

BOOKNEWS from

ISSN 1056-5655, © The Poisoned Pen, Ltd.

Volume 32, Number 11

July Booknews 2020

sales@poisonedpen.com tel (888)560-9919

http://poisonedpen.com

4014 N. Goldwater Blvd.

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

480-947-2974



LITERARY FIREWORKS ALL MONTH THIS JULY

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

Please look for pop up book chats with authors and editors and who knows what from time to time on our Home Page and then moved to Facebook.

Watch these virtual events on [Facebook Live](#) or our [YouTube](#) and any time thereafter at a time that suits you. Listen to them on [Google Music](#) and [iTunes](#) our [Podcasts](#)

WEDNESDAY JULY 1 2:00 PM A Date with International Crime

Tim Hallinan discusses his final Poke Rafferty Bangkok thriller [Street Music](#) (Soho \$26.95)

Signed books available

Ragnar Jonasson discusses [The Mist](#) (St Martins \$27.99)

Jeffrey Siger discusses [Island of Secrets](#) (\$15.99)

WEDNESDAY JULY 1 4:00 PM

Nicholas Basbanes discusses his biography of Longfellow, [A Cross of Snow](#) (Knopf \$37.50)

The author includes a slide show with his discussion. Basbanes is a leading bibliophile whose earlier works on book collecting you may know. Questions welcome on FB Live

Signed bookplates come with our copies

THURSDAY JULY 2 2:00 PM

A Cozy duo with John

Ellie Alexander discusses [Nothing Bundt Trouble](#) (\$8.99)

Abby Collette discusses [A Deadly Scoop](#) (Berkley \$16)

Signed bookplates available for *The Deadly Scoop*

THURSDAY JULY 2 5:00 PM Virtual Book Launch

Paul Doiron in conversation with **Tess Gerritsen** about his new Mike Bowditch Maine thriller [One Last Lie](#) (Minotaur \$27.99)

Signed books for Doiron available. Perfect for CJ Box and Randy Wayne White fans

FRIDAY JULY 3 4:00 PM Meet New Authors

A trio of notable debut novels

Edward A. Farmer discusses [Pale](#) (Blackstone \$26.99)

Our July Fantastic New Fiction Book of the Month

Kimicho Guthrie discusses [Block Seventeen](#) (Blackstone \$26.99)

James Wade discusses [All Things Left Wild](#) (Blackstone \$27.99)

Signed books available for all three authors

MONDAY JULY 6 6:00 PM Virtual Book Launch

Linda Castillo signs [Outsider](#) (St Martins \$27.99)

A Kate Burkholder thriller in Amish country!

Signed books in stock

TUESDAY JULY 7 4:00 PM Virtual Book Launch

Mark Bowden discusses [The Case of the Vanishing Blonde and Other True Crime Stories](#) (Grove \$27) with Patrick

Signed books in stock

WEDNESDAY JULY 8 4:00 PM

Beatriz Williams discusses [Her Last Flight](#) (Harper \$27.99), a thriller drawing inspiration from the life of Amelia Earhart

Signed books available

WEDNESDAY JULY 8 6:00 PM

David Rosenfelt discusses [Muzzled](#) (St Martins \$27.99), an Andy Carpenter thriller (with dogs)

Signed books available

TUESDAY JULY 14 4:30 (7:30 ET) Virtual Book Launch

Please join The Poisoned Pen in partnership with Harper to celebrate the launch of [The Order](#) (Harper \$29.99) with **Daniel Silva** and CNN Special Correspondent **Jamie Gangel** in a conversation!

To join us, please purchase a copy of [The Order](#) (Harper \$29.99). Signed copies while they last, one per customer. Additional unsigned copies are available.

Once you make your purchase you will receive the confirmation for your purchase which will include a link and password to register for this special event on Crowdcast.

TUESDAY JULY 14 6:00 PM

Jeff Abbott discusses [Never Ask Me](#) (Grand Central \$27)

Ellison Cooper discusses [Cut to the Bone](#) (St Martins \$27.99)

Glen Erik Hamilton discusses [A Dangerous Breed](#) (Harper \$27.99)

Signed books available for all three

WEDNESDAY JULY 15 6:00 0PM

Ace Atkins discusses [The Revelators](#) (Putnam \$27)

Each of our copies includes a Quinn Colson bumper sticker from Atkins

J Todd Scott discusses [Lost River](#) (Putnam \$27)

Signed books available for both

THURSDAY JULY 16 6:00 PM

Spencer Quinn discusses [Of Mutts and Men](#) (Forge \$26.99)

Signed books available

MONDAY JULY 20 12:30 PM

Camilla Lackberg joins us from Sweden to discuss [The Golden Cage](#) (Knopf \$26.95)

MONDAY JULY 20 4:00 PM

Australian Author Anna Downes discusses [The Safe Place](#) (St Martins \$26.99)

MONDAY JULY 20 6:00 PM Virtual Book Launch

Brad Thor discusses [Near Dark](#) (Atria \$28.99)

Signed books available and a special postcard

TUESDAY JULY 21 6:00 PM

Jim Butcher discusses [Peace Talks](#) (Ace \$29)

Harry Dresden. Signed books available

WEDNESDAY JULY 22 6:00 PM

Joe R. Lansdale discusses [More Better Deals](#) (Mulholland \$27)

with Patrick

Signed books available

HOLDING FOR CONFIRMATION

Stan Parish discussing his superb caper [Love and Theft](#) (Double-day \$26.95) in conversation with **Peter Nowalk**, creator of *How to Get Away with Murder* either on July 23 5:00 PM or Aug 5

5:00 PM

Signed books available

Signed books available

THURSDAY JULY 23 6:00 PM

Patrick hosts Gary Phillips in a discussion of [Matthew Henson](#)

[and the Ice Temple of Harlem](#) (Polis Books \$16)

SATURDAY JULY 25 2:00 PM Cozy Fun

Daryl Gerber discusses [A Sprinkling of Murder](#) (Kensington

\$15.95)

Maria DiRico discusses [Here Comes the Body](#) (Kensington \$7.99)

MONDAY JULY 27 6:00 PM

James Carlos Blake discusses [The Bones of Wolfe](#) (Grove \$26)

Neal Griffin discusses [The Burden of Truth](#) (Forge \$27.99)

Signed books available

TUESDAY JULY 28 5:00 PM

Shawn A. Cosby discusses [Blacktop Wasteland](#) (St Martins

\$26.99) with Patrick

Signed book available

SIGNED BOOKS

With Advance Reading Copies on Pause and our doing so many events at or before publication, in many instances I must quote reviews or the publisher

Abbott, Jeff. [Never Ask Me](#) (Grand Central \$27). Set in an affluent Austin, Texas, suburb, this cunning and complex domestic thriller centers on the Pollitt family: parents Iris and Kyle and their teenage children, Julia and Grant. Early one morning, Julia and a friend, Ned, find Ned's mother, Danielle Roberts, murdered in a neighborhood park. The Pollitts' lives are turned upside down as all four family members become entangled in the subsequent investigation. Danielle—who facilitated the Pollitts' contentious adoption of Grant from a St. Petersburg orphanage when he was a baby—had a complicated history with Iris and Kyle. Julia is tangentially involved in Ned's prescription drug dealing business, and Grant has been receiving disturbing emails warning him that his parents are lying to him. Excerpts from Iris's old journal chronicling Grant's adoption process raise the suspense....

TUESDAY JULY 28 6:00 PM Virtual Book Launch

Brian Freeman discusses [Robert Ludlum's The Bourne Evolution](#) (Putnam \$28)

Signed books available

WEDNESDAY JULY 29 11:00 AM

UK author Alice Feeney discusses [His & Hers](#) (Flatiron \$27.99)

Our July British Crime Club Book of the Month

WEDNESDAY JULY 29 12:00 PM

Samantha Downing discusses [He Started It](#) (Berkley \$26)

Signed copies available

Adele Parks discusses [Lies, Lies, Lies](#) (Mira \$17.99)

Stephanie Wrobel discusses [The Recovery of Rose Gold](#) (Joseph

\$35)/ [Darling Rose Gold](#) (Berkley \$26)

THURSDAY JULY 30 5:00 PM Virtual Book Launch

Karen Dionne discusses [The Wicked Sister](#) (Putnam \$28)

Signed books available

THURSDAY JULY 30 6:00 PM

Nicholas Griffin in conversation with John Sandford about

Griffin's [The Year of Dangerous Days: Riots, Refugees, and Cocaine in Miami 1980](#) (SimonSchuster \$26.99)

Snazzy postcard of 1980 Miami comes with each copy

SATURDAY AUGUST 1 2:00 PM

Erica Ruth Neubauer discusses [Murder at the Mena House](#) (St

Martins \$27)

A few Signed books remain for our August First Mystery Book of the Month

MONDAY AUGUST 3 5:00 PM Virtual Book Launch

Karin Slaughter discusses [The Silent Wife](#) (Morrow \$28.99)

Preorder your signed copy to get an exclusive: a cell phone wallet to go with the book

TUESDAY AUGUST 4 6:00 PM Virtual Book Launch

Rhys Bowen discusses [The Last Mrs. Summers](#) (Berkley \$26)

Her Royal Spyness

It is possible that Jenn McKinlay discusses [Paris Is Always a](#)

[Good Idea](#) (Berkley \$16). If not Jenn will be with us on August 22

Signed books available for both

You will appreciate the savvy way in which Abbott fits together the pieces of the puzzle.

Atkins, Ace. [The Revelators](#) (Putnam \$27). Tibbehah County Sheriff Quinn Colson, bullet-holed and left for dead, is feeling vengeful but kept from getting back to work by the interim sheriff—who ordered his murder. And hard pressed to keep his patch of Mississippi in line. Quinn's 12-year-old nephew, Jason, goes AWOL along with his schoolmate Ana Gabriel Hernandez-Ramirez to accept an unsavory invitation to follow the trail of Ana's mother, one of 53 undocumented workers from the local chicken processing plant rounded up by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Brock Tanner won't issue an Amber Alert. It's clear that Tanner is uncomfortably cozy with grasping madam Fannie Hathcock, "the queen hellcat of north Mississippi"; with J.K. Vardaman, the good-old-boy governor who's never met a graft he wouldn't latch onto; and with the Watchmen, a militia looking to boost their stockpile of weapons. Tanner's deputies

harass Quinn's kid sister, Caddy, and go even further with activist Hector Herrera. And it gets worse....

Blake, James Carlos. [The Bones of Wolfe: A Border Noir](#) (Grove \$26). At the start of Blake's rollicking new Border Noir, Eddie Gato Wolfe and a small crew aboard a boat in the Gulf of Mexico deliver a shipment of guns to members of the Mexican branch of the Wolfe clan for delivery to the Los Zetas cartel. Patrick adds: "I've been a massive fan of Blake's work for over 20 years now, from his exquisitely conceived historical novels based upon infamous outlaws (Harry Pierpont, John Wesley Harding) and complicated characters such as Bloody Bill Anderson and Pancho Villa. His current project is an ambitious, multigenerational saga chronicling the lives and exploits of the Wolfe family, a loosely-stitched clan of gun-runners with branches above and below the Mexican border. In the latest adventure, members of the Wolfe clan deliver a shipment of guns to a client down in the Gulf of Mexico. The guns are soon hijacked by members of an upstart group who endeavor to find favor with Sinaloan cartel boss, El Chubasco. It's up to Wolfe family to make things right. A terrific, insightful border novel. One of his best to date."

Bowden, Mike. [The Case of the Vanishing Blonde and Other True Crime Stories](#) (Grove \$27). I was truly gripped by these stories, especially the one highlighted in the title which is an astonishing exemplar of perseverance and detailed investigation, plus some inspired guesswork. Here's an enthusiastic review that highlights other cases:" The six previously published true crime stories in this engrossing collection from Bowden (*Black Hawk Down*) showcase his gift for narrative nonfiction. "The Incident at Alpha Tau Omega" recounts the gang rape of a Penn college student in 1983, providing insights into how both the victim and the accused were treated in a different era, with the culprits eventually receiving what amounted to a slap on the wrist. Whodunit fans will relish "The Body in Room 348," in which businessman Greg Fleniken was relaxing in a Texas hotel room one evening in 2010 when he was fatally "struck from nowhere" by a mysterious something. The lack of obvious wounds led the police to believe he died of natural causes, until an autopsy revealed severe internal injuries. Fleniken's widow was fortunate to get PI Ken Brennan, who appears in other articles, to crack the case. In the book's most memorable piece, "why don't u tell me wht ur into," Bowden reconstructs an online sting aimed at child predators via interviews with the FBI agent and the man eventually arrested, and raises thought-provoking questions about entrapment. New readers will want to seek out Bowden's book-length nonfiction after devouring this."

Bowen, Rhys. [The Last Mrs. Summers](#) (Berkley \$26). Virtual book launch August 4. Lady Georgiana Rannoch is just back from her African honeymoon with dashing Darcy O'Mara when a friend in need pulls her into a twisted Gothic tale of betrayal, deception and, most definitely, murder.... More in August when I will have acquired a reading copy.

Butcher, Jim. [Peace Talks](#) (Ace \$29). When the Supernatural nations of the world meet up to negotiate an end to ongoing hostilities, Harry Dresden, Chicago's only professional wizard, joins the White Council's security team to make sure the talks stay civil. But can he succeed, when dark political manipulations threaten the very existence of Chicago—and all he holds dear? Still waiting on the date and confirmation we ship to him. Stay tuned.

The publisher adds, "Eagerly awaited by wizard Harry Dresden's legion of fans, this 16th book in the series is definitely worth the wait. Wonderful scenes feature magical illusions, and many familiar characters return for peace talks in Chicago. Not much is peaceful for Harry, as the wizards might kick him off the White Council, faerie Queen Mab wants him to do a couple of favors for vampire Lara, and Harry's half-brother is in prison after an assassination attempt. For series fans of *The Hollows*, *The Iron Druid Chronicles*, and *The Nightside*."

Castillo, Linda. [Outsider](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Always one to push the envelope with what is at heart a small Ohio town police procedural series set in Amish country, Castillo pens a pure thriller here that allows much of Kate Burkholder's own backstory in. What we have is a hard-bitten woman police officer from Columbus who exercises a late-night escape plan to escape execution by corrupt colleagues. A staggering blizzard helps her but as she heads out she enters Holmes County and realizes the only person she can think to trust, a fellow trainee back in their police academy days, might be her salvation. But her car wrecks and hurt, she's taken in by a widower Amish farmer with children. And Adam calls in Kate Burkholder, that fellow trainee, who recognizes Gina Colorosa. Gina's ambition caused a rift, and now her baggage is heavy, but she convinces Kate with her tale of dirty cops. And Kate in turn calls in Tomasetti. Meanwhile those bad actor cops are determined to wipe out Gina and anyone around her.... As I said it's a nail biting thriller. Fans of Kate will be pleased to add new dimensions to her character and story.

Cooper, Ellison. [Cut to the Bone](#) (St Martins \$27.99). FBI agent and neuroscientist Sayer Altair heads up a challenging, high-profile investigation into a hijacked bus carrying 24 high schoolers returning from a STEM fair in Washington, D.C. When a 17-year-old girl's body is found on the grounds of the National Academy of Sciences, she's identified as one of the missing students. The ritualized staging of the corpse, carefully placed on the celestial map at the Einstein Memorial and surrounded by a circle of nine baboon figurines and a large axe, persuades Sayer it's the work of a serial killer. The suspense mounts as the tally of victims rise, and the remaining hostages on board the bus plot an escape. Meanwhile, fake witnesses, misinformation, and false identities undermine Sayer's hunt for the missing teens, and a shocking revelation tests her strength of character.

Cosby, Shawn A. [Blacktop Wasteland](#) (Flatiron \$26.99). Beau-regard "Bug" Montage is an honest mechanic, a loving husband, and a hard-working dad. Bug knows there's no future in the man he used to be: known from the hills of North Carolina to the beaches of Florida as the best wheelman on the East Coast. He thought he'd left all that behind him, but as his carefully built new life begins to crumble, he finds himself drawn inexorably back into a world of blood and bullets. Patrick says, "Mechanic Beauregard "Bug" Montage is determined to keep things on the straight and narrow, working hard and doing his best to keep his garage open. With an economy that's in the tank, however, Bug's bills are piling up. His ornery, chain-smoking mother is about to get kicked out of her nursing home, his business is about to go into foreclosure, and Bug's prospects aren't looking too good. So, when a slick-talking grifter approaches Bug to take the wheel as the getaway driver in a jewel heist caper, our man reluctantly agrees. It is the classic noir set-up: a good man who wants to put the past behind but is lured back into the game. Can he redeem

himself and get back on track, or is there a part of his own nature that wants him back in the driver's seat, consequences be damned? I sure wish I'd been aware of Cosby when I was putting together *The Highway Kind*, my anthology of car-related crime stories. I definitely would have hit this terrific author up for a story. Don't miss this one, folks." And, "Every once in a while a writer comes along with an incredible voice. Think Elmore Leonard, or Chester Himes...add S. A. Cosby to that list."—Steve Cavanagh, agreeing with Lee Child and Patrick.

