

BOOKNEWS from

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ENJOY YOUR SUMMER READING

Opening Hours M-Fri 10 AM-7 PM; Sat 10 AM-6PM; Sun 12-5 PM

Note: Event times are in Pacific Daylight Time

Note: The events marked "Live" offer Signed books. The virtual events do so when noted

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.

MONDAY JUNE 12 1:00 PM

Fiona Davis discusses [The Spectacular](#) (Dutton \$28)
Our Signed copies come with an exclusive insert

MONDAY JUNE 12 5:00 PM

Polly Stewart with Megan Miranda
Stewart discusses [The Good Ones](#) (Harper \$29.99)
Signed books available

TUESDAY JUNE 13 2:00 PM

Kristan Higgins with John Charles
Higgins discusses [A Little Ray of Sunshine](#) (Berkley \$28 or \$18)

TUESDAY JUNE 13 7:00 PM LIVE

Bill Schweigart and MP Woodward with Don Bentley
Schweigart discusses [The Guilty One](#) (Crooked Lane \$28.99)
A knockout police thriller
Woodward discusses [Dead Drop](#) (Putnam \$28)
And a knockout spy thriller

WEDNESDAY JUNE 14 7:00 PM Live

Alison Gaylin and Wendy Walker
Gaylin discusses [Robert B Parker's Bad Influence](#) (Putnam \$29)
Sunny Randall, Boston PI
Walker discusses [What Remains](#) (Blackstone \$27.99)
A Detective Elise Sutton cold case

FRIDAY JUNE 16 7:00 PM

SciFi Friday discusses TJ Klune's [The House in the Cerulean Sea](#) (\$18.99)

SATURDAY JUNE 17 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger discusses Richard Chizmar's [Chasing the Boogeyman](#) (\$17.99)

SATURDAY JUNE 17 2:00 PM Live

Mary Anna Evans discusses [The Traitor Beside Her](#) (Poisoned Pen \$16.99)
WWII code cracking at Virginia's Arlington Hall

MONDAY JUNE 19 7:00 PM Live

Riley Sager discusses [The Only One Left](#) (Dutton \$28)
A Gothic chiller with a Lizzie Borden-like backstory

TUESDAY JUNE 20 5:00 PM

IS Berry with Joseph Kanon
Berry discusses [The Peacock and the Sparrow](#) (Atria \$28)
A debut spy novel and our June First Mystery Book of the Month

TUESDAY JUNE 20 7:00 PM Live

Matt Goldman and Matthew Quirk
Goldman discusses [A Good Family](#) (Forge \$29.99)
Quirk discusses [Inside Threat](#) (Harper \$29.99)
A DC thriller like his Netflix hit *The Night Agent*

WEDNESDAY JUNE 21 5:00 PM

Sarah Stewart Taylor with Lesa Holstine
Stewart discusses [A Stolen Child](#) (St Martins \$28)
A new Maggie D'arcy Irish mystery
Signed books available

WEDNESDAY JUNE 21 1:00 PM

Anna Lee Huber with John
Huber discusses [A Fatal Illusion](#) (Kensington \$17)
A Lady Darby Mystery, 1832

WEDNESDAY JUNE 21 7:00 PM Live

William Maz discusses [The Bucharest Legacy](#) (Oceanview \$28.95)
CIA agent Bill Hefflin is back in Bucharest

THURSDAY JUNE 22 4:00 PM

Heather Chavez discusses [Before She Finds Me](#) (LittleBrown \$28)
Have assassins hit a college campus?

THURSDAY JUNE 22 6:00 PM

Luis Alberto Urrea discusses [Good Night, Irene](#) (Little Brown \$29)
Signed books available late June

FRIDAY JUNE 23 5:00 PM

Barbara Butcher with Patricia Cornwell
Butcher discusses [What the Dead Know](#) (Simon & Schuster \$28.99)
Real life forensics
Signed books available

SATURDAY JUNE 24 4:00 PM Live

Lisa See discusses [Lady Tan's Circle of Women](#) (Scribner \$28)
Astounding women of the Ming Dynasty
Our June Historical Mystery Book of the Month
Come at 3:30 for Tea

SUNDAY JUNE 25 1:00 PM Live

Paul Doiron discusses [Dead Man's Wake](#) (St Martins \$29)
Maine Game Warden Mike Bowditch
Our Signed copies come with a gorgeous exclusive postcard

MONDAY JUNE 26 6:00 PM

Steve Berry and Grant Blackwood discuss [The 9th Man](#) (Grand Central \$29)
Books signed by both authors available along with an exclusive image

TUESDAY JUNE 27 4:00 PM

Joshua Hood with Mark Greaney
Hood discusses [The Guardian](#) (Blackstone \$26.99)
A private military ops thriller
Signed books available

WEDNESDAY JUNE 28 6:00 PM

Beatriz Williams discusses [The Beach at Summerly](#) (Morrow \$29.99)
Cold War intrigue on Long Island Sound
Signed books available

THURSDAY JUNE 29 5:00 PM

David Bell discusses [Try Not to Breathe](#) (Berkley \$28)
An ex-cop sets out to find her missing sister
Signed books available

THURSDAY JUNE 29 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime discusses Daniel Woodrell's [The Bayou Trilogy](#) (\$16.99)
CLOSED JULY 4

OUR JUNE BOOKS OF THE MONTH

This is a Gift for Dad that repeats every month (for six) right up to the December holidays
We select a book and charge it to you. Free shipping. It's a treat each month, not just on Father's Day.
Email Karen@poisonedpen.com to join

British Crime Club One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month
Mead, Tom. [The Murder Wheel](#)

Cozy Crimes Club One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month
Page, Katherine Hall. [The Body in the Web](#)

The Crime Collectors Book of the Month Club One Signed First Printing per month
Trussoni, Danielle. [The Puzzle Master](#)

First Mystery Club One Signed First Printing per month
Berry, I S. [The Peacock and the Sparrow](#)

Hardboiled/Noir Club
Nesbø, Jo. [Killing Moon](#)

History/Mystery Club One First Printing per month
See, Lisa. [Lady Tan's Circle of Women](#)

Historical Fiction Paperback Club
Larsen, Samantha. [A Novel Disguise](#)

Notable New Fiction One Signed First Printing per month
Törzs, Emma. [Ink, Blood, Sister, Scribe](#) (Harper \$29.99)

International Crime One Unsigned Hardcover or paperback per month
Smith, Martin Cruz. [Independence Square](#)

Romance & Relationships One Unsigned Hardcover or 2 paperbacks per month
Higgins, Kristan. [A Little Ray of Sunshine](#)

SIGNED BOOKS FOR JUNE

Abbott, Megan. [Beware the Woman](#) (Putnam \$28) is a true Gothic set in Michigan's Upper Peninsula which, in its way, is not unlike the classic genre landscape of Cornwall. In themes this tense tale ties to that of Lisa See's magnificent novel reviewed below despite the 600+ year's difference and thousands of miles span in locations. Not just in the medicals, but in questions like do we really know the person we married? And what does a child owe its parents vs. its partner?

Newlyweds and soon-to-be parents Jacy and neon-signmaker Jed embark on a road trip to the UP to visit Jed's father, the retired Dr. Ash. His isolated "cottage" is idyllic and run tightly by the enigmatic Mrs. Brandt. Soon things take a turn for the terrifying when Jacy is struck by a mysterious illness that

renders her housebound. As she recuperates, whispers about Jed's long-dead mother and complicated Ash family history surface and Jacy begins to feel trapped in the cottage. Reviewer Jon Land finds this to be "a superb psychological thriller in all respects, evoking comparisons to nightmarish tales by the likes of Lisa Gardner and Harlan Coben. But there are also echoes of Daphne du Maurier and even Stephen King here, with Lacy serving as a narrator whose reliability is in question."

Bell, David. [Try Not to Breathe](#) (Berkley \$28). "Anna Rogers goes out of her way to avoid her family. She feels embarrassed by her father, a retired cop, and shunned by the rest, who treat her like a pariah. Her half-sister Avery left the police force under difficult circumstances and now works security on a college campus. When Anna disappears and her roommate is murdered,

Avery leaves everything behind to find her sibling. There is more at stake than everyone realizes, as Anna runs from a stalker and the family she doesn't trust. Avery has to overcome a maze of secrets to obtain the answers she seeks, but she soon learns that they should have remained hidden. Bell delivers a perfect beach read with compelling characters and baffling circumstances."—*LJ* recommending this to fans of Lisa Gardner and Hank Phillippi Ryan.

Berry, I.S. [The Peacock and the Sparrow](#) (Atria \$28) is our **June First Mystery Book of the Month**. I chose this not merely insure genre variety, although that is always a goal for this club, but because the prose is absolutely elegant and delicious. Additionally I had the fun of looking up all sorts of words, got a geography lesson about Bahrain, its importance to the US (the Fifth Fleet is headquartered there), and felt like I was in the grip of John Le Carré or Graham Greene for story. It's truly hard to believe this is a first novel.

"In 2012, 52-year-old CIA veteran Shane Collins is assigned to Bahrain's capital city of Manama during the Arab Spring uprisings there. His career is circling the drain, but his young station chief, Whitney Mitchell, is a star on the rise. In order to collect information that proves Iran is fueling the local revolution, Collins has riskily embedded a local agent in a volatile rebel group. Then Collins attends a gala where he's struck by a massive mosaic and again by the beautiful artist who created it, Almaisa. Shane begins a lengthy pursuit of Almaisa, and before long, he's juggling new love, a budding conscience about his work, and bloody complications with his revolutionary informant. Berry herself adds, "Though my book is fiction, the detritus and viscera of my experiences are on every page—in metaphors, semblances, amalgams, all the wonderful devices through which literature allows us to make sense of the world, and, at least for me, confront a few ghosts." [Read this interview](#) with her.

Berry, Steve/Grant Blackwood. [The 9th Man](#) (Grand Central \$29). Signed by both. Luke Daniels is in London, between assignments with the Magellan Billet, when he receives a frantic call from an old friend. Jillian Stein is in trouble. She made a mistake and now her life may be in danger. Racing to Belgium Luke quickly finds that she was right. A shadow team of highly-trained operatives are there on the hunt. Intervening, he finds himself embroiled in a war between two determined factions and races from Belgium, to Luxembourg, to the bayous of Louisiana and the Wyoming wilderness, to a final confrontation in the Bahamas. Thomas Rowland is a Washington insider, a kingmaker, a problem-solver, who was at the center of recorded history. But also at his age a man with a past—and he will go to any lengths to protect what he views as his legacy.

Brazier, Eliza Jane. [Girls and Their Horses](#) (Berkley \$27). Set in the glamorous, competitive world of show jumping, a novel about the girls who ride, their cutthroat mothers, and a suspicious death at a horse show. In fact, "horse mothers" put stage mothers to shame in this wildly entertaining thriller from a rising star we've recommended before. It begins when Texas transplants Heather and Jim Parker buy a \$28 million house in Southern California, and arrive at the nearby Rancho Santa Fe Equestrian Center at the top of the heap. Heather will do anything to help her young teen daughter Maple win the annual horse show, including engaging in full equine combat with top "barn mom" Pamela and her

vicious daughter, Vida. Meanwhile, rumors swirl around Kieran Flynn, the equestrian center's charming owner and head trainer, suspicious accidents pile up gradually—until somebody winds up dead. "Brazier cleverly heightens suspense by declining to reveal the victim's identity until late in the novel, stacking motives and suspects before she finally hits readers with the gruesome murder.

Butcher, Barbara. [What the Dead Know](#) (Scribner \$30). Butcher was early in her recovery from alcoholism when she found an unexpected lifeline: a job at the Medical Examiner's Office in New York City. The second woman ever hired for the role of Death Investigator in Manhattan, she was the first to last more than three months. The work was gritty, demanding, morbid, and sometimes dangerous – she loved it. Here's her riveting, deeply personal memoir of more than twenty years of death-scene investigations by Butcher who has also served as a consultant to Patricia Cornwell, who joins in our virtual event on June 23 5 PM, and several other crime writers.

✠Cornwell, Bernard. [Uhtred's Feast](#) (Collins \$46). For those fans of Cornwell's remarkable action historicals who have seen this novel advertised for now, our copies will not come from London until October when he is there to sign the postponed [Sharpe's Command](#) (\$46) in its special Collector's Edition as well. So please order your copy and wait patiently... it's hard, but it's the best we can do to get these to you in the fall.

