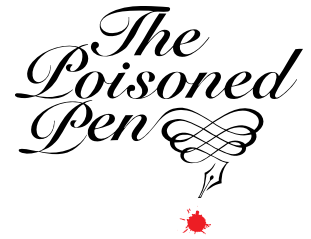


BOOKNEWS from

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BOOKISH FIREWORKS ALL OF JULY

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.

THURSDAY JULY 6 5:00 PM Virtual Launch

Michael McGarrity discusses [The Long Ago](#) (Norton \$28.95)
Enthralling 1960s quest in the West
Our Historical Fiction Book of the Month
Signed books available

SUNDAY JULY 9 2:00 PM LIVE

Linda Castillo discusses [An Evil Heart](#) (St Martins \$28)
Amish Country Police Chief Kate Burkholder
Our copies come with a special insert

MONDAY JULY 10 10:00 AM

Jake Tapper discusses [All The Demons Are Here](#) (Little Brown \$29)
Charlie and Margaret 1970s murder investigation
Signed books available but slow

WEDNESDAY JULY 12 2:00 PM

Kate Mosse with Amanda Foreman
Mosse discusses [The Ghost Ship](#) (St Martins \$30)
Signed UK copies: [The Ghost Ship](#) (Pan \$44)

WEDNESDAY JULY 12 7:00 PM Live

Reed Farrel Coleman discusses [Sleepless City](#) (Blackstone \$26.99)
Our Hardboiled/Noir Book of the Month
A thorough tour of NY City too

THURSDAY JULY 13 1:00 PM

Tom Mead with Martin Edwards
Edwards discusses [The Puzzle of Blackstone Lodge](#) (Poisoned Pen \$16.99)
Mead discusses [The Murder Wheel](#) (Penzler \$26.95)
A Locked Room Mystery

THURSDAY JULY 13 7:00 PM Live

May Cobb discusses [A Likeable Woman](#) (Berkley \$27)
An Oprah Summer Reading Pick

SATURDAY JULY 15 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger discusses Viveca Sten's [Hidden in Snow](#) (\$14.95)
Swedish crime with a blizzard background

WEDNESDAY JULY 19 6:00 PM

Dwyer Murphy discusses [The Stolen Coast](#) (Viking \$27)
Signed books available

THURSDAY JULY 20 4:00 PM

Samantha Downing and Robin Harding
Downing discusses [Twisted Love Story](#) (Penguin \$28)
Harding discusses [The Drowning Woman](#) (Grand Central \$28).

THURSDAY JULY 20 7:00 PM Live

Jillian Lauren with Camille Kimball
Lauren discusses [Behold the Monster](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.99)

FRIDAY JULY 21 7:00 PM

SciFi Friday discusses William Gibson's [The Peripheral](#) (\$17)

SATURDAY JULY 22 7:00 PM Live

Ticketed Event (\$35 admits one + one Signed copy)
No streaming for this event
Daniel Silva discusses [The Collector](#) (Harper \$32)
Gabriel Allon back in quasi spy world
Terrific and timely

MONDAY JULY 24 4:00 PM Live

Philip Fracassi discusses [Boys in the Valley](#) (Tor \$26.99)
The Exorcist meets *Lord of the Flies*, by way of *Midnight Mass*,

MONDAY JULY 24 6:00 PM Live Launch

Joanne Fluke discusses [Pink Lemonade Cake Murder](#) (Kensington \$27)
Lake Eden's Hannah Swensen Mystery

TUESDAY JULY 25 6:00 PM Book Launch

Brad Thor discusses [Dead Fall](#) (Atria \$29.99)
Scot Harvath
Signed books available

WEDNESDAY JULY 26 4:30 PM

Alison Montclair discusses [The Lady from Burma](#) (St Martins \$28)
1940s London, Sparks & Bainbridge
Startling info about the Lunacy Court
Signed books available

WEDNESDAY JULY 26 6:00 PM

David Mann/Brandon Webb and Brian Freeman with Don Bentley

Freeman discusses [Robert Ludlum's The Bourne Defiance](#) (Putnam \$29)

Mann/Webb discuss [Blind Fear](#) (Random \$28.99)

International thrillers

Signed books available for both titles

THURSDAY JULY 27 5:00 PM

Sandra Brown Special Preview Event

Brown discusses [Out of Nowhere](#) (Grand Central \$29.99)

A manhunt begins at a Texas County Fair... sizzling romance too

Signed books available

THURSDAY JULY 27 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime discusses James Ellroy's [LA Confidential](#) (\$17.99)

SATURDAY JULY 29 2:00 PM LIVE

Michael Koryta and Spencer Quinn

Koryta discusses [An Honest Man](#) (Mulholland \$28)

A Maine island thriller

Quinn discusses [Mrs. Plansky's Revenge](#) (Forge \$26.99)

Elderly widow takes on Romanian scammers

MONDAY JULY 31 5:00 PM

David Joy with Patrick

Joy discusses [Those We Thought We Knew](#) (Putnam \$28)

Two dark crimes split a North Carolina community

Signed books available

TUESDAY AUGUST 1 1:00 PM

Dame Denise Mina discusses [The Second Murderer](#) (Little Brown \$28)

Chandler's Philip Marlowe, has he met his match?

Signed UK edition [The Second Murderer](#) (Sphere \$36)

Mina also discusses [Three Fires](#) Pegasus (\$22)

A 15th century *Bonfire of the Vanities* in Savonarola's Florence

OUR JULY BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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

Hays, Alex. [The Housekeepers](#)

Cozy Crimes Club One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

McCown, Marjorie. [Final Cut](#)

The Crime Collectors Book of the Month Club One Signed First Printing per month

Koryta, Michael. [An Honest Man](#)

First Mystery Club One Signed First Printing per month
TBA

Hardboiled/Noir Club One Signed First Printing per month
Coleman, Reed Farrel. [Sleepless City](#)

History/Mystery Club One First Printing per month
McGarrity, Michael. [The Long Ago](#)

Historical Fiction Paperback Club One Unsigned paperback per month

Harrod-Eagles, Cynthia. [The Secrets of Ashmore Castle](#)

Notable New Fiction One Signed First Printing per month
Smith, Dominic. [Return to Valetto](#)

International Crime One Unsigned Hardcover or paperback per month

Thor, Brad. [Dead Fall](#)

Romance & Relationships One Unsigned Hardcover or 2 paperbacks per month

Hoffman, Michelle. [The Second Ending](#) & Tara Shelton Harris, [One Summer in Havana](#)

SIGNED BOOKS FOR JULY (SO FAR)

Brown, Sandra. [Out of Nowhere](#) (Grand Central \$29.99). At a Texas county fair, amidst carousels and a bustling midway, children's book author Elle Portman is enjoying a rare night out with her favorite cowboy: her two-year-old son, Charlie. But just as they're about to head home, the unthinkable happens: a shooter opens fire into the crowd, causing widespread panic to erupt all around them. Also caught in the melee was corporate consultant Calder Hudson. Arrogant, self-centered, and high off his latest career win, he's frustrated and confused when he wakes up in the hospital after undergoing emergency surgery on his arm. Their chance encounter at the police station leads to a surprising and inexplicable gravitation to one another, but even as the attraction grows, Elle and Calder can't help but wonder if the unimaginable

tragedy that brought them together is too painful and too complicated to sustain—especially while the shooter remains at large.

Burke, James Lee. [Flags on the Bayou](#) (Grove \$28). The Civil War comes to New Iberia, Louisiana, the capital of Burke's wondrous fictional empire, in the fall of 1863... When Hannah Laveau, an enslaved woman working on the Lufkin plantation, is accused of murder, she goes on the run with Florence Milton, an abolitionist schoolteacher, dodging the local constable and the slavecatchers that prowl the bayous. Wade Lufkin, haunted by what he observed—and did—as a surgeon on the battlefield, has returned to his uncle's plantation to convalesce, where he becomes enraptured by Hannah.

Castillo, Linda. [An Evil Heart](#) (St Martins \$28 July 11). **Our copies will come with an exclusive created for us...** I know not what it will be. On a crisp autumn day in Painters Mill, Chief of Police Kate Burkholder responds to a call only to discover an Amish man who has been violently killed with a crossbow, his body abandoned on a dirt road. Aden Karn was just twenty years old, well liked, and from an upstanding Amish family. Who would commit such a heinous crime against a young man whose life was just beginning? The more Kate gets to know his devastated family and the people—both English and Amish—who loved him, the more determined she becomes to solve the case. But as she delves into Karn's past, Kate begins to hear whispers about a dark side. What if Aden Karn was...what?

Cobb, May. [A Likeable Woman](#) (Berkley \$27 July 13). Kira's back in her affluent hometown for the first time in years and determined to unravel the secrets of her troublemaker mother's death—hidden in the unpublished memoir she left behind—even if it kills her.... "Full of deceit, dark secrets, gossip, family drama, and murder... This novel is Texas to the core, smart, and so much fun you don't realize there's blood around you until it's too late."—Gabino Iglesias. "Bring on the backyard chardonnay and rich, nasty housewives of East Texas....Gossipy, glamorous, and hair-raising," says the July Oprah Best Summer Reading selection for Cobb.

Coleman, Reed Farrel. [Sleepless City](#) (Blackstone \$26.99 July 12). When you're in trouble, you call 911. When cops are in trouble, they call Nick Ryan. He's the mayor's private cop, the fixer, the first call when the men and women who protect and serve are in trouble and need protection themselves. With conflicted loyalties and a divided soul, he's a veteran cop still fighting his own private war. He's a soldier of the streets with his own personal code. But what happens when the man who knows all the city's secrets becomes a threat to both sides of the law? "What's one cop going to do against a rigged system? *Sleepless City* answers that question in a blaze of pace, action, suspense, and intrigue, all underpinned by thoughtful moral questions and a truly great new character in Nick Ryan. Coleman is a noir grandmaster and I hope this series runs forever."—Lee Child

DeWitt, Patrick. [The Librarianist](#) (Ecco \$29.99). Tip-ins. It's 2005 in Portland, Oregon, but Bob Comet, 71, is stuck in the past. He's lived alone since he was a young man in the house he inherited from his mother, who died when he was 23. One day, he follows a lost elderly woman out of a convenience store. From her name tag, he deduces she is from the local senior center and returns her there. After a tour, Bob decides to volunteer, and soon he bonds with a motley group of seniors and gradually shares details of his life. "Bob Comet ...brings to mind John Williams' Stoner and Thoreau's chestnut about 'lives of quiet desperation,' but it is telling that deWitt chooses to capture him at times when his life takes a turn." And Indie Next adds, "A thoughtful book about a quiet man leading a quiet life, filled with wonderful language and small nuances. Bob Comet endured loneliness and heartbreak, but found solace in his books and ultimately found friendship and community."

