

BOOKNEWS from

ISSN 1056-5655, © The Poisoned Pen, Ltd.
Volume 30, Number 10
July Booknews 2018
sales@poisonedpen.com tel (888)560-9919
http://poisonedpen.com

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



Saluting Independence Day and Independent Businesses

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](#)

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.

SUNDAY JULY 8 2:00 PM Double Trouble

Linda Castillo signs [A Gathering of Secrets](#) (St Martins \$26.99)

Kate Burkholder Amish Country

Keith McCafferty signs [A Death in Eden](#) (Viking \$26)

Sean Stranahan. Our copies come with a postcard showing off the gorgeous fly called Usual Suspect Keith tied for me for this book. I may have to learn to fish.

MONDAY JULY 9 6:30 PM

Brad Thor signs [Spymaster](#) (Atria \$27.99)

Scot Harvath #18

Brad presents a quiz and other treats – prizes!

And our copies of Spymaster come with a Russian postcard designed for you by Thor

TUESDAY JULY 10 7:00 PM

Joe R. and Kasey Lansdale sign [Terror Is Our Business](#) (Cutting Block Books \$13.95)

THURSDAY JULY 12

Paul French signs [City of Devils: The Two Men Who Ruled the Underworld of Old Shanghai](#) (Picador \$27.99)

SATURDAY JULY 14 10:30 AM

Coffee and Crime discusses Margaret Millar's [Beast in View](#) (\$14.95)

SATURDAY JULY 14 2:00 PM Summer Tea Party

Beatriz Williams signs [Summer Wives](#) (Harper \$26.99)

Evokes the 1950s to a T

MONDAY JULY 16 7:00 PM Debut

Christina Alger signs [The Banker's Wife](#) (Putnam \$27)

Offshore banking fraud lies at the heart of this debut

TUESDAY JULY 17 SciFi Blast

Kevin Hearne and Delilah S. Dawson sign [Kill the Farm Boy: The Tales of Pell](#) (Del Rey \$27)

Starts a rollicking fantasy series

THURSDAY JULY 19 7:00 PM

Ace Atkins signs [The Sinners](#) (Putnam \$27).

David Bell signs [Somebody's Daughter](#) (Berkley \$26 or \$16)

Two sons of the South provide summer suspense

FRIDAY JULY 20 7:00 PM

SciFi Friday discusses Naomi Novik's [Uprooted](#) (\$16)

SATURDAY JULY 21 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger discusses Michael Connelly's [The Late Show](#) (\$15.99), the first for the LAPD's Renee Ballard

SATURDAY JULY 21 7:00 PM

Doubletree Hilton Hotel 5401N Scottsdale Road 85250

Daniel Silva signs [The Other Woman](#) (Harper \$28.99)

Gabriel Allon #18

Door open 6:00 PM, Program at 7:00 PM

Free to attend but admission to the signing line comes only with the purchase of *The Other Woman* from The Poisoned Pen
Cash bar. Free valet parking

MONDAY JULY 23 7:00 PM with Dogs!

David Rosenfelt signs [Rescued](#) (St Martins \$26.99)

Andy Carpenter and Tara once again inspire us to do a fundraiser for a local canine rescue organization

THURSDAY JULY 26 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime discusses James McClure's [The Steam Pig](#) (\$15.95)

SATURDAY JULY 28 2:00 PM Tea Party

Nancy Atherton signs [Aunt Dimity and the King's Ransom](#) (Viking \$26)

Lori Shepherd chases a ghost in Rye

SUNDAY JULY 29 2:00 PM Double the Imagination

Linwood Barclay signs [A Noise Downstairs](#) (Harper \$26.99)

Peng Shepherd chats with Barclay and signs her debut novel [The Book of M](#) (Harper \$26.99), now back in stock after selling out in June

TUESDAY JULY 31 7:00 PM A Very Cold Case

Flynn Berry signs [A Double Life](#) (Viking \$26)

Our August British Crime Club Pick—think Lord Lucan

THURSDAY AUGUST 2 7:00 PM

Ben Coes signs [Bloody Sunday](#) (St Martins \$26.99)

Dewey Andreas #8, another Spy of Summer

EVENT BOOKS

Alger, Christina. [The Banker's Wife](#) (Putnam \$27). A debut rooted in Switzerland, banking, and financial fraud. It becomes more women's fiction than thriller once past the opening scene in Geneva. We follow the alternating points of view of the wife of an American money guy working for mega Swiss United (specializing in off-shore banking under its charismatic boss) who has died in a private plane crash in the Alps, and of an inquisitive journalist set to retire on her upcoming marriage into the top of the New York social scene who learns that her hard-hitting if hard-drinking boss has been murdered back in his secure Connecticut home. As the young widow Annabel struggles to cope with Matthew's death and the secrets she uncovers, including his encrypted laptop, Marina uncovers information that puts them on a collision course.... The money stuff is immersive and impressive, no surprise given Alger's credentials in finance. I learned a lot.

Atherton, Nancy. [Aunt Dimity and the King's Ransom](#) (Viking \$26). This 23rd Aunt Dimity takes us to one of my favorite English towns: Rye, home to smugglers and literati and a great medieval inn. Lori Shepherd and her husband, Bill, setting off from the English village of Finch for a romantic getaway from their three children. Plans go awry before they reach their destination of Rye when a coastal storm maroons Lori, sans Bill, in an unfamiliar town. Taking refuge in a dimly lit church, Laurie fears for her life when a strange man garbed in dark clothing approaches her. So begins a series of quick judgments and mishaps that lead Lori and her new friend, a retired bishop, on a quest to discover why the local King's Ransom Inn is haunted. The inn—filled with stranded travelers, including Lori—was once a smugglers' haven. Is the cook, a surly ex-con, using the inn's tunnels and secret passages for criminal pursuits? Is a particularly unpleasant guest a criminal, too? And is the inn truly haunted? You can order the [entire Aunt Dimity series](#).

Atkins, Ace. [The Sinners](#) (Putnam \$27). Along with wedding plans and newbie deputies, Tibbehah County sheriff Quinn Colson faces the retributive wrath of the noxious Pritchard family patriarch, locked up by Colson's late uncle and now out of prison. And what to do about Fannie Hathcock, who wouldn't have sent Ordeen, her bartender and general factotum at Vienna's Place, the county's premier cathouse, to the Pritchard spread in the first place if she hadn't been getting squeezed between the Pritchard boys, who'd been violating a long-standing agreement with her by running way more weed than they could have been raising themselves, and the Dixie Mafia, for whom she's been laundering money and providing other services for years and who now send a pair of hands-on managers to Vienna's Place. The only one who's in a position to do anything about this mess, it seems, is Quinn's old friend Boom Kimbrough, who may not survive long enough to stand as Quinn's best man. "Its blend of country noir and badass humor is as smooth as three fingers of Gentleman Jack...If you like country noir, and you haven't visited Tibbehah County, you're overdue for a road trip."—*Booklist* Starred Review. This 8th Colson provides a long setup for "major developments promised for book nine." Catch up by ordering [all the Colsons](#)

Barclay, Linwood. [A Noise Downstairs](#) (Harper \$26.99). Here is one of the many rave reviews, this one from *LJ*: "Two murders, one witness, a brutal assault, and a possessed vintage typewriter. Barclay expertly weaves these details into a tantalizing psychological thriller. College professor Paul Davis is trying to help a friend when he stumbles onto the scene of a double murder. Eight months later, still recovering from the injuries inflicted on that fearful night, he wonders if he's gone insane. After all, he doesn't even remember conversations with his wife, Charlotte, who's been much more loving since the accident. When Paul decides to confront his fears by researching the man who brutally attacked him, Charlotte buys him a vintage typewriter to write about his feelings. His therapist Anna White isn't sure Paul's plan is a good idea but supports him anyway. As days pass, Paul's anxiety goes into overdrive. He now hears noises in the night and is convinced the murdered women are trying to contact him. Charlotte is as certain that he's either delusional or blacking out, while Anna doesn't know what to believe. At what point does a person know for sure they've lost their mind? Prepared to be blindsided by an ending you didn't see coming. Barclay's nerve-wracking tale will have readers scared to close their eyes at night." I look forward to hosting the Toronto author once again at The Pen and to his conversation with Peng Shepherd.

Just in: An Indie Next Pick for Barclay: "If you're looking for a wild ride, look no further, because you're not going to get wilder than *A Noise Downstairs*. For a book that seems to have a little of everything — unresolved trauma, untrustworthy characters, a mysterious typewriter, and a hefty dose of the paranormal — Barclay tells his story with a smooth ease that will pull you through the pages at a breakneck speed. And, well, no spoilers, but the ending will blow your socks clean off."

Bell, David. [Somebody's Daughter](#) (Berkley \$26 or \$16). When Michael Frazier's ex-wife, Erica, unexpectedly shows up on his doorstep, she drops a bombshell that threatens to rip his family apart: Her ten-year-old daughter is missing—and Michael is the father. Unsure whether this is the truth but unwilling to leave the girl's fate to chance, Michael has no choice but to follow the elusive trail of the child he has always wanted but never knew he had. After Michael departs, a stranger, a man who claims a connection to Erica and her missing daughter, knocks on the door, Angela is drawn out into the night—and deep into the tangled web of Michael's past. Over the course of one night, lies that span a decade come bubbling to the surface, putting Michael, his wife, and his whole family in jeopardy. Also in large paperback: [Somebody's Daughter](#) (Penguin \$16).

Berry, Flynn. [A Double Life](#) (Viking \$26). Our **August British Crime Club Pick** from the author of the award-winning [Under the Harrow](#) (\$16). Claire is a hardworking doctor living a simple, quiet life in London. Nearly thirty years ago, while Claire and her infant brother slept upstairs, a brutal crime was committed in her family's townhouse. Her father's car was found abandoned near the English Channel the next morning, with bloodstains on the front seat. Her mother insisted she'd seen him in the house that night, but his powerful, privileged friends maintained his innocence. The first lord accused of murder in more than a cen-

tury, he has been missing ever since. When the police tell Claire they've found her father, her carefully calibrated existence begins to fracture. She doesn't know if she's the daughter of a murderer or a wronged man. How far will she go to discover which? Berry does her own spin on the real life story of Lord Lucan, one yet to be, or probably never will be, played out.

Cantero, Edgar. [This Body's Not Big Enough](#) (Doubleday \$26.95). Out July 31, signed August 6. Twins Adrian Kimrean and Zoey Kimrean, the PI protagonists of this winning spoof, are collectively known as A.Z. Kimrean, since their personalities occupy the same body. They are polar opposites. Super cerebral Adrian has a high IQ and a photographic memory; Zoey is a creative type who paints, writes, and plays musical instruments—she's also a nymphomaniac. They maintain an office at San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf, where one day Deputy Chief Llewelyn Carlyle of the SFPD arrives in need of a favor. Someone has killed the grown son of Victor Lyon, the supreme ruler of the San Carnal, Calif., drug cartel, and Lyon is about to start a gang war that could threaten police plans to bring down the cartel. A.Z. agrees to help out. Literary references (Bret Easton Ellis, John Grisham, and Ayn Rand in one sentence), clever quips and bad puns add to this spoof by the Barcelona author of bestseller [Meddling Kids](#) (\$16.95). Fun! "In A.Z. Kimrean, Cantero has written the funniest private investigator this side of Peter Sellers. How can you not love the warring siblings, opposites in a single body, as they outwit everyone they meet?" Think *The Pink Panther* when Sellers was at, IMHO, his best. I've tasked Patrick to host this.

Castillo, Linda. [A Gathering of Secrets](#) (St Martins \$26.99). The chilling opener of the 10th Kate Burkholder lays the foundation for what follows: 18-year-old charmer Daniel Gingerich, popular and helpful Amish teen, and a hard worker, is incinerated in a fire consuming a stately old barn. His horrible death is a puzzle to Chief of Police Kate and to the Gingerich family. But as Kate queries the Amish of Painters Mill and collects evidence, she becomes convinced Daniel was murdered. And his story was a dark one, touching many lives. Interestingly Kate's investigation is as destructive as Daniel's life, eventually solving the crime but at a very high price, raising some interesting questions – in fact, some similar to those in Paul Doiron's new Mike Bowditch below. What price justice? If you haven't read this excellent series, July is a good time to [order it](#) and start.

Coes, Ben. [Bloody Sunday](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Publishes July 31; Signed here August 2. Coes new thriller for CIA Agent Dewey Andreas earns a Starred Review: "A simple premise drives bestseller Coes' excellent eighth thriller: North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un is dying of cancer. With less than a month to live, Jong-un decides to go out in a blaze of nuclear glory and take two American cities with him. All he needs is a couple of long-range missiles, and it so happens that his ally Iran is happy to supply them. Dewey has personal reasons for wanting to quit the spy business, but U.S. president J.P. Dellenbaugh talks him into staying on and dealing with the North Korean threat... It's a complicated mission, and in the end only Dewey has the skills, courage, and sheer badass tenacity to pull it off. A ticking clock ratchets up the tension in the best entry in the series so far." See The Spies of Summer below for more. We are always delighted to host Coes and glad it is often. Order [Dewey's earlier adventures](#) here.

Doiron, Paul. [Stay Hidden](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Our ice cream social and National Parks program July 1 was a smash. We still have Signed 1sts of this powerful book about a "hunting homicide" – is it one, or did the woman die in mistake for a white-tailed deer while hanging up sheets to dry? And what happens when a species never culled bursts so out of control that its genes are messed up, it's starving, and it's riddled with ticks. Such is the case of the deer on a small island off the coast of Maine where Bowditch in his new role as investigator is sent to investigate the shooting. As with Kate Burkholder in the Castillo above, you have to note how much fallout there is on the innocent from the hard-driving investigation. **An essay by CJ Box on why he chose to write a Game Warden is included with our copies as is a map of the island provided by Doiron.** You can order the earlier [Mike Bowditch investigations](#).

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. Helens 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. Aficionados of quality spy fiction will be rewarded. Patrick adds, "Like LeCarré, Fesperman is an elegant stylist and he has an informed perspective on global affairs and intelligence. One of my very favorite writers at work today." [Order up](#) and start your Summer of Spies.

French, Paul. [City of Devils: The Two Men Who Ruled the Underworld of Old Shanghai](#) (Picador \$27.99). "A Casablanca without heroes and just the thing for those who like their crime stories the darkest shade of noir." —*Kirkus* Starred Reviews, by the *New York Times* bestselling author of [Midnight in Peking](#) (\$16)—winner of both the Edgar Award for Best Fact Crime and the CWA Gold Dagger for Non-Fiction—comes a rags-to-riches tale of two self-made men set against a backdrop of crime and vice in the sprawling badlands of Shanghai, 1930s. It was a haven for outlaws from all over the world: a place where pasts could be forgotten, fascism and communism outrun, names invented, and fortunes made—and lost. "Lucky" Jack Riley was the most notorious of those outlaws. An ex-U.S. Navy boxing champion, he escaped from prison and rose to become the Slots King of Shanghai. "Dapper" Joe Farren—a Jewish boy who fled Vienna's ghetto—ruled the nightclubs. His chorus lines rivaled Ziegfeld's. In 1940, Lucky Jack and Dapper Joe bestrode the Shanghai Badlands like kings, while all around the Solitary Island was poverty, starvation, and war. They thought they ruled Shanghai, but the city had other ideas. This is the story of their rise to power, their

downfall, and the trail of destruction left in their wake. I was crazy for *Midnight in Peking* for which we did a super event in 2013. His nonfiction zings like fiction and is a must read for fans of Lisa See and David Downing's Jack the Spy series. **Expect him to do a presentation with photos.**

"Few writers are more expert at mingling crime narrative and social history, journalistic precision and novelistic sweep than Paul French. His books paint times and places so beguiling and tell stories so vivid and harrowing that, within pages, we're utterly in their dark thrall. If you love Richard Lloyd Parry and David Grann, don't miss *City of Devils*." — Megan Abbot

Hearne, Kevin/Delilah S. Dawson. [Kill the Farm Boy: The Tales of Pell](#) (Del Rey \$27). Signed by both. They team up to reinvent fantasy, fairy tales, and floridly overwritten feast scenes for our **July SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick**. Once upon a time, in a faraway kingdom, a hero, the Chosen One, was born...and so begins every fairy tale ever told. This is not that fairy tale. In the land of Pell, a plucky farm boy will find more than he's bargained for on his quest to awaken the sleeping princess in her cursed tower. First there's the Dark Lord, who wishes for the boy's untimely death... and also very fine cheese. Then there's a bard without a song in her heart but with a very adorable and fuzzy tail, an assassin who fears not the night but is terrified of chickens, and a mighty fighter more frightened of her sword than of her chain-mail bikini. This journey will lead to sinister umlauts, a trash-talking goat, the Dread Necromancer Steve, and a strange and wondrous journey to the most peculiar "happily ever after" that ever once-upon-a-timed. This Indie Next Pick is our July SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick: "Wildly unpredictable, tremendously goofy, and brilliantly inventive, *Kill the Farm Boy* is a laugh-out-loud fantasy trope extravaganza. A talking goat, a fierce warrior, a bumbling rogue, a wannabe dark wizard, and an enchanted bard set out on a quest full of adventure, mishaps, and lots of cheese. I can't count the number of times I giggled, snorted, and chuckled at a clever quip or ludicrous joke. Fans of Monty Python and *Robin Hood: Men in Tights* will definitely find *Kill the Farm Boy* to their liking." You can [order earlier books by Hearne](#) as well.

Lansdale, Joe R. and Kasey. [Terror Is Our Business](#) (Cutting Block Books \$13.95). Sherlock Holmes: arguably the most recognized detective in modern history. As the brains of any investigation, it's no wonder that the heart of his partner John Watson is what rounds out this duo to create a textbook definition of success. This complementary dynamic is at the epicenter of the collaborative story from Joe and daughter Kasey Lansdale. *Terror is Our Business: Dana Roberts' Casebook of Horrors* introduces readers to the world of Dana Roberts and her frightening career as an investigator of what she calls the "supernormal." While she doesn't believe in the supernatural, she does believe in unknown worlds. And teaming up with her Watson-like partner Jana makes solving what can only be described as very unusual mysteries from beyond the veil that much more riveting. "Writing *Terror is Our Business* together allowed my Dad and me to blend our own personalities and styles. I tend to be more traditional, while he's a bit more unconventional. And being a co-author allowed me to incorporate my unique authority from the female perspective, giving the series a refreshing edge," says Kasey. Who adds, the book is "A return to old school feelings of classic mystery horror novels and supernatural tales."