Davis, Fiona. [The Spectacular](#) (Dutton \$28). **Our copies will come with an exclusive extra created just for The Pen.** Davis has made an impressive career crafting novels of suspense around major New York cultural and physical landmarks. Here she takes on Radio City Music Hall in, at the outset, 1956, as another young woman seeks the empowerment to fulfill her dreams. Nineteen-year-old dance teacher Marion, feeling trapped by her straitlaced father and her upcoming engagement to what will clearly be a company man, impulsively auditions for the Rockettes and is soon flung into a sequined world of grueling rehearsals, stage glitter, and four shows per day. When an anonymous bomber targets Radio City Music Hall, Marion's glittering new life reveals a dangerous dark side and she is flung into the search for a killer. "*The Spectacular* dazzles from start to finish." —Kate Quinn. And there is indeed a finish years later.

Doiron, Paul. [Dead Man's Wake](#) (St. Martins \$29 June 25). **Our copies come with an exclusive extra created for our prepublication event.** Game Warden Investigator Mike Bowditch and the spirited Stacey are enjoying their engagement party at Mike's stepdad's home on Golden Pond, when the roar of a speedboat on the lake preludes a crash. Rescue efforts bring up a severed arm. But whose is it? Who may have died? What's up at the nearby private island owned by a prestigious Maine family? When the dive team recovers not one but two bodies, several sets of investigators go to work with the usual conflicts.... This splendid series set all over Maine is absolutely perfect for readers of CJ Box's Joe Pickett novels. You've time to order [the whole Mike Bowditch series](#) before Paul arrives at The Pen on June 25

✠Edwards, Martin. [Sepulchre Street](#) (Head of Zeus \$40). Just 3 left of this glamorous Golden Age Gothic mystery from Diamond Dagger winner Edwards. London, 1930s: Rachel Savernake is attending renowned artist Damaris Gethin's latest exhibition, featuring live models who pose as famous killers. But that's just

the warm-up act... Unsure why she was invited, Rachel is soon cornered by the artist who asks her a haunting favor: she wants Rachel to solve her murder. Damaris then takes to the stage set with a guillotine, the lights go out—and Damaris executes herself. Why would Damaris take her own life? And, if she died by her own hand, what did she mean by ‘solve my murder’? Edwards has once again included the Golden Age readers’ challenge. “Reads as if Ruth Rendell were channeling Edgar Wallace.”—Mick Herron

Evans, Mary Anna. [The Traitor Beside Her](#) (Poisoned Pen \$16.99). The *Washington Post* includes this in “[Five Inspiring Historical Novels](#)” thus: “Mary Anna Evans sets her cinematic novel in Arlington Hall, a former women’s college in Virginia where female code breakers worked during World War II. Using their knowledge of languages, math and science, these women decrypted enemy messages and are believed to have helped coordinate the D-Day attacks. Evans, who co-edited a book about Agatha Christie, lays out a Christie-inspired closed-room mystery set against the backdrop of the code breakers’ work. Government agents Justine Byrne, a math prodigy, and Georgette Broussard, who speaks fluent Choctaw, infiltrate Arlington Hall as they investigate who there is passing messages to America’s enemies. Ferreting out a traitor is a common trope, but Evans’s characters are vividly drawn, elevating this story and its revelations about women’s little-celebrated contributions to the war effort.”

Evans began her WWII mysteries with [The Physicist’s Daughter](#) (\$16.99) and published her wonderful Faye Longchamp archaeological mysteries with Poisoned Pen Press. **Here are some Signed First Print Hardcover in that series (\$25 each): Burials; Catacombs; Isolation; Rituals; Undercurrents.**

Freeman, Dianne. [A Newlywed’s Guide to Fortune and Murder](#) (Kensington \$27). American-born widow Frances Hazelton, Countess of Harleigh, finds her wedding and honeymoon disrupted when two American robber baron families come to London to mingle with the English upper crust. Their rivalries are vicious. The daughter of one is invited to attend the nuptials by Frances’ brother Alonzo while her mother invites one of the other. Murder ensues and Alonzo is the chief suspect. This is a new chapter in an award-winning historical cozy series.

Gaylin, Alison. [Robert B Parker’s Bad Influence](#) (Putnam \$29 June 14). Sunny Randall’s newest client, Blake, seems to have it all: he is an Instagram influencer, with all the perks the lifestyle entails—a beautiful girlfriend, wealth, and adoring fans. But one of those fans has turned ugly, and Sunny is brought on board by Blake’s manager, Bethany, to protect him and to uncover who is out to kill him. In doing so, she investigates a glamorous world rife with lies and schemes...and ties to a dangerous criminal scene. Gaylin takes over this series from Mike Lupica, who in turn will take over the Spenser series from Ace Atkins.

Goldman, Matt. [The Good Family](#) (Forge \$29.99 June 20). I’ve been a slave to Goldman’s brilliantly plotted novels from the beginning and here he doesn’t disappoint. The Emmy-Award, and Shamus-nominated Award Goldman, a Minnesotan, places the action in Edina, Minnesota, in a posh country club neighborhood where Kate Kuhlmann’s happy marriage may be falling apart as her devoted high-flying husband turns oddly wayward. Then Jack’s old chum Adam Ross, aka Bagman, appears after years of absence and Jack offers him their guest

house suite for a short stay. Kate is uneasy about their guest but even more uneasy, as are the kids, when Jack... well... you just have to read this—it’s not a domestic suspense dramedy but a real thriller marked with Goldman’s trademark twists. Highly recommended.

Haven, Josh. [The Siberia Job](#) (Penzler \$26.95) is based on true events which will amaze you as this tricky plot rooted in the Soviet Union of over 30 years ago seems as if it could only be complete fiction. After the demise of the Soviet Union, the newly-established Russian government privatized its industry by issuing vouchers to all of its citizens, allowing them the chance to be shareholders in the country’s burgeoning businesses. What could go wrong? Well the auctions at which these vouchers are traded for actual shares in Gazneft have been planned to take place at the most remote, inaccessible locations possible to deter outsiders from buying in. And when the Russian mafia and the oligarchs in charge of Gazneft catch wind of their successes, the stakes become suddenly more deadly. Nelson DeMille says, “*The Siberia Job* is one of the most original, well-written, and best-plotted post-Cold War stories I’ve read in years. Should be required reading for Washington’s policy makers. A groundbreaking novel that redefines the conventional action/adventure, chase and escape genre.” Martin Cruz Smith is in, adding, “A terrific post-Soviet thriller, distinguished by its portrayal of the wild potential of 1990s Russia and the subversion of that potential into pure corruption, the consequences of which continue to reverberate in the present day.”

Haven is the author of 2022 First Mystery Pick [Fake Money, Blue Smoke](#) (signed sold out) and as JH Gelernter is the author of [Hold Fast, Captain Grey’s Gambit](#) (\$25.95 each), and coming in August, [The Montevideo Brief](#) (Norton \$28). This latter is one of my favorite series, featuring Britain’s Captain Thomas Grey during the Napoleonic Wars and a sure thing for fans of Bernard Cornwell and Patrick O’Brian.

Heaberlin, Julia. [Night Will Find You](#) (Flatiron \$27.99). Our Pat King and the Croak & Dagger Book Discussion Club could not stop raving about [We Are All the Same in the Dark](#) (\$17), Heaberlin’s last novel. Now she pairs a scientist and a reluctant psychic to find a girl who went missing long ago. Vivvy Bouchet, daughter of a known psychic, was ten when she saved a boy’s life by making an impossible prediction. Now she’s an astrophysicist in Texas, devoted to science, but the boy she saved has become a cop who continues to believe she can see things no one else can. When he begs for help on the high-profile cold case of a kidnapped girl, Vivvy steps back into the ocean of voices that once nearly drowned her. She is forced to team up with detective Jesse Sharp, a skeptic of anything but fact. When Vivvy becomes the target of a conspiracy theorist podcaster, she fights back with both her scientific mind and her inexplicable gifts, hoping to lure a kidnapper, find a child who haunts her, and lay some of her own ghosts to rest..

Hood, Joshua. [The Guardian](#) (Blackstone \$26.99 June 27 with Mark Greaney). As a member of the elite Air Force Pararescue, Travis Lane abides by the motto “These things we do, that others may live.” After an injury forces him to consider retirement, he is blindsided when his brother-in-law is killed in the line of duty, leaving Lane as the sole support for his sister and the family farm they can no longer afford. Desperate for something to help them keep the farm, Lane accepts an offer to join Broadside Solutions,

a private company with specially trained military operatives who provide protection for clients all over the world. But it's trial by fire when his first mission takes him to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to find and retrieve a kidnapped American in the middle of a densely forested jungle....

Juliano, Jimmy. [Dead Eleven](#) (Dutton \$28). Maybe June's most flat-out fascinating release is this mystery/horror hybrid from debut author Juliano. The gist: Grieving mother Willow Stone has just arrived on Clifford Island, off Wisconsin's Door County Peninsula, where the citizens adhere to a bizarre routine: Everyone seems to be stuck in the year 1994. The clothes are old, the tech is outdated, and every night the town gathers to watch the OJ Simpson chase on TV. When people start to disappear entirely, it's clear that something deeply weird is unfolding. Young islander Lily is sick of the twisted mythology and rules, convinced it's all a sham. But are they?

✚Khavari, Kate. [The Botanist's Guide to Flowers and Fatality](#) (Crooked Lane \$27.99). 1920s London isn't the ideal place for a brilliant woman with lofty ambitions. But research assistant Saffron Everleigh is determined to beat the odds in a male-dominated field at the University College of London. Saffron embarks on her first research study alongside the insufferably charming Dr. Michael Lee, traveling the countryside with him in response to reports of poisonings. But when Detective Inspector Green is given a case with a set of unusual clues, he asks for Saffron's assistance. The victims, all women, received bouquets filled with poisonous flowers. Digging deeper, Saffron discovers that the bouquets may convey hidden messages through floriography ([the language of flowers](#)), still flourishing after its Victorian heyday. Loved Saffron's debut in 2022 Historical Mystery Pick [A Botanist's Guide to Parties and Poisons](#) (\$17.99).

Maden, Mike. [Clive Cussler Fire Strike](#) (Putnam \$29.95). I've always liked Maden's style and his command of military and operations tech. He outdoes himself here from the opening action scene where the Oregon Files lead actor Juan Cabrillo infiltrates a seemingly impregnable "held for ransom" headquarters in Tajikistan to rescue a CIA asset (a scene straight out of a Daniel Craig James Bond movie), to a penetration of the deep Amazon rainforest to find a genetically pure pod of natives, to extracting an Israeli undercover operative in Kenya, and more as Cabrillo finds himself on the trail of a deadly international plot. A Saudi Prince seeks to unleash a deadly assault on U.S. forces, sparking a new war in the Middle East and ultimately destroying Israel. And the Oregon team members, who are essentially mercenaries for hire but always in US interests, continue to an abandoned monastery in Eritrea before a final showdown in the mountains of Yemen. It's a broad stage, strewn with high tech, and a load of fun. In short, an ideal summer read. And no need to have read the earlier entries in this series so a good gift for Dad if he likes high action adventure.

Patrick has acquired more earlier books signed by Clive: email Patrick@poisonedpen.com for information.

Maz, William. [The Bucharest Legacy](#) (Oceanview \$28.95 June 21). The CIA is rocked to its core when a KGB defector divulges that there is a KGB mole inside the Agency. They learn that the mole's handler is a KGB agent known as Boris. CIA analyst Bill Hefflin recognizes that name—Boris is the code name of Hefflin's longtime KGB asset. If the defector is correct, Hefflin

realizes Boris must be a triple agent, Hefflin is given a chance to prove his innocence by returning to his city of birth, Bucharest, Romania, to find Boris and track down the identity of the mole. He's quickly immersed in a cauldron of spies and crooked politicians. But Hefflin has a secret that no one else knows—Boris has been dead for over a year. We were all crazy for last year's [The Bucharest Dossier](#), a much praised Historical Mystery Book of the Month set in the 1980s.

Nesbø, Jo. [Killing Moon](#) (Knopf \$29). With its opening in Los Angeles where brilliant rogue police investigator Harry Hole is working on drinking himself to death, this latest investigation is catnip for Connelly fans. And there's no need to have read an earlier Hole to enjoy this one. In time Hole returns to Oslo as an outsider assembling his own team to help find a serial killer who is murdering young women, but the idea of collaborating with Hole is out of the question for the police. The real-estate magnate, a chief suspect, on the other hand wants to hire Harry as a private investigator to clear his name from the case.

