

BOOKNEWS from

ISSN 1056-5655, © The Poisoned Pen, Ltd.
Volume 31, Number 11
September 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](#)

FILL YOUR FALL WITH WONDERFUL BOOKS

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

Some Events will be webcast on Facebook Live

Check out our new [YouTube Channel](#)

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3 7:00 PM

Stephen Coonts signs [The Russia Account](#) (Regnery \$27.99)
Coonts will be joined by 3 former CIA agents turned authors
Dave Austin signs [Tehran's Vengeance](#) (iBook \$12.99)
Thomas Pecora signs [Guardian](#): Life in the Crosshairs of the
CIA's War on Terror (Post Hill Press \$27.99)
Mike Trott signs [The Protected](#) (Archway \$29.95)

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5 7:00 PM

William Kent Krueger signs [This Tender Land](#) (Atria \$27)
A coming of age story; think *Huck Finn*

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7 2:00 PM

Jenn McKinlay signs [Word to the Wise](#) (Berkley \$26)
A Library Lovers Mystery

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9 7:00 PM

Poisoned Pen Press Party with giveaways and treats
Sara Johnson signs her debut [Molten Mud Murder](#) (Sourcebooks
\$15.95)
American forensics specialist in New Zealand
Thomas Kies signs [Graveyard Bay](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.99)
Reporter Geneva Chase

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12 7:00 PM

Katayoun Medhat signs [Lacandon Dreams, Part II of the Mila-
gro Mystery Series](#) (Leapfrog Press \$17)
Navajo Police Procedural

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16 7:00 PM

Andrew Gross signs [The Fifth Column](#) (St Martins \$28.99)
WWII New York City thriller

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17 7:00 PM Book Launch

Nevada Barr signs [What Rose Forgot](#) (St Martins \$28.99)

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18 7:00 PM

Linwood Barclay signs [Elevator Pitch](#) (Morrow \$26.99)

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 19 7:00 PM

Ticketed Event \$32 admits one with one book; \$37 admits two
with one book
Craig Johnson signs [Land of Wolves](#) (Viking \$28)
Sheriff Walt Longmire

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23 7:00 PM

Paddy Hirsch signs [Hudson's Kill](#) (Forge \$25.99)
Justice Flanagan 1803 New York City

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 24 7:00 PM

SJ Rozan signs [Paper Son](#) (Pegasus \$25.95)
Lydia Chin & Bill Smith
James Sallis signs [Sarah Jane](#) (Soho \$23.95)

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26 7:00 PM

T. Greenwood signs [Keeping Lucy](#) (St Martins \$27.99)
Suspense based on a true story of a Down Syndrome child

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27 7:00 PM

Kyle Mills signs [Vince Flynn Lethal Agent](#) (Atria \$28.99)
Mitch Rapp

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28 2:00 PM Mystery Tea

Mary Anna Evans signs [Catacombs](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.95/\$15.95)
Archaeologist Faye Longchamp

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29 2:00 PM

Enjoy Poisoned Pen Press giveaways
Mark Coggins signs [The Dead Beat Scroll](#) (Down & Out Books
\$17.95).
Warren Easley signs [No Way to Die](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.95/\$15.95)
Oregon Lawyer Cal Claxton
Dennis Palumbo signs [Head Wounds](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.95)
Psychologist Dr. Daniel Rinaldi

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30 7:00 PM Book Launch

John Sandford signs [Bloody Genius](#) (Putnam \$29)
Virgil Flowers

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2 7:00 PM

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

THURSDAY OCTOBER 3

**This ticketed event with Joe Hill and Leslie S Klinger is sold
out.** To order their books see Signed Books below.

SEPTEMBER DISCUSSION CLUBS

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

Coffee & Crime: Saturday September 14 10:30 AM
Rice, Craig. [Home Sweet Homicide](#) (\$15.95)

SciFi Friday: September 20 7:00 PM
Lee, Fonda. [Jade City](#) (\$15.95)

Croak & Dagger: Saturday September 21 10:30 AM
Turton, Stuart. [The 71/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle](#) (\$16.99)

Hardboiled Crime: Wednesday September 25 7:00 PM
Welch, James. [The Death of Jim Loney](#) (\$15)

EVENT BOOKS

Austin, Dave. [Tehran's Vengeance](#) (iBook \$12.99). In a brazen, daylight attack on his motorcade, Jonathan Lewis, the U.S. ambassador to Iraq is missing and every member of his diplomatic security detail is killed. Joe Matthews and his team paramilitary officers deploy to the region with a CIA response group to investigate the incident and locate Ambassador Lewis. With the help of a traitorous congressional staffer, elements deep inside Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps are able to identify the individuals responsible for launching a devastating cyber attack against their country's nuclear program. The list includes eight high-ranking members of government and industry in America, Britain, Germany, and Israel. Armed with this knowledge, the leadership in Tehran decides it is time to exact its vengeance on the West. Acting on orders from the Ayatollah himself, Quds Force Major Hamid Farzan and his right-hand man, Lieutenant Yousef Mehrdad, set off to blaze a trail of destruction....

Barclay, Linwood. [Elevator Pitch](#) (Morrow \$26.99 September 18). It all begins on a Monday, when four people board an elevator in a Manhattan office tower. Each presses a button for their floor, but the elevator proceeds, non-stop, to the top. Once there, it stops for a few seconds, and then plummets. Right to the bottom of the shaft. It appears to be a horrific, random tragedy. But then, on Tuesday, it happens again, in a different Manhattan skyscraper. And when Wednesday brings yet another high-rise catastrophe, one of the most vertical cities in the world – and the nation's capital of media, finance, and entertainment – is plunged into chaos. Clearly, this is anything but random. But what is it? Domestic terrorism. For sure it's terrorizing New York and bringing commerce to a halt....

It so interesting that both Barclay and Megan Goldin have used elevators in their thrillers—hers is [The Escape Room](#). But then I recently read a fascinating piece in the *WSJ* about Otis Elevators and the smart technology it is developing and installing and one big issue is... it means an elevator carrying a specific passenger or passengers can be hacked. Once again crime fiction cuts along the edge of change.

Barr, Nevada. [What Rose Forgot](#) (St Martins \$28.99 September 17, publication day). I was heading towards making this standalone novel of suspense a Thriller Book of the Month. It is one in a sense, but of necessity to make the story work the pace is low-key punctuated by bursts of action. Which is attributable to the way that the 68-year-old recently widowed Rose Dennis navigates her incarceration in Longwood in the Memory Care Unit—and her escape. We meet Rose as she's barely navigating some Charlotte, NC, woods, dehydrated, clad only in a gaping hospital gown. But dimly she realizes something is way wrong. Captured and tranquilized, cuffed to her bed, she perseveres in hiding her medication, hazily forms a new plan, and escapes again. This time she makes it back to her home's playhouse where she connects with her young granddaughter Mel. Mel points out Rose's behavior went weird when her husband was killed. A diagnosis of early Alzheimer's convinced her stepsons to hospitalize her. But Rose, growing stronger, and narrowly ducking assassination, convinces Mel her memory is returning off drugs and launches a reclamation of her life. It gets wild.

“Thrilling action, madcap humor, and a larger-than-life cast energize this cleverly plotted take on a traditional mystery. Barr surprises and entertains from start to finish.”—*PW* Starred Review. True—but the beating heart of this book is the uncanny way Barr dives deep inside Rose's apparent dementia to lead her out of it.

Coggins, Mark. [The Dead Beat Scroll](#) (Down & Out Books \$17.95 September 29). PI August Riordan returns to San Francisco after a self-imposed exile of five years only to find the partner and friend Chris who took over the business, his old office, his secretary, and even his apartment, has died—on a table at the Golden Fingers massage parlor. It is determined Chris was shot with a .22. Riordan suspects the death must be linked to a case, most likely the most recent, that of a missing person. A young woman called Angelina had hired Chris to search for her half-sister. Admonished by his nemesis Kittredge at the SFPD to stay straight and keep him in the loop, Riordan picks up clues as best he can, follows a trail that hints at an unknown manuscript by Beat writer Jack Kerouac and a murderous family intent on claiming it. Taking on Angelina as a client, Riordan finds bodies piling up along with the certainty that avenging his partner and serving his client is...murder.

Coonts, Stephen. [The Russia Account](#) (Regnery \$27.99 September 3). When CIA director Jake Grafton learns that a tiny bank in Estonia has been laundering money, possibly hundreds of billions of dollars, he sends his stalwart aide, Tommy Carmellini to investigate. Tommy gets on the trail of Russian multibillionaire Yegan Korjev, a Putin crony, whom Jake approves for rendition to a safe house in Utah for interrogation. The money-laundering operation they uncover ensnares politicians, philanthropists, investors, and criminals in a complex plan to destabilize Western society with “imaginary money.” Coonts is on sure ground when handling assassination attempts, shoot-outs, plane attacks, and investigative field work, and Tommy's world-weary persona shines. Prepare for a conservative slant from Coonts, a Vietnam vet and pilot. Coonts will be joined by three former CIA Agents September 3.

Easley, Warren. [No Way to Die](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.95 and \$15.95 September 29). Attorney Cal Claxton, now well-established in his Oregon law practice after breaking off his career as a high-powered LA prosecutor, just wants to go fishing with his daughter, Claire, and he knows the best place—the coastal area south of Coos Bay. But their vacation takes a dark turn with the discovery of a body in the river. Here's a brand new review from *PW*: “Cal and his daughter, Claire, who has a postdoctoral position at Harvard in environmental science, are fishing in Oregon's Millicoma River when they discover the body of fellow fisherman Howard Coleman, his hands and feet bound with steel cable. Two days later, Cal meets Aurora Dennison, the owner of the Coffee and Subversion bookshop, who describes the dead man as ‘a jailhouse snitch.’ Coleman's false testimony helped convict her 16-year-old grandson, Kevin Sanders, of the murder of nasty Sonny Jensen four years earlier and send the boy to prison for life without parole. Soon after Cal agrees to reexamine Kevin's case, he and Claire are risking their lives in pursuit of the killers of both Jensen and Coleman. Easley creates authentic characters and relationships, and his eloquent descriptions of the Oregon

wilderness are sublime. This well-plotted, character-driven series just keeps getting better.”

Think of this exciting case as a kind of Central Park Five in the Oregon prison system with a bookseller rebel in the mix. This whole [Cal Claxton series](#) is IMHO terrific and fun to read from the beginning plus it delivers wonderful portraits of Oregon’s varied communities and cultures.

Evans, Mary Anna. [Catacombs](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.95; \$15.95 September 28). Archaeologist Faye Longchamp is in the lobby of Oklahoma City’s grandest hotel when the bomb goes off. A conference focusing on native arts was starting when there was a “rumbling beneath her.” Evans’ description of the scene amounts to a stunning set piece as guests “topple to the floor, perfectly synchronized” and one man flees, “arms flailing as if to stop gravity from dragging him back down.” Just prior, in the lobby of the historic Gershwin Hotel, Faye meets legendary actor Cully Mantooh, her husband’s distant relative, who gives her an Indian flute as a present. Then boom. While paramedics make sure she’s okay, Faye is approached by FBI agent Tom Bigbee, with whom she has collaborated in the past. Tom wants her help exploring a complex of catacombs spread out beneath the hotel that was exposed by the explosion. Faye and the FBI team descend into these tunnels, where they discover evidence of a very cold case involving the deaths of three children. “Evans blends nail-biting action with a remarkable view of the secret world that lies beneath Oklahoma City, based on an underground community that actually existed a century ago, as an author’s note explains. Those who like richly textured, character-driven mysteries will be rewarded.”—*PW*. A fan adds, “Evans gives us an intelligent well paced mystery interspersed with fascinating bits of the history of the Oklahoma City area. All her characters are interesting and well-developed.”

Greenwood, T. [Keeping Lucy](#) (St Martins \$27.99 September 26). Dover, Massachusetts, 1969. Ginny Richardson’s heart was torn open when her baby girl, Lucy, was born with Down Syndrome. Under pressure from his powerful family, her husband, Ab, sent Lucy away to Willowridge, a special school for the “feeble-minded.” Ab tried to convince Ginny it was for the best. That they should grieve for their daughter as though she were dead. That they should try to move on. Ginny tries. But two years later, when Ginny’s best friend, Marsha, shows her a series of articles exposing Willowridge as a hell-on-earth—its squalid hallways filled with neglected children—she knows she can’t leave her daughter there. With Ginny’s six-year-old son in tow, Ginny and Marsha drive to the school to see Lucy for themselves. What they find sets their course on a heart-racing journey across state lines—turning Ginny into a fugitive. For the first time, Ginny must test her own strength and face the world head-on as she fights Ab and his domineering father for the right to keep Lucy at home. “The author makes Ginny’s transformation from timid housewife to empowered guardian an affecting one. And in Ginny’s road trip from Massachusetts to Florida by way of Atlantic City and the Blue Ridge Mountains, Greenwood explores a country caught between traditional values and the societal changes of the 1960s and ’70s.”

Gross, Andrew. [The Fifth Column](#) (St Martins \$28.99 September 16). After writing a variety of thrillers, Gross has been giving us outstanding books rooted in history, much of it WWII. Here we

dive into a plot that starts in February, 1939. Europe teeters on the brink of war. In New York City, twenty-two thousand cheering Nazi supporters pack Madison Square Garden for a raucous, hate-filled rally. In a Hell’s Kitchen bar, Charles Mossman is reeling from the loss of his job and the demise of his marriage when a group draped in Nazi flags barges in. Drunk, Charlie takes a swing at one with tragic results and a torrent of unintended consequences follows. Two years later. America is wrestling with whether to enter the growing war. Charles’s estranged wife and six-year-old daughter, Emma, now live in a quiet brownstone in the German-speaking New York City neighborhood of Yorkville, where support for Hitler is common. Charles, just out of prison, struggles to put his life back together, while across the hall from his family, a kindly Swiss couple, Trudi and Willi Bauer, have taken a liking to Emma. But Charles begins to wonder if the couple might not be who they say they are. As the threat of war grows, and fears of a “fifth column”—German spies embedded into everyday life—are everywhere, Charles suspects that the seemingly amiable Bauers may be part of a sinister conspiracy. When Pearl Harbor is attacked and America can no longer sit on the sideline, Charles is the only one who can see the fifth column threat while Emma could be an innocent pawn.

Hirsch, Paddy. [Hudson’s Kill](#) (Forge \$25.99 September 23). Hirsch follows up his zinger of a 2018 History/Mystery Book of the Month [The Devil’s Half Mile](#) (\$16.99), introducing Justice Flanagan, with a knockout sequel that evokes the rapidly urbanizing island and deploys a good deal of cant (there’s a handy glossary of terms to consult but most of it is obvious in context). Justy is now serving as a marshal in Manhattan in 1803. Crime is rising in the expanding city, but upper class residents, who can afford to protect themselves, oppose a permanent police force, fearing the equivalent of a standing army, and politicians object to the concept as an English idea. When Kerry O’Toole, a former mixed-race pickpocket to whom Justy has given a chance to lead a law-abiding life, comes across an unidentified teenage girl in an alley who has been disemboweled Justy investigates. Tattoos on the dead girl’s hands suggest that she’s a Muslim, which, along with her dark skin color, makes identifying her and catching her killer a low priority for Justy’s boss. Justy persists, however, and his inquiries take him and Kerry to Hudson’s Kill, the sequestered home of a significant Muslim community, whose members must be up to something behind their wall. Hirsch makes the most of his setting and has a rich vein of potential future plots to mine with trademark thoroughness.

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.

Johnson, Craig. [Land of Wolves](#) (Viking \$28 September 19). A [ticketed event](#) at The Pen. Attempting to recover from his

harrowing experiences in Mexico, Sheriff Walt Longmire is neck deep in the investigation of what could or could not be the suicide of a Chilean shepherd, working on a Basque family ranch, who has been found hanged in a tree. The man's death has unsettling connections to the ranch family with its reputation for removing the legs of Absaroka County sheriffs (Walt's predecessor Lucas). And Walt is distracted from the case by the appearance of an oversize wolf in the Big Horn Mountains, a big male who could be a local and not an imported wolf, to which Walt finds himself feeling more and more empathetic. And then there are those moments when Walt just seems to freeze, not relating to anything or one.... All the [Walt Longmires](#) are in print and form an indelible picture of the wide cast of characters and of varying aspects of Wyoming.

Johnson, Sarah. [Molten Mud Murder](#) (Sourcebooks/Poisoned Pen \$15.99 September 9). I love this debut set in New Zealand, our **September Discovery Book of the Month**. *Library Journal* names it its **Debut Mystery for September** and gives it this Starred Review: American Alexa Glock is a forensics expert who finished a job in Auckland, New Zealand, and hopes to find a temporary job to extend her work permit. When she learns about an unidentified man whose body was found in the mud pits in Rotorua, she offers to help the local police force. Alexa is trained in odontology, the study of teeth, which might help since the man's head was boiled in the mud. As the police investigate the victim, it's clear he violated the sacred lands of the Maori, a large population on the island. Many think he deserved to die for stepping on a sacred island without permission. Forewarned, Alexa is sent to the island to investigate. When her lab assistant is attacked and a Maori man is murdered, she and the investigating team try to determine whether the Maori are responsible or someone is trying to frame them. There's a strong sense of place, history, and Maori culture in this compelling debut novel. The mystery combines forensic investigation with the rich details of a fascinating culture. Fans of Kathy Reichs' mysteries will appreciate the forensics, while Jane Harper's readers will enjoy the rich culture."

Here's a fan's review: "This was a great mystery. The boiled body of a man is found, head down, in a mud pit; Alexa represents herself as a forensic expert (which she is) and the 'called-in' expert (which she isn't). She ends up as a forensic specialist on contract with the police department to solve the murder. The initial situation points to it being a Maori ritualistic killing but Alexa starts investigating and, assisting Detective Inspector Horne with realizing there is a much, much larger picture to be revealed. Ms. Johnson lived in New Zealand; her experiences support an excellent story and appear to be respectful of the Maori culture and customs. I learned a great deal from the book, in addition to a well crafted mystery. I hope more books about Alexa and Rotorua are forthcoming!" And... they are. This is a paperback original.