Dionne, Karen. [The Wicked Sister](#) (Putnam \$28). Rachel Cunningham, the protagonist of this devastating, magic realism–dusted psychological thriller has been guilt-ridden for 15 years since a twin tragedy she can't remember—her mother's murder and father's apparent suicide—when she was 11 at her family's vast wilderness estate on Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She has voluntarily confined herself to a decaying mental institution, where one day she gains access to the original police report, obtained somehow by a fellow patient's brother, that sparks the faint hope she's not responsible for her parents' deaths—and sends her back to the family estate, where her brilliant but scary older sister, Diana, and their aunt still live, to try to figure out what really happened. But Rachel's mission soon becomes far more perilous than she anticipated. Arriving unannounced at a time when both women are away, she discovers paperwork indicating that Diana is up to no good. As Rachel scrambles to remain undetected, the tension at times becomes almost unbearable, especially as the reader becomes privy to critical information unknown to Rachel via flashbacks narrated by her late mother. "Dionne paints a haunting portrait of a family hurtling toward the tragic destiny they can foresee but are powerless to stop." Not sure I agree about powerless to stop. What is devastating is the ruthless portrait of a true psychopath and an unwillingness to recognize one.

Doiron, Paul. [One Last Lie](#) (Minotaur \$27.99). **Let me start by saying that any reader of CJ Box and Randy Wayne White should order this book immediately.** You can explore the wilds of the Everglades (the python!) and the wilds of northern Maine where poachers run rampant back and forth over the border which is heavily patrolled now (think Joe Pickett here). And Maine Warden Investigator Mike Bowditch, with police powers, is working a cold case off the grid (OK, not Nate Romanowski but then, something of his style).

It arises unexpectedly while Bowditch is doing a new hire evaluation down in Florida and has time to join his ex, Stacy, on a python hunt. Wheelchair-bound Ora Stevens calls to say that Bowditch's mentor and father figure, her elderly husband Charley, is missing. Without explanation or contacts. Catching a flight back to Maine, Mike begins an off-the-radar-from-the-Warden-Service investigation. It takes him into the state's northern river-side border where Acadians of the St. John Valley, separated by the artificial national border, form a closed community. A Warden went undercover there 15 years back, infiltrating a ruthless gang of poachers, mostly run by a father and two sons. Charley ended up killing the father in the manhunt that followed the officer's exposure. Is a badge Charley spotted very recently at a flea market what touched off his disappearance? And does it connect to that old situation? And if so, who besides the villagers is covering up secrets? Some fellow Wardens? I completely agree with this *PW* Starred Review: "Edgar finalist Doiron artfully blends

a whodunit plot with superior characterizations in his top-notch 11th mystery featuring Mike Bowditch....Doiron vividly portrays the Maine woods setting while maintaining taut suspense. This entry reinforces the author's position in the front rank of regional thriller writers."

Downing, Samantha. [He Started It](#) (Berkley \$26). A summer road trip? Out of the way tourist traps? Look no farther. Beth Morgan's wryly humorous narration belies the high-stakes skull-duggery that awaits her and her two estranged adult siblings on the cross-country road trip they're forced into taking with their grandfather's ashes in order to claim slices of his fortune, in this deliciously devious psycho thriller from the author of bestseller [My Lovely Wife](#) (\$16). According to the terms of the will, Beth, overbearing big brother Eddie, and frosty baby sister Portia must retrace the oddball odyssey westward from Atlanta they took 20 years earlier with gramps, a traumatic trip that was intended to give their parents some alone time to save their marriage but would tear their family apart. The reboot starts inauspiciously with a truck running the travelers off the road in rural Alabama and subsequently tailing them. As backstabbing, bizarre occurrences (including the disappearance of the ashes) and betrayals pile up, Downing discloses the clan's deeply buried secrets. The journey ends in a shocking, if head-spinning, showdown in the Nevada desert. Those with a taste for suspense with a wicked kick will be rewarded

Estleman, Loren D. [Indigo](#) (Forge \$27). A Starred Review: "Edgar finalist Estleman effortlessly melds film history with a whodunit in his gripping mystery featuring UCLA movie archivist Valentino. Valentino is devoted to locating and acquiring "rare motion pictures so they can be preserved for future generations to see and appreciate." He gets a unique opportunity from Ignacio Bozal, a wealthy man with a shadowy past, who gives him the only known copy of *Bleak Street*, a never-released movie, in which an obscure actor named Van Oliver starred as a gangster based on Bugsy Siegel. Oliver disappeared and was believed to have been murdered, possibly by the mob, in 1959, before the picture could be released. The PR department at UCLA insists that Valentino try to shed light on Oliver's fate, to bolster the publicity for the planned screening of *Bleak Street*. Valentino sets out to see how much he can learn, decades later, about what actually happened from the few people left involved with the film, including a fellow actor who was the last person known to have seen Oliver alive. The solution to the cold case is both clever and surprising. Film noir buffs will be in heaven."

Farmer, Edward A. [Pale](#) (Blackstone \$26.99). Secrets and revenge haunt a Mississippi plantation in this potent debut novel. Bernice takes a job as a servant in the Kern household to find stability and a place with her brother when she was otherwise alone. Jesse and Fletcher, the two sons of fellow servant Silva, arrive to work the cotton harvest in the summer of 1966, and the Missus sees an opportunity to repay old wounds. Flirting with Jesse is only the beginning of a plan that will destroy families. Bernice struggles to discover the roots of the Missus's anger while shielding those that she cares for as much as possible. *Pale* is a spare book, full of characters that do not give up their secrets easily. The world is changing as the civil rights movement surges across the country, but at the Kern plantation, young men ask what makes them different from slaves. Missus's revenge is for wrongs a generation old, and its aftermath will stretch into the

next. Although this is a brief book, Farmer takes his time setting out the methods by which characters will destroy each other over the course of years. Small, cruel truths slowly come out. Readers will hang on each page, just as Bernice feels bound to stay until the story is done. This intergenerational story of racism, patriarchy and vengeance is one that will not soon be forgotten.

“The plot and writing are evocative of the work of the late Ernest Gaines; it’s a story simply and directly told, and by that simplicity and directness it exposes familial cruelties and kindnesses in equal measure. This is a promising beginning for a writer who, whether he realizes it or not, continues a rich and lyrical narrative tradition. A beautiful first novel.”—*LJ* Starred Review for our **July Fantastic New Fiction Book of the Month**.

Fforde, Jasper. [The Constant Rabbit](#) (Hodder \$45). There are 1.2 million human-sized rabbits living in the UK. They can walk, talk and drive cars, the result of an Inexplicable Anthropomorphizing Event fifty-five years ago. And a family of rabbits is about to move into Much Hemlock, a cozy little village where life revolves around summer fetes, jam-making, gossipy corner stores, and the oh-so-important Best Kept Village awards. No sooner have the rabbits arrived than the villagers decide they must depart. But Mrs. Constance Rabbit is made of sterner stuff, and her family is behind her. Unusually, so are their neighbors, long-time residents Peter Knox and his daughter Pippa, who soon find that you can be a friend to rabbits or humans, but not both. With a blossoming romance, acute cultural differences, enforced rehoming to a MegaWarren in Wales, and the full power of the ruling United Kingdom Anti Rabbit Party against them, Peter and Pippa are about to question everything....

Fowler, Christopher. [Bryant and May: Oranges and Lemons](#) (Doubleday UK \$40). One Sunday morning, the outspoken Speaker of the House of Commons steps out of his front door only to be crushed under a mountain of citrus fruit. Bizarre accident or something more sinister? The government needs to know because here’s a man whose knowledge of parliament’s biggest secret could put the future of the government at stake? It should be the perfect case for Bryant & May and the Peculiar Crimes Unit, but unfortunately one detective is in hospital, the other is missing and the staff has all been dismissed. It seems the PCU is no more. But events escalate: a series of brutal crimes seemingly linked to an old English folk-song threatens the very foundation of London society and suddenly the PCU is offered a reprieve and are back in (temporary) business! And if the two elderly detectives, ‘old men in a woke world’, do manage to set aside their differences and discover why some of London’s most influential figures are under life-threatening attack, they might not just save the unit but also prevent the entire city from descending into chaos....

Freeman, Brian. [Robert Ludlum’s The Bourne Evolution](#) (Putnam \$28). Freeman’s first Jason Bourne thriller is a treat for fans of the late Robert Ludlum. Without apparent motive, a man with no known criminal history or mental illness opens fire on a Las Vegas crowd and slaughters 66 people. More than a year later, a New York congresswoman is murdered, shot in the neck. The congresswoman had been about to expose a large-scale data hacking scandal in big tech. The suspect is an “ex-government operative gone rogue” code-named Cain. That’s the hero, Jason Bourne. Fans know that as Cain, he was a professional assassin before a gunshot wound stole all memory of his past. Treadstone,

his former organization, believes he’s out of control and wants him dead. Good luck with that, because “Bourne was a ghost. Impossible to kill.” So Bourne agrees to meet secretly with a journalist in Quebec City who has written about the Vegas killings and is investigating the congresswoman’s murder. Nothing goes right, of course. Later, Bourne agrees to find a connection between that killing and a mysterious organization called Medusa. “What follows is plenty of well-plotted action of the bloodletting variety....for a real scare, meet the superb villain Miss Shirley. She warns people, “at all times when we are together to call me Miss Shirley.” That’s in every sentence, with violations punishable by a bullet in the throat, even if she’s just treated a guy to the best sex ever. The showdown between Bourne and Miss Shirley is one for the ages.”—*Kirkus* Starred Review

Griffin, Neal. [The Burden of Truth](#) (Forge \$27.99). Straight-A student Omar Ortega plans to join the army after he graduates from his Vista, California, high school. He expects his wages and his savings will get his mother and 16-year-old sister, Sofia, and 13-year-old brother, Hector, into a nice house and out of the barrio where they have been since his father was deported. Omar has managed to stay away from gang life, and keep Sofia and Hector safe. One night, Chunks Gutierrez, newly released from prison, forces Omar to ride with him and two members of his gang in his car. Someone fires a gun from the car, killing a cop, and Omar is later arrested for the crime. Griffin sensitively explores Omar’s plight as he’s labeled a cop killer, and the emotional growth of police officer Travis Jackson, who at first is convinced Omar is guilty, but comes to realize the evidence points to another culprit. This is a tense story and painfully realistic.

Guthrie, Kimiko. [Block Seventeen](#) (Blackstone \$26.99). A twenty-first-century ghost story offers chills in this promising debut, a “moving, compelling novel about intergenerational trauma and a woman’s process of integrating the various known and mysterious threads of her identity. The narrator, Jane (birth name Akiko), is the daughter of a woman who spent part of her childhood in Japanese internment camps. As the story moves back and forth between the contemporary Bay Area and the camps of the 1940s, we come to understand the tragedies that are passed down through a family, even unarticulated, which shape and, often, contaminate the present. Each of the three women in the book—Jane, her mother, her grandmother—searches for ways to evade unbearable loss, each in her separate context. Kimiko Guthrie has written a book in which what seems like surrealism or even magical realism can be understood as the efforts of troubled souls to make sense of experiences that cannot be rationally explained; in light of what is gradually learned about Jane’s family history, these experiences reveal themselves to be fragments of a painful collective and personal legacy. Guthrie’s book is poetically written and psychologically astute.” And should be part of today’s on-going conversations with its portrait of the lingering impact of WWII Japanese internment camps in the U.S.

Hallinan, Tim. [Street Music](#) (Soho \$26.95). *LJ* reviews: Hallinan’s ninth and final “Poke Rafferty” novel has Bangkok-based American journalist Poke, his Thai wife, Rose, and their adopted daughter, Miaow, adjusting to a new family member. Rose has just given birth to a son, and Poke’s life is in disarray. He’s been known for getting into some scrapes and doing a little detective work on the side, but now he faces the responsibilities of being a father and protecting his family. When his good friend van-

ishes, he tries to locate him and ends up running into his adopted daughter's birth mother. When she is murdered, Poke is a suspect, but then he tries to solve her murder. This slow-paced, noir-style mystery can be read as a stand-alone, but newcomers will have a richer experience having read the previous books. Raw and atmospheric, this is a solid finale to the series."

"Anyone who has enjoyed a Poke Rafferty novel over the years knows that family life is at the very heart of Hallinan's work and the complex dynamics between Poke, Rose, and Miaow are the true, beautiful mystery at work . . . [in] the typically dizzying, satisfying mixture from Hallinan, whose novels are reliably nuanced and compelling." —CrimeReads

Hamilton, Glen Erik. [A Dangerous Breed](#) (Harper \$27.99). An invitation addressed to his long-dead mother sparks Van Shaw's curiosity about the woman he barely knew. As he digs into young Moira Shaw's past, he uncovers startling details about her life, including her relationship to a boy named Sean Burke—a boy Moira may have been seeing when she became pregnant. Could this Burke be the biological father who abandoned Van before he was born? Although Van knows all too well that some doors shouldn't be opened, he decides to investigate the man—only to discover that Burke has an even darker family history than Van's own. But Van's got more immediate problems. His friend Hollis is in a jam, and helping him out accidentally steers Van into the path of a master extortionist named Bilal Nath. Nath demands that the talented thief mastermind a daring heist targeting a Seattle biotechnology firm, or the blackmailer will destroy the lives of people Van loves. With Bilal Nath coercing him into a possible act of domestic terrorism, Van turns to his formidable crew of lawbreaking friends—including Hollis, Big Will Willard, and Willard's sly and seductive niece Elana—for help. Yet even this team may not be enough. To outwit a brilliant sociopath, Van might just need a cold-blooded killer. . . a criminal whose blood may run through his own veins.

Lansdale, Joe R. [More Better Deals](#) (Mulholland \$27). From the Edgar Award-winning author of the Hap and Leonard series, a hard-boiled novel set in 1960s Texas in which a no-nonsense car salesman faces a tempting decision, a dangerous deal, and an alluring affair. Used car salesman Ed Edwards, the narrator of this highly enjoyable hardboiled tale set in 1960s Texas from Edgar winner Lansdale, has no qualms about perpetrating serious crimes in his pursuit of the American Dream. When sent to repossess a Cadillac purchased by Frank Craig, a rough, hard-drinking brute who is "big enough to hunt tigers with nothing but a bad attitude," Ed falls for Frank's gorgeous if conniving wife, Nancy. After acquiring the Cadillac for himself, Ed and Nancy begin an affair, and Ed soon sets his sights on attaining part-ownership of Nancy's drive-in movie theater and pet cemetery. To achieve this, he devises a crude plan to beat her husband to death and stage his murder to look like an accident so that Nancy can claim Frank's life insurance policy. Unsurprisingly, nothing goes as planned, and Ed's hopes of a more prosperous future prove as shoddy and pretentious as the clunkers he sells. Populated with an admirable array of laughable miscreants, this droll, savage novel is vintage Lansdale. The author's storytelling powers remain as strong as ever.

The June 20 *NY Times* review adds: "When funky books need to be written, Joe R. Lansdale writes them. He comes through again with *More Better Deals*. The plot is pure James M.

Cain's *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, but steeped in hillbilly noir. Ed Edwards is a crack salesman and repo man who works at Smiling Dave's used-car lot. He knows he looks like a used-car salesman. But his aspiration is to look like a guy who owns a Cadillac, so he lets his lover talk him into killing her husband. Like Cain's illicit lovers, Ed and Nancy (a pretty woman with "alligator" eyes) hatch a plot to murder the husband and collect his insurance money. The plan is promising, but the real fun is in plot details like the High-Tone Drive-In, an outdoor movie theater with an attached pet cemetery that figures in the story and nicely captures Lansdale's slightly depraved wit." To which Patrick adds, "Joe Lansdale is a national treasure. As far as I'm concerned, he's right up there with Mark Twain. I immediately drop everything else when a new Lansdale comes out. Enough said."

Lovesey, Peter. [The Finisher](#) (Sphere \$45). On the 50th anniversary of the publication of his first novel, Peter Lovesey, Mystery Writers of America Grand Master and titan of the British detective novel, returns to the subject of his very first mystery, *Wobble to Death*: running. Through a particularly tragic series of events, couch potato Maeve Kelly has been forced to sign up for the Other Half, Bath's springtime half-marathon. What Maeve doesn't know is just how brutal some of the other runners are. As race day draws closer, an Albanian refugee named Spiro makes a run for freedom on the other side of town, escaping the chain gang that has held him hostage and its murderous foreman, who is known to his charges as The Finisher. The Finisher has killed for disobedience before, and Spiro knows there's a target on his back as he tries to lose himself in the genteel medieval city of Bath. A city riddled with caves, tunnels, old mines. . . . Meanwhile Detective Peter Diamond is tasked with crowd control on the raucous day of the race—and catches sight of a violent criminal he put away a decade ago, and who very much seems to be up to his old tricks now that he is paroled. Diamond's hackles are already up when he learns that one of the runners never crossed the finish line and has disappeared without a trace.

