

BOOKNEWS from

ISSN 1056-5655, © The Poisoned Pen, Ltd.
Volume 32, Number 6
April Booknews 2020
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](#)

“Independent bookstores are the lifeline of the intellect. They have to remain strong, especially in difficult times like these.”—**Stephen King**

A REIMAGINED APRIL

Note: All the times are Scottsdale time, 3 hours later than EDT

Our Virtual Events can be viewed on [Facebook Live](#) on the date/time given and anytime thereafter, and also the next day on [YouTube](#)

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1 6:00 PM Virtual Event

Matthew Quirk chats about [Hour of the Assassin](#) (Morrow \$27.99)
Signed copies. Please preorder to secure yours

MONDAY APRIL 6 5:00 PM Virtual Book Launch

Don Winslow chats about [Broken: Six Short Novels](#) (Morrow \$29.99) with Patrick
Our copies come with an exclusive extra from Winslow
Signed copies. Please preorder to secure yours

TUESDAY APRIL 7 5:00 PM Virtual Book Launch

Julia Spencer-Fleming chats with Jenn McKinlay about [Hid from Our Eyes](#) (St Martins \$27.99)
A Clare Fergusson/Russ Van Alstyne Mystery
Signed copies. Please preorder to secure yours

TUESDAY APRIL 7 6:00 PM Virtual Book Launch

Paige Shelton chats with Jenn McKinlay and me about [The Stolen Letter](#) (St Martins \$26.99)
Scottish Bookshop Series
Signed copies in stock

WEDNESDAY APRIL 8 3:00 PM Virtual Event

Dean Koontz chats about [Devoted](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$28.99)
Signed copies. Please preorder to secure yours

WEDNESDAY APRIL 8 5:00 PM Virtual Event

CS Harris chats about [Who Speaks for the Damned](#) (Berkley \$26)
Sebastien St. Cyr takes on the East India Company
Signed copies. Please preorder to secure yours

MONDAY APRIL 13 6:00 PM Virtual Book Launch

Jack Carr chats about [Savage Son](#) (Atria \$28)
The Terminal List #3 James Reece
Signed copies. Please preorder to secure yours

TUESDAY APRIL 14 Virtual Book Launch 5:00 PM

Cara Black chats about [Three Hours in Paris](#) (Soho \$26.95)
Our April Crime Collectors Book of the Month
Signed copies. Please preorder to secure yours

TUESDAY APRIL 14 6:00 PM Virtual Event

30th Book Party for Lucas Davenport
John Sandford chats about [Masked Prey](#) (Putnam \$29)
Signed copies. Please preorder to secure yours

THURSDAY APRIL 16 5:00 PM Virtual Event

Eliot Pattison chats about [The King's Beast](#) (Counterpoint \$27)
Our April Historical Fiction Book of the Month
Signed copies. Please preorder to secure yours

SATURDAY APRIL 18 2:00 PM Virtual Event

DJ Palmer chats about [The New Husband](#) (St Martins \$27.99)
Signed copies. Please preorder to secure yours

TUESDAY APRIL 21 5:00 PM Virtual Event

Marcia Clark chats about [Final Judgment](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95)
Samantha Brinkman
The T&M publishing warehouse is closed. Please order and we will ship books to Marcia to sign when it reopens

APRIL DISCUSSION CLUBS

Our club meetings for April are canceled

SIGNED BOOKS

First, the books below are in limited quantities. When we are out we're out. Please preorder to avoid disappointment.

Second, there is no telling when UK signed books may arrive so I am not listing them in this Booknews. Those with preorders are on record. We will relist the titles when we know what will arrive.

Third, we are staggering staff schedules to keep safe. Shipping orders will necessarily suffer some delays. Please be patient.

Baldacci, David. [Walk the Wire](#) (Grand Central \$30 on sale April 21). FBI consultant Amos Decker is summoned to the remote badlands when a hunter discovers the remains of a woman out on the Great Plains. Decker observes a nearby town, which sits at the very heart of the fracking industry. A deep-set rivalry between its richest investors lies beneath a veneer of glitz and opulence. When a mysterious government contact offers assistance, Decker realizes that this town holds secrets so explosive that their implications could destabilize the entire country.

Black, Cara. [Three Hours in Paris](#) (Soho \$26.95). A WWII thriller set in Paris. Lauren Willig (I gave her one of my ARCS) reports, "Wow. It's so good. Like a girl power *Eye of the Needle*. I loved it so much." The Indie Next Pick for our **April Crime Collectors Book of the Month**: "This is the story of Kate Rees, an American female spy, and her tragedies and triumphs during WWII. Cara creates a captivating story around Hitler's three-hour visit to Paris, to which he never returned again, and takes you on a wild ride through the city that day. Each piece of the timeline is expertly stitched together, and I found myself completely involved!" I add that William Kent Krueger gives it a rave. For me, Black's love affair with Paris shines as does her command of the city in wartime, plus the characters are so real. It begins in Scotland at Scapa Flow when a young mother shockingly loses husband and baby in one inferno. She has no desire to live but an unexpected mission sends her to Paris as a sniper to kill Hitler at his (only known) visit to the city. And then...

Here is a Starred Review: In October 1939, American Kate Rees, the heroine of this riveting standalone from bestseller Black (the Aimée Leduc series), is living with her naval engineer husband and baby daughter at Scapa Flow, the Royal Navy base in Scotland's Orkney Islands. After her husband and daughter die during the German U-boat attack on the battleship Royal Oak, Kate becomes obsessed with defeating Hitler. Her rifle skills, learned as a girl hunting in Oregon, earn her a place in a British intelligence operation to assassinate Hitler. In June 1940, with little training, she parachutes into Paris, where Hitler is making a brief visit. Kate gets Hitler in her crosshairs, but her shot misses and she goes on the run. Hitler orders the regular German police and the Gestapo to catch the sniper within 36 hours. Despite numerous obstacles and the realization that no plan was made for her safe return, Kate is determined to make her way to London. Black keeps the suspense high throughout. Fans of *The Day of the Jackal* won't want to miss this heart-stopping thriller.

Boyle, William. [City of Margins](#) (Norton \$27). Here's a look at a book recommended by Karen and Patrick. Donnie Parascandolo is the novel's epicenter, an emotionally wrecked cop who lost his son and then his wife, Donna. Donnie is connected to Mikey

Baldini by a 1991 night of violence that resulted in the death of Mikey's father and left widowed Rosemarie Baldini with a crushing gambling marker held by Big Tommy Ficalora. Two years later, Donnie has been thrown off the force. His surprising new emotional attachment to widow Ava Bifulco is jeopardized when Ava's son recognizes Donnie. Nick dreams of writing the next great mobster screenplay and sees Donnie, rumored muscle for Big Tommy, as his meal ticket. The web of connections thickens when Mikey finds a note leading him to Donna and his ultimate discovery of the explosive truth behind his father's death. Boyle's love of books and movies that blend crime and comedy wonderfully informs both his style and the bonds among his characters. The arts bridge generations, start conversations and, in Boyle's masterful hands, provide softening, wide-angle lenses to the broken and tortured souls of the margins.

Carr, Jack. [Savage Son](#) (Atria \$28). Deep in the wilds of Siberia, a woman is on the run, pursued by a man harboring secrets—a man intent on killing her. A traitorous CIA officer has found refuge with the Russian mafia with designs on ensuring a certain former Navy SEAL sniper is put in the ground. Half a world away, James Reece is recovering from brain surgery in the Montana wilderness, slowly putting his life back together with the help of investigative journalist Katie Buranek and his longtime friend and SEAL teammate Raife Hastings. Unbeknownst to them, the Russian mafia has set their sights on Reece in a deadly game of cat and mouse. I can't say enough about the thrills of the hunting scenes across the forbidding Russian landscape. Incredible job by Carr and 3rd in the bestselling Terminal List series for fans of Vince Flynn, Mark Greaney, Kyle Mills, Stephen Hunter, etc. Highly recommended. Be sure to preorder.

Clark, Marcia. [Final Judgment](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95). When it comes to relationships and self-preservation, defense attorney Samantha Brinkman has always been cut and run. But it's different with her new lover, Niko, an ambitious and globally famous entrepreneur. Sam is putting her faith in him. She has to. He's also her new client—a suspect in the murder of an investor whose shady dealings turned Niko's good life upside down. He had the motive: revenge. As did many others who banked a fortune on the wrong man. That's a point in Niko's favor. So is his alibi for the day of the slaying. Until that alibi mysteriously disappears. As Sam's feverish search for another viable killer begins, the investigation only leads deeper into Niko's past and its secrets. Fighting for Nico is Sam's job....

Connolly, John. [Dirty South](#) (Hodder \$44). This Charlie Parker novel has been moved to July in the UK edition.

Davis, Lindsey. [Grove of the Caesars](#) (Hodder \$46). On hold.

