

BOOKNEWS from

ISSN 1056-5655, © The Poisoned Pen, Ltd.
Volume 31, Number 13
November 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](#)

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

Some Events will be webcast on Facebook Live

Check out our new [YouTube Channel](#)

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5 7:00 PM International Crime

Tim Maleeny signs [Boxing the Octopus](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.99/\$15.95)

Michael Stanley signs [Shoot the Bastards](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95)
And from Australia

Sulari Gentill signs [A Murder Unmentioned](#) (Sourcebooks \$25)
and other Rowland Sinclair mysteries (\$12 each in hardcover—see Event Books)

Robert Gott signs [The Holiday Murders](#) (Scribe \$26.95)

Jock Serong signs [On the Java Ridge](#) and [Preservation](#) (Text \$15.95 each)

Emma Viskic signs [Resurrection Bay](#) (Pushkin \$14.95)

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 6 7:00 PM

TICKETS \$35 admits one with book, \$38 admits two with one book
Please do not bring any personal books

Clive Cussler and Boyd Morrison sign [Final Option](#) (Putnam \$29)
Location: Janet Cussler Car Collection 16055 N. Dial Blvd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8 7:00 PM

Kel Kade signs [Fate of the Fallen](#) (Tor \$25.99)
Starts an epic fantasy series

Jenn Lyons signs [The Name of All Things](#) (Tor \$26.99)
Chorus of Dragons #2

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9 2:00 PM Mystery Tea

Tessa Arlen signs [Poppy Redfern and the Midnight Murders](#)
(Berkley \$16)

Ellen Crosby signs [The Angel's Share](#) (St Martins \$26.99)

Dianne Freeman signs [A Lady's Guide to Gossip and Murder](#)
(Kensington \$26)

Bairbre Higgins signs [The Torchbearers](#) (Terra Nova \$19.95)

Annie Hogsett signs [The Devil's Own Game](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.99)

Judith Starkston signs [Sorcery in Alpara](#) (Bronze Age Books \$16.99)

MONDAY NOVEMBER 11 7:00 PM

Janet Evanovich signs [Twisted Twenty-Six](#) (Putnam \$28)

Location: DoubleTree Resort, 5401 North Scottsdale Road Scottsdale AZ 85250

Cash bar. Free valet parking

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13 7:00 PM

Joseph Kanon signs [The Accomplice](#) (Atria \$28)
1960s Germany & Argentina

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14 7:00 PM

Bonnie MacBird signs [The Devil's Due](#) (Harper \$26.99)
Sherlock Holmes Adventures

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17 2:00 PM

Hank Early signs [Echoes of the Fall](#) (Crippen \$26.99)
Earl Marcus Mystery

Scott Graham signs [Arches Enemy](#) (Torrey House \$15.95)
National Park Mystery #5

Margaret Mizushima signs [Tracking Game](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99)
Timber Creek K-9 #5

Paula Munier signs [Blind Search](#) (St Martins \$26.99)
Mercy and (her dog) Elvis #2

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19 7:00 PM

Marc Cameron signs [Tom Clancy Code of Honor](#) (Putnam \$29.95)
Walt Gragg signs [The Chosen One](#) (Berkley \$17)

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21 7:00 PM

Laurie R. King signs [Beginnings](#) (Bay Company \$13)
A Kate Martinelli novella
And [Mary Russell's War](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95)

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22 7:00 PM

Three Legged Dog plays

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23 2:00 PM

Jennifer Ashley signs [A McKenzie Clan Christmas](#) (Berkley \$5.99)

Eliza Casey signs [Lady Takes the Case](#) (Berkley \$16)
Manor Cat Mystery #1 1912 England

Tori Eldridge signs [The Ninja Daughter](#) (Polis \$16.95)

Lily Wong #1 Check this promo session at [Quest Martial Arts Chandler](#)

Jenn McKinlay signs [The Christmas Keeper](#) (Berkley \$7.99)
Romance for a NC bookseller

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24 3:00 PM!!

Ace Atkins signs [Robert B Parker's Angel Eyes](#) (Putnam \$27)
Spenser

NOVEMBER DISCUSSION CLUBS

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

Coffee & Crime: Saturday November 9 10:30 AM
Lockridge, Richard/Frances. [The Norths Meet Murder](#) (\$13.99)

SciFi Friday: November 15 7:00 PM
Chakraborty, SA. [City of Brass](#) (\$16.99)

Croak & Dagger: Saturday November 16 10:30 AM
Massey, Sujata. [The Widows of Malabar Hill](#) (\$15.95)

Hardboiled Crime: Wednesday November 20 7:00 PM
Nielson, Helen. [The Woman on the Roof](#) (\$9.99)

EVENT BOOKS

I have been saying for a few years that the Australian Crime Wave is a leader in the Next Big Thing. And now, from Australia, four authors join us on November 5:

Their "On the Run" tour seeks to take advantage of the recent worldwide interest in Australian crime to introduce America to some of Australia's next international bestsellers. It is the first tour of its kind, involving four established Australian writers from four separate Australian publishers. The Australian reading public will join them on tour via vlogs, blogs, and social media. On the Run will be send back daily pieces to be published on Arts Daily and other websites.

They are visiting The Pen November 5 along with two Poisoned Pen Press authors: Michael Stanley and Tim Maleeny, so a big PPP party. Everyone who comes will get a free PPP book. Gentili is the woman to the left.



Sulari Gentili is the critically acclaimed author of the multi-award winning Rowland Sinclair Mysteries, which has won one Davitt Award, and been shortlisted for a further four, as well as two Ned Kelly Awards, two Australian Book Industry Awards and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize; and *Crossing the Lines*, a postmodern psychological thriller, which won the 2018 Ned Kelly Award.

Gentili is a favorite of **Anne Perry**—"The 1930s are a marvelous period. We know what lies ahead! This is beautifully drawn, with all its fragile hope and looming tragedy. I am delighted this is a series. I want them all." And **Rhys Bowen**

—"This book has it all: intrigue among the British aristocracy, the Nazi threat and a dashing Australian hero. I didn't want it to end!"

Think of Rowland Sinclair as Australia's answer to Lord Peter Wimsey.

She signs [A Murder Unmentioned](#) (Poisoned Pen \$25) which explores Rowland Sinclair's family's history along with a murder investigation in which he is a suspect. So the novel is both an origin story for this generation of Sinclairs, an upper-crust landed family in Australia with homes including Rowland's residence in Sydney, and an investigation that kicks off when discoveries reveal that his father, a dictatorial and difficult man, had actually been murdered—and Rowland becomes the chief suspect in a very cold case.

SPECIAL OFFER: since this is a rare chance for Signed copies of books by this distinguished author, winner of Australia's Ned Kelly Award for Best Novel. We have **Signed Hardcover Firsts (\$12 each** in series order: [A Few Right Thinking Men](#); [Miles Off Course](#); [Paving the New Road](#); [Gentlemen Formerly Dressed](#); Expect the 7th book in January, but not available Signed. Unfortunately the second in series, [A Decline in Prophets](#), is very limited in quantity in hardcover but can be ordered in paperback (\$15.95).

Dr. Robert Gott is the author seven historical crime novels (set in Australia in the 1940s). Two of these, *Amongst the Dead* and *The Holiday Murders*, have been shortlisted for the Ned Kelly Award for Best Crime Fiction. Gott wrote a regular column, *Class Act*, for the *The Age* newspaper, and is the creator of the cartoon *The Adventures of Naked Man*.

Gott signs [The Holiday Murders](#) (Scribe \$26.95). On Christmas Eve, 1943, the newly formed but undermanned Homicide division of the Melbourne police force is called to investigate the vicious double murder of a father and son. When Military Intelligence becomes involved, Homicide's Inspector Titus Lambert must unravel the personal from the political. If only the killings had stopped at two. The police are desperate to come to grips with an extraordinary and disquieting upsurge of violence. For Constable Helen Lord, it is an opportunity to make her mark in a male-dominated world where she is patronized as a novelty. For Detective Joe Sable, the investigation forces a reassessment of his indifference to his Jewish heritage. Racing against the clock, the police uncover simmering tensions among secretive local Fascists...and a psychopath.

Jock Serong has won has many awards including the Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction, the JCU Colin Roderick Award, the HT Priestley Medal and the Staunch Prize.

Serong signs [On the Java Ridge](#) (Text \$15.95). Natoli and a group of Australian surf tourists are anchored off the Indonesian island of Dana. In the Canberra office of Cassius Calvert, Minister for Border Integrity, a federal election looms and a hardline new policy on asylum-seekers is being rolled out. Not far from Dana, the *Takalar* is having engine trouble. Among the passengers on board fleeing from persecution are Roya and her mother, and Roya's unborn sister. The storm now closing in on the *Takalar* and the *Java Ridge* will mean catastrophe for them all, ships and crews. Serong also signs [Preservation](#) (\$15.95).

Emma Viskic won the 2016 Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction and an unprecedented three Davitt Awards. *Resurrection Bay* was shortlisted for the UK's prestigious Gold Dagger and New Blood Awards and is currently nominated for a Barry Award.

Viskic signs [Resurrection Bay](#) (Pushkin \$14.95). Caleb Zelic, profoundly deaf since early childhood, has always lived on the outside—watching, picking up telltale signs people hide in a smile, a cough, a kiss. When a childhood friend is murdered, a sense of guilt and a determination to prove his own innocence sends Caleb on a hunt for the killer. But he can't do it alone. Caleb and his troubled friend Frankie, an ex-cop, start with one clue: Scott, the last word the murder victim texted to Caleb. But Scott is always one step ahead. This gripping, original and fast-paced crime thriller is set between Melbourne and a small coastal town, Resurrection Bay, where Caleb is forced to confront painful memories.

Her second novel, [And Fire Came Down](#) (\$14.95), won the 2018 Davitt Award for Best Crime Novel and was long-listed for the Dublin International Literary Award. In it, Caleb is struggling just to get through the day. His best mate is dead, his ex-wife, Kat, is avoiding him, and nightmares haunt his waking hours. But when a young woman is killed, after pleading for his help in sign language, Caleb is determined to find out who she was. The trail leads Caleb back to his hometown, Resurrection Bay. The town is on bushfire alert, and simmering with racial tensions. As Caleb delves deeper, he uncovers secrets that could ruin any chance of reuniting with Kat, and even threaten his life. Driven by his own demons, he pushes on. But who is he willing to sacrifice along the way?

And otherwise our visiting authors for November are:

Arlen, Tessa. [Poppy Redfern and the Midnight Murders](#) (Berkley \$16 November 9). Arlen, who wrote the Lady Montfort series set in the early 20th Century, a kind of Downton landscape, moves into WWII. Young Poppy Redfern leaves London, where she has trained as an air raid warden, for the town where she grew up, Little Buffenden, to serve as its first air raid warden. It's summer, 1942. The post is the only one her conservative and caring parents will consider. And they insist on a local man to chaperone her night-time rounds enforcing the blackout. Her return coincides with the arrival of American fighter pilots—and a series of strangulation murders of attractive young women, starting with Doreen Newcombe. Doreen was garroted with a pair of nylon stockings her American boyfriend had given her, making him the obvious suspect. Poppy, who isn't so sure of his guilt, feels impelled to play detective. Meanwhile, Poppy develops an American love interest of her own, the handsome Lt. Griff O'Neal. Like Charles Todd's shell-shocked WWI veteran, Ian Rutledge, Poppy converses, if at a lighthearted level, with someone who isn't real—the feisty heroine of the mystery novel she's writing. It isn't difficult to work out who the strangler is, but the mystery is less important than the picture of village wartime life that Arlen, herself a Brit, paints in this promising series start for fans of British cozies.

Ashley, Jennifer. [A McKenzie Clan Christmas](#) (Berkley \$5.99 November 23). The Mackenzie clan has gathered for Hart's birthday at the sprawling family estate in Scotland. But before the festivities can start, the house is robbed, and thieves make off with an untold fortune in rare art. Ian Mackenzie and his brothers

must do what they can to retrieve the family treasure, but Ian is distracted by a family friend who claims he might have the power to "cure" Ian of his madness forever. The book includes a never before published Mackenzie Christmas novella and, at this low price, is a perfect stocking stuffer.

Atkins, Ace. [Robert B. Parker's Angel Eye](#) (Putnam \$27 November 24). Gabby Leggett left her Boston family with dreams of making it big as a model/actress in Hollywood. Two years later, she disappears from her apartment. Her family, former boyfriend, friends—and the police—have no idea where she is and no leads. Leggett's mother hires Spenser to find her, with help of his former apprentice, Zebulon Sixkill, now an L.A. private eye. Spenser barely has time to unpack before the trail leads to a powerful movie studio boss, the Armenian mob, and a shadowy empowerment group some say might be a dangerous cult. It's soon clear that Spenser and Sixkill may be outgunned this time, calling for Chollo and Bobby Horse ride to the rescue to provide backup....

Cameron, Marc. [Tom Clancy: Code of Honor](#) (Putnam \$29 November 19). Father Pat West, S.J. was a buddy of the young Jack Ryan when they were both undergraduates at Boston College. Father West left a comfortable job in the philosophy department at Georgetown to work with the poor in Indonesia. Now he's been arrested and accused of blasphemy against Islam. President Ryan is desperate to rescue his old friend, but he can't move officially against the Indonesians. Instead he relies on the Campus team to find out who is framing the priest. There's one other twist to the story. President Ryan discovers a voicemail on his private cell phone....

Casey, Eliza. [Lady Takes the Case](#) (Berkley \$16 November 23). "Set in 1912, the pseudonymous Casey's solid first novel and series launch focuses on the plight of Lord and Lady Avebury, who are near financial ruin: the only way to save their beloved Yorkshire estate, Danby Hall, is for their shy, botanist son, Patrick, to marry Annabel Clarke, an American heiress. The Countess of Avebury invites Annabel and a host of distinguished guests to a grand weeklong event, which includes a garden party, archery, and croquet, and a masquerade ball to help seal the engagement. During a formal dinner, the fatal poisoning of a celebrated explorer upsets everyone at Danby Hall and threatens Patrick's marriage prospects. Annabel's American maid, Jane Hughes, befriends Lady Cecelia Bates, Patrick's feisty 19-year-old sister, and together, with the help of Jane's cat, Jack, they set out to solve the murder. Jack plays a key role in the mystery's resolution. *Downton Abbey* fans, this is a cozier aristocratic world for you and our **November Cozy Crimes Book of the Month**."

Crosby, Ellen. [The Angel's Share](#) (St Martins \$26.99 November 9). When Lucie Montgomery attends the Avery Family's Thanksgiving party for friends and neighbors at Hawthorne Castle, she doesn't suspect the festive occasion will end in death. During the party, Prescott Avery, the family patriarch, invites Lucie to his fabulous wine cellar to tell her he wants to buy a priceless cache of 210-year-old Madeira which her great-great-uncle found hidden in the 1920s. Lucie knows nothing about the precious cache of wine and tells Prescott she believes her father either sold or drank it. By the end of the party, Prescott is found murdered in his wine cellar. At first the case looks like it will be open and shut, but when Lucie discovers Prescott's links to the Freemasons society, the case becomes more complicated.

Cussler, Clive/Boyd Morrison. [Final Option](#) (Putnam \$29 November 6). Juan Cabrillo and the crew of the *Oregon*, one of the most advanced spy ships ever built. I've A particularly nasty WWII-era weapon, a "sonic disrupter," propels the action of bestseller Cussler's startling 14th novel featuring the *Oregon*, a state-of-the-art warship designed to look like a tramp steamer. The weapon drives all hands on a ship insane, causing them to attack each other, destroy anything within reach, and jump into the ocean. A bunch of bad guys, all of whom have a grudge against series hero Juan Cabrillo, have built a replica of the *Oregon* and seek the sonic disrupter, which was lost decades ago somewhere in Brazil. Meanwhile, Juan is given a mission by his old boss at the CIA to rescue three agents whose cover has been blown and whose lives are in peril in Brazil. Readers will happily go along for the ride as the mission proceeds with the usual ups and downs, until Juan issues orders that come as a complete surprise. The intense, riveting climax takes the *Oregon* where the ship has never been before. You Cussler fans won't want to miss this one—or its sequel.

Bonus: Clive has signed copies of [Mayday](#) (Cahill \$20), a Limited Edition hardcover of the 1973 paperback original *The Mediterranean Caper*, the first Dirk Pitt novel that published in the UK as *Mayday*.

Early, Hank. [Echoes of the Fall](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99 November 17). PI Earl Marcus returns one night to his home in rural Georgia to find a shooting victim, an unidentified young man, in his yard. Marcus embarks on a surreptitious quest, aided by his best friend, Rufus Gribble, to uncover who committed the killing and why. A cell phone in the victim's car leads to the Harden School, an isolated institution whose purpose is gay conversion therapy for troubled teenage boys. Complicating the investigation is the school's connection to Jeb Walsh, a corrupt local politician, white supremacist, and old antagonist of Marcus. "The past hangs heavily over the characters, especially Rufus, whose own history becomes entangled with the puzzle, adding depth to a story heavy on psychological introspection. The action builds to the obligatory violent confrontation, but in the end, it's the characters that the reader will remember. Early does a fine job blending crime and the Southern gothic."—*PW*

Eldridge, Tori. [The Ninja Daughter](#) (Polis \$16.95 November 23). An action-packed thriller about a Chinese-Norwegian modern-day ninja with Joy Luck Club family issues who fights the Los Angeles Ukrainian mob, sex traffickers, and her own family to save two desperate women and an innocent child. After her sister is raped and murdered, Lily Wong dedicates her life and ninja skills to the protection of women. But her mission is complicated. Not only does she live above the Chinese restaurant owned by her Norwegian father and inspired by the recipes of her Chinese mother, but she has to hide her true self from her Hong Kong tiger mom who is already disappointed in her daughter's less than feminine ways, and who would be horrified to know what she had become. But when a woman and her son she escorted safely to an abused women's shelter return home to dangerous consequences, Lily is forced to not only confront her family and her past, but team up with a mysterious—and very lethal—stranger to rescue them. Join Tori for Bo Jutsu training at Quest Martial Arts, Chandler: [ticket free with proof of purchase](#) of *The Ninja Daughter*.

Evanovich, Janet. [Twisted Twenty-Six](#) (Putnam \$28 November 11). We're holding a party for Evanovich on the day before publication day. High-flying bounty hunter Stephanie Plum's Grandma Mazur is back, widowed 45 minutes after her marriage to local gangster Jimmy Rosolli. (Too bad about that heart attack.) Unfortunately, Jimmy's brothers-in-crime believe that she has a set of keys they need to continue their... um...business, and Stephanie must hop to it and find the keys to keep grandma safe. This isn't just another case for Plum—it's family.