Kies, Thomas. [Graveyard Bay](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.99 or \$15.99 September 9). The opening scene of this third Geneva Chase hard-hitting investigation stopped me (and my heart) cold! And not just me. The story is set on the Connecticut side of Long Island Sound in a fictional marina called Groward Bay, nicknamed Graveyard Bay because dismembered arms, legs, and torsos are often found there. It's winter time, cold and dark. The water is black, the air frigid. Blustery winds sting cheeks and gloveless

hands with icy crystals and frozen grime. Geneva Chase arrives to report on two nude bodies found chained to the prongs of a mammoth fork lift used to heft water craft into storage. It's a horrible way to die. Read on. The author tells you what happens to a human body submerged in near freezing water. Readers who have not spent time on the East or West Coasts may not be familiar with the gigantic marinas and storage docks along our continental shoreline nor the equipment used to store ocean going vessels for the winter. Early on it's revealed that the male corpse belongs to Judge Niles Preston, a known womanizer who is suspected of taking payoffs for dropping cases. The female corpse is unidentified and incorrectly thought to be one of his paramours. The primary suspect is Merlin Finn, a man with Russian Mafia connections. But... This story, like those in previous Geneva Chase books, is pretty evenly divided between the mystery at hand and Geneva's deeply flawed personal life. Because of her drinking, she has a history of making bad choices, including an affair with a married man, and several failed marriages of her own. In this book, the claws of her addiction are still deeply embedded. Even so, there is much to admire in someone, fictional or real, who takes in a child not their own to care for and raise" while her job at the local newspaper is imploding.—*NY Journal of Books*

Here's a quote for *Graveyard Bay* by Joseph Finder: "Journalism may be changing, but investigative reporters like Geneva Chase will always find the truth. *Graveyard Bay* is a tense, razor-sharp hunt for some genuinely terrifying criminals, set in a vivid and believable New England winter." And here's what Joe added to me which I pass along: "The local politics are sharply observed and plausible. I found the central mystery vivid and well constructed, and the descriptions of a 2019 newsroom in the clutches of a major media corporation ring quite true." Start Kies with [Random Road](#), a May 2017 *LJ* Debut Mystery of the Month, and [Darkness Lane](#) (\$15.95 each).

Krueger, William. [This Tender Land](#) (Atria \$27 September 5). This gorgeous story is not a continuation of [Ordinary Grace](#) (\$17), a book that can't really have a new chapter, but it's another book of Krueger's heart, a coming of age story with bad shit happening, but not falling into the parameters of crime fiction. For me the analog is Huck Finn and indeed there are boys and traveling on the big river and... It's just amazing. It's also our **September Modern Firsts Book of the Month**. And the No 1 Indie Next Pick for September: "The work of a master storyteller about the making of a young storyteller, *This Tender Land* is a coming-of-age novel for the ages. It begins in an isolated Dickensian boarding school in Minnesota during the early years of the Depression, then morphs into the story of four runaways in a canoe à la *Huckleberry Finn*. On the run from their school headmistress and the law, they encounter other wanderers and escapees from life as they canoe towards St. Louis to find their only known relative and a possible home. Odie, his brother Albert, their schoolmate Mose, and newly orphaned Emmy are unforgettable characters in an unforgiving era. Epic, thrilling, and beautifully written, this is storytelling at its very best." **Kent is preparing a bit of extra text to go with our copies.**

The Midwest Booksellers Association making it a top recommend, adds, "For fans of *Before We Were Yours* and *Where the Crawdads Sing*, a magnificent novel about four orphans on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression."

McKinlay, Jenn. [Word to the Wise](#) (Berkley \$26 September 7). Former librarian McKinlay writes for library lovers... and the world of readers. Lindsey Norris is finally getting married to the man of her dreams—but it's not all roses for Briar Creek's beloved library director, as gardening enthusiast and town newcomer Aaron Grady gives the term "book lover" a whole new meaning. Inappropriate looks and unwelcome late-night visits to Lindsey's house have everyone from the crafternooners to Lindsey's fiancé, Sully, on edge. When Grady's dead body is found staged outside the library and all the clues point to Sully, the couple is determined to do their own sleuthing to prove Sully's innocence and keep their nuptials on track. The real killer, however, has other plans for Lindsey. McKinlay does a good job building the suspense. Rarely does a clean-as-a-whistle cozy qualify as riveting, but this one, our **September Cozy Crime Book of the Month**, definitely does.

Medhat, Katayoun. [Lacandon Dreams, Part II of the Milagro Mystery Series](#) (Leapfrog Press \$17 September 12). Meet Franz Kafka, aka K, unlikely officer of the law, the most conflicted of them all. In this dystopian world, Big Energy is fracking the life out of San Matteo County, a teenager's mysterious vanishing is callously ignored, all the sheriff's men are out training school-teachers in arms proficiency while the mighty melting pot is a witches' cauldron of intercultural discontent. Super-sleuth Navajo cop Robbie Begay's unconventional methods help K take on the bad guys, and K finds unexpected solace in an old Lacandon woman's dreams. "Tony Hillerman fans will welcome Medhat's excellent debut and series launch, a refreshing take on Navajo country's crime, culture, and history... Medhat, who holds a Ph.D. in medical anthropology, uses pathos and humor, tragedy and comedy, to spin an entertaining and original mystery."—*PW* starred review.

[The Quality of Mercy, Part I](#) (\$16) introduces quixotic cop Franz Kafka and Navajo tribal police officer Robbie Begay as they track a killer across a landscape of cultural clashes and dangerous, small-town secrets.

Mills, Kyle. [Vince Flynn Lethal Agent](#) (Atria \$28.99 September 27). The rousing fifth Mitch Rapp novel pits Mitch, the creation of Vince Flynn (1966–2013), against Mullah Sayid Halabi, an ISIS terrorist grievously wounded in an earlier battle with Mitch. Halabi, a man with a grudge, kidnaps Gabriel Bertrand, a brilliant French microbiologist, to assist him in spreading the deadly disease known as Yemeni Acute Respiratory Syndrome around the world. The only way Mitch can stop the plan is to sacrifice his personal life and go undercover into the ranks of Mexican cartel boss Carlos Esparza, whose minions are set to infect populations with the disease. Meanwhile, Senator Christine Barnett, a traitor, lusts to win the U.S. presidency, an ineffectual president just wants to sit out the remainder of his term, and an American electorate reacts only to partisanship and hatred. With Washington's political elite increasingly lined up against him, Rapp knows he'll be on his own. And the pages will fly by.

Palumbo, Dennis. [Head Wounds](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.95 September 29). Psychologist Dr. Daniel Rinaldi consults with the Pittsburgh Police. His specialty is treating victims of violent crime—those who've survived an armed robbery, kidnapping, or sexual assault, but whose traumatic experience still haunts them. *Head Wounds* turns the tables on him as Rinaldi becomes the target of a vicious killer. It begins: "Miles Davis saved my life." A domestic

drama blows up right outside his front door, and Rinaldi is saved from a bullet to the brain by pure chance. In the chaos that follows, Rinaldi learns his bad-girl, wealthy neighbor has told her hair-triggered boyfriend Rinaldi is her lover. As things heat up, Rinaldi becomes a murder suspect as he finds himself a target of a peculiar kind of killer. This is a truly excellent thriller! "This is a book that'll make you lock your doors and check your computer's security settings."—Joseph Finder

Rozan, SJ. [Paper Son](#) (Pegasus \$25.95 September 24). In my wildest dreams I never imagined New York PIs Lydia Chin and Bill Smith working a case in Mississippi. A case among a community's insular Chinese. What a surprise! And so this remarkable book is our **September Surprise Me! Book of the Month**. Here's a rave review: "After a hiatus in this series that's felt like forever, Lydia Chin's formidable mother, who's never approved of her work as a private eye, packs her off to the Mississippi Delta for the best and worst reasons. The first time Lydia ever hears of her cousin Jefferson Tam is when her mother tells her that he's been arrested for stabbing his father, Leland, ne Lo-Liang, to death. He was found bending over the dead man, his fingerprints on the murder weapon, but he's obviously innocent, and Lydia and her partner, Bill Smith, have to exonerate him. Lydia's pleasure that her mother needs her professional skills, from which she's always recoiled in the past, is undercut by her own deep reservations about leaving Manhattan for the Deep South. Despite the hospitality of Jefferson's uncle, the gambler Captain Peter Tam, Clarksdale feels impossibly foreign to her even though her great-grandfather's brother Chin Song-Zhao, aka Harry Tam, settled there long ago, masking his identity in a way you will discover. Barely have Lydia and Bill arrived than Jefferson escapes from police custody, eliminating any lingering doubts deputy Bert Lucknell might have had about his guilt. The case immerses Lydia and her Kentucky-born partner in an exotic landscape stuffed with eminently recognizable local types and three generations of knotty family history. But Rozan is far too conscientious a plotter to settle for detective tourism...."

This is Mississippi; the dazed heroine keeps reminding herself with every new twist. Maybe, maybe not—but it's a triumphant return of this sorely missed franchise either way."—*Kirkus Reviews*. Amen to that.

Sallis, James. [Sarah Jane](#) (Soho \$23.95 September 24) is, as one bookseller describes it, "A spare, sparkling tour de force about one woman's journey to becoming a cop, by master of noir James Sallis, author of *Drive*. Everything he writes is most worthy and so beautifully written to boot. You will marvel. He's a sorcerer with words. Because most of his novels feature a crime, and subsequent matching atmosphere, they are called mysteries. But trust me these are novels first of the highest literary quality that work within the world of bad deeds gone even more wrong. Sarah Jane is no different. What's not to admire in a sentence that reads: 'There's a small revolution going on in that sentence.' Trust me—find this guy—start here—read this book!"

Here's another review: "Sarah Jane Pullman is a good cop with a complicated past. From her small-town chicken-farming roots through her runaway adolescence, court-ordered Army stint, ill-advised marriage and years slinging scrambled eggs over greasy spoon griddles, Sarah Jane unfolds her life story, a parable about memory, atonement, and finding shape in chaos. Her life takes an unexpected turn when she is named the de facto sheriff

of a rural town, investigating the mysterious disappearance of the sheriff whose shoes she's filling—and the even more mysterious realities of the life he was hiding from his own colleagues and closest friends. This kaleidoscopic character study sparkles in every dark and bright detail.”

Sandford, John. [Bloody Genius](#) (Putnam \$29 September 30). I'll say right here that the last six paragraphs of the first chapter are... bloody genius... such as only Sandford would write! Thanks to some string-pulling, Flowers gets assigned to assist the Minneapolis PD with the investigation of a homicide at the University of Minnesota that has stalled two weeks after the crime. Someone bashed in the head of Barthelmy Quill with a laptop in the university library in the middle of the night; Quill, a professor who worked in a lab specializing in spinal injuries, was in the midst of a romantic rendezvous at the time. The dead man's sister, a major political campaign donor, prevailed on the governor to add resources to the case, a decision not welcomed by the veteran police detective in charge. Flowers finds no shortage of suspects, including a map thief and an academic rival whose theories were denounced as bunk by Quill during one of her lectures. Our **September Thriller Book of the Month** is even more fun for you as the Agatha Christie tropes emerge. And Sandford goes out of his way to play fair with the reader in Christie style.

Our copies come with an exclusive, custom-designed extra that fits the Body in the Library scenario of this 12th for Virgil Flowers. Our event is the day before publication date so ask for your copy to be dated.

Sandford's longtime editor writes, I was going to outline some of the things John's done over the years to escape that trap—how he transformed Lucas Davenport from an unpredictable, sexy, rich womanizer into a grown-up (though still an unpredictable one); how he kept enlarging the scope of Davenport's activities, from city to state to the whole damned country; how he invented Virgil Flowers to supplement Davenport, for those who missed the sexy; how he constantly varied his style, from more thriller-ish to more mystery, from more humorous to hair-raising all the way, from unveiling the bad guy on the very first page to holding the reveal, and holding, and holding. New locales, new subject matter, new ways to commit mayhem...”

And two non-fiction accounts of working the CIA and security

Pecora, Thomas. [Guardian: Life in the Crosshairs of the CIA's War on Terrorism](#) (Post Hill Press \$28 September 3). Pecora's career in the CIA was a sterling one and here he takes you through 24+ years of agency and personal ops and history. It begins in Manila but ranges worldwide. The costs and the triumphs are varied and various. Reading this will enrich your enjoyment of thriller fiction.

Trott, Michael. [The Protected](#) (Archway \$29.95 September 3). Trott is a 30 year veteran of military, CIA, and executive protection. His detailed book is a memoir, a history, and a detailed examination of EP, what it's for, how it's executed, what can go wrong as well as right. Private contractors in this field are increasing in numbers. As a reader of thrillers, this is a lot of fun to peruse as well as pick up aspects of the world in which fictional

ops...operate.

SEPTEMBER BOOKS OF THE MONTH

British Crime Club One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Cleeves, Ann. [The Long Call](#)

Cozy Crimes Club One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

McKinlay, Jenn. [Word to the Wise](#)

Discovery Club One paperback or hardcover per month

Johnson, Sarah. [Molten Mud Murder](#)

First Mystery Club One Signed First per month

Koepp, David. [Cold Storage](#)

Hardboiled Crime Club One signed First per month

Sallis, James. [Sarah Jane](#)

History/Mystery Club One Signed First per month

Clayton, Meg Waite. [Last Train to London](#)

History Paperback One per month

Stuart, AM. [Singapore Sapphire](#)

Modern First Editions One Signed First per month

Krueger, William Kent. [This Tender Land](#) (Atria \$27)

SciFi/Fantasy/Horror Club One Signed First per month

Hoffman, Alice. [The World That We Knew](#)

Surprise Me! Club One Signed First Per Month

Rozan, SJ. [Paper Son](#)

Thriller Club One Signed First per month

Sandford, John. [Bloody Genius](#) (Putnam \$29)

SIGNED BOOKS

✦Archer, Jeffrey. [Nothing Ventured](#) (Macmillan \$45). William Warwick has always wanted to be a detective, and decides, much to his father's dismay, that rather than become a lawyer like his father, Sir Julian Warwick QC, and his sister Grace, he will join London's Metropolitan Police Force. After graduating from university, William begins a career that will define his life: from his early months on the beat under the watchful eye of his first mentor, Constable Fred Yates, to his first high-stakes case as a fledgling detective in Scotland Yard's arts and antiquities squad. Investigating the theft of a priceless Rembrandt painting from the Fitzmolean Museum, he meets Beth Rainsford, a research assistant at the gallery who he falls hopelessly in love with, even as Beth guards a secret of her own that she's terrified will come to light. While William follows the trail of the missing masterpiece, he comes up against suave art collector Miles Faulkner and his brilliant lawyer, Booth Watson QC, who are willing to bend the law to breaking point to stay one step ahead of William. Meanwhile, Miles Faulkner's wife, Christina, befriends William, but whose side is she really on? “This new series introduces William Warwick, a family man and a detective who will battle throughout his career against a powerful criminal nemesis.”

Benn, James R. [When Hell Struck Twelve](#) (Soho \$27.95). Out September 3, Signed here with Martin Limon October 15. US Army detective Billy Boyle is assigned to track down a French traitor, code-named Atlantik, who is delivering classified Allied plans to German leaders in occupied Paris. The Resistance is also hot on his trail and out for blood, after Atlantik's previous

betrayals led to the death of many of their members. But the plans Atlantik carries were leaked on purpose, a ruse devised to obscure the Allied army's real intentions to bypass Paris in a race to the German border. Now Billy and Kaz are assigned to the Resistance with orders to not let them capture the traitor: the deception campaign is too important. Playing a delicate game, the chase must be close enough to spur the traitor on and visible enough to ensure the Germans trust Atlantik. The outcome of the war may well depend on it.

"This consistently strong series has jumped to another level, with this volume clearly the hands-down best so far... 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." —*Booklist* Starred Review

✠Chevalier, Tracy. [A Single Thread](#) (Borough Press \$35). It is 1932, and the losses of the First World War are still keenly felt. Violet Speedwell, mourning for both her fiancé and her brother and regarded by society as a 'surplus woman' unlikely to marry, resolves to escape her suffocating mother and strike out alone. A new life awaits her in Winchester. Yes, it is one of draughty boarding-houses and sidelong glances at her naked ring finger from younger colleagues; but it is also a life gleaming with independence and opportunity. Violet falls in with the broderers, a disparate group of women charged with embroidering kneelers for the Cathedral, and is soon entwined in their lives and their secrets. As the almost unthinkable threat of a second Great War appears on the horizon Violet collects a few secrets of her own that could just change everything...

Clayton, Meg Waite. [Last Train to London](#) (Harper \$29). World War II has inspired many novels exploring globe-spanning facets of the war. The Kindertransport is a story worth telling. As is the bravery of a childless Dutch woman and her husband who fought impossible odds and risked everything to save as many children as they could before war commencing on September 1, 1939, shut the Kindertransport down. What Clayton does so heartfully is to remind us how one person—Geertruide Wijsmuller, known to the children as Tante Truus—made a stand up, significant difference to unfolding events, displaying a rare courage rescuing Jewish children who, without the advent of war, she might never have rallied. One person, Waite underlines, is all it takes to change or amend events. Clayton effectively captures the dim hope of survival amid the mounting terror of the lead-up to WWII. This is a standout historical fiction that serves as a chilling reminder of how insidious, pervasive evil can gradually seep into everyday lives.

The Indie Next Pick: "Based on a real heroine of the Dutch resistance and scrupulously researched, *The Last Train to London* brings to vivid life the extraordinary bravery of one fiercely dedicated childless woman who is attempting to save the lives of literally thousands of innocent children as Hitler marshals his forces across Europe. By writing the Kindertransport story as a novel, Meg Waite Clayton captures the humanity of the young victims and the inhumanity of those who were 'just following orders' more than any biography could. A memorable addition to the literature of World War II and one that is eerily relevant to present-day migrant struggles the world over." And our **September History Book of the Month**.

