

BOOKNEWS from

ISSN 1056-5655, © The Poisoned Pen, Ltd.
Volume 34, Number 7
June Booknews 2022
sales@poisonedpen.com tel (888)560-9919
http://poisonedpen.com

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



A RED HOT JUNE...

Opening Hours M-Sat 10 AM-6 PM; Sun 12-5 PM

Note: Event times are Pacific Daylight time

Watch these virtual events on [Facebook Live](#) or on our [YouTube](#) channel and any time thereafter at a time that suits you. You don't have to belong to Facebook to click in.

You also can listen to our [Podcasts](#) on [Google Music](#), [iTunes](#), [Spotify](#), and other popular podcast sites.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 1 3:00 PM

James Lee Burke discusses [Every Cloak Rolled in Blood](#) (SimonSchuster \$27)
The Holland Family
Signed books available

WEDNESDAY JUNE 1 5:00 PM

Mike Lawson discusses [Redemption](#) (Grove \$26)
Standalone thriller
Signed books available

WEDNESDAY JUNE 1 7:00 PM Postponed

See new date below for **Graham Brown**. [Clive Cussler's Dark Vector](#) (Putnam \$29) will be signed and start to ship on June 2.

THURSDAY JUNE 2 12:00 PM

Richard O'Rawe with Patrick O'Rawe discusses [Goering's Gold](#) (Melville House \$17.99)
A post WWII heist thriller
Signed bookplates

SATURDAY JUNE 4 2:00 PM now Virtual

Mary Anna Evans with Donis Casey
Evans discusses [The Physicist's Daughter](#) (Poisoned Pen \$16.99)
WWII Series start
Comes with some swag

SUNDAY JUNE 5 2:00 PM Live

ASU author Valena Beety with John Charles
Beatty discusses [Manifesting Justice](#) (Kensington \$28):
Wrongly convicted women reclaim their rights
Signed books available

MONDAY JUNE 6 5:00 PM

Australia's Sulari Gentill discusses [The Woman in the Library](#) (Poisoned Pen \$16.99)
A fabulous literary mystery
The hardcover [The Woman in the Library](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.99) will be our **October Crime Book of the Month when Gentill visits The Pen**
Please order now if you are not in the club to secure your copy

TUESDAY JUNE 7 1:00 PM

Martin Edwards discusses [The Girl They All Forgot](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.99)
A new Lake District Mystery
And the British Library Crime Classics series

TUESDAY JUNE 7 7:00 PM Live

Steve Berry with Diana Gabaldon
Berry discusses [The Omega Factor](#) (Grand Central \$29)
UNESCO investigator Nicholas Lee in Bruges and the Vatican
Signed books with exclusive insert available
Signed Outlander books available as well

WEDNESDAY JUNE 8 5:00 PM

Peter Spiegelman discusses [A Secret About a Secret](#) (Knopf \$28)
A futuristic thriller and remarkable
Signed books available

THURSDAY JUNE 9 6:00 PM

Don Bentley and MP Woodward
Bentley discusses [Tom Clancy Zero Hour](#) (Putnam \$29.95)
Woodward discusses [The Handler](#) (Berkley \$27)
A debut international thriller
Signed books for both available

MONDAY JUNE 13 6:00 PM

Caroline Wood discusses [The Lunar Housewife](#) (Doubleday \$28)

TUESDAY JUNE 14 1:00 PM

England's Fiona Barton discusses [Local Gone Missing](#) (Berkley \$27)
A missing persons case in a coastal town

TUESDAY JUNE 14 7:00 PM Live

Graham Brown and Matthew Quirk
Brown discusses [Clive Cussler's Dark Vector](#) (Putnam \$29)
NUMA Files (pirates! a volcano! tech wizardry!)
Quirk discusses [Red Warning](#) (Morrow \$28.99)
A nifty spy thriller
Signed books available for both authors

WEDNESDAY JUNE 15 5:00 PM

Leonard Goldberg discusses [The Blue Diamond](#) (St Martins \$26.99)
Daughter of Sherlock Holmes mystery
Signed books available

THURSDAY JUNE 16 5:00 PM

Sarah James discusses [The Woman with Two Shadows](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)
This WWII Manhattan Project/Oak Ridge story is on sale July 26 but we discuss it now
Julia Bryan Thomas discusses [For Those Who Are Lost](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)
Debut WWII historical fiction set on Guernsey & in England

FRIDAY JUNE 17 5:00 PM

A Crooked Lane Trio all dares something different

Mindy Carlson discusses [Her Dying Day](#) (\$26.99)
Evie Hawtrey discusses [And by Fire](#) (\$26.99).
Kate Khavari discusses [A Botanist's Guide to Parties and Poisons](#) (\$26.99)

FRIDAY JUNE 17 7:00 PM

SciFi Friday discusses P. Dyeli Clark's [A Master of Djinn](#) (Forge \$27.99)

SATURDAY JUNE 18 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger discusses Jesse Q. Sutanto's [Dial A for Aunties](#) (Berkley \$16)

SATURDAY JUNE 18 4:00 PM

Joey Hartstone discusses [The Local](#) (Doubleday \$28)
Debut legal thriller
Signed books available

MONDAY JUNE 20 5:00 PM

Professor Richard White discusses [Who Killed Jane Stanford?](#) (Norton \$35)
Stanford University alumni authors joining us include **Robert Dugoni, Angie Kim, Francine Mathews, and Professor Paul Goldstein** of Stanford Law, author of several thrillers.

TUESDAY JUNE 21 7:00 PM Live

Riley Sager discusses [The House Across the Lake](#) (Dutton \$27)
Signed books available

WEDNESDAY JUNE 22 4:30 PM

Rosalie Knecht discusses [Vera Kelly: Lost and Found](#) (Norton \$15.95)
Vera Kelly series

WEDNESDAY JUNE 22 7:00 PM Live

Edgar nominee Fabian Nicieza discusses [The Self-Made Widow](#) (Putnam \$27)
Signed books available

THURSDAY JUNE 23 5:00 PM

David Bell and Joshua Moehling

Bell discusses [The Finalists](#) (Berkley \$27)
Signed books available
Moehling discusses [And There He Kept Her](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.99)

THURSDAY JUNE 23 6:30 PM

Lee Goldberg discusses [Movieland](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95)
Detective Eve Ronin
Signed books available

MONDAY JUNE 27 5:00 PM

Paul Doiron and Sarah Stewart Taylor

Doiron discusses [Hatchet Island](#) (St Martins \$27.99)
Maine Game Warden Mike Bowditch
Taylor discusses [The Drowning Sea](#) (St Martins \$27.99)
Signed books available for both

MONDAY JUNE 27 7:00 PM Live

Isabella Maldonado Book Launch

Maldonado discusses [The Falcon](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95)
Phoenix detective Nina Guerrera
Signed books available

TUESDAY JUNE 28 2:00 PM Cozy Crimes

Krista Davis and Daryl Wood Gerber with John Charles Davis discusses [A Hint of Mischief](#) (Kensington \$15.95)
Gerber discusses [A Hint of Mischief](#) (Kensington \$15.95)

WEDNESDAY JUNE 29 7:00 PM Live

Julie Clark discusses [The Lies I Tell](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.99)
Domestic thriller
Signed books available

THURSDAY JUNE 30 6:00 PM True Crime

Mark I. Pinsky with Christina Estes
Pinsky discusses [Drifting into Darkness](#) (Norton \$23.95)

THURSDAY JUNE 30 7:15 PM

Hardboiled Crime discusses Peter Rabe's [Kill the Boss Goodbye](#) (Vintage Crime \$19.95)

OUR JUNE BOOKS OF THE MONTH

British Crime Club One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month
Hawtrey, Evie. [And by Fire](#)

Cozy Crimes Club One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month
Bessette, Alicia. [Smile, Beach, Murder](#)

First Mystery Club One Signed First Printing per month
Hartstone, Joey. [The Local](#)

The Crime Collectors Book of the Month Club One Signed First Printing per month
Pavone, Chris. [Two Nights in Lisbon](#)

History/Mystery Club One Signed First Printing per month
Morrison, Boyd/Beth. [The Lawless Land](#)

Notable New Fiction One Signed First Printing per month
Chan, Lan Samantha. [The Family Chao](#)

International Crime One Unsigned Hardcover or paperback per month
Perrin, Valerie. [Three](#)

SIGNED BOOKS

We continue with a mix of Live and Virtual Events

A # indicates the author signs at The Pen and you can request a short personalization. However the continual evolution of COVID etc may cause live events to pivot back to virtual. Do please always check our calendar and/or stay subscribed to the Enews.

#Beety, Valena. [Manifesting Justice](#) (Kensington \$28). Valena Beety, professor of law at ASU's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law and Deputy Director of the Academy for Justice, is joined by award-winning audio journalist Sarah Ventre for a conversation about her new book *Manifesting Justice: Wrongly Convicted Women Reclaim Their Rights*. Written through the lens of her work with the Innocence Movement and her client Leigh Stubbs – a woman denied a fair trial in 2000 largely due to her sexual orientation – *Manifesting Justice* is like “Just Mercy” for women, the queer community, people of color, and their allies. The book follows the stories of wrongly convicted women and the innocence litigators who are fighting for change. It builds on years of personal stories from female exonerees and innocence advocates, as well as the author's own work as a queer woman. Ms. Beety will be donating the equivalent of 10% of the proceeds from any books sold related to the event to the Native American Rights Fund in acknowledgement of Ms. Ventre's work on the Peabody Award-nominated second season of “This Land,” an investigation into the concerted effort to dismantle the Indian Child Welfare Act. Ms. Ventre is one of the founders of [Girls Rock! Phoenix](#), a nonprofit dedicated to empowering girls, trans, and gender nonconforming youth through music, and is a regional producer for [The Moth](#).”

Bell, David. [The Finalists](#) (Berkley \$27). **On sale July 5 but please preorder.** Six ambitious students agree to lock themselves up in an old Victorian building for eight hours in hopes of winning a full ride to the fictional Hyde College. Totally secluded and far from campus, they have to impress college vice president Troy Gaines, a man nearly as desperate for money as they are, and Nicholas Hyde, the delinquent heir to the Hyde family fortune. Before they even step inside the house, though, things start to go wrong. Outside, there's a political protest concerning new discoveries about the college founder's activities in the Civil War. Nicholas Hyde shows up late and inebriated. Campus police escort the protestors away from the building as the crowd starts to get violent. Once the competitors—an eclectic group of students with nothing in common but financial need—give up their electronics and are locked in the house by the campus chief of police, things quickly get even worse. Ultimately the story pits the students and even Gaines against each other while exploring age-old questions of morality and duty and how far some people will go to enact their dream.

Bentley, Don. [Tom Clancy Zero Hour](#) (Putnam \$29.95). The prologue of the rousing ninth Jack Ryan Jr. novel, bestseller Bentley's second contribution to the Clancy franchise after [Target Acquired](#) (\$9.99), reveals that North Korea's Supreme Leader, Choi Ha-guk, has been badly injured while observing the test of a Russian prototype nuclear missile at a North Korean test facility, where a North Korean Politburo member sees the Supreme Leader's incapacity as “the opportunity of a lifetime.” Meanwhile, in Seoul, Campus operations officer Jack and his fellow Campus member and potential girlfriend, Lisanne

Robertson, plan to interview a PhD student for a job, but Jack gets caught in a violent protest. Also in Seoul are two Green Beret snipers who are swept up in a random gunfight with who they think are members of the Korean National Police. Bentley expertly knits all these threads into an intricate plot in which all the good guys come together to try to thwart a dastardly North Korean scheme. Readers will find all the operational and technical details they've come to expect from a Tom Clancy book.

#Berry, Steve. [The Omega Factor](#) (Grand Central \$29). **Our copies come with an exclusive insert** showing the work of art at the heart of this thriller where UNESCO investigator Nicholas Lee is following a lead to the long-missing 12th panel of the relentlessly plundered Ghent Altarpiece when he stumbles upon a centuries-old conflict between some no-nonsense nuns called the Maidens of Saint-Michael and the Vatican, which is desperate to grab a secret the maidens guard. The Altarpiece was painted by the van Eyck brothers, Hubert and Jan, at the threshold of the Renaissance in the early 15th Century. The use of oil paints and incredible detail created something not seen before. Magical. You can Google it and its 12 panels, the most famous of which focuses on a symbolic lamb.

So in a thriller perfect for you Dan Brown/*The Da Vinci Code* fans as well as the Preston & Child, Rollins, and Berry faithful, enjoy a tale with scenes alternating between Jan van Eyck and Nick, a field operator focused on artistic and cultural issues. His former fiancée, art restorer Kelsey Deal, who broke it off with Nick for a greater love, is restoring the altarpiece at Ghent's Cathedral of Saint Bavo, working on a replica of a panel stolen in 1934, when a fire breaks out. Nick, already in town, arrives and chases after the vandal who not only started the blaze but stole her laptop and its images. Hmmm. Is this a conspiracy linked to the Catholic Church that originated some 2000 years ago? As ever Berry has done thorough research into the landscapes, the history, and the art as he crafts his adventure for a new cast of characters. It's a perfect June thriller.

Note: Berry will be joined by Diana Gabaldon so we will have Signed Firsts of [Go Tell the Bees That I Am Gone](#) (\$35) and more Gabaldons on sale as well.

✂Billingham, Mark. [The Murder Book](#) (LittleBrown UK \$40). Here's a *PW* Starred Review for the (unsigned) US edition publishing in July: “British author Bingham's masterly 18th novel featuring DI Tom Thorne finds Thorne content in his relationship with Melita Perera, who works with the police as a forensic psychiatrist, following a period of social isolation. Meanwhile, Thorne's nemesis, Stuart Nicklin, who once tortured and nearly killed Thorne's best friend, pathologist Phil Hendricks, escapes from prison and undergoes cosmetic surgery that makes him all but unrecognizable. When three grotesque murders, which imitate the proverbial “see no evil” theme, occur in London, Thorne and partner DI Nicola Tanner investigate. They tie all three to sociopath Rebecca Driver, an acolyte of

Nicklin's, who meets her victims on a dating website, and arrest her. While Driver is in a holding cell after conviction and waiting to be sentenced, she finally decides to expose Nicklin's evil manipulations. In the brilliant denouement, Thorne confronts Nicklin in Melita's home, and the fallout from their violent encounter is sure to reverberate through the lives of Tanner, Hendricks, and himself in future installments. The intricate plot matches superior characterizations."

✚Bradby, Tom. [Yesterday's Spy](#) (Transworld \$41). The disappearance of journalist Sean Tower in Tehran, Iran, drives this intelligent spy thriller from Bradby set in 1953. Sean's father, recently retired British spy Harry Towers, flies from London to the Iranian capital to find him just as the coup to depose Iran's nationalist leader, Mohammed Mossadegh, and install the Shah, Reza Pahlavi, gets underway. Aided by Sean's girlfriend, Shahnaz, Harry looks to local contacts, government officials, and ex-pats—mostly spies from the United States, Britain, and France—for answers. Was Sean targeted because of his left-wing politics? Has he been recruited by the Soviets? Or is his disappearance retribution for something Harry did as an undercover agent with Britain's Secret Intelligence Service? On occasion, particularly toward the end, politics and flashbacks to Harry's personal and professional life slow the momentum, but they are always relevant to the story. Bradby smoothly mixes geopolitical intrigue, old-fashioned sleuthing, and cinematic action. Fans of smart, historical espionage will be rewarded.

Brooks, Geraldine. [Horse](#) (Viking \$28). **To secure your Signed First, order and pay now and we will hold it to be signed in November.** In this powerful story from the Pulitzer Prize-winning Brooks, an enslaved groom named Jarrett leads the bay foal he's bonded with to record-shattering racing victories across the 1850s South. During the Civil War, the two meet up dangerously with an itinerant artist who's won fame with his many paintings of the stunning racehorse. A gallery owner in 1950s New York becomes fascinated with the paintings, but it's not until 2019 that a Nigerian American art historian uncovers the true story of the horse and groom and links up with a Smithsonian scientist who's studying the horse's bones to learn the secret of its extraordinary endurance.

#Brown, Graham. [Clive Cussler's Dark Vector](#) (Putnam \$29). **Signed now, live event date is now June 14 at 7:00 PM with Matthew Quirk.** Pirates! Volcano! Wicked tech? This high adventure has it all and is super fun. A freighter carrying top-secret computers of unparalleled capability disappears in the Western Pacific. While searching for a lost treasure that once belonged to the famous Chinese pirate queen, Ching Shih, NUMA's Kurt Austin and Joe Zavala are redirected to look for the missing vessel. Discovering that the sinking of the ship, originally by volcano, is just part of an intricate web of deception, they find themselves in the middle of a cyber-war between rival groups of hackers, both of whom want to control the flow of data around the world. With no allies except a group of pirates who operate under their own crude laws, Kurt and Joe must rescue a colleague held hostage—while keeping the computers out of Russian or Chinese hands. Scary—this book may be more prescient than we would like. Graham is doing an ace job of keeping up Clive's high standards of research, innovation, and exciting storytelling as the pages fly by.

Burke, James Lee. [Every Cloak Rolled in Blood](#) (SimonSchuster \$27). This is a Starred Review: "At the start of this stunning supernaturally tinged entry in MWA Grand Master Burke's long-running Holland family saga, a teenage boy spray paints a swastika on the barn of octogenarian author Aaron Holland Broussard in rural Montana. Broussard's interactions with the teen lead him into conflict with a host of villains, including evangelical bikers and a meth dealer who has been known to bury people alive. On the side of the angels is Ruby Spotted Horse, the state trooper who responds to his call about the graffiti and who, it turns out, is also entrusted with keeping the malevolent Old People from escaping their confinement beneath her house. Broussard's other ally is his dead daughter, Fannie Mae, who appears from time to time to just converse or to bring him warnings. Setting aside the ghosts, this is one of those extraordinary crime novels that feels more like real life, with incidents and people that aren't obviously connected piling up in the protagonist's life, rather than a neat set of clues pointing to a culprit. Once again, Burke uses genre fiction to plumb weighty issues, both social and emotional."

But I add that the real heft of this book and the reason to read it EVEN IF you have never read Burke is his deeply personal, beautiful essay at the beginning about the pain of losing a child, in this case his daughter Pamala. The well of grief Burke taps is endlessly deep but so is his life-affirming commitment to his family and his work.

#Clark, Julie. [The Lies I Tell](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.99). *Meg Williams. Maggie Littleton. Melody Wilde.* Different names for the same person, depending on the town, depending on the job. She's a con artist who erases herself to become whoever you need her to be—a college student. A life coach. A real estate agent. Nothing about her is real. She slides alongside you and tells you exactly what you need to hear, and by the time she's done, you've likely lost everything. Kat Roberts has been waiting ten years for the woman who upended her life to return. And now that she has, Kat is determined to be the one to expose her. But as the two women grow closer, Kat's long-held assumptions begin to crumble, leaving Kat to wonder who Meg's true target is. Clark pens a twisted domestic thriller that dives deep into the psyches and motivations of these two women. Her debut, [The Last Flight](#) (\$16.99), was a 2020 First Mystery Club Book of the Month.

As with the Sulari Gentill novel reviewed below, Clark's book is a June Library Reads selection: "Journalist Kat befriends con artist Meg in hopes of exposing her in revenge for a past wrong. As they get close, the shifting points of view reveal layers of deception between two masterful manipulators. For fans of fast-paced thrillers in the vein of *Mary Kubica* and *Jessica Knoll*."

Cranor, Eli. [Don't Know Tough](#) (Soho \$24.95 in stock). Patrick and I got to this debut late so we only secured a couple of dozen signed firsts before it reprinted. Patrick writes, "Billy Lowe is a talented athlete, but his volatile, unstable home life bleeds onto the football field, where the teen's anger erupts into violence. The Denton High School Pirates don't stand a chance of winning the playoff game without Lowe, but when he injures another player in a fit of rage, the school has no choice but to suspend him. Head Coach Trent Powers, who has recently moved to the small Arkansas town from California, feels sympathetic to the troubled teen, and, being a born-again Christian with demons of his own,

takes it upon himself to save Lowe from his circumstances. Then Billy Lowe's abusive stepfather is found murdered in the Lowe family trailer and all of the evidence leads towards Billy... I haven't been as impressed with a debut novel in a long time. If you like writers such as David Joy, Brian Panowich and Ace Atkins, you'll love this book!"

Davis, Lindsey. [Desperate Undertaking](#) (Hodder UK \$44). "Davis's superior 10th whodunit featuring private inquiry agent Flavia Albia combines an engrossing plot with a plausible evocation of life in ancient Rome. In 89 CE, Davos, an actor friend of Flavia's adoptive parents, Marcus Didius Falco and Helena Falco, seeks their help probing the murder of Chremes, an actor-manager who also knew the older Falcos, who was 'stripped naked and hung up to die on a cross' in one of Emperor Domitian's stadiums. The emperor had modified performances of a popular drama so that the lead role—a bandit—would be played by a condemned criminal, enabling the execution by crucifixion at the end to be real. Outside the arena where Chremes was found, someone had posted a fake notice advertising the dead man's upcoming appearance in the play as a means of getting passersby to enter and view the grim tableau. Meanwhile, Flavia has another bizarre murder to solve—a woman gored to death by a bull who identified "the undertaker" as her killer just before expiring. The tension is sustained throughout, and the mystery of the murders satisfactorily explained. This entry reinforces Davis's place at the top of the Ancient Roman historical subgenre."

Doiron, Paul. [Hatchet Island](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Is this Lucky 13 for Maine Game Warden Mike Bowditch? This *PW* Starred Review says 'yes.' "Edgar finalist Doiron's exceptional mystery takes Bowditch and his significant other, biologist Stacey Stevens, to Baker Island after Stacey receives a request for help from her college roommate and former colleague, Kendra Ballard, who's been working on the island as the project manager for the Maine Seabird Initiative's restoration efforts there. Kendra is worried about her boss, Maeve McLeary, who hasn't been heard from for several days. That disturbing silence comes shortly after Maeve incurred the wrath of local lobstermen by successfully backing a proposal to close part of the Gulf of Maine to their boats to protect endangered whales. The restoration project has since been receiving anonymous threats, and someone shot up its observation blinds. Kendra's fears of violence prove justified as Bowditch soon has two murders on the island to solve, which may be connected to a young man's recent death by suicide. The author is especially good at conveying the island's creepy atmosphere, and the taut plot features numerous shocking twists while further developing an already complex lead. Doiron is writing at the top of his game." I am a real fan, and Doiron is perfect for CJ Box readers!