McKinlay, Jenn. [Paris Is Always a Good Idea](#) (Berkley \$16). When Chelsea Martin's mother died seven years ago, her life changed completely. No longer the free spirit she once was, the now 30-year-old Chelsea is addicted to structure and afraid of new experiences. She hasn't even been on a date since a series of flings on a trip abroad before her mother's death. She's snapped out of her funk by her father's announcement that he is engaged to a woman he's only known for two weeks. In an effort to remember that kind of wild, reckless love, Chelsea decides to retake her European trip and revisit the men she dated in Ireland, France, and Italy. But while she's overseas, Jason Knightley, her work rival, needs her help on the largest project of either of their careers, and she agrees to give him some of her time. She never could have anticipated that their video calls would lead to romance. Chelsea's European adventure leads to some uproarious mishaps and, though they're worlds away from each other, readers will have no trouble investing in Chelsea and Jason's enemies-to-lovers romance. Their witty banter and complimentary personalities make them an easy couple to root for. This flawless rom-com is sure to delight. "McKinlay proves she is also a master at romantic women's fiction with this dazzling novel that delivers everything McKinlay's fans expect—deliciously acerbic wit, delightfully relatable characters, and deeply funny dialogue—

all deftly poured into a plot that also thoughtfully examines what true happiness really means.”—*Booklist*

Moshfegh, Ottessa. [Death in Her Hands](#) (Penguin \$27). “Literature’s reigning queen of the profane, Ottessa Moshfegh is divisive: Readers tend to love her or hate her. If her latest novel is subtler than her most recent works, it’s just as chilling — it could be a jumping-off point for new readers. A self-contained horror story that takes place inside the mind of an alluringly unreliable narrator, the novel follows a 72-year-old widow who has moved with her dog to a large plot of land where they are seemingly at one with nature. When she finds a handwritten note that implies a murder has taken place on her property, she works to solve it as best she can. The narrator’s dark fantasies and less-than-pure thoughts work especially well if you think of *Death in Her Hands* as a sequel to Moshfegh’s deliciously gross and grotesque debut novel, *Eileen*.” —*Vulture* on an author who is not for me.

Neubauer, Erica. [Murder at the Mena House](#) (St Martins \$27). An exotic trip back in time to 1920s Egypt, with a cast of winning characters right out of the Golden Age of crime fiction forms this charming adventure cum murder mystery set in a luxury hotel at the foot of the great pyramids. Gigolos, card sharps, smugglers, rich aunts, and one achingly handsome romantic interest surround our plucky, irresistible, complex heroine, the young widow Mrs. Jane Wunderly. An auspicious start to what promises to be an exciting and compelling series. Erica wanted to do a live event for her debut but we’ll go virtual instead (with visuals) and ship our first prints to her for our **August First Mystery Book of the Month**.

North, Alex. [The Shadow Friend](#) (Joseph \$33). The pseudonymous North follows up his sensational debut, 2019’s *The Whisper Man*, with another terrifying spine-tingler set in Featherbank, England. When Paul Adams was 15, his school playground was the scene of the murder of one of his friends. The alleged killer, teenager Charlie Crabtree, was another friend of Paul. Charlie disappeared and was never seen again. After going away to college, Paul doesn’t return to Featherbank until, as a 40-year-old English teacher, he decides he must come home to tend to his dying mother. To his dismay, history appears to be repeating itself with a series of copycat killings of teenage boys. Det. Amanda Beck, from the previous novel, investigates as the bodies pile up and suspects accumulate. Ghosts (real and imagined) continue to haunt Paul, whose senile mother fears something strange is in the house. The complex plot shifts smoothly between past and present with numerous unexpected twists. An overwhelming atmosphere of doom and disaster hovers over the perennial darkness of the nearby woods. This heart-pounding page-turner is impossible to put down.

NOTE: This is the UK edition of our June British Crime Club Pick titled [The Shadows](#) (Celadon \$26.99), which is not Signed—and which has a wildly different dust jacket art.

Parish, Stan. [Love and Theft](#) (Doubleday \$26.95). This is a last minute addition to our calendar and I just received a printed MS. Parish will do a virtual event with us either July 23 or August 5 and I suspect his book will be a Crime Book of the Month if I work out signed copies. Meanwhile here are some testimonials for what is a rocket-fueled caper: “A dark jewel, polished and precision-cut, beloved faces reflected in each glossy facet: Don Winslow, Elmore Leonard, Nelson DeMille. Love and Theft

pays tribute to classic capers — and rivals the best of them for verve and ingenuity. A breathless adventure both starry-eyed and cool-blooded, both charming and diabolical. More, please.”—A.J. Finn. And “Tight, beautifully written, and crackling with full-throttle tension, *Love and Theft* knocked me out. An electrifying novel. Stan Parish has the stuff. For real.”—Robert Crais. And “Well now! I just read the next great American crime novelist. *Love and Theft* is a smart, electric, totally original tale that I absolutely could not put down. To put it simply, this is a fast, fantastic, entirely satisfying read. Fans of Elmore Leonard rejoice. Stan Parish has arrived!” —Christopher Reich. And finally, “*Love and Theft* is the caper thriller we’ve all been waiting for—lean, sophisticated, ice-cold, endlessly surprising. What took it so long to get here?”—Lincoln Child

Qiu, Xiaolong. [Hold Your Breath, China](#) (Severn \$30). We have finally received our signed copies from Qiu, one of my favorite authors. *PW* Stars the 10th in this series featuring a talented poet/cop and graphically portraying the pollution sickening a swathe of China: “Qiu’s outstanding 10th novel featuring Chief Inspector Chen Cao of the Shanghai Police Bureau finds Chen shelved for vigorously investigating corruption involving high-ranking Communist Party officials. But the capable Chen is soon back in action, along with his partner, Detective Yu Guangming, after the Special Case squad fails to make progress on a serial killer case; someone has murdered three people by shattering their skulls, apparently with a hammer. The victims share no obvious connections, and the Party Secretary himself requests Chen and Yu’s involvement. Chen is later pulled away from the case by the retired first secretary of the Party Central Discipline Committee, who wants him to spy on a group of antipollution activists bent on forcing the government to address China’s air quality. That the group’s leader is a woman Chen knows well complicates his task. Qiu’s execution matches his ambition. Fans of mysteries about honest cops working for compromised regimes won’t want to miss this one.” I have been a fan from the beginning of this award-winning series where “Xiaolong writes with both urgency and grace about modern China.”—*Booklist* Starred Review. He includes his own poetry as well as translations.

Quinn, Spencer. [Of Mutts and Men](#) (Forge \$26.99). So much fun; this is truly a Scottsdale backdrop and nails many aspects of high desert life. With Chet the dog as the narrator and Bernie Little, the PI Chet adores, plunge into an investigation, we track it through a different sort of unreliable narrator but one who sticks doggedly to the meat of the story. Wendell Nero, chairman emeritus of the geology department of Valley College, confides to Bernie of the Little Detective Agency that something may be amiss. When Bernie and Chet arrive at Nero’s RV parked at his worksite the next morning, they discover Nero sitting at his desk—dead. Someone has cut his throat. Plus his wallet is missing. Chet’s nose leads them on the trail of a gum-chewing suspect who has the wallet. But Bernie doesn’t believe that Florian Machado is Nero’s killer.... Water as a resource plays a big role in this tale.

Rosenfelt, David. [Muzzled](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Paterson, NJ, attorney Andy Carpenter is almost preternaturally astute about the wickedness people get up to, but it takes a predicament for a dog to nudge him into action. He prefers to be retired. “The beauty of retirement is that it is a permanent situation,” he says to his wife and chief investigator, former cop Laurie. She replies: “Our differences are semantic. You consider yourself retired; I see

it as semi-retired. I think you should come around to my point of view; that way you avoid disappointment....” If you take this case, “it fits right in. You won’t feel like you failed at retirement. You’ll be a success at semi-retirement.” Who could withstand the force of this? So Andy agrees to defend a man charged with murder on the basis that his client risked everything, even his freedom and his life, to reunite with his dog.” And behind the crimes is a topic that plays straight into the moment: a new drug trial.

Scott, J. Todd. [Lost River](#) (Putnam \$27). In this powerful standalone from Scott the arrival of new, fentanyl-laced heroin from Mexico has led to an unprecedented number of overdoses in the small town of Angel, Ky. EMT-in-training Trey Dorado, the son of a cop, sees the devastating impact first-hand every day, including the death of the former police chief’s wife. Dorado, who consoles himself with the knowledge he’s saved a few lives and is haunted by the rest, is called to a bloody scene at the Glasser family compound in a nearby town. Most of the bullet-riddled bodies are members of the notorious Glasser clan, which has held sway in the region for generations, making the natural transition from moonshine to marijuana, methamphetamines, and now heroin. DEA special agent Casey Alexander, who has ghosts of her own following a traumatic assignment in the Southwest, enlists Dorado to help navigate the complex case, which has deep ties to the local community. Scott, a 25-year veteran of the DEA, writes with authority about the drug crisis. Don Winslow fans won’t want to miss this wrenching thriller. Nor will you!

Silva, Daniel. [The Order](#) (Harper \$29.99). Gabriel Allon has slipped quietly into Venice for a much-needed holiday with his wife and two young children. But when Pope Paul VII dies suddenly, Gabriel is summoned to Rome by the Holy Father’s loyal private secretary, Archbishop Luigi Donati. A billion Catholic faithful have been told that the pope died of a heart attack. Donati, however, has two good reasons to suspect his master was murdered. The Swiss Guard who was standing watch outside the papal apartments the night of the pope’s death is missing. So, too, is the letter the Holy Father was writing during the final hours of his life. A letter that was addressed to Gabriel. “*While researching in the Vatican Secret Archives, I came upon a most remarkable book...*” The book is a long-suppressed gospel that calls into question the accuracy of the New Testament’s depiction of one of the most portentous events in human history. For that reason alone, the Order of St. Helena will stop at nothing to keep it out of Gabriel’s hands. A shadowy Catholic society with ties to the European far right, the Order is plotting to seize control of the papacy. And it is only the beginning. As the cardinals gather in Rome for the start of the conclave, Gabriel sets out on a desperate search for proof of the Order’s conspiracy, and for a long-lost gospel with the power to put an end to two thousand years of murderous hatred. His quest will take him from the Ponte Vecchio in Florence, to a monastery in Assisi, to the hidden depths of the Secret Archives, and finally to the Sistine Chapel, where he will witness an event no outsider has ever before seen—the sacred passing of the Keys of St. Peter to a newly elected pope.

Note: We have only a limited number of Signed copies. Your purchase, one per customer, is your ticket to the virtual event with Daniel. If you miss out on Signed an Unsigned copy purchased from The Pen will get you in to enjoy a program with Silva and his wife Jamie Gangel in their home.

Slaughter, Karin. [The Silent Wife](#) (Morrow \$28.99). **Virtual Event August 3. Preorder your signed copy and get an exclusive: a cell phone wallet designed to go with the book.** Georgia Bureau of Investigation agent Will Trent and his partner, Faith Mitchell, are investigating a prison murder when inmate Daryl Nesbitt extends an offer. Nesbitt will tell them who the killer is if the GBI will look into eight incidents—one recent—that he believes are connected to the rape of Beckey Caterino eight years earlier. Nesbitt is serving time for child pornography discovered on his computer during the cops’ investigation of the Caterino case, but Nesbitt maintains that Chief Jeffrey Tolliver—the now-deceased husband of Will’s girlfriend, medical examiner Sara Linton—framed him, and that a sadistic serial attacker remains at large. Will’s scrutiny of Jeffrey’s detective work sends Sara on a wistful trip down memory lane, leaving Will uncertain of their future. Will and Jeffrey’s inquiries, unfolding through frequent flashbacks, add nuance and complexity to an already intricate plot. Slaughter delivers an unflinching, deeply empathetic exploration of the stigma surrounding rape and the enduring trauma suffered by its survivors.

Taylor, Sarah Stewart. [The Mountains Wild](#) (Minotaur \$27.99). Karen reviews: At one time, Erin and Maggie were not only cousins, they were friends. It was not unusual for Erin to disappear for a day or two, returning with no explanation. All went awry in Ireland when Erin went off, but did not return. Twenty-three years later, Maggie has built a career with law enforcement in New York, when a call comes from the Irish police reporting the find of what appears to be the scarf that Erin was thought to be wearing when she disappeared. Erin’s father is too fragile to travel, so Maggie goes to Ireland to assist the police in advancing the mystery to a final solution. I quoted Lesa’s rave for this series start late in June so this is a follow up.

Thor, Brad. [Near Dark](#) (Atria \$28.99). The world’s largest bounty has just been placed upon America’s top spy. His only hope for survival is to outwit, outrun, and outlast his enemies long enough to get to reason behind recruiting a pool of assassins, winner take all. And the person who set it in play. But for Scot Harvath to accomplish his most dangerous mission ever—one that has already claimed the lives of the people closest to him, including his new wife—he’s going to need help—a lot of it. Not knowing whom he can trust, Harvath finds an unlikely ally in Norwegian intelligence operative Sølvi Kolstad. Just as smart, just as deadly, and just as determined, this Norwegian ninja not only has the skills, but also the broken, troubled past to match Harvath’s own.... I am so the right person to launch this book with Brad for I can organize some visuals of a key location or two in the story. **Note: our books are signed by Brad for you and come with a special Postcard too.**

Tremayne, Peter. [The Shapeshifter’s Lair](#) (Headline \$46). Wow, 31st in this wonderful medieval Ireland series with Sister Fidelma and her companions Eadulf and Enda. Ireland. AD 672. The body of a dead man has been found on a lonely mountain road and taken to the isolated abbey of Gleann Da Loch for a proper burial. The abbot quickly identifies him as Brehon Brocc, who had been travelling to the abbey on a secret mission with Princess Gelgeis and her steward. When news reaches Colgu, King of Muman, that his betrothed, Princess Gelgeis, has disappeared, Fidelma with her trusted companions, Eadulf and Enda, enter the hostile Kingdom of Laigin in search of the truth. But one death is

quickly followed by another and warnings of demonic shapeshifters and evil lurking in the mountains must be taken seriously. Are there really brigands stealing gold and silver from the ancient mines? And are rumors of a war between the Kingdoms of Laigin and Muman to be believed? I will arrange a virtual conversation with Peter, something long overdue for you fans.

Wade, James. [All Things Left Wild](#) (Blackstone \$27.99). Wade's violent and transfixing debut follows teenage Caleb Bentley and his no-good older brother, Shelby, through the turn-of-the-20th-century southwest, where they are on the run after stealing horses and killing a young boy in the process. Caleb and Shelby are pursued by dandified rancher Randall Dawson, pushed by his wife into getting revenge for the death of their son, Henry. But Randall, a poet by inclination, is unsuited for such a mission of vengeance. Fortunately, he is helped by single-minded Charlotte Washington, a black woman who is good with a gun. They are joined by Henry's ranch hand friend Tadpole and an orphaned youth they find in an abandoned town. The Bentley brothers reluctantly join the Lobos, a band of outlaws led by a charismatic but volatile ex-Ranger named Grimes, from whom Caleb tries to rescue a Mexican girl Grimes plans to marry. And with Charlotte, Randall finds love and a courage he never knew he possessed as the two groups converge on one another for a blood-soaked climax. "The author takes a classic western setup and refreshes it with sharp writing, strong characterizations, a vivid evocation of place, and a body count to rival *The Wild Bunch*. Fans of *All the Pretty Horses* will want to saddle up for this literary ride."—PW

Wiggs, Susan. [The Lost and Found Bookshop](#) (Morrow \$27.99). Here's the Indie Next Pick for a July treat: "This is an absolutely splendid novel that spoke volumes to me. You have a girl who experiences a tragedy that leads to a better life, despite issues and hardship along the way, and a guy right in front of her who is perfect for her though she assumes he is not. I highlighted so many passages in this book to savor and remember. This is a perfect story for bookstore lovers and lovers of books." Library Reads chimes in: "Personal tragedy turns Natalie's life upside down and leads her back to her childhood home, including her family's beloved homegrown bookstore. Natalie faces the decline of her grandfather's health, a building in need of repair, and a business in the red but also finds unexpected love. Give to readers who liked *How to Find Love in a Bookshop* and *The Readers of Broken Wheel*."

