

BOOKNEWS from

ISSN 1056-5655, © The Poisoned Pen, Ltd.
Volume 31, Number 12
October Booknews 2019
sales@poisonedpen.com tel (888)560-9919
http://poisonedpen.com

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



Our Podcasts are now downloadable on [Google Music](#) and [iTunes](#)

OCTOBER IS OUR 30th BIRTHDAY!

We started early in August, and have a new September event by Glazer and a reminder that Sandford signs his October 1 release on September 30

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

Some Events will be webcast on Facebook Live

Check out our new [YouTube Channel](#)

NEW: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29 12:30 PM

Robert Glazer signs [Elevate](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)
High achievers are just elevated versions of themselves

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29 2:00 PM

Enjoy Poisoned Pen Press PARTY with Giveaways
Warren Easley; Thomas Kies; Dennis Palumbo

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30 7:00 PM

John Sandford publication party
Sandford signs [Bloody Genius](#) (Putnam \$29)
Virgil Flowers does Agatha Christie. Our copies come with a special collectible

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2 7:00 PM

JA Jance signs [Sins of the Fathers](#) (Harper \$26.99)
JP Beaumont

OUR OCTOBER 3 EVENT IS SOLD OUT

But please order in the usual way
Joe Hill signs [Full Throttle](#) (Morrow \$27.99)
Stories, some akin to his father Stephen King's
Leslie S. Klinger signs [The New Annotated HP Lovecraft Beyond Arkham](#) (Norton \$39.95)
Gorgeous, illustrated and footnoted

SATURDAY OCTOBER 5 7:00 PM

James Rollins interviews **Raymond Khoury**
Khoury signs [Empire of Lies](#) (Forge \$27.99)
Rollins previews his March 9 event at The Pen for
[The Last Odyssey](#) (Morrow \$28.99).

MONDAY OCTOBER 7 7:00 PM

Deborah Crombie signs [A Bitter Feast](#) (Harper \$25.99)
James & Kincaid in the Cotswolds + food!

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9 7:00 PM

Anne Perry signs [Death in Focus](#) (Ballantine \$28)
1930s series start

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 2:00 PM Mystery Tea

Minerva Spencer signs [Scandalous](#) (Kensington \$7.99)
Sherry Thomas signs [The Art of Theft](#) (Berkley \$16)
Lady Sherlock
Plus a YA fantasy, [The Magnolia Sword](#) (Lee \$19.95)

TUESDAY OCTOBER 15 7:00 PM

James R. Benn signs [When Hell Struck Twelve](#) (Soho \$27.95)
Billy Boyle

Martin Limon signs [GI Confidential](#) (Soho \$26.95)
Bascom & Sueño

FRIDAY OCTOBER 18 7:00 PM

John Sandford interviews **John Connolly**
Connolly signs [Book of Bones](#) (Atria \$28.99) Charlie Parker

SATURDAY OCTOBER 19 6:30 PM

[Ticketed Event](#) \$55 admits one with one book; \$60 admits two with one book. No personal books, please
Diana Gabaldon and Tara Bennett sign [The Making of Outlander: The Series Guide to Seasons 3 & 4](#) (Random House \$50)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 26 2:00 PM

Dr. Raun Melmed signs [Marvin's Monster Diary: ADHD Emotion Explosion](#) (Familius \$12.99) and 3 related books on the ADHD topic

TUESDAY OCTOBER 29 7:00 PM

Another Poisoned Pen Press Party!
Donis Casey signs [The Wrong Girl](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.99/\$15.99)
Bianca Dangereuse Hollywood Mystery #1
Martin Edwards signs [Gallows Court](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.95)
Rachel Savernake Golden Age Mystery #1

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 30 7:00 PM

Martin Edwards interviews Nicholas Meyer
Meyer signs [The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols](#) (St Martins \$25.99) Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson

OCTOBER DISCUSSION CLUBS

Please buy your copy from The Pen. Anyone welcome but remember you risk spoilers if you don't read the selection in advance

Coffee & Crime: Saturday October 12 10:30 AM
Atherton, Nancy. [Aunt Dimity's Death](#) (\$9.99)

SciFi Friday: October 13 7:00 PM
Tchaikovsky, Adrian. [Children of Time](#) (\$16.99)

Croak & Dagger: Saturday October 19 10:30 AM
Harper, Jane. [The Dry](#) (\$9.99) **2019 Ned Kelly Award winner**

Hardboiled Crime: Thursday October 24 7:00 PM
Greene, Graham. [The Third Man](#) (\$15)

EVENT BOOKS

Benn, James R. [When Hell Struck Twelve](#) (Soho \$27.95 October 15). I can't rave enough about this superb series, part wartime drama, part murder mystery, sometime spy story, always a sure-handed blend of WWII history and pulsing story-telling. Here are bits of two Starred Reviews by critics as captivated as I: *PW*: "In August 1944, Capt. Billy Boyle is working for General Eisenhower in the Office of Special Investigations of the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force...As the Allies close in on the enemy forces trying to escape the Falaise Gap, Billy's job is to interrogate prisoners to learn about German plans to defend Paris. Boyle soon figures out that his assignment is a ruse to make it appear that the Allies are desperate for information about Paris, a clear signal that an attack on that city is in the works, when Eisenhower actually intends to bypass Paris. Meanwhile, one of the captured soldiers they question reveals that a French partisan group's leader, code-named Atlantik, has been betraying members of the Resistance. A briefing is planned that's intended to flush out Atlantik, complete with a phony mortar attack, but it goes wrong, and two men, including an American officer, are murdered amid the chaos. The author makes the most of the tense and dramatic backdrop to this high-stakes whodunit. Benn has surpassed himself with this installment." *Booklist*: "This consistently strong series has jumped to another level, with this volume clearly the hands-down best so far . . . a grandly suspenseful, old-school war story . . . Benn's portrayal of the gallimaufry of competing Resistance groups, whose bullets, Billy learns, kill you just as dead as the Germans' more powerful weaponry, adds a fascinating dimension to this exciting story of the sometimes-deadly chaos that accompanied the liberation of Paris." Order all the [Billy Boyles](#) and read your way through the war in a more linear fashion than with say Alan Furst.

Casey, Donis. [The Wrong Girl](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.99 October 29). This start to a fresh and sparkling new series, Bianca Dangereuse Hollywood Mysteries, offers frightening moments, funny moments, touching moments, and romantic moments as it portrays some of its worst and best actors. Above all it's a coming of age story for a girl in the 1920s.

We met Alafair Tucker's daughter Blanche as a very ill child in [The Wrong Hill to Die On](#) (\$14.95), an illness that caused Alafair to take the child to visit her sister in Tempe, Arizona, considered a healing place for lung complaints. Blanche's aunt flirted with running off to Hollywood and the movies but in the end stayed with her husband and law practice. Here's the groundwork for Bianca Dangereuse's adventures. They begin when the now 16-year-old Blanche seizes her chance to escape drop-dead dull Boynton, Oklahoma, by running away with dashing Graham Peyton who talks of movies. He turns out to be a seducer and sex-trafficker and Blanche bolts in Northern Arizona. Her luck is in when those who take her in enable her to finally make it to Hollywood. Six years later Bianca Dangereuse is a hot, hot star. And the bones of Graham Peyton are uncovered buried on a Santa Monica beach....

Connelly, Michael. [The Night Fire](#) (LittleBrown \$29 October 21). Back when Harry Bosch was just a rookie homicide detective, he had an inspiring mentor who taught him to take the work personally and light the fire of relentlessness for every case. Now

that mentor, J.J. Thompson, is dead, but after his funeral his widow hands Bosch a murder book that Thompson took with him when he left the LAPD 20 years before—the unsolved killing of a troubled young man in an alley used for drug deals. Bosch brings the murder book to Renée Ballard and asks her to help him find what about the case lit Thompson's fire all those years ago. That will be their starting point. The bond between Bosch and Ballard tightens as they become a formidable investigation team. The UK edition of [The Night Fire](#) (\$45) publishes October 29.

Connolly, John. [Book of Bones](#) (Atria \$28.99 October 18). On a lonely moor in northern England, the body of a young woman is discovered. 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 darkness has heard the call. Charlie Parker has also heard it, and from the forests of 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 the world into darkness. Parker fears no evil—but evil fears him. John Sandford is a fan and is flying in to interview Irishman Connolly. Yay!

Here's a brand-new Starred Review: "Connolly's complex, pulse-pounding 17th supernatural thriller featuring Maine-based investigator Charlie Parker finds Parker still on the trail of Quayle, a possibly immortal English lawyer, and Pallida Mors, Quayle's appropriately named killing machine. In the previous volume, their first round ended in a draw: Quayle was successful in retrieving some missing pages from a book called 'the Fractured Atlas,' but Parker managed to retain one page, preventing Quayle from using the volume to end the world. Their duel now continues... Connolly's nuanced characterizations and facility at creating spooky atmospherics make it easy to suspend disbelief about the threat of cosmic horror from other dimensions."

Crombie, Deborah. [A Bitter Feast](#) (Harper \$25.99 October 7). I seldom make a Book of the Month in a long-running series but here the irresistible hook is the food for our **October British Crime Club Pick**. Crombie explores the back kitchens of village pubs and posh London restaurants to examine the cut throat world of fine cuisine and the unique hierarchy and gender politics involved. Salivate over the imagined dishes created while wondering if Scotland Yard DS Duncan Kincaid and his wife, DI Gemma James, can unmask a killer. It begins with a Cotswolds weekend at fancy Beck House, ancestral home to Gemma's assistant at the cop shop. It appears the food will be sublime as offered at the village pub where a formerly celebrated London chef has established a top notch local restaurant. But the arrival of Kincaid driving himself down alone from London is derailed by a car smash leaving him somewhat injured but the other driver dead. And a dead man in her passenger seat—a man it turns out was already dead! With her hostess hosting a glittery charity luncheon at the estate cooked by the crew at the pub, and her husband not in top form and the local police set to arrest the chef, Gemma converts her country weekend into a high pressure murder inquiry. I've always loved Upper and Lower Slaughter and those picturesque villages. You will too...plus you can feed your inner foodie.

LJ adds, "This superbly entertaining crime novel will delight mystery fans who crave character-rich, classically com-

posed mysteries in the style and manner of those written by the late, great P.D. James.”

Edwards, Martin. [Gallows Court](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.95 October 29). In this exceptional series launch from Edgar–winner Edwards set in 1930 London, ambitious tabloid journalist Jacob Flint is hoping to make a name for himself by interviewing Rachel Savernake, a judge’s daughter, whose amateur detecting solved a murder that baffled Scotland Yard. Rachel had identified Claude Linacre, a prominent politician’s brother, as the killer shortly before Linacre fatally poisoned himself. After Rachel rebuffs Jacob’s inquiries about the Linacre case, she persuades a terminally ill banker and philanthropist to write a confession that he strangled and dismembered a nurse—and then shoot himself. Entries from an 11-year-old journal, written by someone whose role is initially unclear, accuse Rachel of being a murderer. More bloodshed follows as Jacob tries to figure out Rachel’s motives and culpability. The labyrinthine plot is one of Edwards’s best, and he does a masterly job of maintaining suspense, besides getting the reader to invest in the fate of the two main characters. Fans of Edgar Wallace’s classic *Four Just Men* won’t want to miss this one. “Best of all, the way that Edwards keeps deepening the creepiness of this mystery until the very end is utterly stunning.”—*Booklist* Starred Review

The *NY Journal of Books* in its rave adds: “This is a book for readers who prefer to see bodies on the page. Murders, assaults, false and forced suicides, blood and dismemberment, corruption, depravity—it’s all there. Martin Edwards crafts vivid descriptions of both character and setting that embed the reader into the scene in a way few writers can achieve.” And our **October History Paperback Book of the Month**. Look for the sequel, *Mortmain Hall*, next September.

Edwards, Martin, ed. [Deep Waters](#) (Sourcebooks \$14.99 October 29). The September BLCC anthology showcases 16 crime stories “connected, in one way or another, with water,” as editor Edwards notes in his introduction. Among the highlights are William Hope Hodgson’s “Bullion!,” in which boxes of gold bullion appear and disappear aboard a ship, and Gwyn Evans’s “The Pool of Secrets,” a clever variation on *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, in which a murder is purportedly the work of the ghost of a woman who drowned herself in her silver wedding gown. Fans of the *Columbo* TV series will appreciate R. Austin Freeman’s “The Echo of a Mutiny,” in which the author’s Holmesian detective, Dr. John Thorndyke, is able to apprehend a killer by examining the clues he left at the murder scene, a lighthouse. Drawing on an encyclopedic knowledge of the genre, Edwards includes writers who will be new to most readers, notably James Pattinson, whose tricky “The Man Who Was Drowned” centers on a suspicious account of a man falling overboard from an ocean liner. Here’s a welcome addition to Poisoned Pen Press’ British Library Crime Classics series.

Gabaldon, Diana/Tara Bennett. [The Making of Outlander: The Series Guide to Seasons 3 & 4](#) (Random House \$50 October 19). This is a [Ticketed Event](#) (\$55 admits one with one book; \$60 admits two with one book). Travel even deeper into the world of *Outlander* with this insider guide from *New York Times* bestselling author and television critic Tara Bennett. Picking up where [The Making of Outlander: Seasons One & Two](#) (\$50) left off, this lavishly illustrated collectors’ item covers seasons three and

four, bringing readers behind the scenes and straight onto the set of the show. You’ll find exclusive interviews with cast members, including detailed conversations with Caitriona Balfe and Sam Heughan (on-screen couple and real-life friends), as well as the writers, producers, costume designers, set decorators, technicians, and more whose hard work and cinematic magic bring the world of *Outlander* to life on the screen. Every page features gorgeous full-color photographs of the cast, costumes, and set design, including both official cast photography and never-before-seen candid photos from on set.

Glazer, Robert. [Elevate](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99 September 29). Have you ever wondered why some individuals are able to consistently achieve at such a high level? They are always pushing forward and hitting their goals. They seem to be doing more with less, while the rest of us spin our wheels and don’t make as much progress. The same is true with organizations. It might be comforting to believe they have some advantage over you, when the truth is that they have become an elevated version of themselves. A reality that most of us don’t want to face is that we’re living below our innate potential. We know we can be better, we often just don’t know where to begin or where to focus. In its purest definition, capacity building is the method by which individuals seek, acquire and develop the skills and abilities to consistently perform at a higher level in pursuit of their innate potential. High achievers across all spectrums of life and business have found continuous ways to build their capacity at faster rates than their peers and use that extra capacity to stay ahead and achieve at the highest level; it’s how they elevate. They aren’t better than you, nor do they have some innate advantage (even though that may be comforting to believe). The reality is that they have done the hard work to become an elevated version of themselves.

Hill, Joe. [Full Throttle](#) (Morrow \$27.99 October 3). A little door that opens to a world of fairy tale wonders becomes the blood-drenched stomping ground for a gang of hunters in “Faun.” A grief-stricken librarian climbs behind the wheel of an antique Bookmobile to deliver fresh reads to the dead in “Late Returns.” In “By the Silver Water of Lake Champlain,” soon to be an episode on Shudder TV’s *Creepshow*, two young friends stumble on the corpse of a plesiosaur at the water’s edge, a discovery that forces them to confront the inescapable truth of their own mortality . . . and other horrors that lurk in the water’s shivery depths. And tension shimmers in the sweltering heat of the Nevada desert as a faceless trucker finds himself caught in a sinister dance with a tribe of motorcycle outlaws in “Throttle,” co-written with Stephen King. Replete with shocking chillers, including two previously unpublished stories written expressly for this volume (“Mums” and “Late Returns”) and another appearing in print for the first time (“Dark Carousel”), *Full Throttle* is a darkly imagined odyssey through the complexities of the human psyche.

The October Indie Next Pick: “What a ride! This book of stories (two written with Stephen King) is a fast ride through Hill’s considerable imagination. He takes us through 13 stories of suspense, from the back of a motorcycle and outrunning a murderous semi-truck driver to an American sea monster, then on to a young girl who befriends a machine, and ending with, well, the end of the world. His stories are reminiscent of a certain well-known horror writer, but are clearly his own brand of terror. I enjoyed each of them and wished that some might morph into full-length books because it was hard to let them go.”

Jance, JA. [Sins of the Fathers](#) (Harper \$26.99 October 2). Former Seattle homicide cop, J. P. Beaumont, is learning to enjoy the new realities of retirement doing morning crossword puzzles by a roaring fireplace; playing Frisbee with his new dog; having quiet lunches with his still working wife. But then his past comes calling. When a long ago acquaintance, Alan Dale, shows up on Beau's doorstep with a newborn infant in hand and asking for help locating his missing daughter, Beau finds himself faced with an investigation that will turn his own life upside down by dragging his none-too-stellar past onto a roller-coaster ride that may well derail his serene present. It turns out that, even in retirement, murder is still the name of J.P. Beaumont's game.

Khoury, Raymond. [Empire of Lies](#) (Forge \$27.99 October 5). A sweeping thriller in the tradition of *The Man in the High Castle*, *Fatherland*, and *Underground Airlines* is alternate history thriller set in a contemporary Europe ruled by the Ottoman Empire. A Starred Review for our **October History/Mystery Book of the Month** begins: "Alternate histories don't get much better than this thought-provoking mind bender from Khoury. In 1683, suicide bombers, armed with dynamite, kill themselves and the leaders of the army of Christendom before they can march on Vienna and defeat the Ottoman forces besieging the city. The anachronistic explosives are the result of an intricate scheme launched by Iraqi ISIS leader Ayman Rasheed in the present after he learns the secret of time travel from a museum director he interrogated. Eager to recreate a caliphate that would awe the world, Ayman researches key turning points in Islamic history before determining that ensuring the capture of Vienna would lead to the continued existence and dominance of the Ottoman Empire in the 21st century. By 2017, however, the regime has become repressive and faces a resistance movement. The bulk of the action occurs in Paris, where Kamal Arslan Agha, of the counterterrorism directorate of the sultan's secret police, investigates a murder connected to Ayman. Superior and plausible worldbuilding matches an ingeniously imaginative conceit. This ranks as a classic."

James Rollins who enjoyed this thriller joins us October 5 to chat with Khoury and preview his own March 3 Sigma Force thriller [The Last Odyssey](#) (Morrow \$28.99).

