

BOOKNEWS from

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April Booknews 2019
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April is National Poetry Month (and April 9 is Unicorn Day)

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

Some Events will be webcast on Facebook Live

Check out our new [YouTube Channel](#)

WEDNESDAY APRIL 3 7:00 PM

JA Jance signs [The A List](#) (Gallery \$27.99)
Ali Reynolds #14

SUNDAY APRIL 7 12:30 PM Free Workshop

YA authors Tom Leveen and Dani Hoots
“[Writing Authentic Teens: for YA, SF/F or Any Genre You Write In](#)”

MONDAY APRIL 8 7:00 PM

Anne Perry signs [Triple Jeopardy](#) (Ballantine \$28)
Daniel Pitt #2

TUESDAY APRIL 9 7:00 PM

Theodore Pappas signs [True Grit: Classic Tales of Perseverance](#) (G2 \$19.95) and, as the Executive Editor and Chief Development Officer at Encyclopaedia Britannica, is also bringing along [Britannica's 250th Anniversary Collectors Edition of the Encyclopaedia's Final Yearbook](#) (\$69.95). Britannica is headquartered in Chicago

WEDNESDAY APRIL 10 7:00 PM

Anne Hillerman signs [The Tale Teller](#) (Harper \$26.99)
Leaphorn, Chee, Manuelito #5

THURSDAY APRIL 11 7:00 PM

Robert Dugoni signs [The Eighth Sister](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95)

A fabulous spy story with a courtroom trial

Lisa Scottoline signs [Someone Knows](#) (Putnam \$27)
Psychological suspense/buried secrets

SUNDAY APRIL 14 2:00 PM

Stuart Woods signs [Wild Card](#) (Putnam \$28)
Stone Barrington #49

MONDAY APRIL 15 7:00 PM

David Dow signs [Confessions of an Innocent Man](#) (Dutton \$27)
April First Mystery Book of the Month

TUESDAY APRIL 16 7:00 PM

Jeffrey Siger signs [The Mykonos Mob](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95)
Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis #10

WEDNESDAY APRIL 17 7:00 PM

Alafair Burke in conversation with **Lori Rader-Day**
Burke signs [The Better Sister](#) (Harper \$26.99)

Standalone suspense

Rader-Day signs [Under a Dark Sky](#) (Morrow \$15.99)

A Christie-style suspense thriller

THURSDAY APRIL 18 7:00 PM

Kris Frieswick signs [The Ghost Manuscript](#) (Post Hill \$28)
Historical saga debut

FRIDAY APRIL 19 7:00 PM

Kevin Hearne and Delilah S. Dawson sign [No Country for Old Gnomes](#) (Del Rey \$28)
Tales of Pell #2

SATURDAY APRIL 20 2:00 PM

Rachel Howzell Hall signs [They All Fall Down](#) (Forge \$26.99)
Contemporary suspense riff on Christie
SA Lelchuk signs [Save Me from Dangerous Men](#) (Flatiron \$27.99)
A debut, our May First Mystery Book of the Month

TUESDAY APRIL 23 7:00 PM Book Launch

John Sandford signs [Neon Prey](#) (Putnam \$29)
Lucas Davenport #29
Our copies come with a custom designed bit of neon

WEDNESDAY APRIL 24

Iceland's Ragnar Jónasson signs [Rupture](#) (St Martins \$28.99)
Dark Iceland #4

FRIDAY APRIL 26 7:00 PM

James Sallis and Three Legged-Dog Play

SATURDAY APRIL 27 10-5

Independent Bookstore Day
Join us for a celebration...and more

TUESDAY APRIL 30 7:00 PM

Brian Panowich signs [Like Lions](#) (St Martins \$26.99)

WEDNESDAY MAY 1 7:00 PM

Marc Cameron signs [Open Carry](#) (Kensington \$26)
A US Marshal on the hunt in Alaska

APRIL DISCUSSION CLUBS

Coffee & Crime: Saturday April 13 10:30 AM:

Choose your own [Helen MacInnes](#) to share

SciFi Friday: April 12 7:00 PM

Richard Morgan, [Altered Carton](#) (\$16)

Croak & Dagger: Saturday April 20 10:30 AM:

Choose your own [Linda Fairstein](#) to share

Hardboiled Crime: Thursday April 25 7:00 PM:

Chris Offut, [Country Dark](#) (\$16)

EVENT BOOKS

Burke, Alafair. [The Better Sister](#) (Harper \$26.99 April 17). Burke began with legal thrillers but as she's matured as a writer she's dived deep into complicated relationships. I wouldn't call this standalone a Trust No One so much as *Delayed Revelations* (a new genre?). What we have are two sisters, Chloe, the younger, the squared away one, the honor roll student with big dreams and an even bigger work ethic who's made it very big in the Big Apple in magazine publishing and something of a feminist icon. Nicky was always restless...and more than a little reckless—floating from job to job and man to man while staying close to home in Cleveland. Yet Nicky married promising young attorney Adam Macintosh, and had a baby named Ethan. The Taylor sisters became virtual strangers until events brought Adam and Ethan to NYC where in time Chloe married Adam and became Ethan's mom. Now, years later, Chloe wins a huge award, top of the heap in her career. And then Adam is stabbed to death by an intruder at the couple's East Hampton beach house retreat. And the custody agreement means Nicky is back in Chloe's and Ethan's lives. Even scarier, the cops begin to treat Ethan as a suspect in his father's murder. You think you know where this is going... but you don't.

Cameron, Marc. [Open Carry](#) (Kensington \$26 May 1). U.S. Marshal Arliss Cutter is a born tracker. Raised in the Florida swamplands, he honed his skills in the military, fought in the Middle East, and worked three field positions for Marshal Services. When it comes to tracking someone down—or taking someone out—Cutter's the best. But his newest assignment is taking him out of his comfort zone to southeast Alaska. Cold, dark, uninhabited forests often shrouded in fog. And it's the kind of case that makes his blood run cold... the shocking murder of a Tlingit Indian girl. But the murder is just the beginning. Now, three people have disappeared on Prince of Wales Island. Two are crew members of the reality TV show, *Fishwives*. Cutter's job is to find the bodies, examine the crew's footage for clues, and track down the men who killed them. But it won't be easy, because the whole town is hiding secrets.... Cameron, who also writes in the Tom Clancy franchise, lives in Alaska and writes about it ferociously, beasts of all kinds, some of them human. A touch of Winslow in this one—a Cartel boss thinking he's invisible at an Alaskan getaway. Ha!

Dow, David R. [Confessions of an Innocent Man](#) (Dutton \$27 April 15). It's not often I read something truly original in concept, and even rarer, narrated in a terrific voice. A Starred Review underlines why this zinger makes our **April First Mystery Club Book of the Month**: "Defense attorney Dow, the founder of the Texas Innocence Project, makes an impressive fiction debut. Wealthy Tieresse Kerryman courts Rafael Zhettah, a chef from a humble background, after she has a meal at his Houston restaurant, and the pair soon marry. Their fairy tale romance comes to an end two years later when Tieresse is bludgeoned to death with a candlestick in their home and Zhettah is arrested for her murder. Zhettah was sleeping with one of the waitresses at his restaurant at the time, but his alibi isn't enough to persuade a jury of his innocence. On death row, Zhettah struggles to maintain his sanity, even as a team of dedicated appellate lawyers battle to avert his execution. Eventually, Dow reveals the truth about the circum-

stances behind the teasing opening prologue, in which Zhettah offers cake to two fellow prisoners, whom he addresses as 'Your Honors,' on the one-year anniversary of their captivity. The plot is a page-turner, and the addition of Dow's knowledge of the legal machinery of death and his nuanced characterization of his lead elevate this." All true but what makes it even better is the remarkable love story that unfolds both before and after Tieresse's murder. Dow makes the reader truly mourn the victim.

Dugoni, Robert. [The Eighth Sister](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95 April 11). Leave it to lawyer Dugoni to write a tense spy story and wrap a thrilling court room trial around it headed by one of his series leads, lawyer David Sloane. The title refers to a number of sleeper agents the US has placed in Russia, agents someone has outed, causing three of them to die. Which is how Charles Jenkins gets hooked back into the spy game he abandoned years before after a fiasco in Mexico. Here's a Starred Review: "Forty years after leaving the CIA, Charles Jenkins, the hero of this nail-biter from Edgar finalist Dugoni, is living in Camano Island, Washington, with his pregnant wife and nine-year-old son. Since Charles is threatened with losing his debt-ridden security consulting company and his home, he agrees to be reactivated when his former CIA station chief, Carl Emerson approaches him. He is sent to Moscow, tasked with finding the woman responsible for the elimination of three of seven Russian women known as the Seven Sisters, who were chosen from dissident parents and trained from birth to infiltrate Russian institutions and provide the United States with valuable intelligence. Charles must identify this assassin, the Eighth Sister, so the CIA can take action before the remaining four agents are harmed. ...Dugoni delivers an exceptionally gripping spy thriller that will keep readers on the edge of their seats." I am not going to reveal more other than to praise Dugoni for devising the fine machinery that makes his plot work. Also comes in a trade paperback: [The Eighth Sister](#) (\$15.95).

Frieswick, Kris. [The Ghost Manuscript](#) (Post Hill \$26 April 18). Rare book authenticator Carys Jones wanted nothing more than to be left alone to pursue her obsession with ancient manuscripts. But when her biggest client is committed to an asylum, he gives Carys an offer she cannot refuse. Carys Jones, a Boston rare-book authenticator and protagonist of Frieswick's meticulously researched first novel, is hired by John Harper, the son of a long-time client who's been committed to a psychiatric hospital. In exchange for his entire library of priceless, Dark Age manuscripts, Carys must track the clues hidden in a previously unknown journal. When Carys examines the works, she finds one that isn't in the catalogue. When it becomes clear that someone is prepared to kill for the mysterious manuscript, Carys goes to Wales, the home of her estranged father, to learn its origin. "There, she reconnects with her father, hits it off with an attractive Welsh diver, and starts seeing visions of Lestinus, the sixth-century monk who wrote the manuscript. The settings—notably the scenes in Wales—are filled with well-placed details, while the character development, particularly of Carys, a damaged woman who prefers manuscripts to people, keeps the story moving clues. The hunt takes Carys to places she never thought she'd go, physically and emotionally." I am quoting because the Advance Reading Copy I was sent is in 8 Point type which is unreadable.

Hall, Rachel Howzell. [They All Fall Down](#) (Forge \$26.99 April 20). This cleverly updated version of Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* from Hall stars Miriam Macy, who's going through a difficult patch: her husband has left her for her teenage daughter's dance teacher, she has been let go from her job writing aspirational copy for a clothing catalogue, and she's wanted for questioning by the police for reasons that only become gradually clear to the reader. The one person who has shown her any understanding is her lawyer, Phillip Omeke, and now he's not taking her calls. When she receives an invitation out of the blue to participate in the pilot of a new reality TV show, she sees it as a lifeline. She agrees to the show's conditions and flies from L.A. to Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico, where a yacht is waiting to whisk her to exclusive Mictlan Island. When people start to die, Miriam turns sleuth in Christie-style. Hall slips from funny to darkly frightening with elegant ease.

Hearne, Kevin/Delilah S. Dawson. [No Country for Old Gnomes](#) (Del Rey \$28 April 19 signed by both authors). Go big or go gnome. War is coming, and it's gonna be Pell. On one side stand the gnomes: smol, cheerful, possessing tidy cardigans and no taste for cruelty. On the other side sit the halflings, proudly astride their war alpacas, carrying bags of grenades and hungry for a fight. And pretty much anything else. It takes only one halfling bomb and Offi Numminen's world is turned upside down—or downside up, really, since he lives in a hole in the ground. His goth cardigans and aggressive melancholy set him apart from the other gnomes, as does his decision to fight back against their halfling oppressors. Suddenly Offi is the leader of a band of lovable misfits and outcasts—from a gryphon who would literally kill for omelets to a young dwarf herbalist who is better with bees than with his cudgel to an assertive and cheerful teen witch with a beard as long as her book of curses—all on a journey to the Toot Towers to confront the dastardly villain intent on tearing Pell asunder. This is the sequel to series start [Kill the Farm Boy](#) (\$16 or a few \$27 Signed Firsts).

Hillerman, Anne. [The Tale Teller](#) (Harper \$26.99 April 10). Joe Leaphorn may have retired from the Tribal Police, and his spoken English is still scrambled thanks to the shot to his head four books back—but he's still a relentless investigator when a case moves him to take it on privately. As he does when Mrs. Pinto, Director of the Navajo Nation Museum, has a perplexing problem. A donation has arrived but, per the accompanying inventory, is missing a priceless artifact—a reminder of a dark time in Navajo history, the Long Walk. Can Joe find the missing *biil*, a traditional dress belonging to an icon of that era? His investigation takes a sinister turn when the leading suspect mysteriously dies and Leaphorn receives anonymous warnings to beware—witchcraft is afoot. While Joe is busy working to untangle his strange case and puzzling over the sudden coldness of his housemate Louisa, his former colleague Jim Chee and Officer Bernie Manuelito are collecting evidence they hope will crack a series of burglaries targeting often precious family heirlooms. Suddenly the FBI intrudes when Bernie finds a body near a popular running trail and the man's death is ruled a homicide. This thrusts the Tribal cops into a turf war with the Feds. A plus is time spent at the Hubbell Trading Post near Ganado, a stop I recommend for anyone touring Canyon de Chelly. 5th in [Anne's series](#) drawing on her father Tony's amazing books! Treat yourself to the first four and then line up for this one.

We also recommend [Tony Hillerman's Indian Country Map and Guide](#) (\$19.95) which is updated to include Anne's books and key sites. It can be a reading bonus or use it as a trip planner and visit the sites father and daughter write about. Why not read all the Hillermans beginning with Tony's [The Blessing Way](#)? [Listen to my podcast](#) with Tony's biographer, great stuff

Jance, JA. [The A List](#) (Gallery \$27.99 April 3). Edward Gilchrist, a disgraced California fertility doctor, plots revenge on former L.A. newscaster Ali Reynolds, now the owner of a cybersecurity company in Arizona, and four others for uncovering evidence of his treating infertility with his own sperm instead of that of donors. In 2013, Gilchrist enters Folsom Prison to serve a life sentence without parole for arranging to have his wife killed before she could testify against him. With the help of a prison kingpin and the financial support of his wealthy, conniving mother, he starts to work through his so-called Annihilation List. The subsequent string of murders comes to the attention of Ali and her cybersecurity team who realize the threat Gilchrist poses to Ali.... #14 in a series set around Sedona and Payson and from time to time, Phoenix.