If you scroll through our [Evanovich inventory](#) you will see we have many Signed firsts of her earlier novels you can grab—most of them a single copy so don't delay.

Freeman, Dianne. [A Lady's Guide to Gossip and Murder](#) (Kensington \$26 November 9). London. 1899. American-born Frances Wynn, Countess of Harleigh, settling happily into her independent life as a widow. Two relatives and a close friend are visiting from New York, and, as an added bonus, Frances's relationship with her charming neighbor, George Hazelton, is beginning to take a distinctively romantic turn. Frances recently introduced Charles Evingdon, her genial cousin-by-marriage, to widow Mary Archer, thinking the two would make a good match, so she's disappointed when she learns that Charles and Mary have called it quits. Her disappointment turns to alarm when Mary is murdered and Charles becomes the prime suspect. When Frances teams with George and Charles to find the real culprit, they discover that Mary may not have been a blackmailer who threatened to expose shameful secrets. Meet the Countess in [A Lady's Guide to Etiquette and Murder](#) (\$15.95), a delightful British cozy wherein Freeman takes a witty look at Victorian polite society, and the best place to start. Both are highly recommended.

Gragg, Walt. [The Chosen One](#) (Berkley \$17 November 19). Gragg follows his well-received debut, [The Red Line](#) (\$17), about a near-future war in Europe, with an action scenario that pits the U.S. and its allies against a massive Pan-Arab coalition led by Algerian cleric Muhammad Mourad (aka the Mahdi or the Chosen One). Marine 1st Lieutenant Samuel Erickson leads a platoon a hundred miles behind enemy lines in the North African desert. Lieutenant Commander Bradley "Blackjack" Mitchell, a pilot who flies missions from a carrier off the Egyptian coast, more than once rescues Erickson and his men as they battle their way to Cairo. "The weapons are cutting-edge, the political background solid, and the military tactics on point." I must admit to be puzzled by one of the final choices made by a character which raises the question whether compassion can lead to future catastrophe. For those interested in why Mourad is called the Mahdi, review British colonial history in Egypt at Khartoum, 1885. But in a broader sense it means "an eschatological redeemer of Islam."

Graham, Scott. [Arches Enemy](#) (Torrey House \$15.95 November 17). Graham's approach to our National Parks for a mystery series is different from that of Nevada Barr. It combines each park's special culture and heritage with archaeology. Here, the oil and gas industry is juxtaposed against the beauty of nature. Chuck Bender's contract for preservation work in Utah's Arches National Park is disrupted by a sudden death that turns out to be only the first of several. Where will it all end? "*Arches Enemy* is not only an adventurous and fascinating mystery, it delivers important insight on ancestral cultures and their sacred lands. Only a truly gifted novelist is able to keep a reader turning pages

while imparting extensive knowledge about the people, the landscape, and the park system”—Christine Carbo. Graham’s other foci have been Estes National Park, Yellowstone, Yosemite, The Grand Canyon... [order them all](#). They make very nice gifts for those not necessarily readers of mystery but interested in our national parks.

Higgins, Bairbre. [The Torchbearers](#) (Terra Nova \$19.95 November 9). In Irish author is joining our Mystery Tea on November 9. Interestingly her novel featuring a gay protagonist is set in New Mexico. Seeking sanctuary, burned-out fund manager Ariel Mignolet retreats to the New Mexico desert near Prospero, an isolated settlement steeped in religious fundamentalism. Long runs on remote trails and a new romance with local police officer Mike Argyll help him forge a path back to sanity. But weeks into their relationship, Mike is brutally murdered and Ariel narrowly escapes the same fate. The ensuing investigation unearths the truth about powerful local figures whose acts of prejudice and deception have torn families apart for decades. As the FBI closes in on Mike’s killers, a broken man bent on revenge is planning to take another life, and Ariel is getting in the way. Unfolding in a land of ghost towns and restless spirits, *The Torchbearers* is the story of how love can turn deadly. I found it very well written with resonant characters, hence it is our **November Discovery Club Book of the Month**.

Hogsett, Annie. [The Devil’s Own Game](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95 November 9). “Hogsett’s amusing third outing for former part-time librarian Allie Harper and Tom Bennington III, a blind professor who won a \$550-million lottery jackpot, gets off to a rousing start. Another blind man, Kit Wade, has a verbal altercation with Tom after leaving the Cleveland Museum of Art, where he attended the Touch Tour. After the two men part, Wade is shot dead in the street. When evidence suggests that Tom was the intended victim, the couple reactivates T&A Detective Agency, their dormant firm whose name alone never fails to bring snickers. Their approach to sleuthing is more slapdash than traditional—it’s joked that they should be called “the loose cannon vigilantes.” But Tom’s enhanced senses, honed since becoming blind, come in handy. The appealing Allie and Tom are determined to be responsible wealthy people, giving away more money than they spend. But money also requires the couple boost their security. Readers will agree that Allie and Tom are a lot of fun to be around.”—*PW*. Order [their first investigations](#) which include a charming love story as well as a scenario many of us wish would come true for us.

Kade, Kel. [Fate of the Fallen](#) (Tor \$25.99 November 8). Our **November SciFi Book of the Month** starts a brand-new epic fantasy series by the bestselling Kade. Everyone loves Mathias. Naturally, when he discovers a prophecy that it is his destiny to save the world, he dives in head first. His best friend Aaslo, a Forester, feels compelled to accompany him. But there is a hitch: an ambush. Mathias loses his head. So the question is: what if Frodo were assassinated by Sauron and Sam had to finish the quest? As the list of allies grows thin, and if the ages-old prophecy fails, condemning all in their world to death, the friends must decide how to become the heroes they were destined to be or, failing that, how to survive.

Kanon, Joseph. [The Accomplice](#) (Atria \$28 November 13). Joy, another of Kanon’s intelligent espionage novels, this one about

a Nazi war criminal who was supposed to be dead, the rogue CIA agent on his trail, and the beautiful woman connected to them both. Seventeen years after the fall of the Third Reich, Max Weill has never forgotten the atrocities he saw as a prisoner at Auschwitz—nor the face of Dr. Otto Schramm, a camp doctor who worked with Mengele on appalling experiments and who sent Max’s family to the gas chambers. As the war came to a close, Schramm was one of the many high-ranking former-Nazi officers who managed to escape Germany for new lives in South America where leaders like Argentina’s Juan Perón gave them safe harbor and new identities. With his life nearing its end, Max asks his nephew Aaron Wiley—an American CIA desk analyst—to complete the task Max never could: to track down Otto in Argentina, capture him, and bring him back to Germany to stand trial. Unable to deny Max, Aaron travels to Buenos Aires and discovers a city where Nazis thrive in plain sight, mingling with Argentine high society. He ingratiates himself with Otto’s alluring but wounded daughter, whom he’s convinced is hiding her father. Enlisting the help of a German newspaper reporter, an Israeli agent, and the obliging CIA station chief in Buenos Aires, he hunts for Otto.... I’ve been devoted to Kanon’s amazing and evocative novels from his debut with the Edgar-winning [Los Alamos](#) (\$17).

The Indie Next Pick: “Kanon brings us along on a mission to the Buenos Aires of 1962 to hunt down a reputedly deceased Nazi concentration camp doctor. With the backdrop of the earlier elaborate capture of Eichmann, this one is a home-made operation reluctantly carried out by the nephew of a camp survivor (the eponymous accomplice) and involving the CIA and Mossad. *The Accomplice* explores the life of a socialite in Buenos Aires, the conflicting emotions of the target’s daughter and the reluctant spy, the limits of familial loyalty and of trust, and the danger of playing all sides. Emotional zigs and zags leave the reader spellbound as the cat and mouse game closes in on the capture of a detestable unrepentant Nazi.”

King, Laurie R. [Beginnings](#) (Bay Company \$13 November 21). Inspector Kate Martinelli has worked the SFPD’s Homicide Detail for nearly thirty years. She knows all about how a cop builds a case bit by bit to create a clear story from the scattered pieces of evidence. Until the day her fifteen-year-old daughter, Nora, happens to ask about an aunt she’d never met. Kate’s kid sister died in the 1980s, a wild young woman who lost control of a car and hit a tree, end of story ... except it isn’t. Because once Kate begins to look, seeking to reassure Nora that it was only a senseless accident and not the suicide a small town’s gossip made it, she starts to find pieces that don’t fit the picture. Holes in the evidence. Mismatched fragments that change the story Kate has told herself all these years—the story that for her, was the beginning of everything. What did happen in Diamond Lake that night? Was it an accident, or a hushed-up suicide? Or was her sister’s death something darker yet?

King also signs [Mary Russell’s War](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). Following an “Appreciation” by noted Sherlockian Leslie S. Klinger, King blends vivid historical settings with narrative sleight-of-hand, from a novella composed of Mary Russell’s teenage diaries to the story of how, in her nineties, Miss Russell came to send her Memoirs to Laurie R. King, and from Mrs. Hudson’s own investigation to a tale of young Russell’s beloved Uncle Jake—and, a Christmas investigation by Sherlock Holmes

and his very young assistant. And two key reasons to grab this: 1. “The Marriage of Mary Russell”, never before recounted. 2. “Stately Holmes,” a title I have pressed King to use for over 20 years! And here applied to the story of a Christmas conundrum.

Lyons, Jenn. [The Name of All Things](#) (Tor \$26.99 November 8). The second installment in Lyons’ Chorus of Dragons saga that opened with [The Ruin of Kings](#) (\$17.99), continues the grand-scale fantasy adventure with a parallel story revolving largely around the demon-tainted noblewoman Janel Theranon, whose heroic exploits helped trigger a revolution. Trapped together in a storm house as a blizzard rages outside, Theranon and her acolyte guide Qown take turns recounting their epic adventure to Kihrin D’Mon, a reincarnated god and protagonist of the first volume. The story involves their attempt to save a massive city—the magical city of Atrine—from destruction by killing the largest dragon the world has ever known. After witnessing the devastation of a smaller city by blue “witch-smoke,” Theranon realizes all the supernatural chaos and prophecies surrounding the awakening of the dragon are part of a much larger conspiracy that has been meticulously plotted out by a mysterious mastermind. Magic and manipulation abound as Theranon and company desperately race to save the day while wizards, demons, gods, and humans do battle.

MacBird, Bonnie. [The Devil’s Due](#) (Harper \$26.99 November 14). Winter, 1890, finds the newly famous Sherlock Holmes facing his worst adversary to date – a diabolical villain bent on destroying some of London’s most admired public figures, philanthropists, in singularly gruesome ways. A further puzzle is that suicide closely attends each of the murders. With the stalwart but often blundering Watson at his side, Holmes tracks the killer through fog-bound London, battling both an envious new man at Scotland Yard and a vengeful journalist as he follows a complex trail leading from performers to princes, artists to anarchists. Mycroft Holmes’ role is puzzling to our sleuths, but when brother Mycroft disappears, Holmes’s response makes even Watson wonder how close to the flames his friend has traveled. Has Sherlock Holmes himself made a deal with the devil? There is no supernatural force at work in this complex book, the third of MacBird’s adventures for the immortal pair of sleuths after [Art in the Blood](#) and [Unquiet Spirits](#) (\$15.99 each).

Maleeny, Tim. [Boxing the Octopus](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.99/ \$15.95 November 5). A sardonic shamus helps a lady in distress clear the name of her shady boyfriend. Hank Ryan is waiting—along with \$5 million—in an armored truck at San Francisco’s Pier 39 for Lou, his partner in crime, when Lou appears behind the wheel of a UPS truck and rams Hank into San Francisco Bay. Police find the vehicle in the bay but not Hank nor the cash. Friendly cop Vincent Mango tips off private detective Cape Weathers that Hank’s girlfriend, Vera Young, is insisting Hank is innocent of stealing the money. Convinced of her sincerity though not uncritically accepting her claim, Cape agrees to help her. Unbeknownst to Cape, Sergey, a creepy ice pick-wielding Russian, and Eva, his lollipop-loving kid sister, are waiting not so patiently outside one of Lou’s hideouts as Lou plots with his creepy associate Cragg. As these subplots unfold, Cape has an invaluable sidekick in Sally, an assassin trained in the martial arts by a triad in Hong Kong. Also in the mix: a murderous doctor introduced in the prologue who pops up again as the plot thickens; Anastasia, Sergey’s domineering older sister; and Oscar, an 800-pound oc-

topus. The doctor turns out to be a mad scientist of the first order. Don’t even ask about the octopus. Maleeny moves his colorful cast around with giddy panache. His detective’s fourth caper is a Hiaasen-esque delight.”—*Kirkus Reviews*. Order [Cape and Sally’s first 3 cases](#): *Stealing the Dragon*; *Beating the Babushka*; *Greasing the Piñata* (\$14.95 each). These are brilliant for fans of Hiaasen, Thomas Perry, and the late Donald E Westlake and Ross Thomas.

McKinlay, Jenn. [The Christmas Keeper](#) (Berkley \$7.99 November 23). A North Carolina bookstore is the setting for this Christmas romance featuring a lovesick cowboy and the New York City publicist who resists his charms. Their sexual attraction is instant, but as Quino’s cheesy sweaters and ever ready mistletoe wear her down, Savy begins to appreciate more than his biceps. “McKinlay once again serves up her signature literary cocktail of sassy humor and sexy romance expertly spiked with a surfeit of small-town charm and holiday cheer.”—*Booklist* Starred Review

Mizushima, Margaret. [Tracking Game](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99 November 17). An explosion rocks the Timber Creek, Colorado, community building where Deputy Mattie Cobb and her boyfriend, veterinarian Cole Walker, are attending the Celebration of Summer dance. When Cole and Mattie investigate, they discover a burning van and a gunshot victim who turns out to be Nate Fletcher, the son-in-law of prominent ranchers. Mattie’s German shepherd K-9 partner, Robo, detects traces of cocaine during a sweep of the van, leading Mattie to suspect drug running. When another man is shot and attacked by an animal in the mountains, Mattie fears something more sinister is afoot. Meanwhile, Cole adjusts to single fatherhood while Mattie struggles with her painful past. The interactions between Mattie and Robo will tug the heartstrings of every dog lover as it has in the previous four cases they have worked together. An outdoors series for fans of Nevada Barr, Paula Munier (below), etc. The earlier entries are now priced at \$35.99 in paperback so we are not stocking them.

Munier, Paula. [Blind Search](#) (St Martins \$26.99 November 17). And here is another woman, former Army MP Mercy Carr, tightly bonding with a canine—Elvis, a retired bomb-alerting Belgian Shepherd who belonged to Mercy’s lover, killed in action, leaving them both bereft and allied in grief. The murder of architect Alice de Clare, who was found on the estate of Vermont billionaire Daniel Feinberg with an arrow through her heart, propels Munier’s sequel to 2018’s [A Borrowing of Bones](#) (\$7.99). Daniel hires former military MP Mercy Carr and her bomb-sniffing Belgian shepherd, Elvis, to investigate. Mercy’s love interest, game warden Troy Warner, and his search and rescue dog, Susie Bear, lend a hand. They’re aided by nine-year-old math whiz Henry Jenkins, a possible witness, whose father was in love with Alice. The killer could be among the well-heeled hunting party that Daniel is hosting, whose entwined histories date back to the early 1980s, and as Mercy teases out their secrets, she also explores her growing attraction to Troy. The story is based on the true on of an autistic boy who went missing in Vermont wilderness. There’s so much to praise here: Munier’s deep knowledge of the culture of hunting (especially the bow-and-arrow variety); her brisk, incisive characterizations; the way she maintains a taut line of suspense throughout; and, best of all, her portrayals of wounded yet still courageous pairs of humans and dogs. A not-to-be-missed K-9 mystery.” —*Booklist*

Stanley, Michael. [Shoot the Bastards](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95 November 5). Award-winning author Stanley of the Botswana Detective Kubu series “exposes one of southern Africa’s most vicious conflicts in a story that will have you turning pages, pinning for the safety of the world’s dwindling rhino populations, and questioning the line between fact and fiction.” —*The Big Thrill*. Crystal “Crys” Nguyen, a Vietnamese-American journalist who writes for a Minnesota paper. Crys becomes concerned about a close colleague, reporter Michael Davidson, who has been working on a story for National Geographic on rhino-horn smuggling, when Michael suddenly stops emailing her. Shortly before, he alerted her to his discovery that the embargo on harvesting rhino horns was being violated in South Africa. She persuades Michael’s editor to pay her to finish her friend’s story, and, in the process, ascertain his whereabouts. On arriving in South Africa, Crys gets permission to accompany a government antipoaching squad in Kruger National Park, where her situation gets a lot more complicated when she stumbles on a murder and a suitcase full of cash.

“From Minnesota to South Africa to Mozambique to Vietnam, Michael Stanley’s *Shoot the Bastards* is an extraordinary tale of the extreme measures taken to combat international poaching and smuggling.”—C.J. Box

Starkston, Judith. [Sorcery in Alpara](#) (Bronze Age Books \$16.99 November 9). Tesha’s about to become queen of a kingdom under assault from all sides, but she has powerful allies: her strategist husband, his crafty second-in-command, and her brilliant blind sister. Then betrayal strips her of them all. To save her marriage and her world, she will have to grapple with the serpentine plot against her, a curse that consumes armies, a court full of traitors, and a clutch of angry concubines and fantastical creatures who offer help but hate mankind. “Based on historical events in the Bronze Age, Phoenix author Starkston wraps history and magic together in an unforgettable package.”

NOVEMBER BOOKS OF THE MONTH

British Crime Club One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Ireland, Sandra. [Bone Deep](#)

Cozy Crimes Club One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Casey, Eliza. [Lady Takes the Case](#)

Discovery Club One paperback or hardcover per month
Higgins, Bairbre. [The Torchbearers](#)

First Mystery Club One Signed First per month
Frank, Anita. [The Lost Ones](#)

Hardboiled Crime Club One signed First per month
Cha, Steph. [Your House Will Pay](#)

History/Mystery Club One Signed First per month
Meyer, Nicholas. [The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols](#)

History Paperback One per month
Rossett, Sarah. [The Egyptian Antiquities Murder](#)

Modern First Editions One Signed First per month
Greenwood, T. [Keeping Lucy](#)

SciFi/Fantasy/Horror Club One Signed First per month
Kade, Kel. [Fate of the Fallen](#)

Surprise Me! Club One Signed First Per Month
DeMille, Nelson/Alex. [The Deserter](#)

Thriller Club One Signed First per month
Smith, Martin Cruz. [The Siberian Dilemma](#)

SIGNED BOOKS

Albom, Mitch. [Finding Chika](#) (Harper \$24.99). Chika Jeune was born three days before the devastating earthquake that decimated Haiti in 2010. She spent her infancy in a landscape of extreme poverty, and when her mother died giving birth to a baby brother, Chika was brought to The Have Faith Haiti Orphanage that Albom operates in Port Au Prince. With no children of their own, the forty-plus children who live, play, and go to school at the orphanage have become family to Mitch and his wife, Janine. Chika’s arrival makes a quick impression. Brave and self-assured, even as a three-year-old, she delights the other kids and teachers. But at age five, Chika is suddenly diagnosed with something a doctor there says, “No one in Haiti can help you with.” Mitch and Janine bring Chika to Detroit, hopeful that American medical care can soon return her to her homeland. Instead, Chika becomes a permanent part of their household, and their lives, as they embark on a two-year, around-the-world journey to find a cure.