Klinger, Leslie S. [The New Annotated HP Lovecraft Beyond Arkham](#) (Norton \$39.95 October 3). A handsome literary keepsake, the final volume of award-winning Leslie Klinger's tour-de-force chronicle of Lovecraft's canon for lovers of Gothic literature reanimates 25 additional stories, the balance of Lovecraft's significant fiction, including "Rats in the Wall," a post-World War I story about the terrors of the past, and the newly contextualized "The Horror at Red Hook," which recently has been adapted by best-selling novelist Victor LaValle. In following Lovecraft's own literary trajectory, readers can witness his evolution from Rhode Island critic to prescient literary genius whose titanic influence would only be appreciated decades after his death. Including hundreds of eye-opening annotations and dozens of rare images, *Beyond Arkham* finally provides the complete picture of Lovecraft's unparalleled achievements in fiction.

Don't miss ordering [The New Annotated Dracula](#) (Norton \$39.95) by Klinger and Neil Gaiman, a perfect volume for October.

Limón, Martin. [GI Confidential](#) (Soho \$26.95 October 15). "Limón is one of the best military writers ever. His stories are addictive entertainment today—and valuable slices of history tomorrow."—Lee Child. Boy, do I agree with Lee. Limón is one of my very favorite authors for so many reasons: astounding and surprising plots, contrary characters who don't behave as one expects, a window into the culture of 1970s Korea and of the US Eighth Army (where many of the series villains reside).

A bank robbery, apparently by three American soldiers, kick-starts Limón's stellar 14th mystery set in 1970s South Korea. Instead of assigning U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division agents George Sueño and Ernie Bascom to look into the case, the brass selects two brownnosers who can be trusted not to vigorously pursue the truth, but the aptly named Sergeant Strange hooks the interest of our Slick Boys. Proof that Americans were involved could imperil support for ongoing military and financial aid to South Korea, viewed as an essential bulwark against Communist expansion in Asia. After a second bank is hit and one of its employees killed, Sueño and Bascom investigate, but they're sidetracked when their superior gives precedence to a second sensitive inquiry. General Abner Crabtree, in charge of all army divisions stationed along the demilitarized zone, is reported to have arranged for prostitutes to be transported to the DMZ for a high-level meeting involving South Korean generals. Limón does his usual outstanding job of combining clever plotting and period detail with sympathetic, flawed leads such as aggressive American reporter Katie Byrd Worthington, who breaks the story. And as with Benn, we recommend your order all [Limón's thrillers](#) and read them in their magnificent and varied order. You will be royally entertained and challenged by the plots as you do.

Melmed, Dr. Raun. [Marvin's Monster Diary: ADHD Emotion Explosion](#) (Familius \$12.99 October 26) and 3 related books on the ADHD topic. Meet Marvin, a lovable monster with a twelve-stringed baby fang guitar, a rambunctious case of ADHD, emotions that sometimes overwhelm him (and others), and a diary to record it all. While Marvin got it together in *Marvin's Monster Diary: ADHD Attacks*, his lab partner Lyssa's emotional roller coaster is a bit out of control. Can he help her—and win the Science Scare-Fair—before she explodes? In the same humorous spirit of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* comes *Marvin's Monster Diary: ADHD Emotion Explosion* Using the "monstercam" and "ST4" techniques developed by Dr. Raun Melmed of the Melmed Center in Arizona, *Marvin's Monster Diary: ADHD Emotion Explosion* teaches kids how to be mindful, observe their surroundings, and take time to think about their actions—plus they want to read the books.

Meyer, Nicholas. [The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols](#) (St Martins \$25.99 October 30). "Set in 1905, Meyer's memorable fourth Sherlock Holmes novel, his first since 1993's *The Canary Trainer*, convincingly mimics Conan Doyle's writing style and characterizations." After the murder of British operative Many Lippman, Holmes's brother, Mycroft, the dead woman's employer, asks for help in tracing the origins of the papers found on her corpse. Lippman apparently paid with her life for somehow obtaining a French version of the anti-Semitic tract known as *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*, which describe a Jewish plot for world domination. Mycroft is concerned about a possible connection between the documents, the annual meetings of Jews committed to the establishment of a Jewish homeland, and the

untimely death of Zionist leader Theodor Herzl, who apparently suffered a heart attack right before he could be interviewed by one of Mycroft's agents." Holmes and Watson's pursuit of the truth takes them to France and, via the Orient Express, to Varna and a kind of milk train to Odessa, and finally to a Russian village where a pogrom had been enacted, where their ethics face a severe test. "Meyer cleverly plays with his audience's expectations, noting at the outset that the case was one of Holmes's rare failures" since the Protocols still circulate today and gain traction as anti-Semitism rises. I expect Meyer was stirred by our current world to write this—it's not a political book but it does make a statement, plus plenty of actual historical figures appear in the story. To add to your read watch some version of the Agatha Christie mystery taking place on the Orient Express. This is our **November History/Mystery Book of the Month**, now gaining more significance with its Ukraine landscape.

Perry, Anne. [Death in Focus](#) (Ballantine \$28 October 9). As she revealed last fall when celebrating a landmark birthday with us at The Pen, Perry begins a new series. An intrepid young photographer carries her dead lover's final, world-shattering message into the heart of Berlin as Hitler ascends to power. On vacation from London on the beautiful Italian coast, 28-year-old Elena Standish and her older sister, Margot, have finally been able to move on from the lasting trauma of the Great War, in which the newly married Margot lost her husband and the sisters their beloved brother. Touring with her camera in hand, Elena has found new inspiration in the striking Italian landscape, and she's met an equally striking man named Ian. When Ian has to leave unexpectedly, Elena—usually the more practical of the sisters—finds she's not ready to part from him, and the two share a spontaneous train trip home to England. But a shocking sequence of events disrupts their itinerary, forcing Elena to personally deliver a message to Berlin on Ian's behalf, one that could change the fate of Europe. Back home, Elena's diplomat father and her secretive grandfather—once head of MI6, unbeknownst to his family—are involved in their own international machinations. As he dies from a stabbing, Ian reveals that he works for MI6 and he's trying to prevent the murder of a German admiral in Berlin, a crime the plotters hope to pin on the British. He entrusts Elena with a role in his mission. Perry knows how to ratchet up the international intrigue giving Elena a similar appeal to Jacqueline Winspear's Maisie Dobbs.

In its rave, the *Wall Street Journal* review adds: "With evocative flair Ms. Perry conjures the mixed emotions and misplaced optimism of a period when many Establishment figures were desperate to avoid another world war. Elena's father, an English diplomat, argues in defense of Hitler's Germany: 'Feed the hungry, house the homeless, create jobs to bring honor and a sense of purpose...Is that demagoguery?' In this context, Elena takes a photography trip to Amalfi, where she finds much more dramatic images than expected. *Death in Focus*, the start of a new series, is reminiscent of works by Eric Ambler and Graham Greene. Cameo appearances by historical figures including Winston Churchill and Joseph Goebbels enhance this thrilling work whose heroine proves fully up to the sort of hair-raising challenges formerly met by her illustrious grandparent."

Sandford, John. [Bloody Genius](#) (Putnam \$29 September 30). Our copies come with a nifty bonus insert I designed (library lovers will enjoy it!). Love the body in the library (carrel), an Agatha

Christie riff for Virgil Flowers, and the whole academic culture wars. Plus the unusual clues to the motive for the murder and the identity of the perp. It's a play fair plot, again Christie style, but with Sandford's own spin.

Spencer, Minerva. [Scandalous](#) (Kensington \$7.99 October 12). John Charles reviews: "Captain Martin Bouchard has never met a woman quite like Sarah Fisher. Armed with pistols she stole from his cabin, Sarah, the orphaned daughter of missionary parents, insists that Martin free all of the slaves he has rescued from the Dutch ship *The Bluebird*. Unbeknownst to Sarah, Martin, who has his own very personal history with slavery, has every intention of doing that, but that doesn't mean he can't convince Sarah she must offer him up something in exchange. Set on the high seas as well as Africa and England and jam-packed with plenty of adventure, danger, and sizzling sensuality, the latest in Spencer's Regency-set Outcasts series is a complete triumph."

Thomas, Sherry. [The Art of Theft](#) (Berkley \$16 October 12). John reviews again: "Posing as Sherlock Holmes, consulting detective, Charlotte Holmes's latest case takes her to France, where she, with some "assistance" from her friends and family, must help the Maharani of Ajmer, an old friend of Mrs. Watson's, by infiltrating a high society Yuletide ball and retrieve some very blackmailable secrets hidden in a valuable Van Dyck painting. Beginning with [A Study in Scarlet Women](#) (\$15), Thomas successfully flipped the gender switch on the classic Sherlock Holmes books with her Lady Sherlock series. *The Art of Theft*, the fourth superbly written installment in that series, is another brilliant literary merger of clever deduction and dry wit."

Library Reads adds: "In this fun, playful series, Thomas has created a female version of Holmes who is vibrant, real, relatable, and intelligent. This fourth book has Holmes and Watson travel to France, with twists and turns the reader won't see coming. Perfect for fans of Laurie R. King's Mary Russell series and Tasha Alexander's Lady Emily series." We recommend ordering all 4 [Lady Sherlocks](#) and reading them in order.

We also have a very limited number of Thomas's new YA historical [The Magnolia Sword](#) (Lee and Low \$19.95) available. Thomas was tapped to write this stunning novel set in China circa 484 A.D. and was inspired by wuxia martial-arts dramas as well as the centuries-old ballad of Mulan, a young woman, who disguises herself as a man to take her father's place in the Chinese army, as a tie-in the upcoming live-action Disney version of the company's animated film of the same title."

OCTOBER BOOKS OF THE MONTH

British Crime Club One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Crombie, Deborah. [A Bitter Feast](#)

Cozy Crimes Club One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Wingate, Marty. [The Bodies in the Library](#)

Discovery Club One paperback or hardcover per month

Cockram, Jane. [The House of Brides](#)

First Mystery Club One Signed First per month

Gault, Miciah Bay. [Goodnight Stranger](#)

Hardboiled Crime Club One signed First per month

Hirsch, Paddy. [Hudson's Kill](#)

History/Mystery Club One Signed First per month

Khoury, Raymond. [Empire of Lies](#)

History Paperback One per month

Edwards, Martin. [Gallows Court](#)

Modern First Editions One Signed First per month

Woodson, Jacqueline. [Red at the Bone](#)

SciFi/Fantasy/Horror Club One Signed First per month

Abercrombie, Joe. [A Little Hatred](#)

Surprise Me! Club One Signed First Per Month

Casey, Donis. [The Wrong Girl](#)

Thriller Club One Signed First per month

Cornwell, Patricia. [Quantum](#)

SIGNED BOOKS

Abercrombie, Joe. [A Little Hatred](#) (Orbit \$27). The Age of Madness #1 is our **October SciFi/Fantasy Book of the Month**. We also ordered some from the UK: [A Little Hatred](#) (\$42). **Please be sure to click on the correct link to order.**

From blockbuster Abercrombie comes the first book in a new fantasy trilogy. The chimneys of industry rise over Adua and the world seethes with new opportunities. But old scores run deep as ever. On the blood-soaked borders of England, Leo dan Brock struggles to win fame on the battlefield, and defeat the marauding armies of Stour Nightfall. He hopes for help from the crown. But King Jezal's son, the feckless Prince Orso, is a man who specializes in disappointments. Savine dan Glokta—a socialite, investor, and daughter of the most feared man in the Union—plans to claw her way to the top of the slag-heap of society by any means necessary. But the slums boil over with a rage that all the money in the world cannot control. The age of the machine dawns, but the age of magic refuses to die....

Andrews, Julie. [Home Work: A Memoir](#) (Grove \$30). In *Home*, Andrews recounted her difficult childhood and her emergence as an acclaimed singer and performer on the stage. With this second memoir, of “My Hollywood Years,” Andrews picks up the story with her arrival in Hollywood and her phenomenal rise to fame in her earliest films—*Mary Poppins*, *The Sound of Music*, *Victor/Victoria*. I loved Audrey Hepburn but I never forgave the casting of her in the movie of *My Fair Lady* over Andrews. We only have a few of these so hurry!

Bardugo, Leigh. [Ninth House](#) (Flatiron \$27.99). Alex is a high-school dropout who gets a free ride to Yale because of a unique talent. The Indie Next Pick: “Queen Leigh’s first foray into adult

fantasy is a sensational success! One of the best fantasy books I’ve read in a long while, *Ninth House* contains Yale secret societies, ghosts, magic, morally gray characters, and murder. Bardugo balances dual timelines with intricate precision, and the history and world-building of her fantastical New Haven is superb. I couldn’t put this book down; I had to know what was going to happen next. I savored every moment reading this novel, and I am jealous of readers who get to experience it for the first time!”

“Bardugo’s New Haven is plausible and frightening, and I was one rapt reader.”—Charlaine Harris. “*Ninth House* rocked my world. I could not get enough of sinewy, ghost-haunted Alex Stern, a heroine for the ages. With a bruised heart and bleeding knuckles, she risks death and damnation — again and again — for the people she cares about. I was cheering her on the whole way: from the first brilliant sentence of this book to the last. More, please, Ms. Bardugo.” —Joe Hill

Burroughs, Augusten. [Toil & Trouble: A Memoir](#) (St Martins \$27.99). For as long as Burroughs could remember, he knew things he shouldn’t have known. He manifested things that shouldn’t have come to pass. And he told exactly no one about this, save one person: his mother. His mother reassured him that it was all perfectly normal, that he was descended from a long line of witches, going back to the days of the early American colonies. And that this family tree was filled with witches. It was a bond that he and his mother shared—until the day she left him in the care of her psychiatrist to be raised in his family (but that’s a whole other story). After that, Augusten was on his own to navigate the world of this tricky power; on his own to either use or misuse this gift. From the hilarious to the terrifying, *Toil & Trouble* is a chronicle of one man’s journey to understand himself, to reconcile the powers he can wield with things with which he is helpless. Ghosts are real, trees can want to kill you, beavers are the spawn of Satan, houses are alive, and in the end, love is the most powerful magic of all.

The Indie Next Pick: “A gift shared with his mother, witchcraft has been passed down his family tree and has guided his life. Moving from the city life to the wilds of Connecticut, Burroughs’ gift guides him and husband Christopher to the right place at the right time—and saves them with a little premonition! You are invited (perhaps welcomed?) to be skeptical, but once you finish the book you might just wonder why you ever were.”

Cameron, W. Bruce. [A Dog’s Promise](#) (Forge \$26.99) continues the story of Bailey, the good dog whose journey started in [A Dog’s Purpose](#) and continued in [A Dog’s Journey](#) (both major motion pictures). This time, Bailey is joined by Lacey, another very special dog, who helps Bailey fulfill his promise over the course of several lives. This charming, wise canine soul brings joy, laughter, and comfort as he unites a family fractured by life’s inevitable obstacles. We only have a few of these for October but we may be able to obtain more in late November so please order quickly to secure one. A great gift book!!

Child, Lee. [Blue Moon](#) (Bantam \$28.99). Out October 29 but our copies will arrive in early November. Landing in a new place, Reacher rescues an elderly man carrying an envelope full of cash, Aaron Shevick, from a would-be mugger in an unnamed American city. Reacher escorts the shaken Shevick home, where he meets the man’s wife and soon learns the couple is deeply indebted to loan sharks because of huge medical bills. Shevick is supposed to deliver the cash to an Albanian crook named Fisnik

in a bar later that day, but when Fisnik doesn't show, Reacher ends up impersonating Shevick at the rescheduled meeting with Fisnik's replacement, a Ukrainian thug, who's never met Shevick. A turf war has just begun between the city's rival Ukrainian and Albanian gangs, and Reacher lands in the thick of it in his efforts to help the Shevicks. Reacher applies his keen analytical skills to numerous violent confrontations with bad guys who aren't as smart as he is. Readers will cheer as Reacher and his allies, a resourceful waitress and two fellow ex-military guys he hooks up with, take the fight straight to the top of the criminal command chain. Child is at the top of his game in this nail-biter, his 24th Reacher. The Signed UK edition" [Blue Moon](#) (Bantam \$46)

✂Cornwell, Bernard. [Sword of Kings](#) (Collins \$45). Most of us got hooked on Cornwell's Sharpe series, Napoleonic era, but his The Lost Kingdom Series, now the Saxon Chronicles, dropping back to Saxon times when the Danes invaded Britain in the 9th Century has now reached book #12. But happily you can dip into any one of them. "Cornwell's best historical fiction pleases us mightily in the way his renditions of the great actors and events of yore stray from received versions. Such contrariness is partly the product of meticulous research and partly of a mischievous sense of humor."—*Washington Post*

Cornwell, Patricia. [Quantum](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$28.99). Our **October Thriller Book of the Month** is a new series start for Cornwell moving from Kay Scarpetta to Captain Calli Chase. On the eve of a top secret space mission, she detects a tripped alarm in the tunnels deep below a NASA research center. A NASA pilot, quantum physicist, and cybercrime investigator, Calli knows that a looming blizzard and government shutdown could provide the perfect cover for sabotage, with deadly consequences. As it turns out, the danger is worse than she thought. A spatter of dried blood, a missing security badge, a suspicious suicide—a series of disturbing clues point to Calli's twin sister, Carme, who's been MIA for days. Desperate to halt the countdown to disaster and to clear her sister's name, Captain Chase digs deep into her vast cyber security knowledge and her painful past, probing for answers to her twin's erratic conduct. As time is running out, she realizes that failure means catastrophe... So Scarpetta is actually a kind of ghost in the machine in this story, no?

DeMille, Nelson/Alex DeMille. [The Deserter](#) (SimonSchuster \$28.99 Signed by both). This outstanding thriller from best-seller DeMille and his screenwriter son centers on a search for an Army deserter who has fled to Venezuela after escaping duty in Afghanistan under strange circumstances. On the hunt for Delta Force Captain Kyle Mercer are Scott Brodie, a hardened ex-soldier with impulsive, rogue tendencies, and Maggie Taylor, a cunning by-the-book Army cop who does her best to rein in Brodie's urges, both investigative and sexual. Brodie, the senior officer, quickly suspects his commanders aren't telling him everything about Mercer; his desertion may have less to do with disobedience than his knowing too much about military atrocities in Afghanistan. Nonetheless, Brodie and Taylor track Mercer to a jungle hideout far outside Caracas, where he's training a group of mercenaries with the apparent backing of President Maduro. In typical DeMille fashion, the last hundred pages move along like a ballistic missile, exploding in a satisfying finale on a remote airstrip. DeMille and son provide it all in this rumble through the jungle—authentic detail, lively dialogue, a vividly drawn setting, and an exhilarating plot."—*PW* Starred Review.