Page, Katherine Hall. [The Body in the Web](#) (Morrow \$30). **Our June Cozy Crimes Club Pick** is the latest in the intelligent series anchored by caterer Faith Fairchild who lives with her family headed by Reverend Tom in Aleford, Massachusetts, but is ever tied to her earlier life in Manhattan. I love the way Page maneuvers the pandemic with ordinary life in a resilient community made lively with things like town hall zooms. It is at one of these town hall zooms that scandal breaks out as damaging images suddenly flash upon everyone's screens. Claudia, local art teacher and Faith's dear friend, is immediately recognized as the woman who has been targeted. When Claudia is later discovered dead, Faith, with the help of her friends, journeys deep into the dark web to unravel the threads of Claudia's mysterious history....

Pochoda, Ivy. [Sing Her Down](#) (Farrar \$23). The WSJ gives over [an entire column](#) to a rave: "... The book starts in an Arizona women's prison, where the threat of viral death has increased the tension in a place already rife with paranoia and rage." And ends with "Ms. Pochoda fuses elements of several subgenres—psychological thriller, procedural novel, hard-boiled crime saga, even magical-realism fable—to craft an imaginative chronicle of an apocalyptic season. Like the damaged souls that populate its pages, the book defies pigeonholing. *Sing Her Down* is unforgettable." At its core are two women, one of whom is determined to force the other to acknowledge her true self. *No Country for Old Men* **meets** *Killing Eve*.

Qiu, Xiaolong. [Love and Murder in the Time of Covid](#) (Severn \$31.99) is a provocative and timely story with a whodunit kicker. Celebrated poet Qiu uses his vivid art to illuminate the quest of Chen Cao, once the chief inspector of the Shanghai Police Bureau but out of favor with the CCP, to fuse a collection of recent deaths near the hospital to a hunt for a serial killer. Using inside connections, the Washington University professor author confirms that the pandemic has pushed China toward even stricter regulations, echoing 1984's *Big Brother* in a motif threaded through the novel. As his title's nod to Gabriel García Márquez already hints, Qiu's 13th Inspector Chen mystery is both more literary and more political than earlier books in the series. Relevant literary references, quotations, and poems are peppered generously throughout, from Dante to *Doctor Zhivago* to Yeats to *Animal Farm* to several Chinese poets. This structure allows Qiu

“to view the Covid pandemic through a haunting literary lens.” I have loved reading Qiu from his debut in the Anthony Award winner *Death of a Red Heroine* and tracing through his work the increasing totalitarianism of China under Xi and One Party Rule.

Quirk, Matthew. [Inside Threat](#) (Harper \$29.99 June 20). Quirk returns to the world of the U.S. Secret Service in this page-turning thriller. Agent Eric Hill, stuck on temporary desk duty after a physical confrontation with a cabinet official, is fed up with D.C. politics and contemplating retirement when an attack on the White House sends the President and his top aides to take shelter in a top secret government facility buried deep underground—but they soon discover the threat is locked inside with them. Quirk is the author of the Netflix hit *The Night Agent* and has more film news so anyone interested in books to film should plan to attend this stellar evening. Matt has signed all his books with us and we are thrilled to see his career take off like a rocket.

Read [this interview with him](#) about *The Night Agent*... fascinating.

Sager, Riley. [The Only One Left](#) (Dutton \$28 June 19). *At seventeen, Lenora Hope, Hung her sister with a rope...* A haunted house looms large in this hair-raising Neo-Gothic thriller about a young caregiver assigned to work for a woman accused of a savage 1929 Lizzie Borden-like massacre. The narrative unfolds inside a crumbling mansion with an unfortunate appellation: Hope's End. The infamous Hope Family Murders are only remembered as a schoolyard chant. Lenora Hope, the only family member to survive the murders, was always suspected of carrying out the deed — she maintained her innocence, though, and the police were never able to prove her guilt. Six decades later, it's 1983 and the case lives on in whispered retellings and morbid schoolyard chants. Lenora is in her 70s, wheelchair-bound and living out her remaining days in her family's crumbling seaside mansion. Enter Kit McDeere, who arrives at the mansion as a caretaker for Lenora. When Lenora, who communicates by tapping out sentences on a typewriter, signals she's ready to tell her story, Kit agrees to help. Lenora's first message: “I want to tell you everything.” Oh, dear. It's impossible to discuss this novel without spoilers. So think *Fall of the House of Usher*, *The Brontës*, *Rebecca*, Lizzie Borden, and Anna Quindlen's best book... what a mix.

Schweigart, Bill. [The Guilty One](#) (Crooked Lane \$28.99 June 13). Here is an absolute knockout of a crime novel going unheralded...so our job is to read it and bring it to your attention. I am prompted by Nick Petrie, calls this “A fast, fun, incredibly thrilling novel, as well as a compelling argument for the necessity of police work and a deep examination of its costs.” And by ardent fan Don Bentley, who is turning up to host Schweigart so strong is his commitment. What are we set to enjoy here?

Right after Patrol Officer Cal Farrell successfully deals with a mentally ill vagrant who's making a nuisance of himself in the Old Town section of Alexandria, Virginia, he's dispatched to the scene of an active shooter in a nearby office building. Cal is later credited with killing the shooter, but he has no memory of doing so. Immediately promoted to detective and praised as a hero by the press, Cal is shunned by fellow detectives who believe he didn't deserve his promotion. Wracked with imposter syndrome, he receives mandatory treatment from the

department's psychologist. Six months later more murder victims follow, all of whom turn out to be tied to Cal. Knowing himself to be isolated, an outsider in his department, Cal risks all to figure out what's going on. Good luck to you in the quest—I was truly surprised!

See, Lisa. [Lady Tan's Circle of Women](#) (Scribner \$28 June 24). **This is our June Historical Mystery of the Month** (Remember, See's first three novels were all murder mysteries). It's a June Indie Next Pick, and so far has earned a starred review from *Booklist*, and rave reviews from *Kirkus Reviews*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Katie Couric Media*, and *Arizona Daily Star*. Upcoming reviews and coverage include *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Associated Press*, *AARP*, *The Washington Post*, and many more. I could say it's my favorite book of June.

See bases this novel on book of medical cases of Ming Dynasty physician Lady Tan Yunxian published in 1511 and will immerse you once again in a fascinating bygone culture. Incredibly, despite historical China's restrictive patriarchal structures, some of Tan Yunxian's remedies survive to the present day. I read it in one sitting and can't begin to detail all the features See weaves into this incredible story. They include family structures (wives and concubines), pregnancy and childbirth, other medical issues, rigid social traditions, travel, a real crime, and a shocker See tells me she is immensely proud of. Plus for those who loved her mega-bestseller [Snow Flower and the Secret Fan](#) (\$17), foot-binding—in 1469, Yunxian's mother teaches her eight-year-old daughter how to care for her agonizing bound feet, as well as her place in the world—is revisited in its cultural and medical and sexual aspects.

Smiley, Jane. [The Questions That Matter Most](#) (Harper \$28). Tip-ins. This is not a novel. The Pulitzer winner and observer of the craft of writing here gathers essays (and two stories) “composed with wit, enthusiasm, expertise, and candor [...] Smiley's agile, seemingly blithe inquiries are wryly incisive, ethically rigorous, and propelled by her profound passion for literature as an endless source of illumination and liberation.”

Soule, Charles. [The Endless Vessel: Reading, Writing and the Exercise of Freedom](#) (Heyday \$28). Tip-ins. A few years from now, in a world similar to ours, there exists a sort of “depression plague” that people refer to simply as “The Grey.” No one can predict whom it will afflict, or how, but once infected, there's no coming back. A young Hong Kong based scientist, Lily Barnes, is trying to maintain her inner light in an increasingly dark world. One day, Lily comes across something that seems to be addressing her directly, calling to her, asking her to follow a path to whatever lies at its end. Is this the Endless Vessel to happiness? She leaves her life behind and sets out through time and space to find out.

Stewart, Polly. [The Good Ones](#) (Harper \$29.99). In this debut, a classic Southern Gothic tale, a young mother vanishes from her Appalachian hometown leaving little more than rumors and blood-stained carpets in her wake. Her overeducated and true-crime obsessed childhood friend is left to uncover what really happened in this stylish and totally compelling mystery that is as concerned with finding a missing woman as it is with challenging our assumptions about motherhood. This is an excellent book for fans of Megan Miranda who is joining me in a virtual event with Stewart on June 12. Megan in turn is a fan here.

Taylor, Sarah Stewart. [A Stolen Child](#) (St Martins \$28). Our own Lesa Holstine gives this a star for *Library Journal*: Maggie D'arcy resigned from her job as a homicide detective on Long Island and moved to Dublin, Ireland, with her daughter. A year and a half later, she's completed her time at Garda Training College, but despite her long career, she's back to walking a beat with a partner. When they're called for a domestic dispute on a Saturday night, the woman who answers the door reports nothing wrong. Several days later, though, they arrive at the same apartment, where Jade Elliott has been murdered. While they wait for the Garda's criminal investigation team to show up, Maggie realizes there are signs of a child, but no little one on site. The murder of Jade, a former model, will make the news, but the priority is the nationwide hunt for her two-year-old, Laurel. Maggie's friend, Detective Inspector Roly Byrne, pulls her onto his team to assist with the case. She's frustrated to be relegated to minor tasks, but she's present for every twist and turn in the case, complicated by the cover-ups from the victim's family and friends. The follow-up to *The Drowning Sea* takes the series in a new direction; it's a step-by-step riveting police procedural filled with red herrings." I am so on board with Lesa's take on this new chapter in a series that places an outsider in a new environment and relationship and navigates both. Highly recommended.

Törzs, Emma. [Ink, Blood, Sister, Scribe](#) (Harper \$29.99). Just 5 left of this June Good Morning America Book Club Pick. "There is magic of all kinds on each page of *Ink Blood Sister Scribe*: grisly body horror magic; romantic, confectionary fairy tale magic; and the binding, consuming magic of family and what it means to belong. I am still under its spell!" In Törzs' spellbinding fantasy debut, our **June Notable New Fiction Book of the Month**, Törzs' spellbinding fantasy debut imagines a parallel Earth where gruesome magical spell books are written with the blood and bodies of people known as Scribes. The magic system is built on a familiar foundation—magical books and secret groups that make and collect them—but the details are inventive. "*Ink Blood Sister Scribe* is so many things at once: an adventure, a puzzle, a twisty thriller, and a tender romance. It's a magical book about the magic of books; I adored it." —Alix E. Harrow

Trussoni, Danielle. [The Puzzle Master](#) (Random \$27). OMG, puzzles, codes, conspiracies—our **June Crime Collectors Book of the Month** is a literary *DaVinci Code*—like thriller. A traumatic football injury in high school changed the life of Mike Brink, causing acquired savant syndrome, a rare medical condition where the person obtains extraordinary intellectual abilities. Since that time, Mike has become a genius at puzzles and has devoted himself to puzzle creation and mathematics. This ability envelops him in a centuries-old puzzle that holds a secret that could change humankind. He is on borrowed time to solve the mystery and save the life of the mysterious woman he loves. The adventure takes him from a New York prison, to a rare-book library, to the very height of the high-tech world of cybersecurity. "This page-turner incorporates motifs of religion, security, meaningfulness, and loss into a mystical narrative that traverses different centuries focused on the same puzzle quest."—*LJ*. The author lives in Mexico but we caught her in NYC to sign out copies for you.

Urrea, Luis Alberto. [Good Night, Irene](#) (Little Brown \$29). Pulitzer Prize and Edgar winner Urrea says of this June

bestseller and Indie Next Pick: "My book is a novel based on the experiences of my mom, and the dozens of other women who were part of the Red Cross Clubmobile Corps. I used their letters and scrapbooks to imagine a different kind of war story, a different kind of hero. I hope my novel illuminates their experiences and puts these fantastic women back into the historical record. They are armed only with coffee urns and a donut fryer, and sustained by an immediate and deep friendship. Irene, fleeing an abusive fiancé in New York, and Dorothy, so enraged by her brother's death at Pearl Harbor that she abandons her family's Indiana farm, commit to serving in a role available to women in 1943—Red Cross Clubmobile staff. They become "a perfect donut-coffee machine" team in their two-tone truck-kitchen, entering Europe after D-Day. There's an accident. Eventually Irene goes home to rebuild a life marred with survivor's guilt and shell shock... Urrea bookends the wrenching narrative with a surprising discovery 50 years later. A Starred Review calls it "a moving and graceful tribute to friendship and to heroic women who have shouldered the burdens of war."