Fluke, Joanne. [Pink Lemonade Cake Murder](#) (Kensington \$27 July 24). The Tri-County Summer Solstice Celebration has come to town, and even among local artisans, athletes, and marching bands, Hannah attracts fans of her own while serving

lip-smacking pink lemonade desserts. But the mood sours when a body turns up, leading revelers to wonder if the festivities mark both the longest day of the year and the deadliest. A retired professional MLB player has met a terrifying end—and, considering the rumors swirling about his past, the list of suspects could fill a small stadium. Among them could soon be Delores, Hannah's mother....

Fracassi, Philip. [Boys in the Valley](#) (Tor \$26.99 July 24). St. Vincent's Orphanage for Boys. Turn of the century, in a remote valley in Pennsylvania. Here, under the watchful eyes of several priests, thirty boys work, learn, and worship. Peter Barlow, orphaned as a child by a gruesome murder, has made a new life here. As he approaches adulthood, he has friends, a future...a family. Then, late one stormy night, a group of men arrive at their door, one of whom is badly wounded, occult symbols carved into his flesh. His death releases an ancient evil that spreads like sickness, infecting St. Vincent's and the children within. "The prose is precise, the terror's exquisite, and Fracassi's got his hand on the chisel going into your chest." —Stephen Graham Jones

Freeman, Brian. [Robert Ludlum's The Bourne Defiance](#) (Penguin \$29). From the glacial waters of Alaska to a sexy nightclub in the Bahamas, Treadstone agents are being hunted down and murdered. Someone high up in the U.S. government will stop at nothing to cover up a secret Treadstone mission from the past known as *Defiance*. With a team of killers hot on his trail, Jason Bourne chases the mystery of *Defiance* around the world. But as he closes in on the shocking truth, Bourne realizes that one man holds the key—his archenemy, the assassin known as Lennon

✧Goldberg, Leonard. [The Wayward Prince](#) (St Martins \$28). The fate of Prince Harry and the British throne lies in the hands of Joanna and the Watsons.... Which Prince Harry, I ask, since this is an early 20th Century series.

✧Hay, Alex. [The Housekeepers](#) (Headline \$40). Upstairs Madam is planning the ball of the season while downstairs the female servants are plotting the heist of the century. When Mrs. King, housekeeper to the most illustrious home in Mayfair, is suddenly dismissed after years of loyal service, she knows just who to recruit to help her take revenge. Mrs. King has an audacious plan in mind, one that will reunite her women in the depths of the house on the night of a magnificent ball—and play out right under the noses of her former employers... Mrs. King's predecessor has been keeping the dark secrets of Park Lane far too long. A riotous, explosive mashup of *Bridgerton* and *Ocean 8*, with perfectly drawn characters.

[The Housekeepers](#) (Morrow \$29.99) is our **July British Crime Club Book of the Month in the Unsigned US edition**. The Indie Next List finds it to be "*Ocean's Eight* meets *Downton Abbey*! This novel is immensely satisfying. Enjoy!"

Heller, Peter. [The Last Ranger](#) (Knopf \$27) Tip-ins. Here's trip to Yellowstone for you. Officer Ren Hopper is an enforcement ranger with the National Park Service, tasked with duties both mundane and thrilling: Breaking up fights at campgrounds, saving clueless tourists from moose attacks, and attempting to broker an uneasy peace between the wealthy vacationers who tromp through the park with cameras, and the residents of hardscrabble Cooke City who want to carve out a meaningful living. When Ren, hiking through the backcountry on his day off, encounters a tall man with a dog and a gun chasing a small

black bear up a hill, his hackles are raised. But what begins as an investigation into the background of a local poacher soon opens into something far murkier:

I haven't got an ARC but a reader who has writes, "This story is brimming with tension that ebbs and flows, but there is also a sense of love for Nature that permeates these pages, and a love for this life far removed from the big cities. There is also love for others, and there is loss, and a rising tension as the story continues. There is an almost spiritual reverence for what we take for granted too often. The gift of this life, this place we call home, and the nature that surrounds us."

Howard, Catherine Ryan. [The Trap](#) (Blackstone \$26.99) is an unsettling mystery inspired by a series of still-unsolved disappearances in Ireland in the nineties, wherein one young woman risks everything to catch a faceless killer. Angela works as a civilian paper-pusher in the Missing Persons Unit, but wants nothing more than to be a fully-fledged member of An Garda Síochána, the Irish police force. With the official investigation into the missing women stalled, she begins pulling on a thread that could break the case wide open—and destroy her chances of ever joining the force. Tana French is very good and so is Howard!

Koontz, Dean. [After Death](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$29.99). Michael Mace, head of security at a top-secret research facility, opens his eyes in a makeshift morgue twenty-four hours following an event in which everyone perished—including him and his best friend, Shelby Shrewsbury. Having awakened with an extraordinary ability unlike anything he—or anyone else—has ever imagined, Michael is capable of being as elusive as a ghost. He sets out to honor his late friend by helping Nina Dozier. And then....

Koryta, Michael. [An Honest Man](#) (LittleBrown \$28 July 29). After discovering seven men murdered aboard their yacht – including two Senate rivals – Israel Pike is regarded as a prime suspect. A troubled man infamous on Salvation Point Island for killing his own father a decade before, Israel has few options, no friends, and a life-threatening secret. Elsewhere on the island, 12-year-old Lyman Rankin seeks shelter from his alcoholic father in an abandoned house only to discover that he is not alone. A mysterious woman greets him with a hatchet and a promise: "Make a sound and I'll kill you." As the investigation barrels forward, Lyman, Israel, and the fate of the case collide in immutable ways....

Lapena, Shari. [Everyone Here Is Lying](#) (Pamela Dorman \$29). Signed August 2. Meanwhile... "William's lies are piling up. An extramarital affair just ended; returning home, he finds his young daughter there instead of at school. Soon after, she goes missing. If he confesses having seen her, he's caught in his deception. Will the truth come out before it's too late? Great pick for Gillian Flynn fans."

Lauren, Jillian. [Behold the Monster: Confronting America](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.99 July 20). Jillian Lauren had no idea what she was getting into when she wrote her first letter to prolific serial killer Samuel Little. All she knew was her research had led her to believe he was good for far more murders than the three for which he had been convicted. While the two exchanged dozens of letters and embarked on hundreds of hours of interviews, Lauren gained the trust of a monster. After maintaining his innocence for decades, Little confessed to the murders of ninety-three women,

often drawing his victims in haunting detail as he spoke. How could one man evade justice, manipulating the system for over four decades? As law enforcement swung into action, Lauren's coverage of the investigation and her obsession with the victims only escalated. Our true crime buff Patrick is really looking forward to this event with Lauren.

Lippman, Laura. [Prom Mom](#) (Harper \$29.99). This gripping thriller with prom night 1997 at Baltimore's Towson High School which ends in the shocking death of a newborn baby, found in the girls' restroom near the mother (and Joe's date), a barely conscious Amber Glass. Though she has no recollection of what happened, Amber is arrested and swiftly convicted of manslaughter. While Amber is in prison, Joe meets and marries Meredith, whom he cheats on regularly. After starting her life over in New Orleans post-prison, Amber decides to return to Baltimore for the first time in more than 20 years to open an art gallery—when she does, she and Joe fall back into a relationship. By then, the Covid-19 pandemic is in full swing, dooming Joe's hopes for the local shopping center he recently purchased. With Amber's help, he concocts a scheme to bail himself out before he meets financial ruin. Lippman works up a slow burn, gently teasing out a game of cat and mouse between Joe and Amber that comes into full focus toward the end of the novel. "A character study of pedestrian evil in the Wegmans-and-Peloton class, fascinating in its heartlessness." And with a surprise to reward readers.

✂Mackintosh, Clare. [A Game of Lies](#) (Sphere \$39). Bilingual detective (Welsh and English) Ffion Morgan is called in when, stranded in the Welsh mountains, seven reality show contestants have no idea what they've signed up for. Each of these strangers has a secret. If another player can guess the truth, they won't just be eliminated—they'll be exposed live on air. The stakes are higher than they'd ever imagined, and they're trapped. The disappearance of a contestant wasn't supposed to be part of the drama. Then a murderer strikes....

Massey, Sujata. [The Mistress of Batia House](#) (Soho \$27.95). India, 1922: Perveen Mistry remains the only female lawyer in Bombay. She is attending a lavish fundraiser for a new women's hospital specializing in maternal health issues when she witnesses an accident. The grandson of an influential Gujarati businessman catches fire—but a servant, his young ayah, Sunanda, rushes to save him, selflessly putting herself in harm's way. Later, Perveen learns that Sunanda, who's still ailing from her burns, has been arrested on trumped-up charges made by a man who doesn't seem to exist. Can Perveen stand by while Sunanda languishes in jail?

McGarrity, Michael. [The Long Ago](#) (Norton \$29). The *NYTBR*: "There are crimes aplenty; disappearances voluntary and involuntary; and all manner of violence, individual and state-sanctioned. But this, McGarrity's first stand-alone after a western trilogy and the earlier Kevin Kerney series, is more family saga than crime novel — one I adored without reservation, and inhaled in a single sitting. The Lansdale siblings, Ray and Barbara, survived instability, absent parents and other childhood losses by retreating into a shared utopian fantasy they called 'the Long Ago.' Escaping reality isn't as easy when you become an adult, though. In the early 1960s, Ray, once shiftless and wayward, finds purpose in the Army as the Vietnam War looms large, while Barbara flees their Livingston, Montana, hometown, and no one seems to know

where she is. Ray, home on leave, wants to find her. ‘People who decide to voluntarily disappear — if that’s what really happened with her — usually want to keep it that way,’ the sheriff warns him. But Ray takes the words of another cop to heart: ‘We all lose people, Ray. Sometimes you can’t do a damn thing about it, sometimes you can.’”

As a devoted fan of McGarrity’s Kevin Kerney series based in New Mexico I’m pleased with a link to it and moreover, delighted that McGarrity is back with a superb voice and authentic feel for the 1950s and 1963, the year of this investigation. And also for the post-WWII brotherhood of Marines and Army supporting Ray in his quest.