✂Fowler, Christophe. [Bryant and May England's Finest](#) (Bantam \$39). This latest for the Peculiar Crimes Unit won't arrive until early November but order up now while we can up our own order as it's nearly sold out. The Peculiar Crimes Unit has solved many extraordinary cases over the years, but some were hushed up and hidden away. Until now. Arthur Bryant remembers these lost cases as if they were yesterday. Unfortunately, he doesn't remember yesterday, so the newly revealed facts could come as a surprise to everyone, including his exasperated partner John May. Here, then, is the truth about the Covent Garden opera diva and the seventh reindeer, the body that falls from the Tate Gallery, the ordinary London street corner where strange accidents keep occurring, the consul's son discovered buried in the unit's basement, the corpse pulled from a swamp of Chinese dinners, a Hallowe'en crime in the Post Office Tower, and the impossible death that's the fault of a forgotten London legend. All of the unit's oddest characters are here, plus the detectives' long-suffering sergeant Janice Longbright gets to reveal her own forgotten mystery. 12 stories in all.

Gault, Miciah Bay. [Goodnight Stranger](#) (Park Row \$27). I love this **October First Mystery Book of the Month**—it sneaks up on you. "Somewhere the ghosts of Shirley Jackson and the Henry James of *The Turn of the Screw* are smiling, because a wildly talented young writer has joined their lineage. What a taut, keenly intelligent, and provocative debut *Goodnight Stranger* is. Deeply compelling and enjoyable, suffused with a genuinely thrilling new mode of literary energy."—George Saunders, *Lincoln in the Bardo*. The setting is tiny Wolf Island where Lydia, a responsible sister, has given up her own dreams over a decade before when her unusual mother died and lives with her sheltered, awkward brother Lucas in the family home by the sea. They are comfortable yet shadowed by their childhood when an infant twin brother drowned while on a ferry to shore and a hospital. When one ordinary day Cole Andrews steps off the same ferry, Lydia feels an instant bond while Lucas comes to believe Cole is the reincarnation of their long lost brother. Cole knows their mannerisms, their home, the topography of the island—what else could that mean? Though Lydia is doubtful, she can't deny she is drawn to his magnetism, his energy, and his warmth. To discover the truth about Cole, Lydia must finally face her anxiety about leaving the island and summon the strength to challenge Cole's grip on her family's past and on Lucas. So you might think this is a love story... and in its way, it is. Or a ghost story...and in its way, it is. It's such a treat to find something truly unusual and beautifully crafted.

"Gault finesses the mechanics of her puzzle with craft... oiling the unraveling of Cole's identity with a Poe-powered tool kit: a crumbling old house, snippets of 'Annabel Lee,' witching-hour tapping in the attic, ghosts of syphilitic whores and, for good measure, a disentanglement. Left unearthed beneath the spook-house gambits is an intriguing subtext about the infantilizing hazards of familial devotion."—*NY Times Book Review*

Gerritsen, Tess. [The Shape of Night](#) (Ballantine \$28). **Out in October, and signed here February 17 (with Meg Gardiner) as Tess is traveling out of the country for the fall. To secure first prints please buy it in October and either you or we can hold it.** "This supernatural thriller from bestseller Gerritsen ranks with the best of her crime fiction. Boston food writer Ava Colette travels to Tucker Cove, Maine, where she rents Brodie's

Watch, an old house on the coast once owned by a 19th-century sea captain, Jeremiah Brodie. Ava's goal is to finish writing her latest cookbook there, but she's also trying to escape a tragic past. Soon her nights are interrupted by visions of Jeremiah's ghost, who appears to be as real as if he were a flesh and blood man. Meanwhile, she begins to wonder about a series of mysterious if apparently natural deaths in the town—and why the last renter left the house so abruptly. After learning more about the house's history and its previous inhabitants, she consults a ghost hunter, whose team discovers some disturbing things about paranormal presences at Brodie's Watch. The stakes rise when Ava figures out that a killer is on the loose who must be stopped. This magnetic haunted house story will keep readers riveted from the very first page."

✠Goss, Theodora. [The Sinister Mystery of the Mesmerizing Girl](#) (Saga Press \$24.99). Mary Jekyll and her found family of the Athena Club return from their Continental deeds of derring-do, fatigued and anxious. Three of their circle who were left behind in London—Alice the housemaid, Dr. Watson, and Mr. Holmes—have gone missing, as have less-loved figures such as the reformatory director, Mrs. Raymond. What to do? Here is the capstone of a gaslamp fantasy trilogy forming a literary pastiche full of beloved classic characters and references that book fans will eat up. From Dracula to Dr. Jekyll, from Dr. Frankenstein to Rappacini's Daughter, this is a book for book lovers. It's also more political than [The Strange Case of the Alchemist's Daughter](#) and European Travel for the [Monstrous Gentlewoman](#) (\$16.99 each).

✠Griffiths, Elly. [Now You See Them](#) (Quercus \$35). Brighton copper Edgar Stephens is now a Superintendent and married to former DS Emma Holmes. Edgar's wartime partner in arms, magician Max Mephisto, is a movie star in Hollywood, while his daughter Ruby has her own TV show, *Ruby Magic*. The funeral of Stan Parks, aka Diablo, actor and wartime comrade to Edgar and Max, throws the gang back together. The reunion sparks all sorts of feelings. Bob Willis, now a DI, is dealing with the disappearance of local schoolgirl Rhonda Miles. Emma, frustrated by living the life of a housewife and mother, keeps thinking how much better she would run the case. She is helped by Sam Collins, a woman reporter also hampered by sexism at work. Sam notices a pattern with other missing girls. Edgar listens to the theory but doesn't give it much credence. He is preoccupied with the threatened invasion of Brighton by Mods and Rockers on the May Bank Holiday. The case takes a more sinister turn when one of the missing girls is found dead. Then Ruby fails to turn up for a rendezvous and it becomes clear that she too has disappeared.

✠Harris, Robert. [The Second Sleep](#) (Hutchinson \$45). "A return to the type of high-concept novel that made his name . . . [T]he writing is elegant and pacy. The characters are fleshed out and the plot zips along." —*The Times*. So this is all mysterious, "a high concept novel," meaning nearly anything more I say will be a spoiler. I will say that you may think this is a mystery set in Exmoor in 1468. . . Really a surprise read and provocative. Don't miss it. It's in the spirit of his first bestseller *The Fatherland*. There is a murder, and crimes, and. . .

Hearne, Kevin/Delilah S. Dawson. [The Princess Beard: The Tales of Pell](#) (Del Rey \$29 Signed by both). In the proudly lowbrow third volume of the satirical Tales of Pell, Dawson and Hearne turn to the high seas as their unlikely heroes become even less

likely pirates. Captained by the talking parrot Filthy Lucre, the crew of the Puffy Peach set out for adventure and treasure. Among them are Morgan, a princess who kept the beard she grew during an enchanted sleep; Vic, a centaur whose overbearing toxic masculinity is at odds with his ability to conjure tea and pastries; and Tempest, a dryad who wants to be a lawyer. As they sail the crimson tides of the Myn Seas (populated by tamponers) and brave the dangers of all-night eateries, they challenge gender roles in fantasy and skewer social trends, attacking targets as varied as Harry Potter and gym culture with a dizzying array of bad jokes and puns. . . "This is a clever send-up of fantasy tropes and modern culture."—PW. #1: [Kill the Farm Boy](#); #2, [No Country for Old Gnomes](#).

Koepp, David. [Cold Storage](#) (Ecco \$27.99). Our first shipment of our September First Mystery Book of the Month arrived with second prints, but firsts have now arrived. And I thus find a new rave for it: After 16 "kills" (nuclear/bioweapons programs neutralized), Defense Nuclear Agency team Roberto Diaz and Trini Romano think they've seen it all. Then, in 1987, they encounter *Cordyceps novus*, a fungus more pernicious, adaptive and threatening than anything they've ever seen. The government destroys all but a small sample, which it buries safely in cold storage in the Atchison mines, "sealed inside a biotube three hundred feet underground in a sub-basement that didn't officially exist." Thirty years later, the former government space has been turned into Atchison Storage. One night, employees Travis "Teacake" Meacham (an oddly charming ex-con) and Naomi Williams (a single mom working her way through veterinary school) hear beeping behind a wall, which leads them to the discovery of hidden subbasements and a government vault with an odd fungus spreading across the floor.

After three decades, nobody but Roberto and Trini remembers the deadly fungal threat, so when Teacake and Naomi call the military, Roberto is summoned out of retirement for what his superiors think is an unnecessary assessment. Enacting a secret contingency plan, Roberto goes off grid and races the clock—and the newly awoken fungus—to keep it from spreading. The threat is real: if he fails, it will "[bring] about a Sixth Extinction. So much fun. . .scary, too.

✠MacBird, Bonnie. [The Devil's Due](#) (Harper \$26.99). Out in October, Signed here November 14. It's 1890 and the newly famous Sherlock Holmes faces his worst adversary to date – a diabolical villain bent on destroying some of London's most admired public figures in particularly gruesome ways. A further puzzle is that suicide closely attends each of the murders. As he tracks the killer through vast and seething London, Holmes finds himself battling both an envious Scotland Yard and a critical press as he follows a complex trail from performers to princes, anarchists to aesthetes. But when his brother Mycroft disappears, apparently the victim of murder, even those loyal to Holmes begin to wonder how close to the flames he has travelled. Has Sherlock Holmes himself made a deal with the devil?

✠Marston, Edward. [Fear on the Phantom Special](#) (Allison \$39). A Railway Detective Mystery set at Halloween, 1861. A special train with two carriages steams across the Lake District at night on its way to a place notorious for its record of supernatural incidents. Most of those on board have been fortified by alcohol so the mood is boisterous. Without warning the lamp goes out in the last compartment of the second carriage, plunging it into

darkness. When the train reaches the end of the line, the passengers pour out on to the station platform. There are almost sixty of them in all, laughing and jostling, but the prevailing excitement is shattered by a cry for help – someone is missing.

Inspector Colbeck and Sergeant Leeming are called in to investigate this peculiar occurrence. With some believing the missing man is the victim of a ghost said to haunt the site and no discernible trace of the man anywhere to be seen, this will prove to be a puzzling case indeed for the Railway Detective.

Mayor, Archer. [Bomber's Moon](#) (St Martins \$29). Vermont, known for its activism and raw beauty, has a largely hardscrabble economy, with the “scourge of easy drug money always lurking like cancer.” *Booklist* gives a Starred Review to the new Joe Gunther: “The murder of a small-time drug dealer seems to be open and shut at first, but it subsequently explodes into one of Gunther’s most complex cases, involving a prestigious prep school and an assortment of engaging characters, including two clever thieves, one aptly named Alex B. Robbin. Thorndike Academy may be protected by wealthy benefactors, but the VBI team, with an assist from young PI Rachel Reiling and budding journalist Sally Kravitz, eventually coaxes the skeletons out of their closets. When Gunther is ready to retire, Kravitz and Reiling could well continue this series on their own. This is another crackerjack police procedural from Mayor, this one is rich in chilling scenery and precise technical details. Despite its necessary economies, Vermont takes law enforcement seriously, and fans will appreciate the introduction of FARO (3D Measurement, Imaging & Realization Technology) into a mix of technological tools, which, together with Gunther’s crime-solving prowess, make for an absorbing read in this—incredibly—the 30th Joe Gunther. Which is a nice symmetry with our own 30th this fall, no? I am a major Gunther fan and collect him—29 and counting.

Olson, Neil. [Before the Devil Fell](#) (Hanover \$27). Aha, a perfect tale to warm you up for Halloween. Will Connor returns to his hometown, a village north of Boston, to care for his injured mother. He’s kept his distance from the town since high school, but once home he finds himself reexamining a horrific incident that took place during one of his mother’s “spirit circles.” His mother had embraced the hippie generation’s fascination with New Age and the arcane, but the unexpected death of a close friend put an end to the meetings of the modern-day coven. Or did it? As Will looks deeper into his family’s history he discovers that her practices weren’t so much a passing fad but the latest link in a long tradition of New England witchcraft, which still seems to hold a strange power over the town. “Equal parts engaging and creepy, this twisty tale deftly examines how secrets and regret can continue to reverberate through generations. A suspenseful story that examines how families haunt each other in life and death; possibly too creepy for late-night reading.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

Rosenfelt, David. [Dachshund Through the Snow](#) (St Martins \$26). N.J. defense attorney Andy Carpenter focuses on a cold case: the murder of 18-year-old Kristen McNeil, whose body was found near an abandoned stadium 14 years earlier. For Christmas, little Danny Traynor has three wishes: a coat for his mother, a sweater for his dachshund, and for Santa to find his daddy and bring him home. Laurie, Andy’s former police lieutenant wife who knows Danny’s mom, talks Andy into tracking down the boy’s father, Noah. Noah is in fact hiding from the police, who

are about to arrest him for Kristen’s murder, based on new DNA evidence that links Noah to the crime. It looks like a slam dunk for the prosecutor, but when Andy and his team start to dig, they uncover a larger conspiracy that puts Andy’s life at risk. Meanwhile, Andy establishes a genial relationship with Simon, a retired police dog, and Simon’s handler. A strong plot, likable characters, and plenty of wry humor keep the pages turning. Dog lovers won’t want to miss this one, another of Rosenfelt’s contributions to holiday cheer which he spices up with his unusual clever and surprising plots.

Roth, Veronica. [The End and Other Beginnings](#) (Harper \$18.99). The author of the publishing series phenomenon [Divergent](#) present a collection of six stories: six center around the future and technologies that do not yet exist; two are set in the galaxy of the [Carve the Mark](#) series; one is postapocalyptic and the other takes you to an alternate Earth where a wide variety of extraterrestrials live among humans. While eclectic in one sense, the common focus is “on the pivotal moment when something ends—often painfully.” Wistful, funny, with romantic underpinnings... visit new worlds.

Strout, Elizabeth. [Olive Again](#) (Random \$27). The Indie Next Pick: “Thank goodness Elizabeth Strout decided to return for another round with one of the most beloved, maddening, confounding, and compelling characters I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. Readers will delight in the fact that Olive, while forging new relationships and puzzling over long-existing ones, remains the crazy, complicated family member you just can’t quit. Add in spare yet beautifully rendered prose about the rugged, breath-taking state of Maine and you’ve got a gem of a book, one that leaves you rooting for Olive, despite her numerous shortcomings, as she stumbles through love, friendship, loss, and what it means to grow old. Strout, through Olive, reminds us that it’s a messy business being human, but it’s a privilege to be along for the ride.”

Woodson, Jacqueline. [Red at the Bone](#) (Riverhead \$26). We were able to score actual Signed copies of this, our **October Modern Firsts Book of the Month**. Here’s a Starred Review: “Woodson’s beautifully imagined novel (her first novel for adults since 2016’s *Another Brooklyn*) explores the ways an unplanned pregnancy changes two families. Woodson’s nuanced voice evokes the complexities of race, class, religion, and sexuality in fluid prose and a series of telling details. This is a wise, powerful, and compassionate novel.” The Indie Next Pick adds: “Although you can read Jacqueline Woodson’s newest novel over the course of one evening, there is nothing breezy about the richness of its story, nothing short about the depth of its characters, nothing quick about the way this book stays with you after you finish reading. Told through five distinct voices, *Red at the Bone* tracks an African-American family through time and place as an unexpected pregnancy upends and reshapes family and class expectations as well as individual trajectories. Ultimately, the novel is about legacy in every sense of the word. And since Woodson’s writing packs the emotional punch of an epic in a novella number of pages, the legacy of her book is to be read over and over and over again.”

CLASSICS

British Library Crime Classic

Edwards, Martin. [The Christmas Card Crime and Other Stories](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.99). A Christmas party is punctuated by a gunshot under a policeman's watchful eye. A jewel heist is planned amidst the glitz and glamour of Oxford Street's Christmas shopping. Lost in a snowstorm, a man finds a motive for murder. This collection of mysteries explores the darker side of the festive season—from unexplained disturbances in the fresh snow, to the darkness that lurks beneath the sparkling decorations. With neglected stories by John Bude and E.C.R. Lorac, as well as tales by little-known writers of crime fiction, Martin Edwards blends the cozy atmosphere of the fireside story with a chill to match the temperature outside. This is a gripping seasonal collection sure to delight mystery fans and **copies can be Signed October 29 by Edwards.**

Other

Carr, John Dick. [The Crooked Hinge](#) (Norton \$15.95). Carr (1906–1977) is at his best in this creepy and baffling entry in the American Mystery Classics series, originally published in 1938. The lives of Sir John Farnleigh and his wife are upended when a stranger using the name Patrick Gore appears at their Kent estate and claims that he's the real Sir John. Gore alleges that as a child he was on the Titanic with another boy, who used the ocean liner's sinking as a cover to attack him and steal his identity. Gore later believed his assailant and fellow survivor was dead, until learning that the imposter was posing as Sir John. Sir John's tutor, Kennet Murray, who knew him well as a boy, quizzes Gore, but before Murray can give his opinion as to the man's veracity, someone's throat is slashed. Gideon Fell, Carr's series detective, investigates the murder, the related question of who is the real Sir John, and allegations of witchcraft at the estate. This is an all-time classic by an author scrupulous about playing fair with his readers. Golden age fans won't want to miss it.

Christie, Agatha. [Murder, She Said: The Quotable Miss Marple](#) (Harper \$16.99). A beautifully designed collection of charming quotations that showcase the wit and wisdom of the Golden Age sleuth.

Koestler, Arthur. [Darkness at Noon](#) (Scribner \$13). The newly discovered lost text of Arthur Koestler's modern masterpiece, *Darkness at Noon*—the haunting portrait of a revolutionary, imprisoned and tortured under totalitarian rule—is now restored and in a completely new translation of the Hungarian-American author's masterpiece. In print continually since 1940, *Darkness at Noon* has been translated into over 30 languages and is both a stirring novel and a classic anti-fascist text. Up to now, all existing versions are based on a hastily made English translation of the original German by a novice translator at the outbreak of World War II. In 2015, Matthias Weßel stumbled across an entry in the archives of the Zurich Central Library that is a scholar's dream: "Koestler, Arthur. Rubaschow: Roman. Typoskript, März 1940, 326 pages." What he had found was Arthur Koestler's original, complete German manuscript, thought to have been irrevocably lost in the turmoil of the war. With this new English translation direct from the primary German manuscript, we can now for the first time read *Darkness at Noon* as Koestler wrote it. Set in the 1930s at the height of the purge and show trials of a Stalinist Moscow, *Darkness at Noon* is a haunting portrait of an aging revolutionary, Nicholas Rubashov, who is imprisoned,

tortured, and forced through a series of hearings by the Party to which he has dedicated his life. As the pressure to confess preposterous crimes increases, he re-lives a career that embodies the terrible ironies and betrayals of a merciless totalitarian movement masking itself as an instrument of deliverance. Koestler's portrayal of Stalin-era totalitarianism and fascism is as chilling and resonant today as it was in the 1940s.