Vergheese, Abraham. [The Covenant of Water](#) (Grove \$32). Vergheese is dropping in to sign our copies, all later printings as our firsts sold out to the International Club in May. Put this big bestseller "on your bookcase next to *A Passage to India* by E.M. Forster or anything by the brave and brilliant Salman Rushdie. Indeed, put it next to any great novel of your choice. Sprawling, passionate, tragic and comedic at turns. Vergheese, probably the best doctor-writer since Anton Chekhov, upends all of our expectations.... "A literary landmark, a monumental treatment of family and country, as sprawling in scope as Edna Ferber's *Giant* . . . Writing with compassion and insight, Vergheese creates distinct characters in Dickensian profusion, and his language is striking; even graphic descriptions of medical procedures are beautifully wrought. Plus Kerala and the curse of the family fated to drowning are amazing territory to explore.

Walker, Wendy. [What Remains](#) (Blackstone \$27.99 June 14). Detective Elise Sutton is drawn to cold cases. She looks for cracks in the surface and has become an expert on how murderers slip up and give themselves away. She has dedicated her life to creating a sense of order, at work, at home with her family, and within, battling her demons. Thus Elise has everything under control, until one afternoon, when she walks into a department store and is forced to make a terrible choice: to save one life, she will have to take another. Elise is hailed as a hero, but she doesn't feel like one. Steeped in guilt, and on a leave of absence from work, she's numb, even to her husband and daughters, until she connects with Wade Austin, the tall man whose life she saved. But Elise soon realizes that he isn't Wade Austin....

Ware, Ruth. [Zero Days](#) (Gallery \$29.99). A married couple whose business it is to test security by breaking into offices etc to expose weaknesses in defense is on a mission one night, she doing the B&E, he monitoring it and systems with tech. It's touch and go, but a go, but oddly he goes off line at the end. When she arrives home, exhausted and after meandering a bit across London, she finds him dead, his throat cut. And herself, with no real alibi, the focus of police interest. It goes from there. Lots of adrenaline here and some high action. I found the crux of it, the bad actor, to be obvious but as a portrait of grief this is truly wrenching. And of resilience, uplifting.

Williams, Beatriz. [The Beach at Summerly](#) (Harper \$29.99) takes readers back to a mid-century rich with secrets and Cold War intrigue. Williams says she based the story on no single person or incident during the Cold War but on a range of them. But one is loosely modeled upon Ursula Kuczynski of the GRU. Being Williams she frames this 1946-56 mix of family secrets, social divides, romances/sex, women with or seeking agency, found families as we would say today, and treason on Winthrop Island in Long Island Sound, a fictional enclave introduced earlier in her *The Summer Wives* and inspired by actual Fishers Island, a summer retreat for wealthy Easterners but year-round residence for the islanders. And imagines that a Soviet spy could well operate safely off the Sound's eastern edge. Lord, they smoke a lot—it's easy to forget how much smoking was a part of the social fabric. Emilia, known as Cricket, is a complex lead character.

Woodward, M P. [Dead Drop](#) (Putnam \$27 June 13). In Woodward's lively sequel to 2022's *The Handler*, CIA senior operations officer Meredith Morris-Dale hopes to reconcile her failed marriage to retired agent John Dale and bring him back into service. There are several stumbling blocks, not the least of which is Lieutenant Colonel Kasem Khalidi, the Iranian intelligence officer the CIA has hidden away in one of its safe houses. As always, John and Meredith Dale are caught in the middle. Mossad—the Israeli intelligence agency—wants Meredith's help to find the lead Iranian rocket scientist; while John is in a desperate race to keep Kasem one step ahead of an Iranian hit squad. "A former naval intelligence officer, Woodward brings an insider's authentic depiction of espionage tradecraft" and with more-than-capable female operatives.

UNSIGNED EVENT BOOKS

Chavez, Heather. [Before She Finds Me](#) (LittleBrown \$28). When Julia Bennett agreed to help her daughter move to college, she knew move-in day would be rough — she just didn't expect it to be marred by an on-campus attack or that she'd be forced to save her daughter's life. Ren Petrovic, soon to be a mother herself, leads an unconventional life as an expert assassin. And while she didn't carry out the attack on campus that day, she knows her equally deadly husband was there. What Ren can't figure out is why her husband never told her about the hit, and why that one woman in the crowd reacted so differently from everyone else. Julia and Ren will do whatever it takes to protect their families and unearth the truth, even if it means ending up in the other woman's crosshairs. Smart, surprising, and suffused with complex characters,

☞Huber, Anna Lee. [A Fatal Illusion](#) (Kensington \$17). Yorkshire, England. August 1832. Relations between Sebastian Gage and his father have never been easy, especially since the discovery that Lord Gage has been concealing the existence of an illegitimate son. But when Lord Gage is nearly fatally attacked on a journey to Scotland, Sebastian and Kiera race to his side. Given the tumult over the recent passage of the Reform Bill and the Anatomy Act, in which Lord Gage played a part, Sebastian wonders if the attack could be politically motivated. But something suspicious is afoot in the sleepy village where Lord Gage is being cared for. The townspeople treat Sebastian and Kiera with hostility when it becomes clear they intend to investigate, and rumors of mysterious disappearances and

highway robberies plague the area. Lord Gage's survival is far from assured, and Sebastian and Kiera must scramble to make the pieces fit before a second attempt at murder succeeds. I have been a fan of this intelligent and well written series since the first; this entry is #11. You can [order them all](#) and binge read all summer.

BOOKS FOR DAD

Don't forget the [Poisoned Pen Gift Card](#). It's flexible and can be for any dollar amount or for a specific book that might deliver late or not yet be published. You can ask for a special Father's Day design with a request in the comments field.

Also signing Dad up for a [Book of the Month Club](#) shows Dad your love every month for as long as the membership last. Email Karen@poisonedpen.com to enroll him and we will send an acknowledgement. It's not too late to catch the June Club selections.

Ackerman, Jennifer. [What an Owl Knows](#) (Penguin \$30). Ackerman turns her attention to owls, which continue to captivate and inspire us—even though there is much we have yet to learn about these majestic creatures. Owls, she writes, are "powerful symbols" in many cultures, frequently depicted in literature and art. "Owls are hard to study in the wild for some of the same reasons we love them," writes the author. "They're quiet, wary, secretive, and often elusive." Ackerman shares recent discoveries by researchers using new tools and technologies as well as her personal observations from the field. Fascinating food for thought for owl seekers and sure to please any lover of immersive treks into the lives of birds.

Bremzen, Anya Von. [National Dish: Around the World in Search of Food, History, and the Meaning of Home](#) (Penguin \$29).

With multiple cookbooks and James Beard awards to her name, von Bremzen is a knowledgeable tour guide on a journey to six culinary capitals around the world to explore why certain foods become associated with particular cultures. Whether she's getting lost in loud, crowded Italian streets while searching for the most exquisite pasta, dining on ramen amid Japanese septuagenarians or making mole for an unexpected fiesta in Oaxaca, von Bremzen nimbly separates fact from "fakelore" to divine what is important behind the association of cuisine with geography — the character of a place and the memories of those who live there.

Davis, Wes. [American Journey](#) (Norton \$30). Road trip! In this somewhat nostalgic portrait of a lost rural America, Davis portrays the touching friendships that sprang up among automobile tycoon Henry Ford, naturalist John Burroughs, inventor Thomas Edison, and tire industrialist Harvey Firestone as they took road trips together in Ford's miraculous vehicle, exploring parts of rural America that had been largely inaccessible.

Donati, Alba. [Diary of a Tuscan Bookshop](#) (Scribner \$17.99). Beware. This may give Dad an irresistible desire to open a small bookstore. It's the tale of an Italian book publicist and poet who "launched a [successful] crowd funding campaign on Facebook to open a bookshop in a tiny village in the mountains." Donati constructs her story as a series of journal entries from January to June 2021, when pandemic regulations in Italy were still in constant flux and the bookstore was holding its own with the help of local volunteers and a steady mail-order business. Each of the dozens of entries ends with a catalog of books ordered on that day... British and American titles hold their own with Italian

ones, and Emily Dickinson calendars and novels by Fannie Flag reveal a surprising popularity. While each of the entries is loosely anchored by the homely events of that day—whether that means planting some clover in the garden or welcoming a few guests on days when travel is permitted—Donati doesn't confine herself to the present. She meditates on the books she likes (and dislikes).

Finkel, Michael. [The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession](#) (Knopf \$28). This is the #1 Indie Next Pick for June but doesn't publish until June 27. So like many books in this section, order Dad a GIFT CARD for this specific book which we will ship to him when it arrives. “*The Art Thief* looks into the mind of one of the most successful art thieves in history. It's a terrific psychological study of a true aesthete, and a look into how he was found and how laws changed after him. A fascinating, compelling tale!”

Herold, Korie. [My Bucket List Journal](#) (Tate Company \$19.95). Whether it's revenge travel or retirement dreaming or just wanting to get a move on, this journal will help keep track of goals and then record them when met. It can be a couples' project.

Lewis, Ramsey. [Gentleman of Jazz](#) (Blackstone \$25.99). President Obama and the Rolling Stones' Steve Jordan enthuse over Ramsey Lewis's life and professional career. In this memoir, beginning with his childhood growing up in Chicago's Cabrini Green neighborhood, Lewis recounts his memories of the music in his parents' church and his early piano lessons. As he learned classical technique, Lewis also absorbed countless jazz records and heard gospel music weekly, finally becoming a performer himself in his teenage years. With his coauthor and collaborator, Aaron Cohen, Lewis describes his early steps in jazz from joining the Clefs in the '50s, to eventually establishing the Ramsey Lewis Trio. This memoir provides an evocative tour of Lewis's life from the club circuit of the early 1960s and recording with Chess Records to working with producer Maurice White and musicians such as Stevie Wonder.

McCarthy, Andrew. [Walking with Sam](#) (Grand Central \$28). A divorced dad, a travel writer with 3 NY Times bestsellers and an editor at Nat Geo, and an actor of renown, sets out to walk the Camino de Santiago with his son Sam in hopes of getting to know each other better as adults. 500 miles allows time for plenty of friction, insights, and adventures. This is also a vivid travel memoir. I've walked a part of the Camino and spent several days in Santiago de Compostela so I can say McCarthy is an accurate, astute observer.

Puckette, Madeline. [Wine Folly Magnum Edition](#) (Penguin \$37). This ever popular guide for wine lovers is hard to keep in stock. And it's a handsome volume adding to its charm as a gift.

Sevigny, Melissa L. [Brave the Wild River](#) (Norton \$30). Ok, men may not warm to books by women about women's achievements, but make Dad the exception by giving him an absolutely enthralling guide to the watershed and landscapes and the challenges of navigating the Colorado River while discovering unknown plants. (Maps and nifty photos included). In 1938 Elzada Clover and Lois Jotter, along with their guide, Norm Nevills, and a few other crew members, traveled 43 days in rowboats. They started in Green River, Utah, and then through Cataract Canyon, Glen Canyon, and the Grand Canyon before

ending at Lake Mead. Surviving various perils, and cataloguing cacti and such as they went, they finally reached the entrance of the Grand Canyon. Scared, but resolved, they decided “they had no choice now but to brave the wild river.” Drawing from the crew's letters and journals, Flagstaff's Sevigny, a science journalist for AZ Public Radio, brings you directly into the boats and introduces us to many of plants that Clover and Jotter surveyed and collected. Vividly written with intense enthusiasm, this may be a tribute to two brave women of science but it's also a story to inspire Dad to make a journey of his own.

Shapiro. [Father Figure: How to Be a Feminist Dad](#) (\$31.50). When it comes to books about parenting *identity*, rather than the nuts and bolts of raising children, nearly all are about what it's like to be a mother. Drawing on research in sociology, economics, philosophy, gender studies, and the author's own experiences, *Father Figure* sets out to fill that gap. It's an exploration of the psychology of fatherhood from an archetypal perspective as well as a cultural history that challenges familiar assumptions about the origins of so-called traditional parenting roles. What paradoxes and contradictions are inherent in our common understanding of dads?

Siber, Kate. [100 Hikes of a Lifetime](#) (National Geographic \$35). Here's a hiker's bucket list ranging all over at all levels and rife with Nat Geo's always gorgeous photos.