Mina, Denise. [The Second Murderer](#) (Sphere UK \$36) “successfully emulates the language and tone of Raymond Chandler’s hard-boiled novels featuring California P.I. Marlowe in this terrific pastiche. Though Marlowe has been instrumental in solving the murder of cowboy actor Pasco Pete, the gumshoe is unsettled by a sense he missed something. There’s no time to reopen the investigation, however, as he’s summoned to help the überwealthy Chadwick Montgomery track down his missing 22-year-old daughter, Chrissie, who vanished from the family estate the morning after her engagement party. Despite his distaste for Montgomery and uncertainty about whether Chrissie wants to be found, Marlowe accepts the case, which quickly leads to the discovery of multiple bodies, the revelation of Montgomery family secrets, and possible links to Pasco Pete’s death. The search is further complicated by the presence of Marlowe’s professional rival, detective Anne Riordan, whom Montgomery has also retained to find Chrissie. On top of nailing Chandler’s atmospherics (“Out on Santa Monica the heat was oiling up from the ground. Dust whipped past us on a spiteful breeze”), Mina delivers a truly surprising plot. Noir fans will hope Mina returns to the mean streets of L.A. again soon.

Kirkus Reviews adds, “Mina’s pastiche, less literal than Robert B. Parker’s *Poodle Springs* (1989) and less glum than Benjamin Black’s *The Black-Eyed Blonde* (2014), is more playful in its early stages, as Mina cheekily piles on Marlowe’s trademark similes, though it darkens considerably as it approaches its fade-out.”

⌘Montclair, Allison. [The Lady from Burma](#) (St Martins \$28). A happily married woman has come to The Right Sort Marriage Bureau to find a new wife for her husband. Dying of cancer, she wants the two to make sure her entomologist, academic husband finds someone new once she passes. Shortly thereafter, she’s found dead in Epping Forest, in what appears to be a suicide. But that doesn’t make sense to either Sparks or Bainbridge. Meanwhile Bainbridge herself becomes a prime suspect in a murder. This is a wonderful post-WWII British mystery series where women are defining new lives and one faces the trauma of the Lunacy Court.

Mosse, Kate. [The Ghost Ship](#) (Pan \$44) is the third novel in The Joubert Family Chronicles. The Barbary Coast, 1621. A mysterious vessel floats silently on the water. It is known only as the Ghost Ship. For months it has hunted pirates to liberate those enslaved by corsairs, manned by a courageous crew of mariners from Italy and France, Holland and the Canary Islands. But the bravest among them are not who they seem. The stakes could not be higher. If arrested, they will be hanged for their crimes. Can they survive the journey and escape their fate?

Murphy, Dwyer. [The Stolen Coast](#) (Viking \$27). As I write this roundup this Starred Review popped up: “Genre readers really can have it all: terrific characterization, an intricate plot, and stylish writing to boot. Jack Betancourt lives in the rundown Massachusetts beach town of Onset. He leads a quiet life, working at a business built by his ex-spy father that helps people in trouble disappear: thieves, mobsters, spies, and fugitives of all sorts. Jack’s old girlfriend Elena, a lawyer with a very shady past, arrives back in Onset after a seven-year absence. She has a plan to steal diamonds valued between three and 180 million dollars (depending on the buyer) from a law firm colleague’s safe and needs Jack’s help to do it. Their scheme has a lot of moving parts, and bad luck threatens to shut them down, but Elena’s a ruthless leader, and Jack is driven by a cocktail of motivations even he can’t quite untangle. Murphy’s spare, polished prose carries a touch of Elmore Leonard and a whisper of Ernest Hemingway, but in balancing those influences he locates a style all his own. Strong characters, sharp wit, breathless action, and real emotional depth make this exceptional neo-noir sing.”

Parris, SJ. [Alchemy](#) (Collins UK \$36). Giordano Bruno is sent to the court of Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II by Sir Francis Walsingham, Elizabeth I’s spymaster. His task: to contact the famous English alchemist and mystic John Dee, another of Walsingham’s spies. But Bruno’s arrival in Prague coincides with the brutal murder of a rival alchemist – and John Dee himself has disappeared. Ordered by the emperor to find the killer, Bruno’s investigations bring him face to face with an old enemy from the Inquisition and he finds himself once more pitted against the might of the Catholic Church. When another murder takes place, Bruno is forced to re-evaluate everything he thought he knew. And he soon realizes that his own life is at stake...

Patchett, Ann. [Tom Lake](#) (Harper \$29.99). Tip-ins. In the spring of 2020, Lara’s three daughters return to the family’s orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters examine their own lives and relationship with their mother, and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew.

Quinn, Spencer. [Mrs. Plansky’s Revenge](#) (Forge \$26.99 July 29). Quinn’s first novel in a new series since the meteoric launch of Chet and Bernie—a series inspired by a conversation here at The Pen, and thus in tribute set in Arizona. Mrs. Loretta Plansky, a recent widow in her seventies, is settling into retirement in Florida while dealing with her 98-year-old father and fielding requests for money from her beloved children and grandchildren. Thankfully, her new hip hasn’t changed her killer tennis game one bit. One night Mrs. Plansky is startled awake by a phone call from a voice claiming to be her grandson Will, who desperately needs ten thousand dollars to get out of a jam. By morning, Mrs. Plansky has lost everything. Mrs. Plansky follows her only clue on a whirlwind adventure to a small village in Romania to get her money and her dignity back—and perhaps find a new lease on life, too. A sterling example of the rise of the Senior Sleuth (remember Dorothy Gilman’s Mrs. Pollifax?) and a must read for those who enjoyed Deanna Raybourn’s *Killers of a Certain Age*.

Reichs, Kathy. [The Bone Hacker](#) (Scribner \$27.99). Publishes August 1 but it's smart to order now so we don't run out of books, Kathy signing copies for us as usual. Forensic anthropologist Temperance Brennan, following a series of bizarre disappearances on the islands of Turks and Caicos, enters a sinister labyrinth in which a new technology may wreak worldwide havoc. Called in to examine what is left of a person thought to have been struck by lightning, Tempe traces an unusual tattoo to its source and is soon embroiled in a much larger case. I will say more when I get to read this 22nd investigation for Tempe.

Rosenfelt, David. [Flop Dead Gorgeous](#) (St Martins \$28). Retired lawyer Andy Carpenter remembers every dog that's come through the Tara Foundation's doors, but the most well-known alum of the dog rescue organization that Andy founded in Paterson, New Jersey, may be Mamie. Adopted by famous actress Jenny Nichols—Andy's high school girlfriend—the miniature French poodle is now practically a starlet in her own right. Jenny's costar is found dead, a knife in his back. It's not long before Jenny is arrested for the murder and finds herself in need of Andy's legal services.

Silva, Daniel. [The Collector](#) (Harper \$32). **July 22 Ticketed Event.** Yay. Art restorer Gabriel Allon is leveraged out of Venice, operating again in the world of international espionage and action, drawing in characters you have missed. Gabriel Allon joins forces with a brilliant and beautiful master-thief to track down the world's most valuable missing painting, but soon finds himself in a desperate race to prevent an unthinkable conflict between Russia and the West. I point out that for Silva, Russia has always been the enemy in his sights.

Smith, Dominic. [Return to Valetto](#) (Farrar Strauss \$28). If I could currently type I would rave about the glories literary and in landscape and story of our **July Notable New Fiction Book of the Month**. Here is an Italy you have not seen before nor a very long echo of its Fascist regime. Also of grief and survival. Truly brilliant. Don't miss it.

Tapper, Jake. [All the Demons Are Here](#) (LittleBrown \$29) "is an absolute page-turner chronicling the continuing adventures of the Marder clan. Evel Knievel? Check. UFOs? Check? A serial killer stalking the nation's capital? Check. And all set during one of America's secretly weirdest years: 1977. Powered by dual protagonists Ike and Lucy Marder [children of Senator Charlie and wife Margaret], the book sends the reader pinballing across America, looking for answers in a strange, post-Watergate world. Tapper's deep knowledge of American history is on display, as is his obvious love of American pop culture—the good, the bad, and the bizarre. 'Merica, baby!!!!'—Gillian Flynn. Don Winslow adds, "Here is a fantastic and engrossing thriller that travels the reader through one of the most fascinating periods in American history. Tapper has a deep understanding of the subjects he writes about and presents a rich tapestry of politics, life and culture and shows how they intersect and collide. Tapper has emerged as a writer of fine craft, detail and observation

Thor, Brad. [Dead Fall](#) (Atria \$29.99). **Thor is not doing a live event but is coming to The Pen to sign so ask for inscriptions and/or dating for your copy.** In the war-ravaged borderlands of Ukraine, a Russian military unit has gone rogue. Its members, conscripted from the worst prisons and mental asylums across

Russia, are the most criminally violent, psychologically dangerous combatants to ever set foot upon the modern battlefield. When multiple American aid workers are killed, the lethal Scot Harvath is sent in to settle the score. But in a country almost the size of Texas, will he be able to execute his mission?

Webb, Brandon/David Mann. [Blind Fear](#) (Random \$28.99). Signed by both. By day, AWOL Navy SEAL Finn is hiding out on Vieques, a tiny island paradise off the eastern coast of Puerto Rico, living in a spare room behind a seafood restaurant owned by a blind local. By night he scours the dark web, hunting for the rogue officer responsible for the crimes he is accused of committing. But Finn's world is about to be turned upside down by a new nightmare, when his employer's two grandchildren go missing. To find them, he'll have to infiltrate the island's dangerous criminal underbelly and expose a shadowy crime network known as La Empresa—even if it means exposing himself in the process. As the children go on their own harrowing odyssey to stay one step ahead of a cop-turned-killer, a hurricane batters the coastline, cutting Puerto Rico off from the rest of the world. Taking his pursuit to the sea, Finn's skills and endurance will be tested to their limits

UNSIGNED EVENT BOOKS

Downing, Samantha. [Twisted Love Story](#) (Berkley \$28). Wes and Ivy's amorous relationship hits the highest of highs and the lowest of lows. From sweeping romance to screaming matches and physical altercations, their on-again, off-again is a seesaw of promise and regret. Yet there's one episode that Wes and Ivy never discuss: The night things went too far and someone ended up dead. So when a detective starts asking questions about that fatal evening, Wes and Ivy have one more reason to stay together — especially as the investigation closes in on them both. "A deliciously clever thriller"

Harding, Robyn. [The Drowning Woman](#) (Grand Central \$28). Lee Gulliver never thought she'd find herself living on the streets—no one ever does—but when her restaurant fails, and she falls deeper into debt, she leaves her old life behind with nothing but her clothes and her Toyota Corolla. In Seattle, she parks in a secluded spot by the beach to lay low and plan her next move—until early one morning, she sees a sobbing woman throw herself into the ocean. Lee hauls the woman back to the surface, but instead of appreciation, she is met with fury. The drowning woman, Hazel, tells her that she wanted to die, that she's trapped in a toxic, abusive marriage, that she's a prisoner in her own home. Lee has thwarted her one chance to escape her life. Out of options, Hazel retreats to her gilded cage, and Lee thinks she's seen the last of her, until her unexpected return the next morning. Bonded by disparate but difficult circumstances, the women soon strike up a close and unlikely friendship. And then one day, Hazel makes a shocking request: she wants Lee to help her disappear. It'll be easy, Hazel assures her, but Lee soon learns that nothing is as it seems, and that Hazel may not be the friend Lee thought she was.