Jónasson, Ragnar. [Rupture](#) (St Martins \$28.99 April 24). Young policeman Ari Thór tries to solve a 50-year-old murder when new evidence surfaces. But the case proves difficult in a town where no one wants to know the truth, where secrets are a way of life. He's assisted by Ísrún, a news reporter in Reykjavik who is investigating an increasingly chilling case of her own. Things take a sinister turn when a child goes missing in broad daylight. With a stalker on the loose, and the town in quarantine, the past might just come back to haunt them. This 4th for Thor came out in late January but he's paying us an unexpected visit (from Iceland!). You can order the earlier [Dark Iceland](#) investigations featuring Ari Thor. And you can order the signed UK edition of Jónasson's May release: [The Island](#) (Joseph \$32)

Lelchuk, SA. [Save Me from Dangerous Men](#) (Flatiron \$27.99 April 20). Nikki Griffin isn't your typical private investigator. In her office above her East Bay bookstore's shelves and stacks, where she luxuriates in books and the comfort they provide, she also tracks certain men. Dangerous men. Men who have hurt the women they claim to love. And Nikki likes to teach those men a lesson, to teach them what it feels like to be hurt and helpless, so she can be sure that their victims are safe from them forever. When a regular PI job tailing Karen, a tech company's disgruntled employee who might be selling secrets, turns ugly and Karen's life is threatened, Nikki has to break cover and intervene. Karen says she'll tell Nikki what's really going on. But then something goes wrong and it becomes a question of staying alive... This crackerjack debut is our **May First Mystery Book of the Month**; we will hold copies for club members until May but the rest of you should pile on while you can.

Panowich, Brian. [Like Lions](#) (Minotaur \$26.99 April 30). A Starred Review: "In Thriller Award winner Panowich's excellent sequel to 2015's [Bull Mountain](#) (\$16), the death of the brothers of County Sheriff Clayton Burroughs has left a void in the family business, which includes the production and distribution of meth and moonshine in northern Georgia. Outside criminal elements are looking to expand into this area. Burroughs has vowed to keep the rule of law, but when his wife and newborn son are threatened, he's forced to choose between keeping his family

safe or embracing his outlaw roots and taking over as the heir apparent of the region's most ruthless crime family. He must also examine personal issues long buried under alcohol and avoidance. Although the stark economic backdrop of rural Georgia and a cast of richly described characters fuel the narrative, it's the emotional complexity of Burroughs ("He hoarded guilt and pain the way some people did magazines and newspapers") as well as the brass knuckle punch of an ending that will have readers applauding. This is hillbilly noir at its finest." So clearly for fans of David Joy and a definite high recommend from Patrick who will host Brian's event.

Pappas, Theodore, ed. [Britannica's 250th Anniversary Collectors Edition of the Encyclopaedia's Final Yearbook](#) (\$69.95) Designed both to complete your *Britannica* yearbook collection and to serve as an engaging stand-alone volume, this individually numbered, special collector's publication is a rare compendium of knowledge, insights, and history and will be the last edition in the 80-year tradition of *Britannica's* distinguished yearbooks. Pappas also signs his book [True Grit: Classic Tales of Perseverance](#) (G2 \$19.95). Inspiring tales of ten of the most accomplished pioneers and leaders in history.

Perry, Anne. [Triple Jeopardy](#) (Ballantine \$28 April 8). Daniel Pitt, along with his parents, Charlotte and Thomas, is delighted that his sister, Jemima, and her family have returned to London from the States for a visit. But the Pitts soon learn of a harrowing incident: In Washington, D.C., one of Jemima's good friends has been assaulted and her treasured necklace stolen. The perpetrator appears to be a man named Philip Sidney, a British diplomat stationed in America's capital who, in a cowardly move, has fled to London, claiming diplomatic immunity. But that claim doesn't cover his other crimes. When Sidney winds up in court on a separate charge of embezzlement, it falls to Daniel to defend him. Daniel plans to provide only a competent enough defense to avoid a mistrial, allowing the prosecution to put his client away. But when word travels across the pond that an employee of the British embassy in Washington has been found dead, Daniel grows suspicious about Sidney's alleged crimes and puts on his detective hat to search for evidence in what has blown up into an international affair. As the embezzlement scandal heats up, Daniel takes his questions to intrepid scientist Miriam fford Croft, who brilliantly uses the most up-to-date technologies to follow an entirely new path of investigation which leads Daniel and Miriam to travel to the Channel Islands to chase a fresh lead. 2nd in a series developing from the Charlotte and Thomas Pitt mysteries. The first is [Twenty One Days](#) (\$17), out in paperback with this new book.

Sandford, John. [Neon Prey](#) (Putnam \$29 April 23—publication day). In his 29th nail-biter, Lucas Davenport must track a serial killer. Clayton Deese looks like a small-time criminal, muscle for hire when his loan shark boss needs to teach someone a lesson. Now, seven months after a job that went south and landed him in jail, Deese has skipped out on bail, and the U.S. Marshals come looking for him. They don't much care about a low-level guy—it's his boss they want—but Deese might be their best chance to bring down the whole operation. Then, they step onto a dirt trail behind Deese's rural Louisiana cabin and find a jungle full of graves. The SK clearly has been operating for years without notice. He is ruthless, and—as Davenport will come to find—full of surprises.... I really like the wide US range Davenport can

work now that he's a Marshal. And I note there's something about Louisiana bad boys that brings out the bad boy in Lucas in spades. **A special collectible insert is being designed for our copies—it's something neon,**

Scottoline, Lisa. [Someone Knows](#) (Putnam \$27 April 11). Allie Garvey is heading home to the funeral of a childhood friend, grief-stricken and filled with dread. For 20 years she's kept silent about the drinking and partying in the woods where a dangerous prank went wrong. The boy's death was ruled a suicide. Succumbing to peer pressure (the other teens were cooler), Allie went along with the game with the gun and then with keeping what happened a secret—getting caught would be the worst thing ever. But two decades have taught her that not getting caught has been far worse. As it all unravels Allie learns other long buried secrets. And faces a reckoning. Unsurprisingly not everyone agrees it's time to confess.... This is less a mystery novel than an exploration of "the true nature of justice."

Siger, Jeffrey. [The Mykonos Mob](#) (Sourcebooks/Poisoned Pen \$26.95 May 16). The case begins for Athens' Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis with a literal bang—a corrupt former police colonel who runs a protection racket on Mykonos is gunned down. And Kaldis is suddenly face to face with Greece's top crime bosses, all just as surprised and baffled as he is at the assassination. Who is making a move—if move it is—and what else might it be?—to take over the island's vice operations. Maybe legitimate businesses too? One of the Aegean's Cyclades islands, Mykonos was poor until a few decades ago, but today is a renowned 24/7 summer hot spot filled with tourists who enjoy its beaches and iconic landmarks by day and party in its bars and massive dance clubs by night. As an international playground and cruise port, Mykonos is just begging for more exploitation—and not just by the Greeks. While Andreas and his Special Crimes unit wrestle for answers, his wife Lila is similarly engaged but her focus is what meaningful role beyond wife and mother will she fill? Daughter of a wealthy family, it isn't about money. Her quest takes her to her parents' home on Mykonos where she meets Toni, an American ex-pat, a fixer and finder of stolen goods, playing piano in a gender-bending bar with a zest for life and no apparent regard for rules. Inevitably what Lila and Toni discover together about themselves intersects with Andreas' investigation. Dangerously! The Andreas Kaldis thrillers tour you to some of Greece's most fabulous spots as well as address cutting edge social and economic issues rooted in this beleaguered country's ancient past. [Order them all.](#)

PW adds in its review: "American expat Toni, a woman who plays piano in local bars and befriends Lila, says of Mykonos: 'It's a paradise for everyone. Until you become a victim.'" Kaldis and Kouros are soon drawn into what is shaping up to be a turf war for control of the island's many lucrative and shady dealings—from prostitution to exploitive real estate deals. But the question remains: who is really behind the killing of the colonel? Siger seasons Kaldis' investigation with abundant slices of Greek history and island mores, along with Lila's consciousness-raising conversations. Armchair travelers will have fun."

Woods, Stuart. [Wild Card](#) (Putnam \$28 April 14). This fast-paced 49th Stone Barrington novel picks up where its predecessor, 2018's [A Delicate Touch](#), left off. New York attorney Stone and his latest paramour, New York Times reporter Jamie Cox, are ensconced at his English estate, where Jamie is working on her

book exposing the links between a family-owned investment bank, H. Thomas & Son, and organized crime. Since Henry Thomas, the family patriarch, blames Stone for unearthing this damaging information, he and his henchmen are bent on revenge. When a hired gun takes an errant shot at Stone on the estate grounds, Stone and Jamie flee England for the comparative safety of his Manhattan townhouse. Meanwhile, Henry is angling to have his former congressman son, Hank, become the Republican candidate for president, which involves derailing the campaign of the popular if obnoxious junior senator from Florida, Joe Box. The tension rises as a determined assassin makes a deal with the Thomases to kill Stone, who's dropped his guard after mistakenly believing they no longer have reason to do him in. 49th in series.

APRIL BOOK BUYERS CLUB PICKS

British Crime Club One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Hunter, Cara. [In the Dark](#) (Penguin \$16).

Cozy Crimes Club One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Berry, Connie. [A Dream of Death](#)

Discovery Club One paperback or hardcover per month

Tuti, Ilaria. [Flowers Over the Inferno](#)

First Mystery Club One Signed First per month

Dow, David. [Confessions of an Innocent Man](#)

Hardboiled Crime Club One signed First per month

Dow, David. [Confessions of an Innocent Man](#)

History/Mystery Club One Signed First per month

Runcie, James. [The Road to Grantchester](#)

History Paperback One per month

Lawrence, Mary. [The Alchemist of Lost Souls](#)

Modern First Editions One Signed First per month

Choo, Yangze. [The Night Tiger](#)

SciFi/Fantasy/Horror Club One Signed First per month

Roanhorse, Rebecca. [Storm of Locusts](#)

Surprise Me! Club One Signed First Per Month

Gough, Alfred/Miles Millar. [Double Exposure](#)

Thriller Club One Signed First per month

Hitchcock, Jane Stanton. [Bluff](#)

SIGNED BOOKS

Baldacci, David. [Redemption](#) (Grand Central \$30). The past comes back to haunt Amos Decker. Visiting his hometown, Burlington, Ohio, with his FBI partner Alex Jamison, Decker is accosted by the first person he ever arrested for murder, a man trembling with illness after years in prison and still maintaining his innocence. Could it be that Decker made a rookie mistake all those years ago? Believing Hawkins, Decker starts digging into the cold case and soon realizes a connection may exit to a new crime—one he may be able to prevent....

Connolly, John. [Book of Bones](#) (Hodder \$44). With this, celebrate 20 years of Parker novels. On a lonely moor in the northeast of England, the body of a young woman is discovered near the site of a vanished church. In the south, a girl lies buried beneath a Saxon mound. To the southeast, the ruins of a priory hide a human skull. Each is a sacrifice, a summons. And something in the shadows

has heard the call. But another is coming: Parker the hunter, the avenger. Parker's mission takes him from Maine to the deserts of the Mexican border; from the canals of Amsterdam to the streets of London—he will track those who would cast this world into darkness. Parker fears no evil. But evil fears him. And rightly so....

Davis, Lindsey. [A Capitol Death](#) (Hodder \$46). Emperor Domitian has been awarded (or rather, has demanded) yet another Triumph to celebrate two so-called victories. Preparations are going smoothly until one of the men overseeing arrangements for the celebration accidentally falls to his death from a cliff on the symbolic Capitoline Hill. But Flavia Albia suspects there's more to the incident than meets the eye, as there are plenty of people who would have been delighted to be rid of the overseer. He was an abusive swine who couldn't organize a booze-up in a winery and was caught up in a number of scams, including one surrounding the supply of imperial purple dye and a family of shellfish-boilers. As Flavia finds herself drawn into a theatrical world of carnival floats, musicians incense and sacrificial beasts, can she see to the heart of the guilty?

Gough, Alfred/Miles Millar. [Double Exposure](#) (Grand Central \$26). Signed by both authors, two guys who created *Smallville* and are currently showrunners of the AMC show *Into the Badlands*. I'm usually somewhat skeptical that script guys turn into fine novelists, although there's Tom Perry, Joe Ide, Melissa Love Scrivener and many more as fine examples to say they can. And here's Gough & Millar with this gem that is part spoof and a lot action and gives a nod to Robert Harris as you longtime thriller readers will recognize. Meet David Toland, a decorated Korean War veteran who has ditched the military for a life in film preservation. Driven by his passion for the Golden Age of American Cinema which wrote the American Dream large with movies of adventure, romance, the West, Toland is now Director of Preservation at the Library of Congress' National Film Archive. And loving it. Until one day CIA Agent Lana Welles shows up with a canister of film that was smuggled over the Berlin Wall at great cost—the man was shot. The film could prove that WWII didn't end but went underground. Toland reluctantly answers his country's call and finds himself, and Lana, pursued across the globe in a cat-and-mouse game that can only end.... This exhilarating debut is our **April Surprise Me Book of the Month** but in **truth I could have switched our April Thriller Book of the month, Hitchcock's [Bluff](#) (\$26.95) to Surprise Me and *Double Exposure* to Thriller! My advice—you will do no better this year than to buy both *Bluff* and *Double Exposure*!**

Harris, Joanne. [The Strawberry Thief](#) (Orion \$44). Vianne Rocher has settled down. Lansquenet-sous-Tannes, the place that once rejected her, has finally become her home. With Rosette, her 'special' child, she runs her chocolate shop in the square, talks to her friends on the river, is part of the community. Even Reynaud, the priest, has become a friend. But when old Narcisse, the florist, dies, leaving a parcel of land to Rosette and a written confession to Reynaud, the life of the sleepy village is once more thrown into disarray. The arrival of Narcisse's relatives, the departure of an old friend and the opening of a mysterious new shop in the place of the florist's across the square—one that mirrors the *chocolaterie*, and has a strange appeal of its own—all seem to herald some kind of change: a confrontation, a turbulence—even, perhaps, a murder.... [Chocolat](#) (\$16), introducing Vianne, remains one of my very favorite first novels and a lovely film.

✚Harris, CS. [Who Slays the Wicked](#) (Berkley \$26 out in April, Signed May 8). Sebastian St. Cyr is in the unusual position of probing the murder of a man he himself once threatened to kill. Lord Ashworth was implicated in a series of killings of homeless children, but St. Cyr was unable to find enough proof of Ashworth's guilt. Now, someone has fatally stabbed Ashworth and left his nude corpse tied to his bed. One suspect is the dead man's wife, St. Cyr's niece, which adds another level of awkwardness to his inquiries. Ashworth was rumored to have been cheating on his wife with Princess Ivanna Gagarin, an attendant to a Russian grand duchess, whose arrival in London in advance of a planned summit to celebrate Russia's expected imminent victory over France makes the investigation into Ivanna's possible involvement politically sensitive. Harris does a nice job of introducing red herrings and devising a surprising solution that fits with the clues she's planted. 14th in a dazzling Regency series that really has to be read from book one to this.