McCafferty, Keith. [A Death in Eden](#) (Viking \$26). Our copies come with a snazzy photo of the fly McCafferty tied for me to go with this loving if scary trip down a beautiful river. When scarecrows appear in the cliffs above Montana's famous Smith River and a little girl reports being chased by one in the night, state investigator Harold Little Feather is brought in to find the culprit. Are the menacing effigies related to a copper-mining project that threatens the purity of the Smith? That's Harold's initial suspicion, but his investigation takes an ominous turn when a decapitated body is found in the river. As Harold's search leads him back in time through the canyon's history, Sean Stranahan launches his raft upriver. He has been hired to guide a floating party that includes Clint McCaine, the manager of the mine project; Bart Trueblood, the president of "Save The Smith," a grassroots organization devoted to stopping the project; and the documentarian filming their arguments. McCaine and Trueblood grew up on the Smith on neighboring ranches, and as they travel downstream, it's revealed that the two share a past that runs much deeper and darker than their opposing viewpoints. I love this series with its spare-no-prisoners crimes, quirky love story, and glorious landscapes painted by an author you CJ Box and Paul Doiron fans have to love. Keep an eye on the snake! I recommend you order and read your way through [all 7 Stranahans](#).

Rosenfelt, David. [Rescued](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Defense lawyer Andy Carpenter is reluctant to take on any more cases. He'd much rather spend his time working for his dog rescue organization, the Tara Foundation, than find himself back in a courtroom. However, when a truck carrying over seventy dogs from the South to the rescue-friendly northeast turns up with a murdered driver, Andy can't help but get involved. Andy is eager to help the dogs, many of whom come to the Tara Foundation while awaiting forever homes – it's the man accused of murder who he has a problem defending. The accused is his wife Laurie's ex-fiancé; her tall, good looking, ex-Marine ex-fiancé. Even with dozens of cases behind him, this 17th may prove to be the most challenging of his career. Luckily you can read any [Andy Carpenter](#) investigation on its own, but why not enjoy some of the earlier ones?

Shepherd, Peng. [The Book of M](#) (Harper \$26.99). We sold out of her debut but restocked some Signed Firsts. Here's a new take on it: "Shepherd has created a fantastical scenario where people not only lose their past but can also re-create the world any way they want, as their memories do not constrain them to what is considered normal. She cleverly intertwines Indian mythology and the effects of her imaginary disease, with its eerie overtones of Alzheimer's, into a story filled with love, longing and the perception of the self. As Ory and Max interact with others—those engaged in a war between the Shadowed and the Shadowless, as well as a cult of Shadowed who worship the Shadowless—tension and excitement build. The story moves from India to Virginia, Washington, D.C., and finally New Orleans, where a bastion of survivors search for a remedy to the affliction. Shepherd's tale pushes the post-apocalyptic story in a new and exciting direction, making readers ponder questions about reality, self-perception and relationships."

Silva, Daniel. [The Other Woman](#) (Harper \$28.99). ARCs for Silva are always last minute so for his 18th Gabriel Allon I can only quote this: In an isolated village in the mountains of Andalusia, a mysterious Frenchwoman begins work on a dangerous memoir.

It is the story of a man she once loved in the Beirut of old, and a child taken from her in treason's name. The woman is the keeper of the Kremlin's most closely guarded secret. Long ago, the KGB inserted a mole into the heart of the West—a mole who stands on the doorstep of ultimate power. Only one man can unravel the conspiracy: Gabriel Allon, the legendary art restorer and assassin who serves as the chief of Israel's vaunted secret intelligence service. Gabriel has battled the dark forces of the new Russia before, at great personal cost. Now he and the Russians will engage in a final epic showdown. Gabriel is lured into the hunt for the traitor after his most important asset inside Russian intelligence is brutally assassinated while trying to defect in Vienna. Not all Silva's work is about Allon: you can [order the whole here](#).

Thor, Brad. [Spymaster](#) (Atria \$27.99). Across Europe, a secret organization has begun attacking diplomats. Reminiscent of the Red Brigades and the Red Army Faction of the 1970s, these faceless terrorists appear to have the same goals. But in the shadowy realm of international espionage, looks are always deceptive. As a prelude to war, one of the world's most dangerous intelligence agencies has been charged with preparing the battlefield. Their job—to demoralize the enemy and win the conflict before it even begins. To do so, they will sow as much chaos, dissent, and destruction as possible. There's only one obstacle standing in their way. Dispatched to Europe, Scot Harvath and his team have been tasked with a critical assignment—to do whatever it takes to keep America and her NATO allies from being dragged into war. But with his mentor out of the game, Harvath must play an additional role; one which he has spent his entire career avoiding, and one which he believes he is ill prepared to take on—Spymaster. Interesting that Thor and Silva have both focused on the new Russia this summer. **Our copies of *Spymaster* come with a Russian postcard designed for you by Thor.** He writes a killer ending for this one, too! No peeking! Order the [Harvath series](#).

Williams, Beatriz. [Summer Wives](#) (Harper \$26.99). A young woman enters elite 1950s society on a secretive island. To weave her story, bestseller Williams channels her experience as an outsider when her husband's family first brought her to an exclusive members-only beach club..."You have all these unspoken thoughts—90% is going on underneath the surface. It's a very tight-knit culture, and I found this whole WASPy, East Coast culture fascinating." Williams' fictional Winthrop Island is based on Fisher Island on Long Island Sound, which is visible from her Connecticut home. "It was hard to research," says Williams, "because there's such a code of silence and privacy there. What struck me is this relationship between the locals and the summer families that is symbiotic—they both obviously need each other—but there's also this sense that, 'We protect our own, whichever side of that divide you are on.'" As with her previous novels, *Summer Wives* showcases life in a different era. "What I like to do in all my books is say, 'Hey, here's a slice of who we were 30, 40, 50 years ago.' I'm also trying to tell this larger story of the whole cultural transformation that took place in the first two-thirds of the 20th century, where we go from 1900 to just a completely different world in the 1960s," says Williams. "For this book, I contrast the summer of 1951 to the summer of 1969, because you've got the moon landing, the civil rights movement, feminism is taking hold, and you have a society that's starting to value science and technology more than the liberal arts."

JULY BOOK CLUB PICKS

The new 6 months cycle begins in July. Join a club or stay in a club from July-December and earn a \$25 Gift Certificate in January to spend as you like.

The January-June 2018 Certificates will (e)mail out as close to the 4th as possible.

If you already belong to one or more clubs, you need do nothing to continue in the new six-months cycle. Thank you for your support.

A subscription for these carefully curated books makes a wonderful gift to any reader—and to yourself.

British Crime Club One Unsigned paperback or hardcover per month

Atkins, Lucy. [The Night Visitor](#)

Cozy Crimes Club One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Willan, Jane. [The Shadow of Death](#)

Discovery Club One Unsigned paperback or hardcover per month

Hummel, Maria. [Still Lives](#)

First Mystery Club One Signed First per month

McLaughlin, James A. [Bearskin](#)

Hardboiled Crime Club One Signed First per month

Hirsch, Paddy. [The Devil's Half Mile](#)

History/Mystery Club One Signed First per month

Hirsch, Paddy. [The Devil's Half Mile](#)

History Paperback One per month

Spann, Susan. [Trial on Mount Koya](#)

Modern First Editions One Signed First per month

Mason, Zachary. [Metamorphica](#)

SciFi/Fantasy/Horror Club One Signed First per month

Hearne, Kevin/Delilah Dawson. [Kill the Farm Boy: The Tales of Pell](#)

Surprise Me! Club One Signed First per month

Henry, James. [Yellowhammer](#)

Thriller Club One Signed First per month

Rutger, Michael. [The Anomaly](#)

SIGNED BOOKS

Abbott, Megan. [Give Me Your Hand](#) (LittleBrown \$26). The Starred Review: Kit "Owens and Diane Fleming, the protagonists of this nuanced tale of soured friendships, blood-soaked ambition, and desperate murder from Thriller Award-winner Abbott (You Will Know Me), were once fast friends—until Diane tells Kit a secret so dark that it shatters their friendship, sending Kit into a minor tailspin. But high school is drawing to a close, and Kit hopes she'll never see Diane again. Fast-forward more than a decade, and Kit is working in a lab under the impressive Dr. Lena Severin. When a new grant is announced to study premenstrual dysphoric disorder, Kit can hardly contain her shock as Diane reappears as a newly poached superstar from a competing lab. Kit and Diane each want coveted spots on Dr. Severin's PMDD research team, and as the only women in the male-dominated lab, they must deal with their colleagues' thinly veiled misogyny.

When Diane's secret pulses to the surface, lives are lost and futures are put in doubt in a mad rush to keep the past in its place. No writer can touch Abbott in the realm of twisted desire and relationships between women, both intimate and feral."

Cantero, Edgar. [Meddling Kids](#) (Knopf \$16.95). The Indie Next Pick for a book Cantero will sign for us on August 6 along with his new novel. "I have an abiding fondness for kooky premises executed well, and *Meddling Kids* is as kooky as they come. In 1977, the tween members of the Blyton Summer Detective Club solved their last case and went their separate ways. Now it's 1990 and the man they sent to jail has been paroled. These former detectives have unfinished business, so one of them resolves to get the gang back together to find out the dark truth behind that final case. *Meddling Kids* is a pop-culture savvy, uproarious romp but also an action-packed horror-thriller. Highly recommended for fans of Christopher Moore and Ernest Cline, or anyone seeking a little laughter, nostalgia, or escapism."

Groff, Lauren. [Florida](#) (Riverhead \$27). Storms, snakes, sink-holes, and secrets: "In Lauren Groff's *Florida*, the hot sun shines, but a wild darkness lurks. *Florida* is a 'superlative' book—*Boston Globe*. *The New Yorker* calls it, "gorgeously weird and limber." NPR adds, "brooding, inventive and often moving" while the *Washington Post* believes Groff is recognized as "Florida's unofficial poet laureate, as Joan Didion was for California." Randy Wayne White readers, and Carl Hiaasen's and Tim Dorsey's, give it a whirl.

✚Henry, James. [Yellowhammer](#) (Riverrun \$36). July 1983, Essex. Fox Farm is, thanks to two corpses, neither picturesque nor peaceful. The body in its kitchen belongs to eminent historian Christopher Cliff, who has taken his own life with an antique shotgun. The second, found on the property boundary, remains unidentified. DI Nick Lowry's summer is neither sleepy nor serene. And the two deaths are just the half of it. The fact County Chief Merrydown was a college friend of Cliff's means Lowry is now, in turn, under scrutiny from his severely stressed and singularly unsympathetic boss, Sparks. Both the heat and the investigation soon intensify. The team find themselves interrogating enigmatic neighbors, antiques merchants, jilted lovers and wronged relatives; all the while negotiating the caprices of Sparks—whose attitudes remain as dated as Fox Farm's antiques. Only when they fully open their eyes and minds will they begin to unpick a web of rural rituals, dodgy dealings and fragmented families as this stellar and surprising procedural makes our **July Surprise Me! Club Pick**. I was blown away. I've ordered the first DI Nick Lowry, [Blackwater](#) (\$17). It isn't as distinctive or propulsive but it provides foundation for *Yellowhammer*. This is a good moment to remind you of a similar terrific British cop series: DI Nick Dixon in 7 by Damien Boyd. [Check them out here](#). I've devoured them all.

Hewson, David. [The Savage Shore](#) (Severn \$44). I love this series and have missed it. And now it's back with a 10th for Roman police detective Nic Costa. He's been sent undercover to Italy's beautiful, remote Calabrian coast to bring in the head of the feared mob, the 'Ndrangheta, who has offered to turn state witness for reasons of his own. Hoping to reel in the biggest prize the state police have seen in years, the infamous Butcher of Palermo, Costa and his team are aware the stakes are high. But the constant deception is taking its toll. Out of their depth in a

lawless part of Italy where they are the outcasts, not the men in the hills, with their shotguns and rough justice, the detectives find themselves pitched as much against one another as the mob. As the tension rises, it's clear the operation is not going to plan. Should arrive early August but order now to avoid disappointment.

Hirsch, Paddy. [The Devil's Half Mile](#) (Forge \$26). Seven years after a financial crisis nearly toppled America, traders chafe at government regulations, racial tensions are rising, gangs roam the streets and corrupt financiers make back-door deals with politicians... 1799 was a hell of a year. Thanks to Alexander Hamilton, America has recovered from the panic on the Devil's Half Mile (aka Wall Street), but the young country is still finding its way. When young lawyer Justy Flanagan returns to solve his father's murder, he exposes a massive fraud that has already claimed lives, and one the perpetrators are determined to keep secret at any cost. The financial underpinnings of our **July History Pick, also our July Hardboiled Crime Club Pick**, remind me of David Liss' brilliant, Edgar-winning debut [A Conspiracy of Paper](#) (\$16)—London, the early 18th Century South Sea Bubble—and are just as relevant today. But here's something to contemplate from the author—what is Justy wearing?

"One of the most absorbing parts of writing historical fiction is the deep dive you make into the small stuff. What did people eat? What kinds of houses did they live in? What did they wear? The last is a particularly tricky type of research to do because the only points of reference we have about what people wore in the late 1700s are paintings. And while there are plenty of paintings of rich and important people from back then, there aren't many of ordinary folk, or even middle class people. Young lawyers like Justy Flanagan couldn't afford to get their portraits done...I like to think Justy would have dressed a bit like Ross Poldark. I've described him in the book as wearing good quality, but relatively plain clothes. Dark browns, dark greens, and either black or cream breeches. A good pair of boots, with a colorful history. But that's the only extravagance. No pink coats and gilt frogging for Justy."

Mason, Zachary. [Metamorphica](#) (Farrar \$26). I had memorized Bullfinch's *Age of Fable* by the end of 5th grade and always have felt a grasp of the gods was an essential underpinning to literature. The success of Rick Riordan in presenting mythology to young readers is a good thing despite the commercialization. So I can't resist this unusual book by Mason. "Mason reworks Greek myths into mostly melancholic fragments in this impressive collection of flash fictions that accentuate the pain, frustrations, and regrets of well-known and unfamiliar myths. Each section centers loosely on a single god, showing the ways they debilitated successive family lines and interconnected figures. Athena's stories float around the edges of *The Odyssey*, capturing the bleak aftermath of the abandonment of Calypso and revenge of Ajax. The Zeus cycle follows Europa's lineage, including Minos's section—a heartbreaking look at his belated anguish for mistreating his friend Daedalus. In the sections for Philemon and Baucis and Daphne, Mason rejects the characters' traditional transformations into trees to show deeper rewards and punishments. The strongest story of the Nemesis portion has a Clytemnestra bursting with her rage at the sacrifice of her daughter. Alcestis's section strips away the romance of a wife willing to die in place of her husband, Admetus... It's heavy but never plodding; readers

familiar with Greek mythology will appreciate Mason's mournful riffs highlighting the darker recesses of mythology."—*PW* on our **July Modern Firsts Club Pick**.

✉Mazzola, Anna. [The Story Keeper](#) (Tinder \$39). A wonderful combination of a thrilling mystery and a perfectly depicted period piece makes our **August History/Mystery Pick** although it publishes the end of July. I picked it in part because Rob and I are mad for the TV Series *Shetland* based on Ann Cleeves' Gold-Dagger winning novels. Audrey Hart is on the Isle of Skye to collect the word-of-mouth folk tales of the people and communities around her. It is 1857, the Highland Clearances have left devastation and poverty, and the crofters are suspicious and hostile, claiming they no longer know their stories. Then Audrey discovers the body of a young girl washed up on the beach and the crofters tell her that it is only a matter of weeks since another girl has disappeared. They believe the girls are the victims of the spirits of the unforgiven dead. Initially, Audrey is sure the girls are being abducted, but then she is reminded of her own mother, a Skye woman who disappeared in mysterious circumstances. It seems there is a link to be explored, and Audrey may uncover just what her family has been hiding from her all these years. Think Hannah Kent's *Burial Rites* and don't expect the conventional.

McLaughlin, James. [Bearskin](#) (Harper \$29). Ecco, a relatively new division of Harper Collins, is publishing some very fine crime. The Starred Review for our **July First Mystery Club Pick**: "As taut as a crossbow and as sharp as an arrowhead, McLaughlin's debut unfolds in the Appalachian wilderness of Virginia, a landscape whose heart of darkness pulses viscerally through its characters. Rice Moore is working as a biologist caretaker at the vast Turk Mountain Preserve when he discovers that poachers are killing bears to sell their organs on overseas drug markets. Rice's efforts to curtail their activities antagonizes locals who raped the last caretaker and left her for dead, and—worse—it alerts agents of Mexico's Sinaloa drug cartel, from which Rice has been fleeing for reasons revealed gradually, to his whereabouts. McLaughlin skillfully depicts Rice, revealing quirks and peculiarities of his personality that show how "his hold on what he'd always believed was right and what was wrong had grown fatigued, eventually warping to fit the contours of the world he inhabited"—a disconcerting revelation that helps establish the suspenseful feeling that anything can happen. Rice's story builds toward violent confrontations with the poachers, the cartel, and nature itself. The novel's denouement, a smoothly orchestrated confluence of the greater and lesser subplots, plays out against a tempest-tossed natural setting whose intrinsic beauty and roughness provide the perfect context for the story's volatile events. This is a thrilling, thoroughly satisfying debut."

Nadel, Barbara. [Incorruptible](#) (Headline \$45—only 2 left as I write this). In the backstreets of Istanbul, a young woman's body is found. Dumped in a dustbin and covered in cut flowers, she is the victim of a frenzied and vicious stabbing. Inspector Ikmen discovers that the woman was well known in Istanbul. Newspapers had been calling her the blessed woman; cured of cancer in a Christian miracle and a proclaimed messenger of the Virgin Mary. These controversial claims had made her fierce enemies in the predominantly Islamic community and she had unwittingly stirred up divisions amongst the Christians of the city. But as

Ikmen digs further into the case he uncovers powerful hatred and dark secrets lurking within her family. 20th in this fine, dark series, one of the few to explore Turkey today.