Sayers, Dorothy. [Gaudy Night](#) (\$10). Now available as a limited Olive Edition from Harper Perennial, this favorite Sayers takes mystery writer Harriet Vane to Oxford University to attend her Oxford reunion at the all-women Shrewsbury College, known as the Gaudy. The prim academic setting is haunted by a rash of bizarre pranks: scrawled obscenities, burnt effigies, and poison-pen letters, including one that says, "Ask your boyfriend with the title if he likes arsenic in his soup." Some of the notes threaten murder; all are perfectly ghastly; yet in spite of their scurrilous nature, all are perfectly worded. And Harriet finds herself ensnared in a nightmare of romance and terror, with only the tiniest shreds of clues to challenge her powers of detection, and those of her suitor, the dashing private investigator Lord Peter Wimsey. Set in 1935, 10th in the Lord Peter Wimseys and the third where he courts Harriet, and reread many times by me and countless Sayers fans.

CONSIDER THE BODY

Appel, Jacob M. [Who Says You're Dead? Medical & Ethical Dilemmas for the Curious & Concerned](#) (Algonquin \$23.95). Drawing upon the author's two decades of teaching medical ethics at America's top universities and medical schools and his work as a practicing psychiatrist, this innovative book asks readers, when faced with complex, unsettling scenarios readers, What would you do? Is it ethical for an insured woman to pose as her uninsured twin in order to obtain lifesaving medical attention for her? A couple wants to conceive a deaf baby, which is now possible via medical technology, but should this be allowed? A young man wants to donate a kidney to his father, but a tissue match reveals that he is actually not the biological son. Should this information be revealed to either father or son? A mentally disabled man says no to a medical procedure that could save the life of his brother. Should he be forced?

Bryson, Bill. [The Body: A Guide for Occupants](#) (Knopf \$30). "A fascinating look at the human body and how it functions. Each historical tidbit is well-researched and thoroughly cited. Interesting stories, such as how diseases, cells, nerves, and organs were discovered, are woven throughout. For readers who like narrative nonfiction such as *Gulp* by Mary Roach, *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande, and *Guts* by Giulia Enders. I think [Gawande's medical nonfictions](#) are fabulous!!

Sedgwick, Marcus. [Snowflake, AZ](#) (Norton \$18.95). Ash boards a Greyhound bus heading to the place where Bly was last seen: Snowflake, Arizona. Six thousand feet up in the wide red desert, Ash meets Mona, her dog, her goat, and her neighbors, and finds stepbrother Bly, too. In their ramshackle homes, the walls lined with tinfoil, almost all the residents of Snowflake are sick. But this isn't any ordinary sickness: the chemicals and technologies of modern life are poisoning them. They call themselves canaries, living warning signs that humans have pushed the environment too far, except no one seems to be taking their warnings seriously. The healthy "normies" of Snowflake have written them off as a bunch of eccentrics, and when Ash too falls ill, the doctor's

response is “It’s all in your mind.” *Snowflake, AZ* contemplates illness and health—both our own and our planet’s in this provocative work of nonfiction.

Wiltshire, Patricia. [The Nature of Life and Death](#) (Putnam \$27). Every body leaves a trace and this volume, “Tales of a Forensic Ecologist,” tells us more. From mud tracks on a quiet country road to dirt specks on the soles of walking boots, forensic ecologist Patricia Wiltshire uses her decades of scientific expertise to find often-overlooked clues left behind by criminal activity. She detects evidence and eliminates hypotheses armed with little more than a microscope, eventually developing a compelling thesis of the who, what, how, and when of a crime. Her blend of science writing and true-crime narrative explores the valuable but often shocking interface between crime and nature—and the secrets each can reveal about the other—from a pioneer in forensic ecology and a trailblazing female scientist. For fans of Kathy Reichs, Dr. Bill Bass, and such.

LAST INTERVIEWS

Melville House is doing a series of last interviews and other conversations. Here are two

[Anthony Bourdain: The Last Interview](#) (\$16.99)

[Graham Greene: The Last Interview](#) (\$16.99).

AND A DOWNTON ABBEY REBIRTH

Carnarvon, Fiona. [Christmas at Highclere](#) (Random \$249.95) is a look behind the scenes at the routines and rituals that make the castle used as Downton Abbey a magical place at the holidays. The Countess will guide you through Advent, Christmas preparations and Christmas Eve all the way through to the day itself, and beyond. Learn how the castle and grounds are transformed by decorations, including the raising of a twenty-foot tree in the saloon, the gathering of holly and mistletoe from the grounds. All the intricacies of the perfect traditional Christmas are here—from crackers and carol singers. The festive feeling is carried through to Highclere’s Boxing Day traditions, the restorative middle days, and the New Year’s Eve celebrations.

Fellowes, Jessica/Julian. [Downton Abbey: A Celebration](#) (St Martins \$22.99) The official companion to all six seasons of TV.

Fellowes, Julian. [The Official Downton Abbey Cocktail Book](#) (Weldon Owen \$25). Cocktails were introduced in the drawing rooms of *Downton Abbey* in the 1920s, when US prohibition inspired the insurgence and popularity of American-style bars and bartenders in Britain. This selection of recipes is organized by the rooms in the Abbey in which the drinks were served and spans everyday sips to party drinks plus hangover helpers and more. In addition to classic concoctions like a Mint Julep, Prince of Wales Punch, and Ginger Beer, this collection features character-specific variations such as Downton Heir, Turkish Attaché, The Valet, and The Chauffeur. The recipes reflect drinks concocted and served upstairs and down, as well as libations from village fairs, cocktail parties, and restaurant menus typical of the time. Features 40+ color photographs, including drink images photographed on the set of *Downton Abbey*. Imbibe some history with the drinks.

Gray, Annie/Gareth Neame. [The Official Downton Abbey Cookbook](#) (Weldon Owen \$35) presents over 100 recipes that showcase the cookery and customs of the Crawley household—from upstairs dinner party centerpieces to downstairs puddings and

pies—and bring an authentic slice of *Downton Abbey* to modern kitchens and *Downton* fans. Whether adapted from original recipes of the period, replicated as seen or alluded to on screen, or typical of the time, all the recipes reflect the influences found on the Abbey tables. Food historian Annie Gray gives a rich and fascinating insight into the background of the dishes that were popular between 1912 and 1926, when *Downton Abbey* is set—a period of tremendous change and conflict, as well as culinary development. With a foreword by Gareth Neame, executive producer and co-creator of the series, and featuring over 100 stunning color photographs, *The Downton Abbey Cookbook* also includes a special section on hosting Downton-themed dinner parties and presents stills from across the TV series as well as the latest film. Notes on the etiquette and customs of the times, quotes from the characters, and descriptions of the scenes in which the foods appear provide vivid context for the dishes. It’s almost a *Mrs. Beeton* for the period.

Marriott, Emma/Julian Fellowes. [Downton Abbey: The Official Film Companion](#) (St Martins \$29.99). The official guide to the feature film.

HORRORS!

Arden, Katherine. [The Winter of the Witch](#) (Del Rey \$17). Vasilisa Petrovna’s gifts and her courage have drawn the attention of Morozko, the winter-king, but it is too soon to know if this connection will prove a blessing or a curse. Now Moscow has been struck by disaster. Its people are searching for answers—and for someone to blame. Vasya finds herself alone, beset on all sides. The Grand Prince is in a rage, choosing allies that will lead him on a path to war and ruin. A wicked demon returns, determined to spread chaos. Caught at the center of the conflict is Vasya, who finds the fate of two worlds resting on her shoulders. Her destiny uncertain, Vasya will uncover surprising truths about herself as she desperately tries to save Russia, Morozko, and the magical world she treasures. Book Three after [The Bear and the Nightingale](#) and [The Girl in the Tower](#).

Bardugo, Leigh. [Ninth House](#) (See Signed Books). Alex has always been able to see ghosts, and this talent uniquely qualifies her to become part of the Lethe, a group that regulates the eight magical societies at Yale. When a murder happens nearby the campus, Alex suspects that a society has their hand in this and it’s not just a normal homicide. For fans of urban fantasy and secret societies.

Barker, JD. [Dracul](#) (\$16). The prequel to *Dracula*, inspired by notes and texts left behind by the author of the classic novel, *Dracul* is a supernatural thriller that reveals not only *Dracula*’s true origins but Bram Stoker’s—and the tale of the enigmatic woman who connects them. It begins in 1868 when a twenty-one-year-old Bram Stoker waits in a desolate tower to face an indescribable evil. Armed only with crucifixes, holy water, and a rifle, he prays to survive a single night, the longest of his life. Desperate to record what he has witnessed, Bram scribbles down the events that led him here.... For the real deal on *Dracula* go with Leslie L. Klinger and Neil Gaiman’s [New Annotated Dracula](#) (Norton \$39.95), Signed for us October 3.

Chbosky, Stephen. [Imaginary Friend](#) (Grand Central \$30). Christopher and his mom run from an abusive boyfriend and seek peace and quiet in a new town. Instead, Christopher becomes agitated and sneaks out at night, doing anything a ‘nice man’

tells him to do. The Indie Next Pick: “*Imaginary Friend* has, in my humble opinion, already earned its spot on the top shelf of classic horror novels. Reminiscent of Stephen King’s *It* and Neil Gaiman’s *Coraline*, it is one of the most compulsively terrifying, eerily uncanny novels of our time. Once you pick up this book, you won’t put it down until you’ve devoured it whole (or, should I say, it has devoured you), and once finished, you will feel the dangerous urge to turn to the first page and start all over again. It is an utterly original masterpiece of fear. Thank you, Stephen Chbosky, for the lost sleep and the goosebumps! Signed, a hard-to-scare horror fanatic.” This is pure horror, a classic battle of good and evil, and a must for fans of Stephen King, Joe Hill, and Paul Tremblay.

Datlow, Ellen, ed. [Best Horror of the Year](#) (Nightshade \$15.95). With each passing year, science, technology, and the march of time shine light into the craggy corners of the universe, making the fears of an earlier generation seem quaint. But this light creates its own shadows. The Best Horror of the Year chronicles these shifting shadows. It is a catalog of terror, fear, and unpleasantness as articulated by today’s most challenging and exciting writers including Laird Barron and Joe Hill.

Del Toro, Guillermo/Cornelia Funke. [The Labyrinth of the Faun](#) (Harper \$19.99). Inspired by the Oscar-winning film *Pan’s Labyrinth*, a haunting, sinister tale taking you to a darkly magical, war-torn place filled with trickster fauns, murderous soldiers, child-eating monsters, courageous rebels, and a long-lost princess hoping to be reunited with her family. A brilliant collaboration between masterful storytellers that’s not to be missed. Love the book’s design. And also, as Funke writes, what happens if a writer is asked to reverse the process of translating words to the screen by turning her favorite movie into words? She didn’t follow the script. Instead she watched the movie over and over and questioned del Toro.

Hamill, Shaun. [A Cosmology of Monsters](#) (Pantheon \$26.95). The Indie Next Pick again: “When is the last time a horror novel was both scary and charming? *A Cosmology of Monsters* is that book! Riffing on themes from H.P. Lovecraft and Ray Bradbury, Hamill weaves a complex tale of lost cities, haunted Halloween attractions, and doorways to other worlds. I really enjoyed this literary horror story, which starts out as a love story (don’t ALL good horror tales?) and grows progressively creepier. The book posits the questions: Who are the real monsters, and why do we love to be scared? Truly an uber-creepy yet delightful homage. I loved it.”

Hunt, Laird. [In the House in the Dark of the Woods](#) (\$14.99). “More horror-fantasy than historical fiction...[it] takes off at a full gallop and never looks back. In just over 200 pages, Hunt evokes countless stories embedded in the American consciousness, from Grimms’ fairy tales to Washington Irving’s creepy stories of the early 1800s and fashions an edge-of-the-seat experience more akin to watching a horror movie. Don’t go in the cellar! Don’t eat that pig meat! Darkness is everywhere. And never assume you can trust the narrator. So prepare yourself. This is a perfect book to read when you’re safely tucked in your home, your back to the wall, while outside your door the wind rips the leaves from the trees and the woods grow dark.”—*NY Times Book Review*

Jacobs, John Hornor. [A Lush and Seething Hell](#) (Harper \$19.99). Bringing together his acclaimed novella *The Sea Dreams It Is the*

Sky and an all-new short novel *My Heart Struck Sorrow*, Jacobs turns his fertile imagination to mixing the psychological and supernatural, blending the acute insight of Roberto Bolaño and the eerie imagination of H. P. Lovecraft. *The Sea Dreams It Is the Sky* examines life in a South American dictatorship. Centered on the journal of a poet-in-exile and his failed attempts at translating a maddening text, it is told by a young woman trying to come to grips with a country that nearly devoured itself. In *My Heart Struck Sorrow*, a Library of Congress librarian working in 100-year-old folk songs and murder ballads discovers a recording from the Deep South—which may be the musical stylings of the Devil himself. In his Foreword, Chuck Wendig writes, “These may be compared to Lovecraft but there is a better relationship to a more modern master, Clive Barker, who has none of Lovecraft’s bigoted trappings.” Plus Jacob’s “view of madness and descent is stranger and more nuanced.”

Klinger, Leslie S. [Ghost Stories: Classic Tales of Horror and Suspense](#) (Norton \$25.95) “. . .the ghost stories in this collection are as enjoyable now as they were for the Victorians. Some of my favorite 19th- and early-20th-century writers—Edith Wharton, Edgar Allan Poe, Wilkie Collins—are found in this collection, along with Charles Dickens, Henry James, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Sir Walter Scott and a slew of other well-known authors. But the real fun of reading this book was in discovering writers I had not known before.”—*NY Times Book Review*. This volume too can be Signed October 3.

McLaughlin, Rhett/Link Neal. [The Lost Causes of Bleak Creek](#) (Crown \$26). The creators of the YouTube hit “Good Mythical Morning” draw on their childhoods in Buies Creek, NC, to tell the darkly funny story of two best friends fighting the sinister forces at the heart of their very Southern town, 1992 Bleak Creek, NC—forces that seem to emanate from the town’s notorious reformatory, The Whitewood School, with its cherished record of putting unruly teens on the straight and narrow. At first the two teen besties believe the deaths were all just tragic accidents, spurred by Marlboro Lights and Nirvana, but then the shoot for their low-budget masterpiece “PolterDog” goes horribly awry.... Think of this as a supernatural thriller allied to the growing 1990s nostalgia trend.

Racculia, Kate. [Tuesday Mooney Talks to Ghosts](#) (Houghton \$26). Engaging characters set off to follow the mysterious clues of the will of an elderly, wealthy eccentric for a chance at winning the grand prize. Young grief and loss, family guilt, secrets, and hilarity are featured throughout. Plus: ghosts! For readers who liked *The Bookshop of Yesterdays* by Amy Meyerson and *Lost and Found* by Carolyn Parkhurst.” The Indie Next Pick: “Tuesday Mooney is smart, intrepid, and just a little bit lost—even 20 years after her best friend disappears without a trace. A prospect researcher by trade, she dives in deep when a strange and reclusive billionaire dies and leaves puzzles throughout the city in an elaborate treasure hunt. While this fun and affecting book could have won me over just by being a romp, there is more here. Tuesday and her compatriots are all forced to confront the traumas that have stunted their lives and find new strength in their relationships. I couldn’t have asked for more!”

Walker, Suzanne/Wendy Wu. [Mooncakes](#) (Lion Forge \$14.99). A graphic novel for teens, a story of love and demons, family and witchcraft. The magic is inventive and the romance feels authen-

tic. Nova Huang knows more about magic than your average teen witch. She works at her grandmothers' bookshop, where she helps them loan out spell books and investigate any supernatural occurrences in their New England town. One fateful night, she follows reports of a white wolf into the woods, and she comes across the unexpected: her childhood crush, Tam Lang, battling a horse demon in the woods. As a werewolf, Tam has been wandering from place to place for years, unable to call any town home. Pursued by dark forces eager to claim the magic of wolves and out of options, Tam turns to Nova for help. Their latent feelings are rekindled against the backdrop of witchcraft, untested magic, occult rituals, and family ties both new and old. Try this for older Trick or Treaters—you can add chocolate.

Winterson, Jean. [Frankissstein](#) (Grove \$27). There is probably no novel written in English with a more well-known origin story than *Frankenstein*. The scene of that work's conception—Lake Geneva, 1816—is where Winterson begins her reimagining of science fiction's ur-text. Mary Shelley herself is the narrator. Keenly observant, sensitive without being fragile, and utterly unashamed of her own sexuality, Winterson's Shelley is a brilliant creation. The contemporary author, being well versed in the gothic tropes that her predecessor deployed, plays with doubles and doppelgängers throughout, and her second narrator, Ry Shelley, is an echo both of Mary Shelley and the monster who is the invention of Mary Shelley's invention. Ry, given the name Mary at birth, identifies as trans and works for a company devoted to cryogenics—to restoring the dead to life. It's in this capacity that he meets Victor Stein, the "high-functioning madman" who will become his lover. Victor is famous as an expert in artificial intelligence. But Ry discovers that Victor has other—messier—pursuits as well.

"A riotous reimagining with an energy and passion all of its own that reanimates *Frankenstein* as a cautionary tale for a contemporary moment dominated by debates about Brexit, gender, artificial intelligence and medical experimentation... While the story has a gripping momentum of its own, it also fizzles with ideas."—*Financial Times*

OUR OCTOBER LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Baldacci, David. [Redemption](#) (\$16.99). 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 exist to a new crime—one he may be able to prevent....

Berney, Lou. [November Road](#) (\$15.99). Street lieutenant to New Orleans mob boss Carlos Marcello, Frank Guidry runs fast when John F. Kennedy is assassinated; he's just been to Dallas for Marcello, whose associates are now ending up dead. Heading for Las Vegas to disappear, he stops to help a beautiful woman who's leaving her drunk husband, with daughters and dog in tow. "This superior novel from Edgar winner Lou Berney melds crime fiction with a tale about people reinventing themselves, played out during a cross-country automobile trip... An emotional story about the power of love and redemption through sacrifice with the backdrop of a crucial historical moment."—*Associated Press*.