Estleman, Loren D. [Monkey in the Middle: An Amos Walker Mystery](#) (Forge \$25.99). And here's a *PW* Starred Review for another of our favorite authors and series: "Razor-edged prose that Raymond Chandler would appreciate lifts Estleman's excellent 30th outing for Detroit PI Amos Walker. Walker has just learned of the death of his ex-wife, Catherine, when he takes on a new client, Shane Sothern. Sothern, who has built a reputation as a top-notch research assistant, is seeking to become an investigative reporter, but he fears he's being surveilled by someone looking to find a valuable source. Walker confirms that when he tails his client himself, spotting other watchers who look

like feds. In the process, he discovers that Sothern's source is a fugitive whistleblower charged with leaking government secrets. The case turns into a murder inquiry, and Walker's life is further complicated when he learns that Catherine had also been under surveillance. The portrayal of the Motor City (the PI refers to a bleak urban landscape as "the pipe dream of a dull-witted former governor who knew nothing of meth labs and crack houses, now waiting their turn at demolition") is as vivid as James Ellroy's L.A. Estleman makes sustaining a long-running series' high quality look easy." My late Mother, aka MM, absolutely loved the Amos Walker PI novels.

Evans, Mary Anna. [The Physicists' Daughter](#) (Poisoned Pen \$16.99). **Comes with some swag.** The author of the Faye Longchamps mysteries I loved editing and publishing goes a new direction (in which I am not involved). New Orleans, 1944. Sabotage. That's the word on factory worker Justine Byrne's mind as she is repeatedly called to weld machine parts that keep failing with no clear cause. Could someone inside the secretive Carbon Division be deliberately undermining the factory's Allied war efforts? Raised by her late parents to think logically, she also can't help wondering just what the oddly shaped carbon gadgets she assembles day after day have to do with the boats the factory builds. When a crane inexplicably crashes to the factory floor, leaving a woman dead, Justine can no longer ignore her nagging fear that German spies are at work within the building, trying to put the factory and its workers out of commission. Unable to trust anyone—not the charming men vying for her attention, not her unpleasant boss, and not even the women who work beside her—Justine draws on the legacy of her unconventional upbringing to keep her division running and protect her coworkers, her country, and herself.

Freeman, Dianne. [A Bride's Guide to Marriage and Murder](#) (Kensington \$26). Our Lesa Holstine reviews: Frances, Countess of Harleigh, has suffered through four months of wedding preparations with her mother; she and fiancé George Hazelton don't need one more interruption to their wedding plans, certainly not by feuding American businessmen Peter Bainbridge and James Connor, who've both been invited to the festivities—the latter by Frances's brother Alonzo, who wants to court James's daughter Madeline Connor. George and Frances make it through the wedding ceremony, but the reception is interrupted by news that James Connor is dead and Alonzo has been arrested for the murder. This means Frances and George have to postpone their honeymoon so George can act as Alonzo's attorney. Multiple suspects, duplicitous actions, and another murder lead Frances and George on a confusing hunt to find the killer. While readers may beat the sleuths to the punch, the fifth in Freeman's "Countess of Harleigh Mystery" series (following *A Fiancée's Guide to First Wives and Murder*) is a delightful cozy that educates readers about the role of women in Victorian England and entertains at the same time. 5th in an Anthony Award-winning series.

Gelernter, J. [Hold Fast](#) (Norton \$25.95). 'I'm writing to tell you how much I am loving *Hold Fast*. It is absolutely fantastic. The writing is brilliant—suspenseful, atmospheric, humorous.... and the research is plain astonishing. The author's knowledge of Napoleonic Europe is encyclopedic and goes far beyond things nautical. Better, he wields it with a deft touch. It's been too long since I couldn't put down a book. *Hold Fast* is that book!!

It would be great for you to really push this young writer. I can't imagine anyone who is drawn to this genre who will not devour this book. In his acknowledgements, he writes of his love for Ian Fleming...and there is a lot of James Bond in his protagonist, Thomas Grey, and in the deft plotting of his work. What a discovery!! Thank you!"—Christopher Reich.

And any Patrick O'Brian fan (or Bernard Cornwell too) will relish *Hold Fast* and its sequel [Captain Grey's Gambit](#) (\$25.95). Luckily they are both still available in first printings to ship to the author so we are sending them now. *Gambit* was our April Historical Fiction Book of the Month and sold out in a flash so.... IMHO Gelernter has a brilliant career in front of him so don't miss out. Again, great gifts for Dad of whatever reading persuasion he is or for anyone who enjoyed the TV made from Tevis' [The Queen's Gambit](#) (\$16.95).

Gentill, Sulari. [The Woman in the Library](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.99). **A brilliant novel that will be signed for us as our October Crime Book of the Month.** The *NY Times Book Review* praises its "hall of mirrors quality." Because of the long delay between publication and the Australian author's appearance October visit to The Pen, we urge you to order one of the 100 hardcovers we've bought to hold since first printings will disappear rapidly. This is a truly brilliant novel and would say that even if Sulari had not dedicated it to me.

This gem is No. 1 among the top 10 June titles public library staff across the country love: "Freddie is at the Boston Public Library when a murder occurs. While waiting for the police, she strikes up a conversation with others at her table. The four become friends, but could one of them be the murderer? Much misdirection and an unreliable narrator make for a tight little thriller that will have you sure you know whodunnit until you don't. For fans of *The Body in the Library*, *Magpie Murders* and *The Hunting Party*."

Kirkus calls it "A sharply drawn fictional hall of mirrors sure to tantalize..." And continues with "Sycophantic fan and aspiring writer Leo charms his way into a friendship with successful author Hannah Tigone through a series of flattering letters. In return, she shares a strange incident that happened in the Boston Public Library, where she's working on her new novel, an episode that begins with a scream and ends with this provocative sentence: "And so we go to the Map Room to found a friendship, and I have my first coffee with a killer." This, it turns out, is actually the beginning of Hannah's new novel, sent in morsels to Leo, who faithfully offers thoughts and encouragement after every chapter. Gentill mines similar metafictional territory as in her award-winning [After She Wrote Him](#) (\$16.99—published originally as *Crossing the Lines*), teasing readers with the challenge of deducing which of two narrative threads presents the author and which his or her story.

As the mystery unfolds, the book expands into psychological thriller territory, with Leo becoming increasingly unhinged and describing the world as a rage-filled dystopia. Winifred "Freddie" Kincaid, Hannah's mystery-writer protagonist, is as curious and resourceful as Miss Marple, and Hannah's buoyant whodunit provides a bracing contrast to Leo's dark world. Lines blur. Freddie is so caught up in the twists and turns of the puzzle that she feels unable to write. Does Hannah have the same problem? Can Leo help her, does he genuinely want to, and where does he fit into the larger picture?"

Awarding a Star in *Library Journal*, our own Lesa Holstine adds, "Ned Kelly Award winner Gentill presents a complex, riveting story within a story. The fictional story of an author writing about another writer with messy, complicated friendships and suspicion is an innovative literary mystery."

Goldberg, Lee. [Movieland](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95). Maverick Detective Eve Ronin and her partner, Detective Duncan Pavone, land a case that threatens to push back Duncan's retirement date, currently two weeks away, if it doesn't kill them first. Water district bureaucrat Wallace Ewell insists the two detectives for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department find the thief who's been crashing into his break room and stealing mostly valueless stuff. He's good and annoyed when the two are called away from the scene to investigate a shooting. Activist blogger Zena Faust has been wounded and her lover, yoga instructor Kim Spivey, killed by shotgun fire in Malibu Creek State Park. Since there's no way to trace the bullets, Eve and Duncan focus on the other forensic evidence their colleagues are able to extract from a scene the public is clamoring to get back into—and on possible motives that lead them to movie producer Curtis Honig. The discovery that a dozen earlier people had been shot, none of them fatally, in the park over the past 18 months fuels rumors of a Malibu Sniper, and the shooting of Calabasas city councilman Clark Netter in a car filled with cash enlarges the suspect pool and makes the case even more urgent. Goldberg bases his 4th investigation by Ronin of the Los Hills PD where she is controversial because of her path to promotion and a TV series being made about her on true events, and he wraps up some threads in her long story ARC nicely.

✂Goldberg, Leonard. [The Blue Diamond](#) (St Martins \$26.99). The year 1917 finds Joanna Holmes Watson in a battle of wits with thieves who've pinched the world's second-biggest diamond and something even more valuable. It's bad enough that someone's sneaked into the South African governor general's suite at the Windsor Hotel and made off with a blue diamond of historic dimensions. What's much worse is that the robbers, who seem to specialize in looting London penthouses, have also absconded with a military document that could decisively affect the course of the Great War. Inspector Lestrade, son of the inspector constantly one-upped by Sherlock Holmes a generation ago, brings Sir Charles Bradberry, the Scotland Yard commissioner himself, to Holmes' daughter, Joanna, who's married to Dr. John Watson Jr., to entreat her to take the case. Joanna quickly determines who the culprits were and how they gained access to the governor general's rooms, but the thieves have already vanished, leaving Joanna, working with the Yard and Major Eric Von Ruden, the Governor General's security chief, to figure out where they've gone and how to recover the jewel and neutralize the loss of the stolen document. Soon enough the problem is deepened, for the thieves make the first of several murderous attacks on the Watsons....

#Hartstone, Joey. [The Local](#) (Doubleday \$28). There aren't as many legal thrillers as there used to be. Here's a debut that is offbeat in its venue, a small East Texas town; in its lead lawyer, a patent attorney taking on criminal work; and in the way justice is served. I love debuts. I love something different. So here is our **June First Mystery Book of the Month** because, as Woody Harrelson puts it, "*The Local* has everything I love in a book. It's

a thriller, a whodunit, and a sexy courtroom drama. It's a real page-turner with fascinating characters that takes place in my home state of Texas. Enjoy!" I also recommend this for Father's Day gifting as an important theme carried by the narrative is that of fathers and sons.

Hartstone, who has written screenplays for film (*Shock and Awe*) and TV (*The Good Fight*), displays a sure hand with the pointed adversarial dialogue that fuels legal thrillers. James Euchre, the narrator, has built a successful career as a patent lawyer in Marshall, Texas, which has become the country's leading jurisdiction for intellectual property litigation under the leadership of federal judge Gerald Gardner—and because these tough cases can confuse and sway small town juries. When Gardner, Euchre's mentor, is fatally stabbed after a holiday party, the prime suspect is Amir Zawar, a wealthy and jerk of a tech entrepreneur whom Euchre was defending against a claim of copyright infringement in front of Judge Gardner. After a heated confrontation in a preliminary hearing, hometown hero Judge Gardner is found murdered in the courthouse parking lot, and all the evidence points to Zawar. He has motive and opportunity—and no alibi. Plus, he is the son of immigrants and a total outsider. Defending Zawar is new territory for a patent attorney like Euchre. But Judge Gardner was Euchre's good friend, and taking the case looks like the only way he can get definitive answers. Euchre and his colleagues pursue a two-track defense, poking holes in the prosecution's case to establish reasonable doubt while also investigating independently to identify a credible alternate suspect. The surprising twists are rendered plausible by Hartstone's mastery of conveying detailed trial strategies. Scott Turow readers should take a look.

I also recommend Robin Peguero's debut legal thriller [With Prejudice](#) (Grand Central \$28), which we still have in signed copies, for its look at juries and how selection can determine the outcome of a case, even a supposed slam dunk, which Hartstone also touches on.

✎Herron, Mick. [Bad Actors](#) (Harvill UK \$43). In MI5 a scandal is brewing & there are bad actors everywhere. A key member of a Downing Street think-tank has disappeared without a trace. Claude Whelan, one-time First Desk of MI5's Regent's Park, is tasked with tracking her down. But the trail leads straight back to Regent's Park HQ itself, with its chief, Diana Taverner, as prime suspect. Meanwhile her Russian counterpart has unexpectedly shown up in London but has slipped under MI5's radar. Over at Slough House, the home for demoted & embittered spies, the slow horses are doing what they do best: adding a little bit of chaos to an already unstable situation. In a world where lying, cheating & backstabbing is the norm, bad actors are bending the rules for their own gain. If the slow horses want to change the script, they'll need to get their own act together before the final curtain.

✎Hornby, Gill. [Godmersham Park](#) (Random UK \$40). Jane Austen Alert! On January 21, 1804, Anne Sharpe arrives at Godmersham Park in Kent to take up the position of governess. At thirty-one years old, she has no previous experience of either teaching or fine country houses. Her mother has died, and she has nowhere else to go. Anne is left with no choice. For her new charge—twelve-year-old Fanny Austen—Anne's arrival is all novelty and excitement. The governess role is a uniquely awkward one. Anne is neither one of the servants, nor one of

the family, and to balance a position between the “upstairs” and “downstairs” members of the household is a diplomatic chess game. One wrong move may result in instant dismissal. Anne knows that she must never let down her guard. When Mr. Edward Austen's family comes to stay, Anne forms an immediate attachment to Jane. They write plays together, and enjoy long discussions. However, in the process, Anne reveals herself as not merely pretty, charming, and competent; she is clever too. Even her sleepy, complacent, mistress can hardly fail to notice. Meanwhile Jane's brother, Henry, begins to take an unusually strong interest in the lovely young governess. And from now on, Anne's days at Godmersham Park are numbered.

✎Horowitz, Anthony. [With a Mind to Kill](#) (Harper \$26.99).

Signed bookplates. Iconic spy 007 must pose as a double agent to infiltrate a secret Soviet intelligence organization planning an attack on the West—and face off against a man who could be the most diabolical enemy he's ever encountered. A new organization, Stalnaya Ruska, has arisen. Its boss is a man who has previously played his part to bring Bond and the West down behind the scenes in two previous Bond novels—but who has never yet appeared, until now. A Fleming creation, the evil genius responsible for Stalnaya Ruka just may be Bond's most dangerous enemy yet.

It is possible we will have a very few of the UK edition: [A Mind to Kill](#) (Cape \$56).

Knecht, Rosalie. [Vera Kelly: Lost and Found](#) (Tin House \$15.95).

Signed Bookplates. The *PW* Starred Review: “Set in 1971, Sue Grafton Award winner Knecht's excellent third mystery featuring CIA operative-turned-PI Vera Kelly finds Vera and her girlfriend, Max Comstock, quietly enjoying their life together in Brooklyn when Max receives a letter begging her to return to her estranged family because her parents are getting divorced. Vera supports Max by accompanying her to Los Angeles, but she quickly discovers how little she knows about the ultra-wealthy family that cut Max off without a cent because of her sexuality seven years earlier when she was 22. When Max vanishes after an acrimonious family dinner, Vera must rescue the woman she loves by mapping a perilous course through the underbelly of California cults. Knecht's scathing picture of the mental health ‘cures’ of the 1970s is at once bitterly humorous and horrifying. Filled with well-drawn, quirky characters, the novel captures both the hidden pleasures and not so hidden dangers of a closeted existence. This nuanced portrait of gay life in the aftermath of the Stonewall Riots thoroughly satisfies.” [Who Is Vera Kelly?; Vera Kelly Is Not a Mystery](#) (\$15.95 each).

Lawson, Mike. [Redemption](#) (Grove \$26). I read this splendid standalone by Lawson late in April and only now have arranged a zoom event and signed books to underline just how good it is! Amazingly, it's yet another legal thriller for us this June. Here's the Starred *PW* review which underlines why I am so delighted with this surprise by the veteran Lawson. “This excellent legal thriller from Lawson (the Joe DeMarco series) stars high-flying New York lawyer Jamison Maddox, who has lost his job at Goldman Sachs after participating in financial crimes. He's dodged a prison term, but as a convicted felon no reputable hedge fund or investment bank will hire him. The exception is a mysterious company, Drexler Limited, based in Redemption, Ill. The company's head, Claud Drexler, offers a paltry \$120,000 annual salary with a long list of unusual restrictive conditions.

Jamison accepts. The job entails carrying out financial and corporate research, which bores Jamison, as does the town of Redemption, but he does his job. After several deaths relating to his work occur, he begins to realize something is seriously wrong with the Drexler firm. When he begins an affair with a colleague who's married to his boss, readers will anticipate that things will go downhill fast for Jamison. They do, as Lawson's meticulous plotting keeps upping the suspense to nearly unbearable levels. This basic plot worked wonders 30 years ago for John Grisham in *The Firm*; in Lawson's capable hands it's once again a winner." My hope is that this genre, pretty thinly published lately, is having a revival.

#Maldonado, Isabella. [The Falcon](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). FBI agent Nina Guerrero goes up against the unknown subject who's kidnapping and assaulting students at an elite Phoenix university. Soon after Melissa Campbell becomes the sixth student at the Arizona Institute of Technology to fall victim to a man who follows obsessively well-established routines and documents each of his abductions with meticulous notes, a task force drawn from the Phoenix PD and the FBI discovers the mummified remains of her five predecessors in a cave beneath a city park. That's not an encouraging sign for either Melissa or the authorities. The strain on Nina is especially intense, because Bianca Babbage, the whip-smart teenager she rescued from the streets five years ago and took under her wing, is visiting AIT to determine whether she should apply there to work with computer scientist Dr. Feldman or nanotech implant researcher Dr. Dawson. Depending on what you read for, enjoy the intricate investigative methods the FBI employ plus descriptions of falconry and ancient Egyptian history. [The Cipher; A Different Dawn](#) (\$15.99 each).

Martin, William. [December '41](#) (Forge \$27.99). **Signed in July and our July Historical Fiction Book of the Month.** This is a truly marvelous story that incorporates Old Hollywood, a German asset deep undercover with a terrible mission, all sorts of background about say two weeks following Pearl Harbor including speeches by FDR and by Winston Churchill who came to DC, and small events showing how every day Americans were affected and reacted. The characters are superb, the voices wonderful, the plot truly suspenseful. I love this.

Mark Greaney tells us, "I loved the rich characters, the noir-like dialogue and settings, and the backdrop of those terrifying days in the American Homeland during the start of World War Two. A great piece of writing that was a blast to read." And Hank Phillippi Ryan enthuses: "William Martin is the consummate storyteller! His brilliant *December '41* is a contemporary take on the classic spy thriller—It's Herman Wouk meets *The Day of the Jackal*, with the ticking time bomb expertise of Hitchcock—and it is irresistible. Instantly cinematic and endlessly entertaining, *December '41* is an absolute page turner. Martin's impeccable research shines through, seamlessly, in this historical look at old Hollywood, World War II, and the profound triumph of the human spirit."

Moore, Christopher. [Razzmatazz](#) (Harper \$28.99). Moore returns to the 1947 San Francisco setting of [Noir](#) (\$16.99), where bartender and amateur problem-solver Sammy Tiffin is faced with several requests for assistance. Patrick reviews: "San Francisco in 1947 is thick with mugs and gun molls, grifters and gangsters, all on the make and trying to get by. Last seen in *Noir*, the cast of working stiffs that comprise the Cookie's Coffee Irregulars are

on the hustle again. Someone is murdering the city's drag kings and club owner Jimmy Vasco is sure that she'll be targeted next, and she wants bartender Sammy "Two Toes" Tiffin and his crew to find the killer. Meanwhile, Stilton, Sammy's girlfriend and her pals, many of whom were "Wendy the Welder" shipbuilders during the war, are working on a special top secret project. Add to this mix a Chinatown gang war, opium dens, a missing dragon statue with magical powers, and much more, and you've got an infectious pulp-inspired thrill ride that pokes welcome fun at the noir, hardboiled tropes that we all know and love. A great summer read..."

Nadel, Barbara. [The Bride Price](#) (Headline \$50). When jeweler Fahrettin Muftugolu is found dead in his apartment in the Istanbul district of Vefa, it looks like suicide. Searching the jeweler's home, Inspector Mehmet Suleyman and his team come across a hoard of extraordinary artifacts including solid gold religious relics and a mummified human head. But are they real and, if so, who owns these priceless possessions? As his colleagues begin their investigation, Suleyman is distracted by troubles of his own. His wedding to Gonca Serekoglu is days away, but when Gonca receives her bridal bedcover from a Roma haberdasher and discovers that it is covered in blood, she sees this as a curse on their marriage. Suleyman asks his old friend Cetin Ikmen to help him uncover the truth, but the task is not that simple... Meanwhile, as the stories swirling around Muftugolu become increasingly sinister, the dead man's wife appears, laying claim to his valuables, and Suleyman is drawn into a dark and dangerous world of smuggling and savagery .

#Nicieza, Fabian. [The Self-Made Widow](#) (Putnam \$27). Marvel comic books creator and editor Nicieza, whom fans must thank especially for *Deadpool*, returns after making his mystery debut with the Edgar-nominated [Suburban Dicks](#) (\$17)—a 2021 First Mystery Book of the Month. Here we learn that despite the objections of her husband and the West Windsor, NJ, police, FBI profiler-turned-suburban mom Andie Stern, mother now of five, is again wrestling with a murder case. This time, the victim is the husband of a best friend from a mom's group Andie affectionately dubs the Cellulitists. Though all signs point to natural causes, Andie begins to dig into the case and soon risks more than just the clique's wrath, because what she discovers might hit shockingly close to home. Meanwhile, journalist Kenny Lee is enjoying a rehabilitated image after his success as Andie's sidekick. But when an anonymous phone call tips him off that Molly Goode killed her husband, he's soon drawn back into the thicket of suburban scandals, uncovering secrets, affairs, and a huge sum of money. Hell bent on justice and hoping not to kill each other in the process, Andie and Kenny dust off their suburban sleuthing caps once again. This unusual pair upends conventional sleuthing as Nicieza joins Harlan Coben and David Rosenfelt (not counting Evanovich in) setting up NJ crime scenes.

O'Rawe, Richard. [Goering's Gold](#) (Melville House \$17.99). **Signed bookplates.** The *NY Times* reviews: "Richard O'Rawe's rollicking series of heist novels featuring James "Ructions" O'Hare (nicknamed for a synonym for "anarchy" or "commotion," incredibly apt either way) pits the ex-I.R.A. soldier, still living off the proceeds of an audacious heist of the National Bank of Ireland, against a formidable set of enemies:

his former organization, Interpol and a determined group of neo-Nazis. Everyone is after the gold bullion that went missing during World War II and once belonged to Hermann Goering — gold that might now be worth as much as a billion Euros. Rumors that the stash had been buried in the Republic of Ireland have never amounted to much, but as soon as Ructions gets involved, the game is on — and it's a matter of when, not if, it will lead to kidnapping and bloodshed. O'Rawe adopts a pitch of dark humor that is at times brutal, often arch, but hardly ever bitter. The pace crackles as it moves from Belfast to Paris to other European climes, and it's nearly an impossibility not to root for Ructions, rogue that he is. His triumph is enough in doubt, however, to make it feel earned."