Ridge, John Rollin. [The Life and Adventures of Joaquín Murieta](#) (Penguin Classic \$17). Signed not by Ridge who died in 1867 and wrote this, his only novel, in 1854, but by Diana Gabaldon who has written a compelling Foreword I recommend to all—her discussion of what being called "Mexican" as well as considerations about the outlaw hero are two components. You T. Jefferson Parker fans will be familiar with Joaquín Murieta and his famous head in a bottle. You may even be familiar with the thought that this novel based on a real life bandit-hero "inspired the creation of Zorro, the Lone Ranger, and Batman" although I'm not sure about Batman. Still... Murieta operated in California during the Gold Rush when incoming white boomers murdered his family and pushed him off his land. Murieta organized a band of more than 2000 outlaws to strike back, robbing, rustling, and murdering with the goal of taking back California... Ridge's book is both "the first novel written by a Native American (Cherokee) and the first novel published in California." And it's still a rousing adventure read. Hsuan L. Hsu supplies a detailed Introduction presenting both period and publishing history with footnotes and a useful Suggestions for Further Reading section. This edition features some rewritings including "The Curse of Capistrano," aka "The Mark of Zorro." At a time when conversations ring about identity, Ridge and Gabaldon speak powerfully to us.

You can read more about Gabaldon's family in this [website post](#)

✉Robinson, Peter. [Careless Love](#) (Hodder \$44). Pubs July 26 so bound to show up in August, but please order early to avoid disappointment. A young local student has apparently committed suicide. Her body is found in an abandoned car on a lonely country road. She didn't own a car. Didn't even drive. How did she get there? Where did she die? Who moved her, and why? Meanwhile a man in his sixties is found dead in a gully up on the wild moorland. He is wearing an expensive suit and carrying no identification. Post-mortem findings indicate he died from injuries sustained during the fall. But what was he doing up there? And why are there no signs of a car in the vicinity? As the inconsistencies multiply and the mysteries proliferate, Annie's father's new partner, Zelda, comes up with a shocking piece of information that alerts Banks and Annie to the return of an old enemy in a new guise.

Rutger, Michael. [The Anomaly](#) (Grand Central \$26). Our **July Thriller Club Pick** earns this *PW* Starred Review: Fans of the paranormal thrillers of Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child will relish this superior debut from screenwriter Rutger, who makes the fantastic seem less so by dint of his self-aware, flawed lead and his ability to inject gallows humor into tense situations. Nolan Moore hosts *The Anomaly Files*, a YouTube show dedicated to exploring unexplained phenomena, but he and his team hope for bigger things after the Palinhem Foundation—whose mission is truth, according to a foundation representative who goes by the name Feather—sponsors an expedition that could land the show a cable deal. Nolan and his colleagues, accompanied by Feather, travel from Los Angeles to the Grand Canyon to attempt to locate a cavern allegedly found by an early-20th-century expedition sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution, which later suppressed

the expedition's discovery of "evidence that North America was visited in eldritch times by another culture." Nolan and gang succeed in finding the cavern, only to encounter incredible—and terrifying—objects that place their lives in jeopardy. Rutger milks every ounce of suspense from his plot.

Scottoline, Lisa. [I See Life Through Rose Colored Glasses](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Written with her daughter Francesca Serritella and out in July and can be Signed by Lisa on August 13 when she appears to sign [Feared](#) (\$27.99), 6th in the Rosato & DiNunzio series of tricky legal thrillers.

Steinhauer, Olen. [The Middleman](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Not out until August but we have a limited number of Signed 1sts coming so please order now. Here's the Indie Next Pick: "Two modern-day revolutionaries, one violent and one not, band together to get their message out to the masses. Violence explodes, and the movement is destroyed. Or is it? Two FBI agents who are in the middle of everything — one in seclusion in the mountains and the other just barely having escaped an assassination attempt — must unite to find the real answers to this international conspiracy. With a subtle nod to 1992's *Sneakers*, Olen Steinhauer crafts a fast-moving tale of intrigue that has echoes of today's politics."

Straley, John. [Baby's First Felony](#) (Soho \$25.95). Yay, the return of Sitka, Alaska's Cecil Younger. **Published in July and Signed here September 2 at the Poisoned Pen Mystery Conference at the Arizona Biltmore.** "It has been 17 years since the last Cecil Younger novel from John Straley. That's a long hiatus, to be sure, but *Baby's First Felony* proves more than worth the wait, as Alaska's erstwhile writer laureate dusts off his suspense fiction chops to craft the finest installment of the series thus far." —*BookPage*, Top Pick in Mystery. "John Straley is an Alaskan treasure. *Baby's First Felony* is a page-turning, darkly hilarious murder mystery turned upside down. With the help of a crazy cast of characters, investigator Cecil Younger is taking on the criminal underbelly of an Alaska seaside town, even as he faces the equally terrifying trials of parenting a teenager. As always, Straley has brought his unflinching eye, compassionate heart and lyrical voice to the story. Northern noir at its best." —Eowyn Ivey, Pulitzer finalist and bestselling author of *The Snow Child*. I'll have more to say in August. Dana Stabenow will chat with John about Alaska and mystery at our September 2-3 Conference.

Stroby, Wallace. [Some Die Nameless](#) (Mulholland \$26). **Out in July but Signed here on October 15 so Stroby can join up with Joe Ide and his 3rd IQ novel [Wrecked](#)** (Mulholland \$27). An ex-mercenary and an embattled journalist find themselves unlikely allies against a corrupt defense contractor in this "noir for modern times" (Ace Atkins). Patrick reviews: "Ray Devlin is a former mercenary trying to live the quiet life in Florida, but a visit from an old colleague ends violently and brings Devlin out of the shadows. Meanwhile, Tracy Quinn, an investigative reporter at a struggling Philly newspaper, looks into a local homicide that turns out to have bigger implications than she could have realized. The trajectories of both characters are fated to cross in a gripping page-turner that casts a shrewd eye on contemporary sociopolitics, economics, and what happens when the shadowy world of defense contracting is brought into the daylight. Stroby is in absolutely top form here, combining flawed, complicated characters with breakneck storytelling." We recommend you order it now while we have first prints.

Tyler, Anne. [Clock Dance](#) (Knopf \$26.95). "Tyler, a master of honey enchantment and sly social evisceration whose storytelling finesse has propelled more than 20 novels, now delivers an especially lithe and enlivening tale... Tyler's bedazzling yet fathoms-deep feel-good novel is wrought with nimble humor, intricate understanding of emotions and family, place and community—and bounteous pleasure in quirkiness, discovery, and renewal... Ensnaring... Quintessential Tyler... Brilliant, charming, and book-club-ready." —*Booklist* Starred Review. *PW* adds, "The cast of sharply drawn characters dominates in ways both reflective and raucous across a series of emotional events, such as Willa's baffling encounter with a would-be hijacker, a heartbreaking moment with her elderly dad, and the jolting advice she receives from a kindhearted doctor. It's a stellar addition to Tyler's prodigious catalogue."

THE SPIES OF SUMMER

Coes, Ben. [Bloody Sunday](#) (St Martins \$26.99 Signed August 2). Dewey Andreas, still reeling from recent revelations about his own past, is ready to retire from the CIA. But he's the only available agent with the skills to carry out the CIA's plan to stop North Korea. The plan is to inject a singular designer poison into the head of the North Korean military and in exchange for the nuclear plans, provide him with the one existing dose of the antidote. But it goes awry when Dewey manages to inject a small amount of the poison into himself. Now, to survive, Dewey must get into North Korea and access the antidote and, while there, thwart the nuclear ambitions of both North Korea and Iran. And he has less than 24 hours to do so...

✎Cumming, Charles. [The Man Between](#) (Collins \$35 Signed). 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.... new stand-alone spy thriller from the winner of the CWA Ian Fleming Steel Dagger for Best Thriller of the Year.

Dunn, Matthew. [Act of Betrayal](#) (\$9.99) Will Cochrane #7. Former intelligence operative Will Cochrane investigates the poisoning of a CIA agent who uncovered a mysterious situation involving the assassination of a terrorist financier.

Fesperman, Dan. [Safe Houses](#) (Knopf \$26.95 Signed). See Event books for the latest spy thriller by Steel Dagger winner Fesperman. There's a two-track story, a knockout opener, and a secret sisterhood.

✎Herron, Mick. [London Rules](#) (Soho \$26.95). Over at Slough House, the MI5 satellite office for outcast and demoted spies, the agents are struggling with personal problems: repressed grief, various addictions, retail paralysis, and the nagging suspicion that their newest colleague is a psychopath. But collectively, they're about to rediscover their greatest strength—that of making a bad

situation much, much worse. It's a good thing Jackson Lamb knows the rules—things aren't going to clear up by themselves. 5th in the two-time CWA Ian Fleming Dagger-winning Slough House series featuring Jackson Lamb. John Sandford is a true fan and recommends this. The ironic title, an echo of the "Moscow rules" trope of cold war fiction, conjures up the absurdities and intrigues of bureaucracy, espionage, and politics. Herron combines a strong plot with a fine, often comic style as he celebrates the power of community in response to terrorism."—*PW* Starred Review. We have 3 Signed UK firsts still: [London Rules](#) (\$32).

Jennings, Luke. [Codename Villanelle](#) (LittleBrown \$25). "Superior prose and a cracker jack plot lift this exceptional spy thriller and series launch from Jennings. Assassin Oxana Vorontsova, who was once a linguistics student at the University of Perm, is employed by someone she knows only as Konstantin, who works for a secret international organization called the Twelve, a dozen men who decide which evildoers who threaten the stability of the world should die. Three years earlier, Konstantin rescued Oxana from the Dobryanka women's remand center in the Ural Mountains, where she was serving time for murdering three gangsters. After a year of intensive training, Oxana now goes by the code name Villanelle. After carrying out several assigned killings, she guns down Russian political theorist Viktor Kedrin in London, which brings her to the attention of former British MI5 agent Eve Polastri, who was in charge of protecting Kedrin. Eve slowly begins putting together the pieces of the Villanelle puzzle. The wide-open ending points to more to come in the struggle between these two resourceful antagonists."—*PW* Starred Review. The prose and pace of this are just terrific.

"Fans of Stieg Larsson will adore both the steely, resourceful Villanelle and the determined Eve. This finely tuned, knife-edge thriller with two equally unflinching women refuses to sacrifice an ounce of adrenaline while allowing the characters room for depth and complexity. Highly recommended."—*LJ* Starred Review

Krugler, David. [Rip the Angels from Heaven](#) (Norton \$25.95). Set in 1945, Krugler's superior second thriller featuring Lt. Ellis Voigt of the Office of Naval Intelligence finds Voigt the target of NKVD thugs seeking the truth about the fate of the missing Herbert Himmel, a Russian who used a clipping service as a cover for a Washington, D.C., spy ring. In the previous book, Voigt went undercover in Himmel's business and was present at a meeting that Himmel had at an automat with a scientist from Los Alamos, N.Mex., who passed on secrets about a bomb being built in the desert. Voigt persuades his boss to send him on a mission to Los Alamos, where he will make contact with the Russian agents on his tail and offer them misinformation—in particular, that he forced the scientist spy to give him the package with the classified information meant for Himmel. Krugler's further exploration of his lead's moral ambiguity enhances a captivating story line that will appeal to fans of Joseph Kanon.

Lancet, Barry. [The Spy Across the Table](#) (\$17). When two theater friends are murdered backstage at a Kennedy Center performance, Jim Brodie, antiques dealer, Japan expert, and second-generation private investigator, is devastated—and determined to hunt down the killer. He's not the only one. Brodie is summoned to the White House. The First Lady was the college roommate of one

of the victims, and she enlists Brodie—off the books—to use his Japanese connections to track down the assassin. Homeland Security head Tom Swelley is furious that the White House is meddling and wants Brodie off the case. Why? For the same reason a master Chinese spy known only as Zhou, one of the most dangerous men alive, appears on the scene: Those murders were no random act of violence. Brodie often lies to Tokyo to attend the second of two funerals, when his friend's daughter Anna is kidnapped during the ceremony. It is then Brodie realizes that the murders were simply bait to draw her out of hiding....

LeCarre, John. [A Legacy of Spies](#) (\$17). The first Smiley novel in more than 25 years summons retired British Secret Service officer Peter Guillam back to London as his Cold War past comes to claim him....

Lustbader, Eric. [The Bourne Legacy](#) (\$9.99). In this reprint of the first of the Bourne books Lustbader wrote, former CIA agent David Webb leads a quiet life as a university professor until he becomes a target of an assassin and is framed for the murders of two close friends, and as he fights for his life, he finds himself under the control of his alternate personality—Jason Bourne.

Silva, Daniel. [The Other Woman](#) (Harper \$28.99). See Event Books for more on the 18th Gabriel Allon, art restorer and Israel's spymaster, who takes on a KGB mole planted in the West and the new Russia.

Thor, Brad. [Spymaster](#) (Atria \$27.99). See Event Books. Across Europe, a secret organization has begun attacking diplomats. Back in the United States, a foreign ally demands the identity of a highly placed covert asset. In the balance hang the ingredients for all-out war. With his mentor out of the game, counterterrorism operative Scot Harvath must take on the role he has spent his career avoiding....

MURDER IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Bouman, Tom. [Fateful Mornings](#) (\$15.95). In Wild Thyme, Pennsylvania, summer has brought Officer Henry Farrell nothing but trouble. Heroin has arrived with a surge in crime. When local carpenter Kevin O'Keeffe admits that he shot a man and that his girlfriend, Penny, is missing, the search leads the small-town cop to an industrial vice district across state lines that has already ensnared more than one of his neighbors. With the patience of a hunter, Farrell ventures into a world of shadow beyond the fields and forests of home. "*Fateful Mornings* unfolds in a less hectic and more novelistic manner than many police-procedurals, leaving space for meditations on natural history... investigatory digressions and dead ends, lucky chances, and the vicissitudes of the lonely narrator's love-life.... Officer Farrell... proves to be excellent company."—*Wall Street Journal*

Doiron, Paul. [Stay Hidden](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Our copies come with a special essay by CJ Box. Who knew that "hunting homicides" were frequent enough in Maine that one of the state's game wardens would be appointed the official hunting homicide investigator? Which sends him to a coastal island overrun by deer. Did the woman die in mistake for a white-tailed deer while hanging up sheets to dry? Or was it murder? Note: our copies come with an essay by CJ Box on choosing a Wyoming Game Warden for his series hero. Read all of the [Mike Bowditch thrillers](#) to get a taste of rural Maine.

Harper, Molly. [Ain't She a Peach?](#) (Gallery \$16) On the lighter, romance side: An Atlanta ex-cop comes to sleepy Lake Sackett, Georgia, seeking peace and quiet—but he hasn't bargained on falling for Frankie, the cutest coroner he's ever met. Frankie McCready talks to dead people. Not like a ghost whisperer or anything—but it seems rude to embalm them and not at least say hello. Fortunately, at the McCready Family Funeral Home & Bait Shop, Frankie's eccentricities fit right in. Lake Sackett's embalmer and county coroner, Frankie's goth styling and passion for nerd culture mean she's not your typical Southern girl, but the McCreadys are hardly your typical Southern family. Led by Great-Aunt Tootie, the gambling, boozing, dog-collecting matriarch of the family, everyone looks out for one another—which usually means getting up in everyone else's business. Maybe that's why Frankie is so fascinated by new sheriff Eric Linden...a recent transplant from Atlanta, he sees a homicide in every hunting accident or boat crash, which seems a little paranoid for this sleepy tourist town. What's he so worried about? And what kind of cop can get a job with the Atlanta PD but can't stand to look at a dead body.

Houston, Victoria. [Dead Firefly](#) (Gallery \$16). "My wife and Gordon Maxwell tried to kill me this morning." Doc Osborne is startled by the unexpected words tumbling out of the mouth of his friend and fellow AA member Chuck Pelletier, the recently remarried lead accountant for a planned luxury fly-fishing lodge preserve under construction in the area. Alarmed, Doc tries to alert Police Chief Lew Ferris, but she is tied up with law enforcement teams across the state. They're searching for thieves who have been cutting down and stealing hundreds of thousands of precious birch trees from public and private property across northern Wisconsin. But it's too late. Pelletier is found dead not two hours later. Doc is shocked, saddened, and determined to get to the bottom of the murder. With one man dead, evidence of lakeshore properties being stolen from elderly owners, and an attempted sexual assault, short-handed Chief Ferris deputizes Doc and his skilled tracker neighbor to help with the investigation. Then, just as they seem to be getting somewhere, things grow even more complicated. Just another summer in Loon Lake—and the 18th in this series.

McCafferty, Keith. [A Death in Eden](#) (Viking \$26). Along with the thrills outdoorsman McCafferty writes an ode to the beautiful, endangered (by copper mining), river canyon formed by the Eden and the joys of a float (by permit only, and hard to get). Every one of McCafferty's amazingly plotted Sean Stranahans showcases Montana. Plus he does a lot of fishing! Our copies come with a jazzy photo of the fly he tied for me to go with this his 7th thriller.

Ross, John F. [The Promise of the Grand Canyon](#) (Viking \$30). A timely account of John Wesley Powell, the explorer and visionary who led the first successful expedition down the Colorado and through the canyon. After which he fought hard for environmental sustainability in the West. **Timely because, among other reasons, if you read this before you read our July Thriller Pick by Rutger, below, you will be better centered in Rutger's imaginative story of an expedition into the canyon that didn't fare as well as Powell's.**

Rutger, Michael. [The Anomaly](#) (Grand Central \$26). A trip down into the Grand Canyon makes on many bucket lists...and in this

imaginative thriller featuring a hidden cave, cave art, and... the expedition (in theory) led by an Indiana Jones sort of TV archaeologist becomes a last hurrah for more than one member. Our July Thriller Club Pick is truly imaginative and vivid in its descriptions of what is real (and what not). For another mystery set in the Grand Canyon National Park: Scott Graham, [Canyon Sacrifice](#) (\$14.95), plus he has two more in National Parks: [Yellowstone Standoff](#) and [Mountain Rampage](#) (\$14.95 each). Tony Hillerman set a Leaphorn and Chee at the site of a plane crash into the Canyon in [Skeleton Man](#) \$9.99). For Glacier National Park: [Christine Carbo's 4 thrillers](#). And for a whole range of National Parks, the wonderful [Anna Pigeon Mysteries](#) by Nevada Barr. Plus for a really surprising take on Yellowstone, read CJ Box's [Free Fire](#) (\$9.99), a Joe Pickett, Wyoming Game Warden thriller with a fascinating jurisdictional question—can you get away with murder in one corner of the famous park?