Mosse, Kate. [The Ghost Ship](#) (St Martins \$30). The Barbary Coast, 1621. A mysterious vessel floats silently on the water. It is known only as the Ghost Ship. For months it has hunted pirates to liberate those enslaved by corsairs, manned by a courageous crew of mariners from Italy and France, Holland and the Canary Islands. But the bravest men on board are not who

they seem. And the stakes could not be higher. If arrested, they will be hanged for their crimes. Can they survive the journey and escape their fate? Mosse delivers another “sweeping and epic love story,” ranging from France in 1610 to Amsterdam and the Canary Islands in the 1620s.

A SUMMER MYSTERY CHALLENGE

Karber, GT. [Murdle: Volume 1](#) (St Martins \$16). Wow, here’s the first collection of 100 original murder mystery logic puzzles—Elementary to Impossible Mysteries to Solve Using Logic, Skill, and the Power of Deduction—a perfect gift for armchair detectives and puzzlers to hone their minds and solve a series of crimes. Also the perfect volume to stash in your pocket to while away breaks in your action and hone your inner sleuth.

Who committed the ghastly deed?

What weapon was used to dispatch the victim?

Where did the calculated demise occur?

Join Deductive Logico. Examine the clues, interview the witnesses, and use the power of deduction to complete the grid and catch the culprit. Together, you’ll uncover a buried secret beneath all of the murders and a message that can only be decrypted when you’ve solved them all. Packed with illustrations, codes, and maps, and brimming with intrigue.

AND A FURTHER CHALLENGE: A SUMMER OF SPIES

Don’t overlook the work of such aces as Charles Cumming, Dan Fesperman, Vince Flynn/Kyle Mils, Alan Furst, Mick Herron, Joseph Kanon

Berry, IS. [The Peacock and the Sparrow](#) (Atria \$28). During the Arab Spring, an American spy’s final mission goes dangerously awry in Bahrain, headquarters of our Fifth Fleet, where Shane Collins, a world-weary CIA spy, is ready to come in from the cold. This is an excellent debut that will appeal to fans of Le Carré, Alan Furst, and Joseph Kanon, and reminds us that Iran has been a formidable threat for decades. Naturally there’s an alluring woman involved....

Betley, Matthew. [The Neighborhood](#) (\$17.99). CIA dropout Griffin Huntsmen, whose company is “one of the most successful private military and security contractors in and around D.C.,” masterminds the armed takeover of the gated community of Hidden Refuge, Virginia, so that he can retrieve a misplaced laptop containing top secret data to prevent a mysterious foreign power from getting it. What he doesn’t realize is that one resident is former CIA agent Zach Chambers, who became Griffin’s nemesis years ago during an assassination debacle in Malta. Zack, who must now unpack the deadly skills he thought he’d given up, begins to pick off Griffin’s team of mercenaries one by one as they try to control the community’s captive residents. Marine veteran Betley sets the tone of the story well, laying out the quaint town and a few of its citizens in the calm before the storm.

Cleveland, Karen. [You Can Run](#) (\$17). Part of the job of CIA analyst Jill Bailey, the narrator of this tense spy novel from Thriller Award finalist Cleveland, consists of vetting potential double agents. One morning at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, she receives a call telling her that her infant son, Owen, is being held hostage. In exchange for his return, she must green

light the agency’s documentation on a potential Syrian double agent code-named Falcon... Cleveland plunges the reader into a terrifying world of shifting alliances, action, and intrigue that fans of strong female characters will relish.

Fleming, Ian. [Diamonds Are Forever](#) (Harper \$18.99). You can rent the 1971 spy film and lean into his James Bond, but why not read the book? In fact, all the Flemings?

Haven, Josh. [The Siberia Job](#) (Penzler \$26.95 SIGNED). “As Russia privatized all state owned companies after the fall of the Soviet Union, a few dozen intrepid Western investors showed up hoping to cash in on the most undervalued investment opportunity in the history of capital markets. Unfortunately, the reality proved to be much more challenging, unpredictable and dangerous than anyone could have imagined. Thrilling and suspenseful, *The Siberia Job* tells a lightly fictionalized account of a few of those early investors, navigating dishonest and xenophobic officials, and Russia’s enormous geography to claim a stake in what would become the largest and most profitable energy company in the world. Their narrative captures the sense of danger and adventure and is storytelling intrigue at its very finest.” Not a spy story so much as a look at post-Gorbachev Russia and the acceleration of the oligarchs/Putin regime. Recommended also to fans of financial thrillers of which currently there are very few.

Katsu, Alma. [Red London](#) (Putnam \$28 SIGNED). Intelligence veteran Katsu, like IS Berry, draws on her experience to craft a pair of spy stories with a woman focused on Russian threat in the lead. After her role in taking down a well-placed mole inside the CIA in [Red Widow](#) (\$17), Agent Lyndsey Duncan arrives in London fully focused on her newest Russian asset, deadly war criminal Dmitri Tarasenko. That is until her MI6 counterpart, Davis Ranford, personally calls for her help. Following a suspicious attack on Russian oligarch Mikhail Rotenberg’s property in a tony part of London, Davis needs Lyndsey to cozy up to the billionaire’s aristocratic British wife, Emily Rotenberg—the mission, to turn Emily.

Loudon, Elizabeth. [A Stranger in Baghdad](#) (American University in Cairo Press \$18.95). I don’t know about you but my knowledge of pre-WWII Iraq, specifically life and times in Baghdad under the royal family, is thin. In this excellent and insightful novel, Loudon relays life-changing events through the eyes of Diana, a lively Englishwoman who falls in love with and marries an ambitious Iraqi doctor studying in England. When they settle in Baghdad Diana not only has to cope with her role in a different culture and family structure, but gets a job as a nanny for the King’s family. Then she meets Duncan, a young British Embassy officer. When the king dies in a mysterious accident, Diana is accused of collaborating with Duncan and the British... a story that concludes in 2003 with Anglo-Iraqi psychiatrist Mona, Diane’s daughter, gets a visit from Duncan.... Highly recommended for the characters, the story, the history, the writing—and knowledge you will gain.

Maz, William. [The Bucharest Legacy](#) (Oceanview \$28.95). If you enjoy a perfect blend of conflicted heroes, nuance, seldom-visited settings, and action. This well-crafted tale brings the dramatic, slow burn of a John le Carré novel and plenty of spy games to the troubled nation of Romania in the years after the fall of the Soviet Union when a brutal, corrupt form of capitalism

and faux democracy emerged. The CIA's Bill Hefflin is sent back to Bucharest in 1993 when fears of a KGB mole surface. Only Hefflin knows a key secret.... Start with [The Bucharest Dossier](#) (\$16.99) taking place in December, 1989, when a coup overthrew the Ceausescu dictatorship, as together the books form a duology, one completing the other.

Milas, John. [The Militia House](#) (Holt \$26.99). The Indie Next Pick for a debut “exploring the unceasing horrors of war”: “*The Militia House* ensnares the reader in its unsettling atmosphere. The commentary around the military industrial complex and PTSD is subtle, casting a critical eye that never fully dives into polemic. A wild, immersive ride.” Not exactly spy fiction but its look at 2010 combat in Afghanistan and the allure of war through the lens of a haunted house tale is distinctive.

Quirk, Matthew. [Red Warning](#) (Morrow \$28.99 SIGNED or \$9.99 late July). CIA officer Sam Hudson races to find a deep cover operative loose in the U.S. and a mole in the Agency before they can launch a devastating attack on Washington, D.C., in this adrenaline-fueled thriller from the author of [The Night Agent](#) (\$18.99) and [Inside Threat](#) (\$29.99 SIGNED), both focused on the Secret Service rather than spy agencies. Quirk is excellent both at action and characterizations and writes from insider knowledge based on a journalist career in DC. Look for more video/movie news and, of course, another book.

Reay, Katherine. [A Shadow in Moscow](#) (Harper \$17.99) toggles between the lives of mother and daughter spies. In 1944, Ingrid Bauer is living in Nazi-occupied Vienna when her parents are killed by the SS for working for the British Foreign Service. Heartbroken, Ingrid remains in Vienna and in 1954 marries a Soviet embassy worker. The two soon relocate to Moscow, where Ingrid begins to worry her husband is a KGB officer as she takes stock of his suspicious behavior many friends who are affiliated with the agency. After she becomes a mother, though, she sets out to create a freer world for her daughter taking us into the 1980s. This riveting story of two female spies operating in Moscow during different eras has everything you could ever want in a novel—suspense, intrigue, compelling characters, exotic settings, deep insight, and gasp-inducing plot twists. A word of advice: clear your calendar before opening the book.

Silva, Daniel. [The Collector](#) (Harper \$32 SIGNED July 22). Despite the varied locations where Israeli agent Gabriel Allon has operated over the course of this brilliant series, Russia has always been a Silva focus. And here it is again.

Thor, Brad. [Dead Fall](#) (Atria \$29.99 SIGNED July 24). A Russian mercenary unit has gone rogue in Ukraine. When American citizens are murdered, lethal operative Scot Harvath is dispatched to exact revenge. But in a country so vast, can he? For my money the best recent Thor thriller based on a theater we should be watching in the heated up Cold Wars is [Black Ice](#) (\$17.99) taking Harvath above Norway's Arctic Circle and into a Chinese threat we should be on full alert to quell. Also Harvath's relationship with the Norwegian ninja Sølvi adds dimensions to the action.

Walton, Calder. [Spies: The Epic Intelligence War between East and West](#) (Simon & Schuster \$24.99) is “the riveting, secret story of the hundred-year intelligence war between Russia and the West with lessons for our new superpower conflict with China. The *Wall Street Journal* runs terrific book coverage (apparently not influenced by its editorial board) and really digs into this excel-

lent volume, calling it “A history of a century of conflict between Russian and Western intelligence services reveals strengths—and corresponding weaknesses—on both sides.” Walton digs into not just the history but the mind-sets and strategies of the main national leaders analyzed. Read its [REVIEW](#) of Walton (there's a Stasi document with a photo of a 1985 Putin working as a KGB agent in Dresden included).