CLASSICS

Futelle, Jacques. [The Thinking Machine](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.99). This Library of Congress Crime Classic with an Introduction by series editor Leslie S. Klinger features Professor August S.F.X. Van Dusen, aka The Thinking Machine. To him no challenge can withstand the application of logic. He also applies his superior intellect and deductive reasoning to more official ends—namely helping the police solve “impossible” crimes. With assistance from reporter Hutchinson Hatch, who is only too happy to suggest potential cases and then write about the outcome, *The Thinking Machine* proves that no puzzle is unsolvable—not corporate espionage, nor a kidnapped baby, nor a pilfered necklace, And certainly not a “perfect murder.”

✠Lorac, EC. [Crook o'Lune](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.95). In her latest British Library Crime Classic reprint, everyone in Lunesdale, it seems, covets Aikengill, the home Yorkshire accountant Gilbert Woolfall inherited from his uncle Thomas but has scant time to visit. On one of those infrequent visits, neighboring farmer Christopher Fell's daughter, Betty, is cheeky enough to come out and ask if she and her suitor Jock Shearling might occupy two of its rooms in Gilbert's absence after they're wed. Lambsrigg Hall owner Daniel Herdwick, Jock's employer and Thomas Woolfall's longtime grazing tenant, wants to buy the acreage for his herd. The Reverend Simon Tupper, rector of the local church, thinks Gilbert should donate a substantial part of his inheritance to the Ewedale-with-High Gimmerdale church. Thomas' housekeeper, Mrs. Ramsden, can't quite bring herself to leave the house even though there's no one in residence to take care of anymore. Her ambivalence turns out to be a serious misfortune, since Mrs. Ramsden is on the premises when someone sets Aikengill ablaze one night, destroying half the lovingly restored house and suffocating its faithful servant. The local police waste no time in roping Chief Inspector Robert Macdonald, a CID investigator on vacation from Scotland Yard, into the case.

COZIES

Burns, Valerie. [Murder is a Piece of Cake](#) (Kensington \$16.95). Agatha Award winner Burns' [Two Parts Sugar, One Part Murder](#) (\$16.95) earned this rave: "Snappy dialogue, a well-drawn supporting cast and an irresistible canine companion (a mastiff called Baby) all add delicious flavor. Gulp this book down or savor it, but consuming it will guarantee a sustained sugar high." —*New York Times Book Review*. Now African-American baker Maddy Madison is under pressure from small town New Bison's Spring Festival that just around the corner. To continue her late great-aunt Octavia's legacy she must score the top prize and transforming Baby Cakes into Southwest Michigan's must-visit bakery despite her inexperience. Scarier, a second bakery is opening in town under the ownership of CJ Davenport, a shrewd investor with a reputation for sabotaging anyone who gets in his way. And savvy, flashy Maddy tops his list. It's a sticky spot to be in—more so when Davenport turns up dead with a Baby Cakes' knife stuck in his back. Maddy's whole life just went from #thriving to barely surviving....

Delany, Vicki. [Murder Spills the Tea](#) (\$16.95). The country's hottest TV cooking show is coming to Cape Cod. And against her better judgment, Lily Roberts is entering America Bakes! with her charming tearoom, Tea by the Sea. Filming is already proving disruptive, closing the tearoom during Lily's busiest season. But tensions really bubble over when infamous bad-boy chef and celebrity judge, Tommy Greene, loses his temper with Lily's staff, resulting in an on-camera blowup with Cheryl Wainwright. Just as Lily thinks the competition can't get bitterer, Tommy is found dead in Tea by the Sea's kitchen . . . murdered with Lily's rolling pin! Start with [Murder in a Tea Cup](#) (\$16.95).

McCown, Marjorie. [Final Cut](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). In this "sparkling debut, McCown's years spent on movie sets absolutely shine—feels like an insider look at what goes on behind the lens of Hollywood films. The tension—and the stakes—are expertly ratcheted up for smart costume designer Joey Jessop" (Erica Ruth Neubauer). So here is our **July Cozy Crimes Book of the Month**. I had no idea what it's like to work on Hollywood's biggest blockbuster, coordinating not just the costumes but auditions, casting, rehearsals, etc., until I read this surprising, timely mystery about a murder on such a set. I say timely because...well, think of *Bridgerton* and its gorgeous costumes. "Readers will love all the name dropping, the glamour, and the colorful cast of characters led by key costumer Joey Jessop. The story is a pop culture lover's dream," says Kellye Garrett.

Seales, Julia. [A Most Agreeable Murder](#) (Random \$27). I had some trouble deciding if this was a true historical or a satire as it introduces so many modern tropes and attitudes into the story. So read it as a comedy of manners that has earned a number of rave reviews including this from *Kirkus*: "In Seales' tongue-in-cheek Regency murder mystery, [the] character types are endearingly familiar to anyone who has ever read a Jane Austen novel, and the dialogue crackles with wit, outrage, subtext, and pluck. Beatrice, a true Sherlock Holmes within her restrictive social world, is a delight, and while the characters may be familiar, Seales' over-the-top caricatures succeed in being humorous rather than cliché...."

Library Reads agrees: "Beatrice has had enough of Regency societal rules about what is proper, and loves true crime

and Lord Huxley. When Huxley's former assistant shows up in her village, Beatrice immediately dislikes him. When another guest to the village is murdered, Beatrice helps the vile man solve the case. Much laughter is had on the way to personal freedom and autonomy."

Sennefelder, Debra. [How the Murder Crumbles](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99). Mallory Monroe has recently relocated to Connecticut and bought her aunt's cookie shop. She wants to focus on serving the treats she grew up eating, but her tightly wound cousin, Darlene Hughes, wants to sell the bakery's building, and pesky food blogger Beatrice Wright accuses Mallory of using a stolen cookie recipe, threatening legal action. When Mallory goes to confront Beatrice, she finds the blogger dead. Before long, more bodies pile up, and handsome Detective Will Hannigan sees Mallory as the prime suspect.

Siegel, Katie. [Charlotte Illes Is Not a Detective](#) (Kensington \$16.95). The *NYTBR* says, "Charlotte isn't a detective now. She's 25, living at home, stuck in suburban New Jersey on a merry-go-round of failed job applications and tepid dates. But back when she was a child, Charlotte was a mystery-solving legend, taking cases through her trusty blue landline until the pressure built up so much that she quit. Then one day Charlotte's phone rings again (her mom kept it working, just in case). Turns out it's her brother: Can she figure out who is stalking his girlfriend and leaving her creepy notes? Charlotte balks. But her resistance slowly melts away as her old sleuthing skills return — until, that is, someone goes missing and the case takes a turn. Unlike the mysteries of her childhood, this one involves an actual dead person. Siegel, who created Charlotte Illes as a TikTok character, has a lot of story to work with, though she can't quite sustain it; the pacing bogs down in the middle. Even so, Charlotte is a delight. When a date says she used to think of Charlotte as a 'mini Sherlock Holmes,' Charlotte deadpans, 'Yep, just a 10-year-old solving mysteries and doing cocaine.'" Indie Next adds, "*Charlotte Illes* takes all the nostalgia of our favorite kid detectives and wonders: what happens when they grow up?"

JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH

Look for older novels by Ellen Hart, Michael Nava, so many more. In fact a great source is the list of past winners of the Lambda Literary Awards with its many categories. **Browse it [HERE](#)**

Alexander, TJ. [Chef's Choice](#) (\$17.99). A fake dating arrangement turns to real love in this queer rom-com. When Luna O'Shea is unceremoniously fired from her frustrating office job, she tries to count her blessings: she's a proud trans woman who has plenty of friends, a wonderful roommate, and a good life in New York City. But blessings don't pay the bills. Enter Jean-Pierre, a *laissez-faire* trans man and the heir to a huge culinary empire—which he'll only inherit if he can jump through all the hoops his celebrity chef grandfather has placed in his path. Alexander is also the author of [Chef's Kiss](#) (\$17.99).

Cochrun, Alison. [Kiss Her Once for Me](#) (\$17.99). The author of the "swoon-worthy debut" (*Harper's Bazaar*) *The Charm Offensive* returns with a festive romantic comedy about a woman who fakes an engagement with her landlord... only to fall for his sister. This one was rated A Best New Holiday Romance by *PopSugar*, *BuzzFeed*, *Refinery29*, and more, and nominated for a Lammy Award.

Crespo, Alex. [Saint Juniper's Folly](#) (Holiday House \$18.99) is a queer haunted house mystery. The Folly in Vermont town Saint Juniper, and its ghosts, will draw these three teenagers together. But can they each face their demons to forge a bond strong enough to escape the Folly's shadows?

Crewe, Tom. [The New Life](#) (Scribner \$28). A debut in the tradition of Alan Hollinghurst and Colm Tóibín about two marriages, two forbidden love affairs, and the passionate search for social and sexual freedom in late 19th-century London.

El-Mohtar, Amal/Max Gladstone. [This Is How You Lose the Time War](#) (\$16.99). This Hugo, Nebula, and Locus Award Winner for Best Novella from the award-winning authors is “an enthralling, romantic novel spanning time and space about two time-traveling rivals who fall in love and must change the past to ensure their future.”

Kiste, Gwendolyn. [Reluctant Immortals](#) (\$17.99). For fans of *Mexican Gothic*, from three-time Bram Stoker Award-winning author Gwendolyn Kiste comes a novel inspired by the untold stories of forgotten women in classic literature—from Lucy Westner, a victim of Stoker's *Dracula*, and Bertha Mason, Mr. Rochester's attic-bound wife in Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*—as they band together to combat the toxic men bent on destroying their lives, set against the backdrop of the Summer of Love, Haight-Ashbury, 1967. This novel is also a 2023 Lambda Literary Award Finalist 2023 Bram Stoker Award Finalist for Superior Achievement in a Novel

Polito, Frank. [Renovated to Death; Rehearsed to Death](#) (\$15.95 each). Two queer cozies that have won critical acclaim and readers feature a gay couple who crack crimes while renovating houses in suburban Detroit.

Reid, Taylor Jenkins. [The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo](#) (\$17). This bestseller will surprise you. The author of [Daisy Jones & the Six](#) (\$17) writes an entrancing and “wildly addictive journey of a reclusive Hollywood starlet” (*PopSugar*) as she reflects on her relentless rise to the top and the risks she took, the loves she lost, and the long-held secrets the public could never imagine.”

Rosen, Lev. [Lavender House](#) (\$26.99). A favorite here is this well wrought, well written, and affecting mystery styled in the Agatha Christie country house murder mold but set in 1950s San Francisco where a gay cop goes for cloaking who he is to combat prejudice and bullying from his colleagues while being roped into a fabulous estate and family drama. Highly recommended.

Savran, Jennifer Kelly. [Endpapers](#) (Algonquin \$27). Dawn, a genderqueer artist and book conservator at the Met who finds an artifact in the endpapers of a rare book—the cover of a vintage lesbian pulp novel with a love letter written on the reverse. Dawn sets out to find the originator of the artifact, which becomes foundational on her journey to feel safe and seen and become unstuck in her art. This is a coming of age story, a coming of queerness story, a search for a life where one doesn't have to hide. And to add to that list, this is a book about books—

Sebastian, Cat. [We Could Be So Good](#) (Harper \$16.99). Nick Russo has worked his way from a rough Brooklyn neighborhood to a reporting job at one of the city's biggest newspapers. But the late 1950s are a hostile time for gay men, and Nick knows that he can't let anyone into his life. He just never counted on meeting

someone as impossible to say no to as Andy, whose newspaper-tycoon father wants him to take over the family business. Nick it is who keeps rescuing Andy. And so...

Spotswood, Stephen. [Fortune Favors the Dead](#) (\$17). Starts a series set in 1942 featuring Parker, a circus runaway, and Pentecost, a private detective. The two women power by now three [investigations](#) with the panache of the hardboiled classics.

Stevenson, Richard. [Knock Off the Hat](#) (Bywater Books \$18.95). Stevenson, whose Donald Strachey series featuring a gay detective revamped the genre, [died this year](#), shortly before the publication of this [standout](#). (Stevenson, writing under his real name, Richard Lipez, was also a frequent Washington Post reviewer.) In post-World War II Philadelphia, [detective Clifford Waterman](#) is trying to help a man charged with “disorderly conduct” following a raid at a gay bar. The seemingly small case sends Waterman into a world of corruption involving a dangerous judge who preys on the city's gay population.

MORE NEW HARDCOVERS FOR JUNE

Don't forget to check entries in the Memorial Day Booknews. I include a lot of Indie Next and Library Reads recommends in this list, in part so you will know what they are, and in part because I used up most of my bandwidth on the Signed Books and the June Large Paperback Picks.