Zajonc, Taylor. [The Maw](#) (Skyhorse \$24.99). I came across this writeup and thinking of recent news about 9 lost boys in Thailand being rescued and James Rollins' fascination with caving, and one of Damien Boyd's excellent British police procedurals where caves are key—[Death Sentence](#) (\$15.95), I include it: A small team of cavers, funded by an enigmatic American billionaire, sets out to explore an uncharted super cave in Tanzania. Trapped inside by inclement weather and bad judgment, the team must go deeper into the darkness in order to make their way back. There are wrinkles (each caver has their own secrets, of course), and tilts toward sci-fi and horror, but Zajonc expertly mines his setting, a place so dark and vast that getting lost means death. Milo Luttrell, a mild-mannered history professor, is ill-equipped for the journey, making him an easy cipher for Zajonc to explain the ins and outs of extreme caving. Brought along for his historical expertise, Milo quickly finds that little of what he knows from above ground comes to bear in the darkness. Zajonc, a historian and adventurer in his own right, knows how to explain the sensation of caving. The sights and smells of the underworld come alive when reading *The Maw*, making the isolation and claustrophobia he depicts all the more intense.

And for energy while you trek, camp, sail, paddle, and read...

Coffeey, Bennet. [Chocolate Every Day](#) (Avery \$27). You think you love chocolate, but do you know how much you could actually love it? Bennett and Ky show chocolate for what it really is: a delicious and incredibly potent, antioxidant powerhouse filled with vitamins and nutrients. A sweet, mostly vegan collection of chocolate treats, ie plant based, from the founders of Not Your Sugar Mamas.



Or listen... don't forget Audio Books go with your time in the outdoors, too. Set up a [Libro.fm account](#) and support The Pen with your purchases.

PARIS CON PLUS

Bannalec, Jean-Luc. [Death in Brittany](#) (\$16.99) I can't believe I omitted one of my favorite series, set in Brittany and featuring the enigmatic Commissaire Georges Dupin, a cranky, exiled (he thinks) Parisian cop, learning his way around this remote coastal province, from the list of books showcasing Paris and France in the June Booknews. Atmospheric, unusual, and eccentrically French, this is the first. [Order all three](#) for a summer reading treat.

Bayard, Tania. [In the Presence of Evil](#) (Severn \$28.99). Set in 1393 Paris, Bayard's impressive first novel and series launch introduces Christine de Pizan, a widow who struggles to support her family as a freelance scribe. For the historical fiction fan: see New Books for a full Starred Review. This title like others published by Severn is Ordered Upon Request.

Brydon, James. [The Moment Before Drowning](#) (Akashic \$25.95). A very French crime novel. "After spending two years in Algeria with the French military, Jacques le Garrec, a Resistance hero and former detective, returns home in disgrace to a desolate snow-laden seacoast village in Brittany to await his own trial for a horrific incident that occurred during his time in Algeria. Shrugging off taunts he is a war criminal, and the resentment of colleagues, he agrees to look into an unsolved murder committed the previous winter. A local teenage girl was killed and her bizarrely mutilated body was left displayed on the heath in a way that no one could understand. Le Garrec's investigations draw him into the dark past of the town, still haunted by memories of the German occupation. As he tries to reconstruct the events of the murder, the violence of this crime and his recollections of Algeria intertwine, threatening to submerge him. "What seems a deceptive title becomes a metaphor for le Garrec's journey in *The Moment Before Drowning*—a gripping, atmospheric, submersive novel that is deeply layered and delicately nuanced. I couldn't put this book down." —Cara Black

DeJean, Joan. [The Queen's Embroiderer](#) (Bloomsbury \$30). From the author of *How Paris Became Paris*, a sweeping history of high finance, the origins of high fashion, and a pair of star-crossed lovers in 18th-century France. Paris, 1719. The stock market is surging and the world's first millionaires are buying everything in sight. Against this backdrop, two families, the Magoulets and the Chevrots, rose to prominence only to plummet in the first stock market crash. One family built its name on the burgeoning financial industry, the other as master embroiderers for Queen Marie-Thérèse and her husband, King Louis XIV. Both patriarchs were ruthless money-mongers, determined to strike it rich by arranging marriages for their children. But in a Shakespearean twist, two of their children fell in love. To remain together, Louise Magoulet and Louis Chevrot fought their fathers' rage and abuse. A real-life heroine, Louise took on Magoulet, Chevrot, the police, an army regiment, and the French Indies Company to stay with the man she loved. Following these families from 1600 until the Revolution of 1789, Joan DeJean recreates the larger-than-life personalities of Versailles, where displaying wealth was a power game; the sordid cells of the Bastille; the Louisiana territory, where Frenchwomen were forcibly sent to marry colonists; and the legendary "Wall Street of Paris," Rue Quincampoix, a world of high finance uncannily similar to what we know now. As the French say, the more things change, the more they remain the same. I refer you again to David Liss' [A](#)

[Conspiracy of Paper](#) (\$16) and his mystery centered on the 17th century coffee bean commodity bubble, [The Coffee Trader](#) (\$16). I'll never forget his signing for it when he brewed coffee for us from ground beans and red wine. It was horrible, but caffeinated.

Mayle, Peter. [My Twenty-Five Years in Provence: Reflections on Then and Now](#) (Knopf \$25), is Mayle's final book filled with recollections, culinary delights, and the inevitable changes the passing of time brought. I didn't miss it, it has just published. And a 20th-anniversary edition of [A Year in Provence](#) (\$15.95) is worth a reread, or a good place to start reading this wonderful author.

BRITISH LIBRARY AND OTHER CRIME CLASSICS

Edwards, Martin. [Blood on the Tracks](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). Edwards's entertaining railway-themed anthology, part of the British Library Crime Classics series, contains 15 short stories mainly from authors little known today. Arthur Conan Doyle, the most notable exception, kicks things off splendidly with "The Man with the Watches," in which a "well-known criminal investigator" offers his solution to the bizarre murder of a man who was found shot in a railway carriage, which he seemingly could not have entered...his is the perfect volume for fans of short, high-quality, fair-play detective fiction."—*PW*

Melville, Alan. [Weekend at Thrackley](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). A World War I veteran with no job and no prospects is invited to a tony Surrey housewarming by a man who claims to be the best friend of his late father. If this sounds too good to be true, it is. "This story about guests gathered at a country house for the weekend, originally published in 1934, anticipates Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*, which appeared five years later... British crime novelist Martin Edwards provides his usual insightful introduction to this latest addition to the British Library Crime Classics series, letting readers know that Raymond Chandler was a huge fan of this novel. Bubbly social satire sets off a clockwork plot."—*Booklist* Starred Review

Chandler, Raymond. [The Annotated Big Sleep](#) (Vintage \$22). The first fully annotated edition of the 1939 classic. Patrick has penned a brilliant essay which I quote in part here: Nearly 80 years after its original publication, Chandler's iconic debut novel finally gets the scholarly treatment it deserves with this superb, lovingly annotated edition. The enduring 1939 tale of blackmail and corruption introduced readers to private detective Philip Marlowe and remains one of the most influential novels in American literature, inspiring countless books and films. The publisher has enlisted three editors to provide notes—a poet/novelist/bookseller, an English professor, and a librarian/scholar—and the result is a thorough, interdisciplinary approach that enriches and informs the text. For readers already well-acquainted with the book, the annotations force us to slow down and consider the historical context in which it was conceived... Details from Chandler's biography—from his classical education in England, combat experience in WWI, and his early career as an oil company executive—are referenced in depth. Special attention is also paid to Chandler's lifelong trouble with alcohol. The editors wisely draw on the treasure trove of revealing letters that



Chandler left behind for insights into his work. As novelist Jonathan Lethem points out in his enlightening Foreword, Chandler “somehow stands inside and outside of his own creation simultaneously,” with an ear to the mean streets but the refined sensibility of the drawing room.’ Lethem signs here on November 17 so if you wish he can sign his Foreword for you.

✠Christie, Agatha. [Ordeal By Innocence](#) (Collins \$14.99), re-published to tie into the new [TV Mini-Series](#). Christmas 1954. Wealthy philanthropist Rachel Argyll is murdered at her family estate Sunny Point. Her adopted son Jack Argyll is arrested for her murder. He vehemently protests his innocence. And then...

✠Detection Club. [The Sinking Admiral](#) (Collins \$15.99). From 2016. *The Floating Admiral* was the first of the Detection Club’s collaborative novels, in which twelve of its members wrote a single novel. Eighty-five years later, fourteen members of the club have once again collaborated to produce *The Sinking Admiral*. ‘The Admiral’ is a pub in the Suffolk seaside village of Crabwell, The Admiral Byng. ‘The Admiral’ is also the nickname of its landlord, Geoffrey Horatio Fitzsimmons, as well as the name of the landlord’s dinghy. None of them are as buoyant as they should be, for the pub is threatened with closure due to falling takings. Tempers are already frayed due to the arrival of a television documentary team when Fitzsimmons is found dead in his tethered boat. Note: “The Detection Club is a private association of writers of detective fiction in Great Britain, existing chiefly for the purpose of eating dinners together at suitable intervals and of talking illimitable shop ... Its membership is confined to those who have written genuine detective stories (not adventure tales or ‘thrillers’) and election is secured by a vote of the club on recommendation by two or more members, and involves the undertaking of an oath.” So Dorothy L. Sayers described it. Simon Brett was chair until Martin Edwards recently took over the helm.

Willeford, Charles. [Understudy for Death](#) (Hard Case Crime \$9.95). Originally published in 1961 and unavailable since, until now. Why would a happily married Florida housewife pick up her husband’s .22 caliber Colt Woodsman semi-automatic pistol and use it to kill her two young children and herself? Cynical newspaper reporter Richard Hudson is assigned to find out—and the assignment will send him down a road of self-discovery in this incisive, no-holds-barred portrait of American marriage in the *Mad Men* era.

OUR JULY LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

This is a month very heavy in paperbacks for vacation or relaxation reading. See many more in New Books and check our [Web Store](#) for additional titles.

Alexander, Tasha. [Death in St Petersburg](#) (\$16.99). Enter the Tsarist capital of 1900 when Nicholas delighted his family with gifts from Fabergé (not just eggs....) and more or less ignored the fact that the Romanovs were not safe; when dissent was doing a slow build; and when the Mariinsky Theater brimmed with fans of ballet. Lady Emily’s dashing husband Colin has gone to St Petersburg on one of his mysterious missions for the Crown. Lady Emily has been left behind in England, but then one of her society friends proposes they visit Princess Bolkonkaya. Thus Emily has arrived in the city and at the Mariinsky in time to spy the body of the Swan Lake lead ballerina lying dead in the snow, still in costume as the Queen. From there the narrative flows from Emily in 1900 and forward from 1889 as we learn the

story of Irina Semenova Menetseva (dead) as her fellow ballet student and best friend Ekaterina Petrovna Sokolova tells it. As the two story streams merge we enjoy a marvelous portrait of the imperial city, of the culture of ballet, of the fissures in imperial rule, and finally, who did it. There are many wonderful historical mysteries publishing in October: I picked this one for our Book Buyers Club for the entry into the world of study and performance in a demanding art. This whole series is a delight; [order them all](#). Alexander returns to us on October 27 with [Uneasy Lies the Crown](#) (St Martins \$27.99).

Bailey, Sarah. [The Dark Lake](#) (\$17). Australian Bailey’s debut, a 2017 First Mystery Club Pick, is original, unpretentious, and introspective without slowing down the pace of the police investigation into the murder of a charismatic, enigmatic English and Drama teacher found floating in a lake, her body strewn with roses. Rosalind had been a classmate to Detective Sergeant Gemma Woodstock in rural Smithson’s high school. Beautiful and inscrutable, Rosalind had been one of those high school magnets around which less popular or commanding kids circled, kids like Gemma. Her father was one of the town’s richest men; she had three brothers, who were not supportive. Yet here she was, at age 28, back in Smithson, pulling together a controversial student production of Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*...and murdered. Gemma, mother of a small son with one partner, having an affair with fellow and married cop Felix, and at a bit of a police career crossroads, leads the investigation as the clock ticks towards Christmas.... *Dark Lake* has attracted readers like CJ Box, Lisa Gardner, and Douglas Preston in addition to me.

Child, Lee, et al. [Matchup](#) (\$16). “Very rarely does this kind of star power assemble for one anthology, and each story delivers the goods.” In a follow-up to [Faceoff](#) (\$15.99), an earlier International Thriller Writers Anthology, 22 writers pair their series characters to produce an 11-story zinger edited by Lee Child. Sandra Brown, C. J. Box; Val McDermid, Peter James; Kathy Reichs, Lee Child; Diana Gabaldon, Steve Berry; Gayle Lynds, David Morrell; Karin Slaughter, Michael Koryta; Char-laine Harris, Andrew Gross; Lisa Jackson, John Sandford; Lara Adrian, Christopher Rice; Lisa Scottoline, Nelson DeMille; J.A. Jance and Eric Van Lustbader. While all are a blast, the Gabaldon/Berry pairing of Jamie Fraser with Cotton Malone is technically the most challenging...and fun. Grab both these ITW anthologies and dip in and out for summer fun.

✠Cleeves, Ann. [Cold Earth](#) (\$16.99). The ground shifts in more ways than one for Detective Inspector Jimmy Perez in CWA Diamond Dagger—winner Cleeves’ 7th Shetland mystery. He’s one of the mourners at the funeral of old Magnus Tait, who was once accused of murder but absolved by Perez’s investigation (an excellent entry in the TV series). As Tait’s body is lowered into its grave, the rain-soaked hillside above the cemetery gives way and nearly buries the few mourners under a massive landslide. No one is hurt, but the body of a woman in a red dress is spotted in the ruins of a cottage in the slide’s path. Who is she? Jimmy’s obsession with uncovering her identity only deepens when he learns that she was strangled before the landslide occurred... This series is brilliant television where a few changes are made (the age of Jimmy’s stepdaughter). [Order all the Shetland Mysteries](#)

Hoffman, Alice. [The Rules of Magic](#) (\$16). “In a dazzling, emotive prequel to her bestselling novel *Practical Magic*, Hoffman

brings the reader back into the world of the Owens family. *The Rules of Magic* takes us back two generations with practical Franzy, who must learn how to love; sensitive Jet, who must learn how to persevere; and restless Vincent, who must learn how to be happy. Hoffman's writing is frank, tender, vivid, and elusive all at once. Full of sorrow and beauty and courage, *The Rules of Magic* is a delicious, satisfying read." I whole-heartedly endorse this Library Reads recommendation—this is truly a gorgeous novel, perfect for summer reading.

Keller, Julia. [Fast Falls the Night](#) (\$16.99). The first drug overdose comes just after midnight, when a young woman dies on the dirty floor of a gas station bathroom. To the people of the small town of Acker's Gap, West Virginia, it is just another tragedy. It is sad—but these days, depressingly familiar. But then there is another overdose. And another. And another. Prosecutor Bell Elkins soon realizes that her Appalachian hometown is facing its starkest challenge yet: a day of constant heroin overdoses from a batch tainted with a lethal tranquilizer. While the clock ticks and the bodies fall, Bell and her colleagues desperately track the source of the deadly drug—and engage in fierce debates over the wisdom of expending precious resources to save the lives of self-destructive addicts. This is less about drugs and more about Keller's strength in writing about the ties that bind, and chafe, small rural communities. And the whole narrative is compressed into 24 hours. Keller return in late August or early September with a new direction for Bell: [Bone on Bone](#) (St Martins \$26.99).

McCafferty, Keith. [Cold Hearted River](#) (\$16). McCafferty reports he was inspired to write this by a meeting with Ernest Hemingway's fisherman son Jack when they were both contributing editors to *Field & Stream*. Most Hemingway readers know about the suitcase filled with his manuscripts that his first wife lost in a Paris train station. Fewer know that a steamer trunk filled with EH's valuable fishing gear was stolen from Railway Express in 1940 en route to Ketchum, Idaho, where EH was staying at Sun Valley Lodge. For McCafferty the novelist, this was a gift and he crafts one of his unusual stories around the lost treasure... bamboo rods and reels, House of Hardy gems (London's best; one actually does survive today)...perhaps now found. Or some of it. What if more than sports gear was in the trunk? The story actually begins when a woman and her husband are trapped by a surprise spring snow storm. He survives by shooting his horse and crawling inside; she makes it to a grizzly's den but dies from exposure, not by bear. Sheriff Martha Ettinger, joined in looking for her by her sometime lover Sean, finds a fly wallet in the panner of the dead woman's horse, the leather sporting an engraved EH... See Event Books for this month's Sean Stranahan and its trip down Montana's Eden River.

Phillips, Gin. [Fierce Kingdom](#) (\$16). A 2017 Modern Firsts Club Pick is a lulu. The zoo is nearly empty as Joan and her four-year-old son soak up the last few moments of playtime. They are happy, and the day has been close to perfect. But what Joan sees as she hustles her son toward the exit gate minutes before closing time sends her sprinting back into the zoo, her child in her arms. And for the next three hours—the entire scope of the novel—she keeps on running. “Part of the book's great allure is that the reader feels as if this character, Joan, is working out each of her dilemmas in real time. The book starts at 4:55 p.m. and ends just after 8:05 p.m.—we know because the story is structured as a ticktock, with

digital-watch chapter titles (5:23 p.m., 5:32 p.m., 5:42 p.m., etc.)... [Yet it] starts as so many scary ones do: Tranquilly. Joan and her adorable, regulation-precocious 4-year-old boy, Lincoln, are passing a pleasant afternoon at the zoo.”—*NY Times*

Quinn, Spencer. [The Right Side](#) (\$16). PP Staffer Tracy reviews: “Quinn takes a break from his wonderful Chet & Bernie series and introduces us to LeAnne Hogan, a female soldier wounded in Afghanistan. LeAnne is dealing with a host of issues including memory loss, disorientation, and anger. After ‘escaping’ the army hospital, she sets off on a road trip which includes a stop in Phoenix before making her way to Washington State. There a stray dog makes herself LeAnne's guardian angel in more ways than one. Very different from the Chet & Bernie books, but I found myself putting myself in LeAnne's red tennis shoes and really enjoyed this!” Me, too. Stephen King calls the book, “Brilliant. Deeply felt, but totally under control. I loved it.” Harlan Coben adds, “You won't forget the heroic LeAnne Hogan – and the same goes for her dog! Not to be missed.”