Walton ends with this: “In the case of understanding intelligence, leadership means appreciating strengths and weaknesses, content and contexts, overt meanings and possible implications. The politics of bravado, hunch and intuition will not do. Instead, as with military strategy, leadership involves the assessment of risk and the ability to think things through and plan forward in many contexts.”

Williams, Beatriz. [The Beach at Summerly](#) (Morrow \$29.99 SIGNED). There are few more skilled practitioners of the craft of summer fiction than Beatriz Williams. Her latest is both a spy thriller and a Romeo and Juliet tale of would-be lovers torn apart by fate and circumstance, all enriched with real historical details. Set primarily on an island off New England in the decade following World War II (Williams alternates between 1946 and 1954), the story centers on Emilia “Cricket” Winthrop, whose family first laid claim to the island that now bears their name.” WWII has ended, life picks up. The remaining Peabodys return to Winthrop for the first time since the fighting stopped, ready to rekindle, regroup and throw parties that rival those of before times. Emilia and Shep have stayed in touch via letters over the years, and now their friendship grows into something more. But the arrival from England of the captivating and somewhat mysterious Peabody relative Olive Rainsford bodes trouble for all. Emilia becomes entangled in Olive's web of intrigue, unspooling events that will have tragic implications for both families — and reverberations well beyond the island. I paraphrase this review in the [NY Times](#).

Wolff, James. [The Man in the Corduroy Suit](#) (Bitter Lemon Press \$15.95). MI5 officer Leonard Flood's brusque, daresay rude, manner and outsize personality are required for the investigation he's tasked with: spying on other spies suspected of working for the Russians, particularly a recently retired operative who may or may not have been poisoned. It comes down to a single question, one with no easy answer: Who is worth the loyalty that people — and governments — extend? “Some spies are all about warmth, others are a blast of cold Arctic air.” The same description applies equally to Wolff's prose, all sharp edges and abrupt surprises, keeping the reader in a state of edgy discomfort. The *NYTBR* adds, “[This novel] establishes him as a memorable voice in the genre.”

CLASSICS

First, a reminder of two British Library Crime Classics from Poisoned Pen Press:

Carr, John Dickson. [The Seat of the Scornful](#) (\$14.99). First published in 1942, this reissue is one of Carr's most tense and enjoyable game of cat and mouse pitting detective Gideon Fell against the “chief” suspect.

Lorac, ECR. [Crook O'Lune](#) (\$14.99). It all began in 1953 up at High Gimmerdale with the sheep-stealing, a hateful act in the shepherding fells above the bend in the Lune River—the Crook o' Lune. Then came the fire at Aikengill house and with the

leaping of the flames, death, disorder, and dangerous gossip came to the quiet moorlands. Chief Inspector Robert Macdonald's trip becomes a busman's holiday when he is drawn to investigate.

Next:

Eco, Umberto. [The Name of the Rose](#) (Harper \$19.99). Now available in a deluxe fortieth-anniversary paperback edition featuring never-before-seen illustrations by the author, the beloved internationally bestselling historical mystery about a brilliant monk called upon to solve a series of baffling murders in a fourteenth-century Italian abbey. In 1347, while Brother William of Baskerville is investigating accusations of heresy at a wealthy abbey, his inquiries are disrupted by a series of bizarre deaths. Turning his practiced detective skills to finding the killer, he relies on logic (Aristotle), theology (Thomas Aquinas), empirical insights (Roger Bacon), and his own wry humor and ferocious curiosity. With the aid of his young apprentice, William scours the abbey, from its stables to the labyrinthine library, piecing together evidence, and deciphering cryptic symbols and coded manuscripts to uncover the truth about this place where "the most interesting things happen at night." When approaching this book nervously, from an angle, you'll hear some fairly alarming terms, like *semiotics* or *deliberate mistranslation*. Fear not! "The trick with this admittedly dense and fascinating novel is simple: It's a murder mystery. Let everything else hit you subliminally, and just concentrate on enjoying the story at its most primal level." That's great advice. Mine is: on the first reading, skip the footnotes, don't try to translate the Latin, just read the story which is enjoyable for bibliophiles, medievalists, historical fiction fans, any fiction fans. And if all else fails, rent the movie starring Sean Connery and F. Murray Abraham which boils it down to the murder mystery for you.

Also republished: [Foucault's Pendulum](#) (Harper \$19.99)

Fleming, Ian. [Diamonds Are Forever](#) (Harper \$18.99). Speaking of Sean Connery, again you can rent the 1971 movie and lean into his James Bond, but why not read the book?

Goines, Donald. [Street Players](#) (Kensington \$16.95). A republication. Detroit, 1970s. Needles glitter the ground. Guns pop 24/7. Everyone's working an angle, especially the cops. Out of this gritty urban nightmare, one man rises from the filth, ready to seize his destiny by any means necessary... With ice in his veins and a stable of women to keep his money rolls thick and plenty, Earl the Black Pearl has every intention of staying at the top of the brutal empire he created. But when someone starts picking off his crew, all hell is about to break loose!

Penzler, Otto. [Golden Age Bibliomysteries](#) (Norton \$17.95). How fine is this? Dust off your specs and light your reading lamp. Veteran anthologist Penzler has collected 14 reprints from between 1920 and 1946 uniting two of his favorite subjects: books and murder. Except for three items of mostly historical interest—"The Jorgenson Plates," Frederick Irving Anderson's dated tale of prolific thief Sophie Lang's latest con; Carolyn Wells' well-informed but over-plotted "The Shakespeare Title-Page Mystery"; and Frank Gruber's "State Fair Murder," which records the sleuthing adventures of Oliver Quade, the Human Encyclopedia, at the Minnesota State Fair—the rest of these entries range from Fine to Very Fine and include authors like Woolrich, Boucher, Queen.... The jewel in the crown is "Death

Walks in Marble Halls," another tale by Blochman, in which murder and menace stalk the stacks of the New York Public Library. This volume also comes in a hardcover: [Golden Age Bibliomysteries](#) (Norton \$27.95).

And Finally, five from Hardboiled Crime republisher Stark House Press in nifty double volumes with fresh Introductions. We urge you to check into other titles and read the reviews [on their website](#) and then place your order:

Brewer, Gil. [Satan is a Woman/13 French Street](#) (\$19.95)

Burnett, W R. [Little Caesar / The Silver Eagle](#) (\$20.95)

Heller, Lorenz. [Pulp Champagne: The Short Fiction of Lorenz Heller](#) (\$15.95)

Twist, Peter. [Three Aces: The Gilded Hideaway / In at](#) (\$19.95)

Walker, Gertrude. [So Deadly Fair/Diamonds Don't Burn](#) (\$19.95)

COZIES

Allan, Gabby. [All That Glitters Isn't Old](#) (Kensington \$16.95). For Santa Catalina boat tour guide Whitney Dagner and her chonky cat Whiskers, the island is the perfect vacation spot for people who want to get away with murder... In her youth, Goldy was an item with a Catalina catch named Darren. But it was actually a ruse to fool Darren's parents who wouldn't have accepted his preference for men. In a surprise to the residents, Darren produced a documentary about the history of Catalina, and has arranged a premiere screening in the local theater. But his film career is cut short when his partner's dead body is discovered the night before the opening....

Barrett, Lorna. [A Questionable Character](#) (Berkley \$28). It's a busy summer in Booktown. Contractor Jim Stark is in great demand: he's overseeing a number of projects, including Angelica Miles's newly constructed building on Main Street, finishing up the new brew pub, and gutting a stone mansion off Main Street that Angelica bought to be the world headquarters for Nigela Ricita Associates. Tricia Miles and Angelica arrive at the mansion before their workday to see how the construction is going. They find the place unlocked and Stark's right-hand man, Sanjay Arya, dead—bludgeoned to death. The loss of the contractor's top man threatens all the projects in the works...and involves Tricia in yet another murder investigation.

Berenson, Laurien. [Peg and Rose Stir Up Trouble](#) (Kensington \$27). Sexagenarian dog show judge Peg Turnbull's sister-in-law Rose is meddling in Peg's private life. Rose convinces the widowed Peg to sign up for a seniors-focused dating site and, after a few false starts, Peg meets Nolan Abercrombie, a witty, urbane suitor who "looks like George Clooney's father." When he expresses an interest in dogs, the usually intractable Peg is enchanted. Her elation is short-lived, though: Nolan is killed in a hit-and-run. The police believe it's an accident, but Peg and Rose suspect foul play.

Budewitz, Leslie. [Between a Wok and a Dead Place](#) (Severn \$17.95). In the 7th Spice Shop mystery, Pepper Reece, owner of the Spice Shop in Seattle's Pike Place Market, investigates when a friend discovers a body in a boarded-up building in the Chinatown-International District and believes she's being haunted by the ghost of Bruce Lee. As the clues pile up, it's clear that someone's fortunes are about to change.

Burdette, Lucy. [The Ingredients of Happiness](#) (Severn \$31.99). 32-year-old 'happiness guru' Dr Cooper Hunziker has a dream

job as assistant psychology professor at Yale, a forthcoming self-help book, *The Happiness Connection*, and the perfect man. But she's facing cut-throat competition for her tenure at Yale, an accusation of plagiarism that could cost her everything, her new book has irritated the department chairman, who assigns her to co-lead a happiness group at the New Haven Library. As her friendship with the other women in the group flourishes, Cooper finds herself questioning her choices. Forced to face a life-changing betrayal and her own traumatic past, can she navigate a path to happiness with the help of a gargoyle's wisdom? Not quite Dark Academic....

✠Cannell, Dorothy. [Peril in the Parish](#) (18.99). 1933, Dovecote Hatch, England. Florence Norris knows she has found a good man in George 'Birdie' Bird, the landlord of the local pub, The Dog & Whistle. They are set to marry in the parish church of their beloved village of Dovecote Hatch. But when a mysterious stranger seeks out George, sharing family secrets and talks of an illegal burial years ago. As Florence and George are pulled reluctantly into this mystery, they uncover unpleasant truths and dark entanglements in this idyllic English village. This is a real blast from the past – Cannell wrote the quintessential cozy *The Thin Woman* over 30 years ago.

✠Coles, The Reverend Richard. [Murder Before Evensong](#) (Titan \$16.95). This first in a new series is a charming, warm and witty tale of secrets and murder set among the parishioners of a quaint English village. "I've been waiting for a novel with vicars, rude old ladies, murder and sausage dogs...!"