Casey, Donis. [The Wrong Girl](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.99). "With both wit and her trademark warmth, Casey serves up the story of Bianca, the eighth child of Alafair Tucker, who flees her native Oklahoma for glamorous Hollywood in the 1920s. Clever, resilient, and agile, Bianca makes her way into films, but en route she meets a broad cast of characters, including a sleazy villain and a group of spirited, quirky women, all deftly drawn. The reader is transported to the 1920s Southwest, both seedy and sparkly, and it's a thoroughly enjoyable ride!"—Karen Odden. A Starred Review is coming from *Booklist* mid-October and Casey can sign this here October 29. See Signed Books.

Gates, Eva. [Read and Buried](#) (Crippen \$26.99). Workmen who are excavating around the foundations of the lighthouse in Nags Head, N.C., discover a tin box containing a leather-bound diary dating from the Civil War era, along with a couple of loose sheets of paper and a mysterious map of the Outer Banks. The find has the entire town dreaming of buried treasure. Within minutes, librarian Lucy Richardson and the library staff are fending off squabbling scholars and members of the local historical society. An exasperated Bertie James, the library director, orders the historians to leave and locks the box in her desk for the night. After dinner, Lucy returns to find the front door open, the map gone, and a man lying dead on the floor of Bertie's office. Gates provides loads of eccentric and amusing suspects, shifting motives for the theft and for the murder, and a surprising solution to the mystery contained in the map. "Cozy fans looking for good, fast-paced fun will be rewarded"

Hackwith, A J. [The Library of the Unwritten](#) (Ace \$16). "The ideas of books never actually written possess dangerous potential and power. They are kept in the Library of the Unwritten in Hell. Determined librarians tend the library keeping watch for escaped characters, angels and demons. For fans of Genevieve Cogman or Neil Gaiman and a hellish version of Jasper Fforde's *The Eyre Affair* and sequels."

Hallinan, Timothy. [Nighttown](#) (\$15.95). Junior Bender, L.A. burglar/investigator, has worked on the wrong side of the law for more than 20 years. He's desperate for money to help his girlfriend, Ronnie Bigelow. Ronnie's two-year-old son, Eric, has been taken from her by the boy's father, "a New Jersey mob doctor," and Junior needs major funds to pull off his plan to reunite Eric with his mother. Junior agrees to break into a house last occupied by the late Daisy Horton, a nonagenarian known as the "Cruella de Vil of fading Los Angeles gentility," to retrieve a doll for an unidentified client. Junior comes up empty, as does the rival seeking the same item he encounters in the creepy Horton house. Junior's lack of success, combined with the murder of the other burglar shortly after she leaves the premises, leads Junior to seek the truth behind his commission and its connection with what he did find—rare first editions, including an autographed copy of Conan Doyle's *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*.

Lethem, Jonathan, ed. [Best American Mystery Stories 2019](#) (Houghton \$15.95). Lethem, author of [Motherless Brooklyn](#) (a new movie) and [The Feral Detective](#), presents readers with 2019's best short crime and mystery fiction the year has had to offer.

⌘Lodge, Gytha. [She Lies in Wait](#) (\$17). This debut is not a Domestic Suspense novel but a detection conducted by a Southampton DCI. He gets the case when bones are uncovered in Brinken

Wood in the New Forest. They are not fresh. Jonah Sheens, who tirelessly worked the haunting case of the missing 14-year-old Aurora Jackson, is certain Aurora has now been found. The secluded location suggests that the prime suspects remain the same tight circle of family and friends who were in the woods that night, six people who have never quite moved on and whose friendship has eroded. Lodge smoothly intercuts the present-day police probe (including whip-sharp recent transfer DC Juliette Hanson and other team members) with flashbacks to the last day of Aurora's life as seen through her eyes. And we learn the enigmatic Sheens has his own secrets. "Sheens and his team are compassionate, clever, and likable, each with a story that will, we assume, be developed in later books. Despite the small list of suspects, the mystery intrigues and twists, offering enough red herrings and moments of police procedural to please fans..."—*Kirkus Starred Review* for our January 2019 British Crime Club Book of the Month in hardcover.

Lyons, Jenn. [The Ruin of Kings](#) (\$17.99). A Chorus of Dragons #1. "It's impossible not to be impressed with the ambition of it all, the sheer, effervescent joy Lyons takes in the scope of her project . . . a larger-than-life adventure story about thieves, wizards, assassins and kings to dwell in for a good long while.... Lyons's door-stopping debut... is the story of a young man called Kihrin, as told by three narrators: Kihrin himself, imprisoned and speaking into a magical stone that records his words; his jailer, Talon, a shape-shifting creature who can read minds, speaking into the same magical stone; and a scholar named Thurvishar D'Lorus, who has transcribed and footnoted the stone's recordings... In addition to maintaining that 'but how did they get here' tension, the story-swapping makes for short, snappy chapters that put me in mind of the adage about the best way to eat an elephant."—*NY Times*. Lyons joins us on November 8 to sign A Chorus of Dragons #2, [The Name of All Things](#) (\$26.99).

Mizushima, Margaret. [Burning Ridge](#) (\$16.99). When veterinarian Cole Walker and his two young daughters go for a trail ride in Mizushima's agreeable fourth Timber Creek K-9 mystery they make a gruesome discovery: a man's charred boot with a decomposing foot still in it. Deputy Mattie Cobb of the Timber Creek, Colo., sheriff's office and her canine partner, Robo, go looking for the rest of the body. Once they find it, the victim turns out to have a personal link to Mattie's own troubled past. She and her brother were separated as small children after their father went to prison for assaulting their mother, who later abandoned them. Mattie's interactions with her colleagues and friends, particularly with Cole, to whom she's romantically attracted, ring true. Robo, meanwhile, comes across as a real dog without any of the anthropomorphic characteristics that many genre authors impose upon animals. Readers will be fascinated to learn how search dogs are trained and to see one in action. Mizushima delivers a sufficiently complicated plot, well-developed interpersonal relationships, awe-inspiring landscape descriptions, and some excruciatingly vivid action. Mizushima signs the sequel, [Tracking Game](#) (\$26.99), here November 17.

Rademacher, Cay. [Deadly Camargue](#) (\$17.99). Ably capturing France's Provence region, Rademacher has crafted a curious second mystery after [Murderous Mistral](#) (\$16.99) set in an unusual world and the Van Gogh element provides a delightful twist in the mystery. "Police captain Roger Blanc, abruptly exiled from

Paris, has made some headway with the stubborn provincials in his new district, but their obstinacy is slow to dissipate. When an escaped bull gores a man to death in the Camargue, a rugged region in Blanc's new bailiwick, he's called to investigate. Blanc's suspicion that he faces a case of murder comes up against local skepticism. Even his partner, Marius Tonon, believes the death was an accident. The bull's breeder, Aurélien Ferréol, insists that the gate to the meadow where the bull was kept was always locked. The victim, Albert Cohen, was a high-profile journalist and TV pundit with a history of cocaine abuse. At the time of his death, Cohen, who already had many enemies, was working on an especially scandalous new story. Blanc's investigation proceeds slowly, the better to spar verbally with intransigent locals and disdainful acquaintances of the victim. A break in the case comes via a "bicycle bullfighter." His speculations take Blanc away from his initial theory of the crime, revenge for Cohen's published work, and introduce a new array of suspects. "Rademacher's vivid descriptions of the landscape, the pleasures of French food, and the history of van Gogh's time in the south add to the story's appeal." For fans of Jean-Luc Bannalec's delightful [Brittany Mysteries](#). Not to mention the ML Longworth [Provençal Mysteries](#) and [Death in Provence](#) by Serena Kent.

Rosenfelt, David. [Deck the Hounds](#) (\$16.99). In Edgar-finalist Rosenfelt's enchanting Christmas-themed 18th mystery featuring Paterson, N.J., attorney Andy Carpenter, Andy's wife, Laurie, urges him to offer their garage apartment to a homeless veteran, Don Carrigan, and his dog. When Carrigan is arrested for murder, Andy takes the case (and the dog), even though he isn't sure of his client's innocence. The ensuing investigation uncovers links to a sniper working in the area and to a complex, chilling plot that threatens not only Carrigan's future but others' lives, including Andy's. Along with his trademark courtroom twists, Rosenfelt provides a compassionate look at the plight of veterans suffering from PTSD. Series fans will appreciate the chance to catch up with Andy's family, dogs, and investigative team, while new readers will find this feel-good tale a good introduction to the series. Plenty of humor, a passion for animal rescue, and a healthy dose of Christmas cheer, courtesy of Laurie, make this the perfect holiday gift for animal lovers. For the sequel, this year's treat with dachshunds, see Signed Books.

✂Thomas, Will. [Blood is Blood](#) (\$17.99). Thomas Llewelyn, former Oxford student, convict, etc, and for the past six years assistant to private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker, is finally going to wed the widow Rebecca and hope that her Jewish family will learn to accept him. He is scared this luck will fail him. And he hates Mondays. And sure enough this one blows up on him—literally. Someone bombs the Barker office premises and severely injures Cyrus. And then we learn from the banker next door that someone impersonating Cyrus has withdrawn nearly £5000. The next surprise is the appearance of Caleb Barker, Cyrus' Pinkerton Agent brother, from America. Is Caleb going to be an ally or should Thomas, on his own for now, heed Cyrus' warning about his brother. This is an excellent chapter in this series, lots of fun as well as clever. You can read it if you've never read one of the earlier gems by Thomas but should you not have I recommend you waste no time digging in. And ordering the sequel, [Lethal Pursuit](#) (\$29), Signed for us, in November.

BOOKISH BOOKS

Bernhard, Emilia. [The Books of the Dead](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). On the cozy side, when American sleuth Rachel Levis stumbles upon an employee of the French national library strangled in the bathroom of a cafe, she's not surprised to be asked to help with the investigation by her old acquaintance Capitaine Boussicault—after all, she and her best friend Magda solved a tricky murder only eighteen months before. But right from the start, this case proves to be *très difficile*. When Rachel goes undercover as a librarian to determine which of his book-loving colleagues loathed the man enough to kill him, the library is rocked by more bad news: a priceless antique book has been mutilated. And the very next day, her favorite suspect for the murder is found dead in the stacks. Just as the case is heating up, Boussicault pulls Rachel from the investigation. Undeterred, she and Magda decide to forge ahead with their own investigation—even if it could put them at odds with the police and in serious danger. With evidence and suspects piling up, it will be up to them to find the culprit—and stop more innocent books from being harmed in the second in the [Death in Paris](#) series

✠Ellis, Bella. [The Vanished Bride](#) (Bloomsbury \$26). A debut featuring the Victorian Bronte sisters, authors all three, as sleuths. See Some New Books below for more. This isn't a biblio-plot but as with Stephanie Barron's [Jane Austen Mysteries](#), Ed Ifkovic's [Edna Ferber Mysteries](#), and Nicola Upson's with Golden Age Mystery star [Josephine Tey](#) whose latest, [Sorry for the Dead](#), evokes Tey's [The Franchise Affair](#), the lead investigators are authors and books naturally come into play. For Charles Dickens, see below.

Freudenberger, Nina. [Bibliostyle: How We Live at Home with Books](#) (Clarkson Potter \$35). An inspiration for every bibliophile with a growing home library, this dream-and-drool design book features some of the most jaw-dropping book collections of homeowners around the world. Interior designer Freudenberger, *New Yorker* writer Sadie Stein, and *Architectural Digest* photographer Shade Degges give readers a peek at the private libraries and bookshelves of passionate readers all over the world, including Larry McMurtry, Silvia Whitman of Shakespeare and Co., Gay and Nan Talese, and Emma Straub. Throughout, gorgeous photographs of rooms with rare collections, floor-to-ceiling shelves, and stacks upon stacks of books inspire readers to live better with their own collections.

Giacobone, Nicolas. [The Crossed-Out Notebook](#) (Scribner \$25). From the Academy Award-winning, Argentine co-writer of *Birdman*, a wonderfully eccentric, suspenseful debut about a screenwriter kidnapped by a world-famous director who orders him to compose a masterpiece. Pablo, the narrator, has written two uncredited scripts for acclaimed director Santiago in his ill-lit basement. The stakes are higher for the third script, which gun-wielding Santiago insists must be a world-beating classic; Jack Nicholson, Meryl Streep, and Sean Penn are attached. But Pablo's writer's block is acute, and he's increasingly resentful of Santiago, who won't give him a writing credit and delivers lame critiques of the script in progress... "Will Pablo deliver a masterpiece? Can he escape Santiago's clutches? Of course, that one's already been made (Stephen King's *Misery*), so Giacobone's story takes a more meandering, philosophical approach. The novel comprises the notebooks and encrypted Word files Pablo fills when he's not working on the script, stuffed with meditations on music (especially the Beatles), literature (especially Borges

and Beckett), and great scripts (Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus* in particular). Via Pablo, Giacobone eagerly explores the nature of inspiration and film's essence as a collaborative art. But he also keeps the prose breezy; much of the novel is delivered in snappy, witty one-sentence paragraphs. And he assuredly ratchets up the tension as Pablo's deadline approaches."—*Kirkus Reviews*

Hackwith, A J. [The Library of the Unwritten](#) (Ace \$16). "The ideas of books never actually written possess dangerous potential and power. They are kept in the Library of the Unwritten in Hell. Determined librarians tend the library keeping watch for escaped characters, angels and demons.

Hallinan, Timothy. [Nighttown](#) (\$15.95). Junior Bender, L.A. burglar/investigator, breaks into an LA home on commission and finds rare first editions, including an autographed copy of Conan Doyle's *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. See Our October Large Paperback Picks for more.

Harrow, Alix E. [The Ten Thousand Doors of January](#) (Orbit \$27). In the early 1900s, a young woman embarks on a fantastical journey of self-discovery after finding a mysterious book in a sprawling mansion filled with peculiar treasures, January Scaller is a curiosity herself. As the ward of the wealthy Mr. Locke, she feels little different from the artifacts that decorate the halls: carefully maintained, largely ignored, and utterly out of place. Then she finds a strange book. A book that carries the scent of other worlds, and tells a tale of secret doors, of love, adventure and danger. Each page turn reveals impossible truths about the world and January discovers a story increasingly entwined with her own. Lush and richly imagined, a tale of impossible journeys, unforgettable love, and the enduring power of stories awaits in this spellbinding debut.

Lillard, Amy. [Can't Judge a Book by Its Murder](#) (Sourcebooks \$7.99). Main Street Book Club #1. See the Small Paperback section below for more on this Cozy Crime.

Orlean, Susan. [The Library Book](#) (\$16.99). On the morning of April 28, 1986, a fire alarm sounded in the Los Angeles Public Library. The fire was disastrous: it reached two thousand degrees and burned for more than seven hours. By the time it was extinguished, it had consumed four hundred thousand books and damaged seven hundred thousand more. Investigators descended on the scene, but more than thirty years later, the mystery remains: Did someone purposefully set fire to the library—and if so, who? Weaving her lifelong love of books and reading into an investigation of the fire, Orlean delivers a "delightful...reflection on the past, present, and future of libraries in America." This *New York Times* Notable Book is "a sheer delight...as rich in insight and as varied as the treasures contained on the shelves in any local library." "Everybody who loves books should check out *The Library Book*."—*Washington Post*

Parry, H.G. [The Unlikely Escape of Uriah Heep](#) (Orbit \$27 Signed). We're down to 10 of 100 copies signed by the debut New Zealand author. It's a lovely bibliofantasy evoking characters from Dickens and other classics featuring a young scholar with the power to bring literary characters into the world, for fans of *The Magicians*, *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore*, and *The Invisible Library Booklist* joins me in the love with its Starred Review: "Fun, witty, and full of insights about the powerful effect of stories on our lives, this book is highly recommended. Give it to readers who devoured Jasper Fforde, Jim C. Hines'

Libriomancer (2012), and Genevieve Cogman's *The Invisible Library* (2016), and to readers looking for adventurous fantasy with a soupçon of family drama. Mike Chen calls it, "A rollicking adventure that thrills like Neil Gaiman's *Neverwhere* mashed up with *Penny Dreadful* in the best post-modern way. Equal parts sibling rivalry, crackling mystery, and Dickensian battle royal, it'll be one of your most fun reads this year."

I like this quote most of all from an author featured in this section: "If you've ever checked the backs of your wardrobe for snow and lamp-light — if you've ever longed to visit Pemberley House or 221B Baker Street, to battle the Jabberwock or wander through a fictional London fog — this book belongs to you. It's a star-studded literary tour and a tangled mystery and a reflection on reading itself; it's a pure delight."—Alix E. Harrow

Wilson-Lee, Edward. [The Catalogue of Shipwrecked Books](#) (Scribner \$30). Here's a reminder of a brilliant adventure with Christopher Columbus but more focused on his illegitimate son Hernando who embarked on a quixotic but brilliantly realized quest to build not only the greatest library of the print age but a cataloguing system for retrieval. Traveling with dad on his final voyage to the New World, after dad's death in 1506 Hernando sought to continue the endeavor to explore the boundaries of the known world by building a collection comprising everything ever printed—a task less arduous then. He did organize the material through summaries and catalogues and devised the first search engine. Another maritime disaster in 1525 pushed him to race time to realize his near-impossible vision. Loads of history, rousing adventure, and things of librarians' and bibliophiles' dreams make this gem a terrific gift book as well as one to dip in and out of yourself.

✚Wingate, Marty. [The Bodies in the Library](#) (Berkley \$26). Our **October Cozy Crimes Pick** continues with the Agatha Christie theme with this first in the First Edition Library Mysteries. It lacks the ace plotting of Christie but makes up for it with its references to British Golden Age classics. For more see Some New Books below.