Ramsay, Frederick. [Countdown](#) (\$15.95). Unforgettable characters lift Ramsay's sequel to 2017's *Copper Kettle*, set in 1928 in Floyd, Virginia. When Sheriff David Privette tells Jesse Sutherlin, who runs a successful sawmill, that his father's bludgeoned body has been found under the sawdust in a soon-to-be abandoned ice house, Jesse is stunned, as the family thought that Pa Sutherlin died in 1918 of the Spanish flu in Norfolk. Once the identification is confirmed, Jesse vows to find the killer. His only hope lies in locating the man who told his family in 1918 that his father was dead and locating his father's distinctive pocket watch, which was not with the body. He gets no help from Privette, who considers the investigation a lost cause, and finds his own life in peril. While unraveling the mystery is fun, the novel's real pleasure lies in experiencing life—with all its kindnesses, sorrows, and triumphs—through the eyes of Jesse and his astute wife, Serena. Readers new to Ramsay (1936–2017) will want to read his earlier books after finishing this.” I can't begin to say how much all of us miss Fred, the man, and Fred the author, and how glad we are that his super fan Dana Stabenow stepped up to polish up this, Fred's final book..

Reed, Graham. [The Chairman's Toys](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). Vancouver, British Columbia—land of psychotically expensive real estate, high-grade cannabis, and Jake Constable. A man adrift. After Jake quits the drug business, his realtor/ex-wife, Nina, gets him a job as a house sitter for her wealthy clients. Jake celebrates by throwing a party in the mansion he was hired to look after. Unfortunately, the guest list gets out of hand, leaving Jake to contend with a hallucinogenic-vitamin-dispensing yogi, a dead guy in the bathroom, and The Norwegian—a criminal force of nature with a grudge against Jake. “Set in Vancouver, B.C., Canadian author Reed's quirky first novel introduces Jake Constable, whom his ex-wife, Nina, describes as ‘a semi-employed, semi-reformed drug dealer coming up fast on his forties.’... Jake, whose philosophy is ‘life is often less about making good decisions than figuring out how to live with bad ones,’ takes the reader on a fast, furious, and often hilarious tour. Watching him zigzag through the twisting plot is pure pleasure.”—*PW. Booklist* adds, “The dark-comedy aspect of this debut will also appeal to fans of Chris Knopf, David Freed, and Tim Cockey.” Out in July but this debut will be our **August Discovery Club Pick**.

Scottoline, Lisa. [Exposed](#) (\$16). Newly made a partner, Mary DiNunzio, never able to resist the bonds of her large (often extended) family, becomes engaged in a battle of wills with senior lawyer Bennie Rosato when Mary wants to represent an old friend, a sales rep she believes has been wrongly fired by his company. Bernie, no sentimentalist, says No, pointing out a conflict of interest since she, Bernie, represents the parent corporation. Plus she's known the charismatic CEO for years. The situation could blow apart the powerhouse Rosato & DiNunzio law firm if a pathway forward can't be found, since neither partner is about to back down. Scottoline excels at creating conflicts for her characters as you will see on August 13 when she returns with another in this series, a prepublication event: [Feared](#) (St Martins \$27.99)

Stabenow, Dana. [Less Than a Treason](#) (\$12.95). Two thousand people go missing in Alaska every year. They vanish in the middle of mountain footraces, on fishing boats in the Bering Sea, on small planes in the Bush. Kate Shugak 21 brings the lives of some of the missing plus Kate's circle forward since the events that sent her off alone to come to grips with them. How she does it is impressive and moving. And a bonus is that in the telling, and then as a multi-strand plot unfolds, the Alaska native unfurls some of her best writing about the glories—and quirks, lots of them—of her state. I've been reading Kate from the Edgar-winning first book *A Cold Day for Murder*, and recognize that with the advent of reality TV (*The Greatest Catch*) and the booming cruise industry, Alaska has become a far more familiar and cherished landscape for readers. This jewel will lure in many more. Good news: Dana will be writing Kate 22 next year.

✦Sykes, SD. [City of Masks](#) (\$15.95). It's 1358, and young Oswald de Lacy, Lord Somershill, and his mother are delayed in Venice as he awaits a pilgrim ship to the Holy Land. While the city is besieged by the King of Hungary, Oswald stays at the house of an English merchant, and soon comes under the spell of this decadent and dazzling island state that sits on the edge of Europe and of the household in the *palazzo*. But Oswald has secrets from his complicated past and reluctant accession to his title that still haunt him, no matter how much he consoles himself with the delights of Venice, perhaps the wife of his host. When he finds a dead man at the carnival, he is dragged into a murder investigation that thrusts him before the feared Signori di Notte, the secret police, and reveals that the masks are not just worn to celebrate Carnivale. This is a detail rich, slowly moving story to read on lazy days. It's best if you [order the first two in the series](#) before you begin this 3rd entry.

NEW BOOKS

✦Ashdown, Isabel. [Little Sister](#) (Kensington \$26). British author Ashdown makes her U.S. debut with a harrowing tale of sibling rivalry. After 16 years of separation, Emily, who's lived a life of privilege on the Isle of Wight, reunites with her year-younger sister, well-traveled bohemian Jess. Emily invites Jess to live with her as a nanny to her stepdaughter and her toddler daughter, Daisy. All is idyllic for a few months until New Year's Eve, when Jess is found unconscious and Daisy goes missing. The previously estranged sisters begin to doubt each other as lies and deception replace love and trust. As days stretch into weeks with no sign of Daisy, Emily sinks into despair, and Jess tries to keep the peace. Yet continuous pressure and suspicion—from

the police and the press—soon take their toll; each member of the family acts out, and long-buried secrets emerge. Ashdown's use of Emily and Jess as alternate narrators raises the tension as readers must decide which sister to believe. This is a dark, unrelenting, psychological thrill ride.

✦Atkins, Lucy. [The Night Visitor](#) (Quercus \$26). Professor Olivia Sweetman has worked hard to achieve the life she loves, with a high-flying career as a TV presenter and historian, three children and a talented husband. But as she stands before a crowd at the launch of her new bestseller she can barely pretend to smile. Her life has spiraled into deceit and if the truth comes out, she will lose everything. "[A] sense of unease keeps pushing all the way to the last, intense pages. A reckoning is coming, but why?... With shades of *Rebecca* and *The Secret History*, Atkins has produced an eerie page-turner that will have readers guessing from the first."—*Kirkus Reviews* on our **July British Crime Club Pick** which is, blessedly, not a Trust No One in the hackneyed sense. I loved it in the UK edition and am pleased it's finally publishing in the US.

Barker, JD. [The Fifth to Die](#) (Houghton \$27). A girl is found beneath the ice of the Jackson Park Lagoon, which had been frozen rock-hard for weeks before her disappearance. What's more, she's wearing the clothes of another just-vanished victim. Sounds like the spooky work of the Four Monkey Killer, last seen in *The Fourth Monkey*. Detective Porter is on his trail, even after he's suspended for his unorthodox activities. A serial killer thriller from a Bram Stoker finalist who last year penned [The Fourth Monkey](#) (\$14.99).

✦Bauer, Belinda. [Snap](#) (Grove \$26). Jack's in charge, said his mother as she disappeared up the road to get help. I won't be long. Now eleven-year-old Jack and his two sisters wait on the hard shoulder in their stifling, broken-down car, bickering and whining and playing I-Spy until she comes back. But their mother doesn't come back. She never comes back. Three years later, Jack's fifteen now and still in charge... alone in the house. Meanwhile across town, a young woman called Catherine While wakes to find a knife beside her bed, and a note reading I could of killed you. The police are tracking a mysterious burglar they call Goldilocks, for his habit of sleeping in the beds of the houses he robs, but Catherine doesn't see the point of involving the police. And Jack, very suddenly, may be on the verge of finding out who killed his mother.

Bayard, Tania. [In the Presence of Evil](#) (Severn \$28.99). 1393 Paris. Scholar Bayard launches a series led by Christine de Pizan, a widow who struggles to support her family as a freelance scribe. When Queen Isabeau, married to the mad King Charles, retains her to copy a book as a wedding gift for a favored lady-in-waiting, Christine is unnerved by an encounter with a man in a cloak whose feet are bare despite the freezing weather. She's even more unnerved when she finds the same man stabbed through the heart in the palace itself, and learns that he was in the employ of the Duke of Orléans, King Charles's brother. And a book the dead man was bringing to the duke has vanished. After a second murder claims the life of a courtier, Christine turns detective to exonerate his terrified wife. Bayard (*A Medieval Home Companion: Housekeeping in the Fourteenth Century*) is a better historian than crime writer but the period and characters grab you. Those missing Sharan Newman's impressive medieval French

mysteries, and in fact fans of any medical mystery, will want to try this. Ordered Upon Request.

Bolin, Alice. [Dead Girls](#) (Harper \$15.99). While the subtitle is *Essays on Surviving an American Obsession*, this gem of lit crit and decoding Bolin's bibliophile father through his passion for Scandi Noir is something every addict should read. Bolin makes some terrific points about Sjöwall and Wahlöö, the *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* phenom (e.g., brilliant marketing began with changing the Swedish title), and so much more. But first, read this [essay by Bolin!](#)

✚Brett, Simon. [A Deadly Habit](#) (Severn \$28.99). Talk about a long lived sleuth. Charles Paris has been around for decades but he's aging well. Having landed a small part in a new West End play, *The Habit of Faith*, Paris is dismayed to discover that his good fortune has been orchestrated by his *bête noire*, the now-famous screen actor Justin Grover. But why has Grover become involved in this relatively obscure production – and why has he roped in Charles to star? From the outset the production is fraught with difficulties — and matters become even more complicated when a body is discovered at the foot of the dressing room stairs. Was it a fall? Or a push at work? And here is Paris, one of the last to see the victim alive.... Ordered Upon Request.

Brumwell, Stephen. [Turncoat: Benedict Arnold and the Crisis of American Liberty](#) (Yale University \$30). General Benedict Arnold's failed attempt to betray the fortress of West Point to the British in 1780 stands as one of the most infamous episodes in American history. In the light of a shining record of bravery and unquestioned commitment to the Revolution—for a brief spell he commanded a navy on Lake Champlain to repel British forces from the north as well as his role as a winning general—Arnold's defection came as an appalling shock. Contemporaries believed he had been corrupted by greed; historians have theorized that he had come to resent the lack of recognition for his merits and sacrifices. Brumwell challenges such interpretations and draws on unexplored archives to reveal other possible factors for Arnold's defection. The truth is we can never know the full complexity of it.

While you read of this period, try Charles Rosenberg, [The Trial and Execution of the Traitor George Washington](#) (Hannover Square \$26.99). What might have happened if the British had succeeded in kidnapping Washington in November, 1780, in a mission, aided by Loyalists and led by British special agent Jeremiah Black, and taken away aboard the *Peregrine* to the Tower of London?

Camilleri, Andrea. [The Sacco Gang](#) (Europa \$14). A “wild west” tale of two brothers who battle both the state and a mafia empire in 1920s Italy. Raffadali, province of Agrigento, 1920s. The Sacco brothers are free men with strong ideas about socialism and the State. Their lives change radically one morning when their father, Luigi Sacco, receives an anonymous letter from the local Mafia demanding protection money and is the victim of a robbery attempt. Luigi tells the police of the extortion letters he received, but the police don't know what to do: no one in the village has ever dared denounce the Mafia before. From that moment on, the Sacco brothers must defend themselves: from the Mafia and the forces of order, from their collaborators, traitors, and from the village's leaders, as they are assailed by murder attempts, false accusations, and false testimony—fake news is nothing new!

Good news: two new Inspector Montalbanos aired on MHZ-TV June 12 and 19. The first is better than the second, but the gang is reassembled other than a new woman playing Livia.

Carreyrou, John. [Bad Blood](#) (Knopf \$27.95). Sounds like a serial killer thriller, no? Or a medical mystery. But no, it's a real life con. “[A] chilling, third-person narrative of how [Theranos founder Elizabeth] Holmes came up with a fantastic idea that made her, for a while, the most successful woman entrepreneur in Silicon Valley... Prizewinning *Wall Street Journal* reporter John Carreyrou tells [this story] virtually to perfection... [His] description of Holmes as a manic leader who turned coolly hostile when challenged is ripe material for a psychologist... His recounting of his efforts to track down sources—many of whom were being intimidated by Theranos' bullying lawyer, David Boies—reads like a West Coast version of ‘*All the President's Men*.’”—Roger Lowenstein, *NY Times Book Review*

Chakraborty, SA. [The City of Brass](#) (\$16.99) introduces a fantasy set in the Middle East that thrusts us into the magical world of Daevabad. The story follows, in parallel, Nahri, a con artist and naturally gifted healer, and Ali, prince of Daevabad and fiercely trained soldier. Nahri and Ali find themselves learning new lessons on how to survive changing environments and difficult challenges, while trying to figure out the complexities of their lives. *The City of Brass* is a wonderfully written, mystical adventure that keeps you guessing about what will happen next.”

✚Cleeves, Ann. [The Glass Room](#) (\$17.99). The 5th Vera Stanhope. The Detective Inspector is not one to make friends easily, but her hippy neighbors keep her well-supplied in homebrew and conversation, and somehow bonds have formed. When one of them goes missing, Vera tracks the young woman down to the Writer's House, a country retreat where aspiring authors work on their stories. Things get complicated when a body is discovered, and Vera's neighbor is found with a knife in her hand. Calling in the team, Vera knows that she should hand the case over. She's too close to the main suspect. But the investigation is too tempting, and she's never been one to follow the rules. This series has had an odd US publishing history: [order those available here](#).

Clemens, Judy. [Beyond the Grave](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). Why not a female Jack Reacher? With a surprise sidekick? “...you have to hand it to Judy Clemens for providing her amateur sleuth with a genuinely offbeat gimmick: she travels with Death...we're free to appreciate her companion's wit and dress code: skintight Spandex for a Zumba class; a flowered bathing suit and shades for the pool; and an all-white ensemble with brass-handled walking stick to make a fashion statement (‘I am the epitome of cool’). Not even Cosmo Topper, who was advised by two charming ghosts, can beat that one.”—*NY Times*. Casey Maldonado's 5th quest gets this PW review: it “takes Casey Maldonado, who's still haunted by the deaths of her husband and baby son, and her traveling companion, Death, an apparition with a penchant for old films and fancy costumes, to the small Idaho hamlet of Armstrong, “a strange town with dark undertones. Lots of old grudges, unsolved mysteries, and layers of resentment.” Still suffering from bruised ribs and a blossoming black eye from a recent dustup with some small-town thugs, Casey accepts the offer of a place to stay and some part-time work from Vern and Dottie, who own Armstrong's general store and lunch counter. Soon she and Death, whom only she can see, are piecing together the reasons

for a 45-year-old vendetta, which has soured local residents, as well as shining some light on more contemporary malevolence. Clemens draws the reader smoothly into this fantasy world while providing an original approach to the iconic figure of the Grim Reaper.” Start this intriguing series with [Embrace the Grim Reaper](#) (\$9.99—new series intro price even if our webstore doesn’t show it): “An interesting premise (shades, almost, of *The Fugitive*) and a vulnerable but strong protagonist are the highlights here, though the character of Death adds an unexpected dimension.

Constantine, Liv. [The Last Mrs. Parrish](#) (\$16.99). Amber Patterson is fed up. She’s tired of being a nobody: a plain, invisible woman who blends into the background. She deserves more—a life of money and power like the one blond-haired, blue-eyed goddess Daphne Parrish takes for granted. To everyone in the exclusive town of Bishops Harbor, Connecticut, Daphne—a socialite and philanthropist—and her real-estate mogul husband, Jackson, are a couple straight out of a fairy tale. Amber’s envy could eat her alive...if she didn’t have a plan. Amber uses Daphne’s compassion and caring to insinuate herself into the family’s life—the first step in a meticulous scheme to undermine her. But Amber has a past, and may be blind to the present. A better than usual Trust No One twister.

Cooper, Ellison. [Caged](#) (St Martins \$26.99). If you’re interested in unusual medical conditions, this one, a sort of serial killer—but an organized SK—thriller is for you. Plus it’s a procedural, police and FBI. Special Agent Sayer Altair, a neuroscientist with the FBI, interviews a suspect at a Virginia Correctional Facility. The evidence against him for brutal crimes is overwhelming. But Sayer, trained to read nuance, has a niggling doubt about his guilt. Then a ghastly crime scene—a girl found dead in a cage, from dehydration, and a booby trap that blasts two cops on the scene—leads Sayer on a hunt for someone who has murdered more victims in what appears to be more an experimental mode than one powered by madness, or rage. The author has fascinating credentials in anthropology, cultural neuroscience, and more and has worked as an investigator, all coming into play as she crafts this thriller. *Caged* is not blindingly original but forensic mystery fans who “enjoy deciphering clues while peeking inside the mind of a killer will be entertained by this pathologically twisted tale... A good choice for fans of Patricia Cornwell and Kathy Reichs.”

Dahl, Alex. [The Boy at the Door](#) (Berkley \$16). Our Scandi Noir fan Karen reviews: This Scandinavian debut tells the story of Cecilia Wilborg. She has the perfect life—a successful, loving husband, two daughters, an elegant home, and a host of friends. She works tirelessly to maintain that image. Yet it begins to unravel the day she goes to pick up her daughter from swimming and notices a lone boy with no one in sight to pick him up. The person in charge asks Cecilia to drop him off at the address given. It turns out to be deserted and has no hint that anyone has been living there. Thinking she has no other choice, she takes him home with her, thinking it will be just for then night and she will turn him in to social services the next day. But nothing goes as planned and Cecilia’s dark history unfolds, bringing the story full circle as to how and why the young boy came into her life at this time. Alternating narrators maintain the suspense and intrigue, keeping the reader engaged. Some will view this as a commentary on society’s unrealistic expectations for women/mothers/wives, while others might wonder about an alternate resolution

to Cecilia’s dilemma. Karen and I agree we are repelled by the self-absorption and vanity of the parents at the expense of the children.