Delany, Vicki. [Steeped in Malice](#) (Kensington \$27). Thanks to the Great Teacup Shortage, Cape Cod tearoom proprietress Lily Roberts is already feeling the strain. But when a family fracas turns deadly over an antique tea set, she'll really have to *pour* through the clues.... And here is Vicki's 51st book.

✠Ellicott, Jessica. [Murder at a London Finishing School](#) (Kensington \$27). "The captivating seventh installment in Ellicott's Beryl and Edwina cozy mystery series the two friends reluctantly returning to their former finishing school. The school's headmistress, Miss DuPont, has called upon the ladies' investigative skills to find out who's behind the acts of sabotage on the failing school's grounds. Under the guise of vetting schools for a nonexistent goddaughter, Beryl and Edwina seek to discover why supplies have gone missing and who's behind the menacing noises regularly scaring students and staff. Things take a more sinister turn when the mother of a student is found dead on campus...."—*PW*

Gilbert, Victoria. [A Cryptic Clue](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99). Sixty-year-old Jane Hunter, forced into early retirement from her job as a university librarian, is seeking a new challenge to keep her spirits up and supplement her meager pension. Cameron "Cam" Clewe, an eccentric 33-year-old collector, is also seeking something—an archivist to inventory his ever-expanding compendium of rare books and artifacts. Jane's thrilled to be hired on by Cam and to uncover the secrets of his latest acquisition, a trove of items related to the classic mystery and detective authors. But Jane's delight is upended when a body is discovered in Cam's library. The victim, heir to a pharmaceutical fortune, was the last in line of Cam's failed romances—and now he's suspect number one....

✠Hall, Emylia. [The Shell House Detectives](#) (Alyson \$16.99). This beautifully written cozy coastal mystery packs a real punch plus if you yearn for a Cornish summer, Hall dishes it up in this series start.

James, Miranda. [Hiss Me Deadly](#) (Berkley \$26). Charlie Harris remembers Wilfred "Wil" Threadgill as one of the outsiders during high school in Athena. Wil dropped out, headed to California, and became a song/writing/band-fronting star. He and his entourage are back for two weeks mentoring in the college music department, where not everyone is delighted. When someone in his band is killed, the Cat in the Stacks act, Charlie and Diesel, are on the job.

✠Lloyd, Catherine. [Miss Morton and the English House Party](#) (\$16.95). Following the suspicious death of her father, the Earl of Morton, and the discovery that she and her much younger sister have been left without income or home, Lady Caroline takes a post as a lady's companion to wealthy widow Mrs. Matilda (Matty) Frogerton. Eager to introduce herself and her rather wild daughter to the ton, Mrs. Frogerton is pleased when they are invited by Caroline's aunt, Lady Eleanor Greenwood, to a house party in the countryside. For her part, Caroline is eager to see her little sister, who now lives with their aunt. But all is not well at the Greenwood estate... after a series of troubling harassments of the staff, an elderly family member is found fatally stabbed by a knitting needle. First in a Regency cozy series.

Marts, Jennie. [Take the Honey and Run](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99). When a Colorado beekeeper's honey causes the death of her small town's mayor, her mystery-writing granddaughter tries to clean up the mess. It begins when Bailey finally arrives at Granny Bee's just in time to see her grandmother chasing mayor and local lothario Werner Humble off her property after an unwelcome advance. Granny's threats to Werner's health and well-being seem figurative and entirely warranted until the next morning, when Bailey discovers that Werner's had a fatal allergic reaction to Granny Bee's hot spiced honey (recipe included).

SOME JULY HARDCOVER BOOKS

Brodeur, Adrienne. [Little Monsters](#) (Simon & Schuster \$28). Memoirist Brodeur sets this shimmering novel in the "white-hot mess" of summer 2016. Adam Gardner, a stodgy and sleepless oceanic research scientist on Cape Cod, is not looking forward to his upcoming 70th birthday. In a decisive moment, he stops taking his lithium—prescribed for his bipolar disorder—in hopes that without the medication he will unlock the secret to how whales communicate with each other. Brodeur alternates Adam's story with those of the son and daughter he'd raised on his own after his wife died prematurely. By the time of Adam's birthday party, he's become newly inspired and "hyperaware" of his life and surroundings. What was supposed to be a normal family event crumbles beneath the weight of hidden animosities, secrets, lies, and buried childhood trauma, all of which play out amid the festivities. Brodeur distinguishes herself with a astute portrayal of the turbulence between the siblings and their spouses, and the prose renders Adam's magical thinking with precision.

✠Billingham, Mark. [The Last Dance](#) (Grove \$28). In a new series start, meet Maverick sleuth Declan Miller who is back at work following the murder of his wife (and amateur ballroom dancing partner) Alex. Working with new partner and heavy metal enthusiast DS Sara Xiu, he is tasked with investigating the

double killing of gangland family scion Adrian Cutler and IT consultant Barry Shepherd at the Sands Hotel. Initial evidence suggests a hired gun and a botched job. The search for the hitman begins and Miller begins to reconnect with his old network—his ballroom dancing friends, homeless informant Finn, and even the ghost of his wife who keeps showing up in his kitchen.

Bruns, Don. [Thriller: An Anthology of New Mystery Short Stories](#) (Blackstone \$26.99). Includes stories from Heather Graham, Jeffery Deaver, William Kent Krueger, Dahlia Rose, and David R. Slayton, among others. Also available now in paperback, another story collection: [Hotel California](#) (\$16.99)

✎Cantor, Rachel. [Half-Life of a Stolen Sister](#) (Soho \$26) reimagines the lives of the Brontë siblings—Charlotte, Emily, Anne, and brother Branwell—from their precocious childhoods, to the writing of their great novels, to their early deaths. A form-shattering novel by an author praised as “laugh-out-loud hilarious and thought-provokingly philosophical.”—*Boston Globe*

Craven, M W. [Fearless](#) (Flatiron \$27.99). British Gold Dagger winner Craven makes his US debut. Off the grid for six years, former U.S. Marshal Ben Koenig is asked to find his former boss’ missing daughter. Koenig was forced to leave the elite Special Operations Group when he was found to have a rare genetic disorder that makes him impervious to fear. Tagged with a \$5 million bounty for killing the son of a Russian crime boss, he faked his own death and went underground. He resurfaces when the head of SOG, to whom he is devoted, summons him to find his daughter, Martha—and, in the likely event that she’s dead, punish her abductors. Martha’s disappearance and the death of a Georgetown professor of hers have something to do with the research she was doing into a mysterious solar energy company in Texas’ Chihuahuan Desert, where the company founder’s best friend died in a rock climbing accident. There must be more to the business than business.

Cravens, Claudia. [Lucky Red](#) (Dial Press \$27. A debut in the “Indies Introduce” line of Indie Next is an “historical tale of sex work and queer desire on the American frontier. Recently orphaned Bridget Shaughnessy, 16, lands in Dodge City, in 1877. Her innocent look and flaming red hair catch the attention of Lila and Kate, madams of the refined Buffalo Queen brothel. There, Bridget discovers unlikely romance with Spartan Lee, a gender-bending outlaw chaser. Spartan, meanwhile, is working a con that sweeps up Bridget and the rest of her colleagues at the Buffalo Queen. Cravens peppers the thrilling plot with delicious language (Bridget’s clients are “a series of hats and mustaches”) and her sensitive portrayal of Bridget’s uncertainty over her sexuality resonates. It’s a western for the modern era.

Indie Next says, “Set in a late 1800s Dodge City, a young woman is caught up in other people’s expectations. Lucky Red is about carving your own way in a world that wants to keep you under its thumb. A thrilling western full of grit, passion, and whiskey!” For other Westerns “breaking all the rules” [check out these titles](#).

Crichton, Michael. [Zero Cool](#) (Blackstone \$24.99). Blackstone is bringing back earlier novels by authors like Don Winslow, and here, the late Crichton in a summer adventure thriller. For American radiologist Peter Ross, it sounded like the perfect vacation: deliver one study in Spain and then spend the rest of his time on a Mediterranean beach. But he wasn’t planning

on meeting Angela Locke, a dark-haired beauty with a big problem—she’s on the run from two warring gangs, each dead set on finding a mysterious artifact, and they’ll kill anyone who stands in their way.

Day, Jamie. [The Block Party](#) (St. Martins \$28). “What would happen if the women of *Desperate Housewives* held a block party that resulted in a murder? The answer would be something like this thriller, a quick read with the gossipy twists and turns of a residential neighborhood full of its fair share of betrayals and suspects.” I tried to get into this and it just isn’t my bag.

Davis, Lindsey. [Fatal Legacy](#) (St Martins \$28). In another mystery encased in a rich portrait of ancient Rome, Flavia Albia, the adopted daughter of Marcus Didius Falco (hero of a prior Davis series), is asked by her Aunt Junia, who manages a grubby feeding post, to track down two customers who stiffed her. With only vague descriptions to go on, Flavia flexes her investigative skills to track down the deadbeats, only to land a more challenging assignment from one of their aunts after she confronts them. Tranquilla Euhodia’s niece is about to be married, but her future in-laws have raised questions about whether Euhodia’s brother is a free citizen, as he claims to be, or a slave. Flavia agrees to find proof that the boy is free, digging into an old murder in the process—and before long, she has a new murder to investigate. Check out a collection of Signed earlier Roman mysteries by Davis.

Goldberg, Lee. [Malibu Burning](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$28.99 or \$16.99 paperback). Goldberg excels in crafting high action investigations in the distinctive geographies and cultures of Southern California. Here it’s Malibu and the lead is master thief Danny Cole who is riding out a prison sentence in the convicts’ firefighting program. It’s still custodial but the prisoners serve outdoors in camps and are assigned hot shot spots. When a fire threatens palatial homes in Malibu and one entitled resident’s actions lead to a terrible death, it ignites in Danny a scheme for both a massive heist and thorough revenge. So Arson investigator Walter Shapiro and his wild-card new partner speculate who has set blazes scorching the hills of Malibu. Inevitably they all collide as flames rage into the canyons.... This is an incendiary read with all the hallmarks of a great screen play and satisfying applications of justice.

✎Hay, Alex. [The Housekeepers](#) (Graydon House \$29.99). “It’s *Ocean’s Eight* meets *Downton Abbey*! The man of the household has died. His daughter plots her engagement as the ‘downstairs’ workers plot as well: clearing the house out from top to bottom. This novel is immensely satisfying.” I go beyond the Indie Next Pick to say it’s a feminist historical in which the ruthless heiress of a London mansion is determined to marry not well but brilliantly while her staff headed by equally ferocious women are determined to orchestrate a full robbery to secure their futures... and a sort of justice. Here is our **July British Crime Book of the Month**. Highly recommended.