Coleman, Reed Farrel. [Robert B Parker's the Bitterest Pill](#) (Putnam \$28). This knockout sixth Jesse Stone novel finds Jesse, the police chief of Paradise, Massachusetts, still adjusting to the revelation in 2018's *Colorblind* that he fathered a now adult son, Cole Slayton. Cole's arrival in town comes "just as Paradise was shedding its own skin" and becoming more like Boston, complete with big-city crime, including narcotics. That plague hits home when 17-year-old Heather Mackey is found dead in her bedroom after overdosing on heroin and fentanyl. Concerned over the prospect of more deaths, Jesse devotes himself to finding Heather's supplier and those higher up in the distribution chain. "Coleman sustains suspense through chapters told from the perspective of the drug dealers, while withholding the identity of a key member of the drug chain, who has a link with Heather's high school. Developments in Jesse's personal life are effectively interwoven with the mystery plot. Coleman stays faithful to the spirit of Parker's characters without sticking to the status quo."

Cornwell, Patricia. [Quantum](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$28.99). On sale October 1 but please order early as our supply—these are actual signed books, not tip-ins—is limited. It's a new series start for Cornwell moving from Kay Scarpetta to Captain Chase. On the eve of a top secret space mission, Captain Calli Chase 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 here is something like the ghost in the machine, no?

✠Curran, John. [The Hooded Gunman](#) (Collins \$75). In the year that Collins – the publisher founded by William Collins in Glasgow in 1819 – is enjoying its 200th birthday, this book celebrates probably its most famous publishing imprint. Written and researched by Agatha Christie writer, expert, and archivist Dr John Curran, this is a treasure for you or to give to someone at the holidays. It's a lavish full-color celebration of the 2000 books by more than 250 authors published by the iconic Crime Club between 1930 and 1994. The Hooded Gunman was the sinister figure who, having appeared in various guises on the covers of Collins' various series of Mystery and Detective books in the 1920s, finally gained recognition with the launch of Collins' Crime Club, becoming the definitive imprint stamp on more than 2,000 books published by that august imprint. From Agatha Christie to Reginald Hill, the Hooded Gunman was a guarantee of a first-class crime novel for almost 65 years, and those books are now as sought after and collectable as almost any other book series, with many commanding high prices and almost impossible to find.

Cussler, Clive. [The Titanic Secret](#) (Putnam \$29). **On sale September 10 with bookplates signed by Jack DuBrul**. Though working a century apart, NUMA Director Dirk Pitt and detective Isaac Bell team up to unlock the truth about the famous 1912 maritime disaster. In the present day, Pitt makes a daring rescue

from inside an antiquated submersible in the waters off New York City. His reward afterwards is a document left behind a century earlier by legendary detective Isaac Bell—a document that re-opens a historical mystery... In 1911, in Colorado, Isaac Bell is asked to look into an unexplained tragedy at Little Angel Mine, in which nine people died. His dangerous quest to answer the riddle leads to a larger puzzle centered on byzantium, a rare element with extraordinary powers and of virtually incalculable value. As he discovers that there are people who will do anything to control the substance... Every Cussler fan has to love the concept of DuBrul's return to the Cussler universe, as do readers who have never read one of the Cussler adventures!

✚Edwards, Martin. [Gallows Court](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.95). **Out in September, Signed here October 29.** "Edwards has earned a clutch of awards for nonfiction and fiction alike, and his latest novel arrives in the U.S. after having he won the UK's 2018 Dagger in the Library Award. At the center of this stand-alone thriller, set in London in 1930, is Rachel Savernake, a glamorous, 24-year-old heiress with an interest in amateur sleuthing. Both Scotland Yard inspectors and Fleet Street reporters are baffled by the fact that Rachel beat the police in solving two murders and dismemberments of young women. A Fleet Street cub crime reporter is fascinated by Rachel (as will be the reader); their cat-and-mouse game is absorbing in itself. Adding to the mystery is a series of interspersed journal entries about Rachel, dating from 1919. This is highly atmospheric, spine-tingling fun. The 1930s setting is to die for, including many evocative details, like the speaking tube with which Rachel communicates with the driver of her Rolls Royce, and the presence of a yellowing poster for Hitchcock's 1929 thriller *Blackmail*, hanging in the luggage office of a London train station. Best of all, the way that Edwards keeps deepening the creepiness of this mystery until the very end is utterly stunning."—*Booklist* Starred Review. In its *Star*, *PW* adds, "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."

✚Fellowes, Jessica. [The Mitford Scandal](#) (Sphere \$35). The newly married and most beautiful of the Mitford sisters, Diana, hot-steps around Europe with her husband, the wealthy heir Bryan Guinness, accompanied by maid Louisa Cannon, as well as some of the most famous and glamorous luminaries of the era. But murder soon follows, and with it, a darkness grows in Diana's heart...

Gladwell, Malcolm. [Talking to Strangers](#) (Little Brown \$30). A powerful examination of our interactions with strangers—and why they often go wrong. How did Fidel Castro fool the CIA for a generation? Why did Neville Chamberlain think he could trust Adolf Hitler? Why are campus sexual assaults on the rise? Bernie Madoff? Do television sitcoms teach us something about the way we relate to each other that isn't true? *Talking to Strangers* is a classically Gladwellian intellectual adventure. Something is very wrong, Gladwell argues, with the tools and strategies we use to make sense of people we don't know. And because we don't know how to talk to strangers, we are inviting conflict and misunderstanding in ways that have a profound effect on our lives and our world.

✚Harris, Robert. [The Second Sleep](#) (Hutchinson \$45). In 1468, inexperienced yet ambitious young priest Christopher Fairfax, dispatched by his ruthless bishop in Exeter, reluctantly arrives in a remote Wessex village to conduct the funeral of his predecessor. The land surrounding the village of Addicott St. George is strewn with ancient artifacts – coins, fragments of glass, human bones – which the old parson, one of the forbidden antiquarians, used to collect. The priest, 30 years at his post, displays pre-mortem injuries. Did his obsession with the past lead to his death? As Fairfax is drawn more deeply into the isolated community where the rains pisses endlessly down, everything he believes – about himself, his faith and the history of his world – is tested to destruction. You may think this is Harris going medieval as he went Roman in the past, but this is Harris.... Pay attention to the title.

Hill, Joe. [Full Throttle: Stories](#) (Harper \$27.99 October 3). 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 Hill's dad Stephen King.

Hoffman, Alice. [World That We Knew](#) (SimonSchuster \$27.99). We are always excited to see a new book from the brave and blazingly original Hoffman. She acknowledges that her chief interests are "fairly tales, myths, and folktales. And histories written for those who wish to escape their lives. Fairy tales tell us that we may be lost, we may be forsaken, but there is a path." Her research is always impressive, her characters vibrant, and her imagination vivid. So in our **September Fantasy Book of the Month** we start in 1941 Berlin. The Nazis are persecuting German Jews, and widow Hanni Kohn makes the terrible choice to send her 12-year-old daughter, Lea, to occupied France to try to protect her. With the help of Ettie, a rebellious daughter of a rabbi, Hanni secretly creates a golem, a mystical creature made of clay and other elements, who will stay with Lea and protect her when Hanni cannot. Hoffman weaves a rich tapestry of the overlapping lives of these women, and those who love them. Appearing in only a few scenes, but never far away, is Azriel, the Angel of Death, whose sinister presence is felt but not often seen by the characters. Hoffman's particular brand of magical realism tugs at the veil between visible and invisible, showing the connections that bind the physical world to forces beyond human explanation or control. "As ever Hoffman's imagination soars, her research is impressive, her characters vivid, and her prose stylish. I'm so glad we can bring you this new novel that also offers a "sober appraisal of the Holocaust and the tragedies and triumphs of those who endured its atrocities."

Klinger, Leslie S. [The New Annotated HP Lovecraft Beyond Arkham](#) (Norton \$39.95 October 3). A handsome literary keepsake, the final volume of 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.

Koepp, David. [Cold Storage](#) (Harper \$27.99). Not a spoof but a debut in the old Michael Crichton tradition makes a most entertaining **September First Mystery Book of the Month** selection, signed for us in New York. It is also a September Indie Next Pick—clearly the fungus captures readers as a force to be reckoned with. “Screenwriter and director Koepp makes his fiction debut with a sensational thriller. In 1979, Skylab, the first NASA space station, crashes into the Indian Ocean, with a piece landing in Western Australia. Aboard Skylab is a highly adaptive fungal organism, *Cordyceps novus*, which was sent into space as a research project. Once back on Earth, the organism starts to evolve into a sentient killer that sees humankind—and all other life-forms—as nourishment. In 1987, USAF Major Roberto Diaz, a Defense Nuclear Agency operative, manages to contain the organism after it decimates a remote Australian community in nightmarish fashion. In 2019, Diaz, who’s now retired, receives the midnight call he’s been dreading—the remnants of the organism, buried far underground inside a former military installation in Kansas, may have escaped. Diaz rushes from his North Carolina home to Kansas, where he joins two security guards in battling the menace. Breakneck pacing and nonstop action” ensue. I like having something creepy to set us up for Halloween.

Lagercrantz, David. [The Girl Who Died Twice](#) (Knopf \$27.95). The girl with the dragon tattoo is finally ready to confront her nemesis, the only woman who is evidently and in many ways her match. Salander will not wait to be hunted. When she strikes it will be a double blow: vengeance for recent atrocities, and the settling of lifelong scores. For months now Salander has been closing in on her target. She has moved from Stockholm, her hair is newly styled, her piercings are gone. She could pass for any other businesswoman. But not all businesswomen have a Beretta Cheetah beneath their jacket. They do not wield the lethal power of a hacker’s genius. They do not carry scars and tattoos to remind them that they have survived the impossible. It begins with the discovery of Mikael Blomkvist’s number at *Millennium* magazine in the pocket of an unidentified homeless man who died with the name of a government minister on his lips.

Mayor, Archer. [Bomber’s Moon](#) (St Martins \$27.99). 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.

Parry, Ambrose. [The Art of Dying](#) (Canongate \$35). Edinburgh, 1850. Despite being at the forefront of modern medicine, hordes of patients are dying all across the city, with doctors finding their remedies powerless. But it is not just the deaths that dismay the esteemed Dr James Simpson—a whispering campaign seeks to blame him for the death of a patient in suspicious circumstances. Simpson’s protégé Will Raven and former housemaid Sarah Fisher are determined to clear their patron’s name. But with Raven battling against the dark side of his own nature, and Sarah endeavoring to expand her own medical knowledge beyond what society deems acceptable for a woman, the pair struggle to understand the cause of the deaths. They plunge into Edinburgh’s deadliest streets to clear Simpson’s name. But then they discover...

Patchett, Ann. [The Dutch House](#) (Harper \$27.99). *Kirkus* reviews: “This is a deeply pleasurable book about a big house and the family that lives in it. Toward the end of World War II, real estate developer and landlord Cyril Conroy surprises his wife, Elna, with the keys to a mansion in the Elkins Park neighborhood of Philadelphia. Elna, who had no idea how much money her husband had amassed and still thought they were poor, is appalled by the luxurious property, which comes fully furnished and complete with imposing portraits of its former owners (Dutch people named VanHoebeek) as well as a servant girl named Fluffy. When her son, Danny, is 3 and daughter, Maeve, is 10, Elna’s antipathy for the place sends her on the lam—first occasionally, then permanently. This leaves the children with the household help and their rigid, chilly father, but the difficulties of the first year pale when a stepmother and stepsisters appear on the scene. Then those problems are completely dwarfed by further misfortune.... Casually stated but astute observations about human nature are Patchett’s stock in trade, and she again proves herself a master of aging an ensemble cast of characters over many decades. In this story, only the house doesn’t change. You will close the book half believing you could drive to Elkins Park and see it.”

✻Perry, Anne. [Death in Focus](#) (Ballantine \$28). **Out September 17, Signed here on 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. It may be that only those old MI6 contacts are the only people who can get Elena out of Berlin alive. Readers of Maisie Dobbs should grab this first for Elena.

✦Robinson, Peter. [Many Rivers to Cross](#) (Hodder \$45). A skinny young boy is found dead—his body carelessly stuffed into wheelie bin. Detective Superintendent Alan Banks and his team are called to investigate. Who is the boy, and where did he come from? Was he discarded as rubbish, or left as a warning to someone? He looks Middle Eastern, but no one on the East Side Estate has seen him before. As the local press seizes upon an illegal immigrant angle, and the national media the story of another stabbing, the police are called to investigate a less newsworthy death: a middle-aged heroin addict found dead of an overdose in another estate, scheduled for redevelopment. Banks finds the threads of each case seem to be connected to the other, and to the dark side of organized crime in Eastvale. Does another thread link to his friend Zelda, who is facing her own dark side?

Salvatore, RA. [Boundless: A Drizzt Novel](#) (Harper \$27.99). Split between time and two worlds, Zaknafein had always been conflicted. That inner turmoil was magnified by his inferior position as a male dark elf in the matriarchal drow society. Only his status as one of the greatest warriors—as well as his friendship with the mercenary Jarlaxle—kept him sane. When he finally perished, he was content knowing he left behind a legacy as substantial as his son Drizzt. Except...someone isn't ready for Zaknafein to be dead. And now he's back, hundreds of years later, in a world he doesn't recognize. His son's companions are not the prideful—and bigoted—males the drow warrior was accustomed to in his previous life. Drizzt's circle includes dwarves, elves, and, perhaps worst of all, a human wife. Struggling to navigate this transformed new world, Zaknafein realizes that some things have not changed: the threat of demons and the machinations of a drow matron no longer content with her family's position in the ranks of Houses....

✦Todd, Charles. [A Cruel Deception](#) (Harper \$26.99). WWI nurse Bess Crawford is trying to figure out what direction her postwar career should take while serving in a Wiltshire surgical clinic when she's summoned to the Queen Alexandra's headquarters in London to meet with the Matron, Mrs. Minton, whose son, Lawrence, is in Paris as part of the British delegation attending the peace conference. A friend has informed Mrs. Minton that, despite Lawrence's affirmations he hasn't been attending meetings. In fact, he may have disappeared. Bess agrees to travel to Paris and look into Lawrence's circumstances. When she finally tracks him down in a small village at the home of a friend, she discovers he's addicted to laudanum and plagued by somnambulism. And refusing to seek help or even discuss his deterioration. The general muddle all find themselves in reflects, I think, Bess's own muddle over what path to follow, and with whom, as the muddle of discharging troops back into civilian life and of the peace talks grows. Signed by both Charles and Carolyn Todd.

✦Ware, Ruth. [The Turn of the Key](#) (Harvill \$32). This arresting tribute to Henry James set in modern-day remote Scotland posts a nanny in a 'smart house' with several recalcitrant children and a garden full of poisonous plants. Who do you trust when everyone seems to be hiding something? Readers will be reading with all the lights on as they race to the climactic ending to see just who is minding whom.

Woodson, Jacqueline. [Red at the Bone](#) (Riverhead \$26). Two families from different social classes are joined together by an unexpected pregnancy and the child that it produces. 2001: It is the evening of sixteen-year-old Melody's coming of age ceremony in her grandparents' Brooklyn brownstone. Watched lovingly by her relatives and friends, making her entrance to the soundtrack of Prince, she wears a special custom-made dress. But the event is not without poignancy. Sixteen years earlier, that very dress was measured and sewn for a different wearer: Melody's mother, for her own ceremony—a celebration that ultimately never took place. "Unfurling the history of Melody's parents and grandparents to show how they all arrived at this moment, Woodson considers not just their ambitions and successes but also the costs, the tolls they've paid for striving to overcome expectations and escape the pull of history. As it explores sexual desire and identity, ambition, gentrification, education, class and status, and the life-altering facts of parenthood."

CLASSIC CRIMES

British Library Crime Classic

Edwards, Martin, ed. [Deep Waters](#) (Sourcebooks \$14.99). The latest 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.

Childers, Ernest. [The Riddle of the Sands](#) (Godine \$16.95). Described by bestselling thriller novelist Ken Follett as "the first modern thriller," *The Riddle of the Sands* set the mold for the contemporary spy novel. Yet its agents are far from typical. Our heroes here are former Oxford pals Charles Carruthers, a minor official in the British Foreign Office, and Arthur Davies, a yachtsman who doesn't appear to have any formal profession apart from exploring obscure coasts and sandbanks, with a penchant for chucking his belongings overboard and running aground on purpose. Even as the standard sailing season comes to a close, and the cold of October approaches, Carruthers agrees to join Davies for a bit of sailing and duck hunting on the Frisian Coast of the North Sea. Far from the luxurious cruise Carruthers has in

mind, shortly after his arrival, Davies explains that a man made a covert attempt on his life. He requires the help of Carruthers' quick wit and native-level fluency in German to determine why. Together, the two unravel a subtle and shocking plot against the nation they hold dear.

Immensely popular in the years leading up to WWI, *The Riddle of the Sands* is a precisely drawn and geographically accurate adventure that was totally realistic and prophetic in its salty sailing exposure of British naval weaknesses—so accurate in its portrayal of the German naval threat and to England's vulnerability that it influenced the placement of multiple naval bases by Winston Churchill after its publication. Ironically the Irish Childers was executed for treason by the British in, I think, 1919.

Eberhart, Mignon. [Murder by an Aristocrat](#) (Norton \$15.95). Eberhart was a huge presence in the mystery genre, and "one of America's favorite writers" (Mary Higgins Clark). She produced numerous bestsellers throughout her 60+ year long career, and while most of her novels were standalones, her series character, Nurse Sarah Keate, was one of her most popular creations. *Murder by an Aristocrat* inspired a film of the same name; it finds Keate investigating a murder in a wealthy Nebraska estate, and butting heads with a family that doesn't seem too anxious to see the case solved.