Davis, Fiona. [The Address](#) (\$16). Historical fiction meets real estate porn in this tale revolving around Manhattan’s storied Dakota apartment building. In 1884, Sara Smythe is head housekeeper at London’s Langham Hotel when she accepts an offer to work at the Dakota, just opening in the wilds of Manhattan’s Upper West Side. The very notion of upper-class families living in shared space had been considered gauche, but the Dakota—a “communal living experiment,” as one of the characters puts it—becomes a showpiece for affluent families who can’t afford a Fifth Avenue mansion. In 1985, New York City interior designer Bailey Camden has just been sprung from rehab only to learn that her former employer doesn’t want her back. She gets a commission from her friend Melinda (a sort of relation—but that’s a long story), who owns an apartment in the Dakota. Unfortunately, Melinda’s renovation ideas are painfully out of step with the Gilded Age grandeur of the building. Back in the 1880s, Sara gets involved with married architect Theodore Camden and winds up in an insane asylum on Blackwell (now Roosevelt) Island. The real-life pioneering reporter Nellie Bly engineers her release, and Sara returns to the Dakota only to be accused of a grisly crime. Bailey, meanwhile, stumbles across some strange artifacts at the Dakota that will link her, inextricably, to Sara. Great stuff for those interested in NY history—like Linda Fairstein fans. Davis has a new novel focused on Grand Central Terminal coming out in August: [The Masterpiece](#) (\$26).

Davis, Lindsey. [Pandora’s Boy](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Flavia Albia, daughter of Marcus Didius Falco, is a chip off the old block. She’s taken over his father’s old profession, and, like him, she occasionally lets her love of a good puzzle get in the way of her common sense. Such is the case when one such puzzle is brought to her by the very hostile ex-wife of Albia’s new husband. Over on the Quirinal Hill, a naive young girl, one Clodia Volumnia, has died, and there’s a suggestion that she was poisoned by a love potion. The local witch, Pandora, would have been the supplier, masking it with a trade in herbal beauty products. When another murder occurs, Flavia resolves to discover what really happened to little Clodia. I was always crazy for the Falcos; these are the [next generation](#).

Delaney, JP. [Believe Me](#) (Ballantine, \$27). Delaney’s second outing after [The Girl Before](#) (\$16) brings an unemployed British actress to NY where she hopes to “make it.” Meanwhile she’s broke, behind in her rent, and eventually agrees to work for a divorce lawyer by staging entrapments for erring spouses (the opening scene where Claire is at work is the best in the book). Naturally it all blows up, her finances disintegrate, and she becomes ensnared herself—in a murder investigation. I found this one disappointing. IMHO its Indie Next Pick rides on the coattails of the success of *The Girl Before* which is being made into a Ron Howard movie—a story that while about two women and an enigmatic architect and shocking discoveries, was really mostly about the London house.

☞De Muriel, Oscar. [A Fever of the Blood](#) (\$15.95). Brrrr... Let’s start on New Year’s Day 1889 in wintry Lancashire. But wait—this story really starts on Halloween, 1624, when a group of witches were hanged. Before they kicked and choked to death

they laid a curse upon the house of Ambrose. So when Lady Anne Ardglass, a late-sixties widow with an iron will and gullet for drink, insists Dr. Clouston signs a contract to care for her mad son Lord Joel (psychiatrist Clouston knows he can provide better and kinder treatment than the lord might get at an insane asylum), keep the curse in mind. Dr. C uses the contract to fend off Lady Anne's attempt to oust one McGray from his property, so when murder occurs in Edinburgh, McGray, known as Nine Nails because one of his fingers was severed, hooks up with Londoner-in-exile Detective Ian Frey to investigate and clear the doctor. It's more complicated than that... If you like Victoriana, Wilkie Collins, witches, etc, this is a wonderfully atmospheric series described as "Sherlock Holmes meets the X-Files." Start this series with [The Strings of Murder](#) (\$15.95) and carry on with the 3rd entry, [A Mask of Shadows](#) (Pegasus \$25.95) where the cast is still in Edinburgh and The Scottish Play is coming to town with Henry Irving and Ellen Terry up from London... and the peculiar Bram Stoker as well. It begins when the patient, Lord Joe, escapes and a nurse is found murdered, and a mute suddenly breaks years of silence.

Drew, Alan. [Shadow Man](#) (\$17). Detective Ben Wade has returned to his hometown of Rancho Santa Elena in search of a quieter life and to try to save his marriage. Suddenly the community, with its peaceful streets and excellent public schools, finds itself at the mercy of a serial killer who slips through windows and screen doors at night, shattering illusions of safety. As Ben and forensic specialist Natasha Betencourt struggle to stay one step ahead of the killer—and deal with painful episodes in the past—Ben's own world is rocked again by violence. He must decide how far he is willing to go, and Natasha how much she is willing to risk, to protect their friendship and themselves to rescue the town from a psychotic murderer and a long-buried secret. Named one of the Best Mysteries of the Year (2017) by *The Wall Street Journal*

✦Dunn, Carola. [Corpse at the Crystal Palace](#) (St Martins \$26.99). April 1928: Daisy Dalrymple Fletcher is visited in London by her young cousins. On the list of must-see sites is the Crystal Palace. Discovering that her children's nanny, Nanny Gilpin, has never seen the Palace, Daisy decides to make a day of it—bringing her cousins, her 3-year-old twins, her step-daughter Belinda, the nursery maid, and Nanny Gilpin. Yet this ordinary outing goes wrong when Mrs. Gilpin goes off to the ladies' room and fails to return. When Daisy goes to look for her, she doesn't find her nanny but instead the body of another woman dressed in a nanny's uniform. Meanwhile, Belinda and the cousins spot Mrs. Gilpin chasing after yet another nanny.... 23rd in a consistently entertaining British cozy series.

Enger, Thomas. [Killed](#) (Orenda \$14.95). This is Enger's searing fifth and final novel featuring Oslo investigative reporter Henning Juul. Henning, who was scarred in body and soul by the apartment fire that killed his six-year-old son two years earlier in 2007, obsessively pursues the criminals responsible for his son's death. Meanwhile, malignant figures relentlessly stalk him. Other fate-cursed characters include Henning's ex-wife, Nora Klemetsen, who's in a relationship with Iver Gundersen, a close colleague of Henning's at 123news; Henning's estranged sister, Trine Juul-Osmundsen, who's forced out as Minister of Justice after being accused of sexually harassing a younger, male politician; and assistant police chief Pia Nøkleby, who's

betrayed by her married lover. Enger seamlessly integrates all these individual stories into a larger tale of dirty business and politics. As Henning approaches the end of his painful journey, he longs for the certainty that he has touched someone's life. His excruciating ordeal will touch the heart of every reader.

Fox, Margalit. [Conan Doyle for the Defense: The True Story of a Sensational British Murder, a Quest for Justice, and the World's Most Famous Detective Writer](#) (Random \$27). *New York Times* senior writer Fox, just retired, brings to life a forgotten *cause célèbre* in this page-turning account of how mystery-writer-turned-real life sleuth Arthur Conan Doyle helped exonerate a man who was wrongfully convicted of murder. In 1908, Marion Gilchrist was found bludgeoned to death in her Glasgow home. Early into the investigation, the police centered their suspicions on Oscar Slater, a German Jew expat and known gambler, who was eventually convicted of the murder based on such shoddy evidence as the fact that he'd pawned a brooch similar to one owned by Gilchrist that was missing from the scene of the crime. When Slater's attorneys reached out to Conan Doyle after the trial, the author investigated the case using the method of rational inquiry that was inspired by his medical training and was the hallmark of his famous creation, Sherlock Holmes. Through "Holmesian acumen and Watsonian lucidity, [Conan Doyle] dismantles the Slater case plank by plank," Fox writes, starting with the brooch, which he deemed inconsequential: first, because it was not a match for the missing one, and, secondly, because it had been pawned by Slater before Gilchrist's death. Taking a cue from Conan Doyle, Fox then uses the brooch to show how Slater was likely framed for the crime, and how both class bias and anti-Semitism influenced the rush to convict him. The author's exhaustive research and balanced analysis make this a definitive account, with pertinent repercussions for our times."—*PW* Starred Review

Fox, Porter. [Northland: A 4,000-Mile Journey Along America's Forgotten Border](#) (Norton \$26.95). "In an enlightening travel memoir, journalist Porter Fox takes us on a trek along the often remote often loosely marked border between the United States and Canada. It takes a lot more than the vague "from sea to shining sea" description to establish one of the world's longest national borders. As Maine native Porter Fox (*Deep: The Story of Skiing and the Future of Snow*) learns in his journey along the Canada/United States border, it took nearly 150 years to lay monument markers along the western 49th parallel boundary line—and even those still stray hundreds of yards from the exact legal national periphery. While *Northland* touches on various political disputes related to Native American issues, oil and gas production, and fishing and water rights, it is more an engaging travel memoir that highlights the lives of those who dwell on our northern edge. Like the meandering border itself, Fox wanders down whatever path catches his interest.

✦French, Nicci. [Day of the Dead](#) (Harper \$15.99). I haven't been a fan of French's Frieda Klein series. The psychologist has worked some bizarre cases, way off the books sometimes despite her brief with the London police. But this final entry is not only a well-paced thriller pitting Frieda against series nemesis Dean Reeve, it winds up the plot threads, tours you through London, and in its portrait of criminology student, the naïve and self-focused Lola Hayes, presents a frightening look (to me anyway) of modern teens. Recommended!—you can read it as a standalone if

you don't want to read the whole series, or [you can order the first Klein](#) and work your way to *Day of the Dead*, knowing you will have the full story at the end, and resolution.

Freeland, Liz. [Murder in Greenwich Village](#) (Kensington \$15.95). Gilded Age Mysteries mostly take place in New York (or Newport)—where most of the money was concentrated. In a series debut set in 1913, Louise Falk has fled Altoona, PA, for the bright lights. Her successful pulp fiction author aunt gets her a job at a failing publishing company and she ends up rooming with a lingerie model in Greenwich Village. The roommate's sponging cousin is killed in the shared apartment kicking off a police investigation in which Louise finds unexpected skills and strength of mind and, in the end, a new career path. Nothing original in the plot but Freeland limns her characters well and I'd spend more time with Louise.

Gates, Eva. [The Spook in the Stacks](#) (Crippen \$26.99). Wealthy businessman Jay Ruddle is considering donating his extensive collection of North Carolina historical documents to the Bodie Island Lighthouse Library, but the competition for the collection is fierce. Unfortunately, while the library is hosting a lecture on ghostly legends, Jay becomes one of the dearly departed in the rare books section. Now, it's up to Lucy Richardson and her fellow librarians to bone up on their detective skills and discover who is responsible for this wicked Halloween homicide. Meanwhile, very strange things are happening at the library—haunted horses are materializing in the marsh, the lights seem to have an eerie life of their own, and the tiny crew of a model ship appears to move around when no one is watching. The 4th Library in the Lighthouse mystery moves from small paperback original to hardcover but it will have a large paperback edition in due course.

Gortner, CW. [The Romanov Empress](#) (Random \$28). Barely nineteen, Minnie knows that her station in life as a Danish princess is to leave her family and enter into a royal marriage—as her older sister Alix has done, moving to England to wed Queen Victoria's eldest son. The winds of fortune bring Minnie to Russia, where she marries the Romanov heir and becomes empress once he ascends the throne. When resistance to his reign strikes at the heart of her family and the tsar sets out to crush all who oppose him, Minnie—now called Maria—must tread a perilous path of compromise in a country she has come to love. Her husband's death leaves their son Nicholas as the inexperienced ruler of a deeply divided and crumbling empire. Determined to guide him to reforms that will bring Russia into the modern age, Maria faces implacable opposition from Nicholas's strong-willed wife, Alexandra, whose fervor has led her into a disturbing relationship with a mystic named Rasputin. As the unstoppable wave of revolution rises anew to engulf Russia, Maria will face her most dangerous challenge and her greatest heartache.”From the opulent palaces of St. Petersburg and the intrigue-laced salons of the aristocracy to the World War I battlefields and the bloodied countryside occupied by the Bolsheviks, C. W. Gortner sweeps us into the anarchic fall of an empire and the complex, bold heart of the woman who tried to save it.”

Gregory, Daryl. [Spoonbenders](#) (\$16.95). The Indie Next Pick for a 2017 Modern Firsts Club Pick: “The Amazing Telemachus Family is unlike any other. Patriarch Teddy is a con man whose adult children possess remarkable psychic gifts (telekinesis, lie detection, and clairvoyance), but the loss of their mother leaves

the entire family reeling. Though the Telemachus crew's misadventures attract the attention of everyone from the CIA to a scary local crime boss, Teddy and his children are more threatened by their own emotional damage and sketchy past than anything else. Gregory's characters are sharply drawn and lovable, and he tells their story in a way that's wise, warm, and entertaining throughout. With a strong sense of humor and an amazing climax, this is the kind of novel that's an absolute blast to read.”

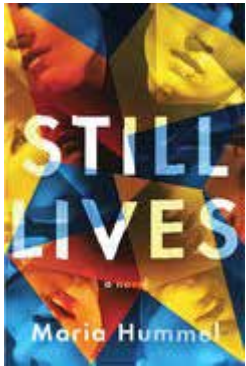
Hamer, Kate. [The Doll Funeral](#) (\$16.99). Ruby can see dead people, an ability she's been peripherally aware of since she was very young. On her 13th birthday, Ruby learns she was adopted; she confides this to someone she refers to as Shadow, an ever-present ghostlike companion who has tried to protect her all her life. Ruby, energized by the desire to find her birth parents, finally fights back against her abusive adoptive father. The consequences lead to her taking up with an odd group of siblings living hand-to-mouth in their family's rundown mansion while their parents are away in India on a spiritual quest. “Throughout the novel, Ruby is desperate to find her biological parents, thinking they will care for her as she's never been cared for. She discovers the truth in an unexpected place and more violence ensues. Hamer (*The Girl in the Red Coat*, 2015) has created a mystical world in which characters are haunted by specters of their present as well as their past, by the living and the lost. Her diction is lovely and tangible; describing the heightening frequency of Ruby's experiences with specters, she writes, ‘the skin of this world was thinning hour by hour so you could look through it like the papery bit of an onion.’ A powerful paranormal novel.”—*Kirkus Reviews* on the second novel from the author of [The Girl in the Red Coat](#) (\$16.99), a crime novel.

Hart, Rob. [Potter's Field](#) (Polis \$25.99). Hart's fifth Ash McKenna novel brings the series to a satisfying close. After a long period of travel, the screw-up, former drug addict, and tough guy with a white knight complex reluctantly returns to his Staten Island roots. Can he get it together, or is he headed back to old, bad habits and self-destructive ways? Ash struggles to nail down the basics of a more stable life, but he can't resist Ginny, a drag queen turned heroin kingpin, who hires him to find a missing associate named Spencer Chavez. Through sometimes bumbling but also courageous and resourceful efforts, he wriggles into the seamy side of Staten Island's ugly heroin scene while tracking the missing Chavez. He gets his bearings enough to realize that he's over his head; a few gripping action sequences demonstrate the high-stakes violence of a drug dealer's turf war. Hart has a fine command of wiseguy comments, a modern take on the noir crime idiom, and enough vulnerability in his protagonist to make the reader sorry to see the last of Ash. Order all of [Ash's cases](#).

Hughes, Andrew. [The Coroner's Daughter](#) (\$15.95). An only child, Abigail has been raised amid the books and instruments of her father's grim profession, and he in turn indulges her curious and critical mind. Now she must push against the restrictions society places on a girl her age to pursue an increasingly dangerous investigation. Dublin, 1816. A young nursemaid conceals a pregnancy and then murders her newborn in the home of the Neshams, a prominent family in a radical Christian sect known as the Brethren. Rumors swirl about the identity of the child's father, but before an inquest can be held, the maid is found dead after an apparent suicide. When Abigail Lawless, the eighteen-year-old

daughter of the city coroner, by chance discovers a message from the maid's seducer, she sets out to discover the truth. "Hughes takes great relish in describing the occupational hazards of being a smart woman in restrictive times. Although social class, religious fanaticism and early forensic medical procedures are all duly explored, I confess to being more thrilled by the spectacle of a life-size animatronic doll—with rotating glass eyes!—entertaining the guests at that society ball."—*NY Times*

Hummel, Maria. [Still Lives](#) (Counterpoint \$26). This fascinating novel is our **July Discovery Club Pick**. The premise really hooked me, the narrative moves along well, and the background for it is enthralling. Gorgeous jacket art, too. Here's a Starred



Review: When artist Kim Lord fails to show up at Los Angeles's Rocque Museum for the gala opening of her show of self-portraits in the guises of famous murdered women such as Nicole Brown Simpson, museum staff editor Maggie Richter, the narrator of this exceptional suspense novel from Hummel, gets involved in the subsequent investigation, in which Kim's boyfriend, gallerist Greg Shaw Ferguson—Maggie's ex—becomes the primary suspect in her disappearance.

In her quest for the truth, Maggie must navigate the social and emotional edges of her own relationships, unsure of whom to trust. The careful characterizations of the players in the Rocque's sphere of influence mean that, as the mystery unfolds to reveal them as suspects or victims, the reader feels deep empathy that comes from perceiving them as real people, not plot devices. Hummel builds visceral intimacy around "women's oppressive anxiety about ultimate vulnerability" in this often uncomfortable tale about the media's fetishistic fascination with the violent murders of beautiful women.

Jacobsen, Steffen. [Retribution](#) (Arcade \$25.99). Superintendent Lene Jensen of Denmark's national police force attends a lecture on terrorism at Copenhagen police headquarters. It's been seven months since a suicide bomber struck Tivoli Gardens, the country's largest amusement park, killing more than 1,000 people. So far no one has claimed responsibility for the attack, and the police are making no progress on the case. Obsessed by the death of a young Muslim woman she tried to help on a suicide hotline, Lene stubbornly pursues what she regards as links between the woman's death and the Tivoli disaster. She defies her superiors and risks both her life and that of PI Michael Sander, with whom she worked in *Trophy*. Distinctive characters range from ineffective police and corrupt government officials to young Muslims preparing to die for their perverse cause. Jacobsen provides a searing view of the intractable conflict between civilized society and terrorists."—*PW* Starred Review. Start with Danish bestseller [Trophy](#) (\$25.99) by Jacobsen if you are a Nordic Noir fan.

Jonasson, Ragnar. [Nightblind](#) (\$16.99). And here's a variation on Nordic or Scandi Noir—#2 in the Dark Iceland Series after [Snowblind](#) (\$9.99). Ari Thór passed over for the position of inspector in the small Icelandic town of Siglufjörður, a setback mitigated by his reunion with his girlfriend, Kristín, and the birth of their son, Stefnir. When Herjólfur, the man who got the inspector's position, dies after being blasted at close range by a shotgun near an abandoned house, Ari Thór's former superior, Tómas,

oversees the investigation. Ari Thór and Tómas step on some powerful toes as they follow leads pointing to the town's mayor, Gunnar Gunnarsson; phone records show that Herjólfur called Gunnarsson late at night shortly before the attack. The mayor's claim that the conversation was about traffic strikes the pair as implausible. Ari Thór soon begins to feel like a "stranger in a place where everyone was connected and no one could be trusted completely." In his way, Jonasson is writing an Agatha Christie fair-play detection.