Howzell Hall, Rachel. [What Never Happened](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$28.99). See Some July Large Paperbacks for a review.

Kepler, Lars. [The Spider](#) (Knopf \$29). Three years ago, Detective Saga Bauer received an ominous postcard describing a gun and nine white bullets—one of which was intended for her partner, Detective Joona Linna. The sender alleged that Saga was the only person who could save him. But as time passed, the threat faded.

Until now, when a sack with a decomposing body has been found hanging from a tree in the forest. Scandinoir.

Kistler, Bonnie. [Her, Too](#) (Harper \$29.99). Law firm partner Kelly McCann is known for successfully defending her clients from sexual assault allegations. Flush from her recent victory for Dr. George Benedict, a prominent research scientist, she accepts an invitation to a dinner party at his home, where he assaults her. Going to the police or the press would jeopardize Kelly's job and reputation, and the nondisclosure agreements she's brokered with several of Benedict's previous victims prevent them from speaking out on her behalf. Instead, Kelly reaches out to these women and orchestrates a convoluted plan for revenge. Things do not go smoothly.... There's a large paperback edition too: [Her, Too](#) (Harper \$18.99).

Lynch, Lindsay. [Do Tell](#) (Knopf \$28). Indie Next says, "This is a deeply moving and incredibly fun story of the golden age of Hollywood, where gossip can make or break you. This book is smartly written and captures a wealth of social issues in Hollywood that are as prevalent now as they were then."

✂Malliet, G M. [Death in Print](#) (Severn \$31.99). A celebration in Oxford for university tutor and bestselling author Jason Verdoot, attended by DCI St. Just and his fiancée Portia, is a night to remember...for all the wrong reasons. Ordered Upon Request.

Moreno Garcia, Silvia. [Silver Nitrate](#) (Random \$28). Montserrat has always been overlooked. She's a talented sound editor, but she's left out of the boys' club running the film industry in '90s Mexico City. And she's all but invisible to her best friend, Tristán, a charming if faded soap opera star, though she's been in love with him since childhood. Then Tristán discovers his new neighbor is the cult horror director Abel Urueta, and the legendary auteur claims he can change their lives—even if his tale of a Nazi occultist imbuing magic into highly volatile silver nitrate stock sounds like sheer fantasy. The magic film was never finished. Urueta claims he is cursed, but now he wants Montserrat and Tristán to help him shoot the missing scene and lift the curse. Hmmmm. Montserrat soon notices a dark presence following her, and Tristán begins seeing the ghost of his ex-girlfriend.

Patterson, James/James O. Born. [Obsessed](#) (LittleBrown \$30). A killer is targeting young women in New York City and is obsessed with Michael Bennett's daughter. Also out in July: [Circle of Death](#) (Grand Central \$32) with Brian Sitts.

Poston, Ashley. [The Seven Year Slip](#) (Berkley \$28 or \$17 in paperback) is a time travel romance starring a book publicist who finds a strange man standing in the kitchen of her late aunt's apartment. Is falling in love a matter of time? Or of timing? Poston is the author of [The Dead Romantics](#) (\$17) featuring a disillusioned ghostwriter. How can I resist these bookish stories?

Sims, Laura. [How Can I Help You?](#) (Putnam \$27). Margo moved to Carlyle two years ago to get a fresh start as a librarian, her days filled with helping patrons. Margo's carefully crafted mundane life starts to unravel and may pull Patricia into a tangle of terrifying secrets." No one knows Margo's real name. Her colleagues and patrons at a small-town public library only know her middle-aged normalcy, congeniality, and charm. They have no reason to suspect that she is, in fact, a former nurse with a trail of countless premature deaths in her wake. She has turned a

new page, so to speak, and the library is her sanctuary, a place to quell old urges. That is, at least, until Patricia, a recent graduate and failed novelist, joins the library staff. Patricia quickly notices Margo's subtly sinister edge, and watches her carefully. When a patron's death in the library bathroom gives her a hint of Margo's mysterious past, Patricia can't resist digging deeper—even as this new fixation becomes all-consuming. Mesmerizingly creepy.

Reid, Taylor Jenkins. [Taylor Jenkins Reid Boxed Set](#) (Washington Square Press \$72). Summer Reading trio: *Forever Interrupted*, *After I Do*, *Maybe in Another Life*, and *One True Loves*.

Soria, DL. [Thief Liar Lady](#) (Del Rey, \$27.). "Happily Ever After" is a total scam, but at least this time the princess is the one controlling the grift—until her true love arrives and threatens to ruin the whole scheme. "In a reimagined Cinderella tale with the political intrigue and violence of *Game of Thrones*. Lady Aislinn is a revolutionary hiding behind the cover of the meek beautiful girl the prince fell in love with at the ball. Her plan might work except for the bandit that is now on the loose, the captive prince who gets under her skin, and her conniving stepmother." Perfect for Naomi Novik readers.

✂Toyne, Simon. [The Clearing](#) (Harper \$32). Toyne's second mystery featuring criminologist Laughton Rees after our 2022 British Crime Book of the Month [Dark Objects](#) (\$19) further establishes the character as an effective series lead in the spirit of Patricia Cornwell's Kay Scarpetta. Rees, whose estranged father was the commissioner of London's Metropolitan Police, consults for the U.K.'s National Crime Agency while conducting academic research on the connection between folklore and crimes. Those studies come in handy after 24-year-old Maddie Friar disappears from Cinderfield, a market town encircled by forest, on Midsummer's Eve. The woods near Cinderfield are reportedly the domain of the Cinderman. That legend has been sustained by the disappearances of almost 60 women over 20 years, and when Rees learns about Friar's case, she heads straight to Cinderfield where is not welcomed by the area's chief constable, who suspects Friar, a woman with a lengthy criminal record, may not be missing at all.

Ward, Jessica. [The St Ambrose School for Girls](#) (Gallery \$27.99). Ward. When Sarah Taylor arrives at the exclusive St. Ambrose School, she's carrying more baggage than just what fits in her suitcase. She knows she's not like the other girls—if the shabby, all-black, non-designer clothes don't give that away, the bottle of lithium hidden in her desk drawer sure does. St. Ambrose's queen bee, Greta Stanhope, picks Sarah as a target from day one and the most popular, powerful, horrible girl at school is relentless in making sure Sarah knows what the pecking order is. Thankfully, Sarah makes an ally out of her roommate Ellen "Strots" Strotsberry, a cigarette-huffing, devil-may-care athlete who takes no bullshit. Also down the hall is Nick Hollis, the devastatingly handsome RA, and the object of more than one St. Ambrose student's fantasies. Between Strots and Nick, Sarah hopes she can make it through the semester, dealing with not only her schoolwork and a recent bipolar diagnosis, but Greta's increasingly malicious pranks. This is a brilliant, affecting look at the challenges of navigating the world as neurodivergent. Be patient...and surprised.

Whitehead, Colson. [Crook Manifesto](#) (Knopf \$30). From two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author Colson Whitehead comes the thrilling and entertaining sequel to [Harlem Shuffle](#) (\$17). 1971. Trash is piled on the streets, crime is at a record high, and the city is careening towards bankruptcy. A shooting war has broken out between the NYPD and the Black Liberation Army. Ray Carney, furniture-store owner and ex fence, is trying to keep his head down, his business up, and his life on the straight and narrow. His only immediate need is Jackson 5 tickets for his daughter May, so what harm could it do to hit up Munson, his old police contact and fixer extraordinaire? And suddenly, staying out of the game becomes more complicated—and deadly.

Winning, Joshua. [Burn the Negative](#) (Penguin \$28). Arriving in L.A. to visit the set of a new streaming horror series, journalist Laura Warren witnesses a man jumping from a bridge, landing right behind her car. *Here we go*, she thinks. *It's started*. Because the series she's reporting on is a remake of a '90s horror flick. A *cursed* '90s horror flick, which she starred in as a child—and has been running from her whole life. In *The Guesthouse*, Laura played the little girl with the terrifying gift to tell people how the Needle Man would kill them. When eight of the cast and crew died in ways that eerily mirrored the movie's on-screen deaths, the film became a cult classic—and ruined her life. Leaving it behind, Laura changed her name and her accent, dyed her hair, and moved across the Atlantic. But some scripts don't want to stay buried. Now, as the body count rises again, Laura finds herself on the run with her aspiring actress sister and a jaded psychic, hoping to end the curse once and for all—and to stay out of the Needle Man's lethal reach.

Yonezawa, Honobu. [The Samurai and the Prisoner](#) (WorldWide \$24). Yonezawa. The winter of 1578, four years prior to the Honno-ji Incident. Araki Murashige has betrayed his ally Oda Nobunaga and holed himself up in Arioka Castle—but a string of unsettling incidents within the castle walls has him at his wit's end. The desperate warlord's only hope for solving these mysteries is imprisoned in the castle's dungeon: a man named Kuroda Kanbei, one of Oda's most gifted strategists. When all the conflict and intrigue come to a close, what will these two men have gained...and lost? Award-winning author Honobu Yonezawa's English-language debut is a page-turning blend of historical and detective fiction.

OUR JULY LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

☒Cleeves, Ann. [The Rising Tide](#) (\$18). It is a joy to watch a writer as skilful as Cleeves lay out her version of a locked room mystery Sexagenarians Rick Kelsall, Annie Laidler, and two other old friends reunite at the tidal island convent-turned-guesthouse where they met as teens during a school retreat. When Annie finds Rick's body hanging from a rafter, DI Vera Stanhope and her Northumbria Police colleagues cross the island's causeway to investigate. "As ever, Cleeves goes deeper, examining the precarious nature of life and what it is to age and face your own mortality. I'm still absolutely reeling..."—*The Guardian*.

Cleeves joins us on Monday September 4 at 1:00 PM with her new Matthew Venn police investigation set in Devon, [The Raging Storm](#) (St Martins \$29). **Our copies come with an exclusive and really nifty map.**

Sara Desai. [To Have and to Heist](#) (Berkley \$17). *Oceans 8* meets *The Wedding Planner* in this dazzling rom-com caper from Desai. Simi Chopra spends her life rushing from a series of "soul-sucking, mind-numbing entry-level office jobs" to retail side gigs... When her ride-or-die bestie, Chloe, a freelance white hat hacker, gets set up to take the fall for the theft of a \$25 million diamond necklace, Simi mounts a rescue that proves both hilarious and thoroughly ineffective, stymied by the presence of another criminal, Jack. Jack, a thief, doesn't have a last name he's willing to share with Simi, but he does have a plan. If Simi and her gig worker friends (each of whom has a relevant talent) can get him into the house of Chicago's best fence, Joseph Angelini, Jack will steal the necklace, clear Chloe's name, and give each member of the crew enough reward money that they'll be able to finally focus on their passions. Desai perfectly balances the lighthearted romance with a fun and twisty heist plot enacted by a kooky cast of indebted millennials." Perfect for a summer read, no?