Edwards, Martin. [Mortmain Hall](#) (Zeus \$42). On hold

Ewen, Pamela Binnings. [The Queen of Paris](#) (Blackstone \$27.99) dazzles in this outstanding historical thriller that chronicles the life of Coco Chanel in occupied France. While staying at Paris's Hotel Ritz in the spring of 1940, Chanel is approached by the Reich's High Command to become a spy and sees an opportunity to take control of the company she's built with her business partner, Pierre Wertheimer. As the war escalates, Pierre takes the secret formula of Chanel No. 5 to New York City, threaten-

ing Chanel's control of her iconic fragrance. After becoming a German asset, Chanel attempts to use growing anti-Semitism and new Jewish laws under the Vichy government to her advantage to reclaim full control of her company. Her efforts bring her to the attention of powerful members of the German military, who push the limits of her national and personal loyalties as she goes undercover for the Nazis. Ewen's Chanel is arrogant and fragile in equal measure, and the author does a marvelous job of digging into the motivations of a woman born into poverty as she defends the fortune she built for herself, making this a refreshingly nuanced character portrait and also a real page-turner. And our **April Fantastic New Fiction Book of the Month**. April in Paris is but a dream right now so this title and the Cara Black above are our way of taking you there, or rather, back there.

Harris, CS. [Who Speaks for the Damned](#) (Berkley \$26). In June 1814, as royalty from Austria, Russia, and the German states gather in London at the Prince Regent's invitation to celebrate Napoleon's defeat with a sumptuous round of parties, exhibits, and celebrations, the dissolute third son of the late Earl of Seaford is found fatally stabbed at a no longer fashionable London tea garden. Sebastian St. Cyr, Viscount Devlin, is astonished to learn from Jules Calhoun, his valet, that the dead man is Nicholas Hayes, an old friend of Calhoun. Like most of Society, St. Cyr believed that Hayes had died a few years after he was convicted of murder and transported to Australia 18 years earlier in 1796. In fact, Calhoun reveals that Hayes, who managed to return to England by stealing a dead man's identity, got in touch with him and asked for his help. But for what? St. Cyr delves into the related questions of why Hayes took the step of coming to London at the risk of summary execution and who was responsible for his murder, which inevitably require probing the crime that led to Hayes's being sent to Australia—the killing of the wife of a French count. Figuring into the plot is St. Cyr's wife Hero and her powerful father and, in time, ties to the East India Company, by now an exemplar of capitalism run rampant. This is truly one of my favorite series, historically accurate and respectful, cannily plotted, fabulous characters, plus a cliff hanger at the end of every entry. Best to read it from [book one](#).

Koontz, Dean. [Devoted](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$28.99). The thing to keep in mind about the imaginative and prolific Koontz is that he truly loves Golden Retrievers. His are family. So it's no surprise that Kipp, "a uniquely gifted dog with a heart as golden as his breed," is the protector, rather in the spirit of animal totems, to eleven-year-old Woody Bookman. And naturally in a Koontz novel this child, mute from birth, is under mysterious threat. His father died in freak accident. Woody believes some monstrous evil was behind dad's death and is threatening his mom, Megan, and Woody himself. And—he's right. A man has set a depraved plan into motion. Only a force for good like Kipp can stop it....

McGilloway, Brian. [Last Crossing](#) (\$39). On hold.

Neubauer, Erica. [Murder at the Mena House](#) (Kensington \$26). On hold for late May or a rebooking. **Meanwhile we have unsigned copies of this debut** set in 1926 Egypt at the fabled hotel right at the pyramids where Dana Stabenow and I stayed last December. I'd describe this charmer as an historical cozy featuring American Jane Wunderly, widow of a sadistic Brit killed in the Great War and leery of any relationship. Her wealthy aunt has financed their visit to the Great Pyramids but presents some puz-

zling behavior. As do many of the guests when the brazen young daughter of one, a British Colonel, is shot to death in her bed. Perhaps most puzzling is the enigmatic Mr. Redvers...and Jane's reaction to him. This is nice escape reading so if you don't want to wait for a signed copy, do please order it now.

Palmer, DJ. [The New Husband](#) (St Martins \$26.99).

30-something Nina Garrity thinks she has found Mr. Right after her unfaithful husband vanished, presumed drowned during a solo fishing trip, more than a year earlier. And most probably dead given that the boat's deck was covered in blood and no amount of searching, even with dogs, has revealed Glen—or his body. Mr. Right, one Simon Fitch, rescued the family's runaway dog and spared them further heartbreak. But Nina's 13-year-old daughter, Maggie, is hostile to Nina's now live-in relationship with widower Simon and resolves to do everything possible to sabotage it. She's not only mortified that Simon is a teacher at her Seabury, N.H., school, but Maggie gets flashes of an explosive, darker self beneath his solicitous façade. When she tries to share her fears, Nina is quick to brush them aside—until Simon's efforts to exert increasing control over many aspects of Nina's own life plant seeds of doubt. Tension mounts as mother and daughter independently snoop into Simon and his past. Twists proliferate. The challenge for Palmer, son of the late bestseller Michael and brother to thriller writer Matthew, is to make Nina's pivot from Glen to Simon in such a short time convincing. Then... who can resist a dog rescuer?

Pattison, Eliot. [The King's Beast](#) (Counterpoint \$27). I completely agree with this Starred Review—never forgetting that Pattison won my heart with his superb (exiled) Inspector Shan Tao Yun series set in Tibet for which he won an Edgar. "Pattison's sixth mystery featuring Scottish exile Duncan McCallum surpasses the high bar set by the previous five adventures. McCallum serves as a link between the Sons of Liberty and Native American tribes (who call him Deathspeaker for his ability to uncover clues from the bodies of murder victims) in the Kentucky wilderness, where a team, which includes frontiersman Daniel Boone, is excavating giant fossils. McCallum is there at the request of Benjamin Franklin, who in a letter to McCallum expresses his fear that the British will make membership in the Sons of Liberty a capital offense. McCallum's delivery of the fossils to Franklin in London, the future founding father claims, will help the American colonists' cause. Meanwhile, McCallum must solve the murder of a member of the excavation party, down whose throat someone has thrust another Franklin letter. Pattison keeps the suspense high throughout. This triumphant combination of whodunit and deeply researched history should help this gifted author get the wider audience he richly deserves." We're doing our part by making this our **April Historical Fiction Book of the Month**. You can enjoy it without reading the earlier entries.

Pronzini, Bill. [The Stolen Gold Affair](#) (Forge \$28). Set in 1898, MWA Grand Master Pronzini's delightful eighth Carpenter and Quincannon mystery opens with a meeting at an exclusive San Francisco club between private detective John Quincannon and Everett Hoxley, "the head of a large corporation that owned several gold and silver mines in northern California and Nevada." Hoxley hires Quincannon to go undercover as a miner in one of his mines in order to discover who has been stealing significant amounts of ore and gold dust. Meanwhile, shop assistant

Gretchen Kantor tells Sabina Carpenter, Quincannon's detective partner, about a possible break-in at the home of her friend Vernon Purifoy. Soon an incensed Purifoy shows up demanding that Carpenter stay out of his affairs. "In her experience that sort of heavy-handed protest meant the individual had something to hide," so she pursues some undercover work of her own. Attractive characters, a finely tuned plot, and fascinating snippets of California history distinguish this outing. Who could ask for more? Not me, for one.

Quirk, Matthew. [Hour of the Assassin](#) (Harper \$27.99). Former Secret Service agent Nick Averose is a "red teamer," testing the security around high officials and performing a covert intrusion as if he were an assassin to pinpoint any weaknesses. It can be a high risk gig since some random guard could view him as a real intruder and kill him. But when he slips past the security surrounding a former CIA director, it ends with Malcolm Widener perfectly fine if kind of quizzical about the test. And then real assassins show up. Nick's efforts to fend them off don't work; Widener is suddenly dead. And Nick has not only contaminated the crime scene and left his DNA around, but is in the frame as Widener's killer. Now what? Nick is the absolute best at personal protection—let's see how he fares clearing himself as the victim of the perfect frame. You will lose some sleep with this one starting with its electrifying opener.

Sandford, John. [Masked Prey](#) (Putnam \$29). Lucas Davenport #30? Yes indeed. He's been a Federal Marshal for awhile which allows him to range around doing what he likes best, "to hunt." He's rich enough to retire, but what would be the challenge there? Instead, Senator Elmer Henderson of Minnesota, a political ally, once again needs his help. Audrey Coil, the 17-year-old daughter of a colleague on the Senate Armed Forces Committee, has uncovered a website that could pose a danger to herself and other children of Senatorial families. When Audrey, who operates a fashion blog, looked into whether the blog's images of her were being used elsewhere on the web with the aid of her fellow student photographer using facial recognition tech, she found photos on a website with pictures of other children of elected officials. The site, named 1919, code for the SS, has a Nazi connection, and its discovery leads to fears that someone may threaten the children as a way of influencing public policy. Davenport tenaciously investigates right-wing groups to figure out who's behind 1919 and to forestall any violence while we readers get to track the devolution of an engineer who, denying he's a Nazi, believes 1919 is a rallying cry for fascists to save the US.