Williams, Beatriz. [Her Last Flight](#) (Morrow \$27.99). Basically this is Williams turning her imagination loose on Amelia Earhart with some embellishments and alterations. In 1947, photographer and war correspondent Janey Everett arrives at a remote surfing village on the Hawaiian island of Kauai to research a planned biography of forgotten aviation pioneer Sam Mallory, who joined the loyalist forces in the Spanish Civil War and never returned. Obsessed with Sam's fate, Janey has tracked down Irene Lindquist, the owner of a local island-hopping airline, whom she believes might actually be the legendary Irene Foster, Mallory's onetime student and flying partner. Foster's disappearance during a round-the-world flight in 1937 remains one of the world's greatest unsolved mysteries. At first, the flinty Mrs. Lindquist denies any connection to Foster. But Janey informs her that the wreck of Sam Mallory's airplane has recently been discovered in a Spanish desert, and piece by piece, the details of Foster's extraordinary life emerge: from the beginnings of her flying career in South-

ern California, to her complicated, passionate relationship with Mallory, to the collapse of her marriage to her aggressive career manager, the publishing scion George Morrow [a thinly disguised George Putnam]. As Irene spins her tale to its searing conclusion, Janey's past gathers its own power....

I like this comment: "Williams gives us a glimpse at the amazing early years of aviation and the sort of people who made history happen. Told in alternating chapter timelines of 1947 and the late 20s and 30s, Williams weaves two storylines together so well that I was completely immersed in the lives of the characters and had no idea how the story was going to unfold."

Wrobel, Stephanie. [The Recovery of Rose Gold](#) (Joseph \$35). "Sensationally good—two complex characters power the story like a nuclear reaction, and won't let you forget them. After five years in prison, Patty Watts is finally free. All she wants is to put old grievances behind her, reconcile with her daughter—and care for her new infant grandson. When Rose Gold agrees to have Patty move in, it seems their relationship is truly on the mend. But Rose Gold knows her mother. Knows she's a really good liar. Patty won't rest until she has her daughter back under her thumb. Which is inconvenient because Rose Gold wants to be free of Patty.... This debut was to be our April First Mystery Book of the Month but then Wrobel was unable to visit from the UK. So we finally have a few signed copies of the UK edition for you. The US title was *Darling Rose Gold*."

UNSIGNED EVENT BOOKS

Alexander, Ellie. [Nothing Bundt Trouble](#) (\$8.99). Spring has sprung in Ashland, Oregon, and everything at Torte seems to be coming up buttercream roses. But just when Juliet Capshaw seems to have found her sweet spot—with her staff set to handle the influx of tourists for this year's Shakespeare festival while she moves back into her childhood home—things take a dramatic turn. Jules discovers a long-forgotten dossier in her deceased father's belongings that details one of the most controversial cases in Ashland's history: a hit-and-run accident from the 1980s. Or was it?

Basbanes, Nicholas. [Cross of Snow](#) (Knopf \$37.50). Signed Bookplates come with our copies. And don't miss our [video](#) with noted bibliophile Basbanes, filled with slides. Or the [podcast](#). Both run nearly 90 minutes and are much praised by Patrick and me.

Among the many laudatory reviews of this major literary biography is this Starred one from *Kirkus*: For many Americans, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) is fondly associated with "Paul Revere's Ride," the "most memorized poem in American history." In this comprehensive, affectionate, and astute biography, the first in many years, Basbanes provides a valuable reassessment of the once-beloved poet who fell from grace in the literary establishment just years after his death. Drawing on previously unexplored primary source material, he focuses as much on the private man—especially the influential roles Longfellow's two beloved wives, Mary and Fanny, had on his work—as he does on the public one..

The *NY Times* adds this: "Literary reputations are seldom secure, and with the passing of time tend to sink rather than rise. Even so, the case of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow seems extreme. At his death, in 1882, he wasn't just the most famous poet in America but an international celebrity, translated into

dozens of languages, admired by Dickens, Ruskin, even Queen Victoria. Readers loved his clarity, his accessibility, his storytelling. But by the time of Longfellow's centennial, in 1907, he was already beginning to be dismissed as old-fashioned. Basbanes thinks that the tumble in Longfellow's reputation was not the natural, inevitable result of changing tastes. Was Longfellow was done in by a cabal of modernists and New Critics who conspired to expel him from their snobbish, rarefied canon? So his book, which has at times a defensive, anti-elitist chip on its shoulder, is a rehab mission of sorts, and seeks to restore Longfellow in our present eyes mostly just by reminding us how important he was back in his own day." Illustrated with 76 photos.

Collette, Abby. [A Deadly Scoop](#) (Berkley \$16). Recent MBA grad Bronwyn Crewse has just taken over her family's ice cream shop in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, and she's going back to basics. Win is renovating Crewse Creamery to restore its former glory, and filling the menu with delicious, homemade ice cream flavors—many from her grandmother's original recipes. But unexpected construction delays mean she misses the summer season, and the shop has a literal cold opening: the day she opens her doors an early first snow descends on the village and keeps the customers away. Collette has provided us with Signed bookplates.

Downes, Anna. [The Safe Place](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Australian Downes' debut conveys "the modern gothic feel of Ruth Ware and the morally complex family dynamics of Lisa Jewell." An Indie Next Pick. Almost overnight, struggling London thespian Emily Proudman, failing at every audition, goes from being fired from the office temp job that's barely paying her bills to being hired—by the same boss, no less, dashing investment firm CEO Scott Denny—for a gig as housekeeper/personal assistant for his reclusive wife, Nina, and their six-year-old daughter, Aurelia, at the family's estate, Querencia, in the very remote French countryside. She's transported from Soho to Querencia and is initially bewitched by both the unimaginably lush estate and Nina, who's fiercely devoted to a child whose issues seem to go well beyond a supposed extreme sensitivity to sunlight. But as wine-soaked summer weeks pass with Nina remaining as emotionally tightly defended as the gated grounds, the girl either mute or howling during one of her tantrums, and no sign of Scott, even someone as naive as Emily suspects there's something rotten in paradise. At her peril, she starts to snoop. Downes' own experience as an actress plays into crafting her characters, staging the story, blocking scenes. The narrative is a touch theatrical but gripping.

And makes an Indie Next Pick: "*The Safe Place* is sure to captivate readers as they look to unearth the secret within the gates of an idyllic estate on the southern coast of France. From chapter one, I was hooked and transported to the luxurious lifestyle Downes creates in the book. Her storytelling and the myriad of clues she sprinkles throughout the story made this an unput-downable page-turner."

Feeney, Alice. [His & Hers](#) (Celadon \$27.99). Our **July British Crime Club Book of the Month**. I completely agree with this Starred Review, the book is a knockout. "Bestseller Feeney surpasses the dexterous deviousness on display in her 2018 debut, *Sometimes I Lie*, in this cunningly constructed psychological thriller centered on a bitterly divorced couple who are forced to cross paths again by a murder in Blackdown, Surrey, their hometown. Despite London BBC News correspondent Anna Andrews's best efforts, she's has been dispatched to the sleepy

village to cover the case, whose investigation her former husband, DCI Jack Harper, is leading. Both have conflicts of interest concerning the victim—Anna's seductive former schoolmate, Rachel Hopkins—which, if known, would subject each of them to scrutiny. But before Jack and his crack second-in-command, DS Priya Patel, can make much headway, another body is discovered—by Anna—and potential links to the pair prove impossible to ignore. At this point, the plot quickens and thickens, and Feeney does a masterly job of folding in layers of several characters' troubled shared pasts and explosive secrets. The breathtaking finale is sure to blindside readers. This is a masterpiece of misdirection." Yay.

His & Hers is "in the works for the small screen," *Deadline* reported. "The last three years have been such a wonderful whirlwind and I'm still pinching myself," said Feeney. "I'm so thrilled to be working with Jessica Chastain, Kristen Campo, and the team at Endeavor Content. I love what they have planned for *His & Hers*, and I can't wait to see Anna Andrews and Jack Harper brought to life on screen."

Gerber, Daryl. [A Sprinkling of Murder](#) (Kensington \$15.95). Courtney Kelly, the proprietor of the Open Your Imagination fairy garden store, doesn't just believe that fairies are real; she has proof to share. Her store is home to Fiona, a mischievous fairy who's in a sort of remedial fairy-in-training program to get her adult wings. Apparently her propensity for pranks in fairy school has obliged her to demonstrate to the queen fairy that she's serious about her do-gooding duties. When Courtney becomes a suspect in the murder of Mick Watkins, the owner of the Wizard of Paws grooming salon, it seems like the perfect time for Fiona to give Courtney an assist that the queen fairy will notice. If Courtney's innocent, though, who's to blame? *Kirkus Reviews* adds: "In this old-fashioned cozy... 25 pages of appended recipes... complement the fairy focus of the story with some serious calories." And so, whether you cook or not, this is our **July Cozy Crimes Book of the Month**.

Gerritsen, Tess. [The Shape of Night](#) (9.99). I love this coastal Maine Gothic with its fabulous house being rented as a summer writer's retreat, its apparently helpful neighbors, the heroine who should be acknowledging trauma... and is there a serial killer in this mix? This is a great summer read. We have just a couple of signed copies but the paperback is out June 30 which I highly recommend you grab. Tess is a Maine neighbor of Paul Doiron and joins him on July 2 for a wide-ranging conversation about their state, writing thrillers, and more.

Griffin, Nicholas. [The Year of Dangerous Days: Riots, Refugees, and Cocaine in Miami 1980](#) (SimonSchuster \$26.99). And who better to interview Griffin than John Sandford who was reporting at the *Miami Herald* at this time? Here's a Starred Review: Miami-based journalist Griffin employs his trade with gusto in this deeply investigated account of real American carnage at the height of the drug war. The narrative begins with the death of Arthur McDuffie, a black former Marine who was killed by police after a high-speed chase. The events that follow would have massive ramifications. Rather than simply depicting the big picture, the author zeroes in on three critical figures to parse the tumult from different points of view: Edna Buchanan was the *Miami Herald* crime reporter who not only fielded the murder investigation, but unearthed the vein of corruption and police brutality inside the department. Inside the police force, we meet Capt. Marshall Frank, the lead investigator, who characterized

the McDuffie case as a “jigsaw puzzle.” Charged with uniting the city in the face of multiple crises was Mayor Maurice Ferré, who engaged the media, the tourist industry, and the city’s powerful businessmen to help a simmering city that was on the verge of falling apart. Two other factors added dynamite to the bonfire. One was the infamous Mariel boatlift, during which Fidel Castro attempted to rid his country of criminals, patients in insane asylums, troublesome activists, and other “antisocial elements” by dumping 125,000 Cuban refugees into the state of Florida. The other was the relatively new phenomenon of cocaine smuggling, which added significantly to both the proliferation of corruption and the city’s crime rate, especially violent crimes. This is a series of stories that have been depicted in other books and publications, but Griffin’s engrossing use of primary sources and cogent analyses of how all the pieces fit together results in a propulsive story about the dangerous ways people learn to live together. An engrossing, peek-between-your-fingers history of an American city on the edge.

Jónasson, Ragnar. [The Mist](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Isolation and despair undo the characters in Jónasson’s exceptional third and final novel featuring Reykjavík DI Hulda Hermannsdóttir. In February 1988, Hulda, who has returned to work after time off to deal with an unidentified personal issue, is still struggling to get through the day and perform any meaningful work. She’s forced into action by her boss when multiple corpses are found on a farm, with indications that the bodies have been there since around Christmas. Flash back to a snowy day in December 1987. Einar and Erla Einarsson, who live on a remote farm, answer a knock on the door to an unexpected visitor, who introduces himself as Leó. The couple offer Leó shelter for the night, but Erla becomes suspicious of their guest’s account of how he arrived at their home. Jónasson ratchets up the nail-biting tension gradually, alternating the developments at the farm along with the events in Hulda’s life that led to her traumatic stupor. For fans of dark crime fiction that doesn’t pull punches. Know that not everyone emerges alive, and this scenario will trouble Hulda for the rest of her career. Iceland’s premier crime writer wraps up the “Hidden Iceland” series with this final chapter.

Läckberg, Camilla. [The Golden Cage](#) (Knopf \$26.95). It is a real disappointment that Swedish superstar Läckberg cannot visit us this month as planned. We enjoyed her earlier one. But she and I will be talking on July 20 at 12:30 PM so please join us then. Her latest thriller draws a Starred Review: “Läckberg outdoes herself with this delectable tale of revenge. At 34, devoted wife and mother Faye thinks her wretched past is behind her. Now she has it all—a lavish Stockholm lifestyle, glorified social status, and a sexy entrepreneurial husband—until she catches Jack and his business partner, Ylva, romping on Faye’s bed. Left humiliated, belittled, and financially destitute in the wake of the subsequent divorce, Faye, who realizes women too often turn their rage on themselves, plots an exquisite comeuppance for Jack, whom she supported when the two were in business school together by giving up her own studies and becoming a waitress. Chapters devoted to Faye’s married life alternate with scorching flashbacks to her traumatic childhood. The poignant insights into women’s capacity for self-sacrifice, multidimensional characterizations, and celebration of female ingenuity will resonate with many. Läckberg reinforces her position as the thriller queen of Scandinavia.”

Parks, Adele. [Lies, Lies, Lies](#) (Mira \$17.99). A multitude of lies swirls around the supposedly happy marriage of Daisy, a London primary school teacher, and Simon Barnes, an interior designer. Six years earlier, their family seemed to be complete with the birth of a daughter after a decade of trying to conceive and endless rounds of IVF failures. But Simon, who drinks to excess and “holds no truck with contentment,” demands they try for a second child, no matter the financial or emotional cost, especially for Daisy. Simon’s alcoholism spirals out of control, exacerbated when he learns it may be impossible for them to conceive. Soon, Simon is missing family events, staying out all night, and taking his anger out on Daisy. Then, Simon’s behavior at their best friends’ party results in a near fatal car accident. Much worse follows... Parks paints a dark portrait of how alcoholism can tear a whole house as well as friends, even bystanders, down.

Phillips, Gary. [Matthew Henson and the Ice Temple of Harlem](#) (Polis Books \$16). Patrick reviews: “Based upon a real life adventurer, notably one of the first to reach the North Pole in 1909, Phillip’s infectious novel grafts the neglected achievements of Matthew Henson into a rip-roaring pulp-style adventure novel. Moving the action up to the late 1920’s during the end of the Harlem Renaissance, our hero is hired by spiritual leader Daddy Paradise to track down his missing daughter. Along the way we meet such characters as gangster Dutch Shultz and Nikola Tesla, among others. This is a hell of a lot of fun, and I look forward to reading future Henson adventures.”

Siger, Jeffery. [Island of Secrets](#) (\$15.99). The case begins for Athens’ Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis with a literal bang when a corrupt former police colonel who runs a protection racket on Mykonos is gunned down. Suddenly, Kaldis is face-to-face with Greece’s top crime bosses on an island whose natural beauty and reputation as an international playground belies the corruption lurking just beneath the surface. While Kaldis and his Special Crimes unit wrestle for answers, his wife, Lila, meets an American expat named Toni, a finder of stolen goods and a piano player in a gender-bending bar who has a zest for life and no apparent regard for rules. As Lila and Toni bond over a common desire to mentor young island girls trapped in an exploitative and patriarchal culture, they soon find that their efforts intersect with Kaldis’ investigation in ways that prove to be dangerous for all involved... (Previously published as *The Mykonos Mob*)

OUR JULY BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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

(We renamed the Crime Collectors Book of the Month to this shorter title)

TBA

[British Crime Book of the Month](#) One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Feeney, Alice. [His & Hers](#)

[Cozy Crimes Book of the Month](#) One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Gerber, Daryl. [A Sprinkling of Murder](#)

[Fantastic New Fiction Book of the Month](#) One Signed hardcover First per month

[Fantastic = fabulous, not fantasy]

Farmer, Edward A. [Pale](#)

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

Clark, Julie. [The Last Flight](#)

[Historical Fiction Club](#) One Signed hardcover First per month
Wade, James. [All Things Left Wild](#)

[International Crime Book of the Month](#) One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Perrin, Valérie. [Fresh Water for Flowers](#)

[SciFi/Fantasy Book of the Month](#) One hardcover or paperback per month signed when possible. Our July Pick is by an NZ author and not signed.

Parry, HG. [A Declaration of the Rights of Magicians](#)

THE HAMMETT PRIZE

To my mind this is the most distinguished mystery award, not a fan based vote but judged. Here is the press release:



[Bluff](#) (\$15.99) by author Jane Stanton Hitchcock was announced today as winner of the 2019 Dashiell Hammett Award for Literary Excellence in Crime Writing.

A combination of all the best qualities of Dorothy Parker and Agatha Christie, *Bluff* is a witty story set among the upper classes and the title pays tribute to Hitchcock's love of poker, although poker is not really a part of the story. Maud Warner talks herself into an exclusive restaurant where she, in plain view,

shoots a Bernie Madoff type who is lunching with a man known as the "accountant to the stars." Did she kill the right man? Why would a woman like her do this? The intricate story keeps the pages turning until the surprising ending, but never loses its deft, satirical wit.