COOL CREATURES

Hayes, Tyler. [The Imaginary Corpse](#) (Angry Robot \$12.99). Tippy the triceratops was once a little girl's imaginary friend, a dinosaur detective who could help her make sense of the world. But when her father died, Tippy fell into the Stillreal, the underbelly of the Imagination, where discarded ideas go when they're too Real to disappear. Now, he passes time doing detective work for other unwanted ideas – until Tippy runs into The Man in the Coat, a nightmare monster who can do the impossible: kill an idea permanently. Now Tippy must overcome his own trauma and solve the case, before there's nothing left but imaginary corpses. This is actually hardboiled urban fantasy says the publisher, yet sweet. File Unders: [Fuzzy Fiends] [Not Barney]

Laskow, Sarah. [The Very Short, Entirely True History of Unicorns](#) (Penguin \$12.99). No matter how readers picture unicorns—majestic, pure white, horse-like creatures or cartoon characters sporting manes streaked with all the colors of the rainbow—when they open the pages of this inviting compendium they'll find plenty of fascinating, fun facts about the ever-popular magical creatures. How can you win a fight against a unicorn? Why do some unicorns have wings? Why are unicorns often pictured with rainbows? Get answers to these questions and more in this fun look at unicorns throughout history. This four-color, fully illustrated book provides everything you always wanted to know about the myths, science, and history that surround the unicorn, a creature that has grown even more popular in the twenty-first century. With its stylish design and fresh, captivating illustrations, this is a winner for the ages 8-12 reader. And for say the 78-year-old reader who thinks magical creatures are a fine thing.

Nunez, Sigrid. [Mitz](#) (Soft Skull \$15.95). "The tender biography of a sickly marmoset that was adopted by Leonard Woolf and became a fixture of Bloomsbury society." —Dwight Garner, *New York Times*. In 1934, Mitz came into the care of Leonard. After he nursed her back to health, she became a ubiquitous presence in Bloomsbury society. Moving with Leonard and Virginia

between their homes in London and Sussex, she developed her own special relationship with each of them, as well as with their pet cocker spaniels and with various members of the Woolfs' circle, among them T. S. Eliot and Vita Sackville-West. Mitz also helped the Woolfs escape a close call with Nazis during a trip through Germany just before the outbreak of World War II. Using letters, diaries, memoirs, and other archival documents, Nunez reconstructs Mitz's life against the background of Bloomsbury's twilight years.

Seuss, Dr. (Theodore Geisel). [Dr. Seuss's Horse Museum](#) (Random \$18.99). The manuscript and sketches for the previously unpublished book were discovered in the late author's La Jolla home 21 years after his death in 1991. Picking up where Seuss's unfinished sketches left off, illustrator Andrew Joyner provides the artwork. Joyner's illustrations will be paired with full-color photographic reproductions of horse-themed artwork by Rosa Bonheur, Deborah Butterfield, Alexander Calder, Jacob Lawrence, Franz Marc, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, George Stubbs, and more. According to the publisher, the book will also feature "cameo appearances by classic Dr. Seuss characters (among them the Cat in the Hat, the Grinch, and Horton the Elephant). A publisher's note at the end of the book details the discovery of the manuscript and sketches, Seuss's appreciation of modern art, Joyner's illustration process, and information about the artists and artworks showcased in the book.

Wells, Rebecca Kim. [Shatter the Sky](#) (Simon & Schuster \$18.99). "If you need to be reminded of how incredibly cool books with dragons are, you should really already be reading this book. Showcasing solid fantasy world-building, Rebecca Kim Wells' story starts when prophetic agents of the empire force Maren's girlfriend, Kaia, to leave her home. Maren follows in a rage and hatches a plan to steal a dragon from the stronghold and save the one she loves. Wells' writing is immersive; this is one of those novels you sink into. And, come on, there's dragons."

Williams, Jared T. [Rabbit Ninja](#) (Godine \$17.95). Bored? Need excitement? What if you were a ninja? Inspired by the author's conversations with his son, Rabbit Ninja alternates between the boredom of a young school-aged rabbit (his teeth-brushing and school lessons) and bursts of imagined ninja action, filled with nunchucks, noodles, and the Ultimate Nemesis. Its charming full-color illustrations and playful narration create lively movement from page to page — the book is also chock-full of ninja facts that will delight and inspire fledgling ninjas in the making. "A Charmer! ... With expressive paintings and droll writing, Williams captures the inner warrior of a bunny-child."—*Wall Street Journal*

OUR SEPTEMBER LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Barclay, Linwood. [The Noise Downstairs](#) (\$15.99). In his new book Signed here September 18 clever Canadian Barclay weaponizes Manhattan elevators. In this 2018 thriller, now in paperback, it's a typewriter. College professor Paul Davis is trying to help a friend when he stumbles onto the scene of a double murder. Eight months later, still recovering from the injuries inflicted on that fearful night, he wonders if he's gone insane. After all, he doesn't even remember conversations with his wife, Charlotte, who's been much more loving since the accident. When Paul decides to confront his fears by researching the man who brutally attacked him, Charlotte buys him a vintage typewriter to write

about his feelings. His therapist Anna White isn't sure Paul's plan is a good idea but supports him anyway. As days pass, Paul's anxiety goes into overdrive. He now hears noises in the night and is convinced the murdered women are trying to contact him. Charlotte is as certain that he's either delusional or blacking out, while Anna doesn't know what to believe. Is it ghosts? A malevolent machine, some form of AI? Or....

Camilleri, Andrea. [The Other End of the Line](#) (Penguin \$16). Liv-ia, his pampered longtime love—she lives in Genoa, Montalbano in Sicily—insists that he trade his closetful of “corpse” suits for a new one more appropriate for the marriage renewal ceremony they've been invited to attend. All of Montalbano's predictable objections are quelled when he meets the lovely blond tailor Elena, who utterly charms him. Meanwhile, a boatload of immigrants, some injured, and an unidentified floating body occupy Montalbano and his laid-back squad room. Could the two cases be related?

We lost Camilleri this summer but how fortunate we are that his long life allowed him to write 24 investigations for Inspector Montalbano (one of my very favorite TV series too!). As the *LA Times* says, “Hailing from the land of Umberto Eco and La Cosa Nostra, Montalbano can discuss a pointy-headed book like *Western Attitudes Toward Death* as unflinchingly as he can pore over crime-scene snuff photos. He throws together an extemporaneous lunch of shrimp with lemon and oil as gracefully as he dodges advances from attractive women.”

Coben, Harlan. [Run Away](#) (\$16.99). She's addicted to drugs and to an abusive boyfriend. And she's made it clear that she doesn't want to be found. Then, by chance, her father Simon is directed towards Central Park's Strawberry Field where she is busking for money with a guitar.—the guitar Simon bought her for her 16th birthday before she went away to school, before she met a toxic guy, before she got hooked on drugs. Right now Paige is not the girl Simon remembers, a girl who would be unfamiliar to his physician wife Ingrid. And who is living on the edge, frightened, and clearly in trouble. He can't stop himself from approaching her, begging her to come home. She runs. And he follows...right into putting himself, his life, and his whole family on the line in what may well be a last futile quest to save his runaway daughter....

Hirsch, Paddy. [The Devil's Half Mile](#) (\$16.99). I'm with Michael Robotham on this debut that made a 2018 History Book of the Month at the Pen: “A tense, violent and atmospheric crime thriller set in 1799 when the white-collar criminals carried switchblades and human lives were traded like sacks of grain.” And here is a Starred Review: “In 1799, after four years studying law in Ireland, Justy Flanagan returns to Manhattan in search of the truth about the death of his father, Francis, a stock trader who reportedly hanged himself when Justy was 14. Convinced by new evidence that his father was murdered, Justy wants answers from William Duer, a ‘reckless speculator’ and former ally of George Washington and Alexander Hamilton, who was Francis's business partner before the 1792 financial crisis sent Duer to debtors' prison. But when Justy goes looking for Duer in Manhattan's New Gaol, he learns that his quarry is dead, and when he reunites with his uncle Ignatius, a powerful landowner who funded his education, he's met with skepticism about his theory. Justy persists, nonetheless, and Hirsch effortlessly incorporates the political and economic background of the time into the mystery.”

See Event Books for the sequel which we are delighted Hirsch will sign here on September 23.

✂Jewell, Lisa. [Watching You](#) (\$16.99). You're back home after four years working abroad, new husband in tow. You're keen to find a place of your own. But for now, you're crashing in your big brother's spare room. That's when you meet the man next door. He's the head teacher at the local school. Twice your age. Extraordinarily attractive. You find yourself watching him. All the time. But you never dreamed that your innocent crush would lead in such a dangerous direction. Suburban suspense at top level, British style.

Kennedy, Randy. [Presidio](#) (\$17). A stellar noir debut introduces a darkly comic story of a car thief on the run in the gritty and arid landscape of the 1970s Texas panhandle. Troy Falconer returns home after years of wandering to reunite with his younger brother, Harlan. The two set out in search of Harlan's wife, Bettie, who's left him cold and run away with the little money he had. When stealing a station wagon for their journey, Troy and Harlan find they've accidentally kidnapped a Mennonite girl, Martha Zacharias, sleeping in the back of the car. But Martha turns out to be a stubborn survivor who refuses to be sent home, so together, these unlikely road companions haphazardly attempt to escape across the Mexican border, pursued by the police and Martha's vengeful father. Reviewing for the *NY Times*, Lee Child calls this a “fluent, mordant, authentic, propulsive narrative, wonderfully lit from within by an intriguing [and unlikely] main character.”

Lescroart, John. [Rule of Law](#) (\$17). Defense attorney Dismas Hardy's long streak of getting along with everyone on both sides of the courtroom ends when his friend Wes Farrell loses his campaign for re-election as district attorney of San Francisco to a rising star who wastes no time changing the rules. So we know we're going to have trouble with Ron Jameson. Then real trouble begins quietly enough when Hardy's devoted if long-suffering secretary goes AWOL. Driven to (an illegal) search of her apartment looking for clues, Hardy and his longtime and former cop buddy Abe Glitsky discover that Phyllis had a dangerous hidden life. When she resurfaces she's arrested as an accomplice to the murder of a vicious coyote. Seriously? Phyllis? Can Hardy and his newly reformed law firm prevail against not the cops, not the criminals, nor even ICE agents, but against Ron the new DA, a man with a secret or two to hide? You can read this as a stand-alone but you series' fans will enjoy hanging with some of the players in this legal drama.

Limón, Martin. [The Line](#) (\$15.95). The bludgeoning murder of Corporal Noh Jong-bei, a South Korean assigned to augment American forces, provides the latest high-stakes case for canny U.S. Army CID agents George Sueño and Ernie Bascom. The sensitive location of the body in the Joint Security Area separating the two Koreas exacerbates tensions: Noh's left boot is in South Korea, while the rest of him lies in North Korea. The temperature rises even more after Sueño and Bascom are ordered to retrieve the corpse, leading the North Korean army to go on high alert. The case doesn't get easier after they identify a person of interest, an American private who was dating the dead man's sister, and the truth about the private's culpability becomes secondary to their bosses. The maverick agents' efforts to defy authority take another hit when they're assigned to trace a major's missing wife. “Limón has never been better at incorporating a logi-

cal mystery plot into the politics of his chosen time and place.” Limón signs [GI Confidential](#) (Soho \$26.95), a new twister, for us on October 15 with James R. Benn. Yay!

Miller, Madeline. [Circe](#) (\$16.99). “A bold and subversive retelling of the goddess’s story,” this long-running *New York Times* bestseller is “both epic and intimate in its scope, recasting the most infamous female figure from the *Odyssey* as a hero in her own right.” I’m proud it was a 2018 SciFi/Fantasy Pick for us in hardcover.

Pelecanos, George. [The Man Who Came Uptown](#) (\$15.99). Michael Hudson spends the long days in prison devouring books given to him by the prison’s librarian, a young woman named Anna who develops a soft spot for her best student. Anna keeps passing Michael books until one day he disappears, suddenly released after a private detective manipulated a witness in Michael’s trial. Outside, Michael encounters a Washington, D.C. that has changed a lot during his time locked up. But what hasn’t changed is the hard choice between the temptation of crime and doing what’s right. Smart and fast-paced, *The Man Who Came Uptown* brings Washington, D.C. to life in a high-stakes story of tough choices.

Rankin, Ian. [In a House of Lies](#) (\$16.99). Former Detective John Rebus’ retirement is disrupted once again when skeletal remains are identified as a private investigator who went missing over a decade earlier. The remains, found in a rusted car in the East Lothian woods, not far from Edinburgh, quickly turn into a cold case murder investigation. Rebus’ old friend, Siobhan Clarke is assigned to the case, but neither of them could have predicted what buried secrets the investigation will uncover.

Stabenow, Dana. [Death of an Eye](#) (\$15.95). We don’t have enough of crimes going on in Ancient Egypt, especially in the last days of the Ptolemies. Dana, feeling fierce about the roles of women, sets a private eye novel, the start of a trilogy (or more) in the early days of Cleopatra’s reign. The queen’s agent, a person known as the Eye of Isis, is struck down one night and Cleo elects her childhood friend Tetisheri to take up the Eye’s assignment which relates to minting new coins to shore up the shaky Egyptian economy. While Cleo grows heavy with Caesar’s child, Sheri, investigating, embarks on a dangerous voyage while dodging vicious politics in Alexandria as well as her vicious ex-husband, a tool of Cleo’s brother and co-ruler. Cleopatra was an exceptional queen caught in dangerous times. This is not Shakespeare’s Cleo. And this is not your mother’s Julius Caesar, either! Dana and I are off to Egypt in December in conjunction with the writing of the sequel.

Stuart, A. M. [Singapore Sapphire](#) (Berkley \$16). John Charles reviews our **September History Paperback Book of the Month**, a book I too recommend enthusiastically. Desperate for a fresh start, Harriet Gordon finds herself living with her brother, a reverend and headmaster of a school for boys, in Singapore at the height of colonial rule. Hoping to gain some financial independence, she advertises her services as a personal secretary. It is unfortunate that she should discover her first client, Sir Oswald Newbold—explorer, mine magnate and president of the exclusive Explorers and Geographers Club—dead with a knife in his throat. When Inspector Robert Curran is put on the case, he realizes that he has an unusual witness in Harriet. Harriet’s keen eye for detail and strong sense of duty interests him, as does her distrust

of the police and her traumatic past, which she is at pains to keep secret from the gossips of Singapore society. When another body is dragged from the canal, Harriet feels compelled to help with the case. She and Curran are soon drawn into a murderous web of treachery and deceit and find themselves face-to-face with a ruthless cabal that has no qualms about killing again to protect its secrets. If you love historical mysteries with intriguing female sleuths much in the manner of those crafted by Jennifer Ashley, Sherry Thomas, and Susan Elia MacNeal, you will definitely want to add this series debut to your buy list.

John and I are also enthused about Dinah Jeffries’ suspenseful and romantic [The Sapphire Widow](#) (\$16), a story of love, loss, betrayal, in 1935 Ceylon among mostly British but a mix of races, as well as tea and cinnamon plantations along with gems and silks.

✠Upson, Nicola. [Nine Lessons](#) (\$16.99) lovingly explores 1937 Cambridge with Josephine Tey who has come to join her lover Marta Fox in a flat. Only Marta is called to America and Josephine finds herself with twin burdens: one a secret that may shatter her oldest friend, DCI Archie Penrose; the other an attack/rape of a neighbor, a promising nursing student. Archie in fact arrives in Cambridge propelled by a hideous crime—a church organist beaten and buried alive in a North London graveyard—where the clue points to King’s College and more specifically, its famed choir prior to WWI. As a series of horrific murders follows, seemingly mirroring ghost stories by the eminent Cambridge don MR James, Archie’s and Josephine’s lives and investigations twist and twine around one another, and around the present and the past. This book is a real pleasure to read and brings life in England between the two World Wars vividly to life. I truly love this book and urge you to grab it now in paperback. See the sequel under Some New Books for September.

Weinman, Sarah. [The Real Lolita](#) (\$17.99). “*The Real Lolita* is a tour de force of literary detective work. Not only does it shed new light on the terrifying true saga that influenced Nabokov’s masterpiece, it restores the forgotten victim to our consciousness.” —David Grann, author of *Killers of the Flower Moon*

HOW DOES FICTION WORK?

Mosley, Walter. [Elements of Fiction](#) (Grove \$23). This is more than just tips to aspiring writers, it’s versatile Mosley who has written all manner of books discussing how fiction works, and thus interesting to readers, too.

SOME NEW SEPTEMBER BOOKS

✠Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem/Anna Waterhouse. [Mycroft and Sherlock: The Empty Birdcage](#) (Titan \$25.99). Abdul-Jabbar and Waterhouse’s third pastiche (after 2018’s *Mycroft and Sherlock*), their best yet, provides intriguing challenges for both Mycroft and Sherlock Holmes while continuing to present plausible backstories for the brothers. In 1873, Mycroft and his longtime friend and partner, Cyrus Douglas, agree to help Chinese businessman Deshi Hai Lin locate Bingwen Shi, the fiancé of Lin’s daughter, Ai, who happens to be an old flame of Mycroft’s. Shi, a land investor, disappeared in London en route to a meeting with a client. Meanwhile, 19-year-old Sherlock, who’s not yet an encyclopedia of knowledge relevant to detecting crime, gets himself tossed out of college so he can tackle a sensational serial murder case. Someone has killed eight people across Great Britain, leaving near each corpse a note bearing the message “The Fire 411!”

That the victims appear to have nothing in common adds to the puzzle. The authors do a stellar job of illuminating the siblings' developing relationship while concocting a clever and twisty plot. Sherlockians will be enthralled. Don't miss [Mycroft and Sherlock](#) (\$14.95)

✦Archer, Jeffrey. [Nothing Ventured](#) (St Martins \$28.99). This new series introduces William Warwick, a family man and a detective who will battle throughout his career against a powerful criminal nemesis. For more see Signed Books. And new in paperback from Archer: [Heads You Win](#) (\$17.99)

Atwood, Margaret. [The Testaments](#) (Knopf \$28.95). Fascinating that 34 years after Canadian Atwood published [The Handmaid's Tale](#) (\$15.95) that a sequel would publish onto the world stage amidst a political environment that could be described as "Atwoodian during its better days." Not coincidentally this book arrives as a 4th season of Hulu's adaptation of *Handmaid* in the works and its jacket art takes its cue from the series' costuming. Truly the world feels more like Atwood, Orwell, or the 1930s, every day.