Adjei-Brenyah, Nana Kwame. [Chain-Gang All-Stars](#) (Pantheon \$27). Adjei-Brenyah's first novel—after his impressive story collection, *Friday Black* (2018)—is a brilliant satire in which convicted murderers take part in gladiatorial competitions, here two women fighting to the death for a chance to get out of a depraved private prison. Of this dystopian vision, “Imagine *The Hunger Games* refashioned into a rowdy, profane, and indignant blues shout at full blast.” A Read with Jenna selection, widely reviewed, not for the faint-hearted.

Audrain, Ashley. [The Whispers](#) (Penguin \$28). “After a picnic where everyone hears the host losing her temper towards her son, that same boy is admitted to the hospital with a life-threatening injury. Told from multiple perspectives, revealing a bit more with every chapter, this story centers around deception, envy, and despair, leaving readers rushing towards the climactic conclusion.”

✚Barker, Lucy. [The Other Side of Mrs. Wood](#) (Harper \$29.99) is a deliciously witty historical debut about the fiery rivalry between two female mediums at the height of Victorian London's obsession with Spiritualism. When a sweet girl with an uncanny talent for the craft turns up at her door, Mrs. Wood decides that a protégé will be just the thing to spice up her brand.

Bartz, Andrea. [The Spare Room](#) (Random \$28.99). Things just aren't going to plan for Kelly. She's in a new town with no friends and no job, and now she's stranded in the middle of lockdown with the man who just ended their engagement. So when Sabrina, a childhood friend, reaches out and offers Kelly the spare room in her secluded mansion, she happily accepts. Sabrina and her husband are wildly successful and impossibly glamorous; Kelly soon finds herself falling for them both and swept up in their open relationship. But when Kelly learns that the last woman in her place is now missing, she begins to wonder if she's truly safe in this beautiful home with these two beautiful people.

Benedict, Marie/Victoria Christopher Murray. [The First Ladies](#) (Berkley \$28). Indie Next calls this “An illuminating read about the unlikely friendship between Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune as both overcame obstacles pursuing equal rights during the Great Depression/World War II and formed a close relationship through their personal struggles.”

☞Casey, Jane. [The Close](#) (Harper \$27.99). At first glance, Jellicoe Close seems to be a perfect suburban street – well-kept houses with pristine lawns, neighbors chatting over garden fences, children playing together. But there are dark secrets behind the neat front doors, hidden dangers that include a ruthless criminal who will stop at nothing. It’s up to DS Maeve Kerrigan and DI Josh Derwent to uncover the truth. Posing as a couple, they move into the Close, blurring the lines between professional and personal as they work to flush out a murderer.

Charry, Brinda. [The East Indian](#) (Scribner \$28). “*The East Indian* is a coming-of-age novel rife with pivotal moments and riveting wonder as Tony traverses the world and perseveres through life’s hardships; he comes out the other side a forefather in the narrative of American history.”

Dees, Cindy. [Second Shot](#) (Kensington \$27). Opening a series about 55-year-old Helen Warwick, a superb sniper and former CIA wet work specialist, Dees, a former spy, does a superb job limning character and intricate action that reminds me of Thomas Perry’s Jane Whitefield thrillers. Dees places right in the heart of the action, thinking like a sniper as Helen, retired and hoping to win back her distanced family, goes to sit a son’s puppy on New Year’s Eve, survives an assassination attempt, joins a quest for a serial killer while herself dodging the minions of Scorpius, saves the life of her handler while nearly losing her own, and tackles ruthless Russians. Dees loses control of the plot towards the end, I think, but she sets up Helen for a sequel. For high action this raises the bar.

Delury, Jane. [Hedge](#) (Zibby Books \$26.99). Maud is a garden historian who loves her work. Raised in California, she was well suited to England but reluctantly returns to the US for her husband Peter’s career. When *Hedge* opens, she’s at work on a restoration project in the Hudson Valley. It is beautiful, stimulating work, and she is likewise stimulated by the company of Gabriel, a handsome, intriguing archeologist at work on the same site. Her two daughters, Ella and Louise, are about to join her for the rest of the summer. Peter remains in California and Maud plans to make this separation permanent and legal, but their girls don’t know this yet. On the cusp of an affair with Gabriel, she allows herself to dream of what a new life could look like for her as well as for the scotch roses, lilac, clematis, and honeysuckle she plants. But when the girls arrive from California, 13-year-old Ella suffers a trauma that snowballs into life-changing events for all involved.

Edvardsson, M T. [The Woman Inside](#) (Celadon \$28.99). A recently widowed father striving to provide for his child, a young law student cleaning houses to get by, and a wealthy couple masking their dysfunction behind closed doors — they’ve all got something to hide. Pushed beyond his limits to care for his child, widower Bill Olsson takes in a lodger to make ends meet. That lodger is Karla, an aspiring judge who moonlights as a house cleaner to pay her way through law school. Karla’s clients are the Rytters, a wealthy couple with a life that’s just too good to

be true. When the Rytters are found murdered, Karla and Bill are propelled into a dark new reality that they never anticipated. Masterfully plotted and brimming with suspense, catnip for fans of Nordic Noir.

Garmus, Bonnie. [Lessons in Chemistry](#) (\$29). **Signed later printing.** A good gift idea and summer read.

Harrison, Kim. [Demons of Good and Evil](#) (Penguin \$28). “Harrison delivers her signature blend of high stakes urban fantasy and soap operatic interpersonal drama in the 18th installment to her Hollows series. Witch-born demon Rachel Morgan has successfully claimed the role of subrosa, or leader of Cincinnati, Ohio’s supernatural communities, but now must defend that title against challengers. Her latest enemy, a mysterious mage, sets out to undermine her power base by targeting her allies, including her friend David, who is harassed by renegade werewolves. Meanwhile, the coven of moral and ethical standards is breathing down Rachel’s neck regarding her use of an unsavory charm, and her boyfriend, elven businessman Trent Kalamack, faces punishment for his own illegal dealings. Rachel must protect her loved ones, prove her innocence to the coven, and defeat the enemies gunning for her before she loses everything.”—*PW*

Hart, Sarah. [Once Upon a Prime](#) (Flatiron \$29.99). Mathematician Hart strikes a persuasive case for the use of numbers in literature (think how many titles use numbers) and illustrates their symbiotic dance. Did you know, for instance, that *Moby-Dick* is full of sophisticated geometry? That James Joyce’s stream-of-consciousness novels are deliberately checkered with mathematical references? That George Eliot was obsessed with statistics? That *Jurassic Park* is undergirded by fractal patterns? See my review of Ben Schott’s wonderful detection in Our June Large Paperback Picks. Consider the three-act structure. And the math of poetry. I love this book for itself and for its insights into how we read (and write).

Hilderbrand, Elin. [The Five Star-Weekend](#) (LittleBrown \$29.99). The Queen of Summer Reads invites you to a weekend house party on Nantucket (where else?) that doesn’t go as planned. “The people in her book may screw up, but Hilderbrand always gets it right,”

Kiernan, Stephen P. [The Glass Chateau](#) (Harper \$29.99). Asher lost his family during the war, and in revenge served as an assassin in the Resistance. When he arrives at Chateau Guerin, all he seeks is a decent meal. Instead he finds a sanctuary, an oasis despite being filled with people every bit as damaged as him

Leede, CJ. [Maeve Fly](#) (Tor \$26.99). Indie Next says: “Such a wonderful, bizarre read. Maeve loves hard, asserts her place in the world, and takes on the spirit of Old Hollywood to wow at Halloween parties. It’s a funky, gory, sexy thrill; I was disturbed, shattered, and totally in love.”

Jackson Joshilyn. [With My Little Eye](#) (Morrow \$29.99). A mother moves herself and her daughter across the country to lose a dangerous stalker—only to discover that it will take more than distance to escape him. “Wow! A roller coaster ride combining Dungeons and Dragons with Agatha Christie. Joshilyn Jackson continues to refine her mystery/suspense cred in this compelling whodunnit. Great for beach reading or any other time!”

Legrand, Claire. [A Crown of Ivy and Glass](#) (Sourcebooks Casablanca, \$25.99). “Gemma is the only person in her powerful family not to possess magic; in fact, she’s physically sickened by it. But when a dashing man tells her of a demonic curse, Gemma engages in a quest to find her tormentor. This is a sweeping, romantic fantasy with the promise of more to come.”

McKenzie, Catherine. [Have You Seen Her](#) (Atria \$27.99). Equipped with a burner phone and a new job, Cassie Peters has left her hectic and secretive life in Manhattan or the refuge of her hometown of Mammoth Lakes, California. There, she begins working again with Yosemite Search and Rescue, where a case she worked a decade ago continues to haunt her. She quickly falls into old patterns, joining a group of fellow seasonal workers and young adventurers who have made Yosemite their home during the summer. When Cassie and two of the park workers cross paths, shocking consequences ripple out.

McNamara. [Psyche and Eros](#) (Harper \$29.99). Female heroine, Psyche, is strong, sure of herself, and brave. Eros makes us question what makes life worth living and how love affects us. The trend to bring the myths of Ancient Greeks into novel form continues.

Michallon, Clemence. [The Quiet Tenant](#) (Knopf \$28). Every once in awhile a Very Big Book comes along getting huge PR and genuine raves, and leaves me cold. Maybe I can only take on a few serial killer books (they are on the rise). I definitely dislike sadism. Maybe the idea of years spent surviving in sickening conditions captive in a shed is just repulsive. But Library Reads writes, “The entire town feels sorry for Aidan Thomas when his wife dies. But the mysterious woman staying in the house Aidan shares with his teenage daughter has seen a very different side of him... and knows her every move has life-or-death stakes. A great pick for thriller fans looking for a page-turner with strong female protagonists.” Indie Next adds, “A woman has been held hostage in a shed for five years, and could be killed by her captor at any moment. Michallon’s outstanding debut will make you hold your breath as claustrophobia and unbearable tension set in.”

O’Donoghue, Caroline. [The Rachel Incident](#) (Knopf \$28). “Rachel and James meet while working at a bookshop in Cork, Ireland, and decide to hold a book release event for Rachel’s professor. Ten years later, a pregnant Rachel reflects on this time in her life and how it led her to where she is now. Capturing university life where friendships are strong, emotions are deep, and money is tight, this is a wonderful novel.”—Library Reads

Offutt, Chris. [Code of the Hills](#) (Grove \$27). “Excellent Kentucky noir—Offutt’s third Mick Hardin novel is the best yet. Offutt once again beautifully captures both the roughness and the generosity of the inhabitants of Rocksalt, both the menace and the beauty of the eastern Kentucky landscape. The dialogue is a highlight, consistently sharp, quick, and funny; in that, Offutt is rapidly becoming a rural-noir rival to greats like Elmore Leonard.... Another love letter to Appalachia with a high body count. Another bloody delight.”—*Kirkus* Starred Review for an author Patrick admires.

Rabess, Cecilia. [Everything’s Fine](#) (Simon & Schuster \$27.99). On Jess’s first day at Goldman Sachs, she’s less than thrilled to learn she’ll be on the same team as Josh, her white, conservative sparring partner from college. Josh loves playing the devil’s advocate and is just...the worst. But when Jess finds herself the

sole Black woman on the floor, overlooked and underestimated, it’s Josh who shows up for her in surprising—if imperfect—ways. Before long, an unlikely friendship—one tinged with undeniable chemistry—forms between the two... Indie Next: “It’s hard to step away from this wonderful debut. Part romance, part office politics, *Everything’s Fine* addresses race, class, money, ethics, and identity.”

Russell, Craig. [The Devil’s Playground](#) (Knopf \$28). An exciting Hollywood thriller centers on a legendary horror film from the 1920s that is rumored to have cursed everyone involved: Its star died before filming ended, the crew was hurt in a grave accident and nearly all copies of it were subsequently destroyed. But 40 years later, a film historian learns that a last recording might still exist, and chases down more of its unsettling back story

Sanderson, Brandon. [The Frugal Wizard’s Handbook for Surviving Medieval England](#) (Tor \$29.99) throws an amnesiac wizard into time travel shenanigans—where his only hope of survival lies in recovering his missing memories.

Schellman, Katharine. [The Last Drop of Hemlock](#) (St Martins \$28). In this sequel to Jazz Age hit mystery [Last Call at the Nightingale](#) (\$18), Now Vivian Kelly has a new job at the underground speakeasy where the jazz is hot and the employees look out for each other in a world that doesn’t care about them. Things are finally looking up for her and her sister Florence... until the night Vivian learns that her friend Bea’s uncle, a bouncer at the Nightingale, has died. It’s ruled a suicide, but Bea isn’t so convinced. She knew her uncle was keeping a secret: a payoff from a mob boss that was going to take him out of the tenements and into a better life. Now, the money is missing. Though her better judgment tells her to stay out of it, Vivian agrees to help Bea find the truth about her uncle’s death. But they uncover more than they expected....