Since 1991, the North American Branch of the International Association of Crime Writers has presented the Hammett trophy to the book of the year that best represents the conception of literary excellence in crime writing. Dashiell Hammett has long been recognized as combining literary excellence with popular detective stories. The Hammett award distinguishes itself by being the only award for crime writing which is based entirely and exclusively on literary quality, without regard to distinctions of genre, the career history of the author, or any other factors.

Past winners have included Elmore Leonard, Alice Hoffman, James Lee Burke, Margaret Atwood, Mary Willis Walker, Martin Cruz Smith, Gil Adamson, Megan E. Abbott, George Pelecanos, Howard Owen, Lisa Sandlin, Lou Berney, and others. Past nominees have included Norman Mailer, Robertson Davies, Ernest Gaines, Thomas Perry, Jane Stanton Hitchcock, Cormac McCarthy, Laura Joh Rowland, Walter Mosley, Stephen King, Laura Lippmann, and others.

CLASSICS

Edwards, Martin, ed. [Settling Scores](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.95).

"The detective story is a game between two players, the author... and the reader."—Ronald Knox. From the squash court to the golf links, the football pitch to the swimming pool and the race course to the cricket square, no court, grounds, stadium or stand is safe from skullduggery. Entering the arena where sport clashes

with crime, this spirited medley of short stories showcases the greatest deadly plays and criminal gambits of the mystery genre. With introductions by Editor Martin Edwards and stories by some of the finest writers in the field—including Celia Fremlin, Michael Gilbert, Gladys Mitchell, and Leo Bruce—this new anthology offers a ringside view of the darker side of sports and proves that crime, naturally, is a game for all seasons. With little in the way of 2020 sports seasons, this collectio is very welcome—cross your fingers sports will make a comeback.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. [The Great Gatsby: The Graphic Novel](#) (Scribner \$20). First published in 1925, *The Great Gatsby* has been acclaimed by generations of readers and is now reimaged in stunning graphic novel form. Jay Gatsby, Nick Carraway, Daisy Buchanan, and the rest of the cast are captured in vivid and evocative illustrations by artist Aya Morton. The iconic text has been artfully distilled by Fred Fordham, who also adapted the graphic novel edition of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Blake Hazard, F. Scott Fitzgerald's great-granddaughter, contributes a personal introduction. By now this American classic can be read as historical fiction, a vivid portrait of the Jazz Age.

Rogers, Joel Townsley. [The Red Right Hand](#) (Penzler \$15.95). Surgeon Henry Riddle, the narrator of this virtuoso mix of terror and fair play from Rogers (1896–1984), is driving home to New York City when he stops on a desolate back road outside Danbury, Conn., to assist a terrified young woman, Elinor Darrie, who tells him a horrible story. She and her fiancé, Inis St. Erme, were driving to Vermont to get married when St. Erme decided to pick up a hitchhiker. After they stopped at Dead Bridegroom's Pond for a picnic, the stranger attacked St. Erme, and Darrie fled. Darrie is unaware that her fiancé is dead and missing his right hand. Riddle later considers what he believes are the key questions in the case: how the killer managed to vanish, and what became of St. Erme's missing hand. Seemingly trivial details prove to be significant clues, and readers will marvel at Rogers's ingenuity at planting them in the midst of his frantically paced plot. First published in 1945, this entry in the American Mystery Classics series deserves its reputation as one of the best mysteries of all time. Also available in hardcover: [The Red Right Hand](#) (Norton \$25.95).

And explore the iconic private eye:

Lee, Susanna. [Detectives in the Shadows: A Hard-Boiled History](#) (Johns Hopkins Press (\$27). This slim volume provides a refresher on who the PI is, how he came to be, how he is driven by his moral code and is often merely a shadowy figure known by his dark past, private pain, and amazing powers of deduction. In his stories he is both the main character and the narrator. We've enjoyed him since the 1920s when Prohibition divided up moral codes (this is so apt to today!). So join Lee as she tracks the shamus' evolution and how this American character type morphs into today's troubled world (*The Wire*, *Jessica Jones*....).

OUR LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Bowen, Rhys. [Love and Death Among the Cheetahs](#) (\$16). Exotic animals, unbridled sex, free-flowing drugs, and murder are what visitors to Kenya's Happy Valley in the 1930s, can expect. After a harrowing five-day trip by airplane, flying boat, and train across the Alps, Lady Georgiana Rannoch does wonder why her brand new bridegroom, Darcy O'Mara, selected it for their honeymoon. She may no longer be 35th in line to the throne, but she's been bred to present a game face and carry on. Whatever

Darcy may be up to, at a Buckingham Palace garden party shortly after their wedding, the queen charged Georgie with keeping an eye on the Prince of Wales who is on tour in Africa, fearing that the awful Mrs. Simpson might join him and they'd indulge in a secret wedding. The trip out was marred by tough conditions and the presence of Rowena Hartley, a mean girl at Georgie's school, and her sulky brother, Rupert, both on a visit to their father, who wants to see the children he's ignored for years now that he's become Lord Cheriton. And Mrs. Simpson joins them as they board the flying boat in the Med. On arrival Georgie learns that government official Freddie Blanchford has arranged for the newlyweds to stay with the widow Diddy Ruocco who introduces them to the expatriate wild life style. And after a party where it's all on display, one of the Brits is brutally murdered...

Clayton, Meg. [The Last Train to London](#) (\$16.99). Perfectly situated at the intersection of fact and fiction, it is ultimately Clayton's strength as a storyteller that breathes life into this tale. World War II has inspired many novels exploring globe-spanning facets of the war. The Kindertransport is a story worth telling. As is the bravery of a childless Dutch woman and her husband who fought impossible odds and risked everything to save as many children as they could before war commencing on September 1, 1939, shut the Kindertransport down. What Clayton does so heartfully is to remind us how one person—Geertruide Wijsmuller, known to the children as Tante Truus—made a stand up, significant difference to unfolding events, displaying a rare courage rescuing Jewish children who, without the advent of war, she might never have rallied. One person, Waite underlines, is all it takes to change or amend events. Clayton effectively captures the dim hope of survival amid the mounting terror of the lead-up to WWII.

✦Delaney JP. [The Perfect Wife](#) (\$17). Abbie wakes in a hospital bed with no memory of how she got there. The man by her side explains that he's her husband. He's a titan of the tech world, the founder of one of Silicon Valley's most innovative startups. He tells Abbie she's a gifted artist, a doting mother to their young son, and the perfect wife. Five years ago, she suffered a terrible accident. Her return from the abyss is a miracle of science, a breakthrough in artificial intelligence that has taken him half a decade to achieve. But as Abbie pieces together memories of her marriage, she begins questioning her husband's motives—and his version of events. Can she trust him when he says he wants them to be together forever? And what really happened to her, half a decade ago?

Gerber, Daryl Wood. [A Sprinkling of Murder](#) (Kensington \$15.95). "Gerber makes what could have been unbearably cute convincing. Cozy fans will wish upon a star for more." See Unsigned Event Books for a review of our **July Cozy Crime Book of the Month**.

Goldin, Megan. [The Escape Room](#) (\$16.99). In the lucrative world of finance, Vincent, Jules, Sylvie, and Sam are at the top of their game. They've mastered the art of the deal and celebrate their success in style—but a life of extreme luxury always comes at a cost. Invited to participate in an escape room challenge as a team-building exercise, the ferociously competitive co-workers crowd into the elevator of a high-rise building, eager to prove themselves. But when the lights go off and the doors stay shut, it quickly becomes clear that this is no ordinary competition:

they're caught in a dangerous game of survival. Trapped in the dark, the colleagues must put aside their bitter rivalries and work together to solve cryptic clues to break free. But as the game begins to reveal the team's darkest secrets, they realize there's a price to be paid for the terrible deeds they committed in their ruthless climb up the corporate ladder. For readers of Tana French, Karin Slaughter, and Harlan Coben, but I think its closest analog is Jane Harper's 2nd novel, *Force of Nature*.

✦Lovesey, Peter. [Killing with Confetti](#) (\$16.95). As a New Year begins in Bath, Ben Brace proposes to his long-term girlfriend, Caroline, the daughter of notorious crime baron Joe Irving, who is coming to the end of a prison sentence. The problem is that Ben's father, George, is the Deputy Chief Constable. A more uncomfortable set of in-laws would be hard to imagine. But mothers and sons are a formidable force: a wedding in the Abbey and reception in the Roman Baths are arranged before the career-obsessed DCC can step in. Peter Diamond, Bath's head of CID, is appalled to be put in charge of security on the day. Ordered to be discreet, he packs a gun and a guest list in his best suit and must somehow cope with potential killers, gang rivals, warring parents, bossy photographers and straying bridesmaids. The laid-back Joe Irving seems oblivious to the danger he is in from rival gang leaders, while Brace can't wait for the day to end. Will the photo session be a literal shoot? Will Joe Irving's speech as father of the bride be his last words? Can Diamond pull off a miracle, avert a tragedy? The relevance of confetti is revealed. The real reason to delight in his book is Diamond Dagger and MWA Grand Master Lovesey's delight in Bath Abbey and the Roman Theater across the way. He revels in the architectures, traditions, histories, stained glass at the Abbey.... You will too. For the new Peter Diamond see Signed Books.

✦Rees, Celia. [Miss Graham's Cold War Cookbook](#) (Morrow \$16.99). World War II has just ended, and Britain has established the Control Commission for Germany, which oversees their zone of occupation. The Control Commission hires British civilians to work in Germany, rebuild the shattered nation and prosecute war crimes. Somewhat aimless, bored with her job as a provincial schoolteacher, and unwilling to live with her stuffy genteel parents any longer, twentysomething Edith Graham applies for a job with the Commission—but is instead recruited by the OSS. To them, Edith is perfect spy material...single, ordinary-looking, with a college degree in German. And there's another thing—the OSS knows that Edith's brother went to Oxford with one of their most hunted war criminals, Count Kurt von Stabenow, who Edith remembers all too well from before the war. Intrigued by the challenge, Edith heads to Germany armed with a convincing cover story: she's an unassuming schoolteacher sent to help resurrect German primary schools. To send information back to her OSS handlers in London, Edith has crafted the perfect alter ego, cookbook author Stella Snelling, who writes a popular magazine cookery column that embeds crucial intelligence within the recipes she collects. But occupied Germany is awash with other spies, collaborators, and opportunists, and as she's pulled into their world, Edith soon discovers that no one is what they seem to be. The closer she gets to uncovering von Stabenow's whereabouts—and the network of German civilians who still support him—the greater the danger.

Some of you may recall the fabulous novel [The Time In Between](#) (\$17) by Maria Dueñas—love it!! And this is a good

time to rediscover stories—about an ordinary seamstress whose quiet life is disrupted by the Spanish Civil War and who in time reinvents herself as a couturier and then an undercover agent for the Allies during WWII, encoding and passing crucial intelligence messages in dress patterns.

✦Robinson, Maggie. [Just Make Believe](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.99). In Robinson's winning third mystery set in 1920s England, Lady Adelaide Compton is navigating the social complexities of a country estate house party when the ghost of her unfaithful husband, Rupert, who's working his way toward heaven by acting as her guardian angel, warns her that a death is imminent. The next day, Addie's hostess, Lady Pamela Fernald, is found dead in the conservatory. Pamela's husband, Sir Hugh Fernald, and their upper-crust guests are still reeling when a second body is discovered buried in the garden. Despite the simmering sexual tension between Addie and Scotland Yard's Det. Insp. Devenand Hunter—he didn't follow up on their single spectacular kiss—Addie asks Devenand to investigate. The disappearance of a suspect in Pamela's murder, Lord Lucas Waring, her former lover (and Addie's onetime suitor), raises the stakes. The playful narrative voice and colorful characterizations (even the late Rupert comes vividly to life) will charm those who enjoy British historical cozies with a paranormal twist.

Sáenz, Eva Garcia. [The Silence of the White City](#) (Vintage \$16.95). In the stunning first in Sáenz's White City trilogy, a mélange of offbeat police procedural, Basque legends, and world mythology, Insp. Unai López de Ayala investigates a series of ritualistic murders in Vitoria, Spain, that eerily resemble the sensational crimes that were committed in the area 20 years earlier, all at prehistoric sites. A prominent archaeologist, Tasio Ortiz de Zárate, was arrested at the time and convicted of the crimes thanks to evidence supplied by his twin brother, Ignacio, a policeman. Since Tasio has been in prison ever since, Unai has to wonder whether Tasio was innocent or had an accomplice. Unai embarks on what becomes a self-sacrificing quest to prevent evil from destroying innocence. Along the way to the shattering conclusion, Sáenz examines the complex relationship between Tasio and Ignacio, as well as Unai's grief over the death of his wife, who was pregnant with twins. Fascinating local color, a handsomely crafted plot, and exquisite characterization make this a standout.

Willig, Lauren. [The Summer Country](#) (\$16.99). In 1854, Emily Dawson inherits a Barbados sugar plantation known as Peverills from her late grandfather. After arriving there with her cousin and his wife, Emily finds the plantation in a state of disrepair. As Emily struggles to bring the place back to prosperity, she uncovers secrets about her family's past that could change everything even as her new neighbors scheme to acquire Peverills for themselves. "The physical and emotional passions of the characters keep the stakes high and the pages turning, making this a powerful exploration of slavery and reformation on Barbados." This is truly dramatic and engrossing historical fiction.

✦Wilson, Andrew. [I Saw Him Die](#) (Washington Square \$17). In 1930, on the eve of Agatha Christie's wedding to Max Mallowan, Christie accepts another mission from her friend John Davison, a Secret Intelligence Service agent, in Wilson's outstanding fourth whodunit featuring the mystery writer (after 2019's Death in a

Desert Land). Davison is concerned about the welfare of Robin Kinmuir, who used to be one of the service's best agents until a run of bad luck, including the death of his only son in WWI, the disappearance of his wife, and a botched operation that cost several operatives' lives. Someone has been sending Kinmuir threatening letters, which warn that he will pay for his crimes with his life. Christie and Davison travel to Kinmuir's home on the island of Skye, where, despite their vigilance, Kinmuir dies after being shot, apparently accidentally, by his nephew and heir in a hunting mishap. The plot takes multiple unexpected turns before a neat solution that pays homage to Christie's own best fiction.

AN ODE TO OUR NATIONAL PARKS

Turk, Evan. [You Are Home: An Ode to the National Parks](#) (Atheneum \$18.99). I repeat from last summer a recommendation as well as a tribute: "A stunning ode to our National Parks, this book is a gorgeous introduction to the many majestic natural places in the US. Even more impressive is the back matter which informs of the history of how these parks came to be owned by the government and made public, including the theft and forcible removal of Native peoples. An excellent addition to geography and history shelves, and a beautiful book to look through. "You can tell that a book is doing something right when you get to the end, see the map of all the National Parks in America, and start typing into your Google Maps the nearest ones to determine the distance from your home. This is the 'I want to go to there' book for young readers (4-8) or older.

#OWN VOICES STORIES

Broom, Sarah M. [The Yellow House](#) (\$17). The winner of the National Book Award is memoir from a stunning new talent about the inexorable pull of home and family, set in a shotgun house in New Orleans East. In 1961, Sarah M. Broom's mother Ivory Mae bought a shotgun house in the then-promising neighborhood of New Orleans East and built her world inside of it. It was the height of the Space Race and the neighborhood was home to a major NASA plant—the postwar optimism seemed assured. Widowed, Ivory Mae remarried Sarah's father Simon Broom; their combined family would eventually number twelve children. But after Simon died, six months after Sarah's birth, the Yellow House would become Ivory Mae's thirteenth and most unruly child. A book of great ambition, Sarah M. Broom's *The Yellow House* tells a hundred years of her family and their relationship to home in a neglected area of one of America's most mythologized cities. This is the story of a mother's struggle against a house's entropy, and that of a prodigal daughter who left home only to reckon with the pull that home exerts, even after the Yellow House was wiped off the map after Hurricane Katrina.

Dimaline, Chérie. [Empire of the Wild](#) (Morrow \$27.99). Dimaline's inventive, passionate quest narrative (after her YA novel *The Marrow Thieves*) draws on the Métis myth of a werewolflike creature known as Rogarou. In the predominantly Catholic First Nations community of Arcand, Ontario, tales of the Rogarou haunt the town's inhabitants. After Joan Beausoleil argues one night with her husband, Victor, over whether she should sell her ancestral land, Victor walks out and never comes back, and Joan spends nearly a year searching for him. Dimaline wrenchingly describes Joan's rabid determination, and conveys the passion of their early relationship. Just as Joan is about to give up hope, she recognizes Victor in a revival tent at a WalMart parking lot,

but he claims not to know her and to be Reverend Eugene Wolff. Shocked and angry at being told that she's mistaken, Joan sets out to discover what happened to him. Aided by her 12-year-old nephew and an elder who convinces Joan that Victor is under the spell of the Rogarou, Joan tracks the beast in search of answers. Smartly written with believable characters, a tight plot, and breathtaking sentences, this is a must-read literary thriller by a Métis author. The late Peter Bowen wrote magically of the Métis in Montana so it also draws to this unusual novel.