Baldacci, David. [A Minute to Midnight](#) (Grand Central \$30 on sale November 19). FBI Agent Atlee Pine’s life was never the same after her twin sister Mercy was kidnapped—and likely killed—thirty years ago. After a lifetime of torturous uncertainty, Atlee’s unresolved anger finally gets the better of her on the job, and she finds she has to deal with the demons of her past if she wants to remain with the FBI. Atlee and her assistant Carol Blum head back to Atlee’s rural hometown in Georgia to see what they can uncover about the traumatic night Mercy was taken and Pine was almost killed. But soon after Atlee begins her investigation, a local woman is found ritualistically murdered, her face covered with a wedding veil—and the first killing is quickly followed by a second bizarre murder. Atlee is determined to continue her search for answers, but now she must also set her sights on finding a potential serial killer before another victim is claimed in a small town full of secrets—some of which have plagued Atlee her entire life... Meet Atlee in [Small Road to Mercy](#) (\$16.99).

Buxton, Kira Jane. [Hollow Kingdom](#) (Grand Central \$27). This is a hit audio book—and we have Signed copies of Buxton’s best-selling, unusual treat. “Seeing the Zombie Apocalypse through the eyes of a domesticated, sarcastic crow. A perfect spooky tale with humor.” A good gift idea.

Casey, Donis. [The Wrong Girl](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.99/\$15.99). *LJ*’s review underlines that this series start is both a cozy and a #MeToo... and more...and also a fine choice for a teen reader. “Blanche Tucker is naïve and desperate to escape her small-town existence in Boynton, OK. She falls prey to the charismatic Graham Peyton, who promises her fame and fortune if she will run away with him. Barely escaping his nefarious plans, Blanche strikes out on her own. Six years later, she is widely known as Bianca LaBelle, the enigmatic movie star. However, when Peyton’s skeletal remains are uncovered, private detective Ted Oliver is hired to find out who killed him. Unfortunately, the clues lead him straight to LaBelle. Did the glamorous starlet murder Peyton? With this new series launch, Casey (“Alafair Tucker” mysteries) performs a little genre-bending, penning a coming-of-

age tale within the context of a 1920s-set cozy mystery that could just as easily been ripped from today's headlines. Old Hollywood, silent film stars, the Jazz Age, and strong female characters all combine to create a solid read for crime fiction fans of all stripes." Recommended as a gift book thus.

To make it a better experience you can meet a younger Blanche and her mother and aunt on a visit to Tempe, AZ, for Blanche's health in [The Wrong Hill to Die On](#) (\$12 Signed hard-cover).

Connelly, Michael. [The Night Fire](#) (Little Brown \$29). Here's a shortened version of the *NY Times Book* review: After John Jack Thompson, Bosch's mentor at the Los Angeles Police Department, is respectfully laid to rest, the veteran cop's widow hands his protégé a "murder book" filled with 20 years' worth of notes on John Hilton, a nobody whose unsolved murder haunts everyone who comes across it. Not because the case is particularly remarkable, but because nobody should be a nobody.... On the other end of the moral spectrum we find Bosch's half brother, the spectacularly shift defense attorney Mickey Haller, who becomes the third detective in this ever-expanding investigation. For no good reason, or at least for no reason that has to do with John Hilton, Connelly has given Haller a court case that brilliantly displays the natural-born talents and sleight-of-hand tactics that have earned him his reputation as "a courtroom magician." There's something for everyone in this jam-packed plot: murder, arson, professional rivalry, salty cop talk and noisy domestic disputes that turn very ugly very quickly. Me, I go for the procedural details: who does what and how things get done from the minute the cops on shift at the Hollywood Division are sent to investigate a murder. Connelly is pretty much the current dean of procedural writers. His main characters—Bosch, Ballard and Haller—use different methods, but nobody misses a trick. [The Night Fire UK](#) (Orion \$45)—a few copies are unclaimed.

Cha, Steph. [Your House Will Pay](#) (Ecco \$28). Patrick reviews: "After three infectious Chandler-inspired detective novels, rising star Cha has upped her game considerably with this ambitious, soul searching novel. Grace Park is a sheltered millennial who lives with her Korean-immigrant parents near Los Angeles. Racial tensions in the city threaten to erupt into violence. Park is deeply concerned about issues of social justice, and her world is shattered when her mother is shot outside of the family pharmacy. As her mother struggles to survive, dark family secrets emerge related to her involvement in the notorious 1991 shooting of an unarmed young black woman. Meanwhile, the slain girl's brother Shawn Matthews has tried to put the past behind him and lives a quiet family life in Palmdale. When Grace Park's mother is targeted, the old story is brought back into the news, opening up old wounds and bringing the two families' trajectories together again." I'd call this a literary page turner wrapped around racial tensions in Los Angeles: Korean-American and African-American.

DeMille, Nelson/Alex. [The Deserter](#) (SimonSchuster \$28.99). The father/son team debuts a blistering thriller, our **November Surprise Me Book of the Month**, featuring a brilliant and unorthodox Army investigator, his enigmatic female partner, and their hunt for the Army's most notorious—and dangerous—deserter. Dialogue: "Why do most soldiers desert?" "To avoid the rigors of military service. Including the risk of death." "Is that

why Captain Kyle Mercer deserted?" "I doubt it." "Me too." It gets no clearer. After they interview the man who says he spotted Mercer, Maggie Taylor says, "So he spotted a bearded white guy in a dimly lit whorehouse while drunk. Great I.D." And Brodie thinks, sure, there were times when your sole witness was shit and unreliable. But Kyle Mercer was out there, a fugitive with lethal skills. You had to run down every lead, even if it took you to hell...or Caracas! But neither Brodie nor Taylor can imagine the hell they are plunging into.

✱Ellis, Bella. [The Vanished Bride](#) (Hodder \$35). Set in 1845 Yorkshire, this fine series launch from the pseudonymous Ellis (a nod to Emily Brontë's pen name of Ellis Bell) portrays the Brontë sisters of Haworth Parsonage as sleuths. Chester Grange, the household of their governess friend, Matilda French, is turned upside down when Matilda's employer, Elizabeth Chester, disappears and a great deal of blood is found in her room. As the diplomatic Charlotte, the passionate Emily, and the level-headed Anne pursue their inquiries as agents of their invented firm of Bell Brothers and Company, solicitors, they uncover more questions than answers. Was Elizabeth abducted by gypsies? What is the true state of the marriage of Elizabeth and her husband, Robert? What happened to Robert's first wife, and what of Elizabeth's life before her marriage? Is Elizabeth alive or dead? Appropriately gothic touches as well as the author's solid research on the lives and works of the Brontës—including cameos by their dissolute brother, Branwell; their good-hearted father, Patrick; and Charlotte's clumsy future husband, Arthur Nicholls—enrich a diverting adventure. This will be our **December History/Mystery Book of the Month**—and Brontë aficionados won't want to miss it. Grab one of the few unreserved copies while you can.

✱Fowler, Christopher. [Bryant and May England's Finest](#) (Bantam \$39). The Peculiar Crimes Unit has solved many extraordinary cases over the years, but some were hushed up and hidden away. Until now. Arthur Bryant remembers these lost cases as if they were yesterday. Unfortunately, he doesn't remember yesterday, so the newly revealed facts could come as a surprise to everyone. Here, then, is the truth about the Covent Garden opera diva and the seventh reindeer, the body that falls from the Tate Gallery, the ordinary London street corner where strange accidents keep occurring, the consul's son discovered buried in the unit's basement, the corpse pulled from a swamp of Chinese dinners, a Hallowe'en crime in the Post Office Tower, and the impossible death that's the fault of a forgotten London legend. All of the unit's oddest characters are here, plus the detectives' long-suffering sergeant Janice Longbright gets to reveal her own forgotten mystery. These twelve crimes must be solved without the help of modern technology, mainly because nobody knows how to use it.

✱Frank, Anita. [The Lost Ones](#) (Collins \$33). The gothic novel has come storming back this literary season. Our **November First Mystery Book of the Month**, set in 1917 England, stands out. Reeling from the death of her fiancé, Stella Marcham welcomes the opportunity to stay with her pregnant sister, Madeleine, at her imposing country mansion, Greyswick – but she arrives to discover a house of unease and her sister gripped by fear and suspicion. Before long, strange incidents begin to trouble Stella – sobbing in the night, little footsteps on the stairs – and as events escalate, she finds herself drawn to the tragic history of the house. Aided by a wounded war veteran, Stella sets about uncovering Greyswick's dark and terrible secrets – secrets the dead whisper

from the other side... For another excellent gothic, modern not historical, our **November British Crime Club Book of the Month**: Sandra Ireland, [Bone Deep](#) (Gallery \$16). And look for others in this Booknews. And older ones like Susan Hill's *The Woman in Black*.

Furst, Alan. [Under Occupation](#) (Random \$27). A crime writer in occupied France finds himself in a plot more dangerous than any he's dreamed up. Paul Ricard is a spy and detective fiction writer living in 1942 Nazi-occupied Paris. When he accidentally intercepts the plans for a German detonator and successfully delivers them to the British, he lands in the dangerous world of spies and the underground French Resistance. As each task he receives becomes more dangerous than the last, he risks coming to the attention of the occupying forces. Unfortunately Furst's burgeoning elliptical style and the lack of depth in the characters and tension in the pacing makes this a weak addition to the fine body of Furst's work. Longtime readers will enjoy a visit with Furst but for newcomers I recommend his stellar earlier spy novels.

Goss, Theodora. [The Sinister Mystery of the Mesmerizing Girl](#) (Saga Press \$24.99)/ Mary Jekyll and her found family of the Athena Club return from their Continental deeds of derring-do, fatigued and anxious. Three of their circle who were left behind in London—Alice the housemaid, Dr. Watson, and Mr. Holmes—have gone missing, as have less-loved figures such as the reformatory director, Mrs. Raymond. What to do? Mary Jekyll and the women of the Athena Club race to save their sister, Alice, and foil a plot to unseat Queen Victoria in the final chapter of the Nebula Award finalist and Locus Award winner [The Strange Case of the Alchemist's Daughter](#) followed by [European Travel for the Monstrous Gentlewoman](#) (\$16.99 each). Here is the capstone of a gaslamp fantasy trilogy forming a literary pastiche full of beloved classic characters and references that book fans will eat up. From Dracula to Dr. Jekyll, from Dr. Frankenstein to Rapapacini's Daughter, this is a book for book lovers—and IMHO for fans of Deanna Raybourn's Veronica Speedwell series and Amanda Quick's Arcana Society novels. "As if *Charlie's Angels* as written by Mary Shelley took over the Bluestocking Society, with bonus, well-mannered explosions. An utterly delightful and transforming read."—Fran Wilde

Grisham, John. [The Guardians](#) (Hodder UK \$45). We have a very small supply of the Signed UK edition. One per customer only.

Mukherjee, Abir. [Death in the East](#) (Random UK \$44). 1905, London. As a young constable, Sam Wyndham is on his usual East London beat when he comes across an old flame, Bessie Drummond, attacked in the streets. The next day, when Bessie is found brutally beaten in her own room, locked from the inside, Wyndham promises to get to the bottom of her murder. But the case will cost the young constable more than he ever imagined. Move on to 1922, India. Leaving Calcutta, Captain Sam Wyndham heads for the hills of Assam, to the ashram of a sainted monk where he hopes to conquer his opium addiction. But when he arrives, he sees a ghost from his life in London – a man thought to be long dead, a man Wyndham hoped he would never see again. Wyndham knows he must call his friend and colleague Sergeant Banerjee for help. He is certain this figure from his past isn't here by coincidence. He is here for revenge.... This excellent series takes us to an earlier era of turmoil and division of class, races, and loyalties and has been up for many awards. [Order them all](#).

✱Perry, Anne. [A Christmas Gathering](#) (Ballantine \$20). Victor Narraway, from the author's Thomas and Charlotte Pitt series, who has stepped down as the head of Special Branch, travels with his wife from London to the country estate of the Cavenishes, where they are to spend Christmas. Narraway is on a secret mission to take custody of "submarine blueprints, discreetly doctored," so as to be unusable in actually developing such a vessel. Narraway is to pass the fakes on through British spy networks to Germany, in order to out a suspected traitor in the intelligence services. Twenty years earlier, Narraway had a similar assignment in Normandy that ended with the death of a young female Special Branch agent. History seems to repeat itself when someone attacks Iris Watson-Watt, a fellow guest at Cavendish Manor, after she passes the blueprints to him, leading Narraway to play sleuth to identify her assailant.

Pufahl, Shannon. [On Swift Horses](#) (Riverhead \$27). "Pufahl's powerful debut follows two brothers just back from the Korean War and the woman from Kansas who loves them both. Muriel agrees to marry Lee not long after he and his brother, Julius, step off their ship in Long Beach, but it's Julius with whom she finds a haunting affinity. When he disappears, both Muriel and Lee live for word from him again. Muriel and Julius are gamblers; Muriel overhears horse betting tips from men who drink at the Heyday Lounge in San Diego where she works. Muriel wins enough at the Del Mar racetrack to buy her husband the lot on which he builds their dream house. Meanwhile, in Las Vegas, Julius falls in love with Henry, a tender card cheat who's run out of town. Desperate to find him, Julius returns to his brother's house, steals money from Muriel, and goes in search of him. Muriel, in turn, searches for Julius, and finds herself instead. SoCal's illicit gay joints, Mexico, and memories of Kansas are finely wrought." This is getting a big push from Riverhead which prides itself on creating literary hits... I agree with this comment: "Pufahl's gorgeous metaphors and heartbreaking revelations may make readers feel like less is more." And a lot depends on what you consider to be "heartbreaking" as opposed to, say...tiresome.

Rankin, Ian. [Westwind](#) (Orion \$45). Out of print for 25 years, this is a new edition of Rankin's 4th novel (pre-Rebus). Europe, 1990. As the US begins to pull out its troops in a tide of isolationism, Britain is torn between its loyalties to the USA and its continental neighbors. In America, a space shuttle crashes on landing, killing all but one of the crew on-board: A British man named Mike Dreyfuss, who will become vilified by the US press and protesters. Halfway across the world, Martin Hepton, an English ground control technician watches as they lose contact with the most advanced satellite in Europe. A colleague of Hepton's who suspects something strange is going on is signed off sick, and never comes back. Hepton decides to investigate his friend's suspicions and his trail leads him to Dreyfuss, MI6, the American military, and back to his former girlfriend, Jill, who is an up-and-coming journalist.

Simpson, Rosemary. [Death Brings a Shadow](#) (Kensington \$26). Simpson's strong fourth Gilded Age mystery brings New Yorker Prudence MacKenzie and former Pinkerton detective Geoffrey Hunter to Georgia's Bradford Island for the wedding of a close friend of Prudence, heiress Eleanor Dickson. Soon after their arrival, Eleanor is found drowned. When Geoffrey notices bruising on the body that suggests foul play, the two determine to solve the crime. Prudence discovers that juju is still practiced

on Bradford and that a former slave and conjure woman called Aunt Jessa knows more than she is telling. When Aunt Jessa is murdered, the sleuths feel sure that the island's secrets hold the key to Eleanor's death. The tension rises as Prudence's Yankee perspective clashes with Geoffrey's greater sympathy for the South, jeopardizing their investigative partnership and their personal rapport. "Simpson neatly exploits the gothic possibilities of her isolated setting and delivers a nuanced look at an America struggling to adjust to transformative change. This entry should win the series new fans." We will look into a date for a Signing or Signed copies when Simpson returns to Arizona. Meanwhile [order all three in the series](#)

Smith, Martin Cruz. [The Siberian Dilemma](#) (SimonSchuster \$27). I am so delighted that MWA Grand Master Smith has agreed to sign this new Arkady Renko for our **November Thriller Book of the Month**. This Starred Review shows why: "Smith's stellar ninth outing for Arkady, his first since 2013, finds the maverick detective, who serves as an investigator of special cases for Zurin, the Moscow Prosecutor, growing increasingly concerned over his inability to reach his girlfriend, investigative journalist Tatiana Petrovna, after she fails to return to Moscow as scheduled from an assignment. Arkady knows only that she went to Siberia. Meanwhile, Zurin orders Arkady to travel to Siberia to oversee the prosecution of Aba Makhmud, a Chechen terrorist. Zurin directs Arkady to insure that Makhmud, who tried to kill the Moscow Prosecutor, receives a lengthy prison sentence, and threatens to harm Arkady's stepson if he fails to do so. Arkady is keener to go to Siberia once he learns Tatiana is probably still there, doing a story on Mikhail Kuznetsov, the so-called "hermit billionaire," who may run against Putin in the next election. The stakes rise after Renko arrives in Siberia and becomes involved in investigating a Russian oligarch's murder. Smith does his usual superior job of blending plot and setting. This is a must for any crime fiction fan interested in the underside of Putin's Russia." If you somehow missed the first Arkady Renko, or want to refresh your memory, order [Gorky Park](#) (\$16).

✱Thomas, Will. [Lethal Pursuit](#) (St Martins \$29). London, 1892—Private enquiry agents Cyrus Barker and Thomas Llewelyn receive in the mail an unexplained key stamped with the letter Q. Barker, recognizing it for what it is, uses the key to unlock an anonymous door in the alleyway, which opens to an underground tunnel leading to Downing Street. The Prime Minister has a small task for Cyrus Barker. A Foreign Office agent stole a satchel in Eastern Europe, but was then himself murdered at Charing Cross. The satchel contains a document desperately wanted by the German government, but while the agent was killed, the satchel remains in English hands. With a cold war brewing between England and Germany, it's in England's interest to return the document contained in the satchel to its original owners and keep it out of German hands. The document is an unnamed first century gospel; the original owner is the Vatican. And the German government isn't the only group trying to get possession of it. The whole [Barker & Llewelyn series](#) is one to order and enjoy.