Carner, Talia. [The Third Daughter](#) (Harper \$15.99) lies in a dark period of Jewish history: the sex trafficking of young women from Russia to South America in the late 19th century. We start with 14-year-old Batya in the Russian countryside, fleeing with her family endless pogroms. Desperate, her father leaps at the opportunity to marry Batya to a worldly, wealthy stranger who can guarantee his daughter an easy life and passage to America. Feeling like a princess in a fairytale, Batya leaves her old life behind as she is whisked away to a new world. Her new "husband" does indeed bring her to America: Buenos Aires, a vibrant, growing city in which prostitution is not only legal but deeply embedded in the culture. And now Batya is one of thousands of women tricked and sold into a brothel. Batya bonds with many of her "sisters," becomes a celebrated tango dancer, and then gets an unexpected but dangerous opportunity—to help bring down the criminal network that has enslaved so many young women and has been instrumental in developing Buenos Aires into a major metropolis. Carner puts America in this as a refuge from anti-Semitism, perhaps more so then than currently is the case.

Chakraborty, SA. [Kingdom of Copper](#) (\$17.99) continues the sweeping adventure begun in [The City of Brass](#) (\$16.99), conjuring a world where djinn summon flames with the snap of a finger and waters run deep with old magic; where blood can be dangerous as any spell, and a clever con artist from Cairo will alter the fate of a kingdom. *The City of Brass* was a 2017 Fantasy Book of the Month; I urge you to order both and await the third book in the Daevabad Trilogy to come.

✦Chevalier, Tracy. [A Single Thread](#) (Viking \$27). See Signed Books for a review. I am a fan of Chevalier's prose and while [Girl with a Pearl Earring](#) (\$15) is her best known book, she has an affection for needlework and crafts that has sparkled in others.

✦Clark, Cassandra. [Murder at Whitby Abbey](#) (Severn \$28.99). In 1389, occasionally wayward Sister Hildegarde of Meaux in Yorkshire, in punishment for an affair, journeys to Whitby Abbey accompanied by three fellow Cistercian monastics to purchase the Benedictines' precious relic, a lock of hair of Abbess Hild, Whitby's founder. Though the relic's value and authenticity continue to raise serious questions throughout Sister Hildegarde's

stay, along with the bidding war the emissary from Glastonbury may provoke, the perplexing murder of the compassionate Benedictine Brother Aelwyn prompts a request that the Cistercian visitors investigate this crime. They plunge into solving the mystery, all four of them advancing the inquiry, but only Sister Hildegarde has her life repeatedly threatened on the way to the tense climax. In addition to juicy abbey secrets concerning chastity and venality, the investigation uncovers a simmering struggle between Whitby town locals and the monks, touching on class conflicts and anger toward monastic land grabbing and toll impositions—in short, developers and the 1% of the 14th Century similar to them today. The behavior of the Benedictines makes a powerful argument for the Reformation.

✦Cleeves, Ann. [The Long Call](#) (St Martins \$27.99). In North Devon, where the rivers Taw and Torridge converge and run into the sea, Detective Matthew Venn stands outside the church as his father's funeral takes place. The day Matthew turned his back on the strict evangelical community in which he grew up, he lost his family too. Now he's back, not just to mourn his father at a distance, but to take charge of his first major case in the Two Rivers region; a complex place not quite as idyllic as tourists suppose. A body has been found on the beach near to Matthew's new home: a man with the tattoo of an albatross on his neck, stabbed to death.

Here's the *NY Times* review: "Matthew Venn is the kind of man who isn't even welcome at his own father's funeral. But that's where we find this detective, skulking around the edges of the service at the North Devon Crematorium, when the call comes in that a body has been found nearby, on the beach at Crow Point. Not a drowning victim, we learn in Ann Cleeves' atmospheric procedural, but murdered with a stab wound to the chest. Venn already has plenty to occupy him, having recently married his lover ('beautiful' Jonathan) and moved back to Devon to police the strictly religious community where he grew up. A prolific author with two sturdy mystery series already underway, Cleeves has a fondness for quirky characters, several of whom show up here when Venn starts interviewing suspects. But Cleeves' true strength lies in her descriptions of the natural world, gorgeously captured." The superb TV *Shetland* will carry on as Cleeves has said it will. In fact, a 2019 season has aired. And this new series has already been snapped up for serial TV so we will be able to "visit" Devon on screen.

Our September British Crime Book of the Month gets this Indie Next Pick too: "Cleeves introduces us to Inspector Matthew Venn, who embodies his diagram namesake as a character caught between his past and his future. A murder on a beach in Venn's hometown on the English coast leads to a kidnapping, and as the pacing picks up, the suspects get ever closer to Venn's personal life. An expertly plotted mystery that will keep readers guessing until the final pages."

Coates, Ta-Nehisi. [The Water Dancer](#) (One World \$28). This is the National Book Award winner's first foray into "literary fiction" (I am never sure what "literary" means). Hiram Walker is born a slave but possesses a strange power. It saves his life during a drowning accident. We then follow him through "the fight against slavery."

Colombani, Laetitia. [The Braid](#) (Atria \$16). In India, Smita is an untouchable. Desperate to give her daughter an education, she takes her child and flees her small village with nothing but resourcefulness, eventually heading to a temple where she will experience a rebirth. In Sicily, Giulia works in her father's wig workshop, the last of its kind in Palermo. She washes, bleaches, and dyes the hair provided by the city's hairdressers, which is now in short supply. But when her father is the victim of a serious accident, she discovers that the company's financial situation is dire. Now she must find a way to save her family's livelihood. In Canada, Sarah is a successful lawyer and twice-divorced mother of three children whose identity is wrapped up in her work. Just as she expects a big promotion, her life is shattered when she's diagnosed with cancer. Originally published as *La Tresse* in France, *The Braid* has sold more than 350,000 copies. It is being translated into 29 languages and counting

☞Doherty, Paul. [Death's Dark Valley](#) (Headline \$26.99). 1311. It is four years since the death of King Edward I, but his reign has cast long shadows over the kingdom. At Holyrood Abbey, sheltered in the depths of the Welsh march, the old king's former bodyguards protect his secret relics and watch over a mysterious prisoner who is kept in the abbey's dungeon. But their peaceful existence is shattered when Abbot Henry is poisoned. Summoned to Holyrood, Sir Hugh Corbett, Keeper of the Secret Seal, finds the fortress in chaos. Brothers Anselm and Richard have been brutally slain by nails driven deep into their skulls. No one knows who could be behind the gruesome killings and the news attracts the attention of two unwanted guests: the sinister Marcher Lord Mortimer and King Philip of France's devious envoy De Craon. As more mysterious deaths occur, and a violent snow storm sweeps through the valley, Corbett must act quickly to identify the malevolent demon who has risen from hell to turn the abbey into a house of murder.... Lord, it's the 20th! Hugh Corbett.

Donati, Sara. [Where the Light Enters](#) (Berkley \$27). Known for her historical fiction and plots per Donati about "women who live in male dominated societies, women who fought for education, acknowledgement, and self-determination against all odds, it's not a surprise that she's writing about women working as physicians in 1884 Manhattan, not a welcoming time, and especially if they are treating disadvantaged throw-away women. What is surprising is that this is also a murder mystery where the wife of a banker disappears into thin air and the corpse of a young woman with baffling wounds suggests some kind of killer is on the loose. Dr. Anna Savard's husband is a cop, DS Jack Mezzanotte, who brings Dr. Sophie Savard and her cousin Dr. Anna into the case.... I am looking forward to reading this—at 649 pages it will be awhile.

Donoghue, Emma. [Akin](#) (LittleBrown \$28). Donoghue, the author of [Room](#) (\$16.99), nestles a quiet mystery in the growing relationship between two different family members who travel together to the South of France as Noah sees through Michael's tough kid act and Michael (and readers) learn what the French in Nazi-occupied Nice had to endure. Less astounding than her other work, and for readers interested in World War II or family drama.

Flynn, Jack. [Blood in the Water](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Set in Boston, the pseudonymous Flynn's debut, a series launch, introduces FBI special agent Kit Steel, who's nicknamed the Hunter for her

intense sleuthing skills. Kit is laser-focused on Vincente Carpio, a psychopath who wants the police to know he's murdering Americans as revenge against U.S. soldiers who stormed his native village in El Salvador when he was a child. Vincente also has the backing of MS-13, an uber-dangerous international criminal gang; his older brother is one of its high-ranking captains. Kit's investigation also spins on revenge—MS-13 killed her husband and six-year-old son. To expand its reach, MS-13 turns its attention to Boston harbor master and union chief Cormack O'Connell, who, legally and illegally, controls the city's waterfront. To reach Cormack, MS-13 targets his 19-year-old daughter. It's Cormack who's going to anchor future books. Dark and unsparing, darker than say Baldacci.

☞Fellowes, Jessica. [The Bright Young Dead](#) (\$17.99). Fellowes began with [The Mitford Murders](#) (\$16.99)—"Downton Abbey meets Agatha Christie" in a witty and twisty mystery imagining a 16-year-old Nancy Mitford teaming up with her household to help Louisa solve a murder in England in 1920. In the sequel, it's 1925 and London is plagued by a gang of female criminals known as the Forty Thieves. Their activity provides an opportunity for advancement for Sergeant Guy Sullivan, whose position with the Metropolitan Police is less than he hoped for. Guy and another underutilized colleague, Constable Mary Moon, go undercover to get the goods on the gang. Guy crosses paths again with Louisa Cannon, a servant to the Mitford family.... For the third in this series, see Signed Books.

I find that Maggie Robinson's delightful [Who's Sorry Now?](#) (\$15.95 or \$26.95 Signed), incorporating Bright Young Things and the same Forty Thieves into her plot, is the winner. Start Robinson's Lady Adelaide Mysteries with [Nobody's Sweetheart Now](#) (\$15.95). Fellowes is more famous but Robinson is a livelier read and more fun.

Furman, Laura, ed. [The O. Henry Prize Stories 2019](#) (Anchor \$15.99). Wow, this is the 100th Anniversary Edition. I was brought up on O'Henry short stories and know that his name—O. Henry is the pseudonym for William Sydney Porter, 1862–1910—is the perfect name to attach to "Best Short Stories of the Year." We get them from Tessa Hadley and a number unknown to me. Nifty short bios of the authors and essays by jurors Lynn Freed, Elizabeth Strout, and Lara Vapnyar enhance this collection. Think ahead—a good stocking stuffer. And a nice way to "meet" new authors.

Gies, Frances/Joseph. [Marriage and Family in the Middle Ages](#) (\$17.99). "Some particular books that I found useful for *Game of Thrones* and its sequels deserve mention. *Life in a Medieval Castle* and *Life in a Medieval City*, both by Joseph and Frances Gies." —George R. R. Martin. And here is the latest from the Gies, lasering in on the significance of the family—the basic social unit. Topics include the family as a production unit, as well as its religious, social, judicial, and educational roles. The shift of marriage from private arrangement between families to public ceremony between individuals, and the adjustments in dowry, bride-price, and counter-dowry. The development of consanguinity rules and incest taboos in church law and lay custom. The peasant family in its varying condition of being free or unfree, poor, middling, or rich. The aristocratic estate, the problem of the younger son, and the disinheritance of daughters. The Black Death and its long-term effects on the family. Thrilling stuff!

Greenwood, Kerry. [The Spotted Dog](#) (Sourcebooks \$25.99). Several unusual incidents in Corinna's Melbourne neighborhood trouble her. The cherished dog that saved the life of a Scottish soldier in Afghanistan is stolen; the computers of a Greek café are hacked and pornography left behind; and the homes of Corinna and her neighbor, Professor Dion Monk, are burgled. Signs seem to indicate that people are searching for a religious artifact, but Corinna is puzzled as to why she has been singled out and uneasy about hints of a criminal gang's involvement and the professor's activities. One traumatized character is unable to speak, but the narrative presents a unique way of conveying her voice that builds suspense. Though the novel is light on actual detection, the action reaches a tense climax. Readers will enjoy warmhearted Corinna's stout defense of the vulnerable and welcome the chance to spend time with the baker and her eccentric circle of friends.

Booklist adds, "Melbourne, Australia, bakery owner Corinna Chapman and her hunky boyfriend, Daniel, ex-Israeli army and current private investigator, assist British army veteran Alasdair when his ex-service dog, Geordie, is stolen. Soon other mysteries need solving—repeated burglary attempts at Corinna's apartment building and ransomware found on a local business' computer—not to mention the need to help a visiting young woman, Philomela, who is mute due to a devastating tragedy. As Corinna and Daniel begin to connect the various threads, they learn gang wars between two feuding crime families may underlie the mysteries. Bible scholarship, Philomela's efforts to share the events that led to her disability, and a bold rescue lead to the solution of the mysteries. Baking particulars and a nicely detailed setting frame the story in which the smart, empathetic Corinna is surrounded by a large cast of eccentric secondary characters, from the local witch to Corinna's employee, former addict Jason, who treats Corinna as his captain and the bakery as his ship. Fans of the series will be thrilled by Corinna's return after a seven-year absence.

Harmel, Kristin. [The Winemaker's Wife](#) (Gallery \$26). John Charles reviews: "Inès has just married Michel, the owner of storied champagne house Maison Chauveau, when the Germans invade their corner of France in 1940. As the danger mounts, Michel turns his back on his marriage to begin hiding munitions for the Résistance. Inès fears they'll be exposed, but for Céline, half-Jewish wife of Chauveau's chef de cave, the risk is even greater—rumors abound of Jews being shipped east to an unspeakable fate. When Céline recklessly follows her heart in one desperate bid for happiness, and Inès makes a dangerous mistake with a Nazi collaborator, they risk the lives of those they love—and the champagne house that ties them together. Almost eighty years later, Liv Kent has just lost everything when her eccentric French grandmother shows up unannounced, insisting on a trip to France. But the older woman has an ulterior motive—and a tragic, decades-old story to share. When past and present finally collide, Liv finds herself on a road to salvation that leads right to the caves of the Maison Chauveau. "Unfolding in multiple viewpoints, the writing is atmospheric and rich, showcasing heavily researched topics of wine making and French Resistance efforts. Harmel's touching story of love and loss in World War II France will appeal to fans of Pam Jenoff and Kate Quinn."—*LJ*

Hirahara, Naomi. [Iced in Paradise](#) (Prospect Park Books \$16). A Hawaiian librarian reviews: "After returning home to Kaua'i to

help her family, Leilani Santiago finds herself in the midst of a murder investigation and torn between her loyalties. Naomi Hirahara perfectly captures Leilani's Caucasian-Filipino-Japanese multicultural family, with its unique blend of traditions, dialogue, and food. Hirahara depicts local flavors and a gorgeous setting few Mainlanders ever see, along with the challenges of life on a tourist-driven island. This is a delightful new series that promises more compelling adventures of this sharp-witted, relatable heroine."

Jecks, Michael. [The Dead Don't Wait](#) (Severn \$28.99). Medievalist Jecks switched after a long series to the 16th Century and reign of Mary Tudor. Here's *PW's* take on the 4th Jack Blackjack which "takes the reader on an enjoyable jaunt through mid-16th-century England. As always, Jack's priorities are womanizing, drinking, and gambling, until a coroner shows up on his doorstep saying Jack has been accused of fatally stabbing the priest of a parish east of the city of London. An old adversary, Dick Atwood, pointed the finger at Jack for his own twisted reasons, but while Jack is able to persuade the authorities of his innocence, he opts to stay involved in the murder investigation, with the mystery deepening after a local miller is found dead and his daughter vanishes. Jack's staying on the scene strains belief and leads to a series of plot contrivances, but the novel's energetic pace never flags as Jack scampers from one catastrophe to the next. The underlying dilemma of priests being forced to give up their wives under pressure from Queen Mary lends a more serious tone to the otherwise madcap proceedings. Fans of Elizabethan historicals will have fun." Ordered Upon Request.

Kelly, Julia. [Light over London](#) (\$16.99). Fans of [The Alice Network](#) (\$16.99) will relish Kelly's mix of romance, history, and suspense in the thriving WWI genre. When antiques dealer Cara Hargraves discovers a biscuit tin holding a locket, a photograph, and a diary dating back to World War II, she becomes determined to discover the identity of the smiling young woman in uniform.

King, Stephen. [The Institute](#) (Scribner \$30). Think King's "take on *X-Man's* Xavier Institute for Higher Learning, but the kids are enrolled there because the school murdered their parents"....

Lamanna, Gina. [Pretty Guilty Women: A Novel](#) (Sourcebooks \$25.99). A wedding weekend at the glamorous Serenity Spa and Resort on the California coast promises a much needed getaway for three college pals of the bride, but frazzled mom Ginger Adler isn't looking forward to seeing former best friend Emily Brown after a college betrayal. Emily drowns the fallout of a devastating loss in booze; and the boyfriend of wildly successful and beautiful lawyer Kate Cross has left her at the front desk. While catching up and kvetching over plenty of champagne, the three meet 68-year-old Lulu Franc, the groom's aunt, who's afraid her fifth husband is having an affair. When a man is found dead, Ginger, Emily, Kate, and Lulu each confess to his murder. Police interview transcripts with the suspects, bride, and resort staff reveal lots of juicy details, and it's clear that each woman has something to hide. But what? I'd call this women's fiction, not mystery, but forget labels and enjoy the interactions and secrets.

Laurence, Michael. [The Extinction Agenda](#) (St Martins \$27.99). While not in the same league, pass the time waiting for the next James Rollins (March 9) with this debut. Special agent James Mason and his partner, Spencer Kane, serve on an interagency task force whose responsibilities include investigating human

trafficking. When an Arizona border patrol agent notices signs of smugglers, Mason and Kane follow up and find a lot of dead birds and evidence that “an unidentified group has gained access to potentially inexhaustible reservoirs of a virus similar to the bird flu,” raising the prospect of a massive bioterror attack. Their investigation soon proves costly. Kane and the members of a SWAT team are killed, along with Mason’s IRS agent wife. A year later, Mason gets a lead on the man responsible, who calls himself the Hoyle, after a bird with phoenix-like properties from Jewish legend. To stop the Hoyle, Mason teams with unlikely allies. Arizona readers will enjoy the landscapes and there is a moving twist to this story.