Parks, Alan. [May God Forgive](#) (Canongate UK \$336). In this new chapter in a series that just won an Edgar Allan Poe Award, Glasgow is a city in mourning. An arson attack on a hairdresser's has left five dead. Tempers are frayed and sentiments running high. When three youths are charged the city goes wild. A crowd gathers outside the courthouse but as the police drive the young men to prison, the van is rammed by a truck, and the men are grabbed and bundled into a car. The next day, the body of one of them is dumped in the city centre. A note has been sent to the newspaper: one down, two to go. Detective Harry McCoy has twenty-four hours to find the kidnapped boys before they all turn up dead, and it is going to mean taking down some of Glasgow's most powerful people to do it... You can [order the whole series](#). Think Denise Mina, even Ian Rankin here.

#Quirk, Matthew. [Red Warning](#) (Morrow \$28.99). CIA agent Sam Hudson isn't just your average spy. He's a NOC—a CIA operative working under nonofficial cover. He's on his own for clandestine missions. Sam's obsession with finding a Russian deep-cover agent known as Konstantin, whom he suspects is plotting a terror campaign on American soil, consumes him. Many think the ghostly Russian operative is just a folktale, but Sam knows he's real, and he's ready to strike. He's sure Konstantin will use fear to control the Americans. Konstantin has been dormant in a long-term sleeper cell of an old Soviet sabotage campaign from before the fall of the USSR. This Russian faction, long dormant, plans to ignite World War III. Emily Pierce works in Russia House, a group within the FBI focusing on Russian aggression. She believes Sam's obsession with Konstantin is irrational—she isn't even sure he's real. But as terrorists target Washington, DC, and Emily has no choice but to work with Sam to prevent more destruction—but becomes an FBI suspect. Together they endure several bloody encounters with embedded Russian agents who are planning to take Konstantin's plan a step further by activating an operation set in place 35 years earlier by Soviet spies. A tense, subterranean confrontation between Hudson and Konstantin caps off the trademark Quirk rock-em sock-em action.

#Sager, Riley. [The House Across the Lake](#) (Dutton \$27). The setup of *Rear Window* serves as the framework for this outstanding novel of suspense from bestseller Sager. Actor Casey Fletcher has become an alcoholic in the wake of the recent death of her screenwriter husband, who slipped out one morning to go fishing at their vacation home on Vermont's Lake Greene, fell into the water, and drowned. After Casey is fired from her latest Broadway role for showing up drunk for a performance, she returns to the Vermont house. One day, while on her third

or maybe fourth bourbon, Casey spots someone who may be drowning in the middle of the lake. She jumps into her motorboat and rescues a neighbor, former supermodel Katherine Royce. The grateful celebrity befriends her savior, who soon becomes convinced that Katherine's life remains at risk. While spying on Katherine's home, Casey comes to suspect that Katherine's husband is plotting to murder her. Sager brilliantly misdirects readers while playing fair with them.

Spiegelman, Peter. [A Secret About a Secret](#) (Knopf \$28). Set in an ambiguous future, Spiegelman unpacks a murder at an elite research facility with an ominous history, navigating an elusive frontier of scientific innovation where intellectual property is its most coveted currency. Cyber thievery, lust, corporate espionage, and a host of deleterious secrets comprise the chords of this sweeping, riveting symphony. A bold and original thriller moves us into the future where Agent Myles, a member of the Standard Division, an intelligence service of an unnamed country with hints of Scandinavia and northern England, is dispatched to a secretive biotech company campus to investigate the murder of Allegra Stans, who had worked on a confidential project with government connections. Myles quickly learns of Stans' vigorous sexual appetites over her seven-year tenure, both with colleagues and outside Ondstrand Biologic's claustrophobic confines. The campus's history as a boarding school with a sordid past reinforces the locked-room aspects of Myles's investigation. We haven't had a book from Spiegelman in a long time.

Taylor, Sarah Stewart. [The Drowning Sea](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Long Island homicide detective Maggie D'arcy and her school-age daughter, Lilly, are spending the summer on a remote peninsula in Cork with Maggie's boyfriend, Conor, and his son, Adrien. While Maggie wrestles over whether to move to Dublin to be with Conor and uproot Lilly from friends and family in New York, developers have begun to convert a crumbling Anglo-Irish manor house into a hotel. Months earlier, Lukas Adamik was working construction on the project when he disappeared. Despite a cursory search, locals assumed that Lukas had returned to his native Poland, but after Lukas's body is discovered off the coast, Maggie investigates and uncovers a long history involving the manor house and its inhabitants. Taylor is adept at balancing police procedure with the domestic drama of Maggie's mixed family, and her descriptions of the Irish coast and the small town where Maggie is staying will have armchair travelers itching to grab a pint and head to the local pub. This series blending Irish and US settings is well imagined and a pleasure to read. [Order all three](#) and take a reading vacation.

Teschner, John. [Project Namahana](#) (Forge \$27.99). Five years ago, John Teschner awoke from a nightmare in which he'd been arrested and interrogated for a crime he hadn't committed. This sparked the idea for his debut novel, which tells the enthralling and timely story of disappearances, deaths, dark secrets, and corporate evil. It explores how corporate executives could be responsible for evil without, presumably, being evil themselves.

PW Stars this debut: "Teschner's hard-edged eco-thriller matches strong characters with a bold plot that fulfills its potential. Micah Bernt, who left the U.S. Army under a cloud but not jugged despite being charged with maltreating detainees, assault, and indecent acts. He's trying for a new start on a remote Hawaiian island, where he's taking a community college class and working as a salesman. Then his landlord, Clifton Moniz,

turns up dead in the ocean, apparently an accidental drowning victim. Moniz's death may be linked to another tragedy—the recent drowning of three local boys. Bernt's unofficial investigation alternates with a look at the covert machinations of Benevoment Seed, a powerful international corporation that produces EfloxiFlam, 'the bestselling lawn care product in history.' Benevoment has been testing a successor product, which may be causing deadly pollution on the island's Namahana Mountain. Michael Lindstrom, the executive in charge, is torn between his obligations to his employer and his sense of morality, and he winds up in an unlikely partnership with Bernt. The action builds to a satisfying resolution that doesn't pull punches and is true to the book's spirit of portraying a less-than-postcard-perfect image of Hawaii." Not to mention a hard look at corporations putting profit above all else.

✂Thomas, Julia Bryan. [For Those Who Are Lost](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99). **Signed Bookplates plus a recipe card.** It's the eve of the Nazi invasion of the island of Guernsey, when terrified parents have a choice to make: send their children alone to England, or keep the family together and risk whatever may come to their villages. Ava and Joseph Simon reluctantly put their 9-year-old son, Henry, and four-year-old daughter, Catherine, in the care of their son's teacher, who will escort them on a boat to mainland England. Just as the ferry is about to leave, the teacher's sister, Lily appears. The two trade places: Helen doesn't want to leave Guernsey, and Lily is desperate for a fresh start. Lily is the one who accompanies the children to England, and Lily is the one who lets Henry get on a train by himself, deciding in a split second to take Catherine with her and walk the other way. That split-second decision alters lives. Thomas' debut is riddled with secrets and sins for the sake of survival. If you have read [The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie](#) (\$17), or watched the excellent film made of the book, don't miss this one. I kept it firmly in mind when visiting the island in 2019.

Vercher, John. [After the Lights Go Out](#) (Soho \$26). Virtual event July. Vercher strides back in the ring with the explosive story of a troubled Philadelphia MMA fighter whose career has stalled... Expertly captures the brashness and discipline of combat sports as well as the harsh realities of the fighting life, delivering all of it in a swiftly paced triumph complete with a surprising one-two punch of a conclusion. This is simply brilliant." —*PW* Starred Review. Vercher, author of the Edgar and Anthony Award-nominated *Three-Fifths*, offers a gripping, psychologically astute, and explosive tour de force about race, entertainment, and healthcare in America, and about one man's battle against himself.

Woodward, M P. [The Handler](#) (Berkley \$27). We booksellers at The Pen take a real interest in debuts and here we get a stirring addition to the international thriller genre alongside Greaney, Carr, Thor, Mills, Cameron, and comrades. Disgraced ex-CIA agent John Dale, the hero of former naval intelligence officer Woodward's promising if uneven debut, returns to action when a former asset known as Cerberus signals his desire to defect from Iran, where he's been undermining the country's uranium enrichment program. Coaxed out of retirement by his ex-wife, Meredith, the head of the CIA's Counterproliferation Division, Dale reassumes his Reza Shariati alias in order to attempt a dangerous and potentially catastrophic extraction from Iran. The author's professional background lends authenticity to the

story where the strongest pulse lies in action scenes featuring the former CIA operative trying to shake off the rust and complete one last mission. "In this immersive, action-packed thriller we follow Senior CIA officer Meredith Morris-Dale as she is forced to recruit her former colleague and ex-husband, to run an asset for in a case with enormous stakes. Woodward does everything right: he creates complicated and compelling characters—the beating heart of all great spy novels—and puts them in a gripping and authentic narrative that will have you hooked right to the last page." —Carlton Cuse, co-creator of *Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan* and writer/showrunner of *Lost*

UNSIGNED EVENT BOOKS

✂Barton, Fiona. [Local Gone Missing](#) (Penguin \$27) is set in an idyllic seaside town where the locals want nothing to do with newcomers coming in and turning their community into a major tourist destination. Barton says, "Coastal towns and villages can look so idyllic—the sea sparkling, the beach busy with surfers and swimmers, ice creams and little cafes with queues of holidaymakers outside. But take a look at the online neighborhood forums for the reality. They are often a master class in barely contained fury. She continues, "For DI Elise King, a successful and ambitious Major Crime Team detective, her job is at the center of everything," Barton says. "At 43, she has it all under control: her career path and a partner she believes wants the same things. But the sudden break-up of their relationship, a move to a small seaside town, and a diagnosis of breast cancer turns her life and sense of self upside down." But of course, there's much more mayhem awaiting Elise in Ebbing, and if she hopes to get any R&R while she recovers from her treatments, she first needs to find the local man who has mysteriously gone missing. Barton's facility at creating plausible characters makes emotional involvement with them easy.

Carlson, Mindy. [Her Dying Day](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). See Some New Hardcover Books for June below.

✂Collinsworth, Eden. [What the Ermine Saw](#) (Knopf \$27). I did a recorded chat with Eden on May 26 so not really an event but this book is so fascinating in its history from the establishment of the Sforza dynasty in Milan to Da Vinci's portrait of the Duke's mistress (with an ermine) to its disappearance and eventual reappearance in Poland, its history with the Nazis, and its current home in Krakow, Poland, at the National Museum, that I mention it. It had an exceptional review in the [NY Times Book Review](#) and another in the [Wall Street Journal](#) so click on the links and you will see why this is such a powerful look at art and history.

Davis, Krista. [Diva Says Cheesecake!](#) (Kensington \$26). Our Lesa Holstine writes, Events planner and advice columnist Sophie Winston has several big midsummer events planned, including a dinner for Bobbie Sue Bodoin, "the Cheesecake Queen." Bobbie Sue didn't realize, when she scheduled her dinner to coincide with Old Town Alexandria's midsummer celebration, that her daughter would be in a ballet that evening, her son would be running in a marathon, and her husband Tate wouldn't show up for any of the events. When Sophie finds a dead body in the basement of Tate's restaurant, she has no reason to get involved in the case. That is, until one of her best friends is arrested for murder and Tate's family members beg Sophie to find the killer.

✚Edwards, Martin. [The Girl They All Forgot](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.99). This is a new book in Edwards' super Lake District Mysteries and the last one I edited before we sold PP Press. Here is an enthusiastic review: "In the tantalizing opening of Edgar winner Edwards's intriguing eighth mystery featuring DCI Hannah Scarlett after 2015's [The Dungeon House](#) (\$18.99), cold case specialist Hannah asks an unidentified person why they killed Ramona Smith. Flash back 21 years. Smith, a barmaid, has vanished. Though her body hasn't been found, the police, led by Det. Insp. Ben Kind, the father of Hannah's lover and colleague, Daniel, are convinced she's been murdered. Kind charges Gerry Lace, but Lace is acquitted at trial. Lace later dies by suicide by walking into the sea, leaving behind a note blaming his death on police harassment. Twenty years later, on the anniversary of that tragedy, Lace's son, Darren, kills himself in the same way at the same spot on the coast. This new tragedy refocuses attention to the Smith case, a puzzle that Hannah must unravel, even if that means proving that Kind got it wrong. Edwards makes engagement easy through crisp prose and thoughtful characterizations. This skillful combination of procedural and whodunit will prompt newcomers to seek out earlier series entries." I was very tempted to make this the June British Crime Club Book of the Month but I don't like to make a selection of a late entry in a long series. However I do enthusiastically encourage you to begin with [The Coffin Trail](#) (\$18.99), the first in series.

✚Edwards, Martin. [Guilty Creatures: A Menagerie of Mysteries](#) (British Library Crime Classics \$14.99). See Classics below.

Gerber, Daryl Wood. [A Hint of Mischief](#) (Kensington \$15.95). Courtney Kelly owns Open Your Imagination, a shop that specializes in all things fairy. She's well known for both her fairy gardens and her lessons in how to make them. When trust-fund baby Misty Dawn hires Courtney to throw a fairy-themed birthday party in her backyard for her friend Odine Oates, it seems like a fun and lucrative deal. Most of the guests are sorority sisters of Misty and her special guest, actress Farrah Lawson, whose past with some members of the group has been fraught, who is flying in to attend. Courtney has less than two weeks to paint a mural, hang up tinkling wind chimes, plan party games, and conjure up all the details. While she works her magic, the hostess and her girlfriends head off for an indulgent spa day—which leads to a fateful facial for Farrah, followed by her mysterious death where Courtney will need the help of the imaginative sleuth fairy to solve.

✚Hawtrey, Evie. [And by Fire](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). **Our June British Crime Book of the Month.** See Some New Hardcover for June below.

James, Sarah. [The Woman with Two Shadows](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99). This book is not on sale until July 26 but James appears with Julia Thomas in June to discuss their novels of WWII. And here, for fans of *Atomic City Girls* and *The Secrets We Kept* is a story of one of the most closely held secrets of World War II and a woman caught up in it when she follows her missing sister to the mysterious city of Oak Ridge, Tennessee. A place I lived for several years in my twenties when it was no longer mysterious.....

✚Khavari, Kate. [A Botanist's Guide to Parties and Poisons](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). A 1923 British delight for fans of

Deanna Raybourn's Veronica Speedwell. See Some Hardcover Books for June below.

Moehling, Joshua. [And There He Kept Her](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.99). Here's another June debut and one adding to Gay Pride. When two teenagers break into a house on a remote lake in search of prescription drugs, what starts as a simple burglary turns into a nightmare for all involved. Emmett Burr has secrets he's been keeping in his basement for more than two decades, and he'll do anything to keep his past from being revealed. As he gets the upper hand on his tormentors, the lines blur between victim, abuser, and protector. Personal tragedy has sent former police officer Ben Packard back to the small Minnesota town of Sandy Lake in search of a fresh start. Now a sheriff's deputy, Packard, a gay man in law enforcement, never easy, and deeply grieving the loss of his partner, is leading the investigation into the missing teens, motivated by a family connection. As clues dry up and time runs out to save them, Packard is forced to reveal his own secrets and dig deep to uncover the dark past of Sandy Lake. I will say that the concentration of horrible people in one small place is high.

Pinsky, Mark I. [Drifting into Darkness](#) (New South Books \$23.95 large paperback). A tangled web of family dysfunction, fatal attraction, and greed wends its way from the elegant Southern mansions of old Montgomery, Alabama, to the New Age salons of Boulder and rural, windswept Wyoming. On Thanksgiving weekend in 2004, philanthropists Charlotte and Brent Springford, Sr.—a wealthy, socially prominent Montgomery couple—were brutally beaten to death with an ax handle, echoing the infamous case of Lizzie Borden. Suspicion quickly fell on the Springfords' gifted but troubled son Brent Jr., who would be tried and sentenced to life without parole. But a mystery remained: Who was the mysterious, elusive woman who claimed to be a Native American shaman that investigators believed manipulated Brent into this murder? Journalists solving murders is a time-tested trope in movies, mysteries, and on television. But cops and cop reporters know that rarely happens in real life. Except when it does. Veteran crime reporter Mark I. Pinsky, who covered the sensational cases of serial killer Ted Bundy and Green Beret Dr. Jeffrey MacDonald, broke the cardinal rule of journalism by involving himself in the story. Pinsky's extensive research prompted investigators to invite him to join their dogged pursuit of justice. His access to unique and heart-breaking behind-the-scenes material enables him to take readers with him into the troubled, tortured minds of the case's main players. Pinsky's meticulously researched account sheds sympathetic light on a tragic family story. He also documents the determined police work that broke the case, the interplay of dedicated prosecutors and the criminal defense team, as well as the judicial proceedings in three states that brought the sad case to its eventual conclusion. You will not have encountered a story like this one before.

White, Richard. [Who Killed Jane Stanford?](#) (Norton \$35). Imagine my interest when author Stephen White, a man we much miss as he is retired from writing (so far), recommended this book by his brother, Richard, a Professor at my alma mater, Stanford. Anyone who attended the university when I did, 60 years ago, well knew the continuing power of Mrs. Stanford's will on university life, especially the lives of women students.

Here is that Professor White has to say about his book: "At first it did strike me as out of the ordinary that Jane

Stanford would be killed, and that the investigation of her death would be suppressed. Then, as I investigated, I found that it was not that unusual. The founder of Rice University was also murdered. There were attempts to murder other rich people in early 20th-century United States. Rich people made a lot of enemies, and because there's so much money at stake in their estates, covering up crimes against rich people could benefit their descendants, their heirs, and others. What was the motive for the cover-up in Stanford's case?

Woods, Caroline. [The Lunar Housewife](#) (Doubleday \$28). New York City, 1953: Louise Leithauser's star is on the rise. She's filed some of the best pieces at her boyfriend Joe's brand new literary magazine, *Downtown* (albeit under a male pseudonym), her relationship still makes her weak at the knees, and the science fiction romance she's writing on the side, "The Lunar Housewife," is going swimmingly. But when she overhears Joe and his business partner fighting about listening devices and death threats, Louise can't help but investigate, and she quickly finds herself wading into dangerous waters. As Louise pieces together rumors, hunches, and clues, the picture begins to come together—Downtown's strings are being pulled by someone powerful, and that someone doesn't want artists or writers criticizing Uncle Sam. Meanwhile, opportunities are falling in Louise's lap that she'd have to be crazy to refuse, including an interview with America's most famous living author, Ernest Hemingway. Can Louise stand by and let doors keep opening for her, while the establishment sells out and censors her fellow writers? As her suspicions and paranoia mount, Louise's own novel "The Lunar Housewife" changes shape, colored by her newfound knowledge. And when Louise is forced to consider her future sooner than she planned, she needs to decide whether she can trust Joe for the rest of her life. Peppered with cameos from real life luminaries such as Truman Capote and James Baldwin, and full of period detail, Woods's novel illuminates a tumultuous period and the gender dynamics, politics, and power too.

The *NYTBR* adds, "After Louise interviews Ernest Hemingway, one of several historical characters who wander into the story, she is horrified to discover that almost all of his politically provocative statements have been excised from her article. Nor do her editors run their changes by her. (Welcome to the business, Louise.)"

A SPECIAL BOOK FOR FATHER'S DAY

Heughan, Sam/Graham McTavish. [Clanlands Almanac](#) (Mobius UK \$100). **Signed by Sam and Graham in London, and by Diana Gabaldon here.** We have a limited number with all 3 authentic signatures. This second roistering adventure through Scotland by key *Outlander* figures is just the right special gift whether the recipient is a fan of *Outlander* or not.

The two men offer "An invitation to anyone who picks up the book to join us on a crazy camper van exploration over 12 glorious, whisky fueled months. Mountains, battles, famous (and infamous) Scots, the alarming competitiveness of *Men in Kilts*, clans, feuds, flora, fauna, with a healthy sprinkling of embarrassing personal reminiscences thrown in. Much is explored, all is shared. It is a camper van cornucopia of all things Alba. From First Footing to Samhain, Fringe Festival follies to whisky lore, Sam & Graham guide readers through a year of Scottish legends, traditions, historical and contemporary events, sharing personal stories and tips as only we can."

We also now have first prints of [Go Tell the Bees That I Am Gone](#) (Delacorte \$35), 9th in the *Outlander* series, Signed by Diana available after months of sorting through high demand.

AND MORE GIFTS FOR DAD

The ever-popular [Poisoned Pen Gift Card](#) in any amount

Search [Sports](#) for a variety of books including new biographies of Phil Mickelson (golf) and Branch Rickey (baseball) and Emily Nemens on our own [The Cactus League](#) (baseball)

Barbarisi, Daniel. [Chasing the Thrill](#) (Knopf \$28). Journalist Barbarisi pens this captivating account the exploits of an eccentric community of treasure hunters who scoured the Rocky Mountains from 2010 to 2020 in search of New Mexico art dealer Forest Fenn's hidden chest of gold and jewels. They all think they're Indiana Jones—but several died. And one did in fact capture the treasure. See New Hardcover below for more.

DePree, Hopwood. [Downton Shabby: One American's Ultimate DIY Adventure Restoring His Family's English Castle](#) (Morrow \$27.99). With the new *Downton Abbey* movie hitting theaters, what could be more fun than "this marvelous debut [where] film producer DePree leaves the Hollywood hills to resurrect his British ancestral home, a 50,000-square-foot estate in the English countryside? See Some New Hardcover for June for a wider review.

Dolan, Lian. [Lost and Found in Paris](#) (Harper \$27.99). Both Rob and I delighted in this book which not only is a love affair with Paris but portrays the love between a father and daughter, the dangers as well as benefits of celebrity, the role of a groundbreaking artist, a kind of coming of age story for Joan, her complicated relationship with her supermodel mother whom she adores... and a treasure hunt. Highly recommended as a book for Dad but I repeat my review here for this gem by Dolan, talk-show/podcast star along with her four real sisters, and author of *The Sweeney Sisters*, etc. Her sharp insights and dialogue will grip you.