Smith, Dominic. [Return to Valetto](#) (Farrar \$28). Grieving widower Hugh Fisher leaves his home in Michigan for a sabbatical in Valetto, the Umbrian village of his deceased mother Hazel. There, he discovers a chef named Elisa Tomassi occupying his mother’s cottage, which he inherited. Elisa claims Hugh’s resistance fighter grandfather gave it to her family while on his deathbed during WWII. Hugh’s three widowed aunts, who never knew what happened to their father, call in lawyers to dispute Elisa’s story. Hugh’s 99-year-old grandmother, meanwhile, insists Hugh travel to the village where her husband was buried to get to the bottom of things. There, he meets Alessia, Elisa’s mother, who spent part of the war as a child refugee in the Serafino villa, who reveals she and Hazel were tortured by Valetto’s sole fascist party member, Silvio Ruffo. Hugh, shaken by what he’s uncovered, returns to the villa and schemes with his aunts to confront Silvio, who is still alive at 96.... In yet another story springing from WWII, Smith transports us to a near-abandoned town in Umbria and shows how the courage to voice unspeakable secrets of the past can give new life to crumbling bonds of family and community.

Tsukiyama, Gail. [The Brightest Star](#) (Harper \$32). “This moving historical novel spotlights Chinese-American icon Anna May Wong, a talented and ambitious actress caught in a film industry that denied her the roles she was born to play, even as she was expected to teach white actresses how to ‘act Chinese.’” Luminous actress Wong defied norms, set new standards, and left a Hollywood legacy that impacts Asian film roles today.”

Williams, Katie. [My Murder](#) (Penguin \$27). A young wife, mother, and serial-killer victim seeks answers after she is brought back by cloning. Lou is a happily married mother of an adorable toddler. She's also the victim of a local serial killer. Recently brought back to life and returned to her grieving family by a government project, she is grateful for this second chance. But as the new Lou re-adapts to her old routines, and as she bonds with other female victims, she realizes that disturbing questions remain about her murder. "Captivating and provocative, *My Murder* is at once a tense mystery and a bracing take on the realities of early motherhood. As Jessamine Chan does in *The School for Good Mothers*, Katie Williams looks at where society's fixation on women's bodies and minds might take us in the near future, to chilling effect. It's a sinister, daring thriller, with an absolute corker of an ending that I never saw coming." —Flynn Berry on this clever twist on the classic thriller.

OUR MORE AND REVISED JUNE LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

✚Cartmel, Andrew. [Paperback Sleuth: Death in Fine Condition](#) (Titan \$16.95) is a "darkly funny series kickoff centered on London bookseller Cordelia Stanmer, a former addict who has fallen in love with vintage paperbacks and has no scruples about how she'll feed her growing collection. Cordelia often forges author signatures to jack up a book's resale value and offers bribes to church sale organizers for a first crack at rare volumes. While picking up weed at her dealer's house one afternoon, she glimpses a photo of a bookcase stuffed with rare crime novels and resolves to find out where the photo was taken, break in, and steal as many of the beautifully illustrated editions as she can. Her scheming hits an unexpected snag when she successfully makes away with the volumes—only to realize she's just robbed one of London's most notorious criminals...."—*PW* Starred Review. This is a book that fans of the late John Dunning will enjoy.

Chen, Kirstin. [Counterfeit](#) (\$18.99). A con artist story, a pop-feminist caper, a fashionable romp. "If you appreciate a good caper, you'll want to pick up Kirstin Chen's novel about two Asian American women who turn a counterfeit handbag scheme into a big business. The book is written as a confession, which helps readers get to know protagonists Ava and Winnie, and how their lives detoured toward crime. *Counterfeit* is fast-paced and fun, with smart commentary on the cultural differences between Asia and America." — *Time*

Connelly, Michael. [Desert Star](#) (\$18.99). A year has passed since LAPD detective Renée Ballard quit the force in the face of misogyny, demoralization, and endless red tape. But after the chief of police himself tells her she can write her own ticket within the department, Ballard takes back her badge, leaving "the Late Show" to rebuild and lead the cold case unit at the elite Robbery-Homicide Division. First priority for Ballard is to clear the unsolved rape and murder of a sixteen-year-old girl. Harry Bosch has been working a case that haunts him—the murder of an entire family by a psychopath who still walks free. Ballard makes Bosch an offer: come volunteer as an investigator in her new Open-Unsolved Unit, and he can pursue his "white whale" with the resources of the LAPD behind him....

Doiron, Paul. [Hatchet Island](#) (\$18). The *PW* Starred Review: "Edgar finalist Doiron's exceptional 13th mystery takes Maine Game Warden Mike 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. Kendra's fears of violence prove justified as Bowditch soon has two murders on the island to solve.... 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! You've time to order [the whole Mike Bowditch series](#) before Paul arrives at The Pen on June 25 1:00 PM with book #14, [Dead Man's Wake](#) (St Martins \$29).

Johnson, Sara E. [The Bone Riddle](#) (Poisoned Pen \$16.99). Cape Kidnappers, New Zealand: On a cliff overlooking the ocean and one of the largest gannet bird colonies in the world, American CEO Harlan Quinn has built his "Plan B"—a lavish estate, complete with an underground doomsday bunker. Cleaning staff finds a body in the house. It appears the victim died of natural causes but advanced facial decomposition leaves him unidentifiable. Forensic odontologist Alexa Glock is called in to identify the body via dental records. Teeth never lie. But something odd in the deceased's mouth sets Alexa and the team on a new track—one inevitably including DI Bruce Horn, present in Alexa's earlier cases. [Molten Mud Murder](#) has been something of a bestseller here since it debuted the series. Why not enjoy a summer in New Zealand (winter there) with [all four Alexa Glucks?](#)

King, Laurie R. [Back to the Garden](#) (\$18). Nominated (so far) for the *Los Angeles Times*' Book Prize, Left Coast Crime's Best Historical Mystery, and the Strand Magazine's Best of 2022, a 50-year-old cold case lies at the heart of this mystery about an influential family and an elusive serial killer called The Highwayman. The Gardener family has a long and legendary history in California, but when a skull is recovered during some renovation work, it raises questions about what really happened at the palatial Gardener Estate one summer in the 1970s when the counter culture was high. Most of the narrative is thus historical, but in the present, Inspector Raquel Laing takes up the case, unearthing family secrets as she searches for the answers that might lead her to a killer.... It's unusual for an author of historical fiction to have lived the period, but in her youth, King absolutely did, so her narrative rings with authenticity. Plus Raquel is a terrific new character we hope to see again.

Maz, William. [The Bucharest Dossier](#) (\$16.99). A very big 2022 debut now in paperback, with Maz joining us live at The Pen with the sequel. Admire the spycraft during the Romanian Revolution of 1989 reminiscent of Le Carré's best work. Part Bond, part Bourne, CIA analyst Bill Hefflin searches for stolen billions, solves puzzles, and dodges assassins amidst the chaos of a bloody massacre and a changing geopolitical world. I so admire this wrenching, action-packed story of love lost and regained as we follow a returning ex-pat in search of his past and the love of his

life against the violent backdrop of the Romanian people's revolt against Ceausescu's vicious communist regime. Its aftermath is powerful as I learned while traveling in Romania in 2018.

Penny, Louise. [A World of Curiosities](#) (\$19). The village of Three Pines remains the Canadian capital of murder. Our Lesa Holstine writes, In 1989, a young Armand Gamache was on the scene of a mass slaying when 14 women were killed at Montreal's École Polytechnique. It changed his life and propelled him into a career in homicide. Ten years later, while investigating Clotilde Arsenault's murder, Gamache recruited an angry, undisciplined officer, Jean-Guy Beauvoir. Both events trigger events in 2019 because Gamache and his wife, Reine-Marie, took Clotilde's daughter, Fiona, under their wing, although she and her brother, Sam, were involved in their mother's death. After Fiona graduates from the École Polytechnique, she and Sam head to Three Pines where Gamache sees an evil in Sam... However, it's a mysterious painting, bricked up in a house in Three Pines, that sends Gamache on a search into the past, looking into his own heart for the fears that threaten the people he loves.

Quinn, Spencer. [Bark to the Future](#) (\$18.99). Bernie Little of the Little Detective Agency and (narrator) Chet (the dog), are driving home to the Valley (somewhere in the American West but really an imagined Scottsdale) when Bernie stops the car to slip a few dollars to a homeless man standing by a freeway exit ramp. It's Rocket Saluka who played on Bernie's high school baseball team. Rocket shows Bernie a switchblade. When Bernie later hears Rocket has gone missing, he traces him to a homeless encampment, where Chet digs up the knife in Rocket's tent. With this as their only clue, the duo set out on a trail that leads them back to that high school and into a web of crimes and murder. This entry offers a tidy mystery, a good dollop of action, and a rumination on life after high school—who could ask for more? You can order [all the Chet and Bernies](#)... enjoy. A new one will be out in October.

Rekulak, Jason. [Hidden Pictures](#) (\$17.99). Edgar-nominated for beloved *The Impossible Fortress* and also the editor behind *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, Rekulak returns with a thriller that is original, heart-wrenching, surprising, uplifting—and fabulously illustrated with drawings that say what words cannot for five-year-old Teddy, the child at the heart of the story. How I love this book even though I should have seen what was right before me all along before coming to the ending. Don't miss this gem, one of my absolute favorites.

Schott, Philipp, DVM. [Six Ostriches, A Dr. Bannerman Vet Mystery](#) (ECW Press \$19.95). **Note: Buy the print book and you can request a free ebook from ECW.** Details are on the very back page of this glorious, quirky mystery combining a rural Manitoba veterinary practice, a superb dog, Icelandic settlers and sagas, surgery on an ostrich that provides a key to the deaths of several farm animals and at least one person, internet searches, and local policing.... It's springtime and the glories of the countryside get a spotlight too. The voice is distinctive, the pace brisk, the style an elegant contrast to elements of the story, and Dr. Bannerman's skills at pattern recognition (it would be hard to live with his dedication to routines but wife Laura, a professional knitter, is tolerant) make him a formidable amateur sleuth. In its way it's as if James Herriot took to Agatha Christie. I'm only sorry not yet to have encountered the exploding swine barn in his

first investigation, [Fifty Four Pigs](#) (\$16.95).

Schott's first book [The Accidental Veterinarian](#) (\$16) became, like Herriot's [All Creatures Great and Small](#) (\$16), a bestseller. All together this trio would make a delightful gift for Dad.

Taylor, Sarah Stewart. [The Drowning Sea](#) (\$18). 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. This terrific series develops Maggie's career and personal life, rewarding the reader with exciting investigations balanced with family life. I'm a fan and look forward to the sequel in Signed Books. Here is [another binge-worth series](#) for summer reading.

NEW IN LARGE PAPERBACK

Baldacci, David. [The 6:20 Man](#) (\$18.99). Former U.S. Army Ranger Travis Devine regularly takes the 6:20 commuter train to a job he hates at Cowl and Comely, the New York firm where he is an investment analyst. He's one of many "Burners," or interns, who slave 80 hours a week for low pay and job security. Devine only works there to appease his father. His life's upended when he gets a text from an unknown person informing him that a colleague, Sara Ewes, whom he had a hidden romantic interest in, was found hanging in a storage room in his office building. That death may not be the suicide it appears to be....

Galbraith, Robert. [The Ink Black Heart](#) (\$22.99). London PIs Cormoran Strike and Robin Ellacott are consulted by a distraught Edie Ledwell, the co-creator of the hit animated series *The Ink Black Heart*. The bizarre program features a disembodied heart, a ghost, and other residents of a graveyard, and proved so successful on YouTube that it was purchased by Netflix. That switch, and rumors of a movie adaptation, infuriated some members of the passionate fandom. Robin declines to help but then two people affiliated with the program are stabbed, one fatally, in the cemetery that inspired the show's setting. "Galbraith aka J.K. Rowling) captures perfectly the venom unleashed when people can hide behind virtual personas and egg each other on." 6th in series.

Goldsborough, Robert. [The Missing Heiress](#) (Open Road \$17.99). Archie Goodwin's very good friend, Lily Rowan, spends much of her time—and considerable financial resources—helping women in need. So the two comb through missing heiress Maureen's deserted Park Avenue penthouse, friends, even trying to locate her missing half-brother. No luck. But luckily Nero Wolfe also has a soft spot for Lily and decides to step into what, unsurprisingly, becomes a case of murder.