Jonasson, Ragnar. [The Island](#) (Joseph \$32). The island of Elliðaey sits off the Icelandic coast. Accessible only by boat its isolation makes it the perfect place to vanish. During a long, hot summer five friends visit the island. Only four will return. They each share a past, and a dark secret that could harm them all. As the days pass, tensions rise and loyalties are shed, one of them will commit murder. Detective Inspector Hulda Hermannsdóttir is sent to investigate and soon finds echoes with the case of a young woman found murdered ten years previously in the nearby Westfjords. Is there a patient killer stalking these barren outposts? As Hulda navigates a sinister game constructed of smoke and mirrors she is convinced that no one is telling the truth, including those closest to her. But who will crack first? See Event Books for more about Jonasson.

Kim, Angie. [Miracle Creek](#) (Farrar Strauss \$28). An arsonist sets a fire at a hyperbaric oxygen therapy tank in Miracle Creek, Virginia, killing two people in treatment and maiming more. It also torches the dreams of the Korean immigrant family operating the facility, as well as those looking for treatment for diverse issues like autism and male infertility. And makes a victim's mother the principal suspect. [Miracle Creek](#) is a debut by a trial lawyer, but don't expect Perry Mason. There is a trial, yes, and attendant courtroom theatrics filled with unreliable witnesses and the weight of legal procedure (not a Perry Mason hallmark), but don't look for a tidy outcome. Instead this penetrating novel achieves its power by embracing the chaos of our time. Out in late April but this is our **May Modern Firsts Book of the Month**.

Napolitano, Janet. [How Safe Are We? Homeland Security since 9/11](#) (Public Affairs \$26 Signed May 28 at a ticketed event at the Madison Center). Out at the end of March, the former Governor and Homeland Security Secretary's thoughts on a pressing and divisive issue. Tickets: \$32 with signed book; \$45 with book and admission to the VIP signing line. 7:00 PM at the Madison Center at 16th and Missouri, Phoenix. Loads of on-site parking. [Info and tickets are HERE](#)

Rice, Christopher. [Blood Echo](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95). Kidnapped and raised by serial killers, Charlotte Rowe suffered an ordeal that made her infamous. Everyone in the world knew who she was. But no one in the world has any idea what she's become... Charlotte is an experiment. And a weapon. Enabled by

a superpower drug, she's partnered with a shadowy pharmaceutical company to hunt down and eliminate society's most depraved human predators. But her latest mission goes off the rails in a horrifying way. Unsettled by her own capacity for violence, Charlotte wants some time to retreat so she can work on her new relationship with Luke, a sheriff's deputy in the isolated Central California town she now calls home. If only the threats hadn't followed Charlotte there. The sequel to Rice's terrific debut for Charlotte in [Bone Music](#) (\$15.95) which I highly recommend below in Our April Large Paperback Picks.

Roanhorse, Rebecca. [Storm of Locusts](#) (Saga \$29). Roanhorse's [Trail of Lightning](#) (\$17.99), The Sixth World #1, has become a minor bestseller at The Pen, pushed by staff enthusiasm. So this sequel, Book #2, is a natural choice for our **April SciFi-Fantasy Book of the Month**. It's been four weeks since the bloody showdown at Black Mesa, and Maggie Hoskie, Diné monster hunter, is trying to make the best of things. Only her latest bounty hunt has gone sideways, she's lost her only friend, Kai Arviso, and she's somehow found herself responsible for a girl with a strange clan power. Then the Goodacre twins show up at Maggie's door with the news that Kai and the youngest Goodacre, Caleb, have fallen in with a mysterious cult, led by a figure out of Navajo legend called the White Locust. The Goodacres are convinced that Kai's a true believer, but Maggie suspects there's more to Kai's new faith than meets the eye. She vows to track down the White Locust, then rescue Kai and make things right between them. Her search leads her beyond the Walls of Dinétah and straight into the horrors of the Big Water world outside. With the aid of a motley collection of allies, Maggie must battle body harvesters, newborn casino gods and, ultimately, the White Locust himself. But the cult leader is nothing like she suspected, and Kai might not need rescuing after all.

✚Royal, Priscilla. [Wild Justice](#) (Sourcebooks/Poisoned Pen \$26.99). Here is the belated hardcover edition and it earns a Starred Review: "Set in England in 1282, Royal's superlative 14th medieval mystery finds Prioress Eleanor traveling to Mynchen Buckland Priory, bearing a gift of money and a sealed letter from her brother, Baron Hugh of Wynethorpe, to a woman she has never met, Prioress Amicia. On arrival, Eleanor and her companions, Brother Thomas and Sister Anne, discover Prioress Amicia imprisoned, having been found guilty of murdering a gossiping widow from the village. When Eleanor talks to Amicia in her cell, she believes Amicia's claim of innocence. Determined to discover the real killer, the trio must investigate a house of nuns and monks who are variously fearful, furtive, and enraged. Royal meticulously depicts life at Mynchen Buckland, which was a part of the Hospitaller order, its pious mission intertwined with the military efforts of the Crusader knights. She also pays close attention to all three of the visitors-turned-sleuths. Instead of functioning as main-character sidekicks or listening posts, Brother Thomas and Sister Anne use their respective gifts to astutely unravel crucial strands to the mystery, helping to bring the story to a satisfying conclusion. Royal shows once again why she stands in the front rank of medieval mystery authors." This is very much a country-house style murder and underlines Royal's varied approach to plotting. Look for her 15th, [The Twice-Hanged Man](#) (\$28), in August.

✚Runcie, James. [The Road to Grantchester](#) (Bloomsbury \$35). Runcie's exceptional seventh novel featuring Sidney Chambers

is a prequel and thus a perfect choice for our **April History/ Mystery Book of the Month**. It opens with an extended section set during WWII. In 1943, Sidney, and his best friend, Robert Kendall, who are soldiers in a Scots Guards battalion, are serving on the Italian front. Sidney's efforts to survive the conflict, both physically and mentally, are aided by the Reverend Nev Finnie, a battlefield chaplain who proves crucial to Sidney's search for meaning and purpose after the war. Runcie is equally effective in portraying Sidney's decision to become an Anglican minister and his struggles about his feelings for Robert's sister, Amanda. Superior prose is a plus (a stranger whom Sidney passes on the street has "a face that has grown into the idea that most people will ignore him"). While Sidney has only one passing mystery to solve, fans of Runcie's sophisticated mixing of whodunit plots with explorations of the human psyche in prior entries will relish getting a fuller picture of Sidney's path toward a life in the church. If you haven't yet watched the Grantchester saga on TV I recommend it.

Shelton, Paige. [The Loch Ness Papers](#) (St Martins \$26.99). American Delaney Nichols, who works at the Cracked Spine Bookshop in Edinburgh, Scotland, is soon to be married—if the ceremony isn't sunk by complications. First, the minister dies, leaving Delaney scrambling for a replacement; then the tailor shop folds, leaving her dressless; and finally her new friend met when interviewing a new minister, a sweet, eccentric old man who's obsessed with the Loch Ness monster, is accused of murdering his greedy nephew. Delaney's wedding plans take a back seat as she tries to prove, Norval Fraser innocent and find the real killer. Delaney's friends and her family, who have traveled to Scotland from Kansas, are amazingly forgiving about being ditched while she's off investigating this and the unusual return of a rare book stolen from the shop. The Nessie lore is a lot of fun. And while no Agatha Christie in plot, the root of Norval's tragedy is both sad and, sadly, not uncommon. This 4th in the cozy [A Scottish Bookshop Mysteries](#) publishes in April and **Shelton will sign it at Cozy Con May 11.**

Suarez, Daniel. [Delta-v](#) (Dutton \$27 May 6). This is a real rocket ride—fun and scary. It's 2032 and a billionaire (like Branson or Bezos) wants to keep the world's money system expanding by mining for resources out in cis-space, from asteroids. Nathan Joyce recruits itinerant cave diver JT Tighe (pronounced Tie) who's proved himself well underground in the tense opener by leading most of his team up from the shattering earthquake deep under China to safety, an effort analogous to Shackleton's successful rescue of his Antarctic expedition. The concept here is huge and the science fascinating. Needless to say the space expedition does not go as expected, nor does the financing of the venture, which makes it a nail-biter. But also a chance to learn and speculate. **We are so excited that Suarez will make his first appearance at The Pen on Monday May 6 and sign *Delta-v* for you.**

✳Taylor, Andrew. [The King's Evil](#) (Collins \$36). London 1667. In the Court of Charles II, it's a dangerous time to be alive – a wrong move may lead to disgrace, exile or death. The discovery of a body at Clarendon House, the palatial home of one of the highest courtiers in the land, could therefore have catastrophic consequences. James Marwood, a traitor's son, is ordered to cover up the murder. But the dead man is Edward Alderley, the

cousin of one of Marwood's acquaintances. Cat Lovett had every reason to want her cousin dead. Since his murder, she has vanished, and all the evidence points to her as the killer. Marwood is determined to clear Cat's name and discover who really killed Alderley. But time is running out...perhaps for the King as well.

OUR APRIL LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Alger, Cristina. [The Banker's Wife](#) (\$16). 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, and no surprise this became a bestseller.

Beck, Peter. [Damnation](#) (\$16.95). Dead clients are bad for business, something that Tom Winter, head of security at a private Swiss bank, knows only too well. When a helicopter explosion kills a valuable client and a close colleague, Winter teams up with the mysterious Egyptian businesswoman Fatima Hakim to expose the truth behind their deaths. Together they follow the money trail around the world and back into the Swiss mountains, the NSA watching their every move. As they start closing in on the truth, Winter and Fatima turn from being the hunters to the hunted.... I gave this a big push in hardcover and recommend it to fans of Christopher Reich, Christine Alger, and international thriller fans.

Bussi, Michel. [Double Mother](#) (Europa \$18). "Why would precocious preschooler Malone Moulin insist that his parents weren't his parents? School psychologist Vasily Dragonman brings that conundrum to the attention of Capitaine Marianne Augresse, a Le Havre police officer, in this brilliantly twisty mystery from French author Bussi. When Dragonman first met Malone, the boy claimed that he remembers a life before living with Dimitri and Amanda Moulin. These vague memories, which include pirates and a rocket, strike Augresse as nothing more than childish fantasies, however. Dragonman's belief that Malone is being truthful when the three-year-old says his stuffed animal, Gouti, tells him stories about his past doesn't help the psychologist's effort to get the police to investigate, especially in the absence of any evidence that Malone was being mistreated. While the single captain finds the psychologist personally appealing, she prioritizes the search for a wounded bank robber, until she gets a dramatic indication that Dragonman was on the right track. Fans of Fred Vargas's bizarre yet logical plots and complicated leads will be eager to seek out more of Bussi's work."—*PW* Starred Review

Eastland, Sam. [An Elegant Lie](#) (Faber \$14.95). The year is 1949. In the bombed-out ruins of Cologne, Hanno Dasch is king. Director of the most successful black market operation in post-war Germany, Dasch has kept his clients supplied with goods so extravagant and rare that they were almost impossible

to find even at the height of Germany's conquests. Nobody but Dasch, his enigmatic daughter and the war criminal he keeps as his bodyguard know how he does it. None of this has escaped the attention of Allied Intelligence, who face not only the systemic corruption of a country where everything is in short supply, but the growing threat of Stalin's KGB. Fearing that Dasch will soon expand his business to include dealings with Russia, and invite the further meddling of Russian agents in the west, the CIA sets in motion an undercover operation to infiltrate and, ultimately, destroy Dasch's empire. Disgraced American Army officer, Nathan Carter, is recruited to approach Dasch and to ingratiate himself with promises of stolen army supplies. As Carter moves further and further into the labyrinth of Dasch's world, it soon becomes clear that the black market ring has already been compromised, but by someone even more dangerous than the Russians...

✦Hunter, Cara. [In the Dark](#) (Penguin \$16). I searched high and low for a **British Crime Club Book of the Month for April** that was not one of the flood of Trust No Ones, and found this terrific police procedural working off a truly original premise. A woman is discovered held captive behind a basement wall, a toddler at hand, in the cellar of an old, run-down Oxford mansion. The horrified construction crew who broke through the wall from the remodel next door sees finger gouges so deep they think she was trying to claw her way out. DI Adam Fawley, the self-deprecating, ironic narrator of Hunter's arresting 2018 nail-biter [Close to Home](#) (\$16), leads the investigation into who held the woman and the child, presumably her son, captive. The police arrest the house's Alzheimer's-afflicted owner, retired professor William Harper, but he claims he knows nothing about them. The unidentified captives are taken to a local hospital, where a psychiatrist thinks the mother, who screams when questioned, is suffering from PTSD. The subsequent discovery of a body buried in Harper's garden raises the ante. The painstaking work of Fawley's highly diverse team emerges in transcripts of interrogations, emails, witness interviews, BBC scripts, and other documents that enhance the authenticity of the police enquiry. If you work out what's really going on before the end game, big points to you. "Hunter exposes human frailties such as social and governmental missteps and policemen's personal mess-ups while celebrating the essential humanity of those sworn to serve and protect." Truly a terrific read.

Krueger, William Kent. [Desolation Mountain](#) (\$16.99). All his life, Stephen O'Connor has had visions of tragedies to come. When he experiences the vision of a great bird shot from the sky, he knows something terrible is about to happen. The crash of a private plane on Desolation Mountain in a remote part of the Iron Lake Reservation, which kills a United States senator and most of her family, confirms Stephen's worst fears. Stephen joins his father, Cork O'Connor, and a few Ojibwe men from the nearby Iron Lake reservation to sift through the smoldering wreckage when the FBI arrives and quickly assumes control of the situation. What seems like the end of the O'Connors' involvement is, however, only the beginning of a harrowing journey to understand the truth behind the Senator's death and the mysterious disappearances of several first responders to the crash site. If you haven't read the [first 16 O'Connors](#), don't delay ordering them.

Leon, Donna. [The Temptation of Forgiveness](#) (\$16). Guido Brunetti is puzzled as to why his superior is being suspiciously pleasant, and worrying that Sra. Elettra may well be over-reach-

ing in her hacking. A professor, a friend of his wife Paola, brings him what turns out to be a puzzling case that goes from a missing husband to the husband's death from a head wound on a bridge to an equally puzzling look at Venice's health care system. Beautiful writing; not sure how I feel about the plot resolution, some of which you have to imagine will happen, but you can sure feel Leon's increasing despair over Venice's tourist inundation and the sheer weight and ineptitude of Italy's bureaucracy on all levels and its detachment from the people in theory it is serving. I add some of the prose is simply stunning. Reissued: [A Question of Belief](#) (\$16), but why not order all the [Guido Brunettis](#) for hours and hours of immersive pleasure?