Scalzi, John. [The Last Emperox](#) (Forge \$26.99). The hugely popular Scalzi gets a true rave for this: "Hugo Award-winner Scalzi knocks it out of the park with the tightly plotted, deeply satisfying conclusion to his Interdependency Sequence space opera trilogy. The Flow streams, trade routes that connect the planets governed under the Interdependency, face an imminent collapse that will leave every world but the small planet End isolated and cause countless deaths. Emperox Grayland II works to thwart coup attempts long enough for her lover, physicist Marce Claremont, to work out how to save the population from this impending disaster. Meanwhile, Grayland's enemy Nadashe Nohamapetan consolidates her control of End while promising disgruntled, powerful noble families exclusive access to the planet in exchange for their political support. Scalzi allows the

flaws, foibles, and core personalities of the returning characters—careful Grayson, ruthless Nadashe, and especially foul-mouthed mercenary Kiva Lagos—to steer the story, and his careful, long-game planning allows for pitch-perfect pacing that will keep readers energized from start to finish. Balancing existing character dynamics and surprising—but well-earned—reveals with interstellar politics and pressing ethical questions of sustainability and power, Scalzi sends his series out with a bang." This is a great time to binge your way through [all three novels](#)

Shelton, Paige. [The Stolen Letter](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Delaney Nichols is back in Edinburgh from her honeymoon, eager to return to her job at the Cracked Spine, "the most wonderful bookstore in the entire world." On the street, she literally bumps into a woman who looks a lot like herself—the same frizzy red hair and lots of freckles. By chance, the woman, who introduces herself as Mary Stewart, was on her way to the Cracked Spine. At the bookshop, Mary reveals that she's the reincarnation of Mary, Queen of Scots. Delaney and Mary soon become friends. Meanwhile, the Edinburgh City Council threatens to close the bookshop for code violations. Eventually, other people who believe they have past lives end up playing supporting roles in the main action: Delaney's investigation of the death of Mary's husband, a member of the council, in a car bombing. Vivid descriptions of Edinburgh enhance the well-crafted plot. Signed copies in stock.

Spencer-Fleming, Julia. [Hid from Our Eyes](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Karen reviews: Millers Kill is a small town with a lot going on. The recent murder of a young woman is reminiscent of one from 1952 and another in 1972. There is no identification for the victim, no obvious cause of death. The Police Chief, Russ Van Alstyne, was a suspect in the 1972 crime, as he was the one who found her body. The current crime, leaves few clues and, because of the time span, it seems impossible that all three crimes could be executed by the same person. Meanwhile, there are other issues. Van Alstyne is facing a citizen's committee which has determined that Millers Kill is too small to finance a police department and wants to turn it over to the State Police. At home, there is a new baby and wife, Clare, who has concerns of her own. She is a new Mom, trying to juggle her counseling duties along with her ministerial responsibilities and her battle to remain sober. Spencer-Fleming does a great job in creating a small town with flawed, but decent, characters.

Taylor, Andrew. [The Last Protector](#) (Collins \$34.99). On hold.

Winslow, Don. [Broken: Six Short Novels](#) (Morrow \$30). Winslow writes he wanted to take a shot at six novellas in the spirit of Jim Harrison or Stephen King or, as one can see in the book, Elmore Leonard. They give him an ability to set one in New Orleans, three around San Diego with homage to Steve McQueen and to Chandler, one in Kauai, and one a neo-Western along the border. "I love the intensity of this form" that demands "taut, economical writing and still has space for richness of character, strong dialogue, even some whimsy." Winslow shows us a world of high-level thieves and low-life crooks, obsessed cops struggling with life on and off the job, private detectives, dope dealers, bounty hunters and fugitives, the lost souls driving without headlights through the dark night on the American criminal highway. Both Patrick and I admire the novellas. **Winslow is adding an exclusive extra to copies from The Pen.**

OUR APRIL BOOKS OF THE MONTH

[British Crime Club](#) One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Bruce, Camilla. [You Let Me In](#)

[Cozy Crimes Club](#) One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Schellman, Katharine. [The Body in the Garden](#)

[First Mystery Book of the Month Club](#) One Signed First per month

TBA

[The Crime Collectors Book of the Month Club](#) One Signed First per month

Black, Cara. [Three Hours in Paris](#)

[Historical Fiction Club](#) One Signed First per month

Pattison, Eliot. [The King's Beast](#)

[Fantastic New Fiction](#) One Signed First per month

Ewen, Pamela Binnings. [The Queen of Paris](#)

CLASSICS

Carr, John Dickson. [It Walks by Night](#) (Poisoned Pen Press \$14.99). Travel to Paris this spring is out. So why not evoke the City of Light in this British Library Crime Classic? In the smoke-wreathed gloom of a Parisian salon, Inspector Bencolin has summoned his allies to discuss a peculiar case. A would-be murderer, imprisoned for his attempt to kill his wife, has escaped and is known to have visited a plastic surgeon. His whereabouts remain a mystery, though with his former wife poised to marry another, Bencolin predicts his return. Sure enough, the Inspector's worst suspicions are realized when the beheaded body of the new suitor is discovered in a locked room of the salon, with no apparent exit. Bencolin sets off into the Parisian night to unravel the dumbfounding mystery and track down the sadistic killer.

Forester, CS. [Greyhound \(Movie Tie In\)](#) (Penguin \$16). The mission of Commander George Krause of the United States Navy is to protect a convoy of thirty-seven merchant ships making their way across the icy North Atlantic from America to England. There, they will deliver desperately needed supplies, but only if they can make it through the wolfpack of German submarines that awaits and outnumbers them in the perilous seas. For forty eight hours, Krause will play a desperate cat and mouse game against the submarines, combating exhaustion, hunger, and thirst to protect fifty million dollars' worth of cargo and the lives of three thousand men. Originally published as *The Good Shepherd* and acclaimed as one of the best novels of the year upon publication in 1955, this novel is a riveting classic of WWII and naval warfare from the author of the *Horatio Hornblower* series.

Gilbert, Anthony. [Death in Fancy Dress](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.99). A Starred Review: "In this standout entry in the British Library Crime Classics series from Gilbert (a pseudonym of Lucy Malleon, 1899–1973), first published in 1933, lawyer Tony Keith and his friend Jeremy Freyne travel to Feltham Abbey at the request of the Home Office, which is unsettled by a baffling rash of suicides of people who had either money or "rank and position." That each of the dead raised large sums of money for various unstated purposes leads officials to believe that a sophisticated blackmailer known as the Spider was responsible for the suicides. Hilary Feltham, the fiancée of a Foreign Office employee, is be-

lieved to be the Spider's next target, and Keith and Freyne hope their presence at Feltham Abbey will avert disaster. A murder occurs, despite their best efforts. The ingenious story line is enhanced by ample doses of wit (of Freyne, Keith states, "when you heard of some white man with the reputation of a lunatic, doing anything particularly futile in some obscure British protectorate, you could bet your boots Jeremy wasn't far off"). Gilbert neatly combines Wodehousian humor with a fair play puzzle."

Green, Anna Katherine. [That Affair Next Door](#) (Library of Congress/Poisoned Pen \$14.99). Another Starred Review: "First published in 1897, this cleverly plotted mystery from Greene (1846–1935) introduces Amelia Butterworth, an elderly spinster 'of Colonial ancestry and no inconsiderable importance in the social world,' who lives alone in Manhattan's exclusive Gramercy Park neighborhood. One night, she's awakened by the sound of a horse-drawn cab pulling up outside the mansion next door. A man and a woman alight and enter the house, which Miss Butterworth knows to be empty. Ten minutes later, the man leaves. She subsequently summons the police, who investigate and find the body of a woman lying crushed beneath 'a fallen piece of furniture.' Detective Ebenezer Gryce arrives, and the competition begins: who will solve the murder first? Much of the book's enjoyment stems from Miss Butterworth's spirited discussions with the 77-year-old Gryce and her seeming lack of self-awareness... those around her see her as pushy and nosy. **This inaugural volume in the Library of Congress Crime Classics series, featuring the first woman sleuth in a series, is a must for genre buffs.**"

Marsh, Richard. [The Beetle](#) (The Haunted Library \$14.99). This is the second volume in The Haunted Library Series presenting classics of the gothic, horror, and shivery stories. If creepy is a hook, this is your book with its Introduction by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro and annotations by Leslie S Klinger. The story? First published in 1897, Richard Marsh's classic work of gothic horror opens with Robert Holt, an out-of-work clerk seeking shelter in an abandoned house. He comes face to face with a fantastical creature with supernatural and hypnotic powers; a creature who can transform at will between its human and beetle forms and who wrecks havoc when he preys on young middle-class Britons. The first Haunted Library release complete with footnotes and discussion questions, as all are and will be, is Gaston Leroux's [The Phantom of the Opera](#) (\$14.99). If you've only seen the play or the movie, you haven't experienced the full story.

Rinehart, Mary. [The Haunted Lady](#) (Penzler \$15.95). In this twisty and atmospheric whodunit from Rinehart (1876–1958) featuring astute nurse and police ally Hilda Adams, Hilda's friend Inspector Fuller, who believes Hilda "can see more with those blue eyes of hers than most of us could with a microscope," wants her to help an elderly widow, Eliza Fairbanks. Mrs. Fairbanks claims her house has been invaded by animals. Her account is supported by her granddaughter, and Hilda agrees to join the household as the woman's nurse to keep an eye on things. Her charge reveals that someone previously put arsenic in her sugar bowl, bolstering the theory that the current campaign, which includes odd noises at night, is also aimed at bringing about Mrs. Fairbanks's untimely demise. Things turn violent when a member of the household is stabbed to death in a locked room. The capable Hilda proves herself to be a savvy sleuth with superior powers of observation. Rinehart keeps the pages turning without stinting on characterization. First published in 1942.

Hardcover: [The Haunted Lady](#) (Norton \$25.95).

Wells, Carolyn. [Murder in the Bookshop](#) (Collins \$15.95). Book 50 in the Detective Club Crime Classics series is a classic locked room murder mystery which will have a special resonance for lovers and collectors of Golden Age detective fiction. Includes a bonus murder story: 'The Shakespeare Title-Page Mystery'. It's a small hardcover in format.