☒Hamdy, Adam. [The Other Side of Night](#) (\$17). Harriet "Harri" Kealty is having a hard time. The love of her life has left her high and dry. She's lost her job as a police officer after the man who attacked her partner dies under mysterious circumstances. To top it all off, she's obsessed with what appears to be a murder-suicide in which her former beau is the prime suspect. This unusual thriller has some surprising elements... time travel...and incorporates various pertinent letters and emails, court and police reports, and news clippings, into the narrative. This is not the usual thriller...

Hays, Katy. [The Cloisters](#) (\$17.99). For those who enjoy NYC landmarks as featured in the work of Fiona Davis and Linda Fairstein, here's a book taking you into the Cloisters, the medieval art branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art put together in bits of buildings brought over to NY to the Palisades by Rockefeller and famously houses The Unicorn Tapestries. It's always on my Must See List when I visit the city. This 2022 First Mystery Book of the Month got this rave, besides mine, from Indie Next: "An atmospheric masterpiece! Ann Stillwell becomes increasingly obsessed with the occult after discovering a hidden 15th-century deck of tarot cards at The Cloisters. Hays creates a world so sinister that it is a character in itself."

☒Harrod-Eagles, Cynthia. [The Secrets of Ashmore Castle](#) (LittleBrown UK \$15.99). I am a mad fan of Harrod-Eagles's London cop Bill Slider crime novels—a passion shared by our blogger Lesa Holstine. But Harrod-Eagles is also a brilliant writer of historical fiction, often generational sagas, and here she starts a new one absolutely aces for fans of *Downtown Abbey*. Luckily we can get the books as British imports in a paperback not quite as large as most US ones for a reasonable price.

The drama begins in 1901 when the Earl of Stainton, a noted horseman, falls from his horse while hunting. His heir Giles, on a dig in Egypt, has avoided his father and the rest of the Tallant family for years. Having to step up to do his duty to the title, the castle, and his relatives appalls him, but needs must. When he arrives at Ashmore he soon learns that the legacy is far more onerous than he thought. Enter Kitty Bayfield, a shy but very rich daughter of a recently enobled Baronet.... Readers of Georgette Heyer will recognize elements of *A Civil Contract* here and will embrace this start of a well written and crafted series. It's set nearly a century later than *Bridgerton* but those fans too will enjoy this.

Hoffman, Michelle. [The Second Ending](#) (Random \$18). Local author Hoffman, a former Arts & Entertainment writes for the *Arizona Republic*, scores super high with this dazzling debut novel. Prudence Childs was once the most famous kindergartner on the planet. After teaching herself to play piano at age three, she performed at the White House, appeared on talk shows, and inspired a generation of children to take up lessons. But as adolescence closed in, Prudence began to see that she was just another exploited child star, pushed into fame by her cruel grandmother. Prudence ran away—from both performing and her greedy handler—as soon as she was old enough to vote. Flat broke and alone, she took a job writing commercial jingles, which earned her a fortune, but left her creatively adrift. Now forty-eight, with her daughters away at school, Prudence is determined to reconnect with the artist she once was and agrees to compete on a wildly popular dueling pianos TV show. Unfortunately, her new spotlight captures the attention of her terrible ex-husband, Bobby, who uses the opportunity to blackmail her over a secret she thought she'd buried in the past. Her virtuoso Alexei Petrov, a stunning young Internet sensation with a massive audience and a dreamy Russian accent, has problems of his own. His overbearing parents' domineering ways made him a technically flawless pianist but left him without friends, hobbies, or any kind of life outside his music. As they prepare to face off on stage, the retired prodigy and the exhausted wunderkind realize that the competition is their chance to prove—to their terrible exes, tyrannical family members, and most importantly, themselves—that it's never too late to write a new ending.

Hokeah, Oscar. [Calling for a Blanket Dance](#) (\$16.99). Winning the 2023 Reading the West's Best First Novel Award adds to the honors and praise heaped upon this book. "What is wonderful about Hokeah's debut is that each character gets to tell their own story, while also covering Ever's life, who they each feel responsible for as part of their family and community. ... What we have with this book is a complete picture of one person as seen by others, and an entire community made up of Kiowa, Cherokee, and Mexican Americans, each with their own language, speech rhythms, and ways of seeing the world." —*Literary Hub*

Howard, Catherine Ryan. [Run Time](#) (\$16.99). "After a breakdown on an Irish movie set, Adele Rafferty, the narrator of this superior thriller, moved to L.A., where she's been reduced to reception desk duty at a motel and auditioning for commercials. Then she gets a call out of the blue inviting her to star in the psychological horror picture *Final Draft* being made in West Cork. The caller states that filming was to start the very next day, but the lead actress has just quit. Delighted that news of her breakdown hadn't reached the filmmakers, Rafferty accepts and flies to Ireland overnight. An encouraging text from her former agent leaves Adele comfortable that *Final Draft* is legit. But when she arrives in the isolated location for the shoot, she gets an anonymous message warning her that things aren't safe for her. That ominous communication presages some creepy doings on the set that place her sanity and life at risk. Howard makes her lead's experiences feel fresh and immediate as she breathes new life into tired horror tropes. Riley Sager fans will be riveted." Look in August for [The Trap](#) (Blackstone \$26.99).

✠Mackintosh, Clare. [The Last Party](#) (\$16.99) is set country bordering Wales and England with interesting cultural and jurisdictional elements. For Ellis Peters fans, remember how

her medieval mysteries for Brother Cadfael played on this when it was even more of a border than it is today. Mackintosh is a former police officer who moved with her family to Wales and so writes this procedural with real authenticity. "It begins with the discovery of Rhys Lloyd's body on New Year's Day in freezing Mirror Lake, which straddles North Wales and England. Rhys grew up in the village of Cwm Coed on the Welsh side, where he became disliked for building a luxury vacation development on the British side that the villagers believed would spoil the area and price them out. The case falls to DC Ffion Morgan of the North Wales Police and DC Leo Brady of the Cheshire Constabulary. Their working relationship doesn't start well because on New Year's Eve they had a one-night stand using fake names. Awkward doesn't begin to describe the situation, but the two professionals find their investigative skills complement each other. Ffion was raised in Cwm Coed, an advantage and drawback, as she knows everyone, including their secrets, while Leo's outsider status allows him to be more objective. A gripping portrait of two fractured people merges with believable plot twists, and the author perfectly captures the ennui of a small town where gossip can destroy lives." Due in soon, the sequel, [Game of Lies](#) (Sphere \$39 Signed)

Pryor, Mark. [Die Around Sundown](#) (\$18). Summer 1940: In German-occupied Paris, Inspector Henri Lefort has been given just five days to solve the murder of a German major that took place in the Louvre Museum. Blocked from the crime scene but given a list of suspects, Henri encounters a group of artists, including Pablo Picasso, who know more than they're willing to share. With the clock ticking, Henri must uncover a web of lies while overcoming impossible odds to save his own life and prove his loyalty to his country. Will he rise to the task or become another tragic story of a tragic time. Lefort is more Sam Spade than Armand Gamache, and his wisecracking jaundice eye makes this historical mystery a fun read. Of course, touring through Paris with Lefort satisfies the armchair traveler in us. Cara Black fans will love this. Look for Mark's sequel [Dark Edge of Night](#) (St Martins \$28) signed here on August 12.

Toyne, Simon. [Dark Objects](#) (\$19.99). In its Starred Review *PW* agrees with me who made the hardcover our July 2022 British Crime Book of the Month: *PW* says, "British author Toyne, who has produced some offbeat thrillers like the Sanctus trilogy, may have found his true calling with this excellent police procedural. DCI Tannahill Khan of the North London Murder Squad investigates when a wealthy woman is stabbed to death in her home and her husband can't be found. The body is staged with several mysterious objects placed around it, including the book *How to Process a Murder* by Laughton Rees. That Laughton is the daughter of Metropolitan Police Commissioner John Rees immediately adds an unwanted complication to Tannahill's inquiry. As it becomes evident that the killer's actions are directed in part toward Laughton, Tannahill brings her into the case as a consultant, not only to provide fresh insight but also to protect her from a deranged murderer who may be connected to her own painful past. Tannahill and Laughton make a superb investigative team, and how Tannahill deals with the prejudice he encounters ('When I was growing up I was called all sorts—Paki, camel jockey, raghead. My dad was Pakistani, you see, Irish mum but I got his skin and hair') helps illuminate his character...."

✎Walters, Minette. [The Swift and the Harrier](#) (\$18.99). During the English Civil War in 1642, families and friends are divided between the warring Parliamentarians and Royalists. Jayne, daughter of Royalists, was already a respected physician who treated the wealthy and the poor. She chooses neutrality to continue her work, treating persons from both sides. While on her way to help a sick child, Jayne's chance meeting with Lady Alice Stickland and her mysterious footman, William Harrier, kicks off a series of events that present Jayne with difficult choices she never expected, with joy and sorrow coming in equal measure. Walters's characters are true to their historical period, yet relatable to a modern audience, and notable historical figures and events are described accurately in detail—informative and full of dramatic tension. An author's note provides a brief summation of the book's era, and there are maps for better understanding. Endearing characters spark life into centuries-old which will appeal to fans of Philippa Gregory, Margaret George, and Sharon Kay Penman."

SOME JULY LARGE PAPERBACKS

Goldin, Megan. [Stay Awake](#) (\$19). Goldin follows up her edgy and much-appreciated [The Escape Room](#) (\$12) and [The Night Swim](#) (\$9.99) with Liv Reese waking up in a taxi she doesn't remember catching; thrust from her brownstone apartment, now inhabited by a stranger; and finding a bloodstained knife in her pocket and the words "STAY AWAKE" scrawled on her skin—the same message scrawled in the victim's blood at a crime scene. Even more confoundingly, she learns that two years have gone by, completely lost to her memory.

Goodman, Carol. [The Bones of the Story](#) (Harper \$18.99). Ooh, another Locked Room Mystery crossed with Dark Academic and some Gothic too—irresistible. It's been twenty-five years since the shocking disappearance of a female student and the distinguished Creative Writing professor who died while searching for her. The Briarwood College community has never forgotten the double tragedy. Now, the college President is bringing together faculty, donors, and alumni to honor the victims from all those years ago. On a cold December weekend after the fall semester has ended, guests gather on the vacant