✦Malliet, GM. [In Prior's Wood](#) (\$16.99). Handsome vicar Max Tudor prefers a predictable routine at St Edwold's, Nether Monkslip. But as he's composing a sermon on Bathsheba, the lady of a local manor is found dead in what appears to be a suicide pact with her lover. The village is alive with murmurs that Lord Duxter has rallied too quickly from his wife's death; having offered it to a group of writers for a retreat, he insists the show go on. Then a young girl goes missing and an insufferably smug crime writer becomes a target and once again DCI Cotton requests Max and his MI expertise to lend a hand. This charming, sly, and mostly surprising series is a treat to read.

Miller, Madeline. [Circe](#) (\$16.99). In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. But Circe is a strange child—not powerful, like her father, nor viciously alluring like her mother. Turning to the world of mortals for companionship, she discovers that she does possess power—the power of witchcraft, which can transform rivals into monsters and menace the gods themselves. Threatened, Zeus banishes her to a deserted island, where she hones her occult craft, tames wild beasts and crosses paths with many of the most famous figures in all of mythology, including the Minotaur, Daedalus and his doomed son Icarus, the murderous Medea, and, of course, wily Odysseus. But there is danger, too, for a woman who stands alone, and Circe unwittingly draws the wrath of both men and gods, ultimately finding herself pitted against one of the most terrifying and vengeful of the Olympians.

✦Perry, Anne. [Twenty One Days](#) (\$17). "Perry's excellent new series launch expertly takes the Pitts into a new century."—*Library Journal* Starred Review. 1910: Twenty-five-year-old Daniel Pitt is a junior barrister in London and eager to prove himself, independent of his renowned parents' influence. And the new case before him will be the test. When his client, arrogant biographer Russell Graves, is found guilty of murdering his wife, Daniel is dispatched to find the real killer before Graves faces the hangman's noose—in only twenty-one days. Could Mrs. Graves's violent death have anything to do with her husband's profession? Someone in power may be framing the biographer to keep damaging secrets from coming to light. It is a theory that leads Daniel's investigation unexpectedly to London's Special Branch—and, disturbingly, to one of his father Thomas' closest colleagues. For the sequel please see Event Books.

Rice, Christopher. [Bone Music](#) (\$15.95). I love this book! Brilliantly written, imaginatively conceived. Wow! The whole vibe of damaged women survivors and pain so prevalent this winter drives an unusual story with a slightly futurist note akin to the Jane Hawk thrillers by Koontz. I wanted to make this the March

Surprise Me Club Pick as much as I did Fox's *Crimson Lake*. When Trina Pierce was nine months old, she was abducted by serial killers Daniel and Abigail Banning, who killed her mother. The criminally insane Bannings raised Trina as their own for seven years until they were apprehended. Trina was sent to live with her father, who exploited her by profiting from a series of horror movies based on her ordeal that untruthfully portray her as a killer. Trina eventually escaped her father and established a new identity as Charlotte Rowe—Charley. She now lives in a remote house outside Scarlet, Arizona, with massive security, fearful of stalkers. Meanwhile, her psychiatrist, keen to use her for research, tricks her into taking a drug that gives her superhuman strength. And so the pages turn powered by action and ethics.... For the sequel, see Signed Books.

Towles, Amor. [A Gentleman in Moscow](#) (\$17). *PW* opines: "House arrest has never been so charming as in Towles's second novel, an engaging 30-year saga set almost entirely inside the Metropol, Moscow's most luxurious hotel. To Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov, the Metropol becomes both home and jail in 1922, when the Bolsheviks spare his life (on the strength of a revolutionary poem written in 1913, when the count was at university). Forbidden to venture out, Rostov explores the intricacies of the grand structure and befriends its other denizens...When one, the now adult Nina, returns to ask Rostov for a favor, his unique, precariously well-appointed life must change once more." This book went on to become a multi-year bestseller and book club must. "In all ways a great novel, a nonstop pleasure brimming with charm, personal wisdom, and philosophic insight... This is a book in which the cruelties of the age can't begin to erase the glories of real human connection and the memories it leaves behind. A masterly encapsulation of modern Russian history, this book more than fulfills the promise of Towles' stylish debut, [Rules of Civility](#) (\$17)."—*Kirkus* Starred Review.

✚Winspear, Jacqueline. [To Die But Once](#) (\$16.99). Spring 1940. With Britons facing what has become known as "the Bore War"—nothing much seems to have happened yet—Maisie Dobbs is asked to investigate the disappearance of a local lad, a young apprentice craftsman working on a "hush-hush" government contract. As Maisie's inquiry reveals a possible link to the London underworld, another mother is worried about a missing son—but this time the boy in question is one much loved by Maisie. [Order the whole series](#).

COZIES FOR MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS OR READING

Budewitz, Leslie. [Chai Another Day](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). As owner of the Spice Shop in Seattle's famed Pike Place Market, Pepper Reece is always on the go. Between conjuring up new spice blends and serving iced spice tea to customers looking to beat the summer heat, she finally takes a break for a massage. But the Zen moment is shattered when she overhears an argument in her friend Aimee's vintage home decor shop that ends in murder. Wracked by guilt over her failure to intervene, Pepper investigates, only to discover a web of deadly connections that could ensnare a friend—and Pepper herself. 4th in the Spice Shop Mysteries.

Burdette, Lucy. [Death on the Menu](#) (\$16.99). Hayley Snow, fiery food critic for *Key Zest* magazine, has just landed a ticket to one of the most prestigious events in Key West: a high-brow three-day conference at the Harry Truman Little White House. Even though she'll be working the event helping her mother's fledgling

catering business, there's plenty of spicy gossip to go around. But just before her mother's decadent flun is put to the test, Key West's most prized possession, Hemingway's Nobel prize gold medal for *The Old Man and the Sea*, is discovered stolen from its case. Unsavory suspicions point to Gabriel, a family friend and one of the new busboys working the event, who mysteriously goes missing moments later. Anxious to clear his name, Gabriel's family enlists Hayley to help find him, but right as they begin their search, his body is found stabbed to death in the storeroom. 8th in the Key West Food Critic Mysteries, fun for fans of Joanne Fluke and Kate Carlisle.

Berry, Connie. [A Dream of Death](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Autumn has come and gone on Scotland's Isle of Glenroth, and the islanders gather for the Tartan Ball, the annual end-of-tourist-season gala. Spirits are high. A recently published novel about island history has brought hordes of tourists to the small Hebridean resort community. On the guest list is American antiques dealer Kate Hamilton. Kate returns reluctantly to the island where her husband died, determined to repair her relationship with his sister, proprietor of the island's luxe country house hotel, famous for its connection with Bonnie Prince Charlie. Kate has hardly unpacked for the ball when the next morning a body is found, murdered in a reenactment of an infamous unsolved murder described in the novel, that of a young bride killed two centuries earlier—and the only clue to the killer's identity lies in a curiously embellished antique casket... This debut, a series launch, is our **April Cozy Crimes Book of the Month**.

Burns, VM. [Wed, Read & Dead](#) (Kensington \$15.95). Bookstore owner Samantha Washington sells mysteries in North Harbor, Michigan. Sam's mother can't wait to wed her wealthy beau, Harold Robertson. The big mystery is how they're going to pull off a lavish wedding in three weeks. Harold's snobby sister-in-law proposes a solution: engage flamboyant wedding planner Lydia Lighthouse. But their beacon of hope quickly sends everyone into a blind rage, most of all the groom-to-be. So when the maddening micromanager is strangled with her own scarf, it's a shock, but not a surprise. It's a case of art imitating life as Sam pens her next historical mystery set in England between the wars. Lady Daphne Marsh insists on marrying Lord James Browning on Christmas Eve, three weeks hence. But when the fop planning their wedding ends up with a knife in his back, she vows to nab the backstabber before she walks down the aisle. Can Sam transfer her writing skills to solving Lydia's murder?

Davis, Krista. [The Diva Sweetens the Pie](#) (Kensington \$26). Nothing heats up Old Town quite like the annual Pie Festival, and this year is no exception, especially since Sophie's professional rival, Natasha Smith, is barred from participating. Sophie, meanwhile, has been asked to oversee the pie eating contest. But the drama really rolls out when celebrity judge, Patsy Lee Presley, host of television's most popular cooking show, bites the crust during the competition, and Sophie's friends are suspected of the crime. As the folks of Old Town dish, the tough truth about Patsy's meteoric rise to domestic stardom begins to leak. It turns out that Patsy's sweet exterior hid a secret sour side.... 12th in the Domestic Diva Mysteries.

Karst, Leslie. [Murder from Scratch](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Santa Cruz restaurateur Sally Solari's life is already boiling over as she deals with irate cooks and other staffing issues at the busy

Gauguin restaurant. The rainy December weather isn't cooling things down, either. So she's steamed when her dad persuades her to take in Evelyn, her estranged blind cousin whose mother has just died of a drug overdose. But Evelyn proves to be lots of fun and she's a terrific cook. Back at the house she'd shared with her mom, Evelyn's heightened sense of touch tells her that various objects have been moved, suggesting Mom was not alone when she died.... The cousins' sleuthing takes Sally and Evelyn into the world of macho commercial kitchens, and the cutthroat competitiveness that can flame up between chefs. Boy, if you want to visit this world, a French series on MHz-TV called *Chefs* will rock you.

McKevett, G A. [Bitter Brew](#) (Kensington \$26). Although P.I. Savannah Reid always has a lot on her plate, she would drop just about anything for a friend in trouble. Savannah is shaken to the core when coroner Dr. Jennifer Liu appears on her doorstep late one night with a disturbing confession. In a potentially career-ruining move, a remorseful Dr. Liu admits to fudging an autopsy report to keep her friend Brianne's suicide a secret—fulfilling a final promise made before the terminally ill woman administered a lethal drug cocktail. But after Dr. Liu finds the same unique mixture in a second body, she fears the deaths share a dark connection. Apprehensive about concealing a felony, Savannah and the Moonlight Magnolia Detective Agency launch a discreet investigation into Brianne's rare condition and the deadly concoction linking the two bodies. Soon chilling evidence points to an undeniable case of double murder. This is I think #24 in the Savannah Reid Mysteries.

Murphy, Shirley. [Cat Chase the Moon](#) (Harper \$24.99). Feline detective Joe Grey and partner Dulcie hunt desperately for their missing teen kitten Courtney even as Joe Grey worries that the Molina Point police are missing some major clues regarding a woman found beaten on the beach. Meanwhile Joe's humans, Ryan and Clive, face trouble living near the rowdy Luther family, whose members may be connected to robberies in the area. 21st in the Joe Grey cozies.

Page, Nora. [Better Off Read](#) (\$15.99). Septuagenarian librarian Cleo Watkins won't be shushed when an upstart young mayor threatens to permanently shelve her tiny town's storm-damaged library. She takes to her bookmobile, Words on Wheels, to collect allies and rally library support throughout Catalpa Springs, Georgia. However, Cleo soon rolls into trouble. A major benefactor known for his eccentric DIY projects requests all available books on getting away with murder. He's no Georgia peach, and Cleo wonders if she should worry about his plans. She knows she should when she discovers him bludgeoned and evidence points to her best friend, Mary-Rose Garland. Sure of Mary-Rose's innocence, Cleo applies her librarian's sleuthing skills to the case, assisted by friends, family, and the dapper antiquarian bookseller everyone keeps calling her boyfriend. Evidence stacks up, but a killer is overdue to strike again in this first in the Bookmobile Mysteries.

BOOKS FOR AGES 8-12

Cervantes, Angela. [Lety Out Loud](#) (Scholastic \$16.99). An Indie Next Pick for middle grad readers: "One of the most difficult things a kid faces is feeling confident enough to do something new and challenging. It's made that much harder when English isn't your first language and you, like our main character, Lety,

are challenged to write fantastic descriptions for shelter animals. Lety Out Loud is a book about succeeding when things are tough and making a space for yourself when you're in a new place. And it's a book about loving dogs, which means it's practically a perfect book!"

Haddix, Margaret. [Greystone Secrets #1](#) (Harper \$17.99). The Greystone kids thought they knew. Chess has always been the protector over his younger siblings, Emma loves math, and Finn does what Finn does best—acting silly and being adored. They've been a happy family, just the three of them and their mom. But everything changes when reports of three kidnapped children reach the Greystone kids, and they're shocked by the startling similarities between themselves and these complete strangers. The other kids share their same first and middle names. They're the same ages. They even have identical birthdays. Who, exactly, are these strangers? Before Chess, Emma, and Finn can question their mom about it, she takes off on a sudden work trip and leaves them in the care of Ms. Morales and her daughter, Natalie. But puzzling clues left behind lead to complex codes, hidden rooms, and a dangerous secret that will turn their world upside down. "A secret-stacked, thrilling series opener about perception, personal memories, and the idiosyncrasies that form individual identities." Think *A Wrinkle in Time*.

AND ONE FOR TEENS (AND MAYBE MATURE READERS TOO)

Scholte, Astrid. [Four Dead Queens](#) (Putnam \$17.99). Here's an enthralling fast-paced murder mystery where competing agendas collide with deadly consequences, and from a new YA talent. Seventeen-year-old Keralie Corrington may seem harmless, but she's, in fact, one of Quadara's most skilled thieves and a liar. Varin, on the other hand, is an honest, upstanding citizen of Quadara's most enlightened region, Eonia. He runs afoul of Keralie when she steals a package from him, putting his life in danger. When Varin attempts to retrieve the package, he and Keralie both find themselves entangled in a conspiracy that leaves all four of Quadara's queens dead. With no other choices and on the run from Keralie's former employer, the two decide to join forces, endeavoring to discover who has killed the queens and save their own lives in the process. When their reluctant partnership blooms into a tenuous romance, they must overcome their own dark secrets in hopes of a future together that seemed impossible just days before. But first they have to stay alive and untangle the secrets behind the nation's four dead queens.

BOOKS ABOUT OUR BODIES

And of interest to fans of crime fiction

Black, Sue. [All That Remains](#) (Arcade \$27.99). Dame Sue Black is Director of the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification at the University of Dundee, Scotland, and has applied her forensic skills to criminal cases, war crimes investigations in Kosovo, the aftermath of the tsunami in Thailand, and more. She pens a part memoir, part primer on the basics of identifying human remains. As a schoolgirl her first paying job was as an apprentice in a butcher shop. Key cases track the development of forensic science. Pair this with Mary Roach's nonfiction and the novels of Val McDermid, Kathy Reichs, Dr. Bill Bass, and Aaron Elkins.