FOR LOVERS OF WORDS AND READING

Alexander, Kwame. [How to Read a Book](#) (Harper \$17.99). Newbery Medalist Alexander's love poem to literacy conjures up startling, luscious images: to begin reading a book, he tells readers,

"peel its gentle skin,/ like you would/ a clementine..../ Dig your thumb/ at the bottom/ of each juicy section." Caldecott Honor artist Sweet riffs on his verse, line by line, imbuing spreads with the feel of a continually evolving, handmade Valentine (as the copyright page pointedly notes, "no computer was used in making this art"). By turns dreamy and ecstatic, the images include portraits of blissed-out readers in a variety of settings, all constructed from swaths of saturated neon color and literary-themed ephemera (pages from Bambi are used throughout). One gatefold transforms a book into an electric orange triple-decker party bus, with 18 windows revealing allusive scenes made from cut paper and collage. The text, set in hand-lettered capitals, sprawls and stacks energetically as it proclaims its bibliophilia—sometimes whispering and cooing, sometimes shouting from the rooftops that it's got it bad for books. And why not? As Alexander writes, "Now, sleep./ dream./ hope./ (you never reach)/ the end." Ages 4–8. We have a couple of Signed copies left.

Bowler, Peter. [The Superior Person's Complete Book of Words](#) (Godine \$24.95 pbk). Confound your friends! Irritate your enemies! Impress your superiors! Author Peter Bowler has taken 1,000 words many of us have heard but have no idea how to use, and provided not only their definitions but also practical advice—in comprehensible and often hilarious prose—on how to use these words in real-life situations. This book is, in Mr. Bowler's own words, intended to provide "the ordinary man in the street with new and better verbal weapons—words which until now have been available only to philologists, lexicographers, and art critics."

Féret-Fleury, Christine. [The Girl Who Reads on the Métro](#) (Flatiron \$22.99). Juliette's "almost cloistered, gentle, humdrum existence" has a few bright moments every day. Although she is the girl who reads on the Métro, she often studies her traveling companions instead of her coffee-stained paperback. She imagines their stories based on what they're reading, entertaining herself before settling into her tedious office job. In an uncharacteristic burst of curiosity, one morning Juliette takes a new path from the Métro, beginning her transformation from office worker to *passeuse*. She discovers a door propped open with a book, under a metal nameplate reading "Books Unlimited," and can't resist entering. There she meets a frail man and a precocious child who assume she is applying to be a book-giver. The shop is crammed with books of all types, and Soliman, the owner, explains that *passeurs* are people who study strangers until they intuit the book each one needs. The fairytale-like plot encompasses mystery, tragedy and joy. Befriending Soliman and his daughter, Zaide, Juliette embraces their world of old books and contemplates carrying on the Books Unlimited mission. She decides that she—the girl who peeks over her book on the Métro to observe what others read—is a natural *passeuse*. In the spirit of *The Little Paris Bookshop* and *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry*, Féret-Fleury's short novel is a charming homage to the power of books and reading.

Mosley, Walter. [Elements of Fiction](#) (Grove \$23). To enhance your reading, study up on the basic tools needed to write a novel: character and character development, plot and story, voice and narrative, context and description, and more. The result is a vivid depiction of the writing process, from the blank page to the first draft to rewriting, and rewriting again, which in turn informs what you benefit from reading.

Paul, Pamela. [How to Raise a Reader](#) (Workman \$19.95). Do you remember your first visit to where the wild things are? How about curling up for hours on end to discover the secret of the Sorcerer's Stone? Combining clear, practical advice with inspiration, wisdom, tips, and curated reading lists, *How to Raise a Reader* shows you how to instill the joy and time-stopping pleasure of reading. Divided into four sections, from baby through teen, and each illustrated by a different artist, this book offers something useful on every page, whether it's how to develop rituals around reading or build a family library, or ways to engage a reluctant reader. A fifth section, "More Books to Love: By Theme and Reading Level," is chockfull of expert recommendations. Throughout, the authors debunk common myths and assuage parental fears.

Price, Leah. [What We Talk About When We Talk About Books](#) (Basic \$28). 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.

And for fun there is a stream of books, crime and romance/fiction, that play up book clubs and bookstores as offering escape, conversations, relationship starters or repairs, solace... Libraries too play a role. As does the power of storytelling as you will see in books in this Booknews. Such as Morgenstern's The Starless Sea: "A moving labyrinth of a story, ever changing and evolving. What begins as a mysterious thread in a book, an opportunity taken or missed and the consequences of the choice, evolves into a story similar to a choose-your-own adventure tale or a mystical video game experience." Or the delightful HG Parry debut nodding to Dickens in The Unlikely Escape of Uriah Heep (\$26 Signed)

Adams, Lyssa Kay. [The Bromance Book Club](#) (Berkley \$15). Thea gave up everything when she became Gavin's wife, and has been faking more than just her happiness. When the marriage is headed for divorce, Gavin's friends bring him into their secret book club to help him win his wife back. For readers who like romance with a little humor, and fans of Curtis Sittenfeld and Jennifer Crusie.

CLASSICS

British Library Crime Classics

Gilbert, Michael. [Death Has Deep Roots](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.99). "This latest addition to the British Library Crime Classics series shows Gilbert at his best, displaying both impressive psychological acuity and innovative plotting, combining courtroom drama with amateur sleuthing." —*Booklist*. A Starred Review adds: In

this entry in the British Library Crime Classics series, first published in 1951, Gilbert (1912–2006) does a masterly job of blending whodunit, courtroom drama, and thriller. Victoria Lamartine, a Frenchwoman living in London a few years after WWII, has been charged with stabbing Major Eric Thoseby to death in his room. During the war, Thoseby worked as a British agent in the same part of France where Lamartine ran errands for the Resistance. The prosecution believes that Lamartine was motivated by hatred of the victim, who fathered her child and then abandoned them both. On the eve of her trial, she switches attorneys and enlists Noel Anthony Pontarlier Rumbold to defend her, asserting not only her innocence but that Thoseby was not the father of her now-dead son. Rumbold's efforts on her behalf, which take him across the Channel to investigate, expose him to danger, even as skilled barrister Hargest Macrea uses his superior cross-examination skills to raise doubts about the government's case. Readers who like their detection balanced by action will enjoy this.

Lorac, ECR. [Murder in the Mill Race](#) (\$14.99). Here's a retro rave, Starred: "In this welcome entry in the British Library Crime Classics series featuring Scotland Yard Chief Inspector Robert Macdonald (originally published in 1952), Lorac (1894–1958) does a fine job evoking the insular dynamics of life in a village whose residents are reluctant to share any information with outsiders. The Yard is called in after the police in North Devon are stymied in their investigation into the death of Monica Torrington, known locally as Sister Monica, who ran a children's home, Gramarye. Torrington was found drowned in a millrace after apparently being hit in the head with a blunt instrument. Her death occurred in the same spot where one of Gramarye's maids took her own life a year earlier after becoming pregnant, a circumstance that led to her being treated harshly by Torrington. Despite Torrington's facade of benevolence and rectitude, Macdonald learns that she was widely unpopular and a poisonous gossip-monger who had surprising financial resources for someone on a fixed income and reputed to live frugally. This is a top-notch, tricky whodunit."

And more classics

Hart, Frances Noyes. [The Bellamy Trial](#) (Norton \$15.95) is a pioneering work of courtroom drama in the style of "Witness for the Prosecution." After the murder of a young woman in a rich Long Island enclave, two people are put on trial and the deceptions, secrets, and sordid affairs of the town's high society are all brought to light on the witness stand. "A must-read for nostalgia buffs, this seminal tale of legal intrigue holds up remarkably well even for casual fans." —*Kirkus*. New Introduction by Hank Philip Ryan

L'Amour, Louis. [Louis L'Amour's Lost Treasures](#) (Bantam \$30). A behind-the-scenes look at the unpublished work and unrealized aspirations of an iconic writer of Westerns. "Far overhead a bird soared. Twice he looked at it, brow puckered." Louis L'Amour (1908–88), né LaMoore, wrote millions of words, almost always in simple declarative sentences. Vying only with Zane Grey, he dominated the Western genre; if without the flair of Elmore Leonard, his work was miles above the penny dreadfuls that had preceded him. It will surprise those who know only his Western writing to learn from this volume that L'Amour was interested in other genres, more than dabbling but often not quite committing to them; he tried his hand at the intersection of Westerns and

horror but also played with science fiction, historical fiction, even variants of romance and literary fiction, examples of all of which abound in this gathering of provisional work.

✠Milne, A.A. [The Red House Mystery](#) (\$14.99). You may be surprised that the author of the classic Winnie the Pooh stories wrote a classic crime caper. Far from the gentle slopes of the Hundred Acre Wood lies The Red House, the setting for A.A. Milne's only detective story, where secret passages, uninvited guests, a sinister valet and a puzzling murder occurs. Milne pulls it off with witty dialogue, deft plotting, and a most curious cast of characters. Unfortunately we can't sell it to you, lack of stock, but you can try ordering it on line.

COZY CRIMES

Avon, Joy. [In Peppermint Peril](#) (\$15.99). Tour guide Callie Aspen has returned home to spend Christmas in Heart's Harbor and visit with her great-aunt Iphy, who runs a tearoom whose delightful treats contain literary clues. As Callie plans to deliver a magnificent cake to Haywood Hall for a special party, her thoughts linger on the days when she spent a great deal of time at the hall and had a crush on Stephen Du Bouvrais, the heir of owner Dorothea Finster. At 93, Dorothea has decided to throw a party to announce the provisions of her newest will. Callie has stayed away ever since Stephen married Sheila, another old friend, but she's immediately thrust back into family problems when Sheila shows her the heirloom ring to be hidden in the cake so that Ben Matthews, whom she wants to marry her daughter, Amber, can find it and propose at the party. Instead, Ben opens the box to find the ring gone, and soon after Amber discovers the body of Mr. Leadenby, who lives on the estate, stabbed to death in the conservatory."A delightful debut that combines the ambience of the board game Clue with whodunits in the family-secrets mold of Mary Roberts Rinehart and Leslie Ford.

Baxter, Cynthia. [Hot Fudge Murder](#) (\$15.95). Ice cream lovers and mystery fans alike will gobble up this charming cozy featuring ice cream store owner and aficionado, Kate McKay, the owner of Lickety Splits Ice Cream Shoppe in Wolfert's Roost, N.Y., is thrilled when famous fashion designer Omar DeVane asks her to provide hot fudge sundaes for 75 at a weekend retreat that he's hosting for the glitterati at his mansion. Kate's joy is as short-lived as the party itself after Omar is found strangled with his own necktie. Kate fears that such a high-profile unsolved murder will kill business in her little tourist town, a frightening prospect for a first-time entrepreneur, so she vows to try to track down Omar's killer. The perfect opportunity to investigate arises when she's hired to cater the memorial service, and between scooping ice cream and snooping, Kate uncovers the perfect motive for murder. "A picturesque Hudson Valley town, a couple of requisite hunks who vie for the heroine's affections, plus gallons of ice cream trivia add up to a sweet treat for cozy lovers." Start this series with [Murder with a Cherry on Top](#) (\$12.95).

✠Beaton, MC. [Beating about the Bush](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Albert Morrison, the chairman of an English company that manufactures batteries, hires PI Agatha to find the saboteur responsible for burning down the company's R&D department and with it the prototype of a highly anticipated new product. In the course of her investigation, Agatha comes across the body of Mrs. Dinwiddy, Morrison's longtime assistant. The blunt-force trauma to the head in the shape of a hoof points to the company's pet

donkey, Wizz-Wazz. Agatha concludes Wizz-Wazz is innocent after discovering an ashtray made from a donkey's hoof. Disapproving of the subsequent save-the-donkey PR campaign Agatha initiates, Morrison fires her, but this only strengthens her determination to solve Mrs. Dinwiddy's murder while consoling herself over Charles' engagement to a young woman with a romance of her own. I agree with the critic who writes, "The obnoxious, rude, and outspoken Agatha may not appeal to every reader." 29th in an enduring series helped by its TV adaptation.

✠Berry, Connie. [A Legacy of Murder](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). American antiques dealer Kate Hamilton anticipates the holiday vibe in the village of Long Barston in Suffolk, England. She might miss Christmas itself, but she'll have time with her daughter, Christine, who's interning at a historic residence called Finchley Hall, on whose property Kate is staying. She also looks forward to reuniting with Tom Mallory, the detective inspector she met on vacation in Scotland a month earlier. But then a young boy finds a body in the lake, recalling a murder 23 years earlier. Both victims were interns working on an exhibit of the Finchley Hoard, a collection of treasures buried during a peasants' revolt in 1546 and unearthed in 1818. Knowing Tom will be tied up with the investigation, Kate agrees to finish the plans for the exhibit. But a killer isn't finished with Finchley Hall. The serious tone of the mystery is alleviated by the humor of an ongoing feud among local pubs and insights into the antiques trade that fans of Jane Cleland and Hannah Dennison and Paige Shelton's Scottish Bookshop series will enjoy. Start with [A Dream of Death](#) (\$26.95).

✠Berry, Tamara. [Potions Are for Pushovers](#) (Kensington \$26). Since helping the wealthy Hartford family rid their ancient English estate of ghosts and solving a murder, Ellie Wilde has set up shop as an elixir seller and spellcaster in the nearby village. Now that she no longer has to help her sister, who's passed on but still talks to her, Ellie ekes out a living selling potions whose main ingredient is vodka and refusing the help offered by Nicholas Harford III, whose romantic appeal is one more reason for staying in England. Although her profession makes her efforts to deal herself into village life something of a tough sell, she's made several friends, including Nicholas' niece, Rachel; his rather odd mother, Vivian; and Annis, the vicar whose influence keeps Ellie from being totally shunned. When cordially disliked Sarah Blackthorne keels over and dies at a planning meeting for the village fete, Ellie has every reason to be drawn into Inspector Piper's investigation, since the choice of wolfsbane as the weapon points to her. Start with [Séances Are for Suckers](#) (\$15.95).

Burns, VM. [Bookmarked for Murder](#) (Kensington \$15.95). After some post-Christmas retail therapy in the Windy City, mystery bookshop owner and historical whodunit novelist Sam Washington is returning home to North Harbor, Michigan, on a chartered bus. With Nana Jo and her gal pals Irma, Dorothy, and Ruby Mae from Shady Acres Retirement Village along for the ride, it's a lively trip. But one passenger is not so lively—a gentleman Irma befriended is found dead in his seat after an unscheduled stop. The ladies immediately shift gears to find out who punched his ticket, while Sam slips into the driver's seat to steer them safely on....

Fletcher, Jessica [Murder, She Wrote: A Time for Murder](#) (Berkley \$26). Two timelines converge as Jessica Fletcher returns to high

school to investigate the murder of an old colleague, while we meet Jessica as a young teacher solving her very first murder.... 50th in a series powered by its successful TV run with Angela Lansbury and now written by Jon Land.

Fox, Sarah. [An Ale of Two Cities](#) (Kensington \$26). The Winter Carnival always brings holiday cheer, Christmas joy—and tourists with cash—to picturesque Shady Creek, Vermont. At the center of the glittering decorations and twinkling lights is booklover and pub owner Sadie Coleman, creating original cocktails, hosting a literary trivia evening, and cheering on her loyal employee Melanie “Mel” Costas as she competes in the ice carving competition. But holiday cheer can’t compete with former resident and renowned chef Freddy Mancini, who arrives with his nose in the air, showing off his ice-sculpting skills like a modern-day Michelangelo. During the artists’ break in the night-long contest, Mel’s tools disappear . . . and Freddy is found dead with her missing pick in his chest. Although the police turn their attention to Mel, it seems everyone in town had a grudge against Freddy....

Goldenbaum, Sal. [A Murderous Tangle](#) (Kensington \$26). Birdie, Nell, Cass, and Izzy are prepping their coziest handiwork for a holiday gathering in Sea Harbor, Massachusetts. But as murder makes waves in their tightly knit coastal village, can the Seaside Knitters prevent a deadly trend from catching on?

Laurie, Victoria. [Coached to Death](#) (Kensington \$26). Catherine “Cat” Cooper, the narrator of this superior series launch from Laurie of the Psychic Eye mysteries, embarks on a new career as a life coach in East Hampton, Long Island, after selling her marketing firm for \$50 million—and her husband of 16 years leaves her for another woman. To Cat’s dismay, her first client, Erma Kirkland, “a mess both financially and socially,” admits she’s been skipping car payments in order to afford Cat’s services. At least Erma is friendly, in contrast to Cat’s neighbor, Heather Holland, who keeps complaining to the town board about the construction of Cat’s new house. When Heather is found with her head bashed in by a crystal punch bowl owned by Cat, Detective Steve Shepherd of the East Hampton PD regards Cat as the chief suspect. Aided by her best friend, Gilley Gillespie, Cat sets out to find the real culprit. A mysterious new tenant in Cat’s office building, Maks Grinkov, adds some romantic heat, and Cat’s AI butler, Sebastian, serves as an unusual supporting player.

Lotempio, TC. [The Time for Murder is Meow](#) (Midnight Ink \$15.99). Crishell “Shell” McMillan sees the cancellation of her TV series as a blessing in disguise. The former actress can now take over her late aunt’s pet shop, the Purr N’ Bark, and do something she loves. While getting the shop ready for re-opening, Shell is asked to loan her aunt’s Cary Grant posters to the local museum for an exhibit. She finds the prospect exciting—until a museum board member, who had a long-standing feud with Shell’s aunt, votes against it. When she discovers the board member dead in the museum, Shell becomes suspect number one. Can she, her Siamese cat Kahlua, and her new sidekick—her aunt’s Persian Purrrday—find the real culprit? Starts a series.

Meier, Leslie. [Invitation Only Murder](#) (Kensington \$26). Tinker’s Cove, Maine, reporter Lucy Stone doesn’t know what to expect as she arrives on a private Maine island owned by eccentric billionaire Scott Newman, only that the exclusive experience should make for a very intriguing feature story. An avid envi-

ronmentalist, Scott has stripped the isolated property of modern conveniences in favor of an extreme eco-friendly lifestyle. A trip to Holiday Island is like traveling back to the nineteenth Century, and it turns out other residents aren’t exactly enthusiastic about living without cell service and electricity. Before Lucy can get the full scoop on Scott, she is horrified to find one of his daughters dead at the bottom of a seaside cliff. The young woman’s tragic end gets pinned as an accident, but a sinister plot unfolds when there’s a sudden disappearance....

Noble, Shelley. [Tell Me No Lies](#) (Forge \$27.99). Lady Dunbridge was not about to let a little thing like the death of her husband ruin her social life. She’s come to New York City, ready to take the dazzling world of Gilded Age Manhattan by storm. The social events of the summer have been amusing but Lady Phil is searching for more excitement—and she finds it, when an early morning visitor arrives, begging for her help. After all, Lady Phil has been known to be useful in a crisis. Especially when the crisis involves the untimely death of a handsome young business tycoon. His death could send another financial panic through Wall Street and beyond. With the elegant Plaza Hotel, Metropolitan Museum of Art and the opulent mansions of Long Island’s Gold Coast as the backdrop, romance, murder, and scandals abound. Someone simply must do something....