Gardner, Lee. [The Earth Is All That Lasts](#) (Harper \$28.99). Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull: Their names are iconic, their significance in American history undeniable. Together, these two Lakota chiefs, one a fabled warrior and the other a revered holy man, crushed George Armstrong Custer's vaunted Seventh Cavalry. Yet their legendary victory at the Little Big Horn has overshadowed the rest of their rich and complex lives. Now, based on years of research and drawing on a wealth of previously ignored primary sources, award-winning author Mark Lee Gardner delivers the definitive chronicle, thrillingly told, of these extraordinary Indigenous leaders. Both Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull were born and grew to manhood on the High Plains of the American West, in an era when vast herds of buffalo covered the earth, and when their nomadic people could move freely, following the buffalo and lording their fighting prowess over rival Indian nations. But as idyllic as this life seemed to be, neither man had known a time without whites. The buffalo population plummeted, disease spread by the white man decimated villages, and conflicts with the interlopers increased. On June 25, 1876, in the valley of the Little Big Horn, Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, and the warriors who were inspired to follow them, fought the last stand of the Sioux, a fierce and proud nation that had ruled the Great Plains for decades. It was their greatest victory, but it was also the

beginning of the end for their treasured and sacred way of life. And in the years to come, both Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, defiant to the end, would meet violent—and eerily similar—fates. This is an essential new addition to the canon of Indigenous American history and literature of the West.

Goldman, Matt. [Carolina Moonset](#) (Forge \$15.99). The talented Goldman switches from Minnesota to a small Southern town mystery which is all about family, especially fathers and sons, and warmly portrays a love story between two middle-aged divorced people. The mystery element is, as ever with Goldman, strong too. I love this—read every word. There may be a hardcover edition available to be signed but for now, go with this paperback.

Hartstone, Joey. [The Local](#) (Doubleday \$28). There aren't as many legal thrillers as there used to be. Here's a debut that is offbeat in its venue, a small East Texas town; in its lead lawyer, a patent attorney taking on criminal work; and in the way justice is served. I love debuts. I love something different. So here is our **June First Mystery Book of the Month** because, as Woody Harrelson puts it, "*The Local* has everything I love in a book. It's a thriller, a whodunit, and a sexy courtroom drama. It's a real page-turner with fascinating characters that takes place in my home state of Texas. Enjoy!" I also recommend this for Father's Day gifting as an important theme carried by the narrative is that of fathers and sons. If you are enjoying Connelly's *The Lincoln Lawyer* streaming on Netflix, which I am, then this book is for you.

"A courtroom thriller with a dazzling cinematic quality, which is not surprising as Hartstone is an accomplished film and television writer. Euchre is a well-defined character, a man of depth, but it's the supporting cast that truly pops off the pages. This is an extremely promising debut, and readers will want more of Hartstone's razor's-edge style. A natural for fans of Grisham and Turov." —*Booklist*

Keefe, Patrick Radden. [Rogues: True Stories of Grifters, Killers, Rebels and Crooks](#) (Knopf \$30) collects a dozen thoroughly investigated and engagingly reported articles on a fascinating assortment of characters—from the merely colorful to the criminal—that Keefe produced for the *New Yorker* between 2007 and 2018. Long before the magazine published his first freelance piece, Keefe "came to think that at least where nonfiction was concerned, a big magazine article might be the most glorious form," and he provides strong evidence for that claim here. See Some New Hardcover for June below for much more.

Li, Grace D. [Portrait of a Thief](#) (Tiny Reparations Books \$26 in stock) ventures even further from standard heist fare. A Chinese American art history major at Harvard, Will Chen, burns with fury over the way museums have long looted Chinese artifacts. "What is ours is not ours," he writes in a class paper. He's primed for action when a Chinese billionaire offers him \$50 million to "take back what the West stole" — five priceless bronze fountainheads, located in museums in New York and Europe. Soon Will is recruiting a small group of friends, siblings and lovers for his crew. The thefts are engaging and surprising, and the narrative brims with international intrigue. Li, however, has delivered more than a straight thriller here, especially in the parts that depict the despair Will and his pals feel at being displaced, overlooked, underestimated and discriminated against. This is as much a novel as a reckoning and is very good on relationships between generations, so an excellent book for gifting Dad.

Luong, QT. [Treasured Lands: A Photographic Odyssey Through America's National Parks, Third Expanded Edition](#) (Terra Galleria Press \$65). This new edition is a beautiful coffee table-size book: the most complete photography book about all the 63 US National Parks, and the only one with location notes for each photograph. Winner of 12 national and international awards. Luong, who was honored with the National Parks Conservation Association's Robin W. Winks Award for Enhancing Public Understanding of National Parks and featured in Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan's documentary *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, is the most prolific photographer working in the national parks and the only one to have made large-format photographs in each of them. In an odyssey that spanned more than a quarter century and 300 visits, Luong focused his lenses on iconic landscapes and rarely seen remote views, presenting his journey in this sumptuous array of more than 600 breathtaking images.

MacFarlane, Leslie. [Ghost of the Hardy Boys](#) (Godine \$25.95). The Writer Behind the World's Most Famous Boy Detectives. As millions of boys and girls devoured the early adventures of the Hardy Boys, little did the young readers and aspiring sleuths know: the series' author was not Franklin W. Dixon, as the cover trumpeted. It was Leslie McFarlane, a nearly penniless scribbler, who hammered out the first adventures while living in a remote cabin without electricity or running water in Northern Ontario. McFarlane was among the first bestselling ghostwriters and this, at last, is his story—as much fun as the stories he wrote. In 1926, 23-year-old cub newspaper reporter Leslie McFarlane responded to an ad: "Experienced Fiction Writer Wanted to Work from Publisher's Outlines." The ad was signed by Edward Stratemeyer, whose syndicate effectively invented mass-market children's book publishing in America. McFarlane, who had a few published adventure stories to his name, was hired and his first job was to write *Dave Fearless Under the Ocean* as Roy Rockwood—for a flat fee of \$100, no royalties. His pay increased to \$125 when Stratemeyer proposed a new series of detective stories for kids involving two high school aged brothers who would solve mysteries. The title of the series was *The Hardy Boys*. McFarlane's pseudonym would be Franklin W. Dixon.

McFarlane went on to write twenty-one Hardy Boys adventures. From *The Tower Treasure* in 1927 to *The Phantom Freighter* in 1947, into full-fledged classics filled with perilous scrapes, loyal chums, and breakneck races to solve the mystery. McFarlane kept his ghostwriting gig secret until late in life when his son urged him to share the story of being the real Franklin W. Dixon. By the time McFarlane died in 1977, unofficial sales estimates of *The Hardy Boys* series already topped 50 million copies.

Dad will enjoy a fascinating, funny, and always charming look back at a vanished era of journalism, writing, and book publishing. It is for anyone who loves a great story and who's curious about solving the mystery of the fascinating man behind one of the most widely read and enduring children's book series in history.

For more bookish fun, do not miss Shaun Bythell's [Confessions of a Bookseller](#) (Godine \$25.95) wherein the Scottish used bookman opens a real window into human nature as well as into the love of books....and Scotland.

Peguero, Robin. [With Prejudice](#) (Grand Central \$28 in stock). No one knows what happened that night. Seven strangers must decide. Peguero's penetrating legal thriller begins with seven strangers in a jury deliberation room, preparing to decide a man's fate. By the end of the first chapter, it's clear these people are far from being unbiased, for every single person has come to the table—as the title says—*With Prejudice*. Peguero's first novel delivers more than just a complex mystery; it pulls back the curtain to provide a 360-degree view of the American legal system's inner workings. Most of the key players show up with good intentions, but when everyone's world views have been shaped by drastically different life experiences, it's hard to agree on what's right. This author has a brilliant personal platform and all the hallmarks of a real star. You can watch our virtual conversation. Like the Hartstone above, and definitely like *The Lincoln Lawyer*, there are good parenting tropes.

Rushnell, Squire/Louise DuArt. [Dogwinks](#) (Howard \$19.95) presents an “uplifting and riveting collection of canine-centered true tales...not just because the seminal opening entry “Ruby” is bound for Netflix, but also because it's set in Rhode Island. Having never heard this incredible story before, I had to pinch myself to remember that it really happened. Involving a stray dog just minutes away from being put down who lives on to save a child's life, this is only one of the stories that make *Dogwinks* ‘a must read’ for all the dog lovers out there—pretty much everyone, in other words.

Van Doren, Adam/Nathaniel Philbrick. [In the Founders' Footsteps: Landmarks of the American Revolution](#) (Godine \$38). A tour through the original thirteen colonies in search of historical sites and their stories in America's founding. Obscure, well-known, off-the-beaten path, and on busy city streets, here are taverns, meeting houses, battlefields, forts, monuments, homes which all combine to define our country—the places where daring people forged a revolution. There is always something new to be found in America's past that also brings greater clarity to our present and the future we choose to make as a nation. “Van Doren's watercolors give the book visual appeal, and the window it opens on the lives of these places, past and present, makes it worth keeping around to dip into.”—*The New Criterion*

JUNE IS GAY PRIDE MONTH

Alexander, T.J. [Chef's Kiss](#) (Atria \$16.99). “A cute, romantic tale of Simone, a test kitchen chef for an elite magazine. Her stable life is upended by Ray, the charming and friendly new kitchen manager. When Ray comes out as nonbinary, there is pushback from administration. Can Simone and Ray forge a relationship, and survive the fraught environment? For fans of *The Charm Offensive* and *Red, White, and Royal Blue*.”

✚Cain, Matt. [The Secret Life of Albert Entwistle: An Uplifting and Unforgettable Story of Love and Second Chances](#) (Kensington \$15.95). “This quietly touching novel follows Albert, a closeted gay mail carrier who's lived life as a perpetual outsider in Northern England. His job provides comfort, but impending retirement leaves him at a crossroads: can he find a way to go on and be accepted for who he really is? Cain takes readers on a moving and hopeful journey. For fans of T.J. Klune and Fredrik Backman, and of *The Guncle* and *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*.”

Dumond, Susie. [Queerly Beloved](#) (Random \$17). In mid-2010s Tulsa, Oklahoma, Amy, a semi-closeted, people-pleasing bridesmaid-for hire, tries to balance her newfound career with her already strained relationships, forcing her to decide what it looks like to be true to herself—and to determine if she has the courage to try.

Green, Elon. [Last Call](#) (\$17.99). This Edgar Award-winning true crime narrative examines the crimes of the Last Call Killer, a lesser-known serial murderer who terrorized New York City's queer community in the '80s and '90s. The Last Call Killer claimed multiple lives, and yet his crimes flew under the radar. Even today, few know about the case. Green discusses how the sexuality of the killer's victims, combined with New York's sky-high murder rates and the growing AIDS epidemic, resulted in this case being nearly lost to time. With insight and compassion, the author traces the decades-long search for the killer while prioritizing the lives of the victims,

Janovsky, Timothy. [Never Been Kissed](#) (Sourcebooks \$14.99). Wren Roland has never been kissed, let alone been in love, but he wants that movie-perfect ending more than anything. Feeling nostalgic on the eve of his twenty-first birthday, he sends emails to all the boys he (ahem) loved before he came out. He didn't expect a response from Derick Haverford, Wren's #1 pre-coming-out-crush...but now that they're working together at their hometown's vintage drive-in theater, maybe that perfect-kiss-before-the-credits is finally within reach.

McQuiston, Casey. [I Kissed Shara Wheeler](#) (St. Martin's \$19.99). When her rival, prom queen Shara Wheeler, kisses her and disappears, leaving behind cryptic notes, Chloe Green hunts for answers and discovers there is more to this small town than she thought—and maybe more to Shara, as well.

Moehling, Joshua. [And There He Kept Her](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.99). Here's another June debut and one adding to Gay Pride. When two teenagers break into a house on a remote lake in search of prescription drugs, what starts as a simple burglary turns into a nightmare for all involved, especially the gay cop who has moved back to a small town in grief after his husband died.

Osler, Rob. [Devil's Chew Toy](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Gay Seattle school teacher and blogger Hayden McCall, the self-described “quiet and reserved” narrator of Osler's appealing cozy debut, is startled when, after spending a chaste night with super-hot (and nice) Camilo Rodriguez, he learns that his new acquaintance, whom he met at a dance club, has gone missing. Since Hayden's afraid that the police won't be very diligent in looking for a gay Venezuelan go-go boy, he begins a search on his own, encumbered with Camilo's bull terrier, Commander. “Take a disarming protagonist, a delightful supporting cast, and a pacy romp of a plot, add boundless warmth, humor, baked goods, and puppy love and you've got *Devil's Chew Toy*. Rob Osler's debut cozy—or “quozzy”—brings a rainbow of characters into the cozy universe with a lot of snap and even more style. I loved it!” —Catriona McPherson

Parks, Casey. [Diary of a Misfit: A Memoir and a Mystery](#) (Knopf \$29). **Not available until August 23.** *PW* reviews: “In this tantalizing blend of personal history and reportage, *Washington Post* reporter Parks seeks out the story of an enigmatic small-town country singer to reckon with her own fraught past. When, in 2002, Parks' grandmother shared that she'd once been

neighbors in the 1950s with “a woman who lived as a man” named Roy Hudgins, Parks pledged to find out what happened to him. As a college freshman in the South who’d recently faced rejection after coming out to her family—a confession met by a plea from her pastor for “God to kill me”—Parks writes, “I couldn’t believe there was a place where you could be different, and people would love and accept you.” Seven years later, she set off on a series of trips through rural Louisiana to interview people who had known Roy. As Parks uncovers the mystery surrounding Roy’s life and death, she attempts to reconcile her sexuality with the specters of the home she left behind, as well as her complicated relationship with her mother, an opioid addict who was ‘bright and joyous when she was off the nose spray, vacant and mean when she was on.’ Out of this comes a brilliantly rendered and complex portrait of Southern life alongside a tender exploration of queer belonging. Parks’ writing is a marvel to witness.”

Polito, Frank. [Renovated to Death](#) (Kensington \$15.95). John Charles reviews: *It’s Hart to Hart* via HGTV in award-winning author and playwright Frank Anthony Polito’s fabulous new cozy mystery series featuring a gay couple who solve crimes while renovating houses in suburban Detroit as part of their hit reality show *Domestic Partners*. Our John Charles reviews: Peter Penwell and J. P. Broadway are used to finding odd things in the homes they renovate for *Domestic Partners*, the TV show they co-host, but this is the first time the two men (partners on screen and off) have ever found a dead body. While the local police believe that Tom Cash fell down the stairs, Peter isn’t convinced Tom’s death was an accident. Using his experiences authoring a teen mystery series and with some help from J. P., who once played a cop on TV, Peter sets out to find the killer. Playwright and novelist Polito’s (*Drama Queers!*) new series is built on a solid foundation that consists of an eclectic cast of characters (including a police detective whose professional cluelessness rivals that of Sheriff Amos Tupper from *Murder She Wrote*), a close-knit community setting in the form of a posh suburb of Detroit, and a leisurely paced plot with a killer twist. Not since Sarah Graves’s *Jake Tiptree* mysteries has home remodeling been so deadly entertaining.

✠Sebastian, Cat. [The Perfect Crimes of Marian Hayes](#) (Avon \$15.99). “Marian, Duchess of Clare, just shot her husband. (He deserved it.) The only person who can help her now is charismatic highwayman, con artist, and all-around cheerful villain, Rob Brooks. Brooks is no stranger to the wrong side of the law or the right side of anybody’s bed. Rob and Marian have madcap escapades and hijinks as they flee London—stopping to pick pockets, drink to excess, and rescue invalid cats—in this bisexual Georgian romance that gets very steamy. For readers of KJ Charles and Evie Dunmore.”

Vanhoenacker, Mark. [Imagine a City](#) (Knopf \$30). **Not published until July 5 but do preorder.** His first book, [Skyfaring](#) (\$16), conveying the magic of piloting 747s, was truly fabulous. If Dad is a traveler, armchair or actual, give him a copy. And here’s a Starred *Kirkus* Review for this memoir: “As a young boy surrounded by model planes, Vanhoenacker fell under the spell not only of aviation, but also of far-off destinations. His own city—Pittsfield, Massachusetts—had its attractions, including an airport that “stands a little higher than Ouagadougou’s, and a little lower than Geneva’s.” More mysterious was Boston, over the

horizon, and beyond it a city of his own construction: ‘My city is where I travel to when I’m sad or worried, or when I don’t wish to think about what I don’t like about myself....It’s also where I go when I want to escape my dawning awareness that I’m gay.’

As an adult, more comfortable in his own skin, Vanhoenacker began piloting long-haul jets all around the world, and he takes readers to Kuala Lumpur, Cape Town, Brasilia, Jeddah, Sapporo, and numerous other places that may be exotic or familiar but that he views through a singular lens. One of the things that captures his attention is the quality of light... to exalt in his favorite color, blue, and its appearance in ‘the mirroring realms of the ocean and the heavens.’ Vanhoenacker is a collector of sumptuous details such as the “imperfect radii or broken spokes” of London’s layout and the difficulties he faced learning Japanese. Philosophically rich without being ponderous, belonging on the same shelf as books by Saint-Exupéry, Markham, and Langewiesche, Vanhoenacker’s book is unfailingly interesting, full of empathetic details on faraway places and lives. It’s an absolute pleasure for any world citizen and a trove for any traveler.”

Vernon, P J. [Bath Haus](#) (\$17). Nominated for a 34th annual Lambda Literary Award. Oliver Park, a recovering addict from Indiana, finally has everything he ever wanted: sobriety and a loving, wealthy partner in Nathan, a prominent DC trauma surgeon. Despite their difference in age and disparate backgrounds, they’ve made a perfect life together. With everything to lose, Oliver shouldn’t be visiting Haus, a gay bathhouse. But through the entrance he goes, and it’s a line crossed. Inside, he follows a man into a private room, and it’s the final line. Whatever happens next, Nathan can never know. But then, everything goes wrong, terribly wrong, and Oliver barely escapes with his life. He races home in full-blown terror as the hand-shaped bruise grows dark on his neck. The truth will destroy Nathan and everything they have together, so Oliver does the thing he used to do so well: he lies. “What follows is a classic runaway-train narrative, full of the exquisite escalations, edge-of-your-seat thrills, and oh-my-god twists.”

SUMMER BOOKS FOR YOUNG AND TEEN READERS

Bardugo, [Six of Crows](#) (Holt \$12.99). Adolescent criminals seek the haul of a lifetime in a fantasyland at the beginning of its industrial age. The dangerous city of Ketterdam is governed by the Merchant Council, but in reality, large sectors of the city are given over to gangs who run the gambling dens and brothels. The underworld’s rising star is 17-year-old Kaz Brekker, known as Dirtyhands for his brutal amorality. Kaz walks with chronic pain from an old injury, but that doesn’t stop him from utterly destroying any rivals. When a councilman offers him an unimaginable reward to rescue a kidnapped foreign chemist—30 million krugel!—Kaz knows just the team he needs to assemble.... Teens.

✠Cohen, Jennifer. [My Fine Fellow](#) (Harper Teen \$17.99). This may fall into the YA category but it’s a splendid historical rom-com, cozy, whatever you want to call it. The premise is that George IV’s only child Princess Charlotte did not die in childbirth, nor marry, but succeeded her glutton of a father to the British throne. And in 1833 she’s going to choose a husband. Enter the Culinarians, those who create gorgeous food and confections for Society, and are also its *crème de la crème*. And

here, following *Bridgerton*, Regency, or really still Georgian England, is multicultural so among the rising culinary stars are a Filipina and a young Jewish chef (no gender divide in the Culinarians). (Just as in high school) There is a hierarchy among the students and the Queen Bee, top of her class at the Royal Academy (of cooking arts) is determined that her graduation project will propel her into stardom. She also thinks she might be a kingmaker. What could go wrong? This delightful confection will show you delicious food (one recipe included), coming of age stories, and much more. It's adorable with some sharp edges and highly recommended for escape reading—plus some lessons for teens. A Historical Note is an excellent addition to the story.

Glasgow, Kathleen. [The Agathas](#) (Delacorte \$18.99). An excellent YA (which is a good choice for adults as well) presents a generous dollop of homage to the *grande dame* of mystery plus buckets of clues and conundrums to savor. Two high-schoolers team up to investigate a classmate's death and discover that their small California town is positively boiling with secrets. Seething at the oddly lackadaisical response of local police to the disappearance of her former BFF on Halloween, 17-year-old Agatha Christie fan Alice Ogilvie enlists Iris Adams, her peer tutor, to launch an inquiry that not only bears immediate fruit in the form of a battered corpse at the base of nearby seaside cliffs, but leads to a veritable flood of obvious but conflicting clues and revelations that point to, and away from, foul play. Which was it? As the two gather and struggle to make sense of their evidence in traded-off chapters (with help from a squad of enthusiastic would-be fellow sleuths and a savvy public defender with flexible ethics), readers quickly twig to the fact that they themselves are nursing secrets. Along with frequent references to Christie's books and tumultuous personal history, the co-authors stir in classic mystery tropes and complications aplenty. Teens.

LaDelle, Ebony. [Love Radio](#) (SimonSchuster \$19.99). Love is definitely in the air and on the airwaves in LaDelle's debut YA romance. Garnering starred reviews and selected as an Indies Introduce and Indie Next List pick, the novel centers on Black Detroit native Dani who is not interested in dating, charming Prince, also known as DJ LoveJones on the local Michigan radio station, and a heart-stopping challenge: to fall in love in three dates. It's the stuff of classic rom-coms, which LaDelle keenly references throughout the book, while crafting her own modern-day romance. Teens.

Steadman, AF. [Skandar and the Unicorn](#) (SimonSchuster \$18.99). Skandar's dad has told him that his deceased mum promised him a unicorn. Skandar, eager to escape bullies at school and his grieving father at home, hopes this promise will come true: Now 13, he is eligible to take the Hatchery exam, the first step in determining who will be paired with a unicorn. But he's inexplicably denied entry to the test. The intrigue deepens when a woman shows up to deliver him covertly to the Hatchery so he can try to open the door on the Island behind which are the unicorn eggs. She warns Skandar about the Weaver, an evil entity. Tension mounts as Skandar tries to determine the Weaver's plan; he's disconcerted when the first children who see his unicorn hatchling, Scoundrel, spot the mark of the forbidden, deadly spirit element—which is wielded by the Weaver. In fact, none of the unicorns in this tale are for the fainthearted. Ages 8-12.