Switek, Brian. [Skeleton Keys: The Secret Life of Bones](#) (Riverhead \$26). This is a fascinating trawl not just inside our bodies but through evolution. Switek does an ace job with where our

skeletons came from, what they do for us, what we can learn from their artifacts left behind, why do we make instruments and jewelry from bone and treat the dead like collectors' items (there are a number of crime novels about anatomists, for example). In short this is a terrific natural and cultural history of bone.

SOME NEW BOOKS FOR APRIL

Please go to our [WebStore](#) and find a wider array of all sorts of books you can order

Abbott, Jeff. [The Three Beths](#) (\$15.99). Three-time Edgar Award nominee Abbott centers this thriller on three women—Bethany, Beth, and Lizbeth—all literally “gone girls,” either missing or murdered. As Mariah Dunning, Beth’s daughter, works to clear her father, the prime suspect in her mother’s suspected murder, she’s convinced she just saw Beth in a mall, though the woman in question flees and can’t be found. When a crime blogger ties Beth to the missing Bethany, Mariah wonders why the latter woman would disappear when husband Jake is about to make a fortune selling software. Bethany’s mother accuses Jake of murder, but why did her own husband commit suicide? As connections among the three Beths are revealed, the count of potential villains mounts, and other crimes from embezzlement to a hit-and-run killing complicate matters in a dizzying crescendo of sinister events. “Abbott is a master of misdirection, though multiple red herrings and ever-tightening entanglements...”

Abramovitz, Adam. [A Town Called Malice](#) (St Martins \$28.99). A crafty plot and a nuanced look at gentrified Boston lifts Abramovitz’s impressive second mystery featuring bike messenger and would-be stand-up comic Zesty Meyers after 2017’s [Bosstown](#) (\$25.99). Zesty has a mixed record with law enforcement, having taken the Fifth when he was called before a federal grand jury to testify against a crook accused of tax evasion, but he remains on good terms with homicide detective Batista Wells, who was involved in the case. One night, Batista walks into Nick’s Comedy Stop, where Zesty is performing, with Anitra Tehran, a Boston Globe investigative reporter. At the end of the show, someone throws a Molotov cocktail at Anitra, who escapes largely unscathed. The question remains which of her recent stories, including an exposé of gang infiltration of a touted midnight basketball league and a deep dig into real estate bought by Eastern Europeans to launder money, triggered the attempted hit. Try this if you are missing the darker corners of Robert B. Parker’s Boston.

✚ Alexander, Rebecca. [A Shroud of Leaves](#) (Titan \$14.95). Archaeologist Sage Westfield has her first forensics case: investigating the murder of a teenage girl. Hidden by holly leaves, the girl’s body has been discovered on the grounds of a stately home, where another teenage girl went missing twenty years ago—but her body was never found. With mysterious links between the two disappearances, the police suspect the reclusive owner, Alistair Chorleigh, who was questioned twenty years ago but never charged. But when Sage investigates a nearby burial mound—and uncovers rumors of an ancient curse—she discovers the story of Edwin Masters, his friend Peter Chorleigh, and an excavation over a hundred years ago, that also ended in a mysterious disappearance. Still recovering from the traumatic events of her recent past, Sage will need both her modern forensics skills and her historical archaeological knowledge to uncover what’s going on. Alexander debuted with [A Baby’s Bones](#) (\$14.95 or \$8.99), a May 2018 History Paperback Pick now available in small paperback too.

Bannalec, Jean-Luc. [The Missing Corpse](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Let me say up front that if you have any fondness for oysters, or curiosity about the succulent bivalve, grab this book! It’s absolutely fabulous on cultivation, quality, health benefits (which our surly former Parisian cop can use), international markets (did you know you can ship your oysters to Brittany’s magnificent Pont-Aven and Belon area and let them fatten up in the special nutrients before you bring them to market?). And the scenery is truly incredible. We are cruising into Concarneau and Cancale in May and now I’m thinking of hiring a car to tour the confluence of the Aven and Belon Rivers as they flow into the Atlantic both to see Finisterre and... slurp up oysters. Which turn out to be both the crux and possible red herring of this complicated and sometimes maddening 4th investigation for Georges Dupin, coming up on his 5th anniversary of exile from his Parisian post. Finding two bodies, one near the Belon River, poses a real test as one has vanished. Is an investigation into the theft of native beach sand related? What of the local druids? And the bagpipe festival that links the six Celtic nations convening in the area? It all makes sense in the end but this is one to read for the digressions as well as the food and cultural obsessions. I had no idea where it was going but loved the ride. In fact this whole [Brittany Mystery](#) series has become one of my favorites. If you watch the two seasons of *Murder in...* on MHZ-TV you can spend time in Brittany, as is true for another series, *Dolmen*.

Barry, Dave. [Lessons from Lucy](#) (SimonSchuster \$26). Feeling his years, humorist Barry pens a guide to aging gracefully, taking cues from his beloved (and very intelligent) dog, Lucy. You dog people know that canines live in the moment. Lucy teaches Dave how to live in the present, how to let go of daily grievances, and how to feel good in your own skin. The lessons are drawn from Dave’s routine humiliations and stream-of-consciousness accounts of the absurdities of daily life.

Bayard, Louis. [Courting Mr. Lincoln](#) (Algonquin \$27.95). Bayard visits 1840s Springfield, IL, with Mary Todd, who has come to live there with her matchmaking sister, as he imagines the origin story of this complicated marriage. Karen reviews: This fictionalized version of the meeting and courtship of Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln is engrossing, quietly humorous and entertaining. Mary is sent to live with her sister in Springfield who is tasked with introducing her to men worthy of her upbringing—servants, formal balls, a southern plantation. Abraham Lincoln hardly fits the pattern. He is socially inept and has no idea on how to navigate the maze of social skills required, nor the appropriate dress for the social occasions. His roommate, Joshua Speed, becomes his tutor instructing him in dance steps (I found this scene particularly funny), how to escort a woman to her place after a dance, converse about things appropriate to the society of the day. Mary is finding little success with her family’s expectations, being more concerned with debates and elections, finding Lincoln intriguing, convinced “that his waters being so very still, they also run deep.” The courtship is subtle, finally reaching a point where they meet secretly, avoiding any scandal society might inflict on the relationship. It all ends well. Mary gets a much kinder, gentler characterization, in this story, than history has given her. Critics have suggested the language is inconsistent with the day, slipping into modern language from time to time. It was noted that echoes of Jane Austen run through this tale. I agree with one reviewer who says “it’s an exceptionally pleasant read.”

✚Blake, Robin. [Rough Music](#) (Severn \$28.99). “In Blake’s outstanding fifth 18th-century whodunit featuring coroner Titus Cragg and Dr. Luke Fidelis, army veteran Harry Hawk and brothers Simon and Charlie Stirk decide that Anne Gargrave must be punished for being a shrew. The trio strips off most of her clothes before tying her to a stool nailed to a wooden beam and parading their humiliated victim through the East Lancashire town of Accrington. By the end of the day, Gargrave lies dead in the road. Meanwhile, Cragg arrives in the area with his savvy wife, Elizabeth, and their infant son, having decided to move residences temporarily to avoid having the child exposed to a contagious disease. When Fidelis joins him, the physician discovers that Gargrave died from inhaling mud as she lay on her face. Reports that Hawk may be an imposter, who assumed the real soldier’s identity, suggest that fear of discovery may have been behind Gargrave’s death. More suspicious deaths follow. Clever plotting and enjoyable characterizations make this entry a winner.”—*PW* Starred Review

✚Brody, Frances. [Snapshot of Murder](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Yorkshire, 1928. Indomitable sleuth Kate Shackleton is taking a well-deserved break from her detective work and indulging in her other passion: photography. When her local Photographic Society proposes an outing to the opening of the Bronte Museum, Kate jumps at the chance to visit the setting of *Wuthering Heights*. But the setting proves to be even more sinister than the dreary classic when a member of their party is found murdered. The event is one of the most popular of the decade, and each of the seven photographers was there to capture the perfect shot of a lifetime. But Tobias, the deceased, was known for being loud-mouthed and didn’t care to curb his demeanor. Kate deduces that he must have had several enemies. But soon, she begins to suspect that perhaps the murderer is amongst them. 10th in series, and with a new publisher.

✚Cavendish, Margaret. [Margaret Cavendish](#) (National Review of Books Poets Series \$14.95). **April is National Poetry Month.** Here is a 17th Century poetry primer that might jump start your own creative energies. Margaret, Duchess of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, a branch of Bess of Hardwick’s family (Bess is my favorite Elizabethan woman), was a visionary, scientist, and science fiction pioneer and moved in high philosophical circles. Her work is well worth a review

✚Cho, Zen. [The True Queen](#) (Ace \$15). A magical adventure set in Regency London, fairyland, and an enchanted island: war looms in the lands of fairy as two sisters are separated, plots thicken and there are rumors of a new contender for fairy’s throne. “A sheer delight from beginning to end. Cho perfectly conjures the opulence, absurdity and conflict of the period, and her magical societies are so wholly interwoven with history that you’ll start to believe there really was a Sorceress Royal – and that centuries ago, you really could travel through Fairyland from one side of the world to the other.”—Samantha Shannon

Choi, Susan. [Trust Exercise](#) (Holt \$27). “Set inside the acting program of an elite high school, Choi’s novel seems to consider every major preoccupation of our moment — class, gender, sexuality, race, power, predation, authenticity, ‘genius’ — with language that’s both uproarious and frothing with vital rage. To describe the plot in any detail, though, would reveal too much of *Trust Exercise*’s inventive, audacious form. Best let this novel

sink into your bones with as few spoilers as possible before its final scene seizes your heart. And it *will* seize your heart. Trust me.”

Cook, Preston. [American Eagle](#) (ORO Books \$75). A handsome, thorough “Visual History of Our National Emblem.” The American bald eagle has been designed, drawn, illustrated, stamped, engraved, painted, sculpted, carved, photographed, and etched by thousands of artists and artisans since 1782, when it first appeared as the central figure on the Great Seal of the United States. As America’s most versatile emblem, the eagle emanates confidence during peace and prosperity, and strength during crisis and war; as a North American native species it exemplifies nature’s grandeur and the advance of conservation. In all, the bald eagle is a stirring national symbol.

Downing, David. [Diary of a Dead Man on Leave](#) (Soho \$27.95). If you, like me, have wondered what life would have been like for ordinary Germans in the years of the rise of the Reich, Downing pens an eloquent testimonial using the device of a journal written and left hidden in a house in Hamm to be discovered in 1989 urban renewal. The stories, especially the one of the young boy at the center of the narrative, are touching. Giving it a rave, *PW* agrees: “Downing has never been better than in this moving and elegiac thriller framed as a diary written by a German calling himself Josef Hofmann. In April 1938, Hofmann returns to his native country on behalf of the Communist International organization. The leaders of the Communist Party want to know whether ‘there are still enough Communists in Germany brave or foolhardy enough to constitute a significant fifth column inside Hitler’s Reich.’ Hofmann, a member of the Comintern’s International Liaison Section, is ridden with guilt over a lengthy list “of those I failed to help because I was too busy helping everyman.” In the town of Hamm, a former stronghold of the country’s Communist Party, Hofmann seeks to locate any survivors among 19 party members who worked there when the Nazis seized power and gauge their current loyalties while keeping his own hidden. Meanwhile, he becomes emotionally involved with the family in whose boarding house he’s staying, an entanglement that may compromise his assignment. Le Carré fans will be pleased. Also those of the late Philip Kerr whose Bernie Gunther series comes to an end this April. Downing’s [body of work](#)—the Jack McColls and the Station wartime mysteries—which I highly recommend, is just the ticket for you Kerr fans.

✚Dunn, Carola. [Damsel in Distress](#) (\$16.99). In the early summer of 1923, love is in bloom as the Honourable Phillip Petrie finds himself totally smitten with Miss Gloria Arbuckle, daughter of an American millionaire. But before the enthusiastic suitor can pop the question, his beloved is abducted by kidnappers. As Gloria’s distraught father begins assembling the ransom, Phillip enlists his childhood friend, the Honourable Daisy Dalrymple, to help him recover his missing sweetheart. Strictly forbidden to contact the police, Daisy must resist the temptation to bring her occasional collaborator, Scotland Yard’s Detective Chief Inspector Alec Fletcher, into the case. But as she closes in on the abductors’ rural hideaway, she begins to suspect something more complex than a single kidnapping.... This is a reissue of a 1997 entry in the series, not a prequel.

✚Elliott, Lexie. [The Missing Years](#) (Berkley \$26). An unusual kind of country house mystery, with a Gothic touch and vibrant

village dynamics, all set in Scotland, is **out in April but will be our May British Crime Club Book of the Month**. More than that, but I recommend you pick it up if you are not in the club now.

Fay, Juliette. [City of Flickering Light](#) (Gallery \$16.99) transports us back to the Golden Age of Hollywood and the raucous Roaring Twenties, as three friends struggle to earn their places among the stars of the silent screen—perfect for fans of *La La Land* and *Rules of Civility*.

Freeman, Brian. [Alter Ego](#) (\$15.99). “Thriller Award–winner Freeman’s excellent ninth Jonathan Stride novel finds the Duluth, Minnesota, police lieutenant revisiting difficult memories when a movie based on a serial killer case that left Stride emotionally scarred begins filming in Duluth. Stride only caught the killer, reporter Art Leipold, after he starved three women to death inside a cage. An intern on the film set, Haley Adams, disappears, only to be found shot to death, apparently by an unidentified hit man who himself has been killed in a freak accident. The mystery deepens when Stride and his team learn that Haley was using a stolen identity and spying on Hollywood megastar Dean Casperson, who’s playing the role based on Stride. The dramatic developments unfold naturally, and Freeman doesn’t shy away from giving his lead character feet of clay. A cleverly constructed, page-turning plot and fleshed-out primary and secondary characters make this a winner,” says *PW*.

Goodis, David. [Nightfall / Cassidy’s Girl / Night Squad](#) (Stark House \$21.95). A trio by the noir master, back in print in one large paperback. Patrick has selected this for the May Hardboiled Crime Discussion Club.

Gran, Sara. [Saturn’s Return to New York](#) (\$15). Here’s a new edition of Gran’s first novel. For Mary Forrest, 29, her city and her family are deeply entwined: her mother, Evelyn, is the editor of the most prestigious literary magazine in New York, as much a part of the city as the Chelsea Hotel (now condos) or Greenwood Cemetery (now five figures per plot). In 1999, as gentrification morphs the neighborhoods Evelyn and Mary have known all their lives, Evelyn’s mind likewise starts to slip away. Mary’s life is going the way of the Automat and Luna Park, and she is furious. As her city, her mother, and the other touchstones of her life start to fade away, Mary looks for hope in astrology, men, friends, and work. But when all seems lost, it’s time to stop looking for happiness outside, and start looking within....