Perry, Leigh. [The Skeleton Stuff’s a Stocking](#) (\$15.95). Mirth and murder blend in a cozy featuring Sid, a skeleton who can move around, talk, and search the internet for clues. Georgia Thackery, who has known Sid since she was a child, is spending a year as an adjunct English professor at New England’s Bostock College. She enlists Sid’s help after a femur is uncovered by her dog, which leads to the discovery of the skeleton of an unidentified woman who was probably strangled about a decade earlier. Despite a paucity of clues, Georgia catches a break when a homeless colleague, Charles Peyton, reveals that he believes the victim to be a person named Rose, with whom he became involved before she disappeared. Charles is sure that the remains found near the site of the abandoned house where he and Rose used to squat are hers. In their investigation, Georgia and Sid seek Rose’s true identity and possible motives for her killing. Perry tosses in helicopter parents and academic politics en route to a satisfying denouement. Cozy fans who enjoy their mysteries leavened with humor will find their funny bones tickled.

OUR NOVEMBER LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Alzamora, Sebastian, [Blood Crime](#) (\$15.95). A multi-genre gothic novel of the horrific early days of the Spanish Civil War in Barcelona, perfect for fans of Roberto Bolaño and Mario Vargas Llosa, beautifully translated from the Catalan. It is 1936, and Barcelona burns. The murders of a Marist monk and a young boy, drained of their blood are strange enough to catch a police inspector’s attention. His quest for justice is complicated by the politics, dangers, and espionage of daily life in the war zone created by the Spanish Civil War. The Marist brothers of the murdered monk are being persecuted; meanwhile, a convent of Capuchin nuns hides in plain sight, trading favors with the military police to stay alive. In their midst is a thirteen-year-old novice who stumbles into the clutches of the murderer. Can she escape?

Casey, Donis. [The Wrong Girl](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.99). “Casey’s portrait of how stars were born and kept their status during Hollywood’s silent era will intrigue film buffs.”—*PW*

✱Hannah, Sophie. [The Mystery of Three Quarters](#) (\$15.99). This is Hannah's third "New Hercule Poirot Mystery" commissioned by the Agatha Christie estate. "It proves to be the most satisfying sort of pastiche: faithful to its model in the essentials but flexible enough to allow for an animated plot and protagonist. It's an odd puzzle that confronts the Belgian detective Poirot, living in London in 1930. Four people unknown to him have received letters bearing his name—accusing each of the murder of one Barnabas Pandy, a 94-year-old man whose bathtub drowning was ruled accidental. The reactions of the recipients, some of whom knew Pandy and some of whom did not, range from irate to apathetic. Poirot himself is vexed to have been used in such a scheme—and concerned about greater mischief to come. Ms. Hannah employs many Christie tropes but with a light touch, says *The Wall Street Journal*

Hendricks, Greer/Sarah Pekkanen. [An Anonymous Girl](#) (\$16.99). The authors of [The Wife Between](#) (\$16.99) penned an instant #1 bestseller last January, and were at The Pen to sign it the day it was announced. (Signed Firsts: [An Anonymous Girl](#) \$27). Looking to earn some easy cash, Manhattanite Jessica Farris agrees to be a test subject in a psychological study about ethics and morality. But as the study moves from the exam room to the real world, the line between what is real and what is one of Dr. Shields's experiments blurs. Monitored? Manipulated? Dr. Shields seems to know what Jess is thinking... and what she's hiding....

✱Horowitz, Anthony. [Forever and a Day](#) (\$16.99). James Bond... immortal, no? Horowitz celebrates his return to the James Bond franchise after [Trigger Mortis](#) (\$15.99) by providing the story of 007's very first adventure in 1950. Five years after World War II has ended, Bond slips into the Double-O ranks by committing his first duly licensed execution. Then, on the orders of M, he prepares to go after the people who made his promotion possible by dispatching the first 007. The assignment takes him to Marseilles, where his nameless predecessor was shot three times. Was the killer Joanne Brochet, aka Sixtine, the special ops-trained freelance agent who makes a living selling information to the highest bidder? Or was it Irwin Wolfe, the wealthy, aging American businessman Sixtine's taken up with? Or was he killed on the orders of scale-busting Corsican gang lord Jean-Paul Scipio, whose latest endeavors have made him worth his weight in heroin? "Fleming would be pleased. Whether he is writing for adults or children, whether he is imagining his own characters or extending the lives of those created by others (Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle as well as Fleming), Horowitz always draws a crowd of eager readers." —*Booklist*

Ireland, Sandra. [Bone Deep](#) (Gallery \$16). Our **British Crime Book of the Month** actually takes place in Scotland and is written by a Yorkshire woman. A 70ish retired academic, a student of folk tales and local legends, is working on a new book. The widowed Mac, as she prefers to be called, lives and works alone on the large property adjacent to the ancient water mill manned by her husband Henry until his death. It sits silent, the wheel no longer grinding. Her only child, Arthur, inevitably an expert baker having grown up with flour, insists Mac hire an assistant. And so Lucie comes to live in the cottage. Her job is ostensibly to transcribe Mac's notes but her duties turn out to be varied and surprising. As does the arrival of her sister's lover, who is also Lucie's. Mac and Lucie, both fierce women, are determined to

keep their secrets well guarded. They spill out anyway... This is an engaging and surprising modern gothic in the spirit of Kate Morton, Liz Nugent, and Ruth Ware wherein a story is never just a story and hidden secrets surface within clearly defined boundaries such as a country house or estate.

✱Lloyd, Catherine. [Death Comes to Bath](#) (\$15.95). An amusing combination of Regency mores, romantic aspirations, and a clever mystery makes this one of Lloyd's best in a character-driven Regency series I recommend to fans of CS Harris. Plus Bath in its heyday is a charming venue and fun for fans of Peter Lovesey's Peter Diamond contemporary series set in Bath to explore. It's 1822 so technically George IV, no longer Regency. Sir Robert Kurland and his wife, Lucy, are directed by his physician to Bath, where he can take the waters for an old war injury suffered at Waterloo. There they grow friendly with Sir William Benson, an elderly Yorkshireman whose businesses have earned him wealth and a peerage. Benson controls his squabbling family, whose failings he publicly derides, with threats of disinheritance; when he's found stabbed in the Roman baths, all have motives. His beautiful second wife is greedy and deceptive, his three sons all have money troubles, and his two stepsons make no secret of their contempt for the victim. As the Kurlands investigate Benson's murder, they contend with his missing will, a second death, and coded letters that may help illuminate the family's many secrets. Annoyingly not all the earlier [Kurland St. Mary Mysteries](#) are in print but Order those that are.

Longworth, M L. [A Noel Killing](#) (Penguin \$16). I'm reviewing it in the upcoming Holiday Booknews since this is clearly a Christmas season mystery, but as so many of you enjoy this series set in Provence—Aix en Provence more specifically—I add it in here. It's a lovely season in the South of France replete with the usual complex family dynamics. Examining magistrate Antoine Verlaque, married at last, and happily, to advocate Marie Bonnet, is resolved to make this a Noel they can both enjoy, even attending the annual packed carol sing at the Cathedral Saint-Sauveur. Then the poisoning of a young man sends the Aix community into a tailspin and creates a list of suspects almost as packed as the carol service....

McGarrity, Michael. [Residue](#) (\$15.95). A long-unsolved missing person case becomes a homicide investigation when the bones of Kim Ward are unearthed in Las Cruces, New Mexico, forty-five years after her disappearance. Compelling forensic and anecdotal evidence quickly shifts suspicion to Ward's old college boyfriend: former Santa Fe Police Chief Kevin Kerney. With damning evidence against him compiled by his own son, New Mexico State Police Lieutenant Clayton Istee, Kerney is arrested. He has no alibi and not a single witness to speak for him. Under intense media scrutiny and 24/7 police surveillance, Kerney must rely solely on the help of his wife, Sara, and a renowned criminal defense lawyer to discover if there are any remaining clues that can exonerate him or lead to the killer. As the trio begins to reconstruct the events leading to Ward's murder, Istee reexamines his suspicions about Kerney's guilt and decides to risk everything to help prove his father's innocence. Working together to identify one person who can clear Kerney's name and expose the killer, the four soon discover that Ward's murder isn't the only crime to be solved. [Order](#) earlier Kerneys plus the American West trilogy portraying his family's history.

✚Rossett, Sarah. [The Egyptian Antiquities Murder](#) (MacGuffin \$13.95). Olive Belgrave, who was once an unemployed gentlewoman but is now a 1920s full-fledged private investigator, is summoned to London's upscale Mayfair neighborhood by Lady Agnes, whose uncle, Lord Mulvern, an "eminent Egyptologist and possessor of a cache of mummies," died a month earlier. A brief note the uncle left behind suggests he was driven to suicide by a mummy's curse. Unfortunately, the tabloids are still cranking out scandalous stories with headlines such as "Mummy haunts Mayfair town house." Over tea, Lady Agnes tells Olive, "I want you to get to the bottom of this curse nonsense... Oh, I don't want you to debunk the curse. I want you to prove Uncle Lawrence was murdered." Suspects abound. Olive's good friend, clever Jasper Rimington, is on hand to serve as a sounding board and to provide a bit of backup. A good plot, elegant prose, and a charming narrative voice all add up to our **November History/Mystery Paperback Book of the Month**.

✚Schott, Ben. [Jeeves and the King of Clubs](#) (\$16.99). Storm clouds loom over Europe. Treason is afoot in the highest social circles. The very security of the nation is in peril. Jeeves, it transpires, has long been an agent of British Intelligence, but now His Majesty's Government must turn to the one man who can help—Bertie Wooster. Seriously? So Jeeves and Wooster head out on an uproarious adventure of espionage through the secret corridors of Whitehall, the sunlit lawns of Brinkley Court, and the private clubs of St James's. They encounter outraged chefs and exasperated aunts, disreputable politicians and gambling bankers, slushy debts and Cockney cabbies, sphinx-like tailors, and sylph-like spies. There is treachery to be foiled, naturally, but also horses to be backed, auctions to be fixed, engagements to be escaped, madmen to be blackballed, and a new variety of condiment to be cooked up, all contributing to this homage to PG Wodehouse. A marvelous treat. For a gift: [Jeeves and the King of Clubs Signed](#) (\$40).

✚Taylor, Andrew. [The Fire Court](#) (\$16.99). The Great Fire has ravaged London. Now, guided by the Fire Court, the city is rebuilding, but times are volatile and danger is only ever a heartbeat away. James Marwood, a traitor's son, is thrust into this treacherous environment when his father discovers a dead woman in the very place where the Fire Court sits. The next day his father is run down. Accident? Or another murder...? Determined to uncover the truth, Marwood turns to the one person he can trust—Cat Lovett, the daughter of a despised regicide. Then comes a third death... "Marwood and Lovett's search for a killer in the sooty streets of 1660s London is an atmospheric pleasure, full of twists and memorable characters." —*The Times*. Meet the characters and their situation first in [Ashes of London](#) (\$15.99).

STEALING THE SHOW AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

Barelli, John. [Stealing the Show](#) (Rowan \$27.95). When he retired as the chief security officer of New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art, John Barelli had spent the better part of forty years responsible not only for one of the richest treasure troves on the planet, but the museum's staff, the millions of visitors, as well as American presidents, royalty, and heads of state from around the world. For the first time, John Barelli shares his experiences of the crimes that occurred on his watch: two teens who swiped a Ramses VI gold ring from the Egyptian galleries; a

pair of ivory pistols belonging to Catherine the Great. Whether at the Met or elsewhere, he lets us know there are professional opportunists; internal opportunists (insiders like the man who stole the Mona Lisa from the Louvre); outside opportunists who grab; and worst, government opportunists like the Nazis. Art theft is the stuff of many a crime novel.

Coulson, Christine. [Metropolitan Stories](#) (Other Press \$23). A longtime employee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in several capacities writes a series of vignettes, comic and loving and imaginative, in which "explores the idea of how art lives" in fantastical ways—all inside the museum. I have spent many days of my life inside the Met and appreciate it for what it is, the spectacles it offers, the vision, the art, and a spirit for the spectator that Coulson illuminates. This isn't a book for everyone but if you have a museum lover on your gift list...voilà.

NEW BOOKS FOR NOVEMBER

Armstrong, Kelley. [Watcher in the Woods](#) (\$17.99). Armstrong's concept of Rockton, an isolated and insulated community in the Yukon that is a haven something like WitSec means its members are hiding from criminals and criminals are hiding from...what-ever. Usually something of a maverick working alone to solve crimes, Detective Casey Duncan has relied on the help of her sheriff, Eric Dalton, who's not only her technical superior and frequent investigative collaborator, but the first man she's ever committed to living with. And now they venture forth to recruit Casey's sister, April, a gifted doctor, to operate on Kenny, a badly injured resident. But a man camping out in the surrounding woods, Mark Garcia identifies himself as a U.S. Marshal on the hunt for a Rockton resident he won't identify except to say that the fugitive's psychopathic tendencies will endanger residents. With April smuggled in, Casey and Dalton, uncertain whether it's riskier to work with Garcia or against him, are unable to wrest the resident's name from Garcia before he's shot and killed.... Read the [Casey Duncan thrillers](#) in order.

Bannerjee, Abhijit V./Esther Duffo. [Good Economics for Hard Times](#) (Public Affairs \$30). The winners of the 2019 Nobel Prize show how economics, when done right, can help us solve the thorniest social and political problems of our day. What is at stake is the whole idea of the good life as we have known it. Immigration and inequality, globalization and technological disruption, slowing growth and accelerating climate change—these are sources of great anxiety across the world, from New Delhi and Dakar to Paris and Washington, DC. The resources to address these challenges are there—what we lack are ideas that will help us jump the wall of disagreement and distrust that divides us. If we succeed, history will remember us well.

Benson, Raymond. [Blues in the Dark](#) (Arcade CrimeWise \$25.99). Benson, familiar to James Bond fans, moves on. Karissa Glover, a movie producer who moves into a decrepit but functional old mansion in the West Adams Heights area of Los Angeles, where black celebrities of yesteryear—Hattie McDaniel, Louise Beavers, and others—once resided. The former owner was a white actress, Blair Kendrick, who often starred as the "bad girl"—a femme fatale—in noir films of the 1940s. However, Blair's career was cut short when she was tragically killed by the mob after allegedly witnessing the slaying of a corrupt studio head in 1949. As the Hollywood saying goes, "the plot thickens" when Karissa learns that Blair was involved in a then-taboo

interracial relationship with jazz musician Hank Marley. “Karissa Glover is a modern-day, smart, independent film producer in Hollywood who co-owns a small production company with her best friend from film school,” Benson says. “She’s in her 40s, recently divorced, no kids, biracial, and she’s looking for her next big project. As the book is structured with a present-day plot and a 1940s-era plot, one might say it has two protagonists,” Benson says. “But ultimately, it’s Karissa’s story as she makes a movie, the tagline of which is *The Blair Kendrick Story*.” It’s a difficult trick to pull off, and fun to read.

Billheimer, John. [Primary Target](#) (Crum Creek Press \$28). Ten years after California Governor Red Davison engineered the collapse of Owen Allison’s consulting firm, Owen crosses paths with the Davison family again. A win in the West Virginia primary is all Red’s son Jason needs to capture his party’s presidential nomination. Reporter Tom O’Day believes that votes are for sale. Sheriff Thad Reader enlists Owen’s help to keep his county clean, but Owen is sidetracked when one of the partners in his failed firm commits suicide and old records are stolen. As the Davison campaign is rocked by the disappearance of an aide, a bomb explodes in Owen’s home office. Veteran Billheimer writes “with an encyclopedic knowledge of Appalachian history and characters ripped from today’s headlines,” says Craig Johnson.

Blaedel, Sara. [Her Father’s Secret](#) (\$16.99). If you relish Scandinavian noir then this latest from Denmark’s Queen of Crime (now living in NY), will hook you despite its grim story. Ilka Jensen travels from Denmark to Racine, Wisconsin, to inherit her estranged and now deceased father’s failing funeral home. The last funeral held at the home is for a woman who was shot in her own house, and Ilka learns that the murder victim was blackmailing Ilka’s father for 20 years. As Ilka tries to understand why her father mysteriously abandoned her over 30 years earlier, she meets a handful of his friends and enemies as she discovers dad’s painful secrets...some of them.

✱Blalock, Georgia. [The Other Windsor Girl](#) (Harper \$16.99). Capitalizing on Philippa Gregory’s title for her bestseller *The Other Boleyn Girl*, Blalock pens a novel looking at “the outrageously mercurial Princess Margret Rose and her inner circle, as seen through the eyes of her lady-in-waiting, the Honorable Vera Strathmore...” “Fans of *The Crown* and all things royal will devour this.

✱Brody, Frances. [The Body on the Train](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). When Scotland Yard hits a dead end in Brody’s intricate 11th Kate Shackleton mystery, private detective Kate takes over investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of an unidentified man discovered on a goods train at London’s King’s Cross Station in 1929. The Yard refuses to share any more information, citing national security. Kate’s initial inquiries reveal another unsolved murder at about the same time, and she must feel her way as she seeks answers while not treading on official toes or alarming a skittish populace. Her investigation leads her to the Midlands, where she speaks with farmers, miners, and others over a broad spectrum of society. Kate is determined to get to the truth before an innocent young man becomes a convenient scapegoat to mask bureaucratic ineptitude. This well-told tale is enriched with vignettes of daily life at a time in England when threats of strikes and fears of communist incursion were rampant. Readers must be on their toes to catch the subtle hints Brody skillfully drops

Brown, Rita Mae. [Scarlet Fever](#) (Ballantine \$28). Frigid February air has settled into the bones of the Blue Ridge Mountains, making for a slow foxhunting season, though “Sister” Jane Arnold’s enthusiasm is not so easily deterred. With the winter chill come tweed coats, blazing fireplaces—and perhaps another to share the warmth with, as the bold hunting scarlets worn by the men in Sister Jane’s hunting club make the hearts of women flutter. The men’s too until one heart stops for good. Harry Dunbar, a member of the Jefferson Hunt club with a penchant for antique furniture, is found with his skull cracked at the bottom of the stairs to a local store. There are no telltale signs of foul play—save for the priceless (and stolen) Erté fox ring in his pocket. Sister and her hounds set out to uncover the truth: was this simply an accident—a case of bad luck—or something much more sinister? Many readers prefer Brown’s cozies with Sneaky Pie and her other animal friends but I like Brown’s portrait of the country around Charlottesville where she has long lived with her horses and hunting.