Lee, Ji-Min. [The Starlet and the Spy](#) (Harper \$15.99). February 1954. Although the Korean War armistice was signed a year ago, most citizens of Seoul still battle to return to some semblance of normalcy. Conditions are dismal. Children beg for food, and orphanages are teeming. Alice J. Kim, a Korean translator and typist for the American forces still sanctioned in the city, yearns for the life she used to live before her country was torn apart. Then Alice’s boss makes an announcement—the American movie star Marilyn Monroe will be visiting Korea on a four-day USO tour, and Alice has been chosen as her translator. Though intrigued, Alice has few expectations of the job—what could she and a beautiful actress at the peak of her fame possibly have to talk about? Yet the Marilyn she meets, while just as dazzling and sensual as Alice expected, is also surprisingly approachable. As Marilyn’s visit unfolds, Alice is forced into a reckoning with her own painful past....

Lee, Stan/Kat Rosenfield. [A Trick of Light](#) (Houghton \$27.99). Cameron is on a quest for YouTube fame as a vlogger focusing on exploring the mysteries of Lake Erie. While recording his latest video, he is knocked out by lightning in a freak storm that appears to defy the laws of physics. When Cameron awakens, he discovers an astonishing cyberkinetic talent: the ability to manipulate computers and electronics with his mind. After a chance meeting online, the two teenagers—one born with extraordinary gifts, one unwillingly transformed—join together to right wrongs in the world. Lee, the pop-culture legend behind Marvel’s Avengers, Black Panther, X-Men, Spider-Man, first introduced this storyline in the best-selling audiobook Stan Lee’s “Alliances: A Trick of Light.” The hardcover features exclusive content, including bonus chapters and an afterword by Alliances universe co-creators Luke Lieberman and Ryan Silbert. Lee has left a compelling legacy.

Lin, Ed. [99 Ways to Die](#) (\$15.95). With Taiwan in the news, this third Taipei Night Market book is spot on. Here’s a Starred Review: “Jing-nan Chen, who ‘makes the best skewers and stews in the Shilin Night Market,’ receives a distress call from high school classmate Peggy Lee. Peggy’s wealthy father, Tommy Lee Tong-ming, ‘who controlled some of the most powerful tax-dodging entities in Taiwan’ and is also Jing-nan’s landlord, has been brazenly kidnapped at a banquet. Since a police escort was present, the Taipei PD is desperate to keep their embarrassing security lapse private. Peggy asks Jing-nan to get involved after the kidnappers demand the design for a ‘power-efficient mobile chip’ that they insist is in her father’s files, despite her ignorance of its existence. Jing-nan reluctantly agrees to reach out to a relative with underworld connections as well as to his girlfriend’s former lover, a tech executive imprisoned for bribery

who might know the design’s location. Jing-nan has three days to come up with results before the kidnappers’ deadline expires. Lin effortlessly blends humor, plausible plot twists, and the politics and economics of contemporary Taiwan.” 3rd in the [Taipei Night Market Mysteries](#).

Lethem, Jonathan. [The Feral Detective](#) (\$16.99). Phoebe Siegler first meets Charles Heist in a shabby trailer on the eastern edge of Los Angeles. She’s looking for her friend’s missing daughter, Arabella, and hires Heist to help. A laconic loner who keeps his pet opossum in a desk drawer, Heist intrigues the sarcastic and garrulous Phoebe. Reluctantly, he agrees to help. The unlikely pair navigates the enclaves of desert-dwelling vagabonds and finds that Arabella is in serious trouble—caught in the middle of a violent standoff that only Heist, mysteriously, can end. Phoebe’s trip to the desert was always going to be strange, but it was never supposed to be dangerous.... This is Lethem’s first detective novel since *Motherless Brooklyn*.

Locke, Attica. [Heaven, My Home](#) (Mulholland \$27). Texas Ranger Darren Matthews of [Bluebird, Bluebird](#) (\$15.99) is on the hunt for a boy who’s gone missing—but it’s the boy’s family of white supremacists who are his real target. Locke has gone more and more political in her crime fiction.

Mackin, Jeanne. [The Last Collection](#) (Berkley \$26). Impossible to sift through all the stories and tangled lives of the 1930s and WWII. If you’ve done much of it you’ve run across versions of Coco Chanel in Occupied Paris and made your own judgments. Mackin delivers a different war for Chanel although it too arose in the 1930s: the legendary rivalry, fierce if bloodless, between Chanel and Elsa Schiaparelli, both fighting for recognition as the leading French fashion designer. Chanel, “classic, elegant, even practical.” Schiaparelli “bold, experimental, and surreal.” Through the eyes of Lily Sutter, a recently widowed American teacher who rejects a Chanel as a gift from her diplomat brother stationed in Paris in favor of a Schiaparelli and triggers his glamorous mistress into switching to Elsa too, we watch as the competition reaches dangerous heights while greater danger is looming on their doorsteps.... We’re heading into the fall fashion season where we can see that Chanel is still iconic but the influence of Schiaparelli may be more potent than ever.

Macmillan, Gilly. [The Nanny](#) (Harper \$26.99). Macmillan is a UK bestseller of the domestic suspense genre filled with long buried secrets, shifting allegiances, betrayals, and a rising sense of dread. And so it is for Jo Holt whose nanny left Lake Hall, the village manor, one summer night in 1988, never to be seen again. Jo, who views her mother Virginia as cold and controlling and her father, whom she loves, as distant, is devastated by the loss of Hannah, the rock of her young life, the one she loves most. Now, 30 years later, suddenly an impoverished widow with a young child, Jo returns from her escape to America to Lake Hall having nowhere else to go. And then a human skull is accidentally discovered in the lake for which Lake Hall is named. Mother and daughter are shocked. More comes to rock the estate and gradually Jo begins to see that her recollections of her childhood may need updating. This is a well executed story, and well written.

Mah, Ann. [The Lost Vintage](#) (\$16.99). To become one of only a few hundred certified wine experts in the world, Kate must pass the notoriously difficult Master of Wine examination. She’s failed twice before; her third attempt will be her last chance. Suddenly

finding herself without a job and with the test a few months away, she elects to return to her family's ancestral vineyard in Burgundy and unexpectedly uncovers a lost diary, an unknown relative, and a secret her family has been keeping since World War II. This is a superior story in the wealth of those arising from incidents and theaters of WWII, plus it has wonderful wine stuff. Recommended, especially to those who enjoyed the 4 seasons of *Blood on the Vine*, a French-made TV series on MHZ.

Mason, Daniel. [The Winter Soldier](#) (\$16.99). Vienna, 1914. Lucius is a twenty-two-year-old medical student when World War I explodes across Europe. Enraptured by romantic tales of battlefield surgery, he enlists, expecting a position at a well-organized field hospital. But when he arrives, at a commandeered church tucked away high in a remote valley of the Carpathian Mountains, he finds a freezing outpost ravaged by typhus. The other doctors have fled, and only a single, mysterious nurse named Sister Margarete remains. But Lucius has never lifted a surgeon's scalpel. And as the war rages across the winter landscape, he finds himself falling in love with the woman from whom he must learn a brutal, makeshift medicine. "*The Winter Soldier* brims with improbable narrative pleasures... "A dream of a novel... Part mystery, part war story, part romance." —Anthony Doerr, author of *All the Light We Cannot See*.

Mason, Jamie. [Hidden Things](#) (Gallery \$26). In an instant, 14-year-old Carly Liddell becomes a sensation. She successfully fends off an attacker as she enters her home, and it's captured on a security camera installed by her stepfather, John Cooper. Within hours, police upload the video to social media and the video goes viral as viewers watch Carly kick ass. But for four people, the video reveals something else entirely. Hanging in the foyer, a corner of a painting appears in the video for a flash: a strange object that can only be from *Landscape with Obelisk* by Govaert Flinck, a 400-year-masterpiece stolen in a heist decades ago. Four years earlier, John Cooper—then known as Jonathan Spera—possessed it, and attempted to rid himself of it and make a handsome profit by partnering with Marcelline Gossard, a seductive art dealer, and Owen Haig, a fearless employee of a wealthy family. When John enlists the bewildered Roy Dorrington to help execute the deal, it all goes sideways.... A fascination with the Gardiner museum robbery meets Donna Tartt's *The Goldfinch*....

Moreno-Garcia, Silvia. [Gods of Jade and Shadow](#) (Del Rey \$26) crafts a magical novel of duality, tradition, and change, set in the late 1920s as Mexico transitions from its post-Revolution period to the Jazz Age. Casiopea Tun leads a constrained life in her grandfather's household in a small town, barely daring to dream of more. Such dreams are quickly snuffed by both her grandfather and her spoiled, narcissistic yet self-deprecating cousin, Martín Levya. A minor act of rebellion, opening her grandfather's secret chest, releases the injured and imprisoned Mayan death god, Hun-Kamé, Supreme Lord of Xibalba, and inexorably binds her to his quest to regain his underworld throne. Hun-Kamé's bond to Casiopea infects him in return with vestiges of mortality—a circumstance his ambitious twin, Vucub-Kamé, plots to use to his advantage, assisted by a somewhat reluctant Martín. Moreno-Garcia's seamless blend of mythology and history provides a ripe setting for Casiopea's stellar journey of self-discovery.

Patterson, James. [Killer Instinct](#) (LittleBrown \$27.99). In #2 in the Instinct series written with Howard Roughan, the murder of

an Ivy League professor pulls Dr. Dylan Reinhart out of his ivory tower and onto the streets of New York, where he reunites with his old partner, Detective Elizabeth Needham. As the worst act of terror since 9/11 strikes the city, a name on the casualty list rocks Dylan's world. Is his secret past about to be brought to light? Then Needham does something courageous that thrusts her into the media spotlight. She's a reluctant hero. And thanks to the attention, she also becomes a prime target for the ruthless murderer behind the attack.

Peikoff, Kira. [Mother Knows Best](#) (Cooked Lane \$26.99). Michael and Claire Burke are driving from their home in Garrison, NY, with their daughter, fifth-grader Abby, to New York City to visit the Museum of Natural History, the favorite place of Claire's son, Colton, whose death at age eight a decade earlier was caused by a genetic defect in his mitochondrial DNA. Flash back to the period after Colton's death. Claire is terrified to have another child with the same defect, so she and her new husband, Michael, consult a fertility specialist who has been able to produce healthy fetuses by—contrary to federal law—replacing damaged mitochondrial genes. The doctor's in vitro treatment results in Abby's birth, though her parents have never told Abby how she was conceived. Michael and Claire don't know that Abby has a surprise for her parents waiting at the museum. Why Abby's parents have kept her genetic history secret and why Claire fears the mysterious "J" who appears is part of the plot. "Peikoff expertly exposes the dark side of contemporary medical science which will resonate with fans of Robin Cook and the late Michael Palmer." And Meg Gardiner.

Penrose, Andrea. [Murder at Kensington Palace](#) (Kensington \$26). Though Charlotte Sloane's secret identity as the controversial satirical cartoonist A.J. Quill is safe with the Earl of Wrexford, she's ill prepared for the rippling effects sharing the truth about her background has cast over their relationship. She thought a bit of space might improve the situation. But when her cousin is murdered and his twin brother is accused of the gruesome crime, Charlotte immediately turns to Wrexford for help in proving the young man's innocence. Though she finds the brooding scientist just as enigmatic and intense as ever, their partnership is now marked by an unfamiliar tension that seems to complicate every encounter. "A Regency lady with a hidden past joins forces with an irritable aristocrat to solve a dastardly series of crimes... [Charlotte's] burgeoning awareness of her love for Wrexford is just one of many unpredictable complications in the search for a clever and ruthless killer. Science and romance meet in a high-stakes cat-and-mouse game." —*Kirkus Reviews*

Perry, Anne. [Dark Tide Rising](#) (\$17). An attorney approaches the Thames River police commander William Monk on behalf of Harry Exeter, an affluent man whose wife was abducted in broad daylight from a London riverbank the previous day. Exeter, who has assembled the considerable ransom demanded, wants Monk's help with handing it over at the site that the kidnappers have set for the exchange: Jacob's Island, not literally an island but a "region of interconnecting waterways with old offices and wharfs." Monk agrees to accompany Exeter there the next day, and assembles a group of his most trusted officers to be on the scene in disguise. But despite Monk's careful planning, the exchange ends in bloody failure, and he's left to wonder who on his team gave the kidnappers the details of his operation. "The added suspense

from Monk's mole hunt makes this one of the Victorian series' more powerful recent entries." Amazing how Perry's inventiveness never flags! She starts a new 1930s series and signs it for us on October 9. See signed books.

Prescott, Lara. [The Secrets We Kept](#) (Knopf \$26.95). The Indie Next Pick: "This perfect historical novel is made of the most alluring ingredients. First, a divine and doomed love affair between Russian author Boris Pasternak and his muse and secretary, Olga Ivinskaya, a woman immortalized in Pasternak's epic novel *Doctor Zhivago*, which was banned in Russia for more than 30 years. Second, two American women typists working for CIA and their forbidden love story in the midst of the Cold War and the witch hunt against homosexuals. Lara Prescott brilliantly portrays how a timeless novel like *Doctor Zhivago* can change course of history. After I finished reading *The Secrets We Kept*, I pressed the book against my chest, as if I could hear the lovers' hearts still beating." One could also describe this debut where on both sides women drive the narrative as combining "*Mad Men* period style with a spy story worthy of John Le Carré (who has a new book in October).

Price, Leah. [What We Talk About When We Talk About Books](#) (Basic \$27.99). Do you worry that you've lost patience for anything longer than a tweet? If so, you're not alone. Digital-age pundits warn that as our appetite for books dwindles, so too do the virtues in which printed, bound objects once trained us: the willpower to focus on a sustained argument, the curiosity to look beyond the day's news, the willingness to be alone. The shelves of the world's great libraries, though, tell a more complicated story. Examining the wear and tear on the books that they contain, English professor Leah Price finds scant evidence that a golden age of reading ever existed. From the dawn of mass literacy to the invention of the paperback, most readers already skimmed and multitasked. Print-era doctors even forbade the very same silent absorption now recommended as a cure for electronic addictions. The evidence that books are dying proves even scarcer. In encounters with librarians, booksellers and activists who are reinventing old ways of reading, Price offers fresh hope to bibliophiles and literature lovers alike—reports of the death of reading are greatly exaggerated.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. [Ghost Boys](#) (\$7.99). Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing. Soon Jerome meets another ghost: Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances. Emmett helps Jerome process what has happened, on a journey towards recognizing how historical racism may have led to the events that ended his life. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father's actions. Once again Jewell Parker Rhodes deftly weaves historical and socio-political layers into a gripping and poignant story about how children and families face the complexities of today's world....

☞Ripley, Mike. [Mr. Champion's Visit](#) (Severn \$29.99). Suffolk, 1970. Albert Champion is back in Black Dudley, once the scene of murder and mayhem but now home to the brand-new University of Suffolk Coastal. Appointed to the role of the university's Visitor, Champion finds he has a curiously vague remit, but his initial

visit to the concrete campus takes an unexpected turn when the body of charismatic Chilean professor Pascual Perez-Catalan, a rising star and genius scientist in the field of geochemistry, is fished out of the ornamental lake. It seems Pascual was unpopular among his fellow academics and lecturers, his trail-blazing research taking up most of the university's new computing capacity . . . and he was also a keen ladies man. Drawn into another puzzling murder, Champion must negotiate internal politics, seething jealousy and resentment, blackmail, betrayal and a phantom trumpeter as he searches for a ruthless killer.

Robb, JD. [Vendetta in Death](#) (St Martins \$28.99). It's clear that Roberts has tremendous fun inhabiting the world she has built in 21st Century Manhattan using AI plus medical and forensic and engineering technology as the beat for the NYPD's Lt. Eve Dallas. The plots rocket along—this one is revenge driven by a killer who calls herself Lady Justice and taps into rage over rapes—and the sex is offstage but registers hot. But I read them for imagining a better future than the one we may be headed for—they are so not dystopian fiction.

Roslund, Anders. [Three Hours](#) (Quercus \$26.99). Stockholm, Sweden: 73 refugees have been found dead, suffocated in a container at Varta harbor. Piet Hoffmann has again got himself in too deep, infiltrating a West African trafficking ring. He thinks he has two weeks to extricate himself, but will learn that his life, and that of countless defenseless people, now hangs on his actions during three desperate hours. "Not only is *Three Hours* a thrilling novel with a strong plot, it is an old school Scandinavian thriller that turns a critical eye to the refugee issue and the new cynicism in society." Roslund has done some thorough research. In this suspenseful novel, he not only tells us how smugglers operate, but how men and women in key positions in various aid organizations and in politics actively facilitate the trafficking of refugees for blood money.... Roslund has given his main characters fascinating backgrounds.... In the prologue, Roslund tells us how he got to know Hellström and why they eventually started writing crime novels as a duo. The reason had much to do with social criticism, according to Roslund, the very core of the Swedish crime novel, and with reviving these strong stories."—*Vrij Nederland*, Netherlands. Quercus made its big success with Stieg Larsson and publishes much in that vein.

Rowe, Rosemary. [A Prisoner of Privilege](#) (Severn \$28.99). Britain, 194 CE. Libertus, a pavement-maker turned magistrate in Glevum (modern day Gloucester), visits the home of Josephus Loftus, the local moneylender, who wants to talk with Libertus. But when Josephus's servant looks in on her master, she finds him dead, and Libertus quickly discovers evidence that Josephus was smothered with a pillow. His investigation comes as tensions remain high in Rome over who will be recognized as emperor; civil war broke out the previous year after the Praetorian Guard assassinated Emperor Pertinax. The expected arrival in Glevum of a retired member of the guard leads Libertus' patron, Marcus Aurelius Septimus, to fear that his loyalty is being questioned. Three more killings—a strangling, a beheading, and a stabbing—raise the stakes

Rushdie, Salman. [Quichotte](#) (Random \$28). Quichotte, an ageing travelling salesman obsessed with TV, is on a quest for love. Unfortunately, his daily diet of reality TV, sitcoms, films, soaps, comedies and dramas has distorted his ability to separate

fantasy from reality. He wishes an imaginary son, Sancho, into existence, while obsessively writing love letters to a celebrity he knows only through his screen. Together the two innocents set off across America in Quichotte's trusty Chevy Cruze to find her and convince her of his love. Quichotte's story is told by Brother, a mediocre spy novelist in the midst of a midlife crisis. As the stories of Brother and Quichotte intertwine, we are taken on a wild, picaresque journey through a country on the edge of moral and spiritual collapse.