Gudenkauf, Heather. [Before She Was Found](#) (Park Row \$16.99). For twelve-year-old Cora Landry and her friends Violet and Jordyn, it was supposed to be an ordinary sleepover—movies and Ouija and talking about boys. But when they decide to sneak out to go to the abandoned rail yard on the outskirts of town, little do they know that their innocent games will have dangerous consequences. Later that night, Cora Landry is discovered on the tracks, bloody and clinging to life, her friends nowhere to be found. Soon their small rural town is thrust into a maelstrom....

Hammad, Isabella. [The Parisian](#) (Grove \$27). As the First World War shatters families, destroys friendships and kills lovers, a young Palestinian dreamer sets out to find himself. Midhat Kamal picks his way across a fractured world, from the shifting politics of the Middle East to the dinner tables of Montpellier and a newly tumultuous Paris. He discovers that everything is fragile: love turns to loss, friends become enemies and everyone is looking for a place to belong. Isabella Hammad delicately unpicks

the tangled politics and personal tragedies of a turbulent era – the Palestinian struggle for independence, the strife of the early twentieth century and the looming shadow of the Second World War.

The Indie Next Pick: “*The Parisian*, a captivating novel of cultural assimilation, deprivation, and sacrifice in times of war, is quite simply a beautifully vivid, immersive love story. While these attributes alone would make *The Parisian* a compelling read, it is Hammad’s writing that marks this work as one of the greatest novels I’ve read in recent years. The descriptions are sharp and lush, and her depictions of her characters feel recognizably familiar yet are expressed with a felicity for language that is altogether exceptional. This is a novel for everyone who craves a timeless love story and admires superb writing.”

✚Harman, Claire. [Murder by the Book](#) (Knopf \$26.96). Interestingly one reviewer, below, gives this Victorian true crime a positive review while the *NYTBR* more or less slammed it—more because the victim and the killer were basically boring than because the book is weak. Judge for yourself. “Biographer Harman effectively uses a novelist’s approach to recreate a now obscure 1840 English murder case that was a sensation at the time. Lord William Russell, uncle to the secretary of state for the colonies, was found in the bedroom of his London home with his throat slit. But while the wound was horrific, almost severing Lord Russell’s head, oddly there were no bloodstains anywhere besides the bed. The crime panicked the upper classes, who wondered, if the victim had not been “safe in his bed, in the most exclusive and privileged residential enclave” in England, who was? Although some household items were missing, the evidence of theft was equivocal, leading the affluent to fear that the murder may have been motivated by underclass hatred of the privileged. The police focused on the theory that the killer was a servant, and charged Lord William’s new valet, François Courvoisier, who eventually confessed to his attorneys and was executed after a trial. By exploring concerns about the glorification of criminals in the fiction of the day and addressing some lingering mysteries, such as whether Courvoisier had an accomplice, Harman adds depth to a fascinating true crime narrative.”

Hartov, Steven. [The Soul of a Thief](#) (\$15.99). There is no end to facets of WWII’s global conflict that come to light. Hartov bases his novel on one such. Shtefan Brandt, serving in Hitler’s SS, has made it through the war in spite of two secrets that are far more dangerous than the battlefield. First, he is a Mischling, one of the thousands of German citizens of Jewish descent who avoided the death camps by concealing themselves in the ranks of the German army. And second, he is in love with Gabrielle Belmont, his commanding officer’s French mistress. As the war’s end looms on the horizon, Shtefan’s commander hatches a plot to escape Europe and fund a new life with a stolen fortune. A fortune that Shtefan, in turn, plans to steal from him.... Thus, a double caper.

✚Herriman, Nancy. [Fall of Shadows](#) (Crooked \$26.99). The stabbing murder of Bartholomew Reade, a handsome player in a traveling theatrical troupe, propels Herriman’s superior second Elizabethan mystery. Ellyn Merrick, a young woman from a prosperous family in the English village of Wiltshire, who collapses on herbalist Bess Ellyott’s doorstep, is one of several suspects, but Bess, certain that Ellyn is innocent, uses her intelligence and resourcefulness to attempt to unmask Reade’s true killer, sometimes in the company of the village constable, who struggles with his feelings for her, veering between attraction and disapproval.

What deepens the story is dangerous superstition, since Reade's body was discovered on a druids' mound, and an old woman feared to be a malevolent witch lives nearby. Bess, an independent woman with healing powers, draws the villagers' suspicion as well. In its skillful storytelling—planting clues, introducing multiple suspects, executing sharp twists, and generating a sense of true menace—this novel takes its place as a standout historical mystery.” Start with [Searcher of the Dead](#) (\$26.99).

Hillman, Robert. [The Bookshop of the Broken Hearted](#) (Putnam \$26). I've written to you about the rising Australian crime wave. This isn't part of it although there is a murder—no suspense as to who did it although the why is important. What the book is really about is the loneliness of rural 1950s Australia and how it can be a balm and nurture some, while to others it's too tough to endure. Tom Hope (ironic name) is in the former class, a good man, a hard worker, not a bookman, and socially pretty unskilled. He makes a poor choice in his first wife, and she in him, and when Trudy leaves him the second time Tom keeps her son Peter, about age 3, while she heads off to a religious colony on Phillips Island. But Trudy claims Peter back. Tom gets a second chance at happiness when Hannah Babel arrives. She's from Hungary and a survivor of Holocaust during which she lost her son. Hannah is a reader and starts Hometown's first bookshop which becomes a haven for Tom, a place of healing for Hannah and others. And then surprising developments test them all... This is a brave and tender story and a natural choice for anyone who loves books. I also recommend it to readers of Sulari Gentill and the Australia of the 1930s as a look at the post-war society.

Holt, Anne. [Beyond the Truth](#) (\$16). Shortly before Christmas, four people are found shot dead at the home of the Stahlbergs, a wealthy Oslo family of shipping merchants notorious for their miserliness and infighting. Three of the victims are members of the family, and the fourth is an outsider, seemingly out of place. Cake had been set out in the living room and a bottle of champagne had been opened but not yet poured. Yes, family gatherings during the holidays can be difficult, but why did this one become a bloodbath? As Hanne Wilhelmsen investigates the case alongside her longtime police partner, Billy T., motives for the murders emerge in abundance; each surviving member of the Stahlberg family had good reason to want the victims dead. As she searches for the killer, Hanne will once again risk everything in what I think is a terrific 7th entry in this intelligent, offbeat Nordic series.

Kahn, Ausma Zehanet. [A Deadly Divide](#) (St Martins \$27.99). The fifth book in the series starring Detectives Esa Khattak and Rachel Getty thoughtfully explores the enmity and fear-mongering that led to a shooting at a mosque in Québec. In the midst of investigating a mass shooting at a Québécois mosque, Detective Rachel Getty finds herself reflecting on something her partner, Detective Esa Khattak, once said of a previous case: “How quickly the violent ideals of ultra-nationalism led to hate, how quickly hate to blood.” Though he's referring to the case central to *The Unquiet Dead* (the first Ausma Zehanat Khan novel to feature the detective pair), the theme is one that threads through each of the Khattak and Getty mysteries. In earlier books in the series, Khan has explored war crimes, genocide and refugees; here she turns her attention to domestic terrorism and anti-Muslim sentiments through the lens of a string of anti-Islam actions in a small town in Québec. As we know from recent headlines from around the globe, no place can be deemed safe from terrorism whether domestic or international.

Kalla, Daniel. [We All Fall Down](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Alana Vaughn, a veteran of outbreak containment missions around the world for the World Health Organization, is now the director of biological surveillance for NATO. A text from her former lover, Dr. Nico Oliva, brings her to Genoa, Italy, where Nico asks for her help with an unusual case: a construction worker, Vittoria Fornero, has been diagnosed with the pneumonic plague, which has not been seen in Italy since medieval times. The patient was working on a controversial apartment tower project being built on the site of an ancient monastery. The plague begins to spread, helped in part by a health care worker being casual about her potential exposure to the disease. We zigzag back and forth in time between the months the medieval monastery of San Giovanni was struck by the pneumonic plague and modern Genoa. Kala is a physician based in Vancouver so he writes of the disease and symptoms and spread with authenticity. As a medical thriller this is fairly predictable but the plague is always a fearsome trope and sending time in Genoa of either era is a treat.

✦ Kelly, Erin. [Stone Mothers](#) (St Martins \$26.99). “The Victorians used to call their mental hospitals stone mothers,” I say. They thought the design of the building could literally nurse the sick back to health.” Marianne grew up in the shadow of the old asylum, a place that still haunts her dreams. She was seventeen when she fled the town, her family, her boyfriend Jesse and the body they buried. Now, forced to return, she can feel the past closing around her. And Jesse, who never forgave her for leaving, is finally threatening to expose the truth. Marianne will do anything to protect the life she's built; the husband and daughter who must never know. Even if it means turning to her worst enemy.... But Marianne may not know the whole story. For those interested in how Parliament works the 80-ish Helen is a good guide to a complicated story that demands you pay attention all the way through.

Greer Macallister also looks at mental asylums for women, but in California, in her new book [Woman 99](#) (Sourcebooks \$25.99). When Charlotte Smith's parents have her sister, Phoebe, committed to the Goldengrove Asylum in the dead of night, Charlotte suspects there's something she's not being told. Determined to find—and rescue—her sister from whatever horrors await her there, Charlotte feigns a suicide attempt and gets herself committed. Inside the institution's walls, she discovers firsthand the atrocities of late 19th-century mental health “treatments” for female patients. “I wanted to say that this place made no sense,” Charlotte considers not long after her arrival, “but unfortunately, it did. It made a terrible kind of sense... as long as you assumed every woman in the place was mad and that her only worth came from labor or silence, preferably both.” Macallister notes at the end of *Woman 99* that Goldengrove itself is an imaginary place, but the patient treatments she describes were derived from contemporaneous records. Together Kelly and Macallister show us a world much the same on either side of the world.

Kelly, Martha Hall. [Lost Roses](#) (Ballantine \$28). The million-copy bestseller [Lilac Girls](#) (\$17) introduced the real-life heroine Caroline Ferriday. Now *Lost Roses*, set a generation earlier and also inspired by true events, features Caroline's mother, Eliza, and follows three equally indomitable women from St. Petersburg to Paris under the shadow of World War I. The Indie Next Pick: “Once in a position of power and prestige but now in peril, the White Russians are fleeing the Bolshevik regime by the

thousands, many with only the clothes on their backs, including Sofya, friend of the young Eliza Ferriday. In this prequel to *The Lilac Girls*, set during WWI, socialite Eliza is frantically fighting to find Sofya and her aristocratic family, who were forced from their homes by gunpoint. From the shores of South Hampton to the tumultuous streets of St. Petersburg, Kelly weaves a narrative full of feeling that is fraught with suspense and so very worth the ride.” Library Reads add this: “The voices of four compelling female characters tell of the devastating effects of the Russian Revolution and World War I. Highly recommended for book clubs and fans of Anthony Doerr, Susan Meissner, and Lauren Belfer.” This is a book I wish I had time to read....

Kennealy, Jerry. [Silent Remains](#) (Down & Out \$17.95). When SFPD Homicide Inspector Nick Jarnac investigates the murder of a 19-year-old girl, missing for forty years, her skeleton found in the mud of a construction site near the remains of two dozen Miwok Indians who have been in the ground for two centuries, he becomes involved in a bizarre, complex plot that involves a Macau-based Mafia chief, several crooked state and local politicians, a cross-dressing Mongolian hit man, a 77-year-old private eye and his burned out ex-SFPD partner, who is hoping to make one last big haul before leaving the department. Kennealy has worked as a San Francisco policeman and as a licensed private investigator in the City by the Bay. He was the recipient of the 2017 Life Achievement Award by the Private Eye Writers of America.

Kerr, Philip. [Metropolis](#) (Putnam \$28). “Kerr’s final Bernie Gunther novel takes us back to 1928 and the beloved character’s beginnings on Berlin’s Murder Commission. Drafted from Vice, Gunther finds himself on the trail of a prostitute killer who scalps his victims and then a serial murderer who is targeting disabled war veterans. Partly in desperation as the number of victims rises and partly to test a new sleuthing concept devised by his superior, Bernhard Weiss, Gunther agrees to go undercover posing as a klutz, or homeless veteran. His nerves are eased by his unexpected romance with a female makeup artist helping him with his street look. But with Nazism on the rise, Berlin is simmering with violence, cruelty, lies, and casual anti-Semitism... Gunther is lifted by his devotion to his job, perfect summer days that are “almost worthy of a short poem by Goethe,” and bold new cultural directions. He comes into contact with Lotte Lenya (on a break from rehearsing *The Threepenny Opera*), artist George Grosz (drawing murder victims on public display in the police morgue, “Berlin’s showhouse for the dead”), and scriptwriter Thea von Harbou, wife of Metropolis director Fritz Lang. With its lessons for the Trump era, this book is plenty timely. But completed shortly before the author’s death, it is also one of Kerr’s most congenial, beautifully controlled, and entertaining works. The banter is priceless. Going against the grain—as usual—by writing an origin novel as his swan song, Kerr leaves his fans happy.”—*Kirkus Reviews*. We here all miss him dreadfully. See my note at the end of the David Downing review above.

Klinger, Leslie S, ed. [Ghost Stories](#) (Norton \$25.95). “Rising smoothly above the acres of anthologies of 19th- and early-20th-century weird and supernatural fiction, author Lisa Morton and anthologist Klinger combine brilliant stories by obscure writers (such as Elizabeth Stuart Phelps’s unflinching “Since I Died”) with obscure stories by famous writers (such as Henry James’s “The Real Right Thing,” in which a dead author may not wish

anyone to write his biography) to create an outstanding work that serves equally as scholarship and entertainment. The stories chosen form a multifaceted depiction of the ghost story over time, with special attention paid to elements such as political ghosts, explicitly Spiritualist pieces, and, in one fascinating case, two writers tackling identical subject matter a generation apart: Olivia Howard Dunbar’s “The Shell of Sense” is decidedly, and brilliantly, in dialogue with Phelps’s story. There are frightening pieces, funny pieces, heart-wrenching pieces, and outright propaganda, and the few stories that have been frequently anthologized elsewhere justify their presence through their contributions to the book’s thematic discussion. This is a work of art, a pleasure to read, and a serious and welcome contribution to the study of the ghost story in English.”