OUR APRIL LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Bannalec, Jean. [The Missing Corpse](#) (\$17.99). Let me say up front that if you have any fondness for oysters, or curiosity about the succulent bivalve, grab this book! It's absolutely fabulous on cultivation, quality, health benefits (which our surly former Parisian cop can use), international markets (did you know you can ship your oysters to Brittany's magnificent Pont-Aven and Belon area and let them fatten up in the special nutrients before you bring them to market?). And the scenery is truly incredible. We are cruising into Concarneau and Cancale in May and now I'm thinking of hiring a car to tour the confluence of the Aven and Belon Rivers as they flow into the Atlantic both to see Finisterre and... slurp up oysters. Which turn out to be both the crux and possible red herring of this complicated and sometimes maddening 4th investigation for Georges Dupin, coming up on his 5th anniversary of exile from his Parisian post. Finding two bodies, one near the Belon River, poses a real test as one has vanished. Is an investigation into the theft of native beach sand related? What of the local druids? And the bagpipe festival that links the six Celtic nations convening in the area? It all makes sense in the end but this is one to read for the digressions as well as the food and cultural obsessions. I had no idea where it was going but loved the ride. In fact this whole [Brittany Mystery](#) series has become one of my favorites.

Chung, Catherine. [The Tenth Muse](#) (\$16.99). Themes of one's legacy, breakthroughs, and identity is woven throughout Chung's latest novel about a mathematician, daughter of a Chinese immigrant mother and a white American father, facing down her generation's most difficult, unsolved theorem—the Riemann hypothesis, plus digging into intentionally buried research during WWII to blaze her own path and become a name mentioned in history books. I loved this book, so elegant, so virtuosic ally researched, so gripping. I remain amazed at how much we continue to learn about WWII, and be surprised.

Gentill, Sulari. [After She Wrote Him](#) (\$16.99). The *LJ* Starred Review: "Madeleine d'Leon is an Australian author who writes quirky, whimsical mysteries until she creates the character Edward McGinnity, a writer. Or does she? Edward McGinnity is a writer of literary novels who creates a genre writer named Madeleine d'Leon. As they reveal the stories they are writing, they discover more about each other. Edward is in love with an artist, Willow, but she's married to a man he detests. Edward is at Willow's art show when a critic is murdered, and he's the primary suspect. Madeleine is a successful mystery writer whose married life to the local doctor is marked by her loneliness after four miscarriages, and her husband sees her sliding into obsession with her new character. This unconventional mystery is an open-ended puzzle that asks the reader to determine who is the writer and who is the character. What is reality? This mystery won the 2018 Ned Kelly Award under the title *Crossing the Lines*. Now available in the United States, it's a twisted masterpiece about writing

and the loss of identity while writing. The disturbing examination of obsession and loss will appeal to readers of literary novels and introspective books about the writing process."

Grames, Juliet. [The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna](#) (\$17.99). The best way into Juliet Grames' heartfelt and vividly written story of a woman and her family rooted in rugged, rural Calabria who emigrate from their village to America at the near-end of the interwar world wars years is to read Grames' introduction to *Black Souls* by Gioacchino Criaco, a book she acquired and published for Soho Press. In it Grames lays out her own journey into Calabria and her family's past, notably that of her grandmother who inspired the character of Stella Fortuna and the near-fatal misfortunes that marked her life. Stella's is a tale filled with acts, slights, and secrets large and small and how they can follow someone across an ocean to split lives down generations in a new country. Ambitious and unsparing, yet unfailingly tender, this is a remarkable debut. And not out until April 28.

Hitchcock, Jane. [Bluff](#) (\$15.99). The *PW* Star begins, "An aging debutante and card shark commits the perfect revenge crime in Hitchcock's noir. When "Mad" Maud Warner walks into the Four Seasons and shoots Sun Sunderland, "the Pope of Finance," then drops the gun and walks out again undetected, the upper-class grapevines in New York and Washington begin working overtime... Hitchcock pokes fun at the gossipy upper class, at the verbal tics of crass hangers-on, at the street-smart capability of former strippers and former advertising executives alike. The biggest takeaway: He who underestimates women of a certain age certainly does so at his own peril."

Hands down one of my favorite books of 2019, a revenge thriller structured like a hand of poker with a fearless aging woman leading the charge against the crooked financiers who destroyed her life and that of others. You don't need to know a thing about cards to love Maud, her acerbic wit, her unapologetic posture and her nimble mind. Maud is a 56 year-old badass who has had enough. There's a metaphor here of course: as an expert poker player, Maud knows how to plan and how to bluff, and soon the shooting is revealed to be part of a much larger plot. With a backbone of feminist steel, a plot structured like a hand of poker, and a pace as quick-moving and intricate as any heist movie. I add that *Bluff* is based on the real story of a con man who fleeced the author's mother out of a fortune and the author's years-long campaign to get him disgraced and jailed, during the course of which she took up poker to keep sane.

Kim, Angie. [Miracle Creek](#) (\$17). An arsonist sets a fire at a hyperbaric oxygen therapy tank in Miracle Creek, Virginia, killing two people in treatment and maiming more. It also torches the dreams of the Korean immigrant family operating the facility, as well as those looking for treatment for diverse issues like autism and male infertility. And makes a victim's mother the principal suspect. Miracle Creek is a debut by a trial lawyer, but don't expect Perry Mason. There is a trial, yes, and attendant courtroom theatrics filled with unreliable witnesses and the weight of legal procedure (not a Perry Mason hallmark), but don't look for a tidy outcome. Instead this penetrating novel achieves its power by embracing the chaos of our time

Laukkanen, Owen. [Deception Cove](#) (\$16.99). Deception Cove, Washington., "a rainy-day kind of place" that's the atmospheric setting of this fine standalone from Thriller Award finalist Lauk-

kanen, is home to Jess Winslow, a Marine veteran whose service in Afghanistan left her with PTSD. Jess's husband, Ty, drowned while drunk, and her only companion is Lucy, a therapy dog [Note: A major reason to read this is Lucy!]. Jess receives an unsettling late-night visit from a power-hungry local deputy, Kirby Harwood, who insists that Jess must know the location of a package belonging to him that Ty possessed. Harwood is unwilling to accept Jess's protestations of ignorance, and his menacing posture prompts Lucy to attack him. When ex-convict Mason Burke, who just finished a prison sentence for homicide in Michigan, hears that Lucy has been designated for destruction after this incident, he's sure that the dog he took pride in training behind bars wouldn't have turned violent without good cause. Mason treks out to Deception Cove to save Lucy, a mission that inevitably puts him at odds with Harwood. A crackerjack plot enhances the moving portrayals of the leads' inner lives. Laukkanen has never been better. Two Signed Firsts left: [Deception Cove](#) (\$28).

Miller, Madeline. [Circe](#) (\$16.99). "Miller has determined, in her characterization of this most powerful witch, to bring her as close as possible to the human—from the timbre of her voice to her intense maternal instincts. The brutal insouciance of her fellow immortals...proves increasingly alien to this thoughtful and compassionate woman who learns to love unselfishly. It is an unexpected and jolly, if bittersweet, development, and one rather closer to Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid* than to traditional Greek myth... *Circe* is very pleasurable to read, combining lively versions of familiar tales...and snippets of other, related standards...with a highly psychologized, redemptive and ultimately exculpatory account of the protagonist herself...*Circe* will surely delight readers new to the witch's stories as it will many who remember her role in the Greek myths of their childhood"—*NY Times Book Review*. If you have read the new James Rollins, then read this, for encountering Circe is one of the challenges that faced Odysseus on his voyage home from Troy that is the basis for the plot of [The Last Odyssey](#)

Nieh, Daniel. [Beijing Payback](#) (\$16.99). A 2019 First Mystery Book of the Month. I read debuts for voice and Nieh's captured me. College basketball player Victor Li, the narrator of Nieh's remarkable debut, has little to concern him beyond his next game, until his restaurateur father, Vincent Li, is killed in a burglary at home in L.A. Sun Jianshui, a 30-ish immigrant who was raised by Vincent before he married and left for America, tells Victor that his father was part of a criminal enterprise formed when Vincent was a young man in China in the years after Mao's death. According to Sun, Vincent was murdered for refusing to import a dangerous product called Ice. A letter from Vincent to Victor that Victor finds among his father's papers instructs him to accompany Sun to Beijing and destroy the syndicate. The rich cast includes beautiful young courtesans, Chinese thugs, Russian gangsters, French journalists, and corrupt police in Beijing. Nieh, a Chinese-English translator, has a real gift for language; one character has "a voice that sounds the way strawberries taste." This impressive blend of crime and coming-of-age marks Nieh as a talent to watch," says the *PW* Starred Review. Jade Chang adds, "Daniel Nieh deftly recasts the immigrant novel as a sharp revenge thriller. The clash between past and present, between the homeland his father escaped and the new home he dreamt up for his family, is richly layered and deeply affecting." 2 Signed Firsts left: [Beijing Payback](#) (\$26.99).