Kakutani, Michiko. [The Death of Truth, Notes on Falsehood](#) (Crown \$22). The former editor of the *NY Times Book Review*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning critic, looks what she finds to be "America's retreat from reason." Worth reading whatever side of the divide you fall on.

Kent, Hannah. [The Good People](#) (\$15.99). Based on a real case involving a woman accused of a serious crime that she claimed was caused in the process of trying to banish a fairy. In the year 1825, in a remote valley in the mountains of southwest Ireland, Nóra Leahy has lost her daughter and her husband, and is now burdened with the care of her four-year-old grandson, Micheál. The boy cannot walk, or speak, and Nora, mistrustful of the tongues of gossips, has kept the child hidden from those who might see in his deformity evidence of otherworldly interference. Unable to care for the child alone, Nóra hires a fourteen-year-old servant girl, Mary, who soon hears the whispers in the valley about the blasted creature causing grief to fall upon the widow's house. Alone, hedged in by rumor, Mary and her mistress seek out Nance Roche, the only person in the valley who might be able to help Micheál. Although her neighbors are wary of her, it is said that old Nance Roche has "the knowledge". That she consorts with fairies, "the Good People." And that only she can return those whom they have taken... "Rural pre-famine Ireland in all its beauty and desolation is alive on every page of this exquisite novel... a dramatic tale of desperation, set in a bleak time and place when no amount of protective ritual and belief—or goodness—can rescue people from their circumstances."—Katherine Weber, *NYTBR*. Kent debuted with [Burial Rites](#) (\$15).

King, Laurie R. [Lockdown](#) (\$16). "Readers would be justified in thinking that with a title like *Lockdown*, the new Laurie R. King novel was going to present a thriller about a school under siege; and in a way, that is exactly what is provided – though hardly via the expected method. It is career day at Guadalupe Middle School. It should be a day when the students examine what the future holds for them, but instead the tensions that lie just under the surface of this societal microcosm threaten to erupt. *Lockdown* is a true ensemble piece. Laurie R. King puts into place a collection of characters with enough secrets, scandals, suspicion, and lies to keep readers guessing throughout the unfolding of this tragic incident. There is such diversity presented on the page – a true reflection of the melting pot that is America – and each character is vividly drawn..."—*Deadly Pleasures*, naming *Lockdown* one of the Best Novels of 2017

Mina, Denise. [The Long Drop](#) (\$15.99). We often look to a crime novelist like Denise Mina to show us the frightening, darker side to life viewed through the safe lens of fiction. Named one of the best books of 2017 by the *Washington Post*, the *Boston Globe*, and Literary Hub, among others, here is Mina's chilling examination of Peter Manuel, considered a sort of forgotten Jeffrey

Dahmer of Scotland and one who not only brutally murdered numbers of innocent people (children included, and often in their own beds), but whose very actions in the days after those murders dripped with psychopathic ignorance and cold-bloodedness. As Mina pieces together the lost details of a debauched night between Manuel and one of the men whose family was found murdered, she not only brings to life these surreal characters but the city of Glasgow itself.

Pamuk, Orhan. [The Red Haired Woman](#) (\$16). Library Reads says, “‘Beguiling’ is the perfect word to describe a book which feels like an entrancing fairy tale, set in a faraway, exotic land [Turkley] peopled with fascinating men and women. The story plays out over the life span of one man whose actions and choices over one summer, however fleeting, will turn out to be the formative events that shape his entire life. I particularly enjoyed the summer nights in the quiet town, as the boy stole around the back alleys, hoping for a glimpse of the red-haired woman. This book is unlike any other I’ve read.”

Patterson, James. [Triple Homicide](#) (\$15.99). Combines an Alex Cross story with one with Michael Bennett and another with the Women’s Murder Club.

✎Pearce, AJ. [Dear Mrs. Bird](#) (Scribner \$26). In 1940s London, Emmy takes a job as a typist that evolves into answering rejected letters sent to an advice columnist. This premise propels an Indie Next Pick: “What initially seems like a breezy career girl story quickly turns into a gripping novel set in the WWII London blitzkrieg. During the nightly bombing runs, Emmeline volunteers at a nearby fire dispatch center. She dreams of becoming a journalist, but instead lands a day job screening advice-seeking letters for a weekly magazine, *Women’s Friends*. All too soon, she and her friends become victims of the bombings and must deal with losses and new horrors each night. In *Dear Mrs. Bird*, AJ Pearce has given us a most memorable story about both the visible and hidden casualties of war.

Pochoda, Ivy. [Wonder Valley](#) (\$16.99). “A man running naked among the gridlocked cars of an L.A. freeway is the catalyst for this dark tale set in the rough neighborhoods of a decidedly unglamorous Los Angeles. In this version of the city, it’s not only the poor and the powerless who are desperate; even the better-off characters turn out to be broken sinners who crave hope and redemption. The gritty beauty of Pochoda’s writing, whether about cruelty and violence or about love, no matter how desperate, pulled me into the characters’ lives and compelled me to keep reading all night.”

Quartey, Kwei. [Death by His Grace](#) (\$15.95). Accra, Ghana. Chief Inspector Darko Dawson investigates the brutal murder of a high-society bride. In order to expose the truth, Darko must confront the pivotal role religion plays in Ghana—and wrestle with his old demons the investigation stirs up in the fifth entry to this excellent series filled with fascinating characters and local culture. [Order all five.](#)

Rallison, James. [The Odd 1s Out](#) (Tarcher \$16). Like any shy teen turned young adult, YouTube star James Rallison (“The Odd 1s Out”) is used to being on the outside looking in. A self-described “beta,” he wasn’t partying in high school or winning football games like his older brother. Instead, he posted comics on the Internet. Now 21 years old, his unique voice and style has drawn the support of more than 4 million followers from every country

and demographic. In this fun, illustrated collection, Rallison tells his own stories of growing up as the “odd one out”: in art class with his twin sister (she was more talented), in the middle school locker room, and up through one strange year of college (he dropped out). Each story is filled with the little lessons he picked up along the way, serious and otherwise, like: How to be cool (in seventh grade). Why it’s OK to be second-best at something, and How to survive your first, confidence-killing job interviews. Publishes July 31, so I am quoting the publisher. Rallison lives and works in Chandler, Arizona. So we may at some point do a program with him.

Rindell, Suzanne. [Eagle and Crane](#) (Penguin \$27). Louis Thorn and Haruto “Harry” Yamada – Eagle and Crane – are the star attractions of Earl Shaw’s Flying Circus, a daredevil (and not exactly legal) flying act that traverses Depression-era California. The young men have a complicated relationship, thanks to the Thorn family’s belief that the Yamadas – Japanese immigrants – stole land that should have stayed in the Thorn family. When Louis and Harry become aerial stuntmen, performing death-defying tricks high above audiences, they’re both drawn to Shaw’s smart and appealing stepdaughter, Ava Brooks. When the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor and one of Shaw’s planes mysteriously crashes and two charred bodies are discovered in it, authorities conclude that the victims were Harry and his father, Kenichi, who had escaped from a Japanese internment camp they had been sent to by the federal government. To the local sheriff, the situation is open and shut. But to the lone FBI agent assigned to the case, the details don’t add up. Thus begins an investigation into what really happened to cause the plane crash, who was in the plane when it fell from the sky, and why no one involved seems willing to tell the truth

Ripley, Nathan. [Find You in the Dark](#) (Atria \$26). Another book I haven’t gotten to but feel you Dexter fans and those who enjoy a creepy vibe will want it. “Retired CEO Martin Reese, the Seattle-based protagonist of this gripping debut thriller from the pseudonymous Ripley (Canadian author Naben Ruthnum), has a bizarre hobby: combing through illegally purchased police files on serial killers, locating the undiscovered corpses of long-dead victims, and anonymously informing the police of the burial sites. His morbid fascination goes back decades to when his wife’s sister vanished, presumably murdered by a serial killer who was later caught and executed. But when Reese finds a freshly deceased corpse buried at a cold-case site in an old cemetery outside Seattle, he realizes too late that he has angered a mysterious serial killer who knows who he is and what he has been doing. With his family in danger and the police closing in on his identity, Reese becomes an unwilling pawn in the killer’s twisted game.” Summer is often a (literary) serial killer season as this Booknews attests.

Roanhorse, Rebecca. [Trail of Lightning](#) (Saga \$16.99). A Starred Review: “Roanhorse vividly depicts Navajo land, legends, and culture in her marvelous fantasy debut, which launches the Sixth World series. After a cataclysm flooded much of the earth, the Dinétah—the homeland of the Navajo, or Diné—was one of the few remaining areas where people could survive. Legendary powers have risen among the Diné, and Maggie Hoskie is one of those who wield them. She was trained by a supernatural mentor to hunt monsters, and after vicious creatures commit a series of grisly murders, she has to muster all her skills to confront the

incredibly powerful witch creating them. Roanhorse unspools a fascinating narrative of colorful magic in a world made otherwise bleak by both natural and man-made circumstances. The monster-hunting plot nearly takes a back seat to Maggie's challenging journey of working through personal and cultural trauma, including the violent deaths of loved ones and an abusive relationship. Her partner, Kai, is a force for healing despite, or because of, his own history of pain. Their story is a fresh take on the tale of the emotionally and spiritually wounded hero who faces down increasing evil to make the world better. This rich tale from a strong Native American voice is recommended for all fantasy audiences." Not to mention you fans of the Hillermans, James Doss, and Southwest Lit.

Roy, Lori. [The Disappearing](#) (Dutton \$27). Twenty years after she escaped her family in north Florida by marrying and moving to Brooklyn, Lane Fielding is back in Waddell, divorced from her successful novelist husband, keeping herself and her two girls afloat tending bar. And living at the Fielding Mansion, an historic property where her parents Erma and Neil keep low as rumors continue to swirl about the children sent to the school on the property who disappeared and the abuse Neil (and his father) were rumored to foist upon them. And now, six months in, Lane's older daughter, too, disappears and Lane fears a serial killer like the one who terrorized the region in the 1970s has returned to plague Waddell. Then a Florida State student also vanishes. The media descends once again, chaos rises, and Lane faces both finding her daughter and dealing with the past. I wouldn't call this a serial killer book; it's more a Southern Gothic where the characterizations trump believable plotting from the Edgar winner whose books, really, defy categorization.

Sager, Riley. [The Last Time I Lied](#) (Dutton \$26). Emma Davis went off to Camp Nightingale when she was 13, child of disinterested parents happy to gain a chance to stash her at such a renowned place. Emma arrives very late and thus is assigned, despite her youth, to a cabin with three older girls. Vivian. Allison. Natalie. And two weeks in, they went missing one night. Disappeared. Never seen again. Emma saw Vivian closing the cabin door behind her, finger pressed to lips. And she's been haunted ever since. At 28 she's become a rising star on the NYC art scene, creating vibrant canvases that start with three girls who eventually are heavily covered over with painted woodlands. And then she's invited back to the reopening of Camp Nightingale by Franny, the woman who inherited it with the family fortune. Despite years of feeling guilt, and her shame at accusing Franny's adopted son Theo of whatever happened, Emma goes as the camp artist. And again she's assigned to Dogwood, this time with three young girls in her charge. And then.... This is not a set up I'd normally find compelling but the narrative is such, and the teasing out of what happened, that I read it right through. Don't skip the "This is how it ends" pages. Sager, aka Todd Ritter, follows up his 2017 hit [Final Girls](#) (\$16) with, IMHO, a better book.

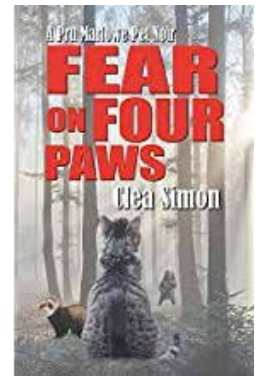
✦Schumacher, Tony. [Army of One](#) (Harper \$15.99). An alternative history thriller. In post—World War II London, detective John Henry Rossett must stop a murderous ex—SS officer as the German occupation of England begins to falter. Working with the SS in German-occupied Britain was never easy for John Rossett. Though he's returned to his former job, the police inspector has been tainted by his Nazi associations. His suspicious colleagues see him as a collaborator, and he's unwelcome at his old haunts.

But the Germans aren't done with Rossett. When decorated SS Captain Karl Bauer kills the US consul in Liverpool, then goes on the run, Generalmajor Neumann orders Rossett to find the missing killer—a swift, cunning, and ruthless man known as "the Bear." While the Nazis still maintain control over London, Liverpool is run by criminal networks and the British resistance. To prevent more deaths and protect Britain, Rossett must trap the Bear and uncover a diabolical conspiracy that has brought Nazi officers and the British resistance together.

Segura, Alex. [Dangerous Ends](#) (\$15.99). PI Pete Fernandez is lazily as an investigator, skipping tracing killers and spending time at AA meetings. Then his sometimes partner Kathy Bentley approaches him with a potential new client, Pete balks. Not because he doesn't need the money, but because the case involves Gaspar Varela, a former Miami police officer serving a life sentence for the murder of his wife - one of the most infamous crimes in Miami history. The client? None other than Varela's daughter, Maya, who's doggedly supported her father's claims of innocence. "A real throwback to the kind of books I love. Segura captures the spirit of modern Miami with its complicated past and conflicted present," says Ace Atkins. But more importantly, "A confirmation that noir hasn't run out of tricks and just might be the ideal vehicle to explore our current moment." — *Los Angeles Review of Books*. 3rd in the [Pete Fernandez Series](#). The 4th is [Blackout](#) (\$25.99).

✦Shaffer, Mary A. [The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society](#) (\$17). A trailer is out based on the bestselling novel by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. *People* magazine also featured an [exclusive scene](#) from the movie, which will be available for streaming on Netflix starting August 10.

Simon, Clea. [Fear on Four Paws](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). At the outset of Simon's sprightly seventh Pru Marlowe Pet Noir, Pru, a freelancer for the animal control department in Beauville, Mass., who has an uncanny ability to understand what animals are thinking, discovers a bear trapped in rope netting in the woods. Passed out on the ground nearby is Pru's boss, good-natured drunk Albert. When the police find a body locked in a shed near where the bear was trapped, the evidence points to Albert as the culprit. Pru is moved to investigate, not so much for the sake of Albert as for his ferret companion, Frank, whom Pru considers "one of the more intelligent and discerning males in Beauville." Frank, who's also a good ally in a fight, and Wallis, Pru's imperious cat, who's as blasé as many people believe cats to be, assist Pru in her efforts to apprehend a band of bear poachers and determine who's responsible for the disappearance of some pampered domestic pets. The animals outshine the human characters in this irresistible outing. This 7th Pet Noir is also available in hardcover: [Fear on Four Paws](#) (\$26.95).



Smith, Mark Haskell. [Blown](#) (Grove \$16) Los Angeles comic crime novelist Smith takes on Wall Street in a wild embezzlement caper leading to a Caribbean island-hopping chase. Bryan LeBlanc works the esoteric foreign currency trading desk among "the US Marines of capitalism... the few, the proud, the completely full of themselves... surfing the algorithm, riding the markets

in new and ever more complex machinations, shooting the tube to wrest lucre from the system.” Fed up and seeing a loophole that will allow him to embezzle \$17 million while sending an “up yours” message to the fat cats sitting at the top of his firm, LeBlanc engineers a complex scheme to skim clients’ margin accounts for a bundle of foreign currency stashed in the Cayman Islands. The chase is on. As LeBlanc goes island-hopping, Smith flexes his character muscles and funny bone with a colorful coterie of company bloodhounds unleashed to track him down.

Spann, Susan. [Trial on Mount Koya](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95) cleverly riffs on Agatha Christie’s *And Then There Were None* in Spann’s sixth novel set in 16th-century Japan (after 2017’s *Betrayal at Iga*). Hiro Hattori, a ninja assassin “hired by an unknown benefactor” to guard a Portuguese Catholic priest, journeys with his charge, Father Mateo Ávila de Santos, to the remote Buddhist temple of Myo-in at the summit of Mount Koya to deliver an important message to Ringa, a spy for Hiro’s ninja clan, the Iga. Ringa winds up murdered, his body posed such that it appears he was wearing a crown of flame and was clutching a sword in one hand and a rope in the other. The setup is intended to make the dead man resemble the god Fudo Myo-o. More residents of Myo-in die in bizarre ways before Hiro and Mateo uncover the surprising truth behind the killings. “Spann has never been better at balancing mystery with the politics of the era,” a time when Japan’s feudal structure was being tested by competition to replace the Shogun. Laurie King, Rob and I visited the amazing shrine and extensive burial grounds at Mount Koya more or less by accident (and stupidly, it was a holiday weekend and the facilities mobbed). But as we arrived nearly at dusk the crowds had dispersed into the monastery hotels and the twilight added magic. We ended up eating at a kind of truck stop where the English speaking guides took pity on us and begging a room after midnight back at the Hotel Nara. We recommend you go but be more organized as this most sacred and popular shrine commands both planning and respect.

Stage, Zoje. [Baby Teeth](#) (St Martins \$26.99). The Indie Next Pick: “I am a little afraid to write a review after finishing this book because I have the terrible feeling that I’m being watched, this due to the suspicion that seven-year-old Hannah has jumped from the pages of the book straight into my head — something she undoubtedly planned the entire time, despite the obvious impossibility of it all. I could not put this book down — simply fascinating.” I confess I am put off by the title and the whole bad seed thing. So here’s a Starred Review to consider: “Stage’s deviously fun debut takes child-rearing anxiety to demented new heights. Frustrated and fragile stay-at-home mom Suzette and seven-year-old Hanna alternately narrate a cascade of crises stemming from Hanna’s near-total refusal to speak, her mistrust of her mom and adoration of her dad, and the parents’ frantic attempts to find a solution to Hanna’s increasingly dangerous tantrums. From Hanna’s perspective, Suzette is the only thing standing in the way of the complete devotion of her father, Alex, and she plots ways to ‘step up her game against Mommy.’ For Suzette, her love-starved relationship with a distant mother and chronic Crohn’s haunt every attempt to bond with a little girl who barks like a ‘feral animal’ and only speaks as a 17th-century girl named Marie-Anne Dufosset, who was burned at the stake for suspected witchcraft. For the besieged Suzette, there’s also a troubling ambivalence about whether she wants to save or kill

her disturbed child. Stage expertly crafts this creepy, can’t-put-it-down thriller into a fearless exploration of parenting and marriage that finds the cracks in unconditional love.”