The Indie Next Pick: "Absolutely stunning in every way, this latest offering follows the story of Joan, whose husband has disappeared, and her courage when confronted with truths and lies. She and her husband, Victor, live in a Métis community, close and tight knit. As Joan deals with the fallout of her emotions after Victor disappears, she comes across another man, Eugene Wolff, who bears her husband's face. He does not carry Victor's memories and insists he has no idea who Joan's husband is. Turning over rocks to find the truth, Joan reaches out to whomever she can in her community for help. What waits for her at the end of her quest is incredible."

Ford, Kelli Jo. [Crooked Hallelujah](#) (Grove Press \$26).

#OwnVoices debut author Ford introduces a multi-generational family of Cherokee women in her splendid novel-in-stories, *Crooked Hallelujah*. It follows a Cherokee Nation family, repeatedly broken by choice and circumstance, through the women who remain connected throughout. Ford's interlinked structure allows for an intriguing, vast cast. A citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Ford adroitly, affectingly weaves indigenous history into her spellbinding narrative, exposing displacement, unacknowledged violence, cultural erasure, relentless racism and socioeconomic disparity. Post-publication, Ford should expect plenty of applause and awards to come. The Indie Next Pick adds: "This astonishing debut fills the imagination with vivid scenes of life in Oklahoma's Cherokee Nation and in the oil country of Texas. Home can be hard to find, men can be forever unreliable, and poverty can be more brutal than the harsh rural landscape, but the bonds women form with their mothers, grandmothers, and daughters make life not just bearable but luminous. This is an astonishing debut novel, rich in Cherokee history and culture, full-bodied in terms of character, and as bighearted as the magnetic women it portrays who magnetically draw the reader in. "For readers who enjoy Louise Erdrich and Diane Glancy."

Jones, Stephen Graham. [The Only Good Indians](#) (Gallery/Saga Press \$26.99). The Indie Next Pick: "Jones has a unique narrative voice, allowing 'the entity' to step in and take over unexpectedly, amping up the horror. Also, each character has a distinct voice that brings them to life. Jones combines the culture and traditions of the Blackfeet and Crow people with the social truths of their contemporary life. It is refreshingly different from any other horror novel I've read. This book is gruesome and honestly scary. I couldn't put it down."

The Blackfeet tribe author earned this Starred Review: "The hunters become the hunted in this taut horror thriller. Ten years ago, on Thanksgiving, Gabe, Cass, Lewis and Ricky violated tribal regulations when they gunned down nine elk on hunting grounds reserved for Blackfeet Nation elders. When the game warden caught them, the young men forfeited their hunting rights in lieu of paying a fine none of them could afford. Months

later, Ricky died in a bar fight after fleeing life on the Blackfeet reservation... Friends and family accept the story at face value. No one knows Ricky saw an elk damage the other bar patrons' pickup trucks and run away, leaving Ricky looking guilty as sin. No one knows that before the vehicles' owners beat him to death, Ricky saw the 'sea of green eyes' of the herd of elk blocking his escape route. In the present day, Lewis has surprised himself by making it to age 36 with an intact marriage, no serious medical conditions, no 'car crashes and jail time and alcoholism on his cultural dance card.' However, his carefully constructed life begins to unravel when he sees the young, pregnant elk cow he shot 10 years ago on his living room floor. Told largely from the perspectives of the four Blackfeet men and the spectral elk creature stalking them, the story hits its stride when following Denorah, Gabe's teen daughter. Her 'finals girl' nickname comes from her basketball skills, but 'if the only good Indian is a dead one, then she's going to be the worst Indian ever.' Her strength and attitude carry this introspective but brutal narrative into a well-earned redemption arc."

SOME NEW BOOKS FOR JULY

Blaisdell, Bob. [Creating Anna Karenina](#) (Pegasus \$29.95). Blaisdell, an editor of Dover prose and poetry collections, offers a riveting account of Tolstoy's composition of *Anna Karenina*. Blaisdell's primary strength lies in going granular: he focuses intently on the years from late 1872 through early 1878, during which Tolstoy conceived, outlined, began, abandoned, picked up, abandoned again, and finally completed a masterpiece he disliked (an "abomination"). Throughout, Blaisdell uses letters, journals, and memoirs to show how Tolstoy's own life story was woven into the fabric of *Anna Karenina*. Blaisdell argues that Tolstoy staved off his own suicidal thoughts by creating the suicidal Anna, and, among the male characters, identified as much with the worldly Oblonsky as the idealist Levin. Blaisdell finds vivid characters, too, among the people in Tolstoy's life, notably including Tolstoy's long-suffering and serially pregnant wife, Sofia, and his close friend Nikolai Strakov, whose cheerleading was key in getting *Anna Karenina* across the finish line—and for whom Tolstoy, Blaisdell contends, had a repressed homoerotic attraction. Most of all, however, Tolstoy comes to life as a complex individual defying easy classification. Tolstoy's fans will relish learning from, and, occasionally, arguing with Blaisdell's opinions. This passionate book is almost impossible to put down.

Brooks, Max. [Devolution](#) (Del Rey \$28). World War Z author Brooks gazes unflinchingly at who people are when pressed to their absolute limits—and what they can become in the process. The book focuses on the journal entries of Kate Holland, a new resident of the eco-friendly, wealthy and very isolated Washington town Greenloop. An introverted and anxious person in a troubled marriage, Kate is looking for a new start in a small community that seems incredible on the surface. But in the aftermath of a volcanic eruption, the village is completely cut off from the outside world (and badly needed supplies). Now the small Greenloop population has to band together to survive. Especially because others are out there. Animals thought impossible to exist are watching their every move and planning their own. *Devolution* is at first a clever satire of privileged lifestyles, and it shifts (once the Sasquatch are introduced) with no hesitation into a devastating survival narrative. "Brooks cleverly uses dramatic structure to get readers there, allowing the plot to reveal the true

depths of his characters; their gradual change over the course of the entries is always surprising and moving. The final climactic third of the book then hits breakneck speed with brilliant plotting, before it comes to a chilling conclusion about what people can transform into when they have to survive. *Devolution* is spectacular, tailor-made for fans of Bigfoot, with an ending that'll give goose bumps to the most jaded horror veteran."

Buxton, Kira Jane. [The Hollow Kingdom](#) (17). "Eerily prescient, *The Hollow Kingdom* follows S.T., an opinionated, profane crow, as a mysterious contagion turns the people of Seattle, and possibly the world, into zombie-like creatures. S.T. sets out with Dennis, a slightly dopey bloodhound, on a quest to free pets trapped in their homes, and to find some not-zombie humans. Buxton's novel is both a serious environmental parable and a very funny book—close to the bone can still provoke laughs."

Calkins, Susanna. [The Fate of a Flapper](#) (St Martins \$17.99). After nine months as a cigarette girl at the Third Door, one of Chicago's premier moonshine parlors, Gina Ricci feels like she's finally getting into the swing of things. The year is 1929, the Chicago Cubs are almost in the World Series, neighborhood gangs are all-powerful, and though Prohibition is the law of the land, the Third Door can't serve the cocktails fast enough. Two women in particular are throwing drinks back with abandon while chatting up a couple of bankers, and Gina can't help but notice the levels of inebriation and the tension at their table. When the group stumbles out in the early morning, she tries to put them out of her head. Then a late night call summons her to a crime scene where the body she is to photograph is one of those women. Could the Third Door have served the woman bad liquor? Or, Gina wonders, could this be murder? As the gangs and bombings draw ever closer, all of Chicago starts to feel like a warzone....

Caruso, Melissa. [The Obsidian Tower](#) (Orbit \$16.99) is a fast-paced and riveting start to Melissa Caruso's Rooks and Ruin series. All her life, Ryx has lived by the family motto: "Guard the tower, ward the stone." The novel begins as Ryx works to broker peace between two other domains. The first envoy to arrive breaks into the eponymous Tower, and because Ryx's magic works backward, killing anything she touches instead of guiding and shaping life, Ryx accidentally kills them while trying to avoid setting off the powerful obelisk inside. Learning of this, Ryx's grandmother, the Witch Lord of Morgrain, sends Ryx to the nearby Rookery encampment—an international group that deals with magical problems—for aid, and she disappears. Then the other envoy arrives. "Everything was sliding into the Hell of Nightmares, and I had no idea how to stop it." After upending everything Ryx knows, Caruso slows things down a bit to help Ryx and readers make sense of things before building the pace and tension again with a complex series of twists, betrayals and surprising alliances. While *The Obsidian Tower* ends in a satisfying way, readers will be glad to know that Rooks and Ruin is a planned trilogy, because Caruso has left so many threads unwoven that they'll be eager to read what comes next for Ryx and the Rooks.

☞Chase, Eva. [The Daughters of Foxcote Manor](#) (Putnam \$27). Is this the month to imagine yourself in an isolated forest estate? With the glamorous Harringtons who relocate to remote Foxcote Manor when their London mansion goes up in flames? On the verge of a creeping forest where lost things turn up, like the baby

abandoned just outside the manor's gate? It's 1970 England so live-in nanny Rita, raised by her grandmother, has moved with the Harringtons to Foxcote. Within days a body lies dead in the wood and a society scandal explodes. Move up 40 years and meet Sylvie, a woman with gaps in her family history and an unfaithful husband of 20 years. Sylvie's teenage daughter gains a shocking reason to dip up the family past and so Sylvie is forced to unpick her mother's white lies and is led back to Foxcote Manor. This is the perfect book to read while you are waiting to learn what Kate Morton is writing next, and if you haven't read Rosie Walsh's [Ghosed](#) (\$16), do so, then check on her too.

☞Cleverly, Barbara. [Invitation to Die](#) (\$16.95). Cambridge, 1924 in early summertime. May Balls, punting on the Cam, flirting and dancing the tango are the preoccupations of bright young people, but bright young Detective Inspector John Redfyre finds himself mired in multiple murders. One morning, his dog discovers a corpse neatly laid on a tombstone in the graveyard adjoining St. Bede's College. An army greatcoat and well-worn boots suggest the dead man may have been a former soldier, though the empty bottle of brandy and a card bearing the words "An Invitation to Dine" on the victim ring a discordant note. The autopsy reveals death by strangulation and unusual contents in the stomach from the man's last meal. Redfyre learns that this murder is one of several unsolved cases linked to a secretive and sinister dining club at St. Bede's. With the unlikely assistance of his lead suspect, Redfyre gradually unearths the dead man's story.

Cluess, Jessica. [House of Dragons](#) (Random \$18.99). Library Reads says: "First: dragons. Need I say more? Fine—then let's throw five competitors from rival houses into a top-secret competition for the emperor's throne where only one will emerge victorious... and the others will die. But this time the calling seems to have gone terribly wrong, and the candidates range from a stablehand to a bastard to a girl with illegal magic. Yet none can escape their fate, and so the games begin. There will be betrayal, there will be blood, and there will be fire. Cluess has created a sweeping start to a series that is sure to enthrall Readers Ages 8 and up."

Coulter, Catherine. [Deadlock](#) (Gallery \$27.99). A very last minute possible addition to our virtual events but I note it here as it is not confirmed. FBI Special Agent Lacey Sherlock and husband Dillon Savich dealing with a psychopath, a secret from beyond the grave, and three red boxes puzzlingly containing the puzzle pieces of an unknown town....

Cussler, Clive. [The Titanic Secret](#) (\$17). Though working a century apart, NUMA Director Dirk Pitt and detective Isaac Bell team up to unlock the truth about the famous 1912 maritime disaster. In the present day, Pitt makes a daring rescue from inside an antiquated submersible in the waters off New York City. His reward afterwards is a document left behind a century earlier by legendary detective Isaac Bell—a document that re-opens a historical mystery... In 1911, in Colorado, Isaac Bell is asked to look into an unexplained tragedy at Little Angel Mine, in which nine people died. His dangerous quest to answer the riddle leads to a larger puzzle centered on byzantium, a rare element with extraordinary powers and of virtually incalculable value. As he discovers that there are people who will do anything to control the substance... "Every Cussler fan has to love the concept of DuBrul's return to the Cussler universe, as do readers who have never read one of the Cussler adventures!"

Davis, Kathryn. [The Silk Road](#) (\$16). Here is an allegorical novel fashioned around a journey, a journey undertaken by a community of several separate souls, and thus not unlike Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*. It begins on a mat in yoga class, deep within a labyrinth on a settlement somewhere in the icy north, under the canny guidance of Jee Moon. When someone fails to arise from corpse pose, the Astronomer, the Archivist, the Botanist, the Keeper, the Topologist, the Geographer, the Iceman, and the Cook remember the paths that brought them there—paths on which they still seem to be traveling.

Davis, Lindsey. [The Grove of the Caesars](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Flavia Albia is in charge of her husband Tiberius's construction business while he's away dealing with a family illness. As part of her job, Flavia visits gardens bequeathed to the people of Rome by Julius Caesar, to check on the progress of a contract to dismantle a small grotto, where workers have unearthed some old scrolls, a find that may have some financial value. But Flavia's look into whether the writings are legitimate is put aside after the grisly discovery of the nude, strangled body of Victoria Teria, who disappeared during a birthday celebration held for her husband, Cluventus, in the gardens a short time before. Cluventus' subsequent doubts about the official inquiry's effectiveness lead him to hire Flavia to find the murderer, who she learns has been preying on women in the gardens for years. So, a serial killer hunt.... If you fancy a journey to Ancient Rome order the [Flavia Albia series](#) and read them in order.

De Giovanni, Maurizio. [Puppies](#) (Europa \$18). A rich ensemble cast lifts de Giovanni's funny, poignant fourth police procedural featuring the "losers and pariahs" who man the little Pizzofalcone police station located in the heart of Naples. Early one morning, Officer Francesco Romano, who has anger management issues, is hurrying to work when he hears a noise from beside a dumpster outside the precinct. Inside is a newborn baby, dressed in a pink onesie, who's barely breathing. The search for the mother leads the detectives to the mother's body. Meanwhile, Officer Marco Aragona, who likes to imagine himself the dashing protagonist of an American TV cop show, is approached by a neighborhood boy, who says, "I want you, a first-class detective, to find my dog and bring him back to me." Ever susceptible to flattery, Aragona agrees, though he hasn't a clue as to how to proceed. "The endearing, idiosyncratic characters change from book to book in little ways that make total sense and enrich the backstories. De Giovanni is a master of the witty, elegantly plotted fair-play mystery," and I add, a fine TV series on MHZ-TV. I'm hoping this new novel will spark a new season for the show.

✧Delaney, JP. [Playing Nice](#) (Random \$27). Freelance journalist Pete Riley, a stay-at-home dad, and his partner, Maddie Wilson, who works in advertising, live in Willesden Green, a middle-class London neighborhood, with their two-year-old son, Theo. One afternoon, Miles Lambert arrives at Pete's door and tells him, "Theo isn't your son. He's mine." Miles goes on to explain that their children were switched soon after birth, and the Lamberts are suing the hospital. Pete and Maddie agree to attempt an amicable solution and meet with Miles and his wife at their posh home in Highgate. But cruel, obsessive Miles files for custody of both children, and he's out to win at all costs. Everyone has secrets, and everyone has made mistakes that can be magnified in a courtroom battle. Then people connected with the case begin to die. Delaney skillfully gets inside his lead characters

in alternating chapters narrated by Pete and by Maddie. Some genuinely surprising twists reveal just how far a parent will go for the sake of a child. This is domestic suspense at its most unsettling.

Delany, Vicki. [Tea & Treachery](#) (Kensington \$26). Former Manhattan pastry chef Lily Roberts, the heroine of this well-crafted series, has opened Tea by the Sea next door to Victoria-on-Sea, the bed-and-breakfast owned by her 85-year-old British grandmother, Rose Campbell, in North Augusta, a town on Cape Cod. Slimy real estate developer Jack Ford wants the town council to rezone nearby land for a major resort development, but spunky Rose lets him and the council members know exactly how she feels. When Ford sues Rose and winds up dead on her property, Det. Chuck Williams, of the North Augusta PD, regards the aggrieved Rose as the sole suspect. Refusing to be put out of business or bamboozled by a slippery small-town detective, Lily and Rose start their own investigation, aided by Lily's friend. Along the way to the satisfying solution, the women find time to consume a variety of tearoom delicacies. Fans of culinary cozies will be pleased.