Siger, Jeffrey. [Island of Secrets](#) (\$15.99). The case begins for Athens' Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis with a literal bang—a corrupt former police colonel who runs a protection racket on Mykonos is gunned down. And Kaldis is suddenly face to face with Greece's top crime bosses, all just as surprised and baffled as he is at the assassination. Who is making a move—if move it is—and what else might it be?—to take over the island's vice operations. Maybe legitimate businesses too? One of the Aegean's Cyclades islands, Mykonos was poor until a few decades ago, but today is a renowned 24/7 summer hot spot filled with tourists who enjoy its beaches and iconic landmarks by day and party in its bars and massive dance clubs by night. As an international playground and cruise port, Mykonos is just begging for more exploitation—and not just by the Greeks. While Andreas and his Special Crimes unit wrestle for answers, his wife Lila is similarly engaged but her focus is what meaningful role beyond wife and mother will she fill? Daughter of a wealthy family, it isn't about money. Her quest takes her to her parents' home on Mykonos where she meets Toni, an American ex-pat, a fixer and finder of stolen goods, playing piano in a gender-bending bar with a zest for life and no apparent regard for rules. Inevitably what Lila and Toni discover together about themselves intersects with Andreas' investigation. Dangerously! "Kaldis and Kouros are soon drawn into what is shaping up to be a turf war for control of the island's many lucrative and shady dealings—from prostitution to exploitive real estate deals. But the question remains: who is really behind the killing of the colonel? Siger seasons Kaldis' investigation with abundant slices of Greek history and island mores, along with Lila's consciousness-raising conversations. Armchair travelers will have fun." Published in 2019 as *The Mykonos Mob*.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

Anthony, Jessica. [Enter the Aardvark](#) (Little Brown \$26). "I've never read a novel quite like this one. The story connects two storylines, one revolving around the stuffing of an aardvark and the other around a repressed, Reagan-obsessed, republican millennial congressman. What I loved most about this novel is that it's kind of ridiculous (in a great way!) but it is also very poignant and leaves the reader changed by the end.

Goren, Leah. [Cat Lady](#) (Prestel Publishing \$19.95). The illustrations are enchanting and beautiful, the contributors are A-listers like Emma Straub, and the gifty trim sized packaging is paper over board. I see this little gem as a spring time sleeper—need some more cat nip?

McMillan, Terry. [It's Not All Downhill from Here](#) (Ballantine \$28). In McMillan's lively, perceptive novel, a woman relies on the support of her longtime friends to help her cope with the trials of aging and widowhood. Loretha Curry's husband Carl whisks her away for a weekend getaway in Palm Springs, Calif., to celebrate her 68th birthday, only to die of a heart attack while they are staying at the resort. Loretha's friends rally around her as she tries to recover from the devastating loss. Loretha also contends with her own health issues after her doctor diagnoses her with diabetes. Though Loretha is filled with loneliness after Carl's death, the wit and candor of her friends lessens the blow as Loretha weathers the angst of a difficult relationship with her alcoholic daughter Jalecia and considers selling her beauty products business. News of Jalecia's attempt to book herself into

a seedy shelter leads Loretha to reckon with her own life choices (“being ambitious can backfire when you’re black, a woman, and a mother”). McMillan writes with a staggering depth of feeling, credibly capturing the characters’ emotions as she unpacks their interpersonal conflicts. This delightful novel balances inspiration for renewal with the hard facts of aging

Singer, Fanny/Alice Waters. [Always Home: A Daughter’s Recipes and Stories](#) (Kopf \$35). A Starred Review: In this wondrous memoir-cookbook hybrid, Singer, daughter of Chez Panisse founder Alice Waters, recalls her upbringing in the restaurant business. Above all, she writes, the book is a celebration of her mother. Waters’ signature passions are highlighted: the Edible Schoolyard Project, open-fire cooking (whether inside the restaurant or the governor’s mansion), and the Chez Panisse children’s book (which featured an eight-year-old Singer). Waters’ quirks are revealed: her tendency to drink from bowls rather than mugs and to “jettison her silverware and delve in with her fingers,” expressing “a primal impulse to be closer to the thing she was eating, to be more sensuously acquainted.” The appreciation of beauty, “the total fabric of my existence,” and flavor, “the prism through which most things were seen or dissected or understood,” guide their summers in Provence, food-and-wine tours of the Pyrenees, and a “special tasting in the caves of Krug, the illustrious champagne house.” A final mother-daughter road trip from Telluride, Colo., to Berkeley before graduate school has them bonding and collaborating on impromptu meals (a recipe for egg fettuccine boiled in river water and tossed with tomatoes and parmesan is one of dozens throughout the book). Singer’s language is read-out-loud luscious, and her culinary coming-of-age story savory and sweet.

SOME NEW BOOKS FOR APRIL

Barry, Max. [We Ride Upon Sticks](#) (Pantheon \$26.95). This terrific sci-fi thriller from Barry (Lexicon) pits humanity against a powerful and rapacious alien enemy. In the near future, scientists studying bacterial growth aboard a research vessel in space die after being attacked by six-legged creatures, some human size, that spit tiny black holes. Earth declares war on the aliens, nick-named salamanders, recruiting the best and the brightest to seek out and destroy as many of the creatures as possible. Seven years after that deadly first contact, five combat spaceships enhanced with advanced AI are launched. One is under the command of Capt. Jolene Jackson, whose crew consists of an IT expert, a weapons officer, and a life officer responsible for maintaining the crew’s mental health. All four struggle with the challenges of their isolated and claustrophobic four-year mission, even as the vessel’s AI makes most of their abilities redundant. Naturally, the assignment isn’t as straightforward as it was billed, with the salamanders able to learn and adapt from every defeat, and each team member is tested both mentally and physically. Fans of Robert Heinlein open to more nuanced characterizations will be delighted.

Bishop, Elizabeth. [Pretty as a Picture](#) (Viking \$27). Film editor Marissa Dahl receives a job offer she can’t refuse: work with acclaimed director Tony Rees on his latest movie. The caveats: she must get on a plane immediately, and she won’t be told exactly where she’s going or anything about the project—other than the story includes a dead girl—until she arrives. Marissa does know the project’s previous editor was fired, but no reason is given.

The location turns out to be an island off the coast of Delaware, and Marissa is escorted to the set by the evasive Isaiah, whom she soon realizes is not just a driver but likely former military with lethal skills, e.g., a Navy SEAL. Why would someone like that be needed? The answer reveals itself when a dead body turns up, and the killer is someone on the island. Marissa may lack social skills, but her internal monologue is spiced with snark, and the novel is rife with film references for movie buffs.

Blaedel, Sara. [The Third Sister](#) (Grand Central \$27). Blaedel plunges right into the middle of the ongoing story line in the concluding volume of her Family Secrets trilogy. In the previous book, Ilka Jensen moved from Denmark to inherit her late estranged father’s funeral home in Racine, Wisconsin, where he moved after abandoning his family 30 years earlier when Ilka was a child. Now Ilka learns a shocking truth about her father that involves a nun he knew, Sister Eileen. Sister Eileen turns out not to be a real nun but a wanted fugitive, Lydia Rogers, who has “been in hiding for the past twelve years to escape a death sentence in Texas.” And men from Lydia’s past seeking to kill her have just attacked Artie Sorvino, Ilka’s business partner, leaving him close to death. The risk to Lydia, who’s been accused of smuggling drugs across the Mexican border into the U.S. in dead babies, continues. You can [order all three books](#) to read in a gulp.

Brown, Sandra. [Charade](#) (\$15.99). A medical miracle gives TV personality Cat Delaney more than a new heart. With her second chance at life Cat trades Hollywood for San Antonio, where she hosts a TV show for children with special needs. Here she meets Alex Pierce, an ex-cop turned crime writer — and the first man to see her as a woman since her surgery. But her new world turns sinister when fatal “accidents” begin killing other heart recipients, and a mysterious stalker starts shadowing her every move....

✦Bruce, Camilla. [You Let Me in](#) (Forge \$25.99). The disappearance of 74-year-old British romance novelist Cassandra Tipp from her home propels Bruce’s exceptional debut and our **April British Crime Club Book of the Month**. Despite no evidence of foul play, the police are convinced that Tipp is dead and that her death may be connected to older homicide cases. Tipp was suspected of killing her husband 38 years earlier, a circumstance that launched her writing career. And 11 years after that crime, Tipp’s father and brother died in what was labeled a murder-suicide. The suspense builds as the truth about Tipp’s past and present emerges slowly and incrementally. Her will specifies that her two intended beneficiaries, her niece and nephew, must read a manuscript left behind in Tipp’s home to find a password that must be presented to the executor of the estate in order for them to claim their inheritance. An unsettling section depicts Tipp imagining her potential heirs doing just that, even as they wonder whether Tipp “really killed them all.” Bruce is especially good at raising goosebumps.

✦Buckley, Fiona. [The Scent of Danger](#) (Severn \$28.99). For awhile Elizabethan era mysteries were numerous, but now only a few authors like Buckley and PF Chisholm are working the era. Here is the latest for Ursula Blanchard who has led an exciting life for decades now. February, 1586. When the queen’s spy-master, Sir Francis Walsingham, learns that Ursula is to visit her relatives in Devon, he asks her to find out what has happened to two of his local agents, who have been strangely silent recently. On arrival in the small Devon village of Zeal Aquateico, Ursula

discovers that both spies in question have met with mysterious—and fatal—accidents. Or is there more to it than that? What did the two spies find out that got them killed? Is there any truth to the rumors that King Philip of Spain, in league with the queen's cousin, Mary Stuart, intends to launch an invasion from the south coast? As Ursula pursues her investigations, it becomes clear that someone in Zeal Aquatico is determined to stop her finding out the truth.