Stroud, Carsten. [The Shimmer](#) (Mira \$26.99). I’m not much of a fan of supernatural thrillers (sorry, King fans) but this rocket-like ride from old pro Stroud hooked me, perhaps because despite the premise and the story structure, it feels real! I am not alone. “Comparable to Stephen King’s *11/23/63*, this crisp and compelling time-traveling thriller features a tough-as-nails cop with a sharp sense of perception who is up to par with Michael Connelly’s Harry Bosch. Highly recommended for readers seeking a riveting, edge-of-your-seat read.”—*Library Journal*. Speaking of King, here’s King: “Carsten Stroud is a world-class storyteller... He effortlessly combines hard-nosed cops, mafia dons, and supernatural events with convincing ease. The prose is music. He had me reading late into the night.” Me, too. An excellent way to spend a summer evening.

Toews, JG. [Give Out Creek](#) (Morrow \$19.95). Toews’ refreshing debut introduces readers to Stella Mosconi, a newspaper reporter who recently left Vancouver to return to her hometown of Nelson, British Columbia, with her husband, Joe, and two young sons. But it was Joe who really wanted to live in the mountain town in a cabin beside the lake. Stella appreciates the natural beauty but misses city life. The small town is shaken up by the murder of one of Stella’s book club friends, Lillian Fenniwick, leading Stella to do her own investigation into the death. The mystery deepens when Nina Huber, Lillian’s housekeeper and a suspect in her murder, is also found dead. Things get more complicated for Stella with the renewed stirring of a high school-era attraction to Ben McKean, now the police officer in charge of the case. Toews builds interest in Stella and other characters as she mingles their personal conflicts with a mystery that will force Stella to face her deepest fear and keep readers guessing to the end. It all bodes well for what looks to be a promising series.

✦Trow, MJ. [Queen’s Progress: A Tudor Mystery](#) (Severn \$28.99). It’s 1591. Playwright and spy Kit Marlowe is sent by Robert Cecil into the English countryside to help make arrangements for the aging Elizabeth I’s forthcoming royal progress. It’s a nightmare for the loyal subjects wealthy enough to host her, so Kit needs to vet venues. But his true mission is to make sure that the queen will be in safe hands during the progress. Catholic plots against her still brew; not all subjects are loyal. Indeed, “if Her Majesty had invited herself to the Vatican, she couldn’t be in more danger,” says Tom Sledd, the stage manager at the Rose Theatre who’s Marlowe’s garrulous number two in spycraft. As a conspiracy unfolds, the surprises that come with it are very well sprung. Real figures, ranging from the “wizard earl” of Northumberland to “Will Shaxsper,” add to the fun. It helps if you have some knowledge of the period. Ordered Upon Request.

Verdon, John. [White River Burning](#) (Counterpoint \$27). “In Verdon’s outstanding sixth outing for ex-NYPD homicide detective Dave Gurney, White River, NY, cop John Steele, who is white, is killed by a sniper on the first anniversary of the controversial shooting of Laxton Jones, a black motorist. Jones was shot by a white police officer, who later claimed self-defense and was cleared of wrongdoing by the authorities. Jones’s death prompted the creation of the Black Defense Alliance, which alleged that he was probing rampant corruption in the White River PD and was

deliberately gunned down. Steele was shot while attempting to maintain order at a demonstration organized by the BDA, and the chief of police believes the shooting was payback for Jones's. Brought in by the district attorney to consult on the case, Gurney has his doubts after Steele's widow shares that shortly before her husband's murder, he received a text message warning that he would be shot and the BDA would be blamed. The twisty plot builds up to a logical and satisfying reveal. Verdon expertly combines a baffling whodunit with thoughtfully drawn characters in this timely examination of racial tensions." If we can get Signed copies, we will relist this in August.

Zaslove, Mark. [Death and Taxes](#) (\$14.99) follows Mark Douglas, an ex-Marine turned IRS agent, who, along with auditing the weird and the profane, also spearheads weekend raids with his locked-and-loaded gang of government-sanctioned revenueurs, merrily gathering back taxes in the form of cash, money order, or more often than not, the debtor's most prized possessions. Things turn ugly when Mark's much-loved boss and dear friend Lila is tortured and killed over what she finds in a routine set of 1040 forms. Enlisting his IRS pals—Harry Salt, a 30-year vet with a quantum physical ability to drink more than humanly possible; Wooly Bob, who's egg-bald on top with shaved eyebrows to match; Miguel, an inexperienced newbie with a company-issued bullhorn and a penchant for getting kicked in the jumbies—Mark hunts down the eunuch hit man Juju Klondike and the deadly Mongolian mob that hired him as only an angry IRS agent can. There will be no refunds for any of them when April 15th comes around.

REISSUES

Cameron, Kenneth. [The Bohemian Girl](#) (\$14.95). Denton #2
Cameron, Kenneth. [The Frightened Man](#) (\$14.95). Denton #1
Harris, Charlaine. [Shakespeare's Champion](#) (\$16.99)
Hillerman, Tony. [Listening Woman](#) (\$15.99)
Hillerman, Tony. [People of Darkness](#) (\$15.99)
McDermid, Val. [Dead Beat and Kick Back](#) (\$17)
Simenon, George. [Maigret Enjoys Himself](#) (\$13)
Storey, Erik. [Nothing Short of Dying](#) (\$18)

TAKE A SPIN IN FANTASY AND SCIFI

Berry, TJ. [Space Unicorn Blues](#) (Waterstone \$12.99). Having magical powers makes you less than human, a resource to be exploited. Half-unicorn Gary Cobalt is sick of slavery, captivity, and his horn being ground down to power faster-than-light travel. When he's finally free, all he wants is to run away in his ancestors' stone ship. Instead, Captain Jenny Perata steals the ship out from under him, so she can make an urgent delivery. But Jenny held him captive for a decade, and then Gary murdered her best friend... who was also the wife of her co-pilot, Cowboy Jim. What could possibly go right?

Correia, Larry. [Monster Hunter Memoirs Saints](#) (Baen \$25). Here is the final entry in the Monster Hunter Memoirs Series from best-selling authors Larry Correia and John Ringo. "This is New Orleans." That mantra had rung in Chad Gadenier's ears since his first day working in the Big Easy. Everything was different in New Orleans. The food. The climate. The monsters. Even the shadowy and reprehensible MCB was different. But that's just the beginning. The real reason New Orleans is so different is a larval Great Old One growing day by day in power and just about ready to pop. If Chad can't convince "the powers that be" to get

involved not only New Orleans but the entire world is going to fall under the power of the nastiest of nasties. Now on the outs with the US Government and in exile from his usual job of saving the world, Chad must rally the forces of light against the coming darkness. The problem is one guy with a sword and a sub-gun isn't going to solve this one....

Chambers, Becky. [Record of a Spaceborn Few](#) (Harper \$16.99). Return to the sprawling universe of the Galactic Commons, as humans, artificial intelligence, aliens, and some beings yet undiscovered explore what it means to be a community in this exciting third adventure in the acclaimed and multi-award-nominated science fiction Wayfarers series.

Hawke, Sam. [City of Lies](#) (Forge \$15.99). Poison War #1. This fantasy debut is perfect for fans of Robin Hobb and Naomi Novik. I was seven years old the first time my uncle poisoned me... Outwardly, Jovan is the lifelong friend of the Chancellor's charming, irresponsible Heir. Quiet. Forgettable. In secret, he's a master of poisons and chemicals, trained to protect the Chancellor's family from treachery. When the Chancellor succumbs to an unknown poison and an army lays siege to the city, Jovan and his sister Kalina must protect the Heir and save their city-state. But treachery lurks in every corner, and the ancient spirits of the land are rising...and angry.

Kowal, Mary Robinette. [The Calculating Stars](#) (Tor \$18.99). On a cold spring night in 1952, a huge meteorite fell to earth and obliterated much of the east coast of the United States, including Washington D.C. The ensuing climate cataclysm will soon render the earth inhospitable for humanity, as the last such meteorite did for the dinosaurs. This looming threat calls for a radically accelerated effort to colonize space, and requires a much larger share of humanity to take part in the process. Elma York's experience as a WASP pilot and mathematician earns her a place in the International Aerospace Coalition's attempts to put man on the moon, as a calculator. But with so many skilled and experienced women pilots and scientists involved with the program, it doesn't take long before Elma begins to wonder why they can't go into space, too. Elma's drive to become the first Lady Astronaut is so strong that even the most dearly held conventions of society may not stand a chance against her... Fantasy ace Kowal makes her scifi debut.

Novik, Naomi. [Spinning Silver](#) (Del Rey \$28). Miryem is the daughter and granddaughter of moneylenders... but her father isn't a very good one. Free to lend and reluctant to collect, he has loaned out most of his wife's dowry and left the family on the edge of poverty—until Miryem steps in. Hardening her heart against her fellow villagers' pleas, she sets out to collect what is owed—and finds herself more than up to the task. When her grandfather loans her a pouch of silver pennies, she brings it back full of gold. But having the reputation of being able to change silver to gold can be more trouble than it's worth—especially when her fate becomes tangled with the cold creatures that haunt the wood... "A wonderful reimagining of the Rumpelstiltskin story. A tale of love, family, magic, and destiny, told from the perspective of three strong female characters.

Roanhorse, Rebecca. [Trail of Lightning](#) (Saga \$16.99). A Starred Review begins, "Roanhorse vividly depicts Navajo land, legends, and culture in her marvelous fantasy debut, which launches the Sixth World series. See New Books for more. Highly recommended to readers of all genres.

Scalzi, John. [Unlocked](#) (\$11.99). Discover the history of Haden's Syndrome, the virus that created the world of John Scalzi's inventive near-future thrillers [Lock In](#) (8.99) and [Head On](#) (\$25.99 Signed). In this prequel, a virus will sweep the globe. Most will suffer no worse than flu-like symptoms, but an unlucky one percent will be changed forever. Hundreds of millions become "locked in", awake, aware, but completely unable to control their bodies. This is the story of the doctors, scientists, engineers, politicians, and heroes who remade the world. It is the story of the chaotic outbreak, the fight for a cure, the changes that followed.... Marcia Muller wrote about this syndrome in a Sharon McCone mystery. It's hideous.

Stirling, SM. [Black Chamber](#) (Penguin \$16). The first novel in a brand-new alternate history series where Teddy Roosevelt is president for a second time right before WWI breaks out, and on his side is the Black Chamber, a secret spy network watching America's back. It begins in 1916. The Great War rages overseas, and the whole of Europe, Africa, and western Asia is falling to the Central Powers. To win a war that must be won, Teddy Roosevelt, once again the American president, turns to his top secret Black Chamber organization--and its cunning and deadly spy, Luz O'Malley Aróstegui. On a transatlantic airship voyage, Luz poses as an anti-American Mexican revolutionary to get close—very close—to a German agent code-named Imperial Sword. She'll need every skill at her disposal to complete her mission....

Weir, Andy. [Artemis](#) (\$16). "Jazz is a porter on Artemis, the only city on the moon, and her job is supplemented by smuggling minor contraband into the city. When she gets involved in a bigger game with a much bigger payout, she is not ready for the lengths to which others will go to get their own payday. Amidst murder, corporate sabotage, and the Brazilian mafia, Jazz realizes she must be a better person than she has ever been if she and Artemis' society are to survive." —Library Reads on the [The Martian](#) (\$16) author's second bestseller.

Other titles of note for July:

Dimitri, France. [Book of Hidden Things](#) (Forge \$14.95)

Golden, Christi. [Before the Storm](#) (Dell \$28)

Goss, Theodora. [European Travel for the Monstrous Gentlewoman](#) (Saga \$26.99)

Hill, Joe. [Strange Weather](#) (\$16.99)

Jones, Howard A. [For the Killing of Kings](#) (St Martins \$26.99)

Markham, Lee. [Truants](#) (Overlook \$15.95)

McGuire, Seanan. [Girl in the Green Silk Gown](#) (DAW \$16)

Setchfield, Nic. [War in the Dark](#) (Forge \$14.95)

Vaughn, Carrie. [Wild Dead](#) (Houghton \$14.99)

Yang, Jy. [Descent of Monsters](#) (Tor \$14.99)

OUR JULY SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Abdul-Jabbar, K. [Mycroft Holmes](#) (\$7.99). When his fiancée abruptly departs for Trinidad after hearing disturbing news, Mycroft Holmes and his best friend Cyrus Douglas follow and find themselves drawn in to a treacherous investigation. *Kirkus* was just one of the many starred reviews for this title, and they ended their review with "The central conceit is audacious; Mycroft's sense of moral outrage is nicely reflective of the era; the historical detail is solid; and the period decorum is well-maintained throughout. Only the characters and their cumbersome individual interactions are muffled by all the grade-A trappings."

✻Bowen, Rhys. [On Her Majesty's Frightfully Secret Service](#) (\$7.99) Royal Spyness #11. Agreeing to help her cousin the queen thwart an elopement between the Prince of Wales and the dreadful Mrs. Simpson, royal sleuth Georgie Rannoch offers assistance to her pregnant friend while clashing with an old rival from finishing school. Here is *Kirkus* again "Bowen's reliably lighthearted tone has the added fillip of the looming shadow of Nazi terror."

Clancy, Tom. [Clear and Present Danger](#) (\$9.99) Jack Ryan #4. The assassinations of the U.S. ambassador and the visiting head of the FBI by Colombian drug lords trigger a mysterious covert response and an investigation of U.S. and Colombian actions by Jack Ryan in this reprint of early classic Clancy.

Fairstein, Linda. [Deadfall](#) (\$9.99) Alexandra Cooper #19. Investigating the drive-by murder of a high-profile city employee, assistant district attorney Alexandra Cooper teams up with NYPD detectives Mike Chapman and Mercer Wallace to search for answers in secret societies, a big-game hunting operation, the illegal animal trade and covert government deals. *PW* had this to say "The dramatic opening of bestseller Fairstein's 19th novel featuring Manhattan prosecutor Alexandra "Coop" Cooper (after 2016's *Killer Look*) is sure to jolt series fans."

Gross, Andrew. [Saboteur](#) (\$9.99) Putting his personal life on hold to join the Norwegian resistance during World War II, engineer Kurt Nordstrum makes a daring escape to London to transmit secret evidence of the Nazis' progress towards building an atomic bomb. LJ said "From its opening pages, Gross's novel grips readers as they follow the tough-minded and persistent Nordstrum every step of the way. Highly recommended for thriller fans as well as lovers of historical fiction based on true events."

Kellerman, Jonathan/Jesse. [Crime Scene](#) (\$9.99) Clay Edison #1. When the daughter of a once-respected psychology professor insists her father has been murdered, Clay Edison, a former athlete turned coroner's investigator, follows a twisted trail of scandal and violence.

Rollins, James. [The Demon Crown](#) (\$9.99) Sigma Force #13. Off the coast of Brazil, a team of scientists discovers a horror like no other, an island where all life has been eradicated, consumed, and possessed by a species beyond imagination. Before they can report their discovery, a mysterious agency attacks the group, killing them all, save one: an entomologist, an expert on venomous creatures, Professor Ken Matsui from Cornell University. Strangest of all, this inexplicable threat traces back to a terrifying secret buried a century ago beneath the National Mall: a cache of bones preserved in amber.

NEW IN SMALL PAPERBACKS

Alexander, Ellie. [Till Death Do Us Tart](#) (St Martins \$7.99) Bake-shop #8. When a murder occurs and she discovers that she was the intended victim, Jules Capshaw, who is hosting a surprise Elizabethan-themed wedding for her mom and soon-to-be-stepdad, takes a break from the festivities to turn the tables on a killer.

✻Beaton, M C. [The Witches' Tree](#) (\$7.99) Agatha Raisin #28. Investigating the murder of an elderly woman whose body was found hanging from a tree, Agatha Raisin takes the case but begins to fear for her reputation and her life when two more murders occur.

Chamberlain, Diane. [Silent Sister](#) (St Martins \$7.99). Settling her late father's affairs only to discover evidence that contradicts understandings about her sister's suicide 20 years earlier, Riley MacPherson learns that her sister is still alive and has been on the run from dangerous family secrets.

Conrad, Hy. [Death on the Patagonian Express](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Amy's Travel #3. After the success of their new blog, Fanny and Amy are asked to join a group of other travel writers on a scenic train tour of Patagonia, but when two murders interrupt the trip, the pair follows the trail of a conniving killer.

Dunn, Matthew. [Act of Betrayal](#) (\$9.99) Will Cochrane #7. Former intelligence operative Will Cochrane investigates the poisoning of a CIA agent who uncovered a mysterious situation involving the assassination of a terrorist financier.

Grisham, John. [Rooster Bar](#) (\$9.99). Three students who have borrowed heavily to attend a third-rate law school realize they have been caught in a scam when they discover that the school's owner also owns a bank specializing in student loans, and plot to expose the scam.

Jameson, Chris. [Devil Sharks](#) (Tor \$9.99). Alex Simmons accepts the offer of an old college friend, whom he fell out with years earlier, of a Pacific cruise, but their detour to Orchid Atoll, the site of a deserted former Coast Guard station, leads them into deadly danger

Logan, Kylie. [Italian Iced](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Ethnic Eats #3. When her former employer, Hollywood superstar Meghan Cohan, is found dead in her freezer, Chef Laurel Inwood soon discovers that a lot of people wanted Meghan dead as she tries to cook up a killer.

Lustbader, Eric. [The Bourne Legacy](#) (\$9.99). In this reprint of the first of the Bourne books Lustbader wrote, former CIA agent David Webb leads a quiet life as a university professor until he becomes a target of an assassin and is framed for the murders of two close friends, and as he fights for his life, he finds himself under the control of his alternate personality—Jason Bourne.

Thomas, Tara. [Broken Promise](#) (Tor \$7.99). Looking into the threat she hunts Kipling Benedict, the man she loves, and his brothers, Alyssa, a detective, uncovers a deadly revenge plot and must find the strength she needs to stop the enemy and keep the Benedict family safe, once and for all.