Bruen, Ken. [Galway Girl](#) (Grove \$26). Killers stalk PI Jack Taylor, once a member of the Garda, through Galway. Jericho, a femme fatale for whom “everyone was the enemy,” cracks the whip on her fellow psychos as they roam the city gunning down members of the Garda to grab Jack’s attention. Soon enough it gets personal with the fatal stabbing of a nun known to Taylor. Abrupt violence and plot twists keep the action popping, as Bruen plays his story like a series of brilliant improvisational jazz solos. Cultural references punctuate the narrative—for example, the first paragraph from Hammett’s *The Maltese Falcon* is dropped in as a free-form poem. For the finale, Bruen brings in a new character, the capable and deadly Keefer, once a roadie for the Rolling Stones, thereby balancing the odds so that Jack might live to drink Jameson another day. Bruen reinforces his place as the master of Irish noir.

Clark, Mary Higgins. [Kiss the Girls and Make Them Cry](#) (SimonSchuster \$26.99). When investigative journalist Gina Kane receives an email from a “CRyan” describing her “terrible experience” while working at REL, a high-profile television news network, including the comment “and I’m not the only one,” Gina knows she has to pursue the story. But when Ryan goes silent, Gina is shocked to discover the young woman has died tragically in a Jet Ski accident while on holiday. Meanwhile, REL counsel Michael Carter finds himself in a tricky spot. Several female employees have come forward with allegations of sexual misconduct. Carter approaches the CEO, offering to persuade the victims to accept settlements in exchange for their silence. It’s a risky endeavor, but it could well make him rich. As more allegations emerge and the company’s IPO draws near, Carter’s attempts to keep the story from making headlines are matched only by Gina Kane’s determination to uncover the truth. At 91, Queen of Suspense Clark is still in the game. Brava.

Crichton, Michael/Daniel Wilson. [The Andromeda Evolution](#) (Harper \$29). Wilson confidently captures the voice of the late Crichton (1942–2008) in this chilling sequel to the 1969 blockbuster [The Andromeda Strain](#) (\$15.95), a classic. Over 50 years ago, the deadly, alien Andromeda Strain nearly wiped out a small Arizona town. When Project Eternal Vigilance, put in place in the wake of the first breakout, detects an anomaly in the Amazon, a team of five scientists is sent to investigate. The scientists—

among them astronaut Sophie Kline, who has paraplegia, and roboticist James Stone, whose famous father was involved in the first Andromeda incident—trek into the Brazilian jungle to study the outbreak and contain it as quickly as possible, only to discover that the Andromeda Strain has evolved into something even more deadly. The investigation, told partially via reconstructed transcripts, interviews, and descriptions of video footage, unfurls over the course of five action-packed days. Wilson, a roboticist himself, employs his expertise to add depth and credibility to the advanced technology the scientists use, trusting the reader to keep up with his technical terminology. It's not too difficult for a tech-idiot like me to follow. And there is a slam-bang ending.

“Cornwell, Bernard. [Sword of Kings](#) (Harper \$27.99). The pagan warlord Uhtred of Bebbanburg narrates his 10th-century adventures, during which he hacks people apart so that kingdoms might be stitched together. He is known to some as the Godless or the Wicked, a reputation he enjoys. Edward, King of Wessex, Mercia, and East Anglia is gravely ill, and Uhtred pledges an oath to likely heir Æthelstan to kill two rivals, Æthelhelm and “his rotten nephew,” Ælfweard, when the king dies. Uhtred's wife, Eadith, wants him to break that oath, but he cannot live with the dishonor of being an oathbreaker. The tale seems to begin in the middle, as though the reader had just turned the last page in the 11th book—and yet it stands alone quite well. Uhtred travels the coast and the river Temes in the good ship *Spearhafoc*, powered by 40 rowers struggling against tides and currents. He and his men fight furious battles, and he lustily impales foes with his favorite sword, Serpent-Breath.... Lots of bloodletting. This is historical adventure on a grand scale, right up there with the works of Conn Iggulden. [Sword of Kings UK Signed](#) (\$45).

✱Davidson, Hilary. [Dress in the Age of Jane Austen: Regency Fashion](#) (Yale University \$40). With this debut, Davidson, a dress and textile historian, has done a superb job of placing clothing in Jane Austen's fiction and in her journals and letters within the larger context of Regency fashion and its reflection of a rapidly changing, and globalizing, society. As Davidson emphasizes, mentions of clothing in Austen, be it Fanny arriving at Mansfield Park with only two sashes or Miss Bates' unfashionable wardrobe in *Emma*, always carry social significance. Davidson's contribution is not only to note this significance within the context of the novels but to tie it to larger trends in British, European, and global life. She comprehensively shows how factors such as the cold and damp English climate, the ban on French goods (and resulting black markets) during the Napoleonic wars, and widespread familial ties around the globe influenced what both Austen and her characters wore. A particularly strong aspect of the book is its placement of the Austen family's own clothing use in a wide context, including through Austen's brothers' naval travels, family members making and procuring clothing and textiles for each other, and the Austens' access to the global textile market. This extensively researched and beautifully illustrated book is fascinating to read, fills a gap in Austen scholarship, and makes an impressive contribution to Austen studies.

Eskens, Allen. [Nothing More Dangerous](#) (LittleBrown \$27). A small Missouri town, 1976. The plot centers on the relationship between Boady Sanden, an unhappy 15-year-old white boy, and Thomas Elgin, an African American his own age who moves in with his family next door. “The combination of an unsolved

embezzlement, good old boy Cecil's displacement by an outsider, and the town's incipient racism works slowly but inexorably to put Boady, recruited by the Crusaders of Racial Purity and Strength, under pressure to betray his new friendship. Declining to join the racists but repeatedly running away rather than refusing their demands point blank, Boady must navigate a perilous route to supporting his community and claiming his own adult identity. Perfect for readers who wish *To Kill a Mockingbird* had been presented from a slightly older, male point of view.”—*Kirkus Reviews* on a book unread by me.

Fox, Amaryllis. [Life Undercover: Coming of Age in the CIA](#) (Knopf, \$26.95. The Indie Next Pick: “Her unconventional childhood—think playing unsupervised on the streets of Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Washington, D.C.—prepared Amaryllis Fox for a career in the CIA. She was recruited because as part of her master's studies at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service, she developed an algorithm that was amazingly accurate at predicting where terrorist cells might pop up in the world. Soon, she was deployed as a spy in the Middle East while posing as an art dealer. After 10 years, Fox left the CIA and is now a writer, a current events analyst, a peace activist, and a mother. One wonders what is next in her fascinating life!”

✱Grimes, Martha. [The Old Success](#) (Grove \$26). I can't wait to read a new Grimes. For now here's the publisher take: When the body of a French woman washes up on a wild inlet off the Cornish coast, Brian Macalvie, divisional commander with the Devon-Cornwall police is called in. Who could have killed this beautiful tourist, the only visible footprints nearby belonging to the two little girls who found her? While Macalvie stands in the Scilly Islands, inspector Richard Jury—twenty miles away on Land's End—is at The Old Success pub, sharing a drink with the legendary former CID detective Tom Brownell, a man renowned for solving every case he undertook. Except one. In the days following the mysterious slaying of the Parisian tourist, two other murders take place: first, a man is shot on a Northhamptonshire estate, then a holy duster turns up murdered at Exeter Cathedral in Devon. Macalvie, Jury, and Brownell set out to discover whether these three killings, though very different in execution, are connected....

✱Harris, Robert. [The Second Sleep](#) (Knopf \$26.95). How unfortunate it is that if I tell you why this is such a surprising read I will ruin it for you. The best I can do is say, imagine yourself in a small village near Exeter and then quote this Starred Review: “Thriller Award-winner Harris does a masterly job playing with readers' expectations in this mystery set in 15th-century England. Father Christopher Fairfax has been dispatched by his bishop to Wessex to officiate at the funeral of Father Thomas Lacy, a parish priest who died in a fall. The assignment seems routine enough, but on reaching the town of Addicott St. George, he finds unexpected questions to answer. When he visits Lacy's library, he learns that the man he's about to inter in consecrated ground possessed numerous heretical volumes relating to an antiquarian society proscribed by the church. Eager to keep things uncomplicated, Fairfax proceeds with the funeral service as if he'd never seen the books, only to have the rites disrupted by an attendee who yells that Lacy's death was not the result of “evil chance.” When foul weather delays Fairfax's departure, he finds even more oddities, including the disappearance of the church register and an unsettling letter by a Cambridge professor found in a mass

grave, which supports his suspicion that Lacy's interest in the past was more than innocent scholarly curiosity. Few readers will pick up on the fairly planted clues" You really have to pay attention!

Harrison, Mette. [Not of This Fold](#) (\$15.95). . Gwen Ferris, who has been active in the church's Spanish ward, has befriended Gabriela Suarez, a young mother of three, whose husband has been deported to Mexico. One day, Gabriela leaves a phone message for Gwen that suggests she's in some sort of trouble, and that night, her strangled body turns up at a gas station. Gwen prevails on her good friend Linda to help bring Gabriela's killer to justice. Tension rises between Linda and her Mormon bishop husband, Kurt, who worries about her interfering in police matters. Meanwhile, Linda fears that their youngest son, Samuel, who's on a mission in Boston, may be encountering prejudice from fellow Mormons because he's openly gay. Harrison bravely wades into complex social issues in the face of Mormon orthodoxy in her series that began with [The Bishop's Wife](#) (\$9.99) and is recommended in its entirety by Patrick and me.

Hayes, Tyler. [The Imaginary Corpse](#) (Angry Robot \$12.99). A dinosaur detective in the land of unwanted ideas battles trauma, anxiety, and the first serial killer of imaginary friends. A Starred Review: Hayes puts a fanciful spin on classic mysteries, inviting readers to the Stillreal, a land where imaginary Friends, Nightmares, and cast-off Ideas go when their creators no longer need them. "Hayes's debut is an affectionate, lightly mocking homage to noir tales. Tippy is an unexpected hardboiled detective, one who asks new acquaintances for their pronouns and resolves matters with hugs as often as with violence. A strong psychological thread weaves through the story as characters confront the trauma of being imaginary and forgotten, adding depth to what at first may seem a silly concept. Readers will revel in this strange, fully realized world." This requires close attention to read and enjoy.

Higashino, Keigo. [Newcomer](#) (\$17.99). The Japanese bestseller, an Edgar nominee for the wonderful [The Devotion of Suspect X](#) (\$16.99), presents another perplexing case. A woman is found murdered in her new apartment in the Nihonbashi area of Tokyo. Living a quiet life, with nothing remarkable in her past and no known enemies, this newcomer's murder is as baffling as it was unlikely. Detective Kyochiro Kaga of the Tokyo Police Department is also a newcomer to area—recently transferred to the Nihonbashi precinct. Assigned to the task force investigating the murder, Kaga interviews the various local people somehow connected to the victim—the insurance salesman whose card was found at her apartment; the local coffee shop she frequented; the boy who delivered a box of pastries; her estranged son, the would-be actor, among others. But the more Kaga pulls on the loose threads of a simple life, the greater the number of potential suspects emerges. To prevent the murderer from eluding justice, Kaga must unravel all the secrets of the local residents—and of the victim herself. These are intricate mysteries and will challenge you.

Also from Japan: Yokoyama, Hideo. [Seventeen](#) (\$19). 1985. Kazumasa Yuuki, a seasoned reporter at the *North Kanto Times*, runs a daily gauntlet of the power struggles and office politics that plague its newsroom. But when an air disaster of unprecedented scale occurs on the paper's doorstep, its staff is united by an unimaginable horror and a once-in-a-lifetime scoop.

2003. Seventeen years later, Yuuki remembers the adrenaline-fueled, emotionally charged seven days that changed his and his colleagues' lives. He does so while making good on a promise he made that fateful week—one that holds the key to its last solved mystery and represents Yuuki's final, unconquered fear.

✠Hill, Reginald. [Dialogues of the Dead](#) (\$16.99). This is great news. Harper Collins is digging into its distinguished backlist and republishing some of the amazing Reg Hill's work. "No one writes a more civilized British police procedural than Reginald Hill. His intricately constructed plots are studded with challenging puzzle components like coded messages and locked-room crime scenes." —*New York Times Book Review*. And yay, here are two of his Dalziel and Pascoe investigations reissued. I so miss Reg who signed all of his books for us in the UK until his death. He was a lovely man, much missed. Many of you may have watched Dalziel and Pascoe on the Yorkshire cops' TV series which somewhat changed the arc of Pascoe's life and that of his wife. [Good Morning, Midnight](#) (\$16.99) reissues too.

James, JS. [River Run](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Set largely in the wetlands surrounding Oregon's Willamette Valley, James's promising debut and series launch introduces Delia Chavez, a newly promoted sheriff's deputy. As Delia investigates the murders of duck hunters, all found with their index fingers missing, she has to deal with a "Mexi-phobic" sheriff bent on destroying her career. She must also battle her debilitating fear of rivers and running water, which is tied to the loss of her baby brother, who was abducted years earlier when she was a child. With few resources to aid her—aside from a hunky former Coast Guard search-and-rescue expert contracted to assist with water searches—Chavez has a slim list of potential suspects: extremist animal rights activists possibly targeting hunters and a military fugitive rumored to be hiding out somewhere in the wetlands. The action builds to an impressively explosive climax.

✠Jecks, Michael. [A Missed Murder](#) (\$17.95). The looming birth of a child to Queen Mary and her Spanish husband, Prince Philip, seems to promise stability for England. But conspiracies abound in 1555, and Jack Blackjack once again finds himself at the mercy of forces more powerful than himself. The shadowy, deep-pocketed John Blount—who may have ties to Lady Elizabeth, Mary's younger sister—hires Jack to murder Jeffrey of Shoreditch, a "wheedling, whining" man, but since Jack is squeamish about violence, he tries to delegate the killing to a tougher character. Everything goes wrong, and over the next few days, Jack struggles to deal with the dire consequences of his bungling. Another murder, of a highborn Spaniard, puts fresh enemies on his trail. Jecks, a longtime medieval mystery author, switched up to the reign of Mary Tudor.

✠Jewell, Lisa. [The Family Upstairs](#) (Atria \$27). Twenty-five years before the present-day action the bodies of Henry and Martina Lamb and an unknown man were found in the Lambs' mansion in London's exclusive Chelsea district. How did they die, and where were the Lambs' children? Three entwined stories provide some answers. Homeless Lucy, a busking violinist, is sitting on a French beach with her son when she receives a message on her phone: "The baby is 25." Lucy's account of her voyage to London merges with that of Libby Jones. Libby, adopted when she was around a year old, is working for a kitchen design company in St. Albans when she receives the news that she

has inherited the Lambs' family home. Henry, the Lambs' son, describes his childhood and the terrifying events that changed all their lives when the charismatic charlatan David Thomsen came to stay. Investigating her past, Libby gets much more than she bargained for. Distinct, well-developed characters, shifting points of view, and a disturbing narrative that pulses with life create an enthralling tale full of surprises

Jones, Stan. [The Big Empty](#) (\$15.95). Native Alaskan public safety director Nathan Active's bush pilot friend, Cowboy Decker, persuades him to look into the deaths of Evie Kavoonah and her physician fiancé, Todd Brenner. The couple were killed after the Cessna Evie had been piloting smashed into a mountain, a tragedy that federal investigators concluded was due to pilot error. Despite his skepticism, Nathan agrees to travel with Cowboy to the site of the wreckage, where they discover evidence of sabotage. Meanwhile, Nathan and his wife, Grace, are expecting their first child, a development that will complicate their relationship with Grace's teenage daughter, Nita. Nita's father is Grace's father, who raped her years before her marriage to Nathan. Enjoy the insights into the culture of Alaska's indigenous peoples.

Kroger, Lisa. [Monster, She Wrote](#) (Quirk \$19.99). A look at Women Who Pioneered Horror and Speculative Fiction is a fascinating exploration especially now that the Gothic is staging a comeback. In earlier days such work was called Novels of Suspense (Wilkie Collins, Mrs. Radcliffe, Mary Shelley) and today is represented by Margaret Atwood, Susan Hill, Helen Oyeyemi, Carmen Maria Machado, and in crime, Ruth Ware for example. Read about Charlotte Riddell, author of over 50 novels and stories. And of course, Shirley Jackson. Wonderful to browse and a compelling gift idea.

✱Maiklem, Lara. [Mudlark](#) (Liveright \$27.99). What more fun for fans of British mystery (or fiction) than this quixotic journey along the Thames to reveal the stories hidden behind remnants of the ancient city? London's River Thames has long been a repository for lost or unwanted objects, and those who seek them out are known as "mudlarks." Writer and editor Lara Maiklem, a long-time visitor to the Thames foreshore, chronicles her adventures in her first nonfiction book, *Mudlark: In Search of London's Past Along the River Thames*. Her expeditions and the objects they yield—including hatpins, hand-blown glass bottles, buttons and the occasional precious stone—provide a rambling, idiosyncratic, fascinating guide to the city's history. Maiklem charts her journeys, beginning where the river's tideway originates, near Richmond in west London. She works her way methodically east, passing several of the river's famous bridges, which are notable here mainly for how they interact with the tides and the types of objects that end up beneath them. Armed with a good pair of wellies, a keen eye and endless patience, Maiklem inches her way along the foreshore, sifting through centuries' worth of silt, mud and debris, in search of lost or discarded bits and pieces that might give her a glimpse into the city's past. London's history is layered and sometimes confusing even to locals, but Maiklem's crisp, accessible writing style lights up her journeys mudlarking on the Thames foreshore, and the history of the objects she finds.

Marion, Loretta. [Storm of Secrets](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). In Whale Rock Village, Massachusetts, Cassie Mitchell postpones her wedding to former FBI agent Daniel Benjamin as tropical storm Chantal looms. While helping locals and tourists prepare,

she finds a dead body in a dumpster. Meanwhile, three-year-old Lucas Kleister, the son of a wealthy tourist, goes missing. Opening her historic home to those stranded, Cassie soon realizes she may have the murder suspect and possible child abductor right under her roof. Amid the chaos of the storm, a strange woman is seen in Cassie's family cemetery leaving flowers on the grave of an unidentified child known as the Barnacle Boy, who drowned in Cape Cod Bay decades earlier. The frantic search for Lucas opens up old wounds for the townspeople and brings to light startling connections among Cassie's houseguests, the missing child, and the long ago mystery of the Barnacle Boy. Good for fans of tales of regional intrigue.