DeRoux, Margaux. [The Lost Diary of Venice](#) (Ballantine \$27). In the wake of her father's death, Rose Newlin finds solace in her work as a book restorer. Then, one rainy Connecticut afternoon, a struggling painter appears at her door. William Lomazzo brings with him a sixteenth-century treatise on art, which Rose quickly identifies as a palimpsest: a document written over a hidden diary that had purposely been scraped away. Yet the restoration sparks an unforeseen challenge when William—a married man—and Rose experience an instant, unspoken attraction. Five centuries earlier, Renaissance-era Venetians find themselves at the mercy of an encroaching Ottoman fleet preparing for a bloody war. Giovanni Lomazzo, a portrait artist grappling with tragedy, discovers that his vision is fading with each passing day. Facing the possibility of a completely dark world, Gio begins to document his every encounter, including what may be his final artistic feat: a commission to paint the enchanting courtesan of one of Venice's most powerful military commanders. Soon, however, Gio finds himself enraptured. What is the mystifying connection between Rose and William?

"This narrative contains two different love stories, centuries apart, which are connected by both art and ancestry. It's hard to say which I preferred: the modern tale of an almost-reclusive book restorer and an artist client unhappy in his marriage, or the story from Renaissance Venice of the client's ancestor, a respected artist and a beautiful courtesan to one of the city's leading luminaries. Woven together, they form an intriguing tapestry of love, family, history, and art."

✧Ellis, Bella. [The Vanished Bride](#) (\$16). Yorkshire, 1845. A young wife vanishes. "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. "The Brontë sisters as sleuths—what a delicious idea! Bella Ellis has brilliantly recreated the feel and atmosphere of the Brontë novels, as well as bringing the three sisters (and their dissolute brother) vividly to life. What's more, it's a rattling good story!"—Rhys Bowen

Farrell, Richard. [The Falling Woman](#) (Algonquin \$26.95). Erin Geraghty, a mother and high-powered lawyer, has received test results giving her only six months to live. Fed up with chemo treatments and pitiful looks from her family, she boards Pointer Airlines Flight 795 to attend a healing retreat. The plane explodes in midair. On his first day as a lead investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board, Charlie Radford is assigned to unravel what happened to Flight 795 and identify the gruesome remains of 123 passengers scattered over a five-mile radius. His team scoffs at rumors of a lone survivor, but journalists pounce on the idea of a possible miracle. Television and newspaper headlines claim a woman walked away uninjured and that the NTSB isn't telling families the whole truth. Passengers' loved ones force politicians to demand answers. Charlie's higher-ups give him an ultimatum: find the woman who fell from the sky or become the fall guy. Page after page, Farrell builds confusion and frustration into an incendiary debate between belief in the miraculous and the basic laws of physics. Young, hapless Charlie flails, searching for a survivor science says cannot possibly exist. He knows how to find missing pieces of a person but not a whole missing person, especially one who doesn't want to be found. "When he finally discovers the truth, what Charlie does with it will make for an explosive discussion long after the final chapter." My copy just arrived so I'll see if I agree.

Fram, John. [The Bright Lands](#) (Hanover Square \$27.99). When Joel moves away from his small hometown, he expected to never go back. But after his brother texts him sounding distressed, he returns to find that Dylan has disappeared. The story is told with alternating narrators, and it is very action-packed. Highly recommended for fans of *Stranger Things*, *Friday Night Lights*, and mystery and horror novels."

Freeman, Dianne. [A Lady's Guide to Mischief and Murder](#) (Kensington \$26). George Hazelton, the secret fiancé of widowed Frances Wynn, the Countess of Harleigh, agrees to host a discreet wedding for Frances's pregnant sister, Lily, at his family's country estate, Risings, in an effort to avoid scandal. Trouble arises at Risings after a footman dies from what looks like accidental arsenic poisoning, a family friend is wounded by an arrow, and Lily's fiancé, Leo Kendrick, takes a bullet in the shoulder. Guessing that Leo is the real target, Frances and George probe various suspects, including Leo's brother-in-law, who resents not making partner in the Kendrick family business. Meanwhile, Frances copes with her combative social-climbing mother and a new fear: what if George too is also in danger? This is Book 3; order the first two [Countess of Harleigh Mysteries](#) and read them in order.

Griffiths, Elly. [The Lantern Men](#) (Houghton \$27). Ruth Galloway has a new job in Cambridge, a new home and partner, an American, and she is no longer North Norfolk police's resident forensic archaeologist. That is, until convicted murderer Ivor March offers to make DCI Nelson a deal. Nelson was always sure that March killed more women than he was charged with. Now March confirms this and offers to show Nelson where the other bodies are buried—but only if Ruth will do the digging. Curious, but wary, Ruth agrees. March tells Ruth that he killed four more women and that their bodies are buried near a village bordering the fens, said to be haunted by the Lantern Men, mysterious figures holding lights that lure travelers to their deaths. Is Ivor March himself a lantern man, luring Ruth back to Norfolk? What

is his plan? Once again Griffiths expertly incorporates myth and folklore into the story—in this chapter of Ruth's story, it's the menacing Lantern Men, said to haunt the local fens and who may be responsible for the killings. I highly recommend the quirky [Ruth Galloway Mysteries](#) and that you read them in order.

Hall, Anna. [Boyfriend Material](#) (Sourcebooks \$14.99) "is the sort of romantic comedy that would translate well to film, but is able to achieve a level of depth, intimacy and character development not possible within the constraints of that medium. Hall pairs Luc, the tabloid-fodder son of aging rock stars, with Oliver, an uptight barrister, when each needs a fake boyfriend for a few weeks. Luc needs to rehab his image for his development work for a dung beetle nonprofit, and Oliver needs a date for his parents' anniversary party. A mutual friend sets them up, despite their disastrous meeting a couple of years earlier. So begins a series of awkward dates, joke-filled text exchanges and mini-breakdowns packing into a romantic comedy that goes full on with messy feelings."

Hart, Carolyn G. [Ghost Ups Her Game](#) (Severn \$28.99). Ghostly female sleuth Bailey Ruth faces a crisis of confidence when she returns to her old hometown of Adelaide, Oklahoma, to witness a shocking scene: Professor Iris Gallagher leaning over the corpse of her colleague Matt Lambert, the murder weapon clutched in her hand. Bailey Ruth is only sent to help the innocent, but things are looking very black for Iris. And soon they're looking black for Bailey Ruth too – for if she fails to uncover the truth, this could be the last trip to earth she's ever allowed to make.... Ordered Upon Request... and don't delay as stock for Severn books disappears rapidly.

Hooper, Elise. [Fast Girls](#) (Morrow \$16.99). A riveting account of the triumphs and disappointments that faced three female runners on the 1936 Olympic team and their extraordinary grit and determination.

James, Anna. [Pages & Co.: The Lost Fairy Tales](#) (Philomel \$16.99) illus. by Paola Escobar. "During a trip to Paris to visit Oskar's father, Tilly and Oskar ignore the warnings from Tilly's grandparents and wander into a peculiar book of fairy tales... but nothing is normal inside these stories. Back at the London Underlibrary, new head librarian Melville Underwood is trying to bind books and restrict access to Bookwandering. Both Tilly and Oskar, along with Tilly's grandparents and former librarian Amelia, are determined to find a way to stop him. Can they do it before it's too late? *The Lost Fairy Tales* is the perfect follow-up to *The Bookwanderers*. Full of magic and utterly enchanting, this is fast becoming a favorite middle-grade series! Perfect for fans of *Inkheart* and *The Land of Stories*. Soon to be a major television series!

Johnson, Sarah Stewart. [The Sirens of Mars: Searching for Life on Another World](#) (Crown \$28.99). An Indies Introduce debut that "interweaves her own coming-of-age story as a planetary scientist with a vivid history of the exploration of Mars in this celebration of human curiosity, passion, and perseverance."—Alan Lightman, author of *Einstein's Dreams*. The Indie Next Pick: "I loved this quietly gorgeous book. Stewart brings her characters to vivid life —philosophers and scientists from the annals of Western history, family and teachers from her own life, or the dusty dunes of the 'red planet' itself — with clear, almost poetic prose, detailing the history of humanity's fascination

with Mars, as well as her own. You will leave these pages with a deeper understanding of interplanetary science and the wonder of humanity's next discovery." So—an excellent book for this July.

Malerman, Josh. [Malorie](#) (Random \$28) picks up 12 years after *Bird Box* ends. Malorie's children—Tom and Olympia—are teens, and while there's no evidence to suggest the monsters are still out there, there's no reason to believe they aren't either. And so Malorie continues to live the way of the blindfold, teaching her children how to survive what is a whole new world—their terrifying new normal. Malorie helping her kids understand why they must not take off their blindfolds. They must not look. Part of the conflict, of course, is that Tom may be living an atypical life—but he's still a typical boy. He's itching to rebel, to strike out on his own and challenge the existence of these unseen monsters."Malerman is hoping some of that character recognition will create buzz for what has already been dubbed the "sequel you never knew you needed."

Mitchell, David. [Utopia Avenue](#) (Random \$30). "Another delightfully addictive novel from this masterful storyteller. We get in on the ground floor witnessing the formation and rise of a rock band in London just as the British Invasion is taking off. Filled with great characters and lots of fun, inside Mitchellisms fans will love — a character named De Zoet, an album with *Cloud Atlas* in the title — this is a wonderful book and perfect summer reading.

Montclair, Alison. [A Royal Affair](#) (St Martins \$26.99). In Montclair's stellar sequel to 2019's [The Right Sort of Man](#), former British intelligence operative Iris Sparks and widow Gwen Bainbridge, who teamed up after WWII to run a business seeking to match up prospective spouses, are offered a highly sensitive assignment in 1946 London. Gwen's titled cousin, Lady Patience Matheson, who works for Queen Elizabeth, the consort of George VI, wants the partners of the Right Sort of Marriage Bureau to vet Prince Philip, the intended of the heir apparent, the future Elizabeth II. The then-princess has received an anonymous letter, intercepted by her protectors and referring to what, documents in Corfu?, stating there will be a price for returning "them" to Alice, Prince Philip's mother. Iris and Gwen agree to investigate what the message is referring to, so that Lady Matheson can assess whether the prince is a suitable mate for the princess. This sounds like an improbable (and annoying) set up but the pseudonymous Montclair delivers a clever plot with a twist and a witty investigation. The pseudo precludes us shipping to this author, alas, one who "successfully combines the insightful characterizations of Jacqueline Winspear with the witty banter of Hammett's Nick and Nora Charles." Truly this is a very amusing, often satirical, gem.

Parry, HG. [A Declaration of the Rights of Magicians](#) (Orbit \$28). In our **July SciFi/Fantasy Book of the Month**, Parry gracefully bends genres into a witty, riveting historical fantasy as, at the end of the 18th century, magical rebellions against oppression spark around the world. In West Africa, a young girl is enslaved and given a new name, Fina. She's taken to work on a Jamaican sugar plantation under the influence of a spell that effectively turns slaves into zombies and robs them of magic of their own. In France, five-year-old Camille Desmoulins is charged with illegal use of magic by the Knights Templar, inciting a fire for revolution in his heart as he grows older. Meanwhile, William

Pitt, the newly named prime minister of Britain, fights against troubling legislation limiting magic use to the aristocratic classes. As revolution brews, a dark and powerful shadow works its way across the globe, uniting the disparate cast of characters, who must band together to defeat a sinister mystical force viler than any anti-magic law. Parry has a historian's eye for period detail and weaves real figures from history—including Robespierre and Toussaint L'Ouverture—throughout her poetic tale of justice, liberation, and dark magic. This is a knockout.

North, Alex. [Shadows](#) (Celadon \$26.99). Our June British Crime Book of the Month gets an Indie Next Pick: "Paul Adams may have left behind his hometown and the tragedy that happened 25 years ago, but as we know, 'The past is never dead. It's not even past.' The murder that has haunted him for so long comes roaring back into his life when there's a new killing and secrets are uncovered. Dreams really do come true, but this one may just kill Paul. Highly atmospheric and emotionally gripping, *The Shadows* is best read with all the lights on and well before you plan to go to sleep."

Patterson, James/Chris Tebbets. [1st Case](#) (LittleBrown \$27.99). Angela Hoot gets kicked out of MIT's graduate school, joins the FBI's cyber-forensics unit, and must deal with a messaging app whose beta users are dying without getting killed herself. New in paperback: [Cajun Justice](#) (\$16.99).

Perkins, SC. [Lineage Most Lethal](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Wealthy hotel owner Pippa Sutton hires Austin, Texas, genealogist Lucy Lancaster to trace her family tree and produce a video featuring oral histories from her relatives. Already smarting from a lack of communication by her FBI boyfriend, Lucy encounters hostility from Pippa's glamorous and erratic mother, Roselyn, as well as drunken behavior from Pippa's cousin Dave, who previously was accused of theft and suspended from dealing in antiques. When a stranger stumbles up to Lucy, gives her a fountain pen, mutters an enigmatic message, and dies, she's mystified, but her grandfather, George Lancaster, sees something more in the episode. He reveals a tale of WWII derring-do that involves a cipher based on John Buchan's *The Thirty-Nine Steps*. Then the hotel's chef is murdered and attempts are made on the lives of George and Lucy, leading Lucy to realize that the past is far from buried. In this charmer, Perkins neatly intertwines history, mystery, espionage, genealogy, and revenge, a good follow up to [Murder Once Removed](#) (\$7.99) in a cozy series with weight.

Perrin, Valérie. [Fresh Water for Flowers](#) (Europa \$25). Perrin's English-language debut is one of the most immersive reading experiences I can remember. In fact, it is like nothing else I've read. Violette Toussaint, an orphan who survived a chaotic childhood, taught herself to read, and succumbed to the beauty of the older Phillipe Toussaint in 1986, when Violette was 18—and pregnant. Despite the difference in their social class, lust could not be denied. But Phillipe, raised to be a dilettante, is an incorrigible womanizer. They secure a job and cottage as keepers of a railroad crossing, opening and lowering the gates. When the work is automated, Violette, having become friends with a cemetery keeper in Brancion-en-Chalon, moves the family there to take over the position and its lodge. Phillipe, always roaring around on his motorcycle and gone for days, leaving Violette to raise their daughter, one morning rides away...and disappears. Violette develops a pleasant routine tending the graves, chronicling services,

dispensing food and wine. When Julien Seul, a detective from Marseilles, shows up to inter the ashes of his mother beside an apparently complete stranger as her will dictated, Violette is unnerved by how much Julien knows about her life.... The narrative keeps you engaged with a gradual payout of secrets, including long unanswered questions about the death of Violette's daughter while at summer camp, that each character tries to protect. Perrin is adept at pacing, at creating a flawed, amiable cast, and Violette is a delightfully engaging narrator. This enchanting indulgence in nature, drink, food, friends, and unwinding secrets, is our very first **International Crime Book of the Month** (July).

The Indie Next Indie Introduces adds, "*Fresh Water for Flowers* is gorgeous. Reading it was almost like being baptized by Violette's presence as a cemetery keeper, in its comfort, stability, and floral surroundings. Perrin takes us into the pool of Violette's melancholic past, from first loves to devastating losses. It truly gripped each and every one of my emotions, from fear and sorrow to elation and sentimentality. I'm so thankful to have read it." *Moi, aussi*.

Quinn, Seabury. [The Best of Jules Grandin: 20 Classic Occult Detective Stories](#) (Night Shade Books \$24.99). Hercule Poirot meets Fox Mulder. A collection of the 20 greatest tales featuring Jules de Grandin, the supernatural detective made famous in the classic pulp magazine *Weird Tales* where regulars like H. P. Lovecraft, Robert E. Howard, August Derleth, and Clark Ashton Smith published during the first half of the 20th Century. And yet despite being more popular than them all during the golden era of genre pulp fiction, there is another author whose name and work have fallen into obscurity: Seabury Quinn. His most famous character, the supernatural French detective Dr. Jules de Grandin, investigated cases involving monsters, devil worshippers, serial killers, and spirits from beyond the grave, often set in the small town of Harrisonville, New Jersey. In de Grandin there are familiar shades of both Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes and Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot, and alongside his assistant, Dr. Samuel Trowbridge, de Grandin's knack for solving mysteries—and his outbursts of peculiar French-isms (*grand Dieu!*)—captivated readers for nearly three decades. This collection of stories 1920s-1940s is edited by George Vanderburgh. Here's another fine chance to rediscover authors during our days of isolation.

✦Robb, Candace. [A Choir of Crows](#) (Severn \$28.99). York, 1374. The future of the English royal family is uncertain. Edward III and his heir, Prince Edward, are in poor physical and mental health, and the next in the line of succession, Prince Richard, is only a child. Owen Archer, now the captain of bailiffs for the city of York, is serving as Prince Edward's "eyes and ears in the North." Meanwhile, a monk arrives at Owen's house with "a fair young woman" disguised as a male pilgrim. The woman, whose name and background are unknown to the monk, is accused of fatally stabbing a vicar in the churchyard and of climbing up the chapter-house stairs to the roof and pushing another man to his death. Owen investigates, concerned that the deaths might pose a risk to the realm. Owen's worries that his children may have the pestilence add some emotional depth. Robb once again effectively blends crime with the politics of 14th-century England. Order Upon Request; don't delay as stock is vanishing.