COZY CRIMES

Barrett, Lorna. [Clause of Death](#) (Berkley \$27). Tricia Miles and her sister, Angelica, are the co-presidents of the Stoneham Chamber of Commerce. Things are changing in the book town, and some merchants would say not for the better. They grumble that too many non-book-related stores are moving into the village, taking up the most visible storefronts on Main Street, diluting the "Booktown" moniker. Of course, the members with other businesses, like the latest, The Bee's Knees, are fine with other businesses moving in. No matter what side of the argument they're on, all the business owners agree on one thing: Tricia and Angelica are to blame. Still, it's a pretty typical day in the life of a small-town Chamber of Commerce until one of the disgruntled bookstore owners is killed and Angelica is a suspect....

Bessette, Alicia. [Smile Beach Murder](#) (Penguin \$27). Mass layoffs at the *Charlotte Times* hit Callie Padget hard. Her childhood home on Cattail Island seems as good a place as any to escape. Not that there's much of her family there. Her father left before she was born, and her mother died when she was 12. Her Uncle Hudson is a cantankerous old coot, but he's kept her old bedroom in his loft waiting for her. Hudson prods Callie into working part time for Antoinette Redfield at MotherVine bookshop, where she encounters Eva Meeks, who runs Meeks Hardware with her sister, Georgia. Eva, who's all atwitter with hopes of finding the pirate treasure long rumored to be buried near Cattail, consults every treasure-hunting volume that MotherVine stocks. But her dreams of rubies and pearls crash when she falls from the top of Cattail Lighthouse. Though the police rule her death a suicide, Callie has doubts. When Eva's daughter, Summer, brings Callie a poem that's the first in a series of treasure-hunt clues, she decides to investigate. MotherVine's book delivery service gives her the perfect excuse to question many of the island's residents. And here is a real plus: Callie is a Mary Higgins Clark fanatic but she mentions all kinds of mysteries as the story moves along.

JT Ellison, echoed by Jenn McKinlay, calls our **June Cozy Crimes Book of the Month** "A perfectly plotted mystery from a wonderful writer, with everything I want from a cozy—barrier-island beaches, a welcoming bookshop, a quaint small town—all balanced against deep secrets and complicated deaths. Callie Padget is a sharp and compassionate amateur sleuth with a compelling backstory, and a quirky cast of characters, family and townspeople alike, round out the story."

Crawford, Isis. [A Catered Doggie Wedding](#) (Kensington \$26). Bernie and Libby Simmons, owners of A Little Taste of Heaven, a bakery cum catering company in Longely, N.Y. agree to cater a wedding reception for two eight-month-old golden retrievers and their handlers. Jennie, who shares the dogs with her boyfriend, believes the ceremony would be great publicity for the doggie day-care center she's about to open. Those involved in planning the event soon start receiving threatening notes, and the harassment escalates to vandalism. Then the contractor who's working on the day-care center is murdered, and evidence starts stacking up against Jennie.

Davis, Krista. [Diva Says Cheesecake!](#) (Kensington \$26). See Unsigned Event Books.

Delany, Vicki. [Murder in a Teacup](#) (\$15.95). The summer tourist trade is heating up for Lily Roberts, the owner of the Tea by the

Sea tearoom in the Cape Cod town of North Augusta, and she's looking forward to her busiest season yet. Sandra McHenry, a dear friend of Lilly's grandmother, Rose Campbell, who runs a B&B in North Augusta, is visiting with her recently widowed and wealthy granddaughter, Heather, and several other fractious family members. When Heather's brother-in-law, Ed French, dies of poisoning shortly after he drinks some tea, law officials shut down Lily's tearoom and take all the baked goods into custody, though they later determine that someone spiked Ed's tea. To save the tearoom, Lily and Rose must do some sleuthing to figure out who wanted to kill Ed and why. Laura Child's fans will have fun with this second in the Tea by the Sea Mysteries after [Tea & Treachery](#) (\$15.95).

Gardner, Tracy. [Peril at Pennington Manor](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Thanks to Aunt Midge's unlikely friendship with Nicholas Pennington, the Duke of Valle Charme, Avery Ayers and her associates at Antiques and Artifacts Appraised head off to their most glamorous assignment yet—cataloguing and appraising the contents of a castle-like mansion on the Hudson River. But regal splendor becomes a backdrop to mayhem when the precious Viktor Petrova timepiece disappears—and housekeeper Suzanne Vick plummets from a parapet to her death. Further, the housekeeper's suspicious demise coincides with Avery's discovery that many of the Duke's most priceless heirlooms have been replaced by fakes. Detective Art Smith lends his expertise, but the suspect list encompasses the Duke's entire retinue....

Gates, Eva. [Death by Beach Read](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Life couldn't be sweeter for librarian Lucy Richardson and her fiancé, Connor McNeil, the mayor of Nags Head on North Carolina's Outer Banks, in Gates' breezy ninth Lighthouse Library mystery. After a winter renovating their historic beach cottage, the couple has moved into their new home. Even rumors that the cottage is haunted don't disturb Lucy. By coincidence, Lucy's library book club is reading Nathaniel Hawthorne's eerie *The House of the Seven Gables* when Lucy hears odd noises her first night alone in the cottage. Gossip about how one of the cottage's last residents fled the house screaming about a ghost doesn't help ease Lucy's fears. Neither does the dead body Lucy and Connor find splayed on their kitchen floor....

Glasgow, Kathleen. [The Agathas](#) (Delacorte \$18.99). An excellent YA (which is a good choice for adults as well) presents a generous dollop of homage to the *grande dame* of mystery plus buckets of clues and conundrums to savor. High school—more dangerous than the jungle.

Gilbert, Victoria. [A Fatal Booking](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Charlotte Reed has come to love Chapters, the North Carolina B&B she inherited from her great-aunt Isabella, who was a thrower of star-studded parties and retired spy. After a cancellation, she considers herself lucky to land a book-club group hosted by her old teaching friend Lora Kane, who's planning the events herself. But it doesn't take long for Charlotte to notice discord among the guests. Jewelry store owner Stacy Wilkin, who's not staying at Chapters because she lives in nearby New Bern, has managed to antagonize several members of the group and even a local charter boat captain. Oddly, Arnold Dean, one of the guests, attended some of Isabella's parties in his youth and was also a college friend of Charlotte's next-door neighbor Ellen Montgomery, Isabella's handler and trustee of her estate.

Tensions escalate at the Mad Hatter-themed tea party, and soon afterward Charlotte finds Stacy dead in the garden.... Thieves, spies, and book lovers mix with startling results at a literary-themed bed-and-breakfast.

Haines, Carolyn. [Lady of Bones](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Mississippi-based Sarah Booth Delaney of the Delaney Detective Agency is attending a party alit with jack-o-lanterns when she's approached by a woman seeking her vanished daughter, who has been investigating the disappearance of young women in New Orleans every Halloween for the last five years. Sarah Booth travels to the Big Easy and delves into the case with her sheriff boyfriend, Coleman Peters, and her partner in the Delaney Detective Agency, Tinkie Bellcase Richmond, to check into this trail of disappearances. "Haines' message about vulnerable people who are prey to unscrupulous individuals, juxtaposed with the determination of Sarah Booth's circle to find the missing women, adds poignancy."

CLASSICS

✚Edwards, Martin. [Guilty Creatures: A Menagerie of Mysteries](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.99). Feline friends, canine companions and aviary associates are often the truest reflections of their owners and have played a crucial role in classic crime fiction—be they detectives, or delinquents. Martin Edwards reaches into the British Library of Crime Classics to collect mysteries featuring an animal cohort. *Guilty Creatures* celebrates an often-overlooked species of classic crime fiction. Since the dawn of the crime fiction genre, animals of all kinds have played a memorable part in countless mysteries, and in a variety of roles: the perpetrator, the key witness, the sleuth's trusted companion. This collection of fourteen stories corrals plots centered around cats, dogs, and insects alongside more exotic incidents involving gorillas, parakeets, and serpents—complete with a customary shoal of red herrings. The collection includes an introduction on animals in detective fiction by series editor Edwards.

Webb, Jane. [The Mummy! A Tale of the Twenty-Second Century \(Haunted Library Horror Classics\)](#) \$14.99). *Frankenstein* wasn't the only classic horror novel created by a woman. Within a decade of the 1818 publication of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, another Englishwoman invented a foundational work of science fiction. Seventeen-year-old Jane Webb Loudon took up the theme of reanimation, moved it three hundred years into the future, and applied it to Cheops, an ancient Egyptian mummy. Unlike Shelley's horrifying, death-dealing monster, this revived creature bears the wisdom of the ages and is eager to share his insights with humanity. Cheops boards a hot-air balloon and travels to 22nd-century England, where he sets about remedying the ills of a corrupt government. In recounting Cheops' attempts to put the futuristic society to rights, the young author offers a fascinating portrait of the preoccupations of her own era as well as some remarkably prescient predictions of technological advances. *The Mummy!* envisions a world in which automatons perform surgery, undersea tunnels connect England and Ireland, weather-control devices provide crop irrigation, and messages are transmitted with the speed of cannonball fire. The first novel to feature the concept of a living mummy, this pioneering tale offers an engaging mix of comedy, politics, and science fiction. And check out these other entries in the [Haunted Library Horror Classics](#) series from Poisoned Pen Press.

Woolrich, Cornell. [Deadline at Dawn](#) (American Mystery Classics \$15.95). When Quinn first meets Bricky, she's working as a partner-for-hire at a dancehall and he's struggling to shake the anxiety of his guilty conscience. Earlier that day, the young man took advantage of a found key and used it to rob a stranger's home. Now, with the purloined money in his pocket, Quinn is unable to escape the memory of his wrongdoing—and not even a night spent dancing is enough to silence his nagging thoughts. When the dancehall closes, he and Bricky—linked, after many intimate hours, by a budding romance—return to the scene of the crime intending to restore the stolen fortune and begin a new life together, only to discover, upon arrival, that the owner of the property has been murdered. There's evidence present that easily links Quinn to the crime, and he expects that, as soon as day breaks and the authorities learn of the gruesome scene, he will be arrested straight away. Which means that he and Bricky have only a few short hours to find the true killer and clear Quinn's name for good. What begins as a romance soon turns into a nightmare, as this young couple trek through the dark underbelly of old New York in a desperate race for salvation.

SOME HARDCOVER BOOKS FOR JUNE

Here is a lively review of [7 summer thrillers](#) in the *NY Times Book Review*

The list of new novels for June is so enormous that I will write a small Beach and Bookish Books piece to publish in mid-June. It is all too much to take in in one Booknews

Bamford, Emma. [Deep Water](#) (Gallery \$28). What starts as a thrilling adventure ends with a couple of Brits being rescued by a Navy ship whose captain listens to their tale with growing horror. Virginie claims that what happened on a tiny island in the Indian Ocean is all her fault and that she “killed them.” But who is “them” and what exactly went down on that island? The story opens with the discovery British newlyweds aboard their yacht in the Indian Ocean. He's barely alive, and she's repeatedly muttering the ominous phrase: “I killed them all.” The pair, Jake and Virginie, had invested most of their savings in a multi-year nautical honeymoon exploring exotic locales. After hitting Thailand, they head for a remote island called Amarante where they meet a host of other vacationers, including two other couples and an older, Australian, sailor. Once again, “near paradise's isolation brings out people's worst behavior” in a novel that “moves briskly, delivering evocative, tense scenes on and under the water.” It's a terrific book and not least because the Malaysian captain of the rescue vessel is a fabulous human being and steals the story. Were Bamford not in Britain this would have been a hot contender for Crime Book of the Month.

Bassoff, Jon. [Beneath Cruel Waters](#) (Blackstone \$27.99). Holt Davidson, a Kansas firefighter, hasn't been back to his hometown of Thompsonville, Colorado, for more than two decades, but when he learns that his estranged mother has taken her own life, he returns for the funeral, hoping to make peace with her memory. He spends the night at his childhood home, rummaging through each room, exploring the past. But instead of nostalgic souvenirs, he discovers a gun, a love letter, and a Polaroid photograph of a man lying in his own blood. Who is the dead man? Was his mother the one who killed him, and, if so, why? Who sent the love letter? And what role did his sister, institutionalized since she was a teenager, play in this act of

violence? As his own traumatic memories begin to resurface, Holt begins an investigation into his mother's and sister's pasts—as well as his own.

✠Belfer, Lauren. [Ashton Hall](#) (Random \$28). Manhattan art historian Hannah Larson puts her career on hold to give her son, Nicky, who suffers from violent outbursts, the constant care he needs. When Hannah's uncle invites her and Nicky to spend the summer in England, she's just discovered that her husband, Kevin, is having an affair, and welcomes the respite from marital tensions. Hannah and nine-year-old Nicky are fascinated by Ashton Hall, the ancient Cambridgeshire manor in which her uncle leases an apartment. Exploring an abandoned wing, Nicky discovers a skeleton in a room that's walled up except for a single small opening. The body is identified as that of Isabella Cresham, a late-16th-century member of the family that once owned the Hall, and some of the artifacts found nearby suggest that Isabella was a Catholic despite her era's brutal religious strictures. Hannah, herself feeling trapped due to financial dependence on Kevin, who refuses to end his affair, is drawn to Isabella's story. As she gleans details of Isabella's life from sketchbooks and ledgers found in another room in the house, she struggles to chart her own future. Without slipping into country house clichés or simplistic parallels, Belfer offers a nuanced exploration of the ways women's lives are constricted. Anglophiles and Tudor history buffs will enjoy this immersive tale. Why not enjoy “the vicarious indulgence of a stay at an English country house combined with an Elizabethan-era mystery and a meditation on women's age-old struggles between independence and motherhood?”

Note: I have not yet read this. And it has an American in England. Thus I chose the Hawtrey book for the June British Crime Club, but BCC members will want to check this novel out too.

Bondurant, Matt. [Oleander City](#) (Blackstone \$27.99). The hurricane of 1900, America's worst natural disaster, left the island city of Galveston in ruins. Thousands perished, including all ninety-three children at the Sisters of the Incarnate Word orphanage—except six-year-old Hester, who miraculously survived. Oleander City is the tale of this little girl and the volatile collision between the American Red Cross, the Ku Klux Klan, and one of the most famous boxing matches in American history. The bout, organized to raise money for the recovery effort, featured the enigmatic veteran “Chrysanthemum Joe” Choynski, the most successful Jewish boxer in America, and Jack Johnson, a young hometown hero known as “the Galveston Giant.” The storied battle forged a bond between the two legendary fighters and put Johnson on the path to become the greatest heavyweight boxer of all time. Meanwhile, Clara Barton and the Red Cross minister to the sick and hungry as mounted vigilantes use the chaotic situation to settle old scores. After witnessing a terrible crime, Hester finds sanctuary with the ladies of the Red Cross. A strong story based on a true one is a reminder the past is paved with disasters too.

✠Brett, Simon. [Death and the Decorator](#) (Severn \$28.99). In a new Fetherine mystery, Jude Nichols, who works as a healer, drops by Footscrow House, a large Victorian mansion known locally as Fiasco House because nobody seems to be able to make money from it, to talk to her decorator, Pete, about the color choice for her sitting room. Pete is part of the team converting

the building to holiday flats for a property developer. While Pete is demolishing a wall, he and Jude discover a handbag in the rubble, which belonged to Anita Garner, a young woman who went missing some 30 years earlier. Speculation about Garner's whereabouts was considerable at the time, and her disappearance has remained one of Fethering's great unsolved mysteries. When the town's designated prime suspect is murdered, Jude and her prickly friend and neighbor, Carole Seddon, a retired civil servant, each using their own inimitable methods, investigate. "As usual, Brett supplies plausible if eccentric characters, brisk dialogue, and a plot full of surprising twists and amusing detours."

Burton, Jeffrey B. [Lost](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Cadaver dog trainer Mace Reid is called to the estate of Kenneth and Calley Druckman on the west side of Lake Michigan, where criminals have apparently broken into their home and stolen jewelry worth a small fortune. In addition, Calley and their five-year-old daughter are missing, presumed kidnapped. Mace's golden retriever, Vira, is tasked with following footprints at the scene believed to belong to the robbers. But Vira keeps returning to the Druckman mansion, leading Mace to suspect that Kenneth may be involved in the crimes. When the battered body of Calley is found nearby, Kenneth's precarious house of cards begins to collapse. Mace, Vira, and Chicago police detective Kippy Gimm, Mace's sweetheart, race to find the truth before someone else is murdered. Once again, Vira displays her unerring ability to sniff out the guilty party and fearlessly defends her humans.... Canine crime (solving!).

Carlson, Mindy. [Her Dying Day](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). This is an ambitious debut novel that is great fun to read with some nice twists, lively characters, an interesting picture of documentary film studies and creation, an author long missing and presumed dead, a #MeToo love affair that actually isn't, publishing and family drama...it nearly all works. I read for voice more than plot and award high marks for those in this narrative from determined and unorthodox film student June Masterston to her Professor Paul to missing author Greer Larkin whose voice appears in quotes from her popular mysteries to Greer's socialite mother, literary agent, embezzling lover.... Creating a film as an investigative tool is nifty. I hope for good things from Carlson who has some background as a columnist and in parenting.

Chen, Kirsten. [Counterfeit](#) (Harper \$27.99). For fans of *Hustlers* and *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia*, the story of two Asian American women who band together to grow a counterfeit handbag scheme into a global enterprise—an incisive and glittering blend of fashion, crime, and friendship from the author of *Bury What We Cannot Take* and *Soy Sauce for Beginners*. Swift, surprising, and sharply comic, *Counterfeit* is a stylish and feminist caper with a strong point of view and an axe to grind. Peering behind the curtain of the upscale designer storefronts and the Chinese factories where luxury goods are produced, Kirsten Chen interrogates the myth of the model minority through two unforgettable women who bend ethics to better their lives. In some ways this is a companion read to Ian Hamilton's Ava Lee series driven by various plots revolving around crooked businesses and financial institutions that the Canadian/Chinese lesbian detective takes down. [Ava Lee and Uncle](#), her Hong Kong assets recovery partner, make one of my personal favorite series, also admired by Lisa Gardner.

Clarke, Lucy. [One of the Girls](#) (Penguin \$27). Posing as a real estate agent, Meg Williams is a con artist who returns to Los Angeles to get even with Ron Ashton, a local politician who swindled her mother from their home when Meg was a teenager, forcing the two of them to live in a van. Unbeknownst to Meg, journalist/copyeditor Kat Roberts has been tracking Meg and is ready to take her down for a brief encounter that ruined Kat's life 10 years earlier. Vowing to expose Meg for her crimes, Kat pretends she's interested in buying a house and hires Meg as her agent. Each is aware that the other woman is lying, but they manage to develop a close friendship. Using flashbacks and alternating points of view, Clark skillfully fleshes out the strong, multifaceted characters. The story nicely mixes brisk plot points with slow burning reveals as it builds to a satisfying conclusion.

☞Cohen, Jennifer. [My Fine Fellow](#) (Harper Teen \$17.99). This may fall into the YA category but it's a splendid historical rom-com, cozy, whatever you want to call it. The premise is that George IV's only child Princess Charlotte did not die in childbirth, nor marry, but succeeded her glutton of a father to the British throne. And in 1833 she's going to choose a husband. Enter the Culinarians, those who create gorgeous food and confections for Society, and are also its *crème de la crème*. And here, following *Bridgerton*, Regency, or really still Georgian England, is multicultural so among the rising culinary stars are a Filipina and a young Jewish chef (no gender divide in the Culinarians). (Just as in high school) there is a hierarchy among the students and the Queen Bee, top of her class at the Royal Academy (of cooking arts) is determined that her graduation project will propel her into stardom. She also thinks she might be a kingmaker. What could go wrong? This delightful confection will immerse you in delicious food (one recipe included), coming of age stories, and much more. It's adorable with some sharp edges and highly recommended for escape reading—plus some lessons for teens. A Historical Note is an excellent addition to the story.

DePree, Hopwood. [Downton Shabby: One American's Ultimate DIY Adventure Restoring His Family's English Castle](#) (Morrow \$27.99). With the new *Downton Abbey* movie hitting theaters, what could be more fun than "this marvelous debut [where] film producer DePree leaves the Hollywood hills to resurrect his British ancestral home, a 50,000-square-foot estate in the English countryside? After losing his grandfather and father in the span of two years, DePree found solace in tracing his family genealogy. He was astonished when, in 2013, while perusing the internet, he stumbled upon Hopwood Hall, the real-life 600-year-old castle that often featured in his Pap's childhood stories. During the inaugural pilgrimage with his mother and family to see it in person ("Even under clouds," he writes of the lovingly dubbed "Downton Shabby," "it was a magical sight"), DePree counted 2,710 small windows that needed repair. Determined to save the dilapidated and empty estate from ruin—despite having no construction experience—he sold his Los Angeles home and, over the next four years, dedicated his life to a daunting renovation ("It was like the hall and I had been dating, and now it was time for me to... put a ring on her finger"). While his self-deprecating humor about the challenges of navigating grants—and being somewhat clueless about English culture—entertain, it's his wonderment following some unexpected help from the community that makes this DIY fairy tale a true delight.

Dolan, Lian. [Lost and Found in Paris](#) (Harper \$27.99). Both Rob and I delighted in this book which not only is a love affair with Paris but portrays the love between a father and daughter, the dangers as well as benefits of celebrity, the role of a groundbreaking artist, a kind of coming of age story for Joan, her complicated relationship with her supermodel mother whom she adores... and a treasure hunt. Highly recommended as a book for Dad but I repeat my review here for this gem by Dolan, talk-show/podcast star along with her four real sisters, and author of *The Sweeney Sisters*, etc. Her sharp insights and dialogue will grip you.

✚Griffiths, Elly. [The Locked Room](#) (Houghton \$27.99). Archaeologist Ruth Galloway is asked to examine a skeleton found at the site of a medieval cemetery near Norwich Cathedral. Meanwhile, her on-again, off-again lover, Norfolk DCI Harry Nelson, is looking into the death of a part-time librarian. All signs point to the middle-aged woman's suicide, but Nelson isn't convinced of this, "because who puts a Weight Watchers' chicken and lemon risotto in the microwave if they're planning to kill themselves"? His investigation turns up the names of other local women—all seemingly happy churchgoers—who have recently died by suicide. Ruth eventually joins Nelson in the search for a connecting thread between the victims, which touches on many of the sorts of personal considerations that have arisen during the pandemic. And we have 4 Signed UK firsts as well: [The Locked Room](#) (\$46).