SOME NEW BOOKS FOR OCTOBER

Abramo, J L. [Crossing the Chicken](#) (Down and Out Books \$12.95). San Francisco. Late September, 2004. The Giants are hanging on to the slim hope of a spot in the Major League baseball playoffs. The Forty-Niners are hoping for their first win of the season after three losses. Vinnie "Strings" Stradivarius is in the intensive care ward at St. Francis Memorial Hospital—and Jake Diamond is hoping Vinnie will both survive and avoid a homicide indictment if he pulls through. Vinnie has been double-crossed, shot and left for dead at a crime scene, and he is the chief suspect in the murder of one of the city's most influential businessmen. Anyone who knows Vinnie knew he wouldn't hurt a fly. But the District Attorney and the San Francisco Police Department brass don't know him—and they don't care. Pressure from the Mayor's Office and the public is calling for a quick indictment and conviction—and Vinnie is handy. Jake Diamond has a strong dislike of the double-cross. If asked why the chicken crossed the road, Jake would suggest the road had crossed the chicken. In Abramo's first Jake Diamond mystery since the Shamus Award-winning *Circling the Runway*, Jake is determined to prove that you cross the chicken at your own risk. "One of my all-time favorite PI series." —Steve Hamilton

Alexander, Ellie. [Beyond a Reasonable Stout](#) (St Martins \$26.99). It's the dead season in Leavenworth, Washington. The throngs of Oktoberfest crowds have headed home, and the charming Bavarian streets are quiet and calm—momentarily. Villagers use the reprieve to drink in the crisp fall mountain air and prepare for the upcoming winter light festival. Soon the German-inspired shops and restaurants will be aglow with thousands of twinkling lights. Brewer, Sloan Krause and her partner in crime Garrett Strong are using the slowdown to stock up on a new line of their signature craft beers at Nitro. They're experimenting with a hoppy holiday pine and a chocolate hazelnut stout. She loves the creativity and low-key atmosphere at Nitro. Only that is soon threatened by the incumbent city councilmember Kristopher Cooper. Kristopher is running for re-election on a platform of making Leavenworth dry, thus ruining the local economy. Inevitably....

Block, Lawrence, ed. [From Sea to Stormy Sea: 17 Stories Inspired by Great American Paintings](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). Illustrated with the painting behind each story, this collection draws upon crime fiction authors Sara Paretsky, Jan Burke, Warren Moore, Patricia Abbott, Christa Faust, Jerome Charyn, Barry Malzberg, Scott Frank, Brendan DuBois, Tom Franklin, Gary Phillips, Charles Ardai, Micah Nathan, Janice Eidus, John Sandford, Jane Hamilton, and Block himself for an artful collection of...really kick ass...tales. The Sandford is fabulous, set in seedy LA where the death of a 99-year-old-neighbor jolts a struggling guitarist's life. The artist is Thomas Hart Benton. Paretsky writes an unsparing tale of hard lives on the Kansas Prairie linked to John Steuart Curry. Block takes on artist Rafael Soyler but Roy Lichtenstein intrudes. Other artists include Harvey Dunn, Reginald Marsh, Helen Frankenthaler, Winslow Homer, Rockwell Kent, Grant Wood, and Andy Warhol. This collection is a gem and a gift idea for a wide variety of readers including art fanciers.

Bolton, Ginger. [Goodbye Cruller World](#) (Kensington \$15.95). Like the "healthy" donuts Emily Westhill makes for persnickety life coach Vanessa Legghaupt's self-improvers' meeting, Bolton's sequel to *Survival of the Fritters* offers carob instead of chocolate. After loathsome Roger Banchen succumbs to an arsenic-dusted cruller at his wedding reception, cop's widow Emily, who owns the Fallingbrook, Wis., coffee shop Deputy Donut with her father-in-law, Tom, must exonerate his bride. "Food scenes tantalize with descriptions of single-origin coffees as well as classic and trendy donuts—solid recipes included. Those expecting much mystery and suspense may be left hungry."

Brown, Rita Mae. [Homeward Hound](#) (\$17). Virginian Brown writes this entry in her Sister Jane Arnold to extol the joys of hunting and horse fancying. Jane Arnold, the 70-something Master of Foxhounds for the Blue Ridge group, is surprised when her friend Ronnie, the club treasurer, mentions that he's bringing Gregory Luckham on their Christmas Day outing. Luckham has been a controversial figure as the head of Soliden, an energy firm building a pipeline that will be environmentally iffy and will also affect local property values—two big no-nos with most of the hunt crowd. The horse Luckham's been riding shows up solo when it's time to load up, but with snow-blind conditions, there's no way to look for the rider. When the others regroup to search for him, they can't believe what they find: no sign of Luckham, but the murdered body of someone else. What follows is a mix of fox hunting and looking for Luckham, though the possibility that he's alive becomes less likely with each passing hunt. Brown's love for her native turf and its sports shines.

Cabot, Meg. [No Judgments](#) (Morrow \$15.99). A heartbroken young woman hunkers down in the Florida Keys during a Category Five hurricane and goes on a quest to rescue stranded local pets. The Indie Next Pick: “Cabot delights again in this one-off romance about finding compassion for other people and for animals in the midst of natural disaster. Light and fun, this book is a joy to read, full of well-crafted prose, engaging characters, and a plot perfect for the times. Cabot’s fabulous escape into the written word will leave you with that warm fuzzy feeling and also some knowledge on how to prepare for a hurricane.”

Canadeo, Anne. [Hounds of the Basket Stitch](#) (Kensington \$26). The Black Sheep Knitters circle’s worst fears are realized when Holly is attacked in her greenhouse and the building set ablaze. Her sister Rose is found unconscious nearby, her dogs running wild. When she wakes, her memory is blank. Holly is hospitalized and unable to offer even a clue. The Black Sheep suspect a mysterious drifter who had talked his way into a few days of wages, and just as quickly, disappeared. Or was it their estranged half-brother, Toby, full of family grievances and eager to make a claim on the estate? Or, heaven forbid...was it Rose? Hovering over all these questions like an ominous shadow is a dark secret from the sisters’ past.

Carr, Brian Allan. [Opioid, Indiana](#) (Soho \$16). The Indie Next Pick: “You’ll read this book in one breathless sitting, but the story will stay with you. Riggle, the 17-year-old orphaned protagonist, is exactly what we all need. He’s on a deadline but out of cell phone data to search for answers. Toggling between his memory and the present, he must discern for himself what he feels, how he will survive, and how he will process his grief; in so doing, he is able to better empathize with everyone he encounters. Riggle is also very funny and filled with all of the wonderful contradictions that make us human. *Opioid, Indiana* is vulnerable and unflinching. It’s a beautiful, original story.”

Chiaverini, Jen. [Christmas Boutique](#) (Harper \$19.99). Just weeks before Christmas, severe wintry weather damages the church hall hosting the Christmas Boutique—an annual sale of handcrafted gifts and baked goods that supports the county food pantry. Determined to save the fundraiser, Sylvia Bergstrom Compson offers to hold the event at Elm Creek Manor, her ancestral family estate and summertime home to Elm Creek Quilt Camp. But while the Elm Creek Quilters work tirelessly to make sure the Christmas Boutique happens, it may take a holiday miracle or two to make it the smashing success they want it to be.

Childs, Laura. [Mumbo Gumbo Murder](#) (Berkley \$26). One evening during Mardi Gras, scrapbooking storekeeper Carmella Bertrand and her free-spirited best friend, Ava Grioux, are strolling along Royal Street, the home of many high-end shops, when they hear a terrible crash. Carmella realizes that someone has shattered the front window of Dulcimer Antiques, which is owned by their friend Devon Dowling. Inside, Devon is lying on the floor with an ice pick through his ear. Carmella shifts into amateur sleuth mode, and though she’s engaged to police detective Edgar Babcock, she would rather take matters into her own hands, even when her life is in peril, than call on her fiancé for help. Meanwhile, Carmella is distracted by an ex-boyfriend who wants her to become a partner in the new shop he’s opening. Childs captures the energy of Mardi Gras while offering murder, romance, recipes, and scrapbooking tips. 18th in the Scrapbooking Series.

☒Clare, Alys. [City of Pearl](#) (Severn \$28.99). It is October, 1093, in Clare’s latest Aelf Fen Mystery. At her mentor’s urgent request, Lassair is accompanying Gurdyman across the sea to Spain. But why is he so insistent on embarking on this difficult and dangerous journey just as winter approaches? And why does he seem so afraid? Could there be any connection to the vagrant found lying dead outside his home, a single pearl clutched in his outstretched hand? As the pair reaches the remote mountainous regions of northern Spain, Lassair will be tested as never before. Hot on her trail is Jack Chevestrier, the young lawman who loves her. But who is it who’s trying to kill him...and why? Ordered Upon Request.

Clarke, Brock. [Who Are You, Calvin Bledsoe?](#) (Algonquin \$26.95). The Indie Next Pick: “Brock Clarke is a genius. His writing is consistently brilliant and stylish, which makes the quiet moments of human understanding even more striking. I LOVE this book—it is unexpected (like all his work—how can that be?), surprising, and profoundly moving. Fans of Jim Shepard and George Saunders will love Clarke and his new book about a middle-aged man whose discovery of a secret aunt (is she a spy? a fake? his mom? crazy?) leads him across Europe in pursuit of... well, he isn’t quite sure yet. I laughed out loud, I chortled, I snickered quietly, I gasped. I can see putting this book into the hands of fans of *Less* by Andrew Sean Greer and *Where’d You Go, Bernadette?*—readers who like to be surprised.”

☒Cockram, Jane. [The House of Brides](#) (Harper \$27.99). What better than a debut Gothic novel set in Barnsley House, the Summers family rambling estate turned into a hotel in the West Country of England, as our **October Discovery Book of the Month?** Our heroine Miranda’s mother Tessa, a famous author, died when Tessa was a child, leaving Miranda’s only link to the Summers her mother’s famous book, *The House of Brides*, a chronicle of generations of women who married into the clan. “From crime novelist Gertrude, who threw herself off a cliff, to famous beauty Beatrice, who killed herself after setting fire to Barnsley while her children slept, to celebrity chef Daphne, who disturbingly seems to have disappeared, each woman is more notorious than the next – and it’s into this ‘house of ghosts’ that twenty-six-year-old Miranda has come. That’s not the only reason she’s there, though. Her professional life as a social media influencer has self-destructed spectacularly, and her home life with a toxic father and disapproving stepmother has hit rock bottom. And then there’s the letter. Readdressed several times, it was sent to Tessa, who died when Miranda was only eight, and is from her cousin Sophia at Barnsley. ‘Something bad has happened,’ it says. ‘Will you come and help us? Please.’ Miranda takes it as a clarion call, and arrives late at night, to find the hotel permanently closed and the family full of odd tics, but, mistaken for the children’s new nanny, she settles in to search for the truth about what has happened here. She is totally unprepared for what she will find...”—Neil Nyren

☒Cornwell, Bernard. [War of the Wolf](#) (\$16.99). A rousing, blood-thirsty tale of tumult in Britain around 920 AD. Uhtred, the powerful 10th-century Lord of Bebbanburg, sets out with less than a hundred men to relieve the siege of Ceaster and rescue Prince Æthelstan, King Edward’s son. But someone has tricked Uhtred, who has been lured across Britain “to rescue a man who did not need rescuing.” Someone has drawn him away from defense of his native Northumbria, and he determines to “discover the name

of an enemy.” For the sequel, see *Signed Books*. Great entertainment for fans of historical epics.

Denfeld, Rene. [Butterfly Girl](#) (Harper \$26.99). The Indie Next Pick: “Denfeld has done it again: written a mystery that sucks you in and thoroughly absorbs you until you’re done. We pick up the story with Naomi Cottle, who has been searching for the sister she left behind when she escaped the clutches of their childhood kidnapper. Haunted by guilt, her search leads her back to her hometown, where a number of young girls have been murdered. By chance or by fate, she encounters Celia, a 12-year-old girl living on the streets who may be the key to everything—including finding her sister and a rapacious killer. Heart-wrenching, thought-provoking, and utterly unputdownable, this really should be the gold standard for mysteries.” Library Reads adds, “Denfeld’s writing is like lyrical poetry, with every word captivating. Add to this an amazing mystery, a plethora of suspense, and an ending that exceeds all expectations, and we have another 5 star book. For fans of *What She Knew* by Gilly Macmillan and *Love You More* by Lisa Gardner.” I quote both because this book was so drenched in sorrow it did not work for me.

Deutermann, PT. [The Nugget](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Love this review for a thriller for fans of Clive Cussler and Stephen Hunter’s brilliant *The 47th Samurai*. “In the prologue to this rousing WWII naval action thriller, Navy Lt. Robert T. Steele faces a court of inquiry in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, that wants to know where he has been in the almost two years since he went missing from the *USS Hornet* in 1942. The court members aren’t even sure Steele, with his full beard, long hair, and skin dyed nut brown, is who he says he is, but he has one hell of a story to tell. Flashback to the December 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, where Steele is aboard the battleship *Oklahoma*, seriously hung over. After surviving the *Oklahoma*’s sinking, he’s assigned to the aircraft carrier *USS Enterprise* as the pilot of a Dauntless dive bomber. Steele participates in some of the Pacific war’s most important battles, including Midway and Guadalcanal, but it’s only after he’s marooned on the Philippine island of Talawan that his greatest adventure begins. The book’s prose is as straightforward as its stalwart hero. Deutermann keeps the reader spellbound throughout.”

Dodd, Christina. [Strangers She Knows](#) (Harlequin \$27.99). In this wrap-up to Dodd’s best-selling “Cape Charade” trilogy, begun with *Dead Girl Running* and *What Doesn’t Kill Her*, the unbendably tough Kellen Adams is living on an off-the-grid island near California’s coast, trying to protect her family from the crazed killer she’s been sprinting from for some time. There will be a showdown. Also in paperback: [Strangers She Knows](#) (\$16.99).

Devalpage, Teresa. [Queen of Bones](#) (Soho \$26.95). It takes a Havana native to write a story where a man, Juan, a construction worker with a more affluent American wife, elects to return to Cuba 20 years after he and a friend floated a raft off the island to Miami. His wife Sharon, busy in Albuquerque, rearranges her schedule to follow. Juan plans to reconnect with his best friend Victor, now Victoria and running a popular drag show at a Havana hot spot. What Sharon doesn’t know is that Juan is determined to discover what happened to his two former girlfriends, Elsa, his love and now married to a Spaniard, and Rosita, something of a consolation. When murder strikes, Padrino, a Santeria

cop on the Havana PD, has a lot to unravel from the past (along with Juan) to solve it. A vivid Cuban landscape contrasts with the sadness of broken dreams and relationships.

Ellicott, Jessica. [Murder Cuts the Mustard](#) (Kensington \$26). The latest occurrence to disturb the peace in the quaint English village of Walmsley Parva hits rather too close to home—in fact, the prime suspect has taken up residence in Edwina’s potting shed. Her elderly gardener Simpkins has been secretly sleeping there after a row with his disreputable brother-in-law and housemate, Hector Lomax. When Hector is found murdered in the local churchyard, Constable Gibbs comes looking for Simpkins, who was last seen arguing with his kin in the pub the night before. Based on the sad state of her garden, Edwina has grave doubts that the shiftless Simpkins could muster the effort to murder anyone. The two sleuths throw themselves into weeding out suspects and rooting out the real killer. But this is no garden variety murder. The discovery of a valuable ring, a surprise connection to Colonel Kimberly’s Condiment Company, and a second homicide all force sleuthing partners Beryl Helliwell and prim and proper Brit Edwina Davenport to play catch-up as they relish the chance to contain the culprit....

✚Ellis, Bella. [The Vanished Bride](#) (Bloomsbury \$26). **NOTE: The Signed UK [The Vanished Bride](#) (\$35) is our December History/Mystery Book of the Month.** It’s 1845. The Brontë siblings (including brother Branwell) are living with their widowed parson father, as the sisters search for the creative outlets that will bring them eventual fame. Branwell, already launched on his descent into dissolution, arrives one afternoon with news of “a most violent murder” in a neighboring town, in a gloomy old house where an acquaintance of the girls works as a servant. At least it seems like a murder: The second wife of a well-to-do man has disappeared, her bedroom soaked in blood. Inspired by a newspaper article describing some new “specially trained and educated” London policemen “using their wit and intellect to search out the guilty,” the sisters resolve to investigate this mystery themselves. They will be “three invisible lady detectors seeking out the truth,” in Anne’s words. Each of the trio has particular qualities suited for the endeavor. Anne’s empathy and intuition help her imagine events and relationships. Charlotte’s sympathetic manner makes her a great interrogator. Emily’s adventurous streak spurs her to go where other siblings fear to tread. (“I don’t mind danger,” Emily says. “It’s polite conversation I can’t abide.”) “Ms. Ellis—writing under a pen name—hews to the biographical facts in fashioning this swift story, while her plot (Gothic touches included) seems suitably Brontë-esque. *The Vanished Bride* is a delight.”—*Wall Street Journal* (WSJ)

Eskens, Allen. [The Shadows We Hide](#) (\$16.99). Karen is a major Eskens fan. Here’s a Starred Review backing her up: “Joe Talbert, last seen in Edgar-finalist Eskens’ debut, 2014’s [The Life We Bury](#) (\$15.95), is now a Minneapolis-based Associated Press reporter. In this brilliant sequel full of deeply developed characters, Talbert feels compelled to investigate after he runs across a story detailing the murder of Joe “Toke” Talbert, a person he never met but could have been his father, in the small southern Minnesota town of Buckley. A junk car collector rumored to be involved in more than a few felonious crimes, Toke could have been killed by any number of locals. Talbert’s search for answers becomes complicated when he discovers that Toke’s wife recently com-

mitted suicide and his late father stood in line to inherit millions. Eskens keeps readers guessing until the last pages in this darkly lyrical and brutally intimate story of one man's journey of self-discovery."

Fluke, Joanne. [Plum Pudding Murder](#) (\$12.95). Holiday business is booming at Hannah Swenson's Cookie Jar pastry shop, but the mysterious murder of "Lunatic Larry" Jaeger puts a serious crimp in the season of good cheer. From the looks of it, Larry had as many enemies as Hannah's sugar cookies have sprinkles. With the 12 days of Christmas ticking down and cookie orders piling up, tracking down the killer won't be easy. A clever whodunit with pastry recipe dividends. A reissue and in time for the holidays.

✚Francis, Felix. [Guilty Not Guilty](#) (Penguin \$27). Bill Russell is acting as a volunteer steward at Warwick races when he confronts his worst nightmare—the violent death of his much-loved wife. But, the aftermath proves much worse when he is accused of killing her and then hounded mercilessly by the media. Losing his job and in danger of losing his home too, Bill's life begins to unravel completely. Even his best friends turn against him, thinking him guilty of the heinous crime, despite the lack of any compelling evidence. As Bill sets out to clear his name, he finds that proving one's innocence isn't easy. Yet he believes he can track down the true culprit....