✱Maxwell, Alyssa. [A Murderous Marriage](#) (Kensington \$15.95). April, 1920. Lady Phoebe Renshaw and her maid, Eva Huntford, travel to Cowes, on the Isle of Wight, for the marriage of Lady Phoebe's older sister, Julia, to Viscount Gil Townsend, a wealthy industrialist several decades her senior. The Renshaws hope the alliance, no love match, will improve the family fortunes, which have declined since the Great War. The day after the wedding, Gil disappears, only to be found drowned at the Royal Yacht Squadron. It soon becomes clear that Gil, who had his share of enemies, was pushed into the water—and Julia is a prime suspect.

McDougall, Christopher. [Running with Sherman: The Donkey with the Heart of a Hero](#) (Knopf \$27.95). We all need heroes just now. Why not a donkey? Here's the Indie Next Pick: "*Running with Sherman* is one of those special books that just makes you happy. Sherman, an abused donkey adopted by Christopher McDougall and family, needs a task, and that task turns out to be joining the World Championship of burro running in Colorado. In his inimitably engaging style, McDougall has taken the best of his two previous books—the personal stories of *Born to Run* and the history from *Natural Born Heroes*—and created the most enjoyable book I've read this year. I laughed, I got teary, I smiled a lot. Sherman is my new hero!"

✱McPherson, Catriona. [A Step So Grave](#) (Quercus \$26.99). A Starred Review for a series I keep recommending: "Agatha-winner McPherson's exceptional 13th Dandy Gilver mystery a stylish spin on the traditional country house murder. In the winter of 1935, Edinburgh PI Dandy and her family travel to meet Mallory Dunnoch, Dandy's son Donald's fiancée, and Mallory's family at Applecross, the Dunnochs' estate in the Scottish Highlands. Oddly, Lady Lavinia, Mallory's mother, is absent during their visit. When the spring thaw reveals Lady Lavinia's body, Dandy returns to Applecross, accompanied by her fellow detective, Alec Osbourne, with his "sharper brain," to investigate. That everyone at Applecross has a motive for wanting Lady Lavinia dead provides multiple red herrings, but who had the opportunity to kill her? Details of rugged Highland life are plentiful, with evocative descriptions of climate and scenery gracefully incorporated into an intricate plot worthy of Dorothy L. Sayers or Agatha Christie." I might not go that far, but this is a standout in an excellent series.

Moore, Marente de. [The Dutch Maiden](#) (World Editions \$17.99). A 1930s story. We know about Jesse Owens. Here is a Dutch fencer giving her all, and caught up in a sort of Jane Eyre affair with an older, damaged man. Nazism is taking hold. Janna, a young Dutch girl, has been sent to the embittered aristocrat Egon von Bötticher to train as a fencer. Bötticher is as eccentric as his training methods, yet the pupil soon finds herself falling for her

master—a man tormented by a wartime past in which Janna’s father is implicated. Janna is based on the fencer Helene Mayer who won the gold in the 1938 Amsterdam Olympics, fled Europe (she was Jewish) and had to return at Hitler’s request to compete in 1936 in Berlin where she won silver and gave a Nazi salute. Truly 1914-45 gives up endless stories of all shades. Since I remember the McCarthy era well I look for more from it in fiction.

Morgenstern, Erin. [A Starless Sea](#) (Doubleday \$28.95). Are you lost or are you exploring? When Zachary Rawlins stumbles across a strange book hidden in his university library it leads him on a quest unlike any other. Its pages entrance him with their tales of lovelorn prisoners, lost cities and nameless acolytes, but they also contain something impossible: a recollection from his own childhood. Determined to solve the puzzle of the book, Zachary follows the clues he finds on the cover – a bee, a key and a sword. They guide him to a bibliophile masquerade ball, to a dangerous secret club, and finally through a magical doorway created by the fierce and mysterious Mirabel to a subterranean labyrinth filled with stories. When the labyrinth is threatened, Zachary must race through its twisting tunnels and crowded ballrooms, searching for the end of his story in our. I like Lyndsay Faye’s summary: “an abstruse series of fragmented fables, interspersed with the saga of a present-day grad student who is a voracious reader and connoisseur of retro cocktails... for those swept away by the romance of its imagery, *The Starless Sea* will provide hours of honey-drenched bliss... at the very least, inspiration for a new tattoo....”

Huge hype for this: I regret we are not likely to get more Signed Firsts—here’s a reason to join the 2020 Modern First Editions Book of the Month Club so you won’t miss out on short supply gems like this new December pick.. The Indie Next Pick: “Rarely is a book such an absolute feast. *The Starless Sea* is an ode to book lovers everywhere, reanimating the excitement as well as the pure possibility felt when reading books like *Harry Potter* or *The Lord of the Rings* for the first time. I am reminded of the famous C.S. Lewis quote, ‘One day, you’ll be old enough to read fairytales again.’ When that day comes, *The Starless Sea* will be waiting for you.” Especially if you are fans of Neil Gaiman, Susanna Clark, and Lev Grossman.

✱Myers, Benjamin. [The Gallows Pole](#) (Third Man Books \$16). Set in the moorland hills of 18th century Yorkshire, *The Gallows Pole* is the true story of an organized crime of forgers known as the Cragg Vale Coiners. Lead by the charismatic ‘King David Hartley, a man prone to violence and mystical visions, they rise to glory until the bloody murder of a government official brings them to the attention of the authorities. An English western, *The Gallows Pole* is a poetic and visceral telling of a secret history and a wild landscape. It explores contemporary themes including wealth, abuse of power, class, corruptions, borders and boundaries and national identity. Includes a Foreword by Benjamin Myers exclusive to this US edition from Third Man Books. The cover is hideous.

Olguín, Sergio. [The Fragility of Bodies](#) (Bitter Lemon \$14.95). Argentinean author Olguín makes his English-language debut with a scalding crime novel set in Buenos Aires, the first in a series featuring ambitious journalist Verónica Rosenthal, the 30-ish single daughter of a prominent judge. Verónica sees a potential story in the death of train driver Alfredo Carranza, who jumped

off the roof of the building where he visited his psychologist. Alfredo was depressed “because he ran over four people in separate accidents.” When the police decline to pursue what appears to be a straightforward suicide case, Verónica investigates. She learns of the suffering of other train drivers with similar experiences, including Alfredo’s friend Lucio Valrossa, who’s in his own “universe of pain” from six deaths by trains he was driving. What accounts for this high fatality rate? Her search for answers takes her into the city’s poorest neighborhoods, where she discovers why slum boys are so willing to play chicken on railroad tracks. That Verónica has a torrid affair with the married Lucio complicates her quest. Olguín memorably explores the gulf between the haves and have-nots of Buenos Aires in a stellar example of Argentine noir.

Naylor, Roger. [Arizona State Parks](#) (University of NM \$21.95). Naylor calls it *A Guide to Amazing Places in the Grand Canyon State*—and it is. Browse more of our selection of books on the Southwest when you visit The Pen. And I will assemble a collection of them for our Web Store for those unable to visit the store.

Patterson, James. [Criss Cross](#) (LittleBrown \$29). In a Virginia penitentiary, Alex Cross and his partner, John Sampson, witness the execution of a killer they helped convict. Hours later, they are called to the scene of a copycat crime. A note signed “M” rests on the corpse. “You messed up big time, Dr. Cross.” Was an innocent man just put to death? Alex soon realizes he may have much to answer for, as “M” lures the detective out of the capital to the sites of multiple homicides, all marked with distressingly familiar details—details that conjure up decades-old cases. Details that conjure up Cross family secrets.

Percy, Benjamin. [Suicide Woods](#) (Graywolf \$16.99) serves up an addictive mix of gritty crime fiction and otherworldly horror in this story collection. The book contains nine stories and a novella, each chilling in its own way. Percy’s prose is exacting, finely tuning the atmospherics that give the collection such an eerie overall feeling. These are stories full of dread, with an uncanny resemblance to our own world. “A boy falls through the ice on a pond and emerges in a frozen, uncanny state. Patients in therapy for suicidal ideation undergo a drastic session in the woods with fatal consequences. But it is the novella, “The Uncharted,” where thrill seekers exploring the ‘Bermuda Triangle’ of Alaska are stranded on an island that wants them dead, that is the scariest entry.”

Pflüger, Andreas. [A Shadow Falls](#) (Dover \$16.99). Five years ago, in Barcelona, in the previous Jenny Aaron thriller, *In the Dark*, instead of taking a boot to the head, she takes a bullet that leaves her irreversibly blind. In *A Shadow Falls*, in her world of darkness, she has been acquiring new skills. She recently tested them against Ludger Holm, the psychopath who fired the shot that blinded her. But now Holm is dead (or is he?) and has left her \$2 billion (but why?). Jenny knows it’s a trap, but she also knows if she is ever to find peace she must play Holm’s game to the bitter end. Play it and exact vengeance on this man who is her nemesis. And she does have new skills, skills to play the game well. Pflüger knows the world of crime and the elite units that fight it. He’s written several episodes of German TV’s longest-running police shows. And he knows how to make that world – and the world we all live in – vivid. Pflüger knows

the world of crime and the elite units that fight it. He's written several episodes of German TV's longest-running police shows. And he knows how to make that world – and the world we all live in – vivid.

Pressfield, Stephen. [36 Righteous Men](#) (Norton \$26.95). Set in 2034, when global warming has pushed humankind to the brink of extinction, this un-put-downable apocalyptic thriller from Pressfield is steeped in Jewish eschatology—specifically the legend of the Thirty-Six Righteous Men, whose existence justifies the purpose of humankind in the eyes of God and prevents God from destroying the entire race. But when a serial killer begins murdering the Righteous, New York City police detectives James Manning and Covina “Dewey” Duwai set out to stop the killer before he triggers an end-of-the-world event of biblical proportions. While many narrative elements are noteworthy—the character depth, the powerful political and social commentary, the nonstop action, the breakneck pacing—it's the author's meticulously described and alarmingly realistic near-future Earth that will chill readers to their core. This dystopian cautionary tale stands as Pressfield's most ambitious work to date.

Preston, Lisa. [Dead Blow](#) (Arcade CrimeWise \$24.99). Horse-shoer Rainy Dale is a woman of ferocious independence in a tough profession made tougher by the folks who live and work in rural Oregon who include, in addition to cowpokes and horse people, a lot of busybodies. Nonetheless she has settled on the right man for her and is making wedding plans when a job shoeing in a pasture for a new widow lands her in a pit of intrigue. Why was the widow's husband driving a tractor so near their dangerous bull? Why no bruise upon him? It all, including his philandering, happened before Rainy came to Cowdrey which was about the time her fiancé Guy volunteered to help search for a missing young woman.... Rainy's voice is an unusual one, unsparing and a bit rough and grips you as she tells this story that unfolds as the sequel to [The Clincher](#) (\$15.99) not published until February 2020..

Reardon, Scott. [The Pandora Equation](#) (Mulholland \$27). Only Tom Reese can stop the havoc unleashed by a band of unstable test subjects who've escaped from a secret government lab—because he is one of them. Part Robert Ludlum, part Michael Crichton, “With this bioengineered twist on Jason Bourne, Reardon offers a dark vision of covert work that may be closer to the present than we think.”—Matthew Quirk. In [The Prometheus Man](#) (\$28.99), Reese hunted down his brother's killers—and destroyed any chance at a normal life. He stole the identity of a CIA agent, exposed a grisly stem cell experiment to enhance the human body, and made himself an enemy of the United States. Now Tom lives on the run with the woman he loves, knowing he'll lose her one day because a life with him is a life without a future. Thousands of miles away, in an abandoned oil rig off the Alaskan coast, a new Prometheus lab operates in secret. When the test subjects—all death-row inmates—revolt and slaughter their way out, the entire world is shocked and terrified. Knowing authorities will hunt them to the ends of the earth, they crash the power grid in half the continental U.S., and 100 million people are thrown into chaos. As a nation collapses on itself, Tom is offered a deal: help bring in the men responsible, and he can come home.

Regan, Lisa. [Vanishing Girls](#) (\$12.99). In this exciting series launch from Regan finds Det. Josie Quinn suspended from the

Denton, Pa., police force for using excessive force and impatiently waiting for her police sergeant husband, Ray Quinn, to sign divorce papers so she can marry the man she loves, someone she knows Ray hates. When 17-year-old high school student Isabelle Coleman vanishes, Josie fears Isabelle's disappearance may be linked to other cases of missing girls in nearby areas. The sudden appearance of a mute and obviously traumatized girl, who has been missing for close to a year and is wearing Isabelle's tongue barbell, confirms Josie's suspicions. Frustrated and baffled as she watches her colleagues fail to follow crucial leads, she suspects a conspiracy among Denton's law enforcement community to protect those responsible for these crimes. At great personal peril, Josie leaves the sidelines to pursue the truth. Regan keeps the dramatic reveals coming.

Ruby, Laura. [Thirteen Doors, Wolves Behind Them All](#) (Harper \$17.99). First, I give Harper and Ruby the author huge points for this title for a zinger, a National Book Award 2019 finalist! When Frankie's mother died and her father left her and her siblings at an orphanage in Chicago, it was supposed to be only temporary—just long enough for him to get back on his feet and be able to provide for them once again. That's why Frankie's not prepared for the day that he arrives for his weekend visit with a new woman on his arm and out-of-state train tickets in his pocket. Now Frankie and her sister, Toni, are abandoned alongside so many other orphans—two young, unwanted women doing everything they can to survive. And as the embers of the Great Depression are kindled into the fires of World War II, and the shadows of injustice, poverty, and death walk the streets in broad daylight, it will be up to Frankie to find something worth holding on to in the ruins of this shattered America—every minute of every day spent wondering if the life she's able to carve out will be enough. Group with *Code Name Verity* and *The Book Thief*. Ages 14+

Sallis, James. [The Black Hornet](#); [Eye of the Cricket](#) (Soho \$16.95 each). Two more reissues for New Orleans [PI Lew Griffin](#), making 4, 2 to go. Also from Sallis: [Ain't Long Fore Day](#) (Unsolicted Press \$16), poems that carry on in the spirit of the blues, infused with music and enigma.

*Scott, Caroline. [The Poppy Wife](#) (Harper \$16.99). “British historian Scott debuts with an unsettling close-up take on the staggering losses to a family shattered by a 1917 Western Front conflict that left “eight thousand nameless men” on the battlefield. Scott zeroes in on British woman Edie, whose husband, Francis, never came home, and the missing soldier's younger brother Harry, who is haunted by memories of holding his wounded brother in his arms and the last words they spoke. When Edie gets a picture of Francis in the mail in 1921, she questions if he could still be alive and sets out with Harry to find him—or his grave—in France. Scott pinballs this two-part odyssey between 1917, as Harry, Francis, and their youngest brother, Will, who falls first on the battlefield, change from swaggering soldiers to haggard war veterans, and 1921, when Edie and Harry close in on the grim search for answers to Francis's fate. Scott's bold novel, inspired by her own family history, is instantly appealing for historical fiction fans. But the timeless story of love, loyalty, and honor will have appeal for readers of all interests.” I include this for fans of Charles Todd and Jacqueline Winspear.

Simenon, George. [Maigret and the Nahour Case](#) (Penguin \$13). Maigret receives an urgent call in the middle of the night from a

doctor friend who says he has just treated a wealthy woman for a suspicious gunshot wound. Not long after, Maigret is called to the home of professional gambler, Felix Nahour, who has just been found by his chambermaid, shot dead. The inspector is shocked to find that he recognizes a photo of the man's wife, who quickly becomes his main suspect. All signs point to her guilt, but as he digs deeper, Maigret begins to infer there might be more to this complicated affair. #65 in the reissue project.

Spann, Susan. [Ghost of the Bamboo Road](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). We're in 16th Century Japan. Master ninja Hiro Hattori and his Portuguese Jesuit friend, Fr. Mateo Ávila de Santos, set out with the priest's irascible housekeeper for a desolate mountain village on a mission to find a female ninja and warn her that she's in danger. Stopping at an inn for the night, they find themselves immersed in a family drama. It's the anniversary of the death of Riko, the innkeeper Noboru's sister, and Ishiko, their mother, is on her way to leave an offering at Riko's grave. In the morning, Ishiko is found dead, and the villagers are convinced that Riko's ghost, who has been blamed for other deaths, is the culprit. "Vengeful spirits did not kill this woman," Hiro says. "She was strangled." His investigations immerse readers in Japanese culture and history, less so than Laura Joh Rowland's wonderful Sano Ichiro series IMHO, but enjoyably.

Spencer-Fleming, Julia. [I Shall Not Want](#) (\$9.99). When a Mexican farmhand stumbles over a Latino man killed with a single shot to the back of his head, Reverend Clare Fergusson is reluctantly drawn into the investigation through her involvement with the migrant community. The discovery of two more bodies executed in the same way ignites fears that a serial killer is loose in the rural Adirondack town of Millers Kill. As spring turns into summer, Police Chief Russ Van Alstyne is plagued by media hysteria, conflict within the police department, and a series of baffling assaults. Throughout the escalating tensions, his and Clare's emotions toward each other are mixed. But their bodies know only one direction and they will find themselves seeking each other out even as they intend to keep distant. New packaging and a new book, #9 in this series, from Spencer-Fleming are coming in 2020 after a lapse of some years.

Stocklassa, Jan. [The Man Who Played with Fire](#) (amazon \$24.95). When Stieg Larsson died, the author of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* had been working on a true mystery that out-twisted his Millennium novels: the assassination on February 28, 1986, of Olof Palme, the Swedish prime minister. It was the first time in history that a head of state had been murdered without a clue who'd done it—and on a Stockholm street at point-blank range. Internationally known for his fictional villains, Larsson was well acquainted with their real-life counterparts and documented extremist activities throughout the world. For years he'd been amassing evidence that linked their terrorist acts to what he called "one of the most astounding murder cases" he'd ever covered. Larsson's archive was forgotten until journalist Jan Stocklassa was given exclusive access to the author's secret project. Stocklassa collects the pieces of Larsson's true-crime puzzle to follow the trail of intrigue, espionage, and conspiracy begun by one of the world's most famous thriller writers. Together they set out to solve a mystery that no one else could.

"Books are gonna be written about this," Larsson himself predicted in his own English prose one month after the event.

"What an absolutely splendid murder mystery" the case already was in its earliest stages, he noted: "At moments it develops with the speed of a Robert Ludlum novel. Other days it turns out to be more of an Agatha Christie puzzle, only to develop into an Ed McBain police procedural touched off by a [Donald] Westlake comedy."

That's not a bad description of the book Mr. Stocklassa has put together, combining Larsson's scant text with his own following in the late author's footsteps: "If I wanted to do his work justice, I was going to have to think and act more like Stieg." The 33-year investigation is laid out in all its discouraging complexity—rife with chaos, political expediency, intra-agency rivalry and dueling egos. In time, officials fixed on a "lone madman" theory. An alcoholic suspect was tried and convicted—but acquitted on appeal. Yet *The Man Who Played With Fire*, translated by Tara F. Chace, ends on a high note: Stocklassa, encouraged by information he himself gathered and passed on to authorities, and by the dedication of a new Swedish prosecutor, is emboldened to write: "I am convinced that . . . one day soon we will be able to say what has long been considered impossible: the Palme assassination has been solved."