Cameron, Marc. [Stone Cross](#) (Kensington \$26). I had planned on Cameron visiting us in April to sign this but.... So here's the story. Bestseller Cameron's intricate, multilayered sequel to 2019's [Open Carry](#) (\$9.99) finds Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal Arliss Cutter and Lola Teariki, his partner on the Alaska Fugitive Task Force, reluctantly escorting a federal judge, who has received a death threat, to the rural village of Stone Cross for the judge's protection. What should have been a routine, if not easy, assignment takes a chilling turn when they learn at Stone Cross that a local couple has gone missing and their handyman murdered. Cut off from any immediate help due to inclement weather, Cutter and Lola must either brave freezing snow and ice to go after a killer and probable kidnapper or stay warm in the small town and ensure the judge's safety. "Cameron populates his suspenseful tale, which builds to a satisfying, if violent, conclusion, with fully realized characters, each with their own believable backstory. His understanding of the ins and outs of small Alaskan communities makes for a rich sense of time and place."

Campisi, Megan. [Sin Eater](#) (Atria \$27). The Indie Next recommender says this novel "completely took me by surprise. It is a wholly unique combination of fantasy, mystery, and historical fiction. Filled with intriguing characters and vivid imagery, this inventive tale will immerse readers in the deceit and intrigue of the royal court. Campisi's narrator is what really sets this novel apart — the sin eater, a woman called to hear the sins of the dying and consume the foods that represent them. A dark, thrilling read!"

Carey, MR. [The Book of Koli](#) (Orbit \$16.99). Beyond the walls of the small village of Mythen Rood lies an unrecognizable world. A world where overgrown forests are filled with choker trees and deadly vines and seeds that will kill you where you stand. And if they don't get you, one of the dangerous shunned men will. Koli has lived in Mythen Rood his entire life. He knows the first rule of survival is that you don't venture beyond the walls. What he doesn't know is—what happens when you aren't given a choice? The first in a gripping new trilogy, *The Book of Koli* charts the journey of one unforgettable young boy struggling to find his place in a chilling post-apocalyptic world. Perfect for readers of *Station Eleven* and *Annihilation*. This is an interesting variation on the power of woods in storytelling.

Engel, Amy. [The Familiar Dark](#) (Dutton \$26). The stark prologue of this harrowing thriller from Engel recounts the final moments of 12-year-old best friends Izzy Logan and Junie Taggart, slaughtered on an abandoned playground in their impoverished hometown in the Missouri Ozarks. Junie's single mom, Eve, a feisty, funny, sometimes foulmouthed diner waitress, is shattered by the news, but she swiftly becomes enraged by what she sees as a less than vigorous probe by the local police, including her idolized older brother, Cal, who she suspects may be writing off the murders as collateral damage from the meth ring run by their own abusive, long-estranged pit bull of a mother. Feeling she has

nothing left to lose, a vengeance-bent Eve ignores Cal's warnings to leave investigating to the professionals and begins asking questions of dangerous people with plenty to hide. "Without sacrificing any of the narrative's ferocious urgency, Engel gradually discloses a few of Eve's own guilty secrets—on the way to some gut-wrenching final revelations. This rural noir stakes Engel's claim to that dystopian terrain somewhere between Gillian Flynn's *Sharp Objects* and Daniel Woodrell's *Winter's Bone*."

Flower, Amanda. [Mums and Mayhem](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). World-famous fiddle player Barley McFee arrives in blustery Bellewick, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, for a grand homecoming concert organized by jeweler Bernice Brennan. Fiona Knox, owner of the Climbing Rose Flower Shop, is starting to regret volunteering to help with the concert. Bernice is an exacting taskmaster, and Fiona has enough tension dealing with her parents, who have traveled from Tennessee to visit Fi and her younger sister, Isla, and to reveal a secret about Fi's birth. But when Barley is found dead in his trailer during the concert's intermission, and his death is shockingly tied to Fiona's father, Fiona discovers there are more secrets surrounding her family than she realized. Much to the chagrin of handsome Neil Craig, Chief Inspector of the County Aberdeen Police, Fiona delves into the case to clear her father's name. To make matters worse, Fiona learns that Duncreigan, the magical garden that she inherited from her godfather, is dying. At some point during the concert, someone broke into the garden and cut the centuries-old climbing rose—the source of the garden's magic—from the standing stone.

Foster, Sara. [You Don't Know Me](#) (Blackstone \$26.99). That Australian Crime Wave keeps on surging and here is a fine example—although much of it is set in Bangkok where the two story leads are resetting their lives. Noah Carruso is still unmoored by the disappearance of his elder brother Tom's girlfriend Lizzie years ago. Despite intensive searching in the town's surrounding bush country, no trace of Lizzie has been found and Tom is still the principal suspect in what may be a crime. Noah is in Bangkok on a break from the family restaurant/bar he runs with his parents and is lovestruck the moment he meets fellow Aussie Alice who has similar glorious red hair to Lizzie. Alice is teaching English in Bangkok. Their all too brief affair is derailed when an inquest into Lizzie's disappearance is called and Noah must testify. It goes from there. Rich settings, strong pacing, and vivid backdrops make this a standout.

Fredericks, Mariah. [Death of an American Beauty](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Set in 1913 Manhattan, lady's maid Jane Prescott focuses on the plight of prostitutes. The Reverend Tewin Prescott, Jane's socially progressive uncle, runs a refuge for former prostitutes on the Lower East Side. When a young woman who lives at the refuge is found murdered in an alley with one of her stockings missing, the protestors who continually harass the residents are quick to accuse Tewin of the murder, and the police are listening. But when a second woman, a department store employee and a former resident of Tewin's halfway house, is murdered and another trophy taken, Jane sees a connection to a similar assault that happened near the refuge years earlier. Jane sets out to locate the woman who survived that assault and perhaps find a killer.

Gilbert, Elizabeth. [City of Girls](#) (\$17). In 1940, nineteen-year-old Vivian Morris has just been kicked out of Vassar College, owing to her lackluster freshman-year performance. Her affluent parents

send her to Manhattan to live with her Aunt Peg, who owns a flamboyant, crumbling midtown theater called the Lily Playhouse. There Vivian is introduced to an entire cosmos of unconventional and charismatic characters, from the fun-chasing showgirls to a sexy male actor, a grand-dame actress, a lady-killer writer, and no-nonsense stage manager. But when Vivian makes a personal mistake that results in professional scandal, it turns her new world upside down in ways that it will take her years to fully understand.

Hendrix, Grady. [The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires](#) (Quirk Books \$22.99). "Hendrix's latest novel, possibly his darkest yet, addresses racism, sexism, and the mistaken belief that housewives are dull. Patricia and friends, all genteel Southerners, start a true crime book club. They have to apply what they've learned when a vampire moves into town. Patricia grows from a mildly dissatisfied homemaker to a vampire fighting dynamo who thinks three steps ahead and takes ownership of her life. With perfect pacing, there's never a moment where readers can let their guard down. An excellent choice for horror fans of Joe Hill, David Wong, and Christopher Moore." And see the Haunted Library Books above under Classics.

Library Reads adds: "Grady Hendrix somehow makes horror charming. His style of writing — unrelenting humanity in the face of real terror, of both the supernatural and everyday varieties — is in top form here. He's one of a handful of authors whose new work I devour as soon as I get my hands on it. Hendrix knows how to terrify you, but more importantly, he knows how to make you feel like you can potentially overcome the thing that scares you the most."

Jones, Darynda. [A Bad Day for Sunshine](#) (St. Martin's \$27.99). Del Sol, New Mexico is known for three things: its fry-an-egg-on-the-cement summers, its strong cups of coffee—and a nationwide manhunt? Del Sol native Sunshine Vicram has returned to town as the elected sheriff—an election her adorably meddling parents entered her in—and she expects her biggest crime wave to involve an elderly flasher named Doug. But a teenage girl is missing, a kidnapper is on the loose, and all of it's reminding Sunny why she left Del Sol in the first place. Add to that trouble at her daughter's new school and a kidnapped prized rooster named Puff Daddy, and Sunshine has her hands full. Enter sexy almost-old-flame Levi Ravinder and a hunky US Marshall, both elevens on a scale of one to blazing inferno, and the normally savvy sheriff is quickly in over her head. Library Reads says: "Jones follows up her Charley Davidson series in a spectacular fashion with a new series featuring police chief Sunshine Vicram. A fun, UN-PUT-DOWN-ABLE read with a large cast of lovable, diverse characters, several mysteries to solve, and laugh-out-loud humor. Perfect for fans of Janet Evanovich and J.A. Jance."

Klune, T.J. [The House in the Cerulean Sea](#) (Tor \$26.99). "*The House in the Cerulean Sea* is a heart-swelling wave of sweetness and hope. Mild-mannered government caseworker Linus Baker is sent on a secret assignment to an island orphanage he's never even heard of. The astonishing inhabitants he gets to know there will change his life and make him reassess everything he thought he knew. This book will leave you believing in the good in everyone — even those society has given up on — and contemplating how huge changes have to start somewhere."

Lawson, Mike. [House Arrest](#) (\$16). As the fixer for Congressman John Mahoney in Washington, D.C., Joe DeMarco has had to bend and break the law more than a few times. But when Representative Lyle Canton, House Majority Whip, is found shot dead in his office in the U.S. Capitol and DeMarco is arrested for the murder, DeMarco knows he's been framed. Locked up in the Alexandria Jail awaiting trial, he calls on his enigmatic friend Emma, an ex-DIA agent, to search for the true killer. Emma's investigation leads her to Sebastian Spear, the ruthless and competitive CEO of the multi-billion-dollar Spear Industries. But the case the F.B.I. has built against DeMarco is airtight, and not a single piece of evidence points to the grieving CEO. Using her cunning and her D.C. connections, Emma sets out to prove that Spear has been using some fixers of his own....