Sallis, James. [The Long-Legged Fly](#) (\$16.95). Local star Sallis has moved to Soho as his publisher and one of the terrific results is the reissuing of his Lew Griffin series, a huge favorite with Rob, Patrick, and me. This is the first. In steamy New Orleans, black private detective Lew Griffin has taken on a seemingly hopeless missing-person case. The trail takes him through the underbelly of the French Quarter with its bar girls, pimps, and tourist attractions. As his search leads to one violent dead end and then another, Griffin is confronted by the realization that his own life has come to resemble those of the people he is attempting to find. 25 years ago few thought anything of a white male writing a black character which thus enabled the Lew Griffins to emerge and become classic detective novels.

Segura, Alex. [Miami Midnight](#) (Polis \$26) is the conclusion to his widely-praised Pete Fernandez series. When an aging Cuban mobster asks Pete to find out who killed his drug-addicted, jazz pianist son and to locate his missing daughter-in-law, Pete balks, until another dead body suggests that the death of the mafioso's son might tie into the people that almost ended Pete's life, and reveal an unexpected, dangerous truth about the Miami private eye's own blurred past.

Simenon, George. [Maigret Defends Himself](#) (Penguin \$13). For the first time in his career, Inspector Maigret receives written summons to the Chief Commissioner's office. There he learns that he has been accused of a horrible assault by an individual with ties to a high-ranking official. He is forbidden from attempting to investigate the case, but with his career and reputation on the line, Maigret must do everything he can to prove his innocence and uncover the motive behind the accusation. In his 63rd Maigret, Simenon writes a nail-biting dissection of what happens when suspicion falls on the very man tasked with bringing about justice.

Simpson, Rosemary. [Let the Dead Keep Their Secret](#) (\$15.95). We are strolling the world of NYC in 1889, being thrilled by the architecturally beautiful homes, the lush period clothing, and the electricity in the air that seems to foresee this city's expansion into becoming the ultimate metropolis. Prudence MacKenzie is a socialite who learned law from her late father who was a judge. She is now a P.I. and her partner's name is Geoffrey Hunter. Born and bred in the South, he is a gentleman as well as an ex-Pinkerton detective. Their wealth of knowledge and skill help in this brand new case dropped at their door; a case that involves the sudden death of a mother and her newborn. The identical twin of the deceased woman hires Prudence and Geoffrey to find out if her own feelings are true; she believes that her sister was murdered by the horrible husband she married. What's worse is this man remarried almost immediately and this second wife is now pregnant and could possibly be his next victim. Post-mortem photography is the popular historical forensics method that this book focuses upon in order to solve the crime.

Steiner, Peter. [The Good Cop](#) (Severn \$28.99). Steiner is the author of the wonderful Louis Morgon mysteries, now alas dropped by the publisher. He's also a cartoonist for *The New Yorker* and is the creator of one of the most famous cartoons of the technological age which prompted the adage, "On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog." With this first in a new series, Steiner "wants people to recognize and understand the threats that face our fragile and precious world." Here is what he says about *The Good Cop* which has earned a rave in the *WSJ*. You can take it as fiction with a political agenda, or not. (Expect to see more novels with agendas for 2020).

Munich, 1920. Detective Willi Geismeyer has a problem: how do you uphold the law when the law goes bad? The First World War has been lost and Germany is in turmoil. The new government in Berlin is weak. The police and courts are corrupt. Fascists and Communists are fighting in the streets. People want a savior, someone who can make Germany great again. To many, Adolf Hitler seems perfect for the job. When the offices of a Munich newspaper are bombed, Willi Geismeyer investigates, but as it gets political, he is taken off the case. Willi continues to ask questions, but then his pursuit of the truth itself becomes a crime...

Steiner also says, "Knowing something about German history and culture from my years as a German professor, I had gotten interested in the similarities between the rise of nationalism and fascism in Germany after World War One and the changing political and cultural climate in the United States. Hitler rose to power by means of lies, and the same lies are being propounded now: that we are being cheated and abused by other countries; that we are being invaded by aliens bringing crime, foreign culture, and the ruination of our country; that the press lies about everything and can't be trusted, and on and on. The first thing that interested me about the rise of tyranny was that it always seems to employ similar means, and it often comes about gradually, in tiny, almost imperceptible erosions of existing liberties and norms. And second, I was interested in how I personally might deal with rising tyranny here in the United States. History tells us most of us would look away when things go bad. We will ignore the abuse of our liberties or of others in order to get on with our own lives. I believe we adopt such willful blindness at our own peril."

Sveistrup, Soren. [The Chestnut Man](#) (Harper \$28.99). The Indie Next Pick: "From the creator of the Scandinavian mini-series *The Killing*, *The Chestnut Man* is an unbelievably fast-paced and exciting page-turner. I literally had trouble putting it down so I could go to sleep! A serial killer is on the loose, a cold case kidnapping is brought back to life, and a politician is attacked from all sides. This is the kind of book Thomas Harris would write, and it's one of the best-plotted mysteries in a long time. What a wonderful group of vivid characters and what a ride! Whew!"

✂Sykes, SD. [The Bone Fire](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). A new medieval mystery for fans of CJ Sansom and for me who finds them fascinating. 1361. Plague has returned to England 13 years after the devastation of The Black Death. As destruction advances towards his estate in Kent, Oswald de Lacy leads his family to the safety of a remote castle in the marshes—where his friend Godfrey is for a siege designed to survive the coming disaster. The rules are clear: once the de Lacys and other guests are inside the castle, the portcullis will be lowered and no-one permitted to enter or leave

until the Pestilence has passed. But Godfrey appears to defy his own edit...and a murderer strikes. Oswald is confronted with a stark choice: leave and face the ravages of the plague, or stay and place his family at the mercy of a brutal killer. With word of his skills as an investigator preceding him, it falls to Oswald to unmask the murderer in the locked castle. Host, guest, or servant—everyone is a suspect in this poisoned refuge of secrets, deceit and malice. I agree with *the NY Times*: “The hectic plot covers everything from contested inheritances to the religious upheavals of the period, keeping the history from deteriorating into mere background. But the plague’s at the center of the story, and Sykes gives it a life and character of its own — swift, remorseless and deadly.” This [medieval series](#) is excellent for fans of Susannah Gregory, Priscilla Royal, Paul Doherty, and Minette Walters’ two most recent novels. We have 3 signed UK editions of [The Bone Fire](#) left.

Tracy, PJ. [Ice Cold Heart](#) (Cooked Lane \$26.99). Tracy—formerly a mother-and-daughter team and now after mom’s death, the daughter—electrified me and many fans including our staff with their 2003 debut crime novel, [Monkeewrench](#) (\$8.99). It’s a soft-ware company peopled with glorious, amazing characters. While the tech is now dated and a couple of the most recent entries thus weak, Tracy has come roaring back with this 10th entry where the tech is terrific but even better, the characters have grown while retaining their stunning individuality. And the mix of police procedural—there’s a serial killer emerging, a sick one whose work links to an artist of the macabre—and techno thriller really works.

The best analog author I can give you is John Sandford. OK, and Matt Goldman. We’re in Minneapolis in bone-chilling weather (read it for the weather comments alone). Winter is so cold in Minneapolis that the homicide detectives have had a reprieve for a month where everyone’s energy goes to keeping warm. Then detectives Leo Magozzi and Gino Rolseth are called to a scene. The lovely young wife Kelly is found brutally slain in a friend’s house she borrowed for a tryst. Kelly had been secretly experimenting with bondage. As the cops dig in, Kelly’s history and death reveal that a self-proclaimed psychic who predicted her death might have been right. Then the psychic is found dead. The two women are linked through a third, a neighbor of Monkeewrench computer team member Roadrunner, he of the maimed hands and kind heart. Kelly is also connected to opening night of an explicit, graphic gallery show by an elusive artist. Is the art a catalyst for the murders? When Magozzi and Rolseth consult Monkeewrench, which is reworking the security software for Bit Monster, the world’s largest crypto-currency exchange and may have been hacked, they find a tangled web that spans the world and leads back to the Minneapolis murders. The historical net Tracy casts ups the game also. Highly recommended although new readers ought to search out the earlier entries and bone up.

Unger, Lisa. [The Stranger Inside](#) (Park Row \$26.99). “Unger’s latest thriller relentlessly uncovers a multitude of secrets, leading readers down a delicious path of fear, lies, and long-awaited justice, with an ending that will leave jaws dropping.” —*Booklist*. Surviving a crime is the beginning of the story, not the end. “Unger revisits one of her frequent themes: the indelible impact of violence on the survivors of crimes. The survivor at its center is Rain Winter, who at age 12 was one of three friends who became the victims of a monster. At first glance, Rain seems to have overcome that nightmare. She’s happily married and reveling in

motherhood, although she vacillates between the joy she finds in 1-year-old Lily and the tug of the job she left as a hard-charging radio news producer. That tug increases when she hears that a man whose murder trial she covered, a man who was acquitted of killing his pregnant wife, has been found dead—killed in just the same way his wife was. Rain was sure he was guilty, so she feels some dark satisfaction, and her investigative instincts (and maybe something else) are aroused when a dark web mole, tipster, and blogger tells her off the record that there have been other, very similar revenge murders, and they might be the work of the same person. That wakes her own worst memories....” —*Kirkus Starred Review* on a startling serial killer thriller.

✠Upson, Nicola. [Sorry for the Dead](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). “Achingly perceptive about forbidden relationships and the unreasonable hatred they can provoke, then as now.” —*Kirkus Reviews*. Anyone who has watched the new season of *Grantchester* (and perhaps like me thought the first episode denied the plot line of the first three seasons) knows that being gay was a hard, often dangerous road. Celebrated crime writer Josephine Tey as portrayed by Upson in this outstanding Golden Age Mysteries series is forced to navigate it. In this chapter Tey returns to Charleston Farmhouse on the Sussex Downs where she once lodged as a young teacher during the Great War. But the story opens 23 years later.

Hearing about the 1938 London production of Lillian Hellman’s *The Children’s Hour* floods Josephine, whose play *The Laughing Woman* is premiering at Cambridge’s Arts Theater, with traumatic memories of the summer of 1915, when rumors about the affair between Georgina Hartford-Wroe and Harriet Barker, partners in the horticultural school Moira House, came to a head with the death of Dorothy Norwood, who, like Hellman’s schoolgirl Mary Tilford, had lodged scandalous accusations against George and Harry. Although the coroner’s court delivered a verdict of death by misadventure, the damage was done: The neighbors’ suspicion and hatred of the couple, fanned by the assumption that Dorothy was murdered, flared out against George and Harry, forcing them to close the school overnight and sending them into exile. In 1938, *Daily Mirror* reporter Faith Hope, who as Charity Lomax was attending Moira House when the scandal erupted, seeks to resurrect it, linking it to Hellman’s well-known play. When she descends on Josephine, the author and playwright has the best reason in the world to bridle, for on the very day Dorothy Norwood died, she consummated her love with fellow teacher Jeanette Sellwood, a secret Charity already seems to know even though Josephine has never shared it even with her current lover, screenwriter Marta Fox, who helped Alfred Hitchcock bring Tey’s 1936 novel, *A Shilling for Candles*, to the screen as *Young and Innocent*. Upson’s last for Tey, was a December 2017 History/Mystery Book of the Month and is IMHO magnificent. It was nominated for Britain’s Historical Dagger Award.

✠Watt, Holly. [To the Lions](#) (Dutton \$27). London Post investigative journalist Casey Benedict, the heroine of Watt’s terrifying and timely debut, is at a high-end nightclub stalking a source when she overhears a conversation about a camp where the rich can kill without consequences. Research leads Casey and fellow reporter Miranda Darcey to suspect that someone is leading human safaris at the Salama refugee camp on the Libya-Algeria border. They can’t go to print without proof, though, and their only witness dies before they can question him. With the help

of damaged former Royal Marine Ed Fitzgerald, the women conspire to go undercover and join the depraved hunting party, gathering evidence and getting out before anyone catches on; after sequestering themselves in the Sahara with men who paid for the privilege to murder, however, that proves easier said than done. “Watt thoroughly mines her journalism creds, bringing the hectic, often dangerous job of an investigative reporter to vivid life, throwing readers right into the middle of the manic inner workings of a bustling broadsheet before setting them loose in a lawless desert wasteland where human life is cheap. The crime at the heart of this tale is nothing short of horrific, and Watt’s narrative sparks and crackles with dread, leading brave readers on a harrowing exploration of unthinkable evil and what it means to bear witness. A terrifying and unforgettable journey.”

✠Weaver, Ashley. [A Dangerous Engagement](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Amory and Milo Ames, a sort of British Nick and Nora Charles in this cozy historical series, endure a rough Atlantic crossing to join the wedding party of one of Amory’s childhood friends whose father is a New York financier. The bride to be, Tabitha, seems to want to share a secret with bridesmaid Amory. But after a celebratory dinner for the whole party, one of them is found dead on the bride’s family’s home’s steps. Did the dead groomsmen have connections to the gangster Leon De Lora, a kingpin in this Prohibition Era city, and did Tabitha’s intended, Tom Smith, harbor a connection among various secrets of his own? Weaver has fun depicting clothes and interior décor and a lifestyle we know will be coming to an end with the end of the 1930s. I really warmed to Tabitha’s father, not your average Wall Street titan.

Ziskin, James W. [Turn to Stone](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). Ziskin takes reporter Ellie Stone to Florence, Italy, 1963, to accept a posthumous award for her late father’s academic work. She is invited to spend a weekend outside Florence with some of the scholars attending the symposium. A suspected rubella outbreak leaves the ten friends quarantined in the bucolic setting with little to do but tell stories to entertain themselves. Deciding to make the best of their confinement, the men and women spin tales, gorge themselves on fine Tuscan food and wine, and enjoy the delicious fruit of transient love. But the summer bacchanalia takes a menacing turn when the man who organized the symposium is fished out of the Arno. “Morto.” As long-buried secrets rise to the surface, Ellie must suss out a murderer. What we have here is a variation on a Christie country-house murder—with maybe a locked room structure.

HERE’S A BIG COZY CORNER

The holiday themed books mostly publish September 24 which is IMHO too early but that’s the way publishing goes, early anticipation. You may prefer to wait and order them in November, or buy now and squirrel them away.

Berenson, Laurien. [Here Comes Santa Paws](#) (Kensington \$20). It’s the most wonderful time of the year in Connecticut, but Melanie Travis finds surviving this December may take a real Christmas miracle when a yuletide murderer comes to town. As Melanie attempts to deck the halls in a house overrun by pampered Poodles, her event planner friend, Claire, is busy playing Santa—beard and belly not included—for the wealthiest clientele on Connecticut’s Gold Coast. A personal shopper gig in the affluent town of New Canaan seems like business as usual. Except Claire’s stylish stint comes at a higher price than she bargains for

when she stumbles over her newest customer’s dead body on the job.

Berry, Tamara. [Séances Are for Suckers](#) (\$15.95). Ellie Wilde has an ailing sister to care for, and working as a ghost hunter who doesn’t believe in ghosts helps cover the bills for both of them. When she’s lucky, it also pays for the occasional vacation. The skeptical, reserved, and very rich Nicholas Hartford III has flown her all the way to his family’s ancestral estate in England—supposedly haunted by a phantom named Xavier. Nicholas thinks it’s all just as much a crock as Ellie’s business is, but the fact remains that something is causing the flashes of light, mysterious accidents, and other apparent pranks in the chilly, eerie castle. His mother is sure that Xavier is real, and he’s willing to employ Ellie if she can get to the bottom of it and put a stop to the nonsense. While the food and accommodations are somewhat disappointing (dorm-room furniture? Really?), Ellie is finding it an adventure to get to know this eccentric family and their houseguests, and to poke around in the nearby village for clues. Then an actual dead body appears...

✠Brightwell, Emily. [Mrs. Jeffries and the Alms of the Angel](#) (Berkley \$26). Margaret Starling wasn’t the sort of Victorian woman anyone expected to be murdered. She was on the advisory board of the London Angel Alms Society, she was an active member of St. Peter’s Church, and, best of all, she was always willing to lend a hand to a friend or a neighbor in need of advice. She was also a wealthy upper-class widow. But money alone won’t protect you when someone decides it’s high time you met your maker. Margaret’s next-door neighbor considered her an odious busybody, the Reverend Reginald Pontefract wished she’d never set foot in St. Peter’s, and half the advisory board of the London Angel Alms Society heartily hoped she’d come down with pneumonia before the next quarterly meeting. All in all, Margaret wasn’t as well regarded as she’d always thought she was. But Mrs. Jeffries and Inspector Witherspoon know that justice isn’t a popularity contest....

Brook, Allison. [Buried in the Stacks](#) (Cooked Lane \$26.99). In winter, the Haunted Library is a refuge for homeless townspeople. When a group purchases a vacant house to establish a daytime haven for the homeless, Carrie offers the library as a meeting place for the Haven House committee, but quickly learns that it may be used for illegal activities. As the new Sunshine Delegate, Carrie heads to the hospital to visit her cantankerous colleague, Dorothy, who had fallen outside the local supermarket. She tells Carrie that her husband tried to kill her—and that he murdered her Aunt Evelyn, the library’s resident ghost, six years earlier. And then Dorothy is murdered....

Byron, Ellen. [Fatal Cajun Festival](#) (Cooked Lane \$26.99). Maggie Crozet, whose family owns the Crozet Plantation Bed and Breakfast in Pelican, Louisiana, is gearing up for Cajun Country Live!—a music and culture festival. The town is abuzz when Tammy Barker, a rising country music star and winner of the popular TV talent show Sing It, signs on to headline the event. Tammy rolls into Pelican with her ragtag entourage of musicians, assistants, minders, and groupies. Can trouble be far behind? Although professing to have matured, Tammy is finding it hard to overcome the mean girl skills she honed in high school. Her primary target is Gaynell Bourgeois, a local musician and friend of Maggie’s. When Tammy’s “handsy” manager is murdered and

Gaynell is arrested for the crime, Maggie steps up to investigate. Byron supplies a few nasty characters readers can love to hate, along with a joyous dollop of Cajun lore.”—*PW*. Plus, there are recipes. 5th in series.