Taylor, Patrick. [An Irish Country Family](#) (Forge \$26.99). Many of you were fond of the novels of Maeve Binchy so I remind you of each new book by Taylor. Before Doctor Barry Lavery joined Doctor Fingal O'Reilly's practice in the colorful Irish village of Ballybucklebo, he was an intern, working long hours, practicing new medical techniques, falling in love, and learning what is most important in the medical field for a family physician.

Thompson, Victoria. [City of Scoundrels](#) (Berkley \$26). Thompson really did her research for a mystery taking place in 1918 when America has gone to war, unearthing some facets not seen in Euro-centric WWI stories. Elizabeth Miles had a disreputable past as a grifter, but a chance friendship with Mrs. Bates, a suffragette, introduced her into New York society, and now she's engaged to her friend's son, Gideon Bates, a straight-arrow lawyer. Thomas Preston, a soldier about to embark for France, asks New York lawyer Gideon Bates to help him change his will to leave his interest in his family business, Preston Shoes, to his new wife, Rose. When Gideon later hears that Tom has been killed overseas, he calls on Rose, arriving just in time to save her from an attacker, but too late to keep the intruder from stealing the only legal copy of Tom's revised will. Gideon can do little to prevent Tom's older brother and his stepmother from inheriting Tom's entire estate. Fortunately, Gideon's fiancée, Elizabeth Miles, is the daughter of a con man and a talented grifter herself. To ensure Rose gets her inheritance, Elizabeth, her dad, and a reluctant Gideon execute an elaborate long con. Disapproving of war profiteers and men who hurt women, the trio comes up with a clever plan that will make Rose rich and pay them something for their efforts. They stumble into the American Protective League, a nest of German spies, and a still more dangerous enemy in the Spanish flu, which will kill vast numbers all over the globe.

Tokarczuk, Olga. [Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead](#) (Riverhead \$27). This Polish author has won (half of) the 2019 Nobel Prize in Literature. Library Reads writes, "This astounding mystical detective novel is narrated by Janina Duszejko, a loner who lives in an isolated Polish hamlet near the Czech border where bodies start turning up. Nobel laureate Tokarczuk's novel

succeeds as both a suspenseful murder mystery and a profound meditation on human existence and how a life fits into the world around it. Novels this thrilling don't come along very often."

Tursten, Helene. [Hunting Game](#) (Soho \$15.95). Det. Insp. Embla Nystrom, who's also a big game hunter and Nordic light welter-weight champion, has a lot on her plate in Tursten's fast-paced sequel to 2018's *Hunting Game*. In Strömstad in western Sweden, she takes on a lethal combination of two missing children, arson, and a policeman's murder. On the personal side, she has a torrid affair with the married lawyer of a suspect and must cope with nightmares about a lost friend. Though badly injured when assaulted by a man during a moose hunt the previous year, Embla relishes the thrill of the hunt, whether stalking wild boar—or killers bent on gory revenge. Embla and her team manage to create satisfying personal relationships and enjoy some great nights out, and the villains get appropriately punished. Embla also crosses paths with Tursten's other detective heroine, Irene Huss, and their professional chemistry clicks. Readers will be curious to see how Tursten develops her complex lead in future outings. For those looking for Scandinavian crime fiction that's not entirely bleak.

✱Tyce, Harriet. [Blood Orange](#) (\$16.99). After 15 years on the job, Alison Wood, a London barrister, is handed her first murder case: defending Madeleine Smith, who was found with her clothes covered in blood next to the body of her husband, Edwin. Alison's excited about her case, but she's distracted by excessive drinking with her colleagues and rough and dirty sex with Patrick Saunders, a legendary philanderer and her instructing solicitor in the murder case, which makes her marriage all the more toxic along with her bad parenting of her six year old daughter. All of which makes her question whether Madeleine's confession that she stabbed Edwin can be true as Alison sees some parallels in their lives.... This is a debut with insights into the British legal system but it's hard to overcome dislike of Alison. Tyce herself is charming so I await her next effort with interest to see if she dials it down...or up.

Wilson, F. Paul. [The Last Christmas](#) (Crossroad Press \$29.99). The *PW* Starred Review: "Last seen in 2014's [Fear City](#) (\$20, 2 left in stock), Repairman Jack makes a triumphant return in Wilson's 20th outing for the Manhattan freelance fixer, which falls chronologically between *Ground Zero* and *Fatal Error*. In late December, a year after Jack's father's death and his brother's disappearance, a despondent Jack is pointed by old friend Edward Burkes toward doctors Hess and Monaco, who need him to hunt down and retrieve an escaped hybrid creature, H3, that's half-ape, half-wolf. No surprise, the docs aren't on the level, and H3 turns out to be far from the expected. Meanwhile, the mysterious Madame de Medici hires him to protect the Bagaq, an ancient object with supposed healing powers. As Jack seeks H3, hired investigator Tier Hill pursues Jack and the Bagaq while wrestling with strange signals he fears only he can hear. Jack is at the mercy of events involving the secret history of the world, touched on in earlier adventures. Wilson's storytelling is as crisp, sharp, and entertaining as always. Fans of this fantasy thriller series will hope Jack is back for good."

Wright, Erica. [Famous in Cedarville](#) (Polis \$26). Widower Samson Delaware is slipping into loneliness and isolation in tiny Cedarville, Tennessee, where he works as an antiques restorer. Then the area's only celebrity, Barbara Lace, dies. Lace returned to her

hometown, where "she led a quiet life, playing the recluse with Oscar-worthy intensity" after more than 40 years in Hollywood as a B-list actress. Lace's three-story Victorian house, a treasure trove of antiques, draws the attention of Delaware, who isn't above bending the law if it means possessing something original. On a covert visit to the property, he hears gunfire. Racing upstairs, he finds Callista Weathers, Lace's assistant, murdered. His spiraling investigation into the two women's deaths leads him to think "did madness start like this? A sliver of obsession that turns into a ravine, tempting for its promise of abyss, of losing yourself." The action is underscored by Delaware's profound grief for his dead wife that leaves him nearly paralyzed in such a small community. "Wright provides it all: clean prose, captivating characters, a gripping mystery, and a wry look at Hollywood glamour and decay."—*PW* Starred Review

BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

McCartney, Paul. [Hey Grandude](#) (Random \$17.99). Meet Grandude—a super-cool grandfather who is an intrepid explorer with some amazing tricks up his sleeve. Grandude is a one-of-a-kind adventurer! With his magic compass, he whisks his four grandkids off on whirlwind adventures, taking them all around the globe. Join them as they ride flying fish, dodge stampedes, and escape avalanches! Brought to life with gloriously colorful illustrations from talented artist Kathryn Durst. Ages 4-6.

Palacio, RJ. [White Bird](#) (Random \$24.95). The author of [Wonder](#) (\$13.95) makes a graphic (we used to call them comics) novel debut expanding upon a story introduced in *Auggie & Me*—Grandmère's tale of her childhood in German-occupied France. "Asked by Julian, *Wonder*'s bully, to recount the story of Julien, a boy impacted by polio who helped her hide from Nazi soldiers as a child, Grandmère reluctantly agrees. Cruelly teased by schoolmates, Julien becomes Sara's protector after Nazis invade their progressive school. The two make a sympathetic duo as Sara's once-charmed life gives way to an existence of survival. Palacio elaborates on her previous books' themes, including empathy, bullying, and othering, and a twist toward the end challenges assumptions about who 'belongs' in a society."

Pulliam, Philip. [The Secret Commonwealth](#) (Random \$22.99). Also new for young readers, the second volume in Philip Pullman's Book of Dust epic fantasy: Start with Volume One, [La Belle Sauvage](#) (\$22.99).

Seuss, Sr. [Dr. Seuss' Horse Museum](#) (Random \$18.99). A never-before-published Dr. Seuss non-fiction book about creating and looking at art! Ages 7+

Weymouth, Laura E. [A Treason of Thorns](#) (HarperTeen \$17.99). The Indie Next Pick: "Imagine being the caretaker of a powerful and magical house and its grounds, a house with the power to control the wind and rain and bring prosperity to the surrounding countryside. Imagine it all goes wrong and everything and everyone suffers because of it. Would you risk your life to save your house and restore the lands? Moody and atmospheric, with beautifully descriptive images, this is fantasy and magic at its best."

OUR NOVEMBER SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Cameron, Marc. [Active Measures](#) (\$9.99) Jericho Quinn #10. When a rogue general in the Cuban security services gets his hands on a nuclear weapon left over from the Cold War, it is up

to special agent Jericho Quinn and his team to stop an attack that could kill millions.

Connolly, Sheila. [Lost Traveler](#) (\$7.99). County Cork #7. Discovering a badly beaten body on the property of her thriving Irish pub, Maura Donovan is astonished when the victim's identity is released and nobody admits to knowing him, a mystery that exposes dark community secrets. Library Journal loved Connolly's latest saying "this is a thoughtfully executed and charmingly talkative cozy. The Irish setting is authentic, Maura is a delight, and the characters are gaining depth as this series matures."

Hurwitz, Gregg. [Out of the Dark](#) (\$9.99) Orphan X #4. Evan Smoak, the Nowhere Man, is pitted against one of his own for the future of the country when a murderous President Bennett activates the Orphan program's first recruit. *PW* concluded their review of Hurwitz's latest with "Chases, hand-to-hand combat, and gunfights make the short chapters speed by like automatic gunfire. Hurwitz is at the top of this game in this gritty thriller."

Kellerman, Jonathan. [The Wedding Guest](#) (\$9.99). Alex Delaware #34. LAPD Lieutenant Milo Sturgis calls on psychologist Dr. Alex Delaware to help investigate a murder of an unidentified woman during a wild Saints and Sinners-themed wedding reception.

Kelly, Erin. [He Said/She Said](#) (\$9.99). While traveling to a festival in Cornwall to see a total eclipse, a scientist and his girlfriend intervene in a crime that cannot prove until a dangerous enemy's activities during a subsequent eclipse forces the couple to confront the past. *Kirkus* said "this first-rate psychological thriller and deft exploration of the delicate dance of marriage and the secrets people keep works on multiple levels. A stunning conclusion will take more than a few days to fade from memory."

Lupica, Mike. [Robert B Parker's Blood Feud](#) (\$9.99). Sunny Randall #9. When her ex-husband is nearly killed by an unknown shooter, Sunny becomes the unlikely protector of the Burke family against a deranged mastermind with a very personal vendetta. *PW* said "Lupica hits the sweet spot by balancing Sunny's professional hyper-competence with first-person narration that exposes her fears and self-doubts. Parker fans will look forward to seeing what Lupica does with Sunny in her next outing."

Metz, Melinda. [Mac on a Hot Tin Roof](#) (Kensington \$9.95). As a tabby cat with criminal tendencies, MacGyver is always a whisker away from trouble. But when he stumbles upon a litter of four motherless kittens, he really has his paws full finding them each a human. But that's not going to be easy though. Not when Mac's the prime suspect in a series of thefts at Storybook Court—and his loving but concerned owners, Jamie and David, have put him under house arrest. Edgar-nominated Metz's latest will be the equivalent of literary catnip for feline cozy fans.

Parks, Brad. [Say Nothing](#) (\$9.99). When their children are abducted by a man who blackmails them into following his instructions or risk losing their children forever, a judge and his wife endure a terrorizing ordeal of no-holds-barred deceit and bond-breaking suspicions. *LJ* raved about this saying "Park's previous novels have been good, but this is his best to date. Fans of Harlan Coben and Lisa Gardner will love this thriller."

Reilly, Matthew. [Three Secret Cities](#) (9.99). Jack West #5. When his victory in the Great Games throws the four legendary kingdoms into turmoil, Jack West, Jr. races to find the Three Secret Cities to protect the world from vengeful shadow forces.

NEW IN SMALL PAPERBACKS FOR NOVEMBER

Archer, Jeffrey. [The Prodigal Daughter](#) (\$9.99). Reissue. Driven by ambition, Florentyna Rosnovski—daughter of a hotel baron and daughter-in-law of his bitterest rival—relinquishes her inheritance to marry the man she loves, builds her own business empire, and ultimately pursues the U.S. presidency.

Berenson, Laurien. [Hush Puppy](#) (\$7.99). Reissue. Melanie Travis #6. When the elderly caretaker at Howard Academy turns up dead after being spotted arguing with a girl young enough to be his daughter, teacher Melanie Travis is on the case, but a rival for her fiancé's affections complicates Melanie's attempts to unravel the mystery.

Box, CJ. [Savage Run](#) (\$9.99). Reissue. Joe Pickett #2. Wyoming game warden Joe Pickett heads for the forests of Twelve Sleep County to investigate a massive explosion that may have killed a colorful environmental activist and in the process uncovers evidence of a deadly conspiracy that challenges his courage, survival skills, and ethics.

Brown, Dan. [Angels & Demons](#) (\$9.99). Reissue. The murder of a world-famous physicist raises fears that the Illuminati are operating again after centuries of silence, and religion professor Robert Langdon is called in to assist with the case.

Cameron, Marc. [Tom Clancy Oath of Office](#) (\$9.99). When a change of regimes in Iran presents new opportunities for a balance of power in the region, President Jack Ryan becomes a lone Western voice urging caution in the wake of an international arms dealer's rise to power.

Craig, Christie. [Don't Breathe a Word](#) (\$7.99). Includes a bonus novella. After her sister is killed by an abusive ex, Vicki Holloway and her little niece go into hiding, resurfacing in Texas with new identities, but soon find their lives in danger when their new neighbor, a scarred police detective, takes an interest in them

Drake, Rebecca. [Just Between Us](#) (\$9.99). Reissue. Alison, Julie, Sarah, Heather. Four friends living the suburban ideal. Their jobs are steady, their kids are healthy. They're as beautiful as their houses. But each of them has a dirty little secret, and hidden behind the veneer of their perfect lives is a crime and a mystery that will consume them all.

Furlong, Susan. [Fractured Truth](#) (Kensington \$9.99). When the mutilated remains of a young woman are found in an Appalachian Mountain cave, newly sworn-in deputy sheriff Brynn Callahan is forced to track down a killer driven by twisted motives.

Griffo, J D. [Murder at Icicle Lodge](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Alberta and her friends idyllic winter getaway turns into a vacation nightmare when an Olympic gold skater is found murdered, and Alberta must now find the killer before everyone finds themselves on thin ice.

Harding, Robyn. [The Party](#) (\$9.99). A small party celebrating Hannah Sanders' sixteenth birthday is shattered by a devastating accident that turns friends on each other and exposes dark secrets about Hannah's true nature and her parents' marriage.

Hollis, Lee. [Poppy Harmon Investigates](#) (\$7.99). Poppy Harmon #1. Unexpectedly finding herself a penniless widow with no real skills, Poppy Harmon opens the Desert Flowers Detective Agency with her two best friends, Violet and Iris, and takes on a burglary investigation that quickly becomes a dangerous case of murder.

Jackson, Lisa. [Running Scared](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Haunted by the fear that her adopted son Jon, who is now 15, will be taken away, Kate Summers finds herself trapped in a living nightmare when someone will go to any lengths—including murder—to claim him, forcing her to trust a mysterious stranger with secrets of his own.

James, Miranda. [Six Cats a Slayin'](#) (\$7.99). Cat in the Stacks #10. The sudden appearance of a box containing five kittens on his doorstep and the shocking murder of his nosy neighbor shake up the holiday season for Charlie Harris and his Maine Coon cat, Diesel.

Jensen, Louise. [The Surrogate](#) (Grand Central \$7.99). After trying everything to become parents, Kat and her husband Nick are about to give up their dream when a chance encounter with Kat's childhood friend Lisa offers them another chance, but there is more to Lisa than meets the eye.

Kalla, Daniel. [We All Fall Down](#) (\$9.99). Alana Vaughn, an infectious diseases expert with NATO, is urgently summoned to Genoa by an ex-lover to examine a critically ill patient only to find that the illness is a form of the infamous Black Death. Alana's attempts to track down the origins of the outbreak lead her and her WHO counterpart, Byron Menke. To an 800-year-old monastery and a medieval journal that may hold the key to the present-day outbreak.

Kelly, Diane. [Paw of the Jungle](#) (SimonSchuster \$7.99). Paw Enforcement #9. Police officer Megan Luz and her K-9 partner Sargent Brigit must employ all of their keen skills of detection to stop a group of thieves who are stealing exotic animals, including a rare black rhino.

King, Stephen. [Elevation](#) (\$9.99). A timely tale about the power of finding common ground traces the story of Scott Carey, whose mysterious affliction unites the small community of Castle Rock, Maine.

Kopfler, Pamela. [Hog Wild Dead](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Now that old man Dubois's go-to shack for live crawfish is on the market, Holly Davis, the owner of St. Agnes Bayou's haunted B & B is ready to hock everything to buy it. But before Holly can close the deal, Dubois's body disappears into the swamp after a deadly boating accident.

Mofina, Rick. [The Lying House](#) (Mira \$9.99). After following her husband to Miami, Lisa Taylor finds herself submerged into a world of paranoia and isolation when she must first deal with a home invasion and then the realization that her husband is becoming increasingly unrecognizable.

Robards, Karen. [The Fifth Doctrine](#) (\$9.99). Offered her freedom in exchange for completing a dangerous undercover assignment, master manipulator Bianca St. Ives poses as a female hacker who stole top secret intel from NORAD in order to feed strategic misinformation to North Korea's tyrannical regime.

Ross, Rosemarie. [Cobbled to Death](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Courtney Archer #1. When a fellow contestant in the American Baking Battle winds up dead with her cast-iron frying pan by his body, Courtney Archer must sift through the clues to find the real murderer and get herself out of hot water.

Smith, Karen Rose. [Murder with Cherry Tarts](#) (Kensington \$7.99). While running her tea shop and planning her daughter's

wedding, Daisy Swanson finds herself steeped in another murder mystery when a down-on-his-luck single dad is accused of bludgeoning a man to death.

Taylor, Patrick. [Irish Country Practice](#) (\$8.99). While expanding his practice to include a new trainee, Irish country doctor Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly investigates a new series of professional challenges, including a mysterious cough, a housewife's frequent accidents, and a colleague's susceptibility to an old vice.

Wait, Lea. [Thread and Buried](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Mainly Needlepoint #9. When a movie being filmed in their small coastal town brings about some real-life drama that results in the murder of the film's producer, needlepointers Sarah and Angie must untangle several intertwined mysteries.