\$15.99). Claudia Bishop's perfect life fell apart when the aftermath of a brutal assault left her with a crumbling marriage, a newborn daughter, and a constant sense of anxiety about the world around her. Now, looking for a fresh start with a home restoration project and growing blog, Claudia takes on a crumbling old house—one that unbeknownst to her has an ugly history and may hide long buried secrets. For Zoey Drake the defining moment of her childhood was the horrific home invasion murder of her parents. Years later, she has embraced the rage that fuels her. Training in the martial arts has made her strong and ready to face the demons from the past—and within. Strangers to each other, and walking very different paths in the wake of trauma, these two women are on a collision course—because Zoey's past nightmare and Claudia's dreams for her future take place in the very same house. This thriller gets love from Ace Atkins and Sandra Brown.

Ziskin, James W. [A Stone's Throw](#) (Prometheus \$15.95). This 6th for newspaper reporter Ellie Stone takes place in 1962 in Saratoga Springs, NY, home to racing as well as to spas and thus a mix of social and income levels. It begins when an abandoned barn at a derelict stud farm blazes up. Two bodies are found in the embers. Ellie's best friend Fadge Fiorella, hooked on betting, becomes her guide to the world of racing. The result is a story for Dick Francis fans, American style. [Order all the Stones](#).