✠Christie, Agatha. [The Last Séance](#) (Harper \$16.99). Not an undiscovered Christie but a collection of her spookiest and most sinister stories, including an Agatha Christie story never before published in the USA, “The Wife of Kenite”!

✠Ellicott, Jessica. [Murder Flies the Coop](#) (\$15.95). Sharing lodging in the sleepy English village of Walmsley Parva has eased some of the financial strain on the two old school chums, but money is still tight in these lean years following the Great War. So when the local vicar—and pigeon-racing club president—approaches them with a private inquiry opportunity, the ladies eagerly accept. There’s been a spot of bother: the treasurer has absconded with the club’s funds and several prized birds. Beryl and Edwina hope to flush out the missing man by checking his boardinghouse and place of employment at the coal mine. But when they visit the man’s loft, they find their elusive quarry lying in white feathers and a pool of crimson blood—the only witnesses cooing mournfully.

Kelly, Sofie. [A Night’s Tail](#) (Berkley \$25). In the charming town of Mayville Heights, librarian Kathleen Paulson and her two cats pounce on clues to catch a killer. Kathleen’s brother, Ethan, has arrived in town with his band, The Flaming Gerbils. But not everything goes as scheduled when one of Ethan’s bandmates gets into a fight with a man interested in investing in the town. When the businessman’s body is later found, Ethan’s friend is implicated in the crime. Kathleen wants to help her brother by solving the case. She has no shortage of suspects since the investor had been fighting like cats and dogs with lots of people...

Levine, Laura. [Death of a Gigolo](#) (Kensington \$26). After a dry spell, freelance writer Jaime Austen’s life is suddenly full of romance. For one thing, she’s reconnected with her ex—though her cat, Prozac, isn’t happy about it. And Jaime’s also got a new ghostwriting gig, working on a steamy novel called *Fifty Shades of Turquoise*

Macy, Meg. [Have Yourself a Beary Little Murder](#) (Kensington \$15.95). This Shamelessly Adorable Teddy Bear Mystery features shop owner Sasha Silverman and her sister Maddie who are joyful that the Silver Bear Shop and Factory has won the Teddy Bear Keepsake Contest, which means they get to produce a holiday specialty toy, a wizard bear named “Beary Potter.” Promising to be just as magical is Silver Hollow’s annual tree-lighting ceremony and village parade. Only one hitch: the parade’s mascot, Santa Bear—played by Mayor Cal Bloom—is missing. After a frantic search among the floats, Bloom is found dead. When the outfit is removed, it’s clear the mayor’s been electrocuted before being stuffed into the Santa suit....

McKevett, GA. [Murder in Her Stocking](#) (\$15.95). Stella Reid, widow and grandmother of seven, takes center stage in this tender spinoff from McKevett’s Savannah Reid series. We’re in McGill, Georgia, in the 1980s. Stella has the misfortune to discover town floozy Prissy Carr dying in a dark alley behind a seedy tavern. The coroner later determines she was strangled. While the gossipy residents of McGill lack sympathy for the victim, who was notorious for seducing several straying husbands, the kindhearted Stella decides to help the handsome Sheriff Manny Gilford find

the killer. Stella’s oldest and most perceptive grandchild, 12-year-old Savannah Reid, helps uncover important clues. The duo’s sleuthing ranges from studying the contents of Prissy’s jewelry box, which is filled with gifts from her lovers, to investigating an abandoned farmhouse on Christmas Day....

The sequel is [Murder in the Corn Maze](#) (Kensington \$26). It’s Halloween, and devoted granny Stella takes sixth-grader Savannah Reid and the rest of her grandkids to Judge Patterson’s antebellum mansion for the festive corn maze. Inside the maze, Savannah stumbles on a long-dead corpse, still in its Sunday best. Stella immediately recognizes the remains as those of Rebecca Dingle, who went missing years before. Stella can do nothing to dampen single-minded Savannah’s natural investigative inclinations as the girl begins to assist in the crime solving, but she must also protect Savannah from the possibly devastating town and family history the inquiry reveals.

O’Connor, Carlene. [Christmas Cocoa Murder](#) (Kensington \$21.95). Siobhán O’Sullivan’s hopes for a quiet Irish Christmas are dashed when the local Santa turns up dead in a carnival dunk tank of hot cocoa. Now instead of hunting down holiday gifts, she’s pursuing a heartless killer. Seems the dead Santa was no angel either, stealing neighborhood dogs to guide his sleigh. But was it his holiday antics—or worse—that led to his death by chocolate? Add a second novella by Maddy Day and a third by Alex Erickson for a treat.

OUR SEPTEMBER SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Coleman, Reed F. [Robert B Parker’s Colorblind](#) (\$9.99). Jesse Stone #5. Returning after a stint in rehab, Jesse Stone finds himself investigating a series of racially motivated crimes at the same time he takes a mysterious young man named Cole Slayton as his protégé. *PW* concluded its starred review with “Coleman makes the impact of these events on individuals palpable, giving this nuanced entry more emotional weight than most Spenser books.”

Cussler, Clive. [Shadow Tyrants](#) (\$9.99). Oregon Files #13. When the descendants of a legendary band of imperial secret-keepers threaten humanity, Juan Cabrillo and his team aboard the Oregon race to protect the world from a plot to eliminate all technology. *Kirkus* concluded their review of this with “All the world’s computers may become disabled by an electromagnetic pulse, and Colossus may achieve singularity. Readers probably won’t lie awake worrying whether all this could really happen. Fast-moving, implausible fun.”

✠Follett, Ken. [A Column of Fire](#) (\$10.99). The relationship between a man in service to Elizabeth I and a woman on the opposing side of England’s religious divide is challenged by violent ideological power shifts, torn loyalties, and the queen’s circle of spies.

Grant, Andrew. [Invisible](#) (\$9.99). An army veteran and intelligence agent goes undercover as a janitor at a federal courthouse to pursue his own brand of justice when the trial of his father’s killer becomes subject to jury tampering. Here’s *PW*’s take: “Grant capably combines a riveting plot and depth of character. His best outing to date, this standalone marks Grant as a rising genre star.” This starts a series.

Hamilton, Glen. [Mercy River](#) (\$9.99). Van Shaw #4. To help his friend who was arrested for murder, Van Shaw travels to Oregon and uncovers a plot involving drug smuggling, mercenaries and

family secrets in the latest novel in the series following *Every Day Above Ground*.

Hamilton, Steve. [Dead Man Running](#) (\$9.99). Alex McKnight #11. In a hunt that will take him across the country and to the edge of his limits, Alex McKnight fights to stop a vicious killer before he can exact his ultimate revenge.

Quirk, Matthew. [The Night Agent](#) (\$9.99). Idealistic young FBI surveillance specialist Peter Sutherland is forced to question everything and trust no one in order to stop a Russian mole in the White House. *LJ* had this to say “This latest from Quirk (“John Hayes” and “Mike Ford” series) centers on by-the-book Quirk’s chilling and modern scenario of foreign influence reaching into the highest reaches of government will be thoroughly enjoyed by political thriller junkies.” Given the way some politicians are cozying up to the Russians, this plot becomes more and more plausible every day.

Sandford, John. [Holy Ghost](#) (\$9.99). Virgil Flowers #11 A mayor’s half-baked scheme to revive a floundering Minnesota community by turning it into a religious shrine is thrown into chaos by the discovery of a body. *PW* loved this ending its review with “When the shootings turn deadly, Flowers gets help, which he badly needs as he comes to realize that he must outwit a clever killer who proves one of his maxims: “If it’s criminal, it’s either stupid or crazy.” Sandford’s trademark sly humor shines throughout.” And even more so in *Bloody Genius*—see Event Books for our take on Virgil Flowers #12.

Thompson, Victoria. [City of Secrets](#) (\$7.99). A follow-up to *City of Lies* finds woman-on-the-run Elizabeth Miles championing the cause of a widowed suffragist whose second husband has died amid scandalous rumors and the inexplicable disappearance of the family wealth.

Ware, Ruth. [The Lying Game](#) (\$9.99). In the wake of a woman’s discovery of human remains, the members of a once-inseparable clique from a boarding school reflect on their participation in a dangerous game of deception that contributed to the death of a teacher. *PW* called this earlier effort from rising British star Ware “engrossing” and went on to say “Alternating between the past and present, Ware builds up a rock-solid cast of intriguing characters and spins a mystery that will keep readers turning pages to the end.”

HOLIDAY THEMED PAPERBACKS

Alexander, Ellie. [A Cup of Holiday Fear](#) (St Martins \$7.99) Bakeshop #8. When murder casts a pall over the historic Winchester Inn’s Dickens Feast, bakeshop owner Jules decides to investigate and bring a not-so-festive killer to justice before Christmas.

Andrews, Donna. [Lark! The Herald Angels Sing](#): (\$7.99). Meg Langslow #24. Discovering an abandoned infant in a live nativity display with a note claiming her brother is the father, Meg learns that the baby is also connected to a crime that must be stopped.

Baker, Bree. [Tide and Punishment](#) (Sourcebooks \$7.99). Seaside Café #3. When a mayoral candidate running against her Great-Aunt Fran turns up dead, iced tea shop owner Everly Swan must steep herself in the clues to prove her Fran’s innocence so a Merry Christmas can be had by all.

Blackmoore, Stephanie. [Marry Christmas Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99). When the Christmas Eve gala is marred by murder,

professional wedding planner Mallory Shepard sets out to solve this mystery among other mysteries involving a missing cat, a toy-drive heist and a baby found in a manger 30 years late

Bradford, Laura. [A Killer Carol](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Claire Weatherly #7. The owner of a gift shop that caters to both English and Amish customers, Claire must help newlyweds Ruth and Samuel Yoder, who are accused of murdering an elderly Amish couple, prove their innocence in time to ensure a Merry Christmas for all.

Cox Bryan, Molly. [Christmas Cow Bells](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Settling in Shenandoah Springs, organic micro-dairy farmer and cheese-maker Brynn MacAlister finds herself in the middle of a murder mystery when her neighbor dies in a mysterious fire and strange things begin happening in her own pasture.

Elliott, Lauren. [Murder in the First Edition](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Murder by the Book #3. When someone steals her first edition of Charles Dickens’s *A Christmas Carol*, and the organizer of the charity auction is found dead, bookstore owner Addie Greyborne is faced with two mysteries — both of which are linked to her late fiancé’s father.

Fluke, Joanne. [Christmas Cake Murder](#) (\$7.99). Hannah Swensen #23. Juggling the responsibilities of opening her shop with the demands of Christmas, Hannah Swensen is surprised by the writing talents of an elderly local whose murder story chillingly comes true.

Levine, Laura. [Death of a Neighborhood Scrooge](#) (\$7.99). Jaine Austen #16. When the neighborhood Scrooge, former child star Scotty Parker, is murdered, freelance writer Jaine Austen, who was helping him stage a comeback, finds herself on the list of suspects and must find the real killer.

Meier, Leslie. [Yule Log Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99). This Christmas themed anthology collects three new murder mysteries set in coastal Maine during the holidays, including “Yule Log Murder” by *New York Times* best-selling author Leslie Meier, «Death by Yule Log» by Lee Hollis and «Logged on» by Barbara Ross.

NEW SMALL PAPERBACKS FOR SEPTEMBER

Blum, Christine. [Clarets of Fire](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Rose Avenue Wine Club #3. newlyweds Penelope and Malcolm, the owners of a new winery who just partnered with a local pizza place, when they are accused of murder and arson.

Brennan, Allison. [Abandoned](#) (\$8.99). Max Revere #5. Max Revere investigates the disappearance of her own mother several years earlier, tracing her activities in a small Chesapeake Bay community where witnesses are keeping dark secrets.

Bryndza, Robert. [The Night Stalker](#) (\$7.99). In the dead of a swelteringly hot summer’s night, Detective Erika Foster is called to a murder scene. The victim, a doctor, is found suffocated in bed. A few days later, another victim is found dead, in exactly the same circumstances. As Erika and her team start digging deeper, they discover a calculated serial killer—stalking their victims before choosing the right moment to strike.

Coco, Nancy. [Fudge Bites](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Candy-Coated #6. While everyone is gearing up for the annual zombie walk charity event, fudge shop owner Allie McMurphy and her calico cat, Carmella, stumble upon a real dead body and team up with hunky officer Rex Manning to unmask a clever killer in disguise.

Connelly, Michael. [Blood Work](#) (\$9.99). Reissue. Recuperating from a heart transplant, retired FBI agent Terrell McCaleb learns that his heart donor was a woman heinously murdered by a predator the likes of which he has never known. The movie starred Clint Eastwood.

Conroy, Vivian. [Last Pen Standing](#) (Sourcebooks \$7.99). Stationary Shop #1. When a crafting workshop ends in murder, stationary shop owner Delta Douglas must follow a paper trail of clues to catch a killer and save her business from a terrible fate.

Daheim, Mary. [A Case of Bier](#) (\$7.99). Bed-and-Breakfast #31. Innkeeper and amateur sleuth Judith McMonigle Flynn's plans for a relaxing vacation go awry when she realizes her fellow guests have a different kind of getaway planned.

Ellison, J. T. [No One Knows](#) (\$9.99). Five years after her husband's disappearance, Aubrey still desperately wonders what happened to him and tries to figure out the identity of a mysterious, but familiar, stranger.

Fletcher, Jessica. [Murder, She Wrote: Murder in Red](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Investigating a private hospital for evidence of medical malpractice when a friend loses her life during a simple procedure, Jessica Fletcher makes unsettling discoveries that suggest her friend was a victim of something far more sinister.

Goldstein, Debra H. [Two Bites Too Many](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Sarah Blair #1. When the president of the town bank and city council is murdered after nixing her twin sister's plans to open a gourmet restaurant—and their mother, Maybelle, is caught red-handed—receptionist Sarah Blair must get Maybelle off the chopping block.

Grafton, Sue. [X](#) (\$9.99). Reissue. Kinsey Millhone #24. A serial killer who leaves no trace of his crimes challenges Kinsey's skills to solve the case before she becomes his next victim. *PW* was just one of the raves for Grafton's last book saying "An inventive plot and incisive character studies elevate MWA Grand Master Grafton's twenty-fourth Kinsey Millhone novel... This superior outing will remind readers why this much-loved series will be missed as the end of the alphabet approaches." This was of course written before we knew that *Y* would be the end of Sue's alphabet.

Grippando, James. [Girl in the Glass Box](#) (\$9.99). Miami attorney Jack Swyteck lands in the heart of a contentious immigration debate when he takes on the heart-wrenching case of an undocumented immigrant who has fled to America to safeguard family lives.

Hartwell, Sadie. [Knit Before Dying](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Knitting shop owner Josie Blair starts to settle into her life in Connecticut when the one of the new business owners next door is found stabbed to death and she finds herself caught up in another murder investigation.

Hesse, Jennifer. [Autumn Alibi](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Wiccan Wheel #6. When her wealthy client Elaine Turnbull's death is ruled suspicious — and her new will goes missing — attorney Keli Milanni, while hoping the Wiccan Autumn Equinox will bring balance back into her life, must find the truth, which places her own life in danger

Larsen, Ward. [Assassin's Run: A David Slaton](#) (Forge \$9.99). Assassin David Slaton races to the island of Capri to clear his name when he is wrongly accused of murdering a Russian oligarch.

Malley, Louis. [Stool Pigeon](#) (St Martins \$9.99). Originally published by Avon in 1953, this is a dark tale of New York gangsters in Little Italy, and the revengeful cop, who plans to bring down an old nemesis.

Marks, Mary. [Knot on Her Life](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Martha Rose #6. When her neighbor's foster child Poppy, an orphan whose parents were murdered by a killer who was never caught, needs her help, quilter Martha Rose must piece together the truth about Poppy's parents to prevent another crime cut from the same cloth.

Perry, Carol J. [Late Checkout](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Witch City #9. When a former minor league baseball player and ex-con is found dead in the library, surrounded by hundreds of scattered books and torn-out pages, field reporter Lee Barrett suspects foul play and sets out to catch a killer.

Simon, Misty. [Carpet Diem](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Tallie Graver #3. Tallie is not afraid of a little competition when it comes to landing cleaning contracts, and she certainly doesn't think Audra, the glamorous new cleaner in town, will win a major contract at the Amercromb mansion. But then Tallie stumbles across Audra's body in a rolled-up carpet making her the local police's prime suspect.

Staub, Wendy Corsi. [Dying Breath](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Cam Hastings has come to Long Beach Island with her teenage daughter and the hope that maybe she can save her failed marriage. Cam has never stopped loving her husband Mike nor has she been able to outrun her flaws and demons—a vanished mother, a lost sister, and the ugly visions she has of missing children. Now, for once, Cam will act on one of her visions—and then face the consequences. For a killer has just struck again. Calling all Mary Higgins Clark fans!

Tata, Anthony J. [Dark Winter](#) (Kensington \$9.99). After series of military-targeted cyber-attacks throw the world into chaos, Jake Mahegan must divide his team of highly trained operatives in order to infiltrate the three main nerve centers of the hackers in Russia, Iran and North Korea.

Tremblay, Paul. [Cabin at the End of the World](#) (\$7.99). A family vacationing at a remote cabin on a quiet New Hampshire lake faces a home invasion by four strangers carrying menacing but unidentifiable objects who claim to be acting to save the world.

Woods, Stuart. [Wild Card](#) (\$9.99). Stone Barrington # too many to count. A peaceful country retreat with his latest paramour is interrupted by an unknown, ruthlessly vengeful adversary who orchestrates multiple plots targeting Manhattan rainmaker Stone Barrington and his associates. Don't you just hate it when your romantic trysts are disrupted by a nemesis?

Zanetti, Rebecca. [Fallen](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Forced to work with a secret Deep Ops unit after getting caught, rebellious hacker Brigid Banaghan turns to her bodyguard and handler Raider Tanaka for help when her estranged father is named in an investigation into Boston's organized crime.