✚French, Nicci. [The Lying Room](#) (Harper \$15.99). Neve Connolly's discreet affair with her married boss, Saul Stevenson, was meant to relieve her stress at being the family's primary breadwinner and main parent to three challenging children, while her illustrator husband, Fletcher, goes on endless job interviews. Then she finds Saul murdered in his London apartment. Fearing the affair will become public, destroying her marriage and devastating her emotionally fragile daughter, Mabel, she scrubs the apartment of every bit of her presence. But she forgets her signature piece of jewelry. When she returns for it, it's missing, as is the murder weapon that was lying next to the body. Neve's co-workers wonder what will happen to them, since Saul's company only recently acquired their firm, while she worries she'll be the primary suspect in this standalone by French.

Gaiman, Neil/Leslie S. Klinger [The Annotated American Gods](#) (Harper \$50) tells the story of ex-con Shadow Moon, who emerges from prison and is recruited to be bodyguard, driver, and errand boy for the enigmatic Mr. Wednesday. So begins a dark and strange road trip full of fantastical adventures and a host of eccentric characters. For, beneath the placid surface of everyday life, a storm is brewing—an epic war for the very soul of America—and Shadow is standing squarely in its path. This annotated volume of the Author's Preferred Text features analysis from Leslie S. Klinger. His trenchant commentary identifies gods and supernatural beings, elucidates key phrases, and shows how Gaiman built his award-winning novel, giving readers unparalleled insight into the story and into Gaiman's creative process and authorial decisions. Carefully chosen illustrations complement and illuminate the narrative. A wonderful gift for Gaiman fans.

Gates, Eva. [Read and Buried](#) (Crippen \$26.99). For more on the 6th Lighthouse cozy mystery see the Bookish Books section above....

Goldenbaum, Sally. [How to Knit a Murder](#) (\$15.95). A mysterious woman arrives in picturesque Sea Harbor, Massachusetts, and the Seaside Knitters welcome her into their cozy world of intricate patterns and colorful skeins. Unfortunately, nothing frays a warm introduction like cold-blooded murder . . .

Gould, Howard Michael. [Below the Line](#) (Dutton \$26). If you read screenwriter Gould's crime debut [Last Looks](#) (\$16), a gleefully crazed look at eccentric PI Charlie Waldo, you will want to scoop up this sequel. A former superstar at the LAPD, Waldo has become pathologically eco-conscious, living in a bare cabin in the woods, owning only One Hundred Things, sourcing sustainable repasts. He gave up his cop career and his irrepressible girlfriend Lorena, who runs an inquiry agency, after a shattering misstep in an old case. Lorena married a male model but that has crashed and so here they are, Waldo and Lorena, negotiating a way as a couple (the sex is super hot), which may be sabotaged by Lorena's new client, a privileged LA wild child teen, a shameless liar with self-involved Hollywood parents who sells Waldo and Lorena a bill of goods about being an orphan with a missing caregiver older brother and a teacher at her private school who has seduced her. A murder propels Waldo into the depths of Orange County and other depravity while testing his resolve to his lifestyle...and to Lorena. It's a good plot but the real point here is whether you consider the depiction of Waldo's lifestyle to be satirical or serious. Either way this can only be a book set in California.

Grisham, John. [The Guardians](#) (Doubleday \$29.95). In the small north Florida town of Seabrook, a young lawyer named Keith Russo was shot dead at his desk as he worked late one night. The killer left no clues behind. There were no witnesses, no real suspects, no one with a motive. The police soon settled on Quincy Miller, a young black man who was once a client of Russo's. Quincy was framed, convicted, and sent to prison for life. For twenty-two years he languished in prison with no lawyer, no advocate on the outside. Then he wrote a letter to Guardian Ministries, a small innocence group founded by a lawyer/minister named Cullen Post. Guardian handles only a few innocence cases at a time, and Post is its only investigator. He travels the South fighting wrongful convictions and taking cases no one else will touch. With Quincy Miller, though, he gets far more than he bargained for. Powerful, ruthless people murdered Keith Russo, and they do not want Quincy exonerated.

Hallinan, Timothy. [Nighttown](#) (\$15.95). Junior Bender, L.A. burglar/investigator, has worked on the wrong side of the law for more than 20 years. He's desperate for money to help his girlfriend and breaks into an LA home on commission where he unexpectedly encounters rare first editions, including an autographed copy of Conan Doyle's *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. "Hallinan is exceedingly funny when describing colorful crooks like Louie the Lost, a getaway driver with no sense of direction, and Stinky Tetweil, a grossly fat fence who surrounds himself with exquisite *objets d'art*. Hallinan's eclectic narrative also extends to insights about 19th-century spirit photography... and a Native American legend about human shadows. This one's good for what ails you."—*NY Times Book Review*

Hawker, Olivia. [One for the Blackbird, One for the Crow](#) (Lake Union \$24.95). Wyoming, 1870. For as long as they have lived on the frontier, the Bemis and Webber families have relied on

each other. With no other settlers for miles, it is a matter of survival. But when Ernest Bemis finds his wife, Cora, in a compromising situation with their neighbor, he doesn't think of survival. In one impulsive moment, a man is dead, Ernest is off to prison, and the women left behind are divided by rage and remorse. Losing her husband to Cora's indiscretion is another hardship for stoic Nettie Mae. But as a brutal Wyoming winter bears down, Cora and Nettie Mae have no choice but to come together as one family—to share the duties of working the land and raising their children. There's Nettie Mae's son, Clyde—no longer a boy, but not yet a man—who must navigate the road to adulthood without a father to guide him, and Cora's daughter, Beulah, who is as wild and untamable as her prairie home. Bound by the uncommon threads in their lives and the challenges that lie ahead, Cora and Nettie Mae begin to forge an unexpected sisterhood. But when a love blossoms between Clyde and Beulah, bonds are once again tested. I include this for fans of CJ Box and Craig Johnson and others who can't get enough of Wyoming.

Herzog, Rudolph. [The Ghosts of Berlin](#) (Melville \$17.99). Berlin's sometimes sordid past bears down ominously upon unsuspecting residents of the 21st century in filmmaker Rudolph Herzog's eerie collection of short fiction. A shrewd and provocative collection of fiction is translated into English by the equally sharp Emma Rault. The plots are thick, and the twists are powerful. Be sure to check the closets and under the bed before the lights go out. A good read for Halloween.

Howey, Hugh. [Half Way Home](#) (Houghton \$16.99). Five hundred colonists have been sent across the stars to settle an alien planet. Vat-grown in a dream-like state, they are educated through simulations by an artificial intelligence and should awaken at thirty years old, fully-trained, and ready to tame the new world. But fifteen years in, an explosion on their vessel kills most of the homesteaders and destroys the majority of their supplies. Worse yet, the sixty that awaken and escape the flames are only half-taught and possess the skills least useful for survival. Naked and terrified, the teens stumble from their fiery baptism ill-prepared for the unfamiliar and harsh alien world around them. Though they attempt to work with the colony A.I. to build a home, tension and misery are rampant, escalating into battles for dominance. Soon they find that their worst enemy isn't the hostile environment, the A.I., or the blast that nearly killed them. Their greatest danger is each other. There seems to me an inspiration for this in Golding's [Lord of the Flies](#) (\$9.99)? Howey was a loud and fervent apostle of eBooks only but I see that he is settling into a more conventional publishing model with print books.

✎Huber, Anna Lee. [Penny for Your Secrets](#) (Kensington \$15.95). In 1919 there are still obstacles on the home front. Reconciling with her estranged husband makes Verity sympathetic to her friend Ada's marital difficulties. Bourgeois-bred Ada, recently married to the Marquess of Rockham, is overwhelmed trying to navigate the ways of the aristocracy. And when Lord Rockham is discovered shot through the heart with a bullet from Ada's revolver, Verity fears her friend has made a fatal blunder. While striving to prove Ada's innocence, Verity is called upon for another favor. The sister of a former Secret Service colleague has been killed in what authorities believe was a home invasion gone wrong. The victim's war work—censoring letters sent by soldiers from the front—exposed her to sensitive, disturbing material.

Verity begins to suspect these two unlikely cases may be linked. But as the connections deepen, the consequences—not just for Verity, but for Britain—grow more menacing.

Isaacs, Susan. [Takes One to Know One](#) (Grove \$26). Just a few years ago, Corie Geller was busting terrorists as an agent for the FBI. But at thirty-five, she traded in her badge for the stability of marriage and motherhood. Now Corie is married to the brilliant and remarkably handsome Judge Josh Geller and is the adoptive mother of his lovely 14-year-old daughter. Between cooking meals and playing chauffeur, Corie scouts Arabic fiction for a few literary agencies and, on Wednesdays, has lunch with her fellow Shorehaven freelancers at a so-so French restaurant. Life is, as they say, fine. But at her weekly lunches, Corie senses that something's off. Pete Delaney, a milquetoast package designer, always shows up early, sits in the same spot (often with a different phone in hand), and keeps one eye on the Jeep he parks in the lot across the street. Corie intuitively feels that Pete is hiding something—and as someone who is accustomed to keeping her FBI past from her new neighbors, she should know. But does Pete really have a shady alternate life, or is Corie just imagining things, desperate to add some spark to her humdrum suburban existence? She decides that the only way to find out is to dust off her FBI toolkit and take a deep dive into Pete Delaney's affairs.

✎Jewell, Lisa. [The Family Upstairs](#) (Atria \$27). Jewell is an ace at British domestic suspense. Here is her latest lulu. Orphaned as a baby, 25-year-old Libby Jones is astonished to learn via a solicitor that she has inherited a tumbling-down townhouse in London's classy Chelsea through a trust. Though thoroughly run down once her father ran through the family fortune, it's worth a fortune. Henry Lamb and his wife (and a second man) were found dead in an apparent suicide pact when their lives went bust leaving a baby girl taken into care. What happened to the older son and daughter, teens? And...we are all going to find out in one of Jewell's twisty suspenseful tales.

Jonasson, Ragnar. [The Darkness](#) (\$17.99). The body of a young Russian woman washes up on an Icelandic shore. After a cursory investigation, the death is declared a suicide and the case is quietly closed. Over a year later Detective Inspector Hulda Hermannsdóttir of the Reykjavík police is forced into early retirement at 64. She dreads the loneliness, and the memories of her dark past that threaten to come back to haunt her. But before she leaves she is given two weeks to solve a single cold case of her choice. She knows which one: the Russian woman whose hope for asylum ended on the dark, cold shore of an unfamiliar country. Soon Hulda discovers that another young woman vanished at the same time, and that no one is telling her the whole story. Even her colleagues in the police seem determined to put the brakes on her investigation. Jonasson will startle you with how it ends and how he plans to make this the start of the Hidden Iceland series.

✎Le Carré, John. [Agent Running in the Field](#) (Viking \$29). Set in London in 2018. Now that he's revisited and deepened the tissue of double-crosses that put him on the map with George Smiley, Le Carré, evergreen at 87, turns to an equally hapless new hero in the age of Trump and Brexit. I could not help but reflect as I read this that Britain has gone from the superpower of the 19th Century to Boris Johnson and muddle. And small stories. Nat, a Secret Intelligence Service agent, age 47 and offered an assignment rather than being put out to pasture, is not as interesting as

his wife Prue, a human rights lawyer who has managed on her own for years while Nat was away. “No sooner has Nat sunk into his forgettable ambit than three disquieting developments arise. Florence, a probationer who’s his nominal second-in-command, angrily quits over the unexplained cancellation of a project she’s designed, spearheaded, and pitched to the powers that be. Sergei Kusnetsev, a Russian defector who’s become a sleeper agent for Her Majesty’s Government, is contacted by Anastasia, a Russian agent who presumably either wants to put him to work, if she trusts him, or to expose him, if she doesn’t. And Ed Shannon, the much-younger researcher who joined Nat’s athletic club in order to play badminton with him and vent about the folly of Brexit and the rise of neo-Nazism in the States, suddenly appears in an alarming new role. Seeing the world as he knows it—not the new world order or the special relationship, but his own faded patch of it—threatened from every corner, Nat, determined to assert himself one last time, hatches a rickety plan to keep the pot from boiling over.”—*Kirkus Reviews*, and a good one. Badminton is key here, a surprise.

Liu, Cixin. [Supernova Era](#) (Tor \$27.99). When a star eight light years away goes supernova, the radiation kills Earth’s adult population and leaves its children to start a world of their own. “Conceived as an allegory for the Chinese citizenry’s reaction to a rapidly modernizing society, Liu’s post-apocalyptic vision is written as a semi-fictionalized historical account. Because of this structure, character development takes a backseat to sometimes didactic overviews of geopolitical events. However, Liu shows real mastery of his concept, from the children’s stages of grief and wonder to their inevitable human desire to conquer. He also orchestrates the evolution of the youth-led countries and the global political scene believably, channeling all the ambition, self-centeredness and happy, dangerous ignorance of childhood. The U.S. plays the closest role to villain, and the imperialist attitudes, rampant gun problems and divisive leaders portrayed in the story seem to satirize current events. But, Liu wrote *Supernova Era* in 1989, a surprising bit of trivia considering how well he anticipated digital technology’s development. With Martinsen’s translation, this audacious and ultimately optimistic early work will give Liu’s English-reading fans a glimpse at his evolution as a writer and give any speculative fiction reader food for deep thought.”—Jaclyn Fulwood

Lotz, Sarah. [Missing Person](#) (Mulholland \$27). A group of amateur detectives infiltrated by the sadistic killer whose crimes they’re investigating. It begins with a conventional mystery plot about a young Irishman, Shaun Ryan, who suspects that his Uncle Teddy, the black sheep of the family, might not have died in an auto accident in America 20 years earlier. His search puts Shaun in touch with the amateur sleuths at a website that matches missing persons with unidentified bodies; pretty soon, they’re convinced Teddy died at the hands of a serial killer they’re tracking, a killer who preys on gay men. Although Shaun questions those who knew Teddy, the real work is done by the website’s techno-savvy staff, who make use of Skype, chat rooms and internet forums. It’s a bit like the Monkeewrench series.

⌘Lyle, H B. [The Red Ribbon](#) (\$15.99). It’s 1910 and the new British Secret Service is up and running with Vernon Kell heading domestic operations and Wiggins, a former Baker Street Irregular, as his sole investigator. When Kell is tasked with probing high-level leaks that benefit Germany, Kell must consider

some of the government’s most powerful officials as potential sources. Rival agencies are trying to shut Kell’s office down, Home Secretary Winston Churchill demands a loan of Wiggins’s services, and Kell’s suffragist wife, Constance, is hiding secrets. Meanwhile, Wiggins is also helping a friend look for a missing 18-year-old girl. Wiggins’s search leads him to the so-called Embassy of Olifa, actually an elite brothel engaged in not just sexual but also violent crimes. More for Holmes fans enjoying an October bonanza with a new Nicholas Meyer. See Event Books.

Mailard, Kevin Noble. [Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story](#) (Roaring Brooks \$18.99). For Ages 3-6 (and up), a lovely debut in verse depicting a modern Native American family staple and celebration. Charming illustrations by Juana Martinez-Neal are a delight.

McCoy, Sarah. [Marilla of Green Gables](#) (\$15.99). A marvelously entertaining and moving historical novel, set in rural Prince Edward Island in the nineteenth century, that imagines the young life of spinster Marilla Cuthbert, and the choices that will open her life to the possibility of heartbreak. Her budding romance with John Blythe, the charming son of a neighbor, offers her a possibility of future happiness—Marilla is in no rush to trade one farm life for another. She soon finds herself caught up in the dangerous work of politics, and abolition—jeopardizing all she cherishes, including her bond with John Blythe. Now Marilla must face a reckoning between her dreams of making a difference in the wider world and the small-town reality of life at Green Gables.

McEwan, Ian. [The Cockroach](#) (Anchor \$11). The novella, a political satire, A Brexit-era take on Kafka’s *Metamorphosis*, centered on a cockroach transformed into the prime minister of England.

Morris, Heather. [Cilka’s Journey](#) (St Martins \$27.99). A powerful follow-up to Morris’ bestseller [The Tattooist of Auschwitz](#) (\$16.99), this story begins after the liberation of the death camp when Cilka is sentenced by the Soviet liberators to 15 years in one of Stalin’s Siberian labor gulags. From one death camp to another—doing what was needed to survive. For fans of *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly and *We Were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter.”

Moyes, Jojo. [The Giver of Stars](#) (Pamela Dorman Books \$28). Alice Wright marries handsome American Bennett Van Cleve hoping to escape her stifling life in England. But small-town Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her overbearing father-in-law. So when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt’s new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically. This becomes the story of five extraordinary women and their remarkable journey through the mountains of Kentucky and beyond.

The Indie Next Pick: “In the late 1930s, the Works Progress Administration developed a number of projects intended to provide employment opportunities for unemployed artists, writers, and craftsmen. One of those projects was the Pack Horse Library Initiative, in which mounted horsewomen picked their way along snowy hillsides and through muddy creeks with a simple goal: to deliver reading material to Kentucky’s isolated mountain communities. In *The Giver of Stars*, Moyes has brought to life the amazing, funny, adventurous stories of a few of these trailblazing women. Historical fiction lovers will devour

this story of a little-known piece of U.S. history.” By a bestselling British author!

Natt och Dag, Niklas. [The Wolf and the Watchman](#) (\$17). This dark debut was a History/Mystery Book of the Month in hardcover. This Starred Review says why: “The discovery of a torso in a lake outside Stockholm drives Natt och Dag’s masterly first novel, set in 1793. The human remains prove to belong to a man whose limbs were severed one at a time over several months. Identifying the victim and his killer falls to Cecil Winge, an idealistic attorney who assists the police. Winge enlists the aid of Mickel Cardell, a veteran of a fruitless war with Russia in which he lost an arm. Now working as a watchman, Mickel retrieved the cadaver from the water. The pair has few clues to work with, but a piece of fabric with unusual markings wrapped around the body leads them to the Eumenides, an ostensibly charitable upper-class organization that meets in a building that houses a bordello. The book’s structure, which includes flashbacks and multiple perspectives, will remind many of Iain Pears’ *An Instance of the Fingerpost*. The Swedish Academy of Crime Writers named this the best debut novel of 2017.