Lawhon, Ariel. [I Was Anastasia](#) (\$16). Germany, February 17, 1920: A young woman bearing an uncanny resemblance to Anastasia Romanov is pulled shivering and senseless from a canal. Refusing to explain her presence in the freezing water or even acknowledge her rescuers, she is taken to the hospital where an examination reveals that her body is riddled with countless horrific scars. When she finally does speak, this frightened, mysterious young woman claims to be the Russian grand duchess. DNA testing has proved that Anastasia died with her family in 1917. Lawhon explores the extraordinary twists and turns in Anna Anderson’s fifty-year battle to be recognized as Anastasia Romanov, roiling all sorts of folks, until it was put to rest by modern science. There’s no question people want to believe in myths....

✚Lawrence, Mary. [The Alchemist of Lost Souls](#) (Kensington \$14.99). Our **April History/Mystery Book of the Month** is for fans of the Tudor period. Set in 1544 London, Lawrence’s atmospheric fourth Bianca Goddard mystery centers on a dangerous substance created by Bianca’s father, disgraced alchemist Albern Goddard. After the substance, referred to as “the stone,” disappears from his workshop, Albern shows up at the home of pregnant Bianca and her husband, demanding she find it for him; he’s certain his wife, Malva, stole it. Before Bianca, herself a skilled alchemist, can find the answers, a woman is found murdered on a Southwark street, a frightening green vapor emanating from her mouth. Many greedy, dishonest, and violent people are keen to possess Albern’s creation, so many that it can be challenging to keep track of them all, or to mourn their untimely deaths. More successful is the complex Bianca, whose deep love for her husband is one of her more endearing traits. The action builds to a well-executed climax that pitches Bianca into a life or death struggle.

Martine, Arkady. [A Memory Called Empire](#) (Tor \$25.99) combines a murder mystery, political machinations and science fiction space opera debut. The author, coming to fiction as an historian of the Byzantine Empire, reports: “The plot structure of this book is heavily inspired by classic spy novels. I read a lot of John le Carré, and what I adore about his work is both the intense internality of a protagonist engaged in spycraft—how they have to think about what they’re doing from multiple, mutually contradictory angles, all the time—and also how there’s usually an inciting incident which drops the protagonist into a political conflict they aren’t prepared for. The murder mystery is a great inciting incident: someone is dead, we don’t know why, the protagonist needs to figure it out. In a spycraft-based novel, the murder victim usually has information the protagonist really

needs, and now they have to work to get it some other way—which also helps kickstart their involvement in the politics. So for me murder mysteries and political thrillers are very close friends, plotwise. Space opera’s another thing... sort of.”

Moore, Christopher. [Noir: A Novel](#) (\$16.99). “San Francisco, 1947. A dame walks into a bar....” When bartender Sammy “Two Toes” Tiffin first meets Stilton (like the cheese), a good-looking blonde with an attitude, he knows he’s a goner. What he doesn’t know is that his life is about to be completely turned upside down. Add an air force general from a nowhere base in Roswell, NM, who needs a favor, a crooked cop, a secret society, a missing black mamba snake, and two “tax men” in black suits and sunglasses, and Sammy more than has his hands full. When Stilton mysteriously vanishes, Sammy will have to put all of his considerable connections and street smarts to use if he wants to find her, figure out how the pieces of this seemingly incongruous puzzle fit together, and save the day....”—*LJ Starred Review*

Nakamura, Fuminori. [Cult X](#) (\$17.95). When Toru Narazaki’s girlfriend, Ryoko Tachibana, disappears, he tries to track her down, despite the warnings of the private detective he’s hired to find her. Ryoko’s past is shrouded in mystery, but the one concrete clue to her whereabouts is a previous address in the heart of Tokyo. She lived in a compound with a group that seems to be a cult led by a charismatic guru with a revisionist Buddhist scheme of life, death, and society. Narazaki plunges into the secretive world of the cult, ready to expose himself to any of the guru’s brainwashing tactics if it means he can learn the truth about Ryoko. But the cult isn’t what he expected, and he has no idea of the bubbling violence he is stepping into. Inspired by the 1995 sarin gas terrorist attack on the Tokyo subway, *Cult X* is an exploration of what draws individuals into extremism, an increasingly relevant and terrifying force.

Ondaatje, Michael. [Warlight](#) (\$16.95) “juggles time in much the same way that memory does, interlacing the war years of the 1940s with their immediate aftermath and then jumping forward a decade or so, only to dart back to the war again. At the outset, Ondaatje’s narrator, Nathaniel, is 14; by the last page he is in his late 20s. In between is the intricate, subtly rendered account of what happened to his mother, Rose. The warlight of the title is the London blackout of World War II, when familiar landscapes were darkened, mysterious, uncertain. It epitomizes nicely the climate of a narrative that is itself devious and opaque, that proceeds by way of hints and revelations. The hints are paramount. This is a book that requires close reading....”—*NY Times Book Review*

Patterson, James/Maine Paetro. [The 18th Abduction](#) (LittleBrown \$29). Detective Lindsay Boxer’s investigation into the disappearance of three women teachers quickly escalates from missing persons to murder in the 18th Women’s Murder Club thriller.

Pettus, Charlton. [Exit Strategy](#) (\$15.99). A Starred Review: “Brilliant scientist and biotech startup founder Jordan Parrish, the hero of songwriter and producer Pettus’ terrific first novel, is in despair. His marriage to Stephanie, his Harvard professor wife, is falling apart after the recent death of their baby, and his company is failing. Jordan decides it’s in the best interest of Stephanie and his two surviving children to call on Exit Strategy, a service that helps wealthy people in trouble disappear. When he steps out of his Boston office, he’s immediately spirited away to a new life

under a different name. Jordan comes to regret his choice to separate permanently from his loved ones, and, with a single ‘like’ of Stephanie’s Instagram photo, sets in motion a cascade of events that he can barely control. By violating Exit Strategy’s no-contact rule, he puts his own life at risk, as well as those of his wife and kids. Jordan is no trained assassin like Bourne or Bond, but he does push his body and mind to the limit in his attempt to return to his family. Cerebral and visceral, this is a top-notch thriller.”

Pomare, JP. [Call Me Evie](#) (Putnam \$26). Readers can guess Evie isn’t the real name of the 17-year-old protagonist. But Pomare makes it hard to ascertain exactly what’s going on with her, with her loss of memory and limited view of the world. She’s involved in something traumatic that happened recently in her hometown of Melbourne, but she can’t remember it. A man she calls her uncle Jim has taken her to New Zealand and mostly locked her up in a house, away from the Internet and neighbors’ prying eyes, in a supposed attempt to help her recall details of the night in question. He forces her to take pills and says she can’t go back to Australia until she remembers; she needs control of the facts when police question her. The situation gains urgency when the incident back home is labeled a murder, and Evie’s fragmented memories make her question everything. Pomare grabs readers by the throat the way Jim grabs Evie by the hair in the opening scene, when she tries to escape the house. This is an unpleasant story with a lot of tension and hooked to #MeToo.

Purnell, Sonia. [A Woman of No Importance](#) (Viking \$27.99). Coming on the heels of March as Women’s History Month is this biography of a woman who made history but without fanfare—plus it’s also an interesting Intel ops story. Seven decades after the end of World War II, the stories of key players in the Allied intelligence services are still coming to light. Virginia Hall, a fearless American who spent much of the war working undercover in France for Britain’s Special Operations Executive (SOE), is one of these formerly unsung heroes. Journalist Purnell tells Hall’s story in her fast-paced, meticulously researched (and ironically titled) biography. Restless, bold and bored by her mother’s social-climbing ambitions, Hall relished horseback riding far more than genteel parties. In her 20s, she spent time in Paris and Vienna, studying languages and absorbing the culture, before working as a clerk for the U.S. State Department. A hunting accident in Turkey left her disabled (she lost part of one leg) but never slowed her down: she went back to work, and later volunteered as an ambulance driver in France. In 1940, Hall was headed home to the U.S. when she was recruited by the fledgling SOE. Purnell expertly weaves Hall’s narrative together with the story of SOE’s founding, highlighting its attempts to build a new kind of covert operation (and its mistakes along the way).

Quantick, David. [All My Colors](#) (Titan \$14.95). It is March 1979 in DeKalb Illinois. Todd Milstead is a wannabe writer, a serial adulterer, and a jerk, only tolerated by his friends because he throws the best parties with the best booze. During one particular party, Todd is showing off his perfect recall, quoting poetry and literature word for word plucked from his eidetic memory. When he begins quoting from a book no one else seems to know, a novel called *All My Colors*, Todd is incredulous. He can quote it from cover to cover and yet it doesn’t seem to exist. With a looming divorce and mounting financial worries, Todd finally tries to write a novel, with the vague idea of making money from his talent. The only problem is he can’t write. But the book—*All*

My Colors—is there in his head. Todd makes a decision: he will “write” this book that nobody but him can remember. After all, if nobody’s heard of it, how can he get into trouble? As the dire consequences of his actions come home to both Todd and his long-suffering friends, it becomes clear that there is a high—and painful—price to pay for his crime... I can only say I regret not having read this one earlier and plan to dive right in.

Reichl, Ruth. [Save Me the Plums: My Gourmet Memoir](#) (Random \$27). If you, like me, have been mourning the day Si Newhouse closed down *Gourmet* without warning (I have never forgiven him!), this will be a bittersweet read. Reichl is candid about the realities of magazine publishing and her own life, but still... The Indie Next Pick: “In her new memoir, trendsetting food writer and editor Ruth Reichl writes lovingly of the full-blast creativity of her 10 years as editor-in-chief of *Gourmet*. By book’s end, you’ll miss the storied and groundbreaking magazine, but you’ll be grateful she shared the tale of how its outstanding roster of writers, photographers, designers, and cooks transformed how we look at food. Reichl takes readers behind the scenes as chefs became rock stars, as writers like David Foster Wallace reshaped food writing, and as she fought to save the magazine she adored. A beloved food critic and writer with an enviable career, Reichl reminds us that although things may change, simple, honest pleasures — like a perfect plum — endure and make life rich.” Personally I prefer her terrific early memoir: [Comfort Me with Apples](#) (\$17) recognizing that it was written from a different time and place. Reichl has moved on to forgive Newhouse, showing she is a better person than I, but I recall her rage at the time he made his decision to shut *Gourmet* down. An interesting book to read alongside Bourdain’s *Kitchen Confidential* or the works of Julia Child.

✚Rowland, Laura Joh. [A Mortal Likeness](#) (\$15.99). Following her triumph in discovering the identity of Jack the Ripper in [The Ripper’s Shadow](#) (\$15.99), Sarah Bain and her pal Hugh, an aristocrat exiled from his family because of his homosexuality, are the proud partners in a thriving photography business. But they’ve found a good deal less success with their “private inquiry service” despite their alliance with Mick, a resourceful street urchin who lives with Sarah and is freely dispatched on special assignments. When her long-lost father, Benjamin, turns up on the fringe of one of her photographs, Sarah is prompted to delve into his past. Learning that he was the prime suspect in a decades-old murder, she feels compelled to discover the truth. Close on the heels of this discovery, a pair of Sarah’s recent clients who turn up dead seem to be connected to Robin Mariner, a missing baby believed to have been kidnapped. Sarah’s initial efforts at ferreting out her father’s history hit firm resistance, but she fares far better with the Mariner family, who mistrust police and hire her and Hugh on the spot. And then... The sequel is [The Hangman’s Secret](#) (\$26.99 Signed).

Rowley, Steven. [The Editor](#) (Putnam \$27). The Indie Next Pick: “Focusing on a young writer who discovers that his editor is none other than Jackie Kennedy Onassis, the book explores both romantic and familial relationships in a humorous and touching manner. Although the writing is wickedly barbed and the zingers fly at the speed of a 1940s rom-com, *The Editor* is so much more. There is real heart in the writing as well as real love between the characters. It’s a true delight and the kind of book people who loved *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* or *Less* will truly enjoy. Just be prepared with a box of tissues and your favorite

cocktail (Jackie would suggest daiquiris).”

Rowley finds moving ways to resolve these professional and family tensions. When James reaches the end of his publishing journey in the novel, Rowley pays tribute to the supportive parents and visionary publishing professionals in his life. “Editors are mothers of sorts,” he writes in *The Editor*, connecting his life-changing bond with literary guardians to family relationships in what he calls a “tip of the hat” to those who shepherded his talent.

✚Rubenhold, Hallie. [The Five: Untold Lives of Women Killed by Jack the Ripper](#) (Houghton \$27). For more than a century, newspapers have been keen to tell us that “the Ripper” preyed on prostitutes. Not only is this untrue, as historian Hallie Rubenhold has discovered, it has prevented the real stories of these fascinating women from being told. Now, in this devastating narrative of five lives, Rubenhold finally sets the record straight, revealing a world not just of Dickens and Queen Victoria, but of poverty, homelessness and rampant misogyny. They died because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time—but their greatest misfortune was to be born a woman with no social or economic resources. Deanna Raybourn urged me to read this so I pass it on.

Sager, Riley. [The Last Time I Lied](#) (\$16). When up-and-coming Manhattan artist Emma Davis is invited to be a painting counselor at Camp Nightingale, she welcomes the opportunity to come to terms with a place that haunts here; years back, three of her cabin mates one summer sneaked out one night and vanished. The camp’s wealthy owner issued to invitation. And when Emma arrives she finds the atmosphere is pretty unsettling....

Smith, Alisa. [Doublespeak](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Tons of books about wartime WWII, but fewer about the immediate aftermath when service was winding down, Nazis were being recruited, and the Cold War was scented. Here’s an odd tale that begins when Lt. Lena Stillman is stuck in a dead-end on her code-breaking post in the Aleutians. She’s under the thumb of the mysterious Miss Maggie whose role is mysterious and Lena feels guilty about shopping Corporal Link Hughes who might have been leaking info to the enemy via Spain. Link is missing, presumed dead. So when Lena decodes a message that suggests Link might be in Siam she takes leave and flies out. Only to discover that her lover Bill Bagley, who escaped from prison and is flourishing in Bangkok in business, is waiting for her. A disgusted Lena soon learns there’s a game afoot.... This is good for unusual locations and situations compared to other WWII crime fictions.

Segura, Alex. [Blackout](#) (\$16). Startling new evidence surfaces in a cold case that’s haunted Pete Fernandez and drags the exiled PI back to his hometown of Miami. But as Pete and his partner Kathy Bentley delve deeper into the unsolved murder, they become entangled in Miami’s obsession with a charismatic and dangerous cult leader and his even more menacing followers. At the same time, the detectives find themselves at odds with a Florida politician’s fixation on wealth, fame and power. It all converges in the heart of the Magic City and Pete is left scrambling to pick up the pieces—or die trying. 4th in a much lauded series and a welcome PI investigation.