✦Robotham, Michael. [When She Was Good](#) (Scribner \$26). At the start of Edgar-finalist Robotham's twisty, emotionally involving sequel to 2019's [Good Girl, Bad Girl](#) (\$17), British

forensic psychologist Cyrus Haven, teenager Evie Cormac's therapist, seeks out Special Constable Sacha Hopewell in Cornwall. Seven years earlier, Sacha rescued Evie from a North London house where she was discovered hiding with the corpse of a small-time criminal. Evie has never spoken about this traumatic experience, and Cyrus hopes Sacha has information that can help him treat Evie. Meanwhile, the police summon Cyrus to Manchester to consult on the apparent suicide of Hamish Whitmore, a retired detective superintendent. Cyrus finds evidence of foul play, and learns that Whitmore was fixated on the closed case of pedophile Eugene Green, who was killed in prison. A note Whitmore left behind indicates that he believed there was a possible link between Green and Evie, which prompts Cyrus to investigate. Sections told from Evie's perspective deepen both the plot and the characterizations.

Simenon, Georges. [Maigret and the Loner](#) (Penguin \$15). Inspector Maigret is called to action after a man who appears to be an elderly, socially isolated vagrant is found dead in the condemned building where he had been sleeping in Paris' Les Halles. As he begins to pick apart the few clues available, however, Maigret soon realizes that this man is far from who he originally appeared. Helped along by his signature intuition, an anonymous caller, and the memories of Montmartre's community of senior citizens, Maigret pieces together a puzzler. 73rd in the series. Ask for earlier titles.

Tallo, Katie. [Dark August](#) (Harper \$16.99). August "Gus" Monet is a young woman who'd lost everything when she was eight, and now at 20, is trying to find answers. Early one morning, Gus's phone rings—it's her Great-Grammie Rose's nurse, telling her she must come home. Rose is dead. Gus hasn't had a home since she was eight, and even then, she and her police officer single mother, Shannon, weren't close. Shannon was preoccupied with an investigation—Gus had always been insanely jealous of the little girl wearing a ballerina outfit in the picture taped to her mother's office wall. Shannon had even given Gus a puppy to appease her. When Shannon died in a car crash, the police took Gus to live with her Great-Rose, who shipped her off to boarding school when she was ten give Gus "a proper young lady's education." Now Gus yearns for a connection to her mother—searching through the house for remnants of her childhood and she finds items from her mother's collage-wall hidden behind the pictures—her mother reaching out to her after death. The news articles from her investigation are there, including the photo of the little ballerina. Gus feels closer to her mother she connects what her mother's work to the facts. When Gus sees a news article about the remains of a body recently uncovered, she is compelled to continue her mother's investigation, soon realizing that the very cold case may have something to do with her mother's death...and might get her killed.

Tremblay, Paul. [Survivor Song](#) (Harper \$27.99). The Indie Next Pick: "Given current events, the timing could not be better, or worse, for a novel about a rapidly spreading, deadly disease. The effects of this super-rabies virus, biting, attacking, killing, make this seem very much like a zombie novel. Tremblay gives a nod to this by having one of his main characters telling people to 'stop calling them zombies!' Tremblay is very good at controlling the suspense and letting it build and then giving you a burst of adrenaline-inducing action. Paul Tremblay has become one of my go-to horror authors." Library Reads adds, "The gripping story

opens with a rampant strain of virus (in this case rabies), followed by quarantines, lockdowns, fear, and irrational behavior. It hits alarmingly close to home. For fans of *Severance* by Ling Ma and *Contagion* by Robin Cook.”

Trinchieri, Camilla. [Murder in Chianti](#) (Soho \$27.95). Retired Bronx policeman Nico Doyle is having breakfast one morning at the run-down farmhouse he has rented near the town of Gravigna, Italy, his late wife’s hometown where he’s recently settled, when he hears a gunshot in the hills. When Nico investigates, he comes across the body of a man whose face has been obliterated by a shotgun blast. The victim’s Michael Johnson running shoes suggest he’s an American. Salvatore Perillo, the carabinieri officer who takes charge of the case, says on learning Nico was once a homicide detective: “I’ve dealt with only a single murder in my career. Holy heaven, New Yorkers must have murders every day.” Nico agrees to assist Perillo, despite his dislike of working homicides. Enticing descriptions of food and wines, an introspective protagonist with an unusual background, and an intricate plot that weaves its way amid past peccadilloes combine to make this a winner. I look forward to reading this, one hopes, the start of a series in the heart of Tuscan wine country. I recommend reading Frances Mayes’ wonderful memoir [Under the Tuscan Sun](#) (\$17) and watching the movie!

Weinman Sarah, ed. [Unspeakable Acts](#) (Ecco \$23.99). Weinman brings together an exemplary collection of recent true crime tales. She culls together some of the most refreshing and exciting contemporary journalists and chroniclers of crime working today. Michelle Dean’s “Dee Dee Wanted Her Daughter To Be Sick” went viral when it first published and is the basis for the TV show *The Act* and Pamela Colloff’s “The Reckoning,” is the gold standard for forensic journalism. There are 13 pieces in all and, as a collection, they showcase writing about true crime across the broadest possible spectrum, while also reflecting what makes crime stories so transfixing and irresistible to the modern reader.

OUR JULY SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Barr, Nevada. [What Rose Forgot](#) (\$9.99). Waking up in a nursing-home Alzheimer’s Unit with no memory of how she got there, Rose Dennis orchestrates an escape but does not know who to trust. *PW* had this to say about this standalone from the author of the national parks series “Thrilling action, madcap humor, and a larger-than-life cast energize this cleverly plotted take on a traditional mystery. Barr surprises and entertains from start to finish.” I add that this wonderful book has a lot to say about aging and memory loss and resilience. It underlines the adage, Just because you’re paranoid doesn’t mean they’re not out to get you.” And it’s a cleverly plotted mystery.

Betley, Matthew. [Rules of War](#) (\$9.99). Logan West #4. Logan West continues his mission to bring America’s traitorous vice president to justice, even as the clandestine group pulling all the strings makes one last deadly bid to regain their power. *Kirkus* had this to say “Some of the connections in this account of international intrigue appear somewhat loose, but there is a surplus of gunplay and military tactics to keep the pages turning for fans. An action-packed tale of deep-state double crossings and the elite soldiers charged with ensuring American interests.”

Finder, Joseph. [House on Fire](#) (\$9.99). Nick Heller #4. Eagerly accepting a job investigating whistleblower claims about the manufacturer of an opioid that contributed to an army buddy’s

death, Nick Heller uncovers dangerous secrets implicating a powerful family. *LJ* concluded its review with “this thriller is not only topical but beautifully driven by the intricacies of personal agendas, both obvious and hidden. Easily read as a stand-alone as well as part of the series, this is sure to captivate a new audience and bring them to the Joseph Finder backlist.” You can count on Finder to produce fabulous twists in thrillers that very often high-light finance as opposed to political or terrorist plot engines.

Hall, Rachel Howzell. [They All Fall Down](#) (\$8.99). After accepting an invitation to vacation on a private island, Miriam discovers that she and her companions were brought there under false pretenses and as accidents start happening, they become increasingly suspicious of each other. *PW* (as well as several of the Poisoned Pen staff) loved this say “Hall slips from funny to darkly frightening with elegant ease” in what is a “cleverly updated version of Agatha Christie’s *And Then There Were None*.” Interestingly several recent mysteries play upon the Christie scenario. This is a superior example.

Hendricks, Greer. [The Wife Between Us](#) (\$9.99). Nellie thought she had met the man of her dreams in the person of handsome, rich, and charming Richard until he dumps her for a younger, blonder version of herself. But is Nellie’s version of the events based in reality or just something she imagined? *LJ* ended its review with “Readers who were enthralled by B.A. Paris’s *Behind Closed Doors* and Gillian Flynn’s *Gone Girl* will love the skewed psychology and shifting perspectives of this domestic thriller.”

Koepp, David. [Cold Storage](#) (\$9.99). This debut novel by the screenwriter of *Jurassic Park* (among other films) follows the desperate mission of a Pentagon bioterrorism operative and two unwitting security guards to contain a highly contagious, deadly organism. *PW* said “Breakneck pacing and nonstop action compensate for the predictable story line and the occasional contrivance. Michael Crichton fans won’t want to miss this one.” Truly, nor do James Rollins fans.

Lee, Patrick. [Dark Site](#) (\$9.99). Sam Dryden #3. Escaping an attempted abduction, former Special Forces operative Sam Dryden narrowly rescues another potential target, an unfamiliar woman in possession of a heavily redacted file about a secret military site where they both lived as children. Lee doesn’t write a book a year which is too bad as he pens wicked thrillers.

Robb, J D. [Golden in Death: An Eve Dallas Novel](#) (\$8.99). Eve Dallas #50. Homicide detective Eve Dallas investigates the springtime murder of a beloved pediatrician by an unknown killer who hid a deadly toxin inside of a small golden egg. *PW* again: “The gripping plot builds to a dramatic finale. Robb shows no sign of losing steam.” And her vision of NYC in the future holds up.

Unger, Lisa. [The Stranger Inside](#) (\$9.99). Rain Winter is living the perfect suburban life when forced to confront the dark secrets of her 12-year-old past—an abductor went to prison but was murdered upon release—when a serial killer strikes too close to home. Named a BEST BOOK OF FALL 2019 by *People Magazine*, *Boston Globe*, BookBub, PopSugar, CrimeReads and more. “Brilliant.... A well-crafted psychological thriller.” —*The NY Times Book Review*

NEW IN SMALL PAPERBACKS

Barber, Lizzy. [A Girl Named Anna](#) (Mira \$7.99). Raised in a quiet rural community, Anna has always been taught that her

mamma's rules are the only path to follow. But, on her eighteenth birthday, she defies her mamma for the first time in her life and goes to Astroland. Big mistake.

Bruns, Catherine. [It Cannoli Be Murder](#) (Sourcebooks \$7.99). Italian Cozy Chef #2. Six months after her husband's death, Tessa Esposito is hoping to drum up reservations for her restaurant's grand opening. And since a signing with bestselling author, Preston Rigotta, is sure to draw a crowd, Tessa agrees to cater her cousin's bookstore event. But when the publicist is found dead on the bookstore floor the next morning, a stray cannolo at her side, Tessa knows who will be framed as the prime suspect.

Burton, Mary. [No Escape](#) (Kensington \$9.99). Psychologist Jolene Granger must team with her ex-husband, Texas Ranger Brody Winchester, to take down the deadly protégé of a dying, incarcerated serial killer

Carcatera, Lorenzo. [Tin Badges](#) (\$9.99). Retired NYPD detective Tank Rizzo becomes guardian to his orphaned, teenage nephew who reveals an interest in true crime and stunning computer skills and must debate involving his young charge in an effort to take down a notorious drug dealer.

Cates, Bailey. [Witches and Wedding Cake](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Magical Bakery #8. Magical baker Katie Lightfoot's hopes of getting married without a hitch are dashed when her fiancé's youngest sister is accused of murdering her ex-husband—a con man with many enemies—and calls on her witchy friends to help her solve this crime.

Christie, Agatha. [The Secret of Chimneys](#) (\$9.99). Reissue. A beautiful woman who once belonged to a ring of international jewel thieves makes known to her former associates the location of certain gems, thereby triggering a number of people to recover them at any cost.

Coes, Ben. [The Russian](#) (\$9.99). Rob Tacoma #2. When criminals from the former Soviet Union establish a vicious underworld in the U.S., former Navy SEAL and CIA agent Rob Tacoma conducts a top-secret mission to neutralize the mob boss behind the murder of a CIA Special Ops leader.

Coulter, Catherine. [Labyrinth](#) (\$9.99). Savich and Sherlock #23. While Lacey Sherlock searches for the missing CIA analyst involved in her recent car crash, Special Agent Griffin Hammersmith is targeted by a sheriff, whose son has been implicated in the murders of three girls.

Harris, Sherry. [From Beer to Eternity](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Chloe Jackson #1. While helping her late friend's grandmother Vivi run the Sea Glass Saloon in the Florida Panhandle, Chloe Jackson must clear Vivi's name when she is accused of murdering one of her regular customers and discovers that Vivi is not the only one in Emerald Cove with secrets.

Hill, Edwin. [The Missing Ones](#) (Kensington \$9.99). Summoned to a rugged, remote island of the coast of Maine by a cryptic text, Hester Thursby discovers a community cleaning up from a devastating storm—and uncovers a murder.

Hollis, Lee. [Death of a Wicked Witch](#) (\$7.99). Food and Cocktails #11. When a local food truck owner dies while catering a Halloween party, reporter Hayley Powell is fast on the case and finds herself caught between witnesses and witches as she tries to catch a killer. Includes recipes.

Jackson, Lisa. [Paranoid](#) (Kensington \$9.99). Struggling with traumatic memories of the shooting accident that ended her half-brother's life 20 years earlier, guilt-ridden Rachael Gaston prepares for her high-school reunion in Edgewater, Oregon, and begins to doubt her sanity when things in her home start moving by themselves.

Kara, Lesley. [The Rumor](#) (Ballantine \$9.99). Hearing rumors that a dangerous ex-con has moved into town under an assumed name, an obsessed single mother goes to reckless lengths to determine the facts, subjecting her loved ones to dangerous retaliation.

Kelly, Sofie. [A Night's Tail](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Magical Cats #11. Librarian Kathleen Paulson relies on her two very special cats when her brother Ethan is implicated in the murder of a businessman looking to invest in Mayville Heights

King, Stephen. [The Outsider](#) (\$10.99). When a young boy's body is found in the town park, Detective Ralph Anderson finds the evidence and the witnesses all pointing to one of the city's most popular citizens. This is now a limited HBO series starring Ben Mendelsohn.

Laurie, Victoria. [Coached to Death](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Cat Cooper #2. A recently divorced woman moves to the Hamptons and assumes a new career as a life coach, only to find herself blamed for the murder of a neighbor, and teams up with her best friend to find the real killer.

Lloyd, Amy. [The Innocent Wife](#) (\$9.99). Falling in love with a man on death row she believes was falsely accused, a young schoolteacher successfully campaigns for the man's release and becomes his wife, only to begin to wonder about his possible guilt in the aftermath of his release.

Marks, Mary. [Knot of This World](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Quilting Mysteries #8. When her fellow quilter Birdie Watson joins the Mystical Feather Society, Martha Rose organizes a surprise visit to the commune where she finds its leader dead and must unravel a mystery and debunk a cult before it's bye bye, Birdie.

Meier, Leslie. [Invitation Only Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Lucy Stone #26. Invited to an eccentric environmentalist billionaire's property that has been stripped of modern conveniences, reporter Lucy Stone interviews the estate's less-than-happy residents before her host's daughter is killed in a suspicious fall.

Mofina, Rick. [Their Last Secret](#) (Mira \$9.99). When she finds a note on her car threatening to reveal her secret, school counselor Emma Grant, who struggles to keep her past buried, finds her perfect life crumbling around her, forcing her to take desperate steps to save it.

Neggars, Carla. [Rival's Break](#) (Mira \$7.99). Sharpe and Donovan #9. When a yacht party is interrupted by a poisoning and the theft of a valuable painting, Emma and Colin join an elite FBI team to prevent a devastating attack.

O'Brien, Kevin. [The Bad Sister](#) (Kensington \$9.99). When a spate of mysterious deaths plague the college, journalism professor Ellie Goodwin delves into the past of one of her students, who is linked to a series of murders, and makes a discovery that could get her killed.

Ryan, Annelise. [Night Shift](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Helping Hands #2. When social worker Hildy Schneider commits to an after-hours side job, she finds herself drawn into the darker side of

small-town Sorenson, Wisconsin, and the twisted mind of an unnamed killer.

Sandford, John. [Shadow Prey](#) (\$9.99). Reissue. Lucas Davenport #2. Detective Lucas Davenport joins forces with NYPD detective Lucy Rothenburg to solve a series of grisly killings that have terrorized the country, from Minneapolis to New York, following an enigmatic killer whose trail leads to a Native American embodiment of a primal evil known as Shadow Love.

Schutt, Bill. [The Darwin Strain](#) (\$9.99). R. J. MacCready #3. Sent to a remote Greek island by the Pentagon in the early days of the Cold War, MacCready and Thorne investigate rumors of the healing properties of a volcanic spring connected to an ancient sea monster legend.

Scottoline, Lisa. [Exposed](#) (\$8.99). Reissue. Rosato and DiNunzio #2. Deciding to represent opposing sides in a wrongful termination lawsuit, DiNunzio and Rosato face conflict of interest complications that force their friends and colleagues to take sides.

Slaughter, Karin. [Blindsighted](#) (\$9.99). Reissue in a special 20th Anniversary edition. Grant Country #1. Pediatrician and coroner Dr. Sara Linton, her ex-husband and chief of police Jeffrey Tolliver, and female detective Lena Adams are on the case when a sadistic rapist and murderer begins targeting women in Grant County