Gutierrez, Katie. [More Than You'll Ever Know](#) (Harper \$27.99) is a drama about a woman caught leading a double life after one husband murders the other, and the true-crime writer who becomes obsessed with telling her story. In 1985, Dolores "Lore" Rivera marries Andres Russo in Mexico City, even though she is already married to Fabian Rivera in Laredo, Texas, and they share twin sons. Through her career as an international banker, Lore splits her time between two countries and two families—until the truth is revealed and one husband is arrested for murdering the other. In 2017, while trawling the internet for the latest, most sensational news reports, struggling true-crime writer Cassie Bowman encounters an article detailing that tragic final act. Cassie is immediately enticed by what is not explored: Why would a woman—a mother—risk everything for a secret double marriage? Cassie sees an opportunity—she'll track Lore down and capture the full picture, the choices, the deceptions that led to disaster. But the more time she spends with Lore, the more Cassie questions the facts surrounding the murder itself. Soon, her determination to uncover the truth could threaten to derail Lore's now quiet life—and expose the many secrets both women are hiding.

Hallinan, Timothy. [Rock of Ages](#) (Soho \$27.95). Junior Bender, L.A. burglar and off-the-books detective, is reminded that rock and roll will never die (no matter how fervently he wishes some of it would) when Hollywood's most dangerous geriatric mobster retains Junior's investigative services to solve a rather unharmonious problem. Irwin Dressler has invested money in a concert tour featuring obscure bands organized by "four of the killers, extortionists, leg-breakers, kidnappers, armed robbers, and threat specialists who made up his former social circle." Dressler believes that one of them has been siphoning off the profits and that two near-fatal accidents to two of the touring

musicians may have been attempted murders. Complications ensue since Bender's investigation coincides with time allotted to spend with his teenage daughter, Rina, who's unaware of his actual profession. When a drummer is seriously injured during a performance after a stage set wall falls on him, Bender finds evidence that the rope suspending the wall was tampered with, thus validating Dressler's suspicions. "Hallinan's sharp-edged prose (a character has 'lips sharp enough to turn a kiss into a paper cut') and facility for making even assassins likable enhance a complex puzzle."

Harrison, Kim. [Trouble with the Cursed](#) (Ace \$28). In this new Hollows series thriller, Rachel Morgan's adventures are far from over as a new set of complications expands her circle of influence and magical skills. After transforming the vampire Constance into a mouse, witch-born demon Rachel acts in her name while secretly running Cincinnati with her partner in crime, Pike. As the demon *sub rosa*, Rachel is responsible for keeping the city's supernatural population in line, but her position remains tenuous. When a vampire representative from D.C. arrives to meet with Constance, Rachel must find a way to cover Constance's absence without revealing her own involvement and while avoiding accusations of murder. Meanwhile, the local demons start acting up, with Rachel's housemate, Hodin, behaving suspiciously and another apparently kidnapping mortals. And with her closest friends distracted by their own lives, Rachel is especially vulnerable when an unexpected foe makes their true agenda clear at last.

✚Hawtrey, Evie. [And by Fire](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Our **June British Crime Book of the Month** unfolds in two intriguing time lines: A series of increasingly scary blazes in contemporary London is linked to the most storied fire in the city's history. Our own Lesa Holstine reviews: "In 1666, London was ravaged by the Great Fire, and Lady Margaret Dove, Maid of Honour to the Queen, along with Etienne Belland, Charles II's fireworks maker, searched for a killer who used the fire to cover up a murder. Over 350 years later, Detective Inspector Nigella Parker of the City of London police force teams up with DI Colm O'Leary of Scotland Yard as an artist obsessed with the work of Sir Christopher Wren leaves artwork, and then bodies, at historic sites associated with the famous architect. Lady Margaret and Belland hunt for the person who killed a bookseller in the shadow of fire. Parker and O'Leary are searching for a murderer who uses fire to kill and celebrate art. Two pairs of detectives, separated by time, uncover clues connected by one figure, Sir Christopher Wren. Both story lines intensify, leading to unusual conclusions in Hawtrey's debut mystery. The well-developed characters will appeal to fans of historical mysteries or police procedurals and to Anglophiles."

I add that there is no historical basis for some of the 1666 plot although the compelling depictions of the Great Fire accord with the record. Nor I do know that Queen Catherine of Braganza, the infertile and neglected wife of Charles II, would have taken any kind of a key role. And I don't care because you British Crime Readers either know or should know about this seminal time in London's history. In fact I'm with *Kirkus* which says, "Although the author acknowledges in an afterword that the Great Fire was almost certainly started by accident, readers swept up in this double-barreled inferno will forget the history they know as they root for both heroines to bring the malefactors to book before things get even hotter. The ambitious, audacious

rewriting of the historical record will linger long after the tale of present-day arson.”

Johansen, Iris. [A Face to Die For](#) (Grand Central \$28). When tomb raiders kill archaeologist Riley Smith’s father after he discovers the burial site of Helen of Troy, Riley seeks revenge while asking forensic sculptor Eve Duncan to reconstruct the Greek beauty’s legendary face.

Keefe, Patrick Radden. [Rogues: True Stories of Grifters, Killers, Rebels and Crooks](#) (Knopf \$30) collects a dozen thoroughly investigated and engagingly reported articles on a fascinating assortment of characters—from the merely colorful to the criminal—that Keefe produced for the *New Yorker* between 2007 and 2018. Long before the magazine published his first freelance piece, Keefe “came to think that at least where nonfiction was concerned, a big magazine article might be the most glorious form,” and he provides strong evidence for that claim here. The breadth of his writing—Insider trading in the pharmaceutical industry (“The Empire of Edge”); the dogged search for the last of the plotters who brought down Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 (“The Avenger”); the byzantine activities of a notorious international arms dealer (“The Prince of Marbella”)—reveals the scope of his curiosity and his confidence that he can make these subjects both comprehensible and compelling. *Rogues* also reveals Keefe’s affinity for tales of heinous crimes. “A Loaded Gun” recounts the chilling story of Amy Bishop, a neurobiologist at the University of Alabama in Huntsville who murdered three of her colleagues after she was denied tenure, and of how that horrific event triggered a fresh investigation into her involvement in the death of her brother more than two decades earlier. Mexican drug lord Joaquín Guzmán Loera was so enamored of his profile (“The Hunt for El Chapo”) that he tried to engage Keefe to ghostwrite his memoir. And finally, Keefe brings the conventional celebrity profile to life in “Winning,” the story of reality television pioneer Mark Burnett and the role *The Apprentice* played in Donald Trump’s political rise, and in “Journeyman,” a portrait of Anthony Bourdain, published barely a year before the noted chef and TV star’s death by suicide. In these and all the other pieces in *Rogues*, Keefe painstakingly unearths and shares the details that render diverse true stories as engrossing as fiction.

✦Khavari, Kate. [A Botanist’s Guide to Parties and Poisons](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Here’s a charmer for those who like historicals and a must-read for fans of Deanna Raybourn’s Veronica Speedwell (“Excelsior!”—but quieter in Khavari’s hands). We’re in London, 1923, where young Saffron Everleigh, daughter of a prominent deceased professor, has despite her wealthy relatives’ opposition, become a newly mined research assistant (in botany) at University College, London. Naturally she can’t break the glass ceiling nor be considered for the department’s exciting upcoming expedition to the Amazon. And she needs to continue her research for her mentor, elderly Dr. Maxwell, dodge the handsy, obnoxious department head Dr. Berking, keep her balance with the handsome and enigmatic new Dr. Alexander Ashton, and when the wife of Dr. Henry drops to the floor after quaffing champagne at a department soirée, help the police with their enquiries. To that end she elects to perform a test on herself by drinking an infusion of a poisonous plant growing in the university’s conservatory. And it goes from there. A delight, enthusiastically recommended.

Koepp, David. [Aurora](#) (Harper \$27.99). Astronomers learn that “a giant cloud of solar plasma drenched with magnetic field lines” will strike Earth in less than a day and cause a devastating global blackout. Since the U.S. government doesn’t control power plants, it’s up to the states to shut down transformers to significantly mitigate the impact of the solar strike. Inevitably, the governors resist such a move, and the country is plunged into cascading chaos. With cell towers and electrical lines down, the president can’t even communicate with anyone not within shouting distance. The ordinary people who must deal with the extraordinary circumstances include Aubrey Wheeler, of Aurora, Ill., whose brutish ex-husband abandoned a teenage son from a previous relationship for her to parent; 88-year-old retired college professor Norman Levy, a neighbor of Wheeler’s; and Patrick Brady, the loyal assistant to a billionaire with some eccentric ideas for surviving the blackout. Koepp’s imaginative plotting will keep readers turning the pages to learn the fates of characters they readily become invested in. Michael Crichton fans will love this.

Krow, Leyna. [Fire Season](#) (Viking \$27) is a first fiction that follows three misfits who prosper in the aftermath of a devastating fire in 1889 Spokane Falls, just before Washington gains statehood. “Barton Heydale, 29, is the manager of the only bank within 100 miles; feeling lonesome and disliked, he’s considering ending his life when he sees the fire at Wolfe’s Hotel. In the chaotic aftermath, he enacts a plan to steal from the bank. He later runs into Roslyn Beck, a sex worker he’d engaged at Wolfe’s on the day of the fire, and invites her to stay with him. Barton plans to escape town with the money and Roslyn, but she and the money disappear. Then Quake Auchenbaucher arrives, identifying himself as a federal arson inspector to the police, who have taken Barton into custody on charges of usury and counterfeiting. Quake, a savvy con man, pins the fire on Barton and convinces the officers that all the bank’s money is fake, and that he must transport it to the Treasury. After a series of twists, the three outlaws all converge. Krow pulls off a convincing last gasp of the Wild West with an appealing array of charlatans and schemers. The prose is marvelous, and Krow shrewdly shows via Barton how the riskiest con is against the self. Readers will be captivated.”—*PW* Starred Review

Lauren, Christina. [Something Wilder](#) (Gallery \$26.99). Getting raves from all over, this one says, “Writing duo Lauren Billings and Christina Hobbs strike gold again in this unexpectedly dramatic contemporary romance set in Utah’s Canyonlands National Park. Equal parts exhilarating puzzle-filled adventure and steamy second-chance romance, this cinematic wild-west rom-com is a must-have.” The tone veers from lighthearted rom-com to high octane romantic suspense as an adventure guide leading her ex-boyfriend on an excursion to find Butch Cassidy’s stash of gold finds the danger ramps up. Lauren packs the plot with quirky characters, vivid scenery, and sizzling sexual tension.”

Lehman, David. [The Mysterious Romance of Murder](#) (Cornwell University Press \$27.95). A year and a half ago I was asked to read the manuscript of this study of (mostly noir) books and films and comment. It was fascinating although it needed structural work so that poet/writer/scholar Lehman could synthesize his impressive and large store of personal, scholarly, and anecdotal

material for the reader. The finished books, now out, offers sharp insights as well as personal evaluations. I like this comment from author Paul Auster: “I am especially grateful to him [Lehman] for his delightful remarks on the importance of cigarettes, music, and wisecracks in classic films which only seem to get better as the years go on.” Film and noir scholar Eddie Muller likes “this idiosyncratic tour through the noir ethos in literature, poetry, music and film.” I did too and I bet the store Patrick will enjoy this treasure as well. Recommended for dipping into all summer long.

✎Lloyd, Catherine. [Miss Morton and the English House Party Murder](#) (Kensington \$26). The options for the penniless daughter of a deceased earl are few indeed in 1837 England. So, following the suspicious death of her father, the Earl of Morton, and the discovery that she and her much younger sister have been left without income or home, Lady Caroline takes a post as a lady’s companion to the wealthy widow Frogerton. Just as Caroline is getting accustomed to her new position, her aunt, Lady Eleanor Greenwood, invites her and her employer to a house party in the countryside to celebrate her youngest daughter’s birthday. Mrs. Matilda Frogerton sees this as an opportunity to introduce her own rather wild daughter, Dorothy, to the ton, and Caroline is eager to see her sister, who as a child lives with their aunt. But all is not well at the Greenwood estate. And after elderly Aunt Ines is found stabbed by a knitting needle and the butler attacked, Caroline and an unexpected ally—Mrs. Frogerton—attempt to solve the chilling crime, they discover the culprit may be leaving bizarre clues as to who will be next in the nursery. Lloyd, author of the excellent Kurland St. Mary mysteries, IMHO overlays her narrative with a modern sensibility and plot hinge that while undoubtedly true for the era, is not what most of you will expect. Nor is this a Regency mystery as it is mistakenly advertised; June of 1837 is when Victoria came to the throne. It will be interesting to see what Lloyd can do with some of the sharply delineated characters as she moves forward.

✎Mantel, Hilary. [Learning to Talk: Stories](#) (Harper \$19.99). Two-time Booker winner Mantel departs from the broad canvas of Tudor history for a revelatory collection drawing on her childhood in a northern English moorland village. Several center on fraught relationships with parents and stepparents. “You should not judge your parents,” says the narrator, twice, in “Giving up the Ghost.” Mantel quotes Thucydides one moment, Shakespeare the next, or St. Augustine, and high and low fit together comfortably in “Curved Is the Line of Beauty,” in which the narrator remembers seeing the Arthur O’Shaughnessy poem referenced in the title on a jar as a child, which brings solace during a tough time ruled by Catholic guilt and limited means. So this is really a memoir.

McDonald, Ed. [Daughter of Redwinter](#) (Tor \$27.99) is the first of a brilliant fantasy series about how one choice can change a universe by the author of the critically-acclaimed Blackwing trilogy... Those who see the dead soon join them. Why not kick start your summer reading with the first chapter in a new epic fantasy series?

McPherson, Catriona. [In Place of Fear](#) (Mobius \$26.99). Picture 1940s Edinburgh at the cusp of establishing the National Health Service. Newly appointed Medical Welfare Almoner Helen Crowther stumbles, when a young woman mysteriously

disappears, across something dark in the heart of Edinburgh’s medical community.

Miller, Philip. [The Goldenacre](#) (Soho \$27.95). “A bitter journalist and a troubled art expert risk their lives to find the connection between a legendary painting and a series of rash murders...”—Denise Mina. This somewhat brutal noir begins in a Glasgow newsroom at a leaving party for one the paper’s few remaining real reporters and one woman’s determination to hunt a story. Then we meet Thomas Tallis, an art expert assigned to confirm the authenticity of a multimillion-dollar painting, *The Goldenacre*, who has been fired from his London curating job under mysterious circumstances. His wife is filing for divorce, he has no access to the young son he loves, and his father—an MI6 operative—is a disembodied voicemail that never replies. Shona Sandison, an old-school crime reporter, is all about legwork, except that she’s semi-disabled from an earlier on-assignment attack. While Sandison investigates the murder of a local artist and then a city councilman, the *Post*’s spiraling demise threatens to make her expendable. Tallis digs deeper into the provenance of *The Goldenacre*, his path ultimately intersecting with Sandison’s. Together they unearth layers of lies, corruption, and deceit. “In a style recalling the brutal dreariness of le Carré, Miller describes a pivotal character as ‘sharp and severe as a snapped bone.’ It’s also an apt description of this biting tale of society in decline. Noir fans won’t want to miss it.”—PW Starred Review. In addition to Dame Denise, 2022 Edgar winner Alan Parks is a chronicler of noir Glasgow.

Miro, JM. [Ordinary Monsters](#) (Flatiron \$28.99). The Indie Next Pick: “A grand historical fantasy in a unique world full of complex characters, including menacing and compelling villains. Anyone who appreciates a good Victorian setting or a swashbuckling thriller will enjoy this fresh take on the genre.” And Joe Hill adds, “A stunning new work of historical fantasy, J.M. Miro introduces readers to the dark, labyrinthine world of the Talents. “*Ordinary Monsters* is a towering achievement: a dazzling mountain of wild invention, Dickensian eccentrics, supernatural horrors, and gripping suspense. Be warned... once you step into this penny dreadful to end all penny dreadfuls, you’ll never want to leave.”

Offutt, Chris. [Shifty’s Boys](#) (Grove \$27). Offutt’s strong sequel to 2021’s [The Killing Hills](#) (\$17) finds Army CID officer Mick Hardin back home in rural eastern Kentucky recuperating from an IED attack overseas when he’s hired by local matriarch Shifty Kissick to look into the murder of her drug dealer son, Barney, whose body was found behind an auto parts store. With a keen eye and easy rapport with the town’s seedier characters and members of law enforcement, Mick finds his way into the thick of a conspiracy larger than a heroin deal gone bad. Meanwhile, Mick’s sister, Sheriff Linda Hardin, is running for reelection and has to carefully navigate the freewheeling if nevertheless effective methods of Mick’s investigation in order to keep her nose clean. Mick’s pending divorce with his estranged wife back in Germany adds some depth to his character, but the emotional stakes often feel like an afterthought. Readers will appreciate the novel’s respectful portrayal of the contemporary South as they ride along with Mick on his fair-minded, almost spiritual quest to root out the truth in an excellent small-town mystery. Patrick may arrange for signed copies.

Patterson, James/David Ellis. [Escape](#) (LittleBrown \$29). In a follow-up to [Black Book](#) (\$16.99) by the same writing duo, a rich-as-Croesus crime lord breaks out of jail and leaves a taunting note for crack Chicago detective Billy Harney, who he knew would be called to the scene. **Our copies come with a bookplate signed by Patterson as do [James Patterson by James Patterson](#)** (LittleBrown \$29), wherein the ad man and author pens a personal memoir, or “The Stories of my Life.”

Perrin, Valerie. [Three](#) (Europa \$28). Perrin’s [Fresh Water for Flowers](#) (\$16.95) is one of the most enthralling mysteries (and more) I have ever read. So I am thrilled that her new book, our **June International Book of the Month**, is receiving raves from a wide audience. “Spectacular! Perrin has written a masterpiece of friendship, love, loss and life, weaving the lives of three friends — Adrien, Etienne, and Nina — into a magnificent novel. There are no words to really describe; it’s a must read!”—June Indie Next Pick. Among its pleasures it combines the Frenchness of Martin Walker’s Bruno series (and Perrin is French) with the relationships forged in Elena Ferrante’s Neapolitan novels.

Here is a Starred Review praising Perrin’s “enticing exploration of a trio who meet on the first day of fifth grade and remain inseparable. Adrien Bobin, Etienne Beaulieu, and Nina Beau grow up in 1980s Le Comelle, France, where they become obsessed with movies and music, fantasize about leaving home, and are bound by two tragic events. As teens, they’re certain their new wave band will give them artistic, intellectual, and personal freedom, but heartbreak strikes when Nina’s mail carrier grandfather, beloved by the friends, is struck and killed by a van. In 2017, a body discovered submerged in a car in a nearby sand quarry may be that of a schoolmate, Clothilde Marais, who went missing at 18. Perrin wily withholds facts about the deaths through much of the novel, along with the secret identity of a freelance journalist narrator, a supposed outsider with an ill-defined suspicious past who seems to know more than is likely about the group. The numerous twists and eye-opening revelations will keep readers riveted [with] a bounty of rewards.”

Perrotta, Tom. [Tracy Flick Can’t Win](#) (Scribner \$27). The Indie Next Pick: “A welcome return to a delightful character! Perrotta gives Tracy Flick the mic and allows her — and us — to reinterpret the events of *Election*. Deeply moving and incredibly funny, I never knew how much I needed this standalone sequel.”

Schellman, Katharine. [Last Call at the Nightingale](#) (St Martins \$27.99). “Vivian Kelly, the courageous protagonist of this excellent series launch set in 1924 Manhattan, shares a tenement apartment with her older sister, Florence. Florence is serious and practical, but Vivian, who loves to drink and dance, is a regular at the Nightingale, a speakeasy, and often comes home at dawn before having to toil as a seamstress during the day. Her friends at the Nightingale, all of whom are distinctive characters readers will care about, include bartender Danny Chin, waitress and singer Bea Henry, and Nightingale owner Honor “Hux” Huxley. When Vivian and Bea find a dead man in the alley behind the club, they wonder if he was a bootlegger, but Hux forbids them to talk about it. After the cops raid the speakeasy, Hux bails Vivian out of jail. In return, Vivian agrees, after the cops find the victim’s wallet with his ID in it, to spy on the dead man’s family to determine whether they can help find the killer. Schellman vividly evokes Jazz Age Manhattan as Vivian proves to be a most imaginative sleuth.”—*PW* Starred Review

Skördeman, Gustaf. [Geiger](#) (Grand Central \$28). At the start of Swedish screenwriter and director Skördeman’s excellent debut, a contemporary Stockholm police procedural, Agneta Broman, a 69-year-old grandmother, commits a shocking act. Within moments after her visiting daughters and grandchildren leave, Agneta fatally shoots her 85-year-old husband, Stellan, who was once a beloved television presenter, and vanishes. Sara Nowak, a police detective on the prostitution unit who has anger management problems, used to play with the Bromans’ two daughters as a child and becomes obsessed with finding Stellan’s killer. Gradually, she uncovers a terrorist web spawned by East Germany’s dreaded Stasi, whose tentacles reach into Sweden’s highest political circles, and that threatens “something big” with dire consequences for the entire European Union. In powerful secondary plots, Sara wages a private war against the Swedish government’s refusal to defend prostitutes from exploitation and contends with the guilt she feels for putting her job before her family. Skördeman keeps readers fully engaged right up to the last shattering revelations in a tale of Cold War revenge and familial anguish.

Walter, Jess. [The Angel of Rome and Other Stories](#) (Harper \$27.99). Reading this collection is “like sitting next to the guy at a dinner party who has something hilarious to say about everyone and knows all their secrets. In the title story, written with actor Edoardo Gero, a starry-eyed Nebraska kid spends a year studying in Italy after high school. There, he stumbles onto the set of a film starring a fading Italian bombshell, and the encounter sets off an antic shaggy-dog tale culminating in the students in his Latin class writing a new ending for the movie and the kid a professional life he could never have imagined as does the washed up Hollywood guy. Walter is even better in quieter stories....” Walter started out with a riveting thriller set in Spokane and has greatly broadened his writing scope.

Webb, Brandon/. [Cold Fear](#) (Bantam \$28). This superlative sequel to 2021’s *Steel Fear* from bestsellers combat-decorated Navy SEAL Brandon Webb and award-winning author John David Mann takes former Navy SEAL Finn to Iceland. Finn’s SEAL unit had been stationed in Yemen, where some of its members massacred unarmed civilians, and Finn’s memory gaps have left him uncertain as to his role in the atrocities. He’s seeking out three former colleagues, who are in Iceland on a covert op, but he’s also being pursued by a sadistic and highly skilled assassin, who once saved Finn’s life in the field and is now trying to fulfill a contract to kill him for an unknown employer. The parallel cat-and-mouse plots overlap with one involving the mysterious death of an unidentified woman, found frozen to death in a Reykjavik pond with a cryptic message written on her scarred abdomen with lipstick. Finn becomes involved in that mystery as well, collaborating with a maverick police detective, Krista Kristjansdóttir, who’s strong enough to sustain her own series. The balance of action and characterization is perfect, and Jack Reacher fans will find much to like in Finn. This complex, suspenseful thriller proves that the authors’ collaborative fiction debut was no fluke

White, Richard. [Who Killed Jane Stanford?](#) (Norton \$35). Imagine my interest when author Stephen White, a man we much miss as he is retired from writing (so far), recommended this book by his brother, Richard, a Professor at my alma mater, Stanford. Anyone who attended the university when I did, 60

years ago, well knew the continuing power of Mrs. Stanford's will on university life, especially the lives of women students.