Shames, Terry. [A Risky Undertaking for Loretta](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). Chief Samuel Craddock’s old friend Loretta Singletery—a mainstay of the Jarrett Creek community—has undergone a transformation, with a new hairstyle and modern clothes.

He thinks nothing of it until she disappears. Only then does he find out she has been meeting men through an online dating site for small-town participants. When a woman in the neighboring town of Bobtail turns up dead after meeting someone through the same dating site, Craddock becomes alarmed. Will Craddock be able to find Loretta before she suffers the same fate?

Simenon, George. [Maigret and the Good People of Montparnasse](#) (Penguin \$13). A retired manufacturer is found murdered with his own pistol in his favorite armchair, shattering the tranquility of a quiet Paris community. The neighbors describe the Josselin household as a bastion of bourgeois compatibility, and Inspector Maigret is stymied by the absence of motive and by the reticence of the bereaved wife. It is not until a chance witness recalls an odd encounter between the deceased and a man in a bistro that the veil of propriety protecting the killer begins to dissolve. Maigret suspects that he's not being given all the facts in this case as he is drawn deeper into the complex web of family dramas and lies at the heart of it. Once again his famous intuition must come into play. #58 in this reissued series.

Smith, Alexander McCall. [The Department of Sensitive Crimes](#) (Knopf \$24.95). The ever-versatile Scottish author looks north. In the Swedish criminal justice system, certain cases are considered especially strange and difficult, in Malmö, the dedicated detectives who investigate these crimes are members of an elite squad known as the Sensitive Crimes Division. These are their stories.

Smith, Timothy. [The Fourth Courier](#) (Arcade \$24.99). There have not been many books taking you to post-Glasnost Poland but here you are in 1992 Warsaw where the communist era has just ended and things are a muddle. Also a murderer is at work—one of the victims, the third, of grisly crimes shows a trace of nuclear material indicating someone is smuggling such out of the former Soviet Union where too many hands had access to it. FBI Agent Jay Porter has been sent in to investigate this possible courier ring. Worse, a Russian physicist who had designed a portable atomic bomb has disappeared. The premise is scary and all too plausible but the strength of this novel is its gloomy, atmospheric depiction of post-Cold War Poland, its narcissistic leaders, their greed, and the odd partnership of the FBI with the gay back CIA officer in place.

Spann, Susan. [Blade of the Samurai](#) (\$15.95). June, 1565: Master ninja Hiro Hattori receives a pre-dawn visit from Kazu, a fellow shinobi working undercover at the shogunate. Hours before, the shogun's cousin, Saburo, was stabbed to death in the shogun's palace. The murder weapon: Kazu's personal dagger. Kazu says he's innocent, and begs for Hiro's help, but his story gives Hiro reason to doubt the young shinobi's claims. When the shogun summons Hiro and Father Mateo, the Portuguese Jesuit priest under Hiro's protection, to find the killer, Hiro finds himself forced to choose between friendship and personal honor. The investigation reveals a plot to assassinate the shogun and overthrow the ruling Ashikaga clan. With Lord Oda's enemy forces approaching Kyoto, and the murderer poised to strike again, Hiro must once again deploy his assassin's skills. This is the paperback of the 2014 hardcover, released from Spann's new publisher along with the 1st Shinobi Mystery with Master Ninja Jiro, [Claws of the Cat](#) (\$15.95).

Tuti, Ilaria. [Flowers Over the Inferno](#) (Soho \$25.95). For our **April Discovery Book of the Month** I once again go for something original – a serial killer who is not your average SK by a

long shot – and a landscape to explore – a wooded area with a small and insular village in the Italian Alps. And another plus: the lead cop, Superintendent Teresa Battaglia, is not in the common way. She's aging, diabetic, tough, and has an unusual sense of humor which he wields on her subordinates, in particular the new recruit to her team, young Inspector Marini. Who's new school, not old school, and at a disadvantage throughout. I can't say much about the plot without spoilers, but the victims have been brutalized in an animalistic way and clues are scarce (some deliberately made so thanks to the local cops). And yet when you reach the end you will feel compassionate rather than revolted. There's a nice twist, too. If Signed copies were possible – the author lives in Italy – this would be a First Mystery Book of the Month but in this age of global publishing many super books come to us unsigned. If you like procedurals I recommend Britain's *Manhunt* on Acorn TV starring Martin Clunes of *Doc Martin* as the Chief Detective Inspector.

Van Hemert, Caroline. [The Sun Is a Compass: A 4,000-Mile Journey into the Alaskan Wilds](#) (Little, Brown Spark \$28). In undertaking an epic trek from the Pacific Northwest to the Alaskan Arctic, Van Hemert, a wildlife biologist, and her husband encountered both the grandeur and danger of some of the planet's wildest locations. She vividly renders the experience, including being stalked by a black bear in the Brooks Range, initially visible only as “deep-set eyes, a pointed nose, and cinnamon-colored fur”; fighting the elements in a homemade rowboat off Vancouver Island; capsizing a raft in the Arctic Ocean; and coming under relentless attack for days by thousands of mosquitoes in the Mackenzie Delta. Similarly, descriptions of witnessing a huge herd of caribou crossing Alaska's Noatak River and of being followed in the Arctic Ocean by two huge moose, “large, brown noses stirring the surface of the water as they stare blankly ahead,” capture the magnificence of untamed nature. Van Hemert proves equally adept at exploring the inner dialogue that accompanied the harrowing physical feats, touching on love and loss, new parenthood, and the struggle to combine her passions for scientific inquiry and adventure. She leaves nature lovers with a story—of adventure, of environmental awareness, and of personal discovery—worth savoring.

✳Waldherr, Kris. [The Lost History of Dreams](#) (Touchstone \$26). The idea of a famed Byronesque poet stretched out dead in his bath and found by his cousin, an historian who's become a post-mortem photographer when photography was in its infancy, and cumbersome, really appeals to me and anyone who enjoys the Victorian. As does the stained-glass folly built on the Shropshire moors by the dead de Bonne a decade earlier to house the remains of his wife, his muse. The folly is closed to all De Bonne's fans, even those rabid for his last book. Ada's grieving niece Isabelle has the key but refuses to unlock the chapel unless Robert Highstead, the photographer, agrees to record the real story behind the de Bonne's marriage over the course of five nights. But this debut is not straightforward in how it unspools; it's a Gothic which blurs various lines between worlds. Lines that Robert, himself a grieving widower, must sort out for himself.

Walsh, Jenni L. [Side By Side](#) (\$17.99). A novel of Bonnie and Clyde....

OUR APRIL SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Barron, Laird. [Blood Standard](#) (\$9.99). Isaiah Coleridge, a former mob enforcer banished to upstate New York, delves into the underworld again when he decides to track a missing teenage girl. *LJ's* starred review ended with "Three-time Shirley Jackson award-winning horror author Barron (Swift to Chase) delivers a fine first entry in the noir genre. Fans of James Ellroy will appreciate Barron's hard-boiled prose. Readers of John D. MacDonald will enjoy the plot's twists and turns."

Child, Lee. [Past Tense](#) (\$9.99). Reacher #23. Taking a detour on his hitchhiking tour to his father's childhood hometown, Jack uncovers disturbing family revelations, while at the same time becoming entangled in the problems of two stranded Canadians involved in a dangerous high-ticket sale. *PW* ended its review with, "Child neatly interweaves a multiple narratives, ratchets up the suspense (the reveal of the motel plot is delicious), and delivers a powerful, satisfying denouement. Fans will enjoy learning more of this endearing character's roots, and Child's spare prose continues to set a very high bar."

Coyle, Cleo. [A Shot in the Dark](#) (\$7.99). Coffeehouse #17. Setting a date for her wedding at the same time her ex and other locals begin arranging dates at her coffeehouse, Village Blend manager Clare Cosi is entangled in the untimely demise of a lothario associated with innumerable brokenhearted conquests. *PW* had this to say: "Coyle, the husband-and-wife team of Alice Alfonsi and Marc Cerasini, serves up some tantalizing descriptions of the scents and flavors of coffee and assorted edibles, as well as musings on the dating scene in the digital age."

Ellison, J T. [Lie to Me](#) (\$9.99). When his wife, Sutton, disappears while they are having marital problems, leaving behind a note saying not to look for her, Ethan Montclair becomes the target of vicious gossip as friends, family, and the media speculate on what really happened to Sutton. *PW's* review ended with "Ellison keeps the suspense high with chapters from the point of view of someone very evil. The person responsible for Sutton's disappearance remains a mystery right up to the surprising finale. This standalone may be Ellison's best work to date."

Koontz, Dean. [The Forbidden Door](#) (\$9.99). Jane Hawk #4. Rogue FBI agent and high-profile fugitive Jane Hawk has her five-year-old son hidden away with vigilant, indomitable friends, but her enemies are circling ever closer to the boy, hoping to draw his mother into their trap.

Lagercrantz, David. [The Girl Who Takes an Eye for an Eye](#) (\$9.99). Accepting help from Mikael Blomkvist to uncover the truth about her traumatic childhood, Lisbeth Salander navigates obstacles in the form of an anti-Muslim gang, her mafia-connected twin, and the conductors of a pseudoscientific experiment. *Kirkus* concluded with, "Lagercrantz Larsson's appointed heir, does serviceable work in all this, and if his version lacks some of Larsson's ironic touch and politically charged contempt for the nasty undercurrents flowing beneath Sweden's clear waters, he doesn't falter in the mayhem department."

Meltzer, Brad. [Escape Artist](#) (\$9.99). Zig Zigarowski #1. After discovering that Nola Brown, a military artist-in-residence who was recently declared dead is still alive, Jim "Zig" Zigarowski, a worker at Dover Air Force Base learns that she saw something on her last mission that made her a target. *PW* raved about this start

to a new series saying "With its remarkable plot and complex characters, this page-turner not only entertains but also provides a fascinating glimpse into American history."

Ricciardi, David. [Warning Light](#) (\$9.99). A routine surveillance job becomes a do-or-die mission in the Middle East for CIA analyst Zac Miller, who makes his way over the mountains of Iran and through the Persian Gulf while outmaneuvering Islamic Revolutionary Guards and former teammates who believe he has gone rogue. This stunning debut, which in many ways reads like an early Robert Ludlum thriller or a terrific counterpart to Nelson DeMille's *The Charm School*, earned a galaxy of starred reviews including this from *LJ*: "Ricciardi's debut thriller is a slow and steady adrenaline flow."

Thompson, Victoria. [Murder on Union Square](#) (\$7.99). Gaslight Mysteries #21. When a father seeking a financial settlement in return for relinquishing parental rights turns up murdered, potential adoptive parents Frank and Sarah Malloy must work to clear their names. *PW* loved Thompson's latest saying, "Thompson's command of period detail and her insight into such issues as the era's blatant sexism put her in the forefront of historical mystery writers."

NEW IN SMALL PAPERBACK

Belle, Kimberly. [Three Days Missing](#) (\$9.99). When her son goes missing from an overnight class trip, Kat Jenkins and another mom from the school, Stef Huntington, find their desperate search for their children reveals how the greatest dangers can lie with those whom we trust the most.

Brown, Dale. [The Moscow Offensive](#) (\$7.99). When the President of Russia secretly buys an air freight company to transport dangerous cargo to the United States, Brad McLanahan and the heroes of the Iron Wolf Squadron join forces with the new Alliance of Free Nations in Eastern Europe to stop the imminent attack.

Brown, Rita Mae. [Probable Claws](#) (\$7.99). Mrs. Murphy #26. Postmistress "Harry" Haristeen and her human and animal companions investigate a mystery dating back to Virginia's post-Revolutionary past, an effort shaped by the creative influence of an artistic new friend and the struggles of their predecessors from the eighteenth century.

Buckley, Julia. [Death Waits in the Dark](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Writer's Apprentice #4. When Jane Wyland, after threatening to reveal Camilla's husband James's family secret, is found dead, bestselling suspense novelist Camilla is determined to close the case before she stands accused of the crime.

Clark, Tracy. [Broken Places](#) (Kensington \$9.99). Former Chicago cop-turned-private investigator Cass Raines tackles a spate of vandalism at a local church where she discovers the dead bodies of a priest and a gang member and resolves to bring their killer to justice.

Ehrhart, Peggy. [Knit One, Die Two](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Knit and Nibble's numbers are growing! In addition to a litter of adorable kittens, the knitting club just welcomed their newest member, Caralee Lorimer, who's learning to knit for her upcoming role in *A Tale of Two Cities*. According to the amateur actress, the behind-the-scenes drama at the theater is getting downright catty, and Caralee wants a reckoning for Arborville's pretentious suburbanites. Her claws are out, and just like her character in the play,

Caralee is ready to name names. But before she can finish her snitchy stitches, Caralee is killed in a suspicious theater accident!

Elliott, Lauren. [Prologue to Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Gossip columnists love a bold-faced name—but “Miss Newsy” at Greyborne Harbor’s local paper seems to specialize in bald-faced lies. She’s pointed a finger of suspicion at Addie after librarian June Winslow never makes it home from a book club meeting. And when June’s found at the bottom of a steep flight of stairs, Addie’s not only dealing with a busybody, but a dead body.

Hill, Joe. [Nos4a2 \[TV Tie-In\]](#) (\$9.99). When Charles Talent Manx, an unstoppable monster who transforms children into his own terrifying likeness, kidnaps her son, Victoria McQueen, the only person to ever escape his unmitigated evil, must engage in a life-and-death battle of wills to get her son back.

Kellerman, Faye. [Walking Shadows](#) (\$9.99). Decker and Lazarus #25. While investigating two brutal murders, Detective Decker, with help from his temporary partner and his wife Rina, uncovers ties to a crime from twenty-years earlier.

King, Stephen. [The Running Man](#) \$9.99). Reprint. In a novel set in the near future, a desperate man struggles to beat the odds and survive his participation in a nefarious TV game show called “The Running Man,” a competition in which losing means death.

McLachlin, Beverly. [Full Disclosure](#) (St Martins \$9.99). When the affluent and enigmatic Vincent Trussardi is accused of his wife Laura’s murder, Jilly Truitt agrees to defend him, despite predictions that the case is a sure loser and warnings from those close to her to stay away from the Trussardi family. Determined to prove everyone wrong, Jilly investigates Laura’s death, hoping to discover a shred of evidence that might give the jury a reasonable doubt. Instead, she is confronted by damning evidence and uncooperative witnesses at every turn. Someone isn’t telling the truth, but who?

Muller, Marcia. [Breakers](#) (\$7.99). Sharon McCone #35. The disappearance of a young recovering addict in southwest San Francisco leads private investigator Sharon McCone to the site of a Prohibition-era nightclub, where she discovers a ghastly chamber of horrors.