Nava, Michael. [Carved in Bone](#) (Persigo Press \$25.99). Henry Rios, where have you been? How I have missed the elegant novels by Nava and his gay Latino lawyer sleuth. We’re back in 1984 San Francisco where Henry is struggling to make ends meet as a defense attorney. He’s also an alcoholic, and when his AA sponsor suggests that he moonlight as an insurance company investigator, he reluctantly agrees. With no ARC to read, I quote PW: “His first case seems simple enough: confirm that the death of Bill Ryan, a policy holder, was accidental, and locate the policy’s beneficiary, Nick Trejo. Soon his interest in the case takes on a life of its own. As Henry says, ‘I needed to know how Bill Ryan had died, and Nick was the only witness to that event. Unexpectedly, I had come to care for them. They were part of my tribe.’ Flashbacks fill in Bill’s story, including the moment in 1971 when his parents disowned him, his drifting to San Francisco, and the pitfalls and opportunities he found there. An authentic portrait of the city in the early days of the AIDS crisis complements the satisfying mystery. Rios fans will also want to check out Nava’s 2017 novella, *Street People*. Henry last appeared in 2001, his 7th investigation.

Patterson, James/Maxine Paetro. [The 19th Christmas](#) (Little-Brown \$29). Women’s Murder Club Series #19. As the holidays approach, Detective Lindsay Boxer and her friends in the Women’s Murder Club have much to celebrate. Crime is down. The medical examiner’s office is quiet. Even the courts are showing some Christmas spirit. And the news cycle is so slow that journalist Cindy Thomas is on assignment to tell a story about the true meaning of the season for San Francisco. Then a fearsome criminal known only as “Loman” seizes control of the headlines. He is planning a deadly surprise for Christmas morning. And he has commissioned dozens of criminal colleagues to take actions that will mask his plans. All that Lindsay and the SFPD can figure out is that Loman’s greed — for riches, for bloodshed, for attention — is limitless. New in paperback: [The 18th Abduction](#) (\$16.99).

Sallis, James. [Moth](#) (\$16.95). The second in the New Orleans PI Lew Griffin series being reissued after [The Long-Legged Fly](#) (\$16.95) and to be followed in November and December by the

remaining four. Yay. Lew Griffin, now fifty years old, has abandoned his former career as a New Orleans private investigator for the safety of teaching. But his old life draws him back. One of the very few lights from Lew Griffin’s dark and violent past has flickered out. His one-time lover, LaVerne Adams, is dead—and her daughter, Alouette, has vanished into a seamy, dead-end world of users and abusers, leaving behind a critically fragile premature infant daughter. Griffin is determined to keep his distance from the dangers of the New Orleans night. But his inescapable obligation to an old friend keeps bringing him back like a moth to a flame. Patrick is your man for all things Sallis so feel free to question him.

Also by Sallis: [Difficult Lives Hitching Rides](#) (Soho \$15.99), one you won’t want to miss. Think Gift Idea also. Seminal biographical essays on crime fiction pioneers Jim Thompson, David Goodis, and Chester Himes restored to print and joined by a handpicked collection of essays, reviews, and introductory writings on noir fiction.

Simenon, George. [Maigret’s Patience](#) (Penguin \$13). #64. Maigret finds himself back on the Rue des Acacias just ten days after cracking another case there. This time, he is tasked with solving the murder of a criminal he has known for more than twenty years, one he always believed was behind a series of jewelry heists in the city. While the stakes rise, Maigret’s patience is tested as he eliminates suspects neighbor by neighbor in his hunt for the murderer.

Smith, Alexander McCall. [To the Land of Long Lost Friends](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). Here we are at #20 in the No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency series. Mma Ramotswe has reconnected with an old friend who has been having problems with her daughter. Though Precious feels compelled to lend a hand, she discovers that getting involved in family affairs is always a delicate affair. The young woman appears to be involved with a charismatic preacher. But are his ministrations entirely of a godly nature? Elsewhere, Charlie is also struggling with a tricky matter of the heart. He wishes to propose to his girlfriend, Queenie-Queenie, but he’s struggling to come up with a bride price that will impress her father. When Queenie-Queenie’s brother offers to help by giving him a job, the offer may not be quite what Charlie expected. As always, Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni will offer wise counsel, Mma Makutsi will weigh in with her opinions, and Mma Potokwane will be there with her welcome fruit cake....

Smith, Zadie. [Grand Union: Stories](#) (Penguin \$27). The Indie Next Pick: “Whether she’s telling a very short story about a mother and daughter discussing animal cruelty while on vacation or a longer story about a trio of celebrities on a road trip to escape New York, *Grand Union* shows that Zadie Smith is as adept with short fiction as she is with the novel. For a form of literature that always seems to enhance the faults of lesser writers, short stories, for Smith, seem only to make her shine brighter than ever.”

Schwab, VE. [A Conjuring of Light Collector’s Edition](#) (Forge \$25.99). The epic conclusion to the *Shades of Magic* series—*A Darker Shade of Magic* and *A Gathering of Shadows*—is now in a beautiful collector’s edition with exclusive features: a revamped cover and reading ribbon; and the following bonus material: End papers featuring stunning fan art; An updated glossary of Arnesian and Antari terms; An original (never before seen!) short story from within the *Shades of Magic* world.

Stewart, Amy. [Kopp Sisters on the March](#) (Houghton \$26). Constance Kopp takes on the military establishment. “Loosely inspired by an actual crime fighter...the brisk *Kopp Sisters on the March*, with Constance and her sisters — crabby Norma and dreamy Fleurette — enroll in one of the National Service Schools that prepared women for what World War I would require of them, on the home front or overseas.”—*Star-Tribune*

✦Truss, Lynne. [The Man That Got Away](#) (Bloomsbury \$27). A second entry in a satirical series also publishing in simultaneous paperback: [The Man That Got Away](#) (\$17). Although one could call this a quirky police procedural, it’s more of a caper, and lampoons British class distinctions as well as an obstructive officer class/mentality. 1957: In the beach town of Brighton, music is playing and guests are sunning themselves, when a young man is found dead, dripping blood, in a deck chair. Constable Twitten of the Brighton Police Force has a hunch that the fiendish murder may be connected to a notorious nightspot, but his captain and his colleagues are-as ever-busy with other more important issues. Inspector Steine is being conned into paying for the honor of being featured at the Museum of Wax, and Sergeant Brunswick is trying (and failing) to get the attention of the distraught Brighton Belles who found the body. As the case twists and turns, Constable Twitten must find the murderer and convince his colleagues that there’s an evil mastermind behind Brighton’s climbing crime rate. Start with [A Shot in the Dark](#) (\$17), both by the author of [Eats, Shoots & Leaves](#) (\$16), a zero-tolerance approach to punctuation.

✦Wingate, Marty. [The Bodies in the Library](#) (Berkley \$26). Our **October Cozy Crimes Pick** continues with the Agatha Christie theme with this first in the First Edition Library Mysteries. It lacks the ace plotting of Christie but makes up for it with its references to British Golden Age classics. And in the end game, Wingate shows the curator of The First Edition Society, Hayley Burke, “channeling Miss Marple accurately enough to give the police a run for their money in unmasking a killer.”

It begins when Hayley discovers her degree in 19th-century literature doesn’t open many doors. So when her stint as assistant to the assistant curator of the Jane Austen Centre in Bath doesn’t quite cover expenses, Hayley thinks herself lucky to be offered a new post. Founded by the late Lady Georgiana Fowling as a repository for her vast collection of mystery novels, the First Edition Society hasn’t quite decided whether it’s a library, a social club, or an educational institution. What it clearly is is Hayley’s home, since the job offers both Hayley and the society’s secretary, Glynis Woolgar, apartments in Middlebank House, the spacious mansion that houses the late Lady Fowling’s collection. In an effort to expand the society’s profile, Hayley also opens Middlebank House to the weekly meetings of a local writers’ group that specializes in mystery fan fiction. But the morning after a particularly contentious session, the corpse of the arrogant Tristram Cummins is discovered in the library. Now Hayley’s job is on the line, as the tabloids move in and the board of directors suddenly finds the society’s profile a little too high. Even worse, Charles Henry Dill, Lady Fowling’s rapacious nephew, discovers that Hayley hasn’t read most of the authors featured in his aunt’s collection.

Woods, Stuart. [Stealth](#) (Putnam \$28). Stone Barrington, spy. Arrived at his English country estate he rendezvous with Dame Felicity, head of MI-6, and agrees to the challenge of a training

course up north. There he meets some actors in what turns into a spy drama with Stone between the sheets with at least three women and on his way to becoming a deputy director of the CIA. I think Woods is taking this up and over the top, and into three-way sex, which seems risky for a spy fellow.

HALLOWEEN FUN!

And you can check out some [ghost stories](#)...

Corrigan, Maya. [Crypt Suzette](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Five Ingredient Mysteries #5. While catering the debut of Bayport’s newest bookstore, Val Deniston is drawn into a real-life murder mystery when the secretive woman renting a spare bedroom at her ghost-busting granddad’s house is mowed down by a hit-and-run driver.

Meier, Leslie. [Trick or Treat Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Lucy Stone #3. Mom and occasional sleuth Lucy Stone must take a break from baking Halloween cupcakes and rejuvenating old costumes for her children to hunt down an evil arsonist wreaking havoc in Tinker’s Cove.

Morgan, Alexis. [Death by Jack-o’-Lantern](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Abby McCree #2. When she finds ornery farmer Ronald Minter dead in his pumpkin patch, Abby McCree and her tenant, a veteran named Tripp Blackston, must carve out the clues to prove the innocence of a homeless veteran who stands accused of crime.

OUR OCTOBER SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

✦Aaronovitch, Ben. [Lies Sleeping](#) (DAW \$7.99). Rivers of London #7. Detective and apprentice wizard Peter Grand teams up with his former friend, Lesley May, who brutally betrayed him, in order to capture the Faceless Man and, far worse, he may also need to come to terms with supernatural killer Mr. Punch. *PW* had this to say “Aaronovitch’s adeptness at injecting humor into the story outweighs the lessening of suspense that results, and his fans will delight in this outing.”

Abbott, Jeff. [The Three Beths](#) (\$7.99). Glimpsing her devoted mother, who went missing and was presumed dead two years earlier, Mariah discovers that two other women who share her mother’s name have also disappeared. *LJ* concluded their review with this “Abbott is a master of misdirection, though multiple red herrings and ever-tightening entanglements lead to a conclusion that some might find confusing. Still, the suspenseful plot with its numerous twists will appeal to readers of Harlan Coben or Gillian Flynn.”

Carlisle, Kate. [Shot Through the Hearth](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Fixer-Upper #6. When her friend, tech billionaire Raphael Nash, is accused of murdering his old business partner, who arrived in town with a grudge, contractor Shannon Hammer must nail down the truth to save Ralph. Carlisle’s Shannon Hammer series is a regular feature on the Hallmark Mystery Channel.

Connelly, Michael. [Dark Sacred Night](#) (\$9.99). Harry Bosch #23. Teaming up with Harry Bosch to reopen a cold case, LAPD detective Renee Ballard navigates interpersonal differences to pursue justice for a murdered runaway in Hollywood. *Kirkus* said “Fans who don’t think supporting cases run away with the story will marvel at Connelly’s remarkable ability to keep them all not only suitably mystifying but deeply humane, as if her were the Ross Macdonald of the police procedural.”

✦Forsyth, Frederick. [The Fox](#) (\$9.99). When America’s intelligence agencies are breached by a teen hacker, a British MI6

leader endeavors to use the boy's talents to safeguard both nations from unseen enemies. *PW* concluded with "A lifetime of experience from both bestseller Forsyth (*The Day of the Jackal*) and his lead character, Sir Adrian Weston, informs every page of this terrifically entertaining spy thriller in the classic tradition."

Gardner, Lisa. [Never Tell](#) (\$9.99). D.D. Warren #9. While D.D. Warren investigates a pregnant woman's suspicious role in the murders of her father and husband, Flora draws on her own haunted past to identify an unsettling link to one of the victims. *PW* offered this take "As readers unravel secrets that tie these two murders together, Gardner questions how well anyone can truly know spouses and families. The conclusion may not come as a shock, but Gardner's commendable storytelling will keep fans eagerly waiting for the next outing for D.D. and Flora."

Lillard, Amy. [Can't Judge a Book by Its Murder](#) (Sourcebooks \$7.99). Main Street Book Club #1. As Sugar Springs gears up for its all-class high school reunion, Mississippi bookstore owner Arlo Stanley prepares to launch her largest event: a book-signing with the town's legendary alum and bestselling author, Wally Harrison. That's when Wally is discovered dead outside of Arlo's front door and her best friend is questioned for the crime. *Kirkus* loved this saying "A promising series debut, sometimes humorous, often puzzling, and people with believable characters,"

Lindsey, Julie. [Apple Cider Slaying](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Cider Shop #1. To drum up business at their apple orchard, Winona Mae Montgomery and her Granny Smythe organize a good old-fashioned holiday festival that draws not only locals and tourists alike but also a murderer. *Kirkus* concluded their review with "Readers will appreciate the good will of Lindsey's characters in this warmly written, cider-centric cozy series launch."

Margolin, Phillip. [The Perfect Alibi](#) (\$9.99). Two rape cases at the same bar are complicated by a prominent athlete's threats, baffling DNA evidence, suspicious attacks on case lawyers, and a district attorney's resolve to prosecute a killing in self-defense. *PW* ended their review with "Margolin convincingly portrays the workings of the legal system and has created a worthy heroine."

NEW IN SMALL PAPERBACKS

Balson, Ronald. [Karolina's Twins](#) (\$8.99). Inspired by true events, this novel follows the experiences of a Holocaust survivor who, while fighting a lawsuit from the son who would garner her estate, reflects on her early years in war-torn Poland and the secret of maternity they shared.

Blaedel, Sara. [Silent Women](#) (\$7.99). Reissue. An online flirtation can have horrific consequences, as Detective Louise Rick discovers when she is called to an idyllic Copenhagen neighborhood where a young woman has been left bound and gagged after a profoundly brutal rape attack.

Childs, Laura. [Eggs on Ice](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Cackleberry Club #8. When an unpopular curmudgeon, cast as Scrooge in a local production of *A Christmas Carol*, is murdered by someone dressed as the Ghost of Christmas Past, the Cackleberry Club members find themselves sorting through a growing list of suspects.

Clark, Mary Higgins. [You Don't Own Me](#) (\$8.99). Under Suspicion #5. Asked by the parents of a celebrity doctor to feature their son's case on "Under Suspicion," television producer Laurie Moran dives into the case, placing herself in the path of a mysterious stalker.

Cussler, Clive. [Sea of Greed](#) (\$9.99). NUMA Files #16. As the world's oil supply is vanishing and the stock market is plummeting, the NUMA team must solve a baffling historical mystery in order to save the future.

Ehrhart, Peggy. [Silent Knit, Deadly Knit](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Knit and Nibble #2. When her daughter, Penny stumbles upon the dead body of a wealthy craft shop owner who was popular for all the wrong reasons, Pamela and the Knit and Nibblers must unravel the clues to catch a crafty killer and bring back the Christmas cheer.

Flynn, Vince. [Separation of Power](#) (\$9.99). Reissue. Mitch Rapp #3. With CIA director Thomas Stansfield dead, his protégée, Dr. Irene Kennedy, is poised to take over the reins of the agency, while CIA operative Mitch Rapp heads to the Middle East to try to stop the chaos that could ignite World War III.

Haines, Carolyn. [A Gift of Bones](#) (\$7.99). Southern Belle #19. A much-needed break during the holiday season in Zinnia, Mississippi, is upended when a friend begs Sarah Booth for help rescuing a pregnant estranged family member.

Hillerman, Tony. [The Blessing Way](#) (\$10). Reissue of Hillerman's first novel. Witchcraft appears to be involved in the death of an Indian whose body was found in Many Ruins Canyon, and Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn is charged with the task of solving the crime.

✚Horowitz, Anthony. [Moriarty](#) (\$10). Reissue. Pinkerton agent Frederick Chase arrives in London to help Scotland Yard Inspector Athelney Jones track down the sinister figure determined to be Moriarty's successor.

Hunt, Tom. [One Fatal Mistake](#) (Berkley \$9.99). When her son causes a fatal accident and flees the scene without reporting it, a single mother makes a fateful decision that irrevocably changes their lives.

✚McDermid, Val. [Darker Domain](#) (\$10). Reissue. More than twenty years after the 1984 national miners' strike in Scotland, Cold Case Review Team Inspector Karen Pirie stumbles across new evidence that links the cases of a missing strikebreaker and a kidnapping gone wrong.

Murphy, Shirley. [Cat Chase the Moon](#) (\$7.99). Joe Grey #21. Feline private investigator Joe Grey and his friends pounce on three cases that may connect to one larger, very personal mystery involving Joe Grey and Dulcie's missing teen kitten, who has been pampered by a deceptive human.

Nesbø, Jo. [Redbreast](#) (\$10). Reissue. Harry Hole #3. Follow Hole as he races to stop a killer and disarm a ticking time-bomb from his nation's shadowy past in this chilling tale of murder and betrayal that ranges from the battlefields of World War Two to the streets of modern Oslo.

Pieczenik, Steve. [Net Force Dark Web](#) (Hanover \$9.99). When America is hit by a two-pronged attack involving explosions and cyber strikes, a fledgling group of elite cyber-experts leads a defense against ongoing hacks while racing to identify an elusive mastermind perpetrator.

Pressey, Rose. [Murder Can Mess Up Your Masterpiece](#) (Kensington \$7.99). When a customer returns a painting, claiming it is haunted, artist Celeste Cabot discovers that she has psychic abilities, which come in handy in solving the murder of a cranky craft fair manager before the wrong person gets framed.

Sennefelder, Debra. [Three Widows and a Corpse](#) (Kensington \$7.99). While competing in Jefferson, Connecticut's annual scavenger hunt, food blogger Hope Early stumbles upon the dead body of a shady real estate developer and is asked by one of his three wives to catch a cold-hearted killer and triple widow-maker.

Stuart, Amy. [Still Mine](#) (\$9.99). After leaving her husband, Clare goes to the remote mining town of Blackmore to search for a local girl, Shayna Fowles, who has disappeared, and as she searches for clues about Shayna, she is forced to confront truths about her own past.

Watkins, Eileen. [The Persian Always Meows Twice](#) (Kensington \$7.99). When the fur starts flying, Cassie McGlone, owner of Cassie's Comfy Cats, handles her feistiest four-legged clients with a caring touch *and* nerves of steel. While these qualities certainly help keep her business purring, they also come in handy when she makes a house call to her best client, millionaire George DeLeuw, and discovers his murdered body next to his newly orphaned Persian, Harpo.