Pachter, Josh. [The Misadventures of Nero Wolfe](#) (Mysterious Press \$17.99). The 18 pastiches and parodies in this superb anthology from Pachter (The Misadventures of Ellery Queen) honor Rex Stout's iconic sedentary sleuth. The contributors, who include such notables as Loren Estleman and John Lescroart, succeed in emulating Archie Goodwin's narrative voice and poking gentle fun at Wolfe's array of idiosyncratic quirks. The standout is Lawrence Block's "As Dark as Christmas Gets," which offers a new case for Leo Haig, a Wolfe wannabe who keeps fish instead of orchids and dreams that his success as a detective will one day land him a coveted dinner invite to Wolfe's home. Haig is called in by a man resembling the Mysterious Bookshop's Otto Penzler after an unpublished Cornell Woolrich manuscript disappears during a Christmas party. Authorized pasticheur Robert Goldsborough is represented by the opening chapter of his first Wolfe novel, Murder in E Minor. Other highlights include a new translation of a French pastiche, "The Red Orchid" by Thomas Narcejac, one of the coauthors of *Vertigo*.

Patterson, James/Cynthia Fagen. [The House of Kennedy](#) (Little-Brown \$29). A kind of family biography about the Kennedy clan. Also by Patterson: [Revenge](#) (\$17.99). Former SAS soldier David Shelley was part of the most covert operations team in the special forces. Now settling down to civilian life in London, he has plans for a safer and more stable existence. But the shocking death of a young woman Shelley once helped protect puts those plans on hold. The police rule the death a suicide but the grieving parents can't accept their beloved Emma would take her own life. They need to find out what really happened, and they turn to their former bodyguard, Shelley, for help.

✶Perry, Anne. [One Fatal Flaw](#) (Ballantine \$27.99). Jessie Beale assures Daniel that despite all the evidence against him, her boyfriend, Rob Adwell, didn't bludgeon Paddy Jackson, his sometime partner in crime, or set fire to the warehouse they'd planned to rob, the place where Paddy's body was found. Desperate for an expert witness to refute the medical testimony, Daniel and Miriam fford Croft, the daughter of his head of chambers, who's partnered with him in two earlier cases, ask Sir Barnabas Saltram, the forensic pathologist who discouraged Miriam from pursuing her medical studies 20 years ago, to examine Jackson's corpse, assuming that his nonpareil reputation will give whatever alternative theory of the crime he advances well-nigh irrefutable status. Their plan works all too well. Bolstered by Saltram's testimony,

Adwell is found not guilty, setting the stage for his own death in a remarkably similar arson two months later. Perry adds twist to this Edwardian era tale in her usual style with maybe a touch of feminism.

Pulley, Natasha. [The Lost Future of Pepperharrow](#) (Bloomsbury \$27). In this engrossing follow-up to [The Watchmaker of Filigree Street](#) (\$17), British novelist Pulley returns to the 1880s, trading Victorian Britain for a steampunk-influenced Japan, where her heroes encounter a ghostly mystery while shaping international events. Synesthetic translator and pianist Thaniel initially balks when the British Foreign Office assigns him to Tokyo. The job takes on greater appeal when his lover, Mori, a watchmaker and samurai who can remember potential futures, offers to join him, as he's been summoned home by Kuroda, his long-time frenemy and Japan's new prime minister. However, when they arrive at Mori's beautiful estate with their adopted daughter, Six, in tow, Thaniel is astonished to meet Takiko Pepperharrow, the wife Mori never mentioned. While Thaniel grapples with doubts about their relationship, Mori plays a dangerous game of chess involving Japan, Russia and Britain, trying to bring about a future timeline even he can't exactly remember. When Mori goes missing, Thaniel is left to solve the mystery of his disappearance and the ghostly apparitions that manifest during a massive electrical storm. Complicated relationships and international intrigue buoy the plot while Pulley's steampunk aesthetic lends a touch of clockwork fantasy to this complex sequel. While familiarity with the previous book will help readers find their footing more quickly, newcomers can enjoy this installment as a standalone. Rich descriptions of Japan and intriguing character development shine in this intricately wrought fantasy of history making.

Redniss, Lauren. [Oak Flat: A Fight for Sacred Land in the American West](#) (Random \$30). Though they may not fit into any easy category, Redniss' books get much of their power from the same strength of visual storytelling found in graphic novels. It's a blend of storytelling processes that she's taken further than ever in *Oak Flat*, the riveting story of a contested piece of Arizona land—a rocky mesa that's been sacred to the San Carlos Apache tribe for hundreds of years. *Oak Flat* is home to a rich vein of copper, and, while mining had long been banned there, in 2014, President Obama signed a controversial and long-disputed piece of land exchange legislation allowing mining interests to acquire 2,400 acres of sacred land. However, the fate of the ecologically and religiously vital site is still being fought over, even as the Resolution Copper mining company is preparing to dig, inevitably destroying *Oak Flat* in the process. In November 2019, a coalition of 20 Arizona tribal, mining-reform, and religious organizations petitioned the U.S. Forest Service in a challenge to the environmental review of the copper mine site, claiming it was rushed and flawed. Arrayed against the mining concerns is the Nosie family, led by Wendler Nosie, former chairman and councilman of the San Carlos Apache tribe, and his teen activist granddaughter Naelyn Pike, who has spoken before Congress about the traditional importance of *Oak Flat* to the Apache people. In precise, descriptive prose based on hours of interviews both with Apache leaders and white locals, and bolstered with pages of haunting colored-pencil drawings, Redniss paints a picture of two peoples locked in an inevitable conflict. She depicts both the oppression of indigenous people throughout American history, and the experiences of mining families who are willing to risk their lives and the well-being of their

families to provide for them. It's a story that Redniss spent years researching, returning to Arizona many times.

Roth, Veronica. [Chosen Ones](#) (Houghton \$26.99). Some years back, five teens were picked, after they fulfilled a prophecy, to fight the Dark One. Now, on the tenth anniversary of that battle, they find out that the Dark One is still alive in a parallel universe. Do the young heroes have what it takes to fight him again? "Two men and three women meet the odd criteria set for the Chosen Ones, who will save the world from the Dark One — whether they want to or not. Years after successfully completing their assignment, three of them are hijacked to a parallel universe to repeat their performance. They are not very happy. Roth's world-building is exquisite, as is her construction of parallel universe mechanics. And did I mention the maddening, flawed, and entertaining characters? Roth's first adult sci-fi is a resounding triumph! I'm ready for more." A good choice for fans of Lev Grossman and N.K. Jemisin.

✂Schellman, Katharine. [The Body in the Garden](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Our blogger Lesa Holstine reviews our **April Cozy Crimes Book of the Month** which I too think is delightful: it beautifully describes Napoleonic-era London and society. "In 1815, eyes in the neighborhood notice when Mrs. Lily Adler moves into a rented house in Mayfair. By her dress, it's obvious she's a widow, no longer in the first stages of mourning. And, she must have the money to afford to live in Mayfair. What isn't so obvious is that Lily Adler has a strong sense of right or wrong, and she'll be determined to find answers when she hears a murder. Lily's best friend from school, Lady Serena Walter, invites her to a ball at her London home. Because she's still in mourning, she can't dance. That doesn't stop a man from making improper advances, so Lily escapes to the gardens. It's there that she hears two men, one threatening blackmail. She's still sneaking away when she hears a gunshot. Lily escapes to the house, finds her late husband's best friend, Navy Captain Jack Hartley, and the two return to the garden. They're the ones who find a body, and report it to Lord Walter. When Lily sees Lord Walter bribe the investigating magistrate, she decides to take matters into her own hands. With the help of Captain Hartley and a mysterious debutante from the West Indies, Mrs. Lily Adler undertakes a murder investigation.

Schellman has introduced two intriguing heroes in her first mystery. Lily Adler is the hero of her own story. Captain Jack Hartley is actually a secondary hero. He was Freddie Adler's best friend, and he starts out by trying to help his friend's widow. But, he grows to respect Lily as her own person, an intelligent, stubborn woman, determined to find justice for a victim. Jack's career as a captain in the navy will allow him to come and go in the series, if that works with the author's plans. His career also allows him to move in several circles in society. Schellman's debut is a complex story of London society with its social classes, racism, and politics. Readers of historical mysteries should relish this new entry in the genre. At the same time, fans of historical romances set in this period might just want to take a chance on the book. Schellman's details of balls, the theater, concerts, and the social life of 1815 are too good to miss. *The Body in the Garden* is an outstanding debut."

Siciliano, Sam. [The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Venerable Tiger](#) (Titan \$14.95). Sherlock Holmes acquires a new client when a beautiful young woman, Isabel Stone, faints

on the steps of his Baker Street rooms. She has come to beg his assistance in reclaiming the priceless jewels kept from her by her tyrannical stepfather, Captain Grimbold Pratt. But shortly after agreeing to take her case, Captain Pratt comes to Baker Street, furious that Isabel is trying to deprive him of his fortune. Unsure who to believe, Holmes and his cousin, Dr Henry Vernier, must travel to Pratt's estate, home to tigers, wolves and murderers, to unravel a family mystery dating back to the Indian Mutiny.