Gordon, David. [The Pigeon](#) (\$17.95). Looking for a crime caper? Joe, who grew up in "a clan of thieves and grifters" and passed through Harvard and the Special Forces, works as a bouncer at a Queens strip club, reading classic literature in his spare time.

He's become a valued resource for New York City's Mafia families, and one day Gio, a Mafia boss, taps Joe for a job that at first seems easy: Brooklyn gangster Alonzo is distraught over the theft of his champion racing pigeon, Ramses, valued at over \$1 million, and he believes that Wing Chow, a rich pigeon collector, is responsible. But when Joe's burglary of Chow's Upper West Side apartment goes south, he finds himself in the crosshairs of a league of assassins

Estudio Joso and Ikari Studio. [The Monster Book of Manga Creatures and Characters Coloring Book](#) (Harper Design \$15.99). Summer fun.

☞Kelly, Jim. [The Coldest Blood](#) (\$17.99). The first in a gripping British series set in Cambridgeshire among the fens. This is one of our new line of UK imports.

King, Stephen. [Fairy Tale](#) (\$20). A seventeen-year-old boy inherits the keys to a parallel world where good and evil are at war, and the stakes could not be higher—for that world or ours.

Kirchner, Bharti. [Murder at Jaipur](#) (Camel Press \$16.95). Maya Mallick, Seattle P.I., receives a call from her mother Uma, who lives in Jaipur, India. It appears that Uma's partner Neel Saha, a gemologist, has been arrested by the police on charges of stealing a rare ruby. The heirloom, an object of much superstition, belonged to Neel's client, Rana Adani, a young, charismatic Jaipur business tycoon. Insisting that Neel is innocent, Uma begs Maya to fly to Jaipur and clear Neel of the charges. Further complicating matters, Uma's domestic help and chauffeur Sam, a kite-flying champion, well loved by the family, has gone missing. More terrible events ensue while Maya works to determine who stole the ruby—and why?—before further bloodshed.

☞Larsen, Samantha. [A Novel Disguise](#) (Crooked Lane \$19.99) is an amusing cross-dressing 18th Century librarian mystery, a cross between a cozy and Choderlos de Laclos' *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (1782). Ignore the terrible cover, this mystery is just a gem for its characters, the Upstairs/Downstairs cast, the depiction of how powerless a woman of the 18th Century would be unless she daringly seizes an unexpected chance. There are books! There are plenty of different cuisines. And a murder (actually two). Plus a possible romance. This is a series start that will get little attention unless someone (like me) actually reads it! And so it is our **June Historical Paperback Book of the Month**.

Li, Winnie M. [Complicit](#) (\$18.99). Her Hollywood dreams in ruins, Sarah Lai now works as a lecturer at a lackluster college, but a journalist's questions about her work with star producer Hugo North elicit a desire to set the record straight about the abuse of power that quashed her career. Soon she realizes that she's got some owning up to do as well. Li authored the Polis Press Edgar finalist *Dark Chapter*.

Mann, Michael/Meg Gardiner. [Heat 2](#) (\$19.99). The classic crime film *Heat*'s characters live their lives of crime and violence on the edge of a razor. "The plot and the set-pieces of shootouts, heists, and crime-scene investigation are nails. The characters' motives are obsessive. The details of police work and criminal enterprise, precise and revealing. The banter is quick and smart and memorable. And the metaphors and descriptions conjure up vivid, original images worthy of Mann's best big movies." — Eric Rickstad.

☞Mantel, Hilary. [Learning to Talk: Stories](#) (\$16.99). The stories here enable us the more fully to appreciate Mantel's wide-ranging gifts. The overall effect of the collection is of a palimpsest, the powerfully atmospheric evocation of an unhappy mid-20th-century childhood in northern England."—Claire Messud

Marwood, Alex. [The Island of Lost Girls](#) (Harper \$18.99). Alex Marwood is the pseudonym of a veteran British journalist who brings the tools of the investigative reporter to a story rooted in that of financier Jeffrey Epstein and his sex crimes. Thus there's an island, here the fictional La Kastellana, once ruled by domineering dukes and then the stomping ground of billionaire Matthew Meade. It has become a playground for the rich and richer as the old ways fade. And it's a place of terror for island daughters and for a British mom come to look for her wayward daughter, and also of interest to Europol. "Marwood peppers her book with the flavor and history of the island, presenting the party spot as a place with a real and rich past...but wrings unlikely suspense from the question: Will the island become "the new Capri" as or will the disappearing girls scare off the professional partiers?"

McKanna, Rebecca. [Don't Forget the Girl](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99). Twelve years ago, 18-year-old University of Iowa freshman Abby Hartmann disappeared. Now, Jon Allan Blue, the serial killer suspected of her murder, is about to be executed. Abby's best friends, Bree and Chelsea, watch as Abby's memory is unearthed and overshadowed by Blue and his flashier crimes. The friends, estranged in the wake of Abby's disappearance, and suffering from years of unvoiced resentments, must reunite when a high-profile podcast dedicates its next season to Blue's murders. And then....

McKinty, Adrian. [The Island](#) (\$18.99). An isolated island off Australia is the perfect setting for a thriller about an unstable family (second marriage) who become trapped there, and worse, by a wicked family.

☞Mead, Tom. [Death and the Conjuror](#) (\$16.95). In pre-war London, celebrity psychiatrist Anselm Rees is discovered dead in his locked study, and there seems to be no way that a killer could have escaped unseen. There are no clues, no witnesses, and no evidence of the murder weapon. Stumped by the confounding scene, the Scotland Yard detective on the case calls on retired stage magician-turned-part-time sleuth Joseph Spector who must solve three impossible crimes. Locked room mysteries, not to be confused with a Christie-style country house murder, will test your wits. It's all about how the crime was accomplished. Mead, whose second LRM is our **June British Crime Book of the Month**, writes in the tradition of John Dickson Carr but has modern counterparts in, say, Anthony Horowitz. Here's a *PW* Top 10 Mysteries of 2022 and *NYTBR* recommendation to challenge you.

Patterson, James/Adam Hamdy. [Private Moscow](#) (\$18.99). An invitation from an old friend draws Private investigative agency founder Jack Morgan into a deadly conspiracy. As the head of Private, Jack has at his disposal the world's largest investigation agency. What he discovers shakes him to his core. And then Jack identifies another murder in Moscow that appears to be linked....

Perrotta, Tom. [Tracy Flick Can't Win](#) (\$17). Indie Next: "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."

Reichs, Kathy. [Cold, Cold Bones](#) (\$17.99). Winter has come to North Carolina and, with it, a drop in crime. Freed from a heavy work schedule, Tempe Brennan is content to dote on her daughter Katy, finally returned to civilian life from the army. But when mother and daughter meet at Tempe's place one night, they find a box on the back porch. Inside: a very fresh human eyeball. And so starts a revenge thriller....

⌘Thompson, Marielle. [Where Ivy Dares to Grow](#) (Kensington \$16.95). Saoirse Read pauses her doctoral program to visit Langdon Hall, the ancestral home of her fiancé, Jack Page. The visit is a fraught one: her future mother-in-law is terminally ill, and the love between Saoirse and Jack has long since grown cold. During her walks she accidentally time-travels back to 1818, where she meets Theo Page, a man similar to but not quite like Jack. Between Saoirse and this mysterious lonely man sparks fly and soon become a passionate forbidden romance. "The story's very end includes one final twist that will give readers much to think about."—*LJ* Starred Review. Thompson's debut combines a gothic novel, a time-travel romance, and a frank depiction of living with mental illness. Most compellingly, the protagonist's mental state is central to the narrative without driving the plot.

Topping, Zac. [Wake of War](#) (\$18.99). "Topping's exceptional debut, a near-future military action thriller, extrapolates from today's dysfunctional political climate. In 2037, the armed forces of the U.S. government, which is struggling with such problems as devastatingly high inflation, are pitted against the Revolutionist Front. Led by "the charismatic and completely psychotic" Joseph Graham, this rebel army holds the mountains surrounding Salt Lake City.... Topping, a U.S. Army veteran, pays attention to moral issues while taking care not to overly demonize either side, but it's the heroic characters and meticulously rendered battle scenes that make this a standout."—*PW* Starred Review

OUR JUNE SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Hilderbrand, Elin. [The Hotel Nantucket](#) (\$9.99). Attempting to win the favor of the Hotel Nantucket's new London billionaire owner, general manager Lizbet Keaton, with drama behind closed doors, staff and guests with complicated pasts, a ghost roaming the halls and her own romantic uncertainty, has her work cut out for her.

Lescroart, John. [The Missing Piece](#) (\$9.99). Dismas Hardy #19. When Paul Riley, who served 11 years for the rape and murder of his girlfriend, is released, he soon turns up murdered and master attorney Dismas Hardy hires PI Abe Glitsky to find the truth, which causes him to question his own moral compass.

Penny, Louise. [A World of Curiosities](#) (\$9.99). Gamache #18. Chief Inspector Gamache investigates after a 150-year-old letter points to the discovery and opening of a bricked-up room in an attic that's filled with curiosities.

JUNE SMALL PAPERBACKS

Allen, Meri. [Fatal Fudge Swirl](#) (St Martins \$8.99). Ice Cream Shop #3. When a domineering socialite is murdered right before her lavish Halloween-themed wedding, former CIA librarian turned ice cream shop manager Riley Rhodes must get the real scoop on the truth when her friend, the ex-wife of the groom, is suspected of murder.

Berenson, Laurien. [Peg and Rose Solve a Murder](#) (\$8.99). Peg and Rose #1. Polar opposites and bridge partners, 60-something former nun Rose and her sister-in-law Peg, who knows how to push all of Rose's buttons, are drawn into a mystery when the bridge club's most accomplished player is murdered, and they fall under suspicion.

Burton, Mary. [The Shark](#) (Kensington \$9.99). Forgotten Files #1. Plagued by the unsolved case of a serial killer nicknamed the Shark who murdered girls as part of a sadistic poker game, former FBI agent Clay Bowman realizes his ex, Virginia state trooper Riley Tatum, is the one girl who escaped and the Shark is ready to deal Riley another hand.

Chien, Vivien. [Misfortune Cookie](#) (St Martins \$8.99). Noodle Shop #9. When a cocktail party ends in the tragic death of a close journalist friend of their Aunt Grace's, Lana realizes it's the same journalist she saw fighting with a fortune cookie vendor at the restaurant convention and now works to crack this case wide open.

Chow, Jennifer J. [Hot Pot Murder](#) (Penguin \$8.99). Thanksgiving dinner at the Asian American Restaurant Owners Association in West LA leaves the often squabbling members grappling with a murder. Yale Yee isn't a member, but her restaurateur father is. So she and her cousin, Celine, who's visiting from Hong Kong, pitch in to help with dinner and with investigating the electrocution of the AAROA President Jeffery....

Cutter, Nick. [The Troop](#) (\$10.99). Reissue. Leading a troop of boys into the Canadian wilderness for a traditional weekend camping trip, Scoutmaster Tim Riggs encounters a disturbing, voraciously hungry intruder in the woods who infects the troop with a bioengineered disease.

Deluca, M. M. [The Perfect Family Man](#) (Canelo \$9.99). Five years ago, Olivia's little boy went missing. Now her husband Nate has vanished too. As Olivia investigates, she discovers a web of secrets and lies that lead her to question her husband and her marriage.

Graham, Heather. [Whispers at Dusk](#) (Mira \$9.99). Blackbird Trilogy #1. Arriving in Norway to find an elusive vampire killer, who is leaving bodies drained of blood across the country, FBI agents Della Hamilton and Mason Carter must use all of the abilities to uncover the killer's identity.

Lillard, Amy. [A Murder of Aspic Proportions](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Sunflower Café #2. While running her Aunt Bethel's café, twenty-something former advice columnist Sissy Yoder finds herself digging into another mystery when a local farmer, resented by just everyone in the town, is murdered.

Patterson, James. [Fear No Evil](#) (S10.99). Alex Cross #29. Dr. Alex Cross and Detective John Sampson venture into the rugged Montana wilderness—where *they* will be the prey.

Ross, Barbara. [Hidden Beneath](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Maine Clambake #11. While attending a memorial service for her mother's old friend Ginny, Julia senses there's something fishy going on and she and her mom look into Ginny's cold case, and find things boiling over when a present-day murder occurs.