Here is that Professor White has to say about his book: "At first it did strike me as out of the ordinary that Jane Stanford would be killed, and that the investigation of her death would be suppressed. Then, as I investigated, I found that it was not that unusual. The founder of Rice University was also murdered. There were attempts to murder other rich people in early 20th-century United States. Rich people made a lot of enemies, and because there's so much money at stake in their estates, covering up crimes against rich people could benefit their descendants, their heirs, and others. What was the motive for the cover-up in Stanford's case?"

"In [widowed] Jane Stanford's death [an ugly one, and in Hawaii], it was not so much an interest in protecting any particular murderer, but in protecting Stanford University. If an investigation of Jane Stanford's death could lead to a defense of the murderer, pointing out all the things that Jane Stanford did, all the unusual opinions she had, all of the ways in which she might not have been mentally competent to make wills and grants, Stanford University was going to suffer. So the real danger is whether Stanford University will survive, and the survival of the university becomes more important than catching the killer.

"For any historical problem, evidence vanishes. But what struck me about the Stanford case was that so much of the evidence that vanished... But my contention as a historian is that you can't erase everything. You can begin to fill in the spaces, and then you begin to get an even deeper suspicion as to why these things vanish. I'm not a conspiracy theorist, but sometimes there are conspiracies by the rich and powerful in which they seek to make things disappear.

"Did something really surprise you beyond the cover-up? Yes, how sketchy and shaky an institution Stanford University was at the beginning of its history, when it was accused of money laundering. And there was some evidence that if Jane Stanford had lived, Stanford University might have ceased to exist."

OUR JUNE LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Butler, Nickolas. [Godspeed](#) (\$17). This wild and wonderful book set in the luxe world of Jackson, Wyoming (not Joe Pickett or Walt Longmire country) as well as a remote mountain site for a fabulous mansion, was brought to my attention by Ace Atkins. It is not a conventional thriller; it builds slowly but—wow! The big themes Butler explores under his wide umbrella include the divide between the uber rich and regular folk; wilderness invasion; conservation; aging; addiction; ambition, and a gentrifying West (now accelerated by COVID). Cole, Bart, and Teddy, the founders of True Triangle Construction, take on the job of finishing an isolated mansion outside Jackson Hole, for California lawyer Gretchen Connors, but the project is fraught. The original contractor has quit, and Gretchen demands completion in four months, offering \$450,000 in bonuses rather than an explanation for the nearly impossible deadline. The driven Cole, eager to succeed, pushes his two partners. For Teddy, the money means a house for his family, and for Bart, the least steady of the three, it's a path to escape. After Bart is injured, he slips into addiction as he tries to work through the pain. Tension mounts, violence ensues, and at the end, the legacy of troubled pasts catches up with everyone. This is a novel for all stripes of readers. It's terrific.

Cussler, Dirk. [Clive Cussler's The Devil's Sea](#) (\$17). Dirk dazzles with a Dirk Pitt adventure that begins in Tibet where a major cultural artifact was seemingly lost in 1959. Tibetan monks succeed in getting the Nechung Idol, a large statue carved from a meteorite, onto a plane while under attack from invading Chinese Communist forces. The statue is of paramount importance to the Dalai Lama, who has just fled Tibet. In 2022, no one knows the idol's whereabouts, until Dirk Pitt Sr. and his children, twins Dirk Pitt Jr. and Summer, all of whom work for the National Underwater and Marine Agency, discover clues in a plane crash from decades earlier into the Philippine Sea. Meanwhile, the Chinese, including the mentally unstable Lt. Zheng Yijong, a member of the Chinese Army Rocket Forces Special Operations Command, are seeking the Nechung Idol because they can use its metal in their new line of supersonic missiles. All three Pitts escape death scores of times as the action races to a showdown with the villainous Zheng. Dirk has done his late father Clive proud in a thriller ranging from the Himalayas into fascinating water currents in the Philippine Sea.

Note: we can still offer Signed Firsts of [The Devil's Sea](#) (Putnam \$29).

Doiron, Paul. [Dead by Dawn](#) (\$17.99). After being ambushed on a dark winter road, his Jeep crashes into a frozen river, trapped beneath the ice in the middle of nowhere, having lost his gun and any way to signal for help, Maine Game Warden Mike fights his way to the surface of the icy Androscoggin River. But surviving the tire-shredding is only the first challenge. Whoever set the trap that ran him off the road is still out there, and they're coming for him—but hypothermia may get him first. Flash back to earlier that morning. Mariëtte Chamberlain asks Bowditch, who has a reputation for solving cold cases, to reinvestigate her father-in-law's death. Four years earlier, Professor Eben Chamberlain, formerly of the British Foreign Service, was duck hunting on the Androscoggin when he apparently fell out of his boat and drowned. Since Chamberlain, according to Mariëtte, never would have taken off his life vest, she suspects foul play. Bowditch agrees to do a little digging and is soon headed for trouble.

Elliott, Lexie. [How to Kill Your Best Friend](#) (\$17). What would you do if you knew, deep down, that your best friend was a sociopath? It opens with a group of friends gathering at the luxury island resort owned by Lissa and her husband. Since their college swim team days, the group has remained steadfast friends and an integral part of one another's adult lives. But they are not gathering to celebrate; instead, they are mourning the loss of Lissa. Lissa apparently drowned while swimming alone at night, but her body has not been found. Her husband is devastated, but Lissa's best friend Georgie is filled with questions. How could such a strong swimmer drown? Why was Lissa swimming at night? Feeding Georgie's suspicions are memories of Lissa's unnerving behavior during their youthful escapades. Georgie has always been fearful of Lissa's actions. She knows that Lissa has an unwavering sense of right and wrong and that she believes in avenging injustices. Georgie becomes even more disturbed when the resort's guests find warning messages, the workers start disappearing, and someone seems to be trying to prevent Lissa's friends from leaving. Is Lissa really dead?

ÆFeeney, Alice. [Rock, Paper, Scissors](#) (\$16.99). An unhappy British couple attempt to rekindle the magic with a weekend trip to a remote spot in Scotland. They reach the minimally converted

church they've booked by a harrowing drive through a blizzard. Its many locked rooms and malfunctioning electricity is not improved by a mysterious caretaker who has left firewood and a nice note but seems to be spying through the window. Both Adam and Amelia seem to be considering this weekend the occasion for ending the marriage by any means necessary—then their dog Bob disappears. The narrative goes back and forth with first-person chapters by Amelia and Adam interleaved with a series of letters written to Adam on their anniversary through the years and keyed to the traditional gifts: paper, cotton, wood, leather, etc. There's also a rock and a scissors, referring to the children's game of the book title, which the couple use to make everyday decisions like "Should we stay together?" Offstage is the famous writer Henry Winter, whose novels Adam, who suffers from face-blindness, has made his fortune adapting. In trademark Feeney style, "his complicated gothic thriller of dueling spouses and homicidal writers is cleverly plotted and neatly tied up."

Gentill, Sulari. [The Woman in the Library](#) (Poisoned Pen \$16.99). The No. 1 Library Reads pick for June gets this Starred Review, one of several: "This thrilling excursion into metafiction from Australian author Gentill wittily examines the writing process itself. Australian mystery writer Winifred 'Freddie' Kincaid has come to Boston after receiving a prestigious writers' fellowship. While she's seeking inspiration in the Boston Public Library, a woman's scream breaks the silence. Freddie seizes on this incident as the ideal start for her new opus.... A [literary] agent dies a few days later, and murders in the two realities begin to multiply. This elegantly constructed novel is intelligent, funny, and profound. Who could ask for more?"

Actually the MORE is the signed hardcover slated for October when Gentill visits us at The Pen. See Signed Books in this Booknews for more info and order early as firsts will sell out.

Griffiths, Elly. [The Night Hawks](#) (\$16.99). A new chapter in one of my favorite British crime series begins when archaeologist Ruth Galloway returns to the Norfolk coast from Cambridge. Ruth is back as head of archaeology at the University of North Norfolk when a group of local metal detectorists—the so-called Night Hawks—uncovers Bronze Age artifacts on the beach, alongside a recently deceased body, just washed ashore. Not long after, the same detectorists uncover a murder-suicide—a scientist and his wife found at their farmhouse, long thought to be haunted by the Black Shuck, a humongous black dog, a harbinger of death. The further DCI Nelson probes into both cases, the more intertwined they become, and the closer they circle to David Brown, the new lecturer Ruth has recently hired, who seems always to turn up wherever Ruth goes.... If by some evil chance you have not yet discovered the joys of Griffiths' work, then order all the Galloway mysteries and binge.

Hendrix, Grady. [The Final Girl Support Group](#) (\$17) is perfect for anyone who loves old slasher movies and, oddly enough, anyone who hates them. Grady Hendrix has somehow crafted both an homage to B-horror schlock and a clever dissection of the genre, all delivered in the form of one long breathless chase punctuated by both unpredictable twists and thoughtful insight.—David Wong. You may know Hendrix better for his hit [The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires](#) (\$16.99).

Hirahara, Naomi. [Clark and Division](#) (\$16.95). This fascinating standalone from Edgar winner Hirahara focuses on a Japanese American family, the Itos, who in 1942 are sent with what possessions they can carry from L.A. to the Manzanar internment camp in the California desert. In 1943, elder daughter Rose, a bright and confident young woman, is chosen to be among the first internees to be relocated to Chicago, a move that will pave the way for her family to join her. In 1944, Rose's parents and younger sister, Aki, arrive in the city, only to be informed that Rose has been run over by a subway train at the Clark and Division station, an apparent suicide. Aki refuses to believe this theory and sets out to find her sister's killer and bring that person to justice. Tantalizing clues emerge in Rose's diary, in reports gathered for the War Relocation Authority, and in Aki's tireless interviews with those who shaped Rose's life in Chicago. Elegant prose matches the meticulous research. This well-crafted tale of injustice isn't just for mystery fans but it has scored award wins and nominations and been named a *NY Times* and a *Washington Post* Best Book of 2021.

King, Laurie R. [Castle Shade](#) (\$18). Marie of Roumania is the doubly royal granddaughter of Victoria, Empress of the British Empire, and Alexander II, Tsar of Russia. A famous beauty who turned away from marrying the prince who became George V of England to wed, at age seventeen, Crown Prince Ferdinand of Roumania's young dynasty, she survived WWI and beguiled the Paris Peace Conference into returning her adopted country's long-lost provinces, singlehandedly transforming Roumania from a backwater into a force. Her favorite residence is Bran Castle, a tall, quirky, ancient structure perched on high rocks overlooking the border between Roumania and its newly regained territory of Transylvania. The castle was a gift to Queen Marie, a thank-you from her people, and she loves it as she loves her own children. But now, in 1925, shadowy figures, vague whispers, and dangers that may be only accidents circulate in a land that had known Vlad the Impaler, a land from whose churchyards the shades creep. And so Queen Marie calls on Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes for aid. They are as dubious as they are reluctant. But a young girl is involved, and a beautiful queen. Surely it won't take long to investigate what would seem to be *strigoi*? Or, as they are known in the West—vampires.

Koryta, Michael. [Never Far Away](#) (\$17.99). *LJ* reviews: "Koryta kick-starts his latest novel with a witness to a murder faking her own death using the assassins hired to kill her. Nina Morgan must leave her husband and two children and assume a new identity to ensure their safety. Ten years later, the children's father dies and the kids, 13-year-old Hailey and 11-year-old Nick, are sent to live with Nina, whom they know only as 'Aunt Leah.' Her former employer, who set up the original assassination attempt, realizes that Nina must be alive. Using his power as the leader of a Blackwater-like paramilitary organization, he sends out new hit men to complete the job. From there, Nina and her children must learn to trust each other as they try to stay one step ahead of their hired killers. Fans of the author's previous works will be on the edge of their seats as they follow his characters' attempts to survive vicious assassins. Koryta provides strong character development, believable dialogue, and a fast-paced narrative. Keen observers will notice a brief sighting of two brothers (and evil murderers) who were introduced in Koryta's *Those Who Wish Me Dead*.

Miranda, Megan. [Such a Quiet Place](#) (\$17.99). Agatha Christie left a forever stamp on plots and on a classic mystery form, here updated by Miranda who constructs her own American village on a lakeshore for the mystery. There's even a village map shown. Longtime Hollow's Edge resident Ruby Fletcher, who was convicted of the double murder of Brandon and Fiona Truett a year and a half earlier, returns after her conviction is overturned to the tight-knit lakeside community. Ruby allegedly sneaked into the couple's house one night, turned on the car in the garage, and opened an interior door, ensuring their death from carbon monoxide poisoning. Ruby assumes her old roommate, Harper Nash, will welcome her return, even after she tells Harper, "Someone's going to pay." Harper doesn't know whether Ruby is directing this threat at her, but after allowing Ruby to move back in, she begins to wonder: If Ruby isn't guilty, who is? What other secrets are the residents of Hollow's Edge hiding—and would they go as far as murder to protect them? The twists keep coming until the very last page. Christie fans will appreciate this 21st-century update on the classic golden age village mystery.

✠Montclair, Allison. [A Rogue's Company](#) (\$17.99). Iris Sparks, savvy and streetwise, having spent time during the war doing things she still can't (or won't) discuss. The aristocratic Gwendolyn Bainbridge was married to an officer in the Royal Fusiliers who was killed in the war; the shock of his death sent her to a sanatorium, and when she got out, she found out that her in-laws had assumed custody of her young son. She needs something to keep her occupied (and out of the house she shares with her domineering mother-in-law). Thus—The Right Sort Marriage Bureau, a joint venture. Montclair really takes you into the world of postwar London, where desperate women scheme to buy nylons on the black market and bulldozers are busy scooping up the rubble left behind by the German air assault. The two lead characters are exceedingly well-drawn; Gwen must cope with her still-overwhelming grief and also try to fight for her son, while Iris lives in an apartment paid for by her married lover and sometimes has a penchant for acting recklessly (she carries a knife in her purse, and she's not afraid to brandish it if she feels threatened). It's 1946. Lord Bainbridge—the widowed Gwen's father-in-law and legal guardian—returns from a business trip to Africa and threatens to undo everything important to her, even sending her six-year-old son away to a boarding school. But there's more going on than that. A new client shows up at the agency, one whom Sparks and Bainbridge begin to suspect really has a secret agenda, somehow involving the Bainbridge family. A murder and a subsequent kidnapping raise the stakes. [A Royal Affair](#) and [The Right Sort of Man](#) and in July we get a 4th investigation.

Offutt, Chris. [The Killing Hills](#) (\$17). Offutt's brooding and bloody country noir takes readers to the hollers of rural Kentucky, where meth and Oxycontin ravage the population, and havoc is wrought by long-festering family feuds. The focus is on an Iraq and Afghanistan war veteran named Mick Hardin who now works as an Army Intelligence agent. Hardin winds up joining his sister, who's a sheriff, to solve a local murder—the death of a woman named Nonnie Johnson, whose body was discovered deep in the woods. Set in a community ravaged by drug abuse—where meth and Oxycontin addiction have run rampant—the novel sees Mick and his sister having to navigate innumerable nuisances, from a meddling FBI agent to a local coal tycoon, as they try to

close the case. "The lean prose elicits more than a hard-boiled style, and while the brisk yet gnarled atmosphere is reminiscent of Woodrell's *Winter's Bone*, the dime-store crime novels of Jim Thompson, or even William Faulkner's *Sanctuary*, Offutt brilliantly evokes the body and soul of his wounded hero. It adds up to a mesmerizing and nightmarish view of what lurks just over the hills. Having a trained CID officer as the lead adds an extra and broadening dimension to a Southern noir

Taylor, Sarah Stewart. [A Distant Grave](#) (\$17.99). The man shot in Bay Shore Manor Park, the man whose back is covered with gruesomely distinctive scars, is identified as international aid worker Gabriel Treacy, an Irish national whose boss, Global Humanity CEO Gillian Gleeson, calls him a saint. Suffolk County DA John J. Cooney Jr. is certain that it's a gang killing, especially when the bullet that killed Treacy turns out to have been fired by the same gun that killed presumed MS-13 victim Juan Bollina last year. But Maggie, who thinks the answer lies across the sea, packs up her teenage daughter, Lilly, who's still traumatized by the suicide of Maggie's ex-husband, and takes her on a working vacation in Ireland, where she hopes to spend some serious time with her sweetie, Conor Kearney. Their idyll, punctuated by the news that Treacy's family solicitor, Noel Thomason, has been killed in an apparent burglary, is cut short by Cooney's summons demanding her return to Long Island. It's there that Maggie will finally connect the dots between the two darkest episodes of Treacy's life: his kidnapping and torture in Afghanistan and his search for the brother his unmarried mother gave up years before Treacy was born....

✠Todd, Charles. [An Irish Hostage](#) (\$16.99). It's now 1919. On leave from Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, Bess Crawford is free to travel to Ireland to serve as a bridesmaid for Eileen Flynn, another nurse whose leg she helped save from amputation. It's clear that venturing across the Irish Sea will be anything but routine. Instead of taking trains and motorcars subject to hijacking by nationalist fanatics, Bess asks American pilot Captain Arthur Jackson to fly her to tiny Killeighbeg, where all is in readiness except for the groom, Michael Sullivan, who's presumably been abducted by members of the Rising in retaliation for his wartime service to the Crown. But Bess doesn't need to venture outside Eileen's home to find furious conflicts raging. "Days after local painter Fergus Kennedy turns up cossed to death, Eileen decides to forge ahead with her preparations for the ceremony in case the groom happens to show up.... "The mystery is peripheral to this worm's-eye view of the struggles that tore the Emerald Isle in two."

SOME NEW LARGE PAPERBACKS

Baldacci, David. [Mercy](#) (\$17.99). Well I knew next to nothing about cage fighting until I dove into this new Atlee Pine thriller. You fans will know that FBI Agent Pine, her primary station in Arizona, has been searching for her long-lost sister Mercy and is now assisted by Bureau staffer Carol Blum, a woman in her sixties who's become a kind of surrogate mother to Pine and has six children of her own. When Mercy disappeared as a child it shattered Atlee's family and left her abandoned by her parents. Now having closed her third investigation, [Daylight](#) (\$16.99), Atlee has learned some of the real story and believes that Mercy both survived abduction and has somehow survived. Mercy also has left at least one body behind her

Barry, Max. [The 22 Murders of Madison May](#) (\$17). “With unrelenting tension, Max Barry weaves a complex tapestry where a sociopath’s insatiable obsession knows no bounds, not even time and space, and only two things are certain—he will kill her again because he’s killed her before. ““Mr. Barry avoids the obvious sci-fi option of thinking up lots of exciting worlds, and takes the grittier route of imagining intrusions into the underbelly of this one... Unnerving. He navigates the multiverse and the concepts of string theory and chaos theory with frightening conviction. Let’s hope he just made it all up.”—*The Wall Street Journal*

✦Boyd, Damien. [Carnival Blues](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). I love this fast-moving, cleverly conceived policing series. This chapter begins when Detective Chief Inspector Nick Dixon arrives late for Bridgwater’s winter carnival. He’s come to see the squibbing, the traditional firework display that brings the town’s November festivities to a dramatic close. But when the squib of Avalon Carnival Club president Richard Webb is lit, it explodes, engulfing him in flames. Dixon knows he’s just witnessed a killer making a very public statement. And he can’t help feeling it’s only the beginning. After his suspicions are confirmed at the Burnham-on-Sea carnival forty-eight hours later, the race is on to find the killer before the next event in a nearby town, a race complicated by Police Professional Standards breathing down Dixon’s neck. British lawyer Boyd may well have been watching *Line of Duty*, no? We recommend you order the entire [Nick Dixon series](#).

Benedict, Marie. [The Personal Librarian](#) (Berkley \$17). I’ve hung out at the fabulous Morgan Library at Madison and 36th Street in Manhattan for decades. Gilded Age zillionaire J.P. Morgan was a serious collector and his legacy was assured and burnished by his personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene. Belle, hired while only in her twenties to curate his collection and grow it, was remarkable in her post because she was 1. A woman. 2. So young. 3. Black—a secret well hidden. And so she becomes a fixture in New York City society and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating for critical works as she helps create a world-class collection. But Belle was born not Belle da Costa Greene but Belle Marion Greener, the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality. Belle’s complexion isn’t dark because of her alleged Portuguese heritage that lets her pass as white—her complexion is dark because she is African American. Today she’d be celebrated for her heritage.

Burton, Jeffrey B. [The Keepers](#) (\$16.99). Mason “Mace” Reid lives on the outskirts of Chicago and specializes in human remains detection. He trains dogs to hunt for the dead. And now three separate murder investigations preoccupy Mace Reid, a cadaver dog trainer who assists the Chicago police and various sheriffs’ departments, and his pack of five working dogs, notably Vira, an exceptionally sensitive golden retriever. The murder cases—those of a union organizer, a former one-hit-wonder rock star, and the head of the Special Prosecutions Bureau inside the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office—eventually entwine, and draw Mace and the dogs into a disturbing web of political corruption at the highest level. Start with [The Finders](#) (\$16.99).

Cooper, Glen. [The Fourth Prophecy](#) (\$17.99). *Kirkus* writes one of its often snarky reviews, here of a Dan Brown religious conspiracy thriller, a genre making a soft comeback this summer. I find them entertaining when there isn’t a glut of them. “Superstar academic Cal Donovan, esteemed Harvard professor of religion and archaeology, roguish lady’s man, and loyal cat’s-paw of the pope, returns in this weirdly sedate thriller concerning an earthshaking “fourth secret” divulged by the famous apparition of Mary to three young children at Fátima in 1917. Lúcia dos Santos, the principal recipient of the vision’s message, described some of Mary’s revelations and prophecies, which included visions of hell, the advent of World War II, and the assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II in 1981. Long-standing rumors of a fourth, as yet undisclosed, secret prophecy come to a head some nine decades later on the cusp of Lúcia’s beatification as the pope is threatened by a mysterious group with their own designs regarding the secret vision. Our man Donovan is tasked with solving the mystery of the fourth prophecy before Lúcia is sainted a few days hence and the promised doom arrives.”