Simenon, George. [Maigret and the Killer](#) (Penguin \$15). Maigret and wife have always enjoyed their occasional dinners with Mr. and Mrs. Pardon on the Boulevard Voltaire. But one of the congenial meals is interrupted by a neighbor who has stumbled across the body of a young man in the nearby Rue Popincourt. Maigret answers the call with his friend Dr. Pardon, and their pleasant evening is quickly brought to an end by the commencement of a complicated murder case. And when a tape recorder is discovered on the victim's body, it only complicates matters. Maigret's investigation leads to the discovery of another crime altogether and the fascinating story of the murdered man's life. #70 in the reissued Maigrets—this is just the time to binge on the prolific French author who claimed sex life was even more impressive than the number of his novels. Enjoy the TV series, too.

Tuomainen, Antti. [Little Siberia](#) (Orenda \$15.95). Pastor Joel Huhta, the narrator of this stunning comic noir from Tuomainen, who ministers to the mostly neurotic villagers of Hurmevaara in the far north of Finland, has a secret. Due to wounds from his deployment to Afghanistan, Joel can't father children, but six days after a meteorite strikes a former rally driver's car, Joel discovers that his beloved wife, Krista, is pregnant. Joel, consumed by jealousy, searches for the father of Krista's child as several boozy and violent villagers and Russian thugs plot to steal the valuable meteor from the local museum where it's temporarily housed. With scalpel-keen portraits of villagers and their cruel wintry environment, the author humorously probes the eternal ironies, temptations, and uncertainties facing people caught up in unexpected circumstances. Tuomainen also persuades readers how hard life makes it to do the right thing in a universe that too often feels like a profound personal insult. Fans of Scandinavian noir will relish this one.

Tyler, Anne. [Redhead by the Side of the Road](#) (Knopf \$25.95). Micah Mortimer is a creature of habit. A self-employed tech expert, superintendent of his Baltimore apartment building, cautious to a fault behind the steering wheel, he seems content leading a steady, circumscribed life. But one day his routines are blown apart when his woman friend (he refuses to call anyone in her late thirties a "girlfriend") tells him she's facing eviction, and a teenager shows up at Micah's door claiming to be his son. These surprises, and the ways they throw Micah's meticulously organized life off-kilter, risk changing him forever. An intimate look into the heart and mind of a man who finds those around him just out of reach, and a funny, joyful, deeply compassionate story about seeing the world through new eyes.

Vo, Nghi. [The Empress of Salt and Fortune](#) (Tor #12.99). A Starred Review: "Vo's adventurous debut combines myth and fable with political intrigue to build a stunning feminist fantasy set in a land inspired by imperial China. Chih, a traveling cleric, and their bird, Almost Brilliant, meet Rabbit, an elderly woman who spent her life as a handmaiden, and collect her many stories.

Rabbit was sold to the court when she was five years old because her parents could not pay their full taxes. Once installed there, Rabbit quickly rose in the ranks of servants. The exiled Empress In-Yo from the North arrived at court later intending to take part in a political marriage and produce an heir. Both outsiders, In-Yo and Rabbit form a fast bond that runs deep, defying simple categorization. As Rabbit, who has remained loyal to the empress, reveals a tale of conspiracies and rebellion, Chih must decide what they will do with these spilled imperial secrets. The subtlety and nuance of Vo's evocative storytelling lend the novella an epic, timeless feel. Equal parts love and rage, this masterfully told story is sure to impress."

Walker, Wendy. [The Night Before](#) (\$16.99). Laura Lochner has never been lucky in love. She falls too hard and too fast, always choosing the wrong men. Devastated by the end of her last relationship, she fled her Wall Street job and New York City apartment for her sister's home in the Connecticut suburb where they both grew up. Though still haunted by the tragedy that's defined her entire life, Laura is determined to take one more chance on love with a man she's met on an Internet dating site. When Laura does not return home the following morning, her sister Rosie fears the worst. She's not responding to calls or texts, and she's left no information about the man she planned to meet. As Rosie begins a desperate search to find her sister, she is not just worried about what this man might have done to Laura. She's worried about what Laura may have done to him.... Walker is a terrific author whom you should get to know better.

Wingate, Lisa. [The Book of Lost Friends](#) (Ballantine \$28). From the bestselling author of [Before We Were Yours](#) (\$17) comes a new historical novel: the dramatic story of three young women searching for family amid the destruction of the post-Civil War South, and of a modern-day teacher who learns of their story and its vital connection to her students' lives.

Wrobel, Stephanie. [Darling Rose Gold](#) (Berkley \$26). What's most interesting about his debut is that it starts where plots about Munchausen Syndrome by proxy end, ie with the revelation that the sick child is the victim of a parent. Wrobel elects to begin her story with the mother, 58-year-old Patty Watts, exiting an Illinois prison after serving time for the abuse of Rose Gold. And Rose Gold arriving to pick Patty up. Thus the diabolical pots kick starts. Ask yourself, what would you do if you spent 18 years convinced you were sick, contending with feeding tubes, wheelchairs and more, only to learn that your mother was a really fantastic liar? "Propulsive pacing, a claustrophobic setting, and vividly sketched characters who are equal parts victim and villain conspire to create an anxious, unsettling narrative, catnip to fans of psychological suspense."—PW Starred Review

Library Reads adds: "Terrific psychological suspense based on an actual case ... [with] complex characters who are masterfully drawn, seeming sympathetic at some points and unsympathetic in others. For readers who liked [The Silent Patient](#) (\$26.99)."

Zhang, C Pam. [How Much of These Hills Is Gold?](#) (Riverhead \$26). The Indie Next Pick for a debut: "In the most inventive and fresh language I've seen in a long time, Zhang's *How Much of These Hills Is Gold*, set during the American gold rush, tells the story of siblings Lucy and Sam as they wander the western expanse to give their father a proper burial. Zhang transforms the

mythology of the American West and reclaims it through the eyes of first-generation Asian-Americans, tackling themes of race, immigration, and gender and creating a new narrative of a voice and people often left out of this pivotal historical period. Strange and surreal, this is a novel to read with care and gratitude.”

EARLY APRIL SMALL PAPERBACKS

The majority of the April releases publish the 28th so look for them in the second April Booknews

Blaedel, Sara. [Her Father's Secret](#) (\$8.99). In this follow-up to Bladel's *The Undertaker's Daughter*, Ilka Jensen's efforts to bond with her late father's second family in rural Wisconsin is complicated by the sudden death of a local woman with suspicious ties to Ilka's father.

Chamberlain, Diane. [Necessary Lies](#) (\$9.99). Caring for her family on their mid-twentieth-century tobacco farm after the loss of her parents, fifteen-year-old Ivy connects with Grace County social worker Jane Forrester, who strains her personal and professional relationships with her advocacy of Ivy's family.

Coulter, Catherine. [The Last Second](#) (\$9.99). Brit in the FBI #6. When an eccentric treasure hunter finances a private space agency and augments its first satellite with a nuclear device, special agents Drummond and Caine race to prevent a corrupt scientist's apocalyptic plot.

Hagberg, David. [First Kill](#) (\$9.99). This prequel to the best-selling series traces the origin story of CIA assassin Kirk McGarvey, whose first assignment as a new Air Force OSI graduate is sabotaged by an unknown adversary in Washington.

Hamilton, Glen Erik. [Mercy River](#) (\$7.99). Van Shaw #4. After traveling to a remote Oregon location to help a fellow veteran falsely accused of murder, Van Shaw finds himself drawn into a small town dominated by the drug trade, violent white supremacists, and dark family secrets.

Jance, JA. [Fatal Error](#) (\$9.99). Ali Reynolds #6 Reissued. When an old friend is accused of murdering a sociopath who courted women over the internet only to steal all of their money, Ali Reynolds steps in to investigate

Knott, Robert. [Robert B Parker's Buckskin](#) (\$9.99). A campaign for sheriff in Appaloosa is thrown into turmoil by a nearby gold strike and a dangerous snowstorm, pitting marshals Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch against rival mining factions and a vicious serial killer.

Maden, Mike. [Tom Clancy Enemy Contact](#) (\$9.99). After a mission in Poland where he barely escaped with his life, Jack Ryan Jr. finds his life in danger again while trying to fulfill an old friend's dying wish to be scattered on a Chilean hillside. Maden does a terrific job with this series continuation!

Parks, Adele. [I Invited Her In](#) (\$9.99). When Mel receives an unexpected email from her oldest friend, Abi, who is looking for a place to stay for a few days, it brings back memories she thought she had buried forever.

Patterson, James. [Ambush](#) (\$9.99). When a series of attacks targeting Michael Bennett injures one of his children and causes several deaths, the New York police officer leads an investigation throughout the five boroughs that exposes corruption and a dangerous vendetta.

Spence, Gerry. [Court of Lies](#) (\$9.99). Judge John Murray, an incorruptible judge, is overseeing a murder trial and prosecutor Haskins Sewell, consumed with political ambitions, has a plan to frame the defendant and destroy Murray's reputation, but Sewell may be underestimating Murray.

Scottoline, Lisa. [Every Fifteen Minutes](#) (\$9.99). A single father and head of a successful Philadelphia psychiatric care unit sees his life begin to crumble when a teen patient is implicated in a murder and the doctor himself is wrongly accused of sexual harassment.