Follett, Ken. [Never](#) (\$20). In the Sahara, two intelligence agents counter drug-smuggling terrorists even as a young widow makes her unauthorized way to Europe. Meanwhile, an ambitious Chinese official goes up against his government’s old guard, and terrorist attacks, illegal arms trading, and dirty politics push U.S. President Pauline Green into risky territory. Arguing that no government wanted to fight World War I—leaders instead got tripped up on alliances—Follett considers how world war could happen today. He wrote this before Russia invaded the Ukraine and put NATO on alert.

Goldman, Matt. [Carolina Moonset](#) (Forge \$15.99). The talented Goldman switches from Minnesota to a small Southern town mystery which is all about family, especially fathers and son, and warmly portrays a love story between two middle-aged divorced people. I love this—read every word. There may be a hardcover edition available to be signed but for now, go with this paperback.

Joey Green has returned to Beaufort, South Carolina, with its palmettos and shrimp boats, to look after his ailing father, who is succumbing to dementia, while his overstressed mother takes a break. Marshall Green’s short-term memory has all but evaporated, but, as if in compensation, his oldest memories are more vivid than ever. His mind keeps slipping backwards in time, retreating into long-ago yesterdays of growing up in Beaufort as a boy. At first this seems like a blessing of sorts, with the past providing a refuge from a shrinking future, but Joey grows increasingly anxious as his father’s hallucinatory arguments with figures from his youth begin to hint at deadly secrets, scandals, and suspicions long buried and forgotten. Resurfacing from decades past are mysteries that still have the power to shatter lives—and change everything Joey thought he knew. Especially when a new murder brings the police to his door...

Grisham, John. [The Judge’s List](#) (\$18). In [The Whistler](#) (\$9.99), Lacy Stoltz, an investigator for the Florida Board on Judicial Conduct, challenged a crime syndicate paying off a crooked judge. Now she’s back, facing the possibility that a judge is committing a crime far worse—murder.

✦Harris, Robert J. [A Study in Crimson: Sherlock Holmes 1942](#) (\$15.95). Inspired by the classic film series from Universal

Pictures starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, which took Sherlock Holmes to the 1940s and WWII, this imaginative new thriller confronts the world's greatest detective with a killer emulating the murders of Jack the Ripper. London, 1942. A killer going by the name of "Crimson Jack" is stalking the wartime streets of London, murdering women on the exact dates of the infamous Jack the Ripper killings of 1888. Has the Ripper somehow returned from the grave? Is the self-styled Crimson Jack a descendant of the original Jack—or merely a madman obsessed with those notorious killings? In desperation Scotland Yard turn to Sherlock Holmes, the world's greatest detective. Surely he is the one man who can sift fact from legend to track down Crimson Jack before he completes his tally of death. As Holmes and the faithful Watson tread the blacked out streets of London, death waits just around the corner

Harris, Zakiya Dalila. [The Other Black Girl](#) (\$17). Harris debuts with a dazzling, darkly humorous story about the publishing industry. Twenty-six-year-old editorial assistant Nella Rogers is tired of being the only Black employee at Wagner Books. Fed up with the isolation and microaggressions, she's thrilled when Harlem-born and bred Hazel starts working in the cubicle beside hers. They've only just started comparing natural hair care regimens, though, when a string of uncomfortable events elevates Hazel to Office Darling, and Nella is left in the dust. Then the notes begin to appear on Nella's desk: LEAVE WAGNER. NOW. It's hard to believe Hazel is behind these hostile messages. But as Nella starts to spiral and obsess over the sinister forces at play, she soon realizes that there's a lot more at stake than just her career.

Imamura, Natsuko. [The Woman in the Purple Skirt](#) (\$17). The narrator of Japanese novelist Imamura's deliciously creepy English-language debut likes to watch a woman in her neighborhood known as "the Woman in the Purple Skirt." The Woman in the Purple Skirt doesn't do anything particularly interesting. She sits on a bench in the park; she goes to the bakery; she is intermittently employed. But there's something about her that makes it "impossible not to pay attention," as the narrator explains. "Nobody could ignore her." The same isn't true of the narrator, who refers to herself as "the Woman in the Yellow Cardigan." Gradually, as Imamura's taut narrative unfolds, we realize, in this subtle psychological thriller, just how much of her own life the narrator is willing to give up or, indeed, destroy for the sake of her obsession.

Jeffers, Honoree Fanonne. [The Love Songs of WEB Du Bois](#) (\$20). The 2020 NAACP Image Award-winning poet makes her fiction debut with this National Book Award (and numerous other awards) nominated novel. *Kirkus* writes, "Ailey Pearl Garfield, the protagonist of this epochal saga, is a compelling mélange of intellectual curiosity, scathing observation, and volatile emotion. Though her grandmother may have preferred that she join the parade of medical doctors in their family, Ailey is destined to become a historian. Her journey toward that goal, fraught with heartache, upheaval, and conflict from her childhood through adolescence and collegiate years, is interwoven with the results of her inquiry into her family history. That history is deeply rooted in the Georgia town of Chicassetta, where Ailey's Black ancestors were enslaved and exploited by a "White Man with Strange Eyes" named Samuel Pinchard, who not only brutalized and demeaned his slaves, but also haphazardly procreated with them

over the decades before the Civil War. The "songs" interspersed throughout the book, chronicling in vivid, sometimes-graphic detail the antebellum lives of Ailey's forbears, are bridges linking Ailey's own coming-of-age travails...

Jones, Sandie. [The Guilt Trip](#) (\$17.99). Friends since university, Rachel and Noah are now married to Jack and Paige, respectively, and now that Jack's brother Will is marrying wild-child Ali, it's time for everyone to get together at a destination wedding in Portugal. Small tensions might be inevitable, but the weekend is ripped open when Rachel discovers something truly shocking about the bride-to-be. Truly, jumping to conclusions can become the difference between life and death.

Lackberg, Camilla. [Silver Tears](#) (\$17). In 2020's [The Golden Cage](#) (\$16.95), Stockholm housewife Faye Adelheim, who sacrificed her own career for her entrepreneur husband, Jack, who belittled and humiliated her for years, succeeded in destroying his business and framing him for the apparent murder of their daughter, Julianne. Two years after, in Swedish crime queen's Läckberg's rip-roaring sequel, Faye, whose cosmetics company, Revenge, has made her wealthy, is living incognito in a tiny Italian village with her mother, Julianne, and Kerstin, her best friend and business associate. But soon rumors disrupt paradise. Jack and another convict escape from prison, women owning shares in Revenge are selling them and threatening a takeover, and a dogged policewoman is reexamining the case of Julianne's supposed murder....

Lange, Tracy. [We Are The Brennans](#) (\$16.99). Sunday Brennan wakes up in a Los Angeles hospital from a drunk-driving accident that she caused. She knows she needs to change her life. So she swallows her pride and heads back to New York, to the family and friends she left behind five years ago. Sunday's determined to begin again and mend her relationships with her loved ones. But just as she's making progress, a man from her past shows up, aiming to ruin the Brennan family business. Now Sunday and her entire family must reckon with long-buried secrets if they hope to find a way through together.

Lin, Tom. [The Thousand Crimes of Ming Tsu](#) (\$16.99). Lin, born in China and arrived in America at age four, reimagines the classic Western—well maybe Cormac McCarthy's West spiked with the Coen brother's *True Grit*, and some phantasmagorical shades of Ray Bradbury, so not really a classic but "a fierce new vision of the Westward Dream" (Jonathan Lethem). Ming Tsu, son of Chinese immigrants, is orphaned as a baby and raised by the head of a California crime syndicate to be an enforcer. But Ming falls in love with Ada, daughter of one of the post-Civil War railroad tycoons, and they elope. Soon after the tycoon's henchmen kidnap Ada and conscript Ming into service for the Central Pacific. Heartbroken yet defiant, Ming partners with a blind clairvoyant and they set out to rescue Ada and take down the tycoon. They get an assist from a troupe of magic-show performers, some of whom possess supernatural powers. It's a violent and unswerving quest with a high body count, yet tempered by romance. And is 24-year-old Lin's first novel. Expect to hear more from him.

Lippman, Laura. [Dream Girl](#) (\$16.99).). In Lippman's tense fantasia, novelist Gerry Andersen, injured in a freak fall, is trapped in a hospital bed in his glamorous high-rise apartment and dependent on two women he barely knows, as he fears he

is losing his mind. Then late one night, the phone rings. The caller claims to be the “real” Aubrey, the alluring title character from his most successful novel, *Dream Girl*. But there is no real Aubrey. She’s a figment born of a writer’s imagination. Why does no one believe that the call even happened? Isolated from the world, drowsy from medication, Gerry slips between reality and a dreamlike state in which he is haunted by his own past. Is he the victim of a cruel prank—or is he actually losing his mind? There is no record of the calls according to the log on his phone. Could there be someone he has wronged? Then comes the morning he wakes up next to a dead body—and realizes his nightmare is just beginning.

Maxwell, Alyssa. [Murder at Wakehurst](#) (\$15.95). Following the death of her uncle, Cornelius Vanderbilt, in September 1899, a somber Emma is in no mood for one of Newport’s extravagant parties. But to keep Vanderbilt’s reckless son Neily out of trouble, she agrees to accompany him to an Elizabethan fête on the lavish grounds of Wakehurst, the Ochre Point “cottage” modeled after an English palace, owned by Anglophile James Van Alen. The festivities include a swordplay demonstration, an archery competition, scenes from Shakespeare’s plays, and even a joust. As Emma wanders the grounds, she overhears a fierce argument between a man and a woman behind a tall hedge. As the joust begins, she’s drawn by the barking of Van Alen’s dogs and finds a man on the ground, an arrow through his chest. The victim is one of the 400’s most influential members, Judge Clayton Schuyler—and so not the straight arrow he appeared to be.

Mosse, Kate. [The City of Tears](#) (\$18.99). In the sequel to 2018’s [Burning Chambers](#) (\$18.99), the year is 1572 and Minou Joubert (aka Marguerite Reydon-Joubert, Châtelaine of Puiver) is now married to Piet Reydon, a Huguenot soldier, and the mother of two children, Marta and Jean-Jacques. Minou and her family leave the peace and quiet of their estate and head for Paris to celebrate the royal wedding of Charles IX’s sister to Henry III of Navarre. In Paris, they get caught up in the St. Bartholomew’s Day massacre, the slaughter of Protestant Huguenots on the orders of the French king. In the chaos of those dark, dangerous days, seven-year-old Marta goes missing. As the years pass and Marta’s fate remains unknown, Minou faces the uncertainties of life in the midst of religious conflict while dealing with the lethal machinations of her family’s archenemy, ruthless Vidal du Plessis (aka Cardinal Valentin). She eventually flees France, taking refuge in Amsterdam, “her city of tears.”

Patterson, James/James O. Born. [The Russian](#) (\$17.99). When a serial killer crashes Detective Michael Bennett’s wedding, he and his new partner uncover a gruesome string of cold-case homicides across the country.

Punke, Michael. [Ridgeline](#) (\$17.99). Join CJ Box and me in admiring this terrific book. From the author of bestseller [The Revenant](#) (\$16), the astonishing story of real-life trapper and frontiersman Hugh Glass, comes a new novel that begins in 1866 in a country still divided by war. And a new one breaks out in the West, a clash of cultures between a nation pushing west and the Native tribes who have lived on the land for centuries. Colonel Henry Carrington arrives in Wyoming’s Powder River Valley to defend a new road for settlers and gold miners. Red Cloud, a Lakota Chief, and Crazy Horse, a young and visionary warrior, push back against the US Army...and off it goes. “In his kaleido-

scopic telling of a little-known battle on the sacred Lakota hunting grounds of Wyoming, Punke has created a modern classic.... Brave, thrilling, and heartbreaking, *Ridgeline* brings the history of conquest in the American West to unforgettable life.”

✂Schellman, Katharine. [The Body in the Garden](#) (\$16.99). George Pierce, father of widow Lily Adler, comes to London, where Lily lives, to see a doctor. Mr. Pierce, who can be highly critical of his daughter, doesn’t have time to call on Sir Charles Wyatt, an old family friend who has recently remarried and could be leaving any day for the country, so Lily agrees to visit Sir Charles instead and convey her father’s respects. Sir Charles is not at home, but Lady Wyatt, his much younger wife, is, along with his son Frank, who’s Lily’s age and treats Lady Wyatt with disdain. The next day, Sir Charles is found dead in his library, and perceptive Lily, who has inserted herself into a Bow Street investigation before, immediately suspects foul play. In the end, Lily enlists her disapproving father’s aid to catch the culprit.

Seuss, Diane. [frank: sonnets](#) (Graywolf \$16). WINNER OF THE 2022 PULITZER PRIZE IN POETRY; WINNER OF THE 2021 NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FOR POETRY; WINNER OF THE 2022 PEN/VOELCKER AWARD FOR POETRY COLLECTION; WINNER OF THE 2021 LOS ANGELES TIMES BOOK PRIZE FOR POETRY

Smith, Alexander McCall. [The Man with the Silver Saab](#) (\$16). “In Smith’s delightful third mystery featuring Malmö, Sweden, police detective Ulf Varg, art historian Anders Kindgren has been plagued for months by a series of ‘nasty little events,’ starting with someone stuffing rotten fish into his car hood air vents. Now the stakes have risen. A painting he recently authenticated has been discovered to be a forgery. Certain that a forgery was substituted for the original after his evaluation, Kindgren wants Ulf, the thoughtful, tolerant head of the Department of Sensitive Crimes, to catch the person trying to besmirch his reputation. The gossamer-thin plot is almost irrelevant. The novel’s pleasures lie in Ulf’s philosophical asides and comments on how to live a good, just life.”

Starr, Jason. [The Next Time I Die](#) (Hard Case Crime \$14.95). New York attorney Steven Blitz, the narrator of this intriguing SF thriller in the tradition of Philip K. Dick, is preparing to defend a celebrity artist accused of murdering three men when his manic-depressive wife, Laura, kicks him out, demands a divorce, and reveals she’s having an affair with a woman. En route to stay with his brother, Blitz stops at a gas station, where he sees a brute manhandling a young woman who could be a college student. He’s stabbed when he attempts to intervene. When Blitz awakens after the assault, he’s in a world where he’s recovering from a car crash, not a stabbing, and he and Laura are not only on great terms but have a six-year-old daughter. He learns from the news that though it’s still 2020, Al Gore is president and is trying to avert a nuclear war between India and Pakistan. With his sanity questioned by doctors, friends, and colleagues, Blitz struggles to find out what’s happened to him. As in the best nightmarish noir, Starr ups the ante incrementally, trapping his lead in increasingly worse situations. Fans of TV’s *Life on Mars* will be intrigued.

Tallo, Katie. [Poison Lilies](#) (Harper \$16.99) is the second book in her acclaimed Gus Monet series, which launched with 2020’s [Dark August](#) (\$16.99). After solving her mother’s murder, Gus is keen to carve out a fresh start for herself. She seeks refuge in a

quaint art-deco apartment in an older neighborhood in Ottawa—and quickly becomes fast friends with her elderly neighbor, Poppy Honeywell. Poppy is more than just a slightly eccentric pink kimono-wearing neighbor—she’s related to one of the town’s founding families. And when a body is found in a nearby park, that connection puts her in possible danger—the kind of danger Gus will go out of her way to protect her new friend from. Turns out, Poppy’s family is hiding something, and they’re willing to do anything to keep their secrets buried.

OUR JUNE SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Bentley, Don. [Target Acquired](#) (\$9.99). Jack Ryan, Jr. #8. Taking on a cushy assignment in Israel at the request of Ding Chavez, Jack Ryan Jr. finds himself the target of trained killers after helps a woman and her young son, forcing him to use all his skills to protect the life of the child.

Byron, Ellen. [Bayou Book Thief](#) (Berkley \$8.99). Vintage Cookbook #1. After her husband’s accidental death attempting an internet stunt, Ricki lands a job in New Orleans’ Garden District finding and collecting vintage cookbooks, but one thing Ricki didn’t expect to find in a box of donated cookbooks was a body.

Carlisle, Kate. [Little Black Book](#) (\$8.99). Bibliophile #15. When her friend, Claire, shows up on their doorstep, in disguise and fearing for life, book-restoration expert Brooklyn and her husband must revisit an event in Claire’s past, linked to a rare edition of *Rebecca*, before it destroys all of their futures.

Coben, Harlan. [Win](#) (\$9.99). This high-suspense follow-up to the best-selling *The Boy from the Woods* is presented from the viewpoint of Myron Bolitar’s fan-favorite sidekick, Windsor Horne Lockwood III.

☒Foley, Lucy. [The Guest List](#) (\$9.99). An expertly planned celebrity wedding between a rising television star and an ambitious magazine publisher is thrown into turmoil by petty jealousies, a college drinking game, the bride’s ruined dress, and an untimely murder.

Jance, JA. [Unfinished Business](#) (\$9.99). Ali Reynolds #16. As Ali Reynolds races to both find a connection between two disappearances and help her husband’s former employee Mateo clear his name, tragedy strikes, and she must skillfully navigate between good and evil before it’s too late.

Ryan, Hank Phillippi. [Her Perfect Life](#) (\$9.99). Lily Atwood, a beloved television reporter with fame, fortune, Emmy awards and a young daughter is spooked when the anonymous source who feeds her tips begins suddenly giving her inside information about her own life.

Sullivan, Connor. [Sleeping Bear](#) (\$9.99). Regaining consciousness in a Russian prison, Army veteran Cassie Gale finds herself trapped in a system designed to ensure that no one ever escapes alive, while her father races to rescue her, ties to his past life, one full of secrets, threaten to surface.

JUNE SMALL PAPERBACK S

Alexander, Ellie. [Donut Disturb: A Bakeshop Mystery](#) (St Martins \$8.99). Bakeshop #15. When a wedding crasher shows up on her best friend’s big day, and then a member of the wedding band is murdered, caterer Jules must slice through the clues to serve up some much-needed justice to a marital murderer.

Andrews, Donna. [Murder Most Fowl](#) (\$8.99). Meg Langslow #29. When a filmmaker takes footage of Macbeth, which her husband is producing, that reveals dark secrets about the major players, Meg Langslow, with the filmmaker’s electronic devices destroyed, must uncover the darkest secret of all to expose a killer.

Bush, Nancy. [The Neighbors](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Reluctantly moving to the Villages—a luxury development—as bodyguard to the Carrera family, Mackenzie Laughlin, expecting petty squabbles and drama to be the cause of this job, is instead trapped in world of squalid affairs, sinister disappearances and murder.

Chouinard, M M. [The Dancing Girls](#) (\$8.99). When victims are found in dancing poses, Detective Jo Fournier immediately sees the pattern, but how can a serial killer get to victims all over the country?

Coes, Ben. [The Island](#) (\$9.99). Dewey Andreas #9. When Iranian terrorists blow up the bridges and tunnels that connect Manhattan to the mainland during the President’s visit to the U.N., CIA agent Dewey Andreas, hopeless, outgunned and outmanned, must fight a seemingly impossible battle.

Conte, Cate. [Gone but Not Furgotten](#) (St Martins \$8.99). Cat Café #6. When her friend, master meditator and Tai Chi teacher, Cass Hendricks, brings her to woman who is hoarding cats, Maddie, the owner of JJ’s House of Purrs, discovers the woman dead and makes the fur fly when Cass fall under suspicion.

Cook, Robin. [Viral](#) (\$9.99). With his wife in a coma after contracting a rare and highly lethal mosquito-borne viral disease, Brian vows to seek justice against the hospital and insurance company that won’t cover the costs by exposing the dark side of a ruthless industry and bring down the executives preying on the sick.

Gilstrap, John. [Lethal Game](#) (Kensington \$9.99). Becoming the prey for assassins while hunting in Montana, hostage expert Jonathan Graves and his fellow special-ops veteran, Boxers, discover their nightmare is just beginning, while back in Fisherman’s Cove, Virginia, Jonathan’s team are also fighting for their lives.

Goldstein, Debra H. [Five Belles Too Many](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Sarah Blair #5. When Sarah’s mother Maybelle and her fiancé compete for a small-town “perfect” wedding and dream honeymoon on a Southern Belles reality show, Sarah discovers there’s a murderer on the set who is crashing the competition.

Johansen, Iris. [Silencing Eve](#) (\$9.99). In *Taking Even*, the game began. In *Hunting Eve*, the chase was on. Now, in *Silencing Eve*, the prey is cornered. Will Eve Duncan survive?

☒Jones, Sandie. [The Half Sister](#) (\$9.99). Approached by a secret half-sister they never knew; two close sisters turn against the stranger before uncovering difficult truths about their beloved late father.

Kelly, Diane. [The Proof is in the Poison](#) (Berkley \$8.99). Southern Homebrew #2. While at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Model Train Convention promoting her Southern homebrew moonshine, Hattie Hayes must clear her name in the murder of an attendee by finding the real killer who has clearly gone off the rails.

Lillard, Amy. [Dairy, Dairy, Quite Contrary](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Sunflower Café #1. Returning home to Yoder, Kansas where she helps her aunt run the Sunflower Café, Sissy, who secretly writes an advice column as 70-year-old Bess, needs advice herself when she finds the milk deliveryman out behind the café with a knife in his back.

McMahon, Jennifer. [The Drowning Kind](#) (\$9.99). Investigating an estranged sibling's suspicious drowning at their grandmother's estate, a social worker connects the tragedy to the unsolved case of a housewife who in 1929 allegedly succumbed to the consequences of a wish-granting spring.

Pershing, Amy. [Murder is No Picnic](#) (Berkley \$8.99). Cape Code Foodie #3. When famed cookbook author and retired restaurateur Clara Foster dies in a seemingly accidental house fire, right before the town's July 4th picnic, professional foodie Samantha Barnes' doubts sparks an investigation that leads to an explosive conclusion.

Ross, Barbara. [Muddled Through](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Maine Clambake #10. When an argument over a proposed pedestrian mall ends in murder, Snowden Family Clambake owner Julia sets out to clean up the case as Busman's Harbor, Maine's citizens fight amongst themselves.

Woods, Stuart. [Foul Play](#) (\$9.99). Stone Barrington #59. Stone Barrington is nearing his New York City abode when he stumbles into trouble. As it turns out, a new client is in danger—and with both business and the safety of the city at stake, Stone has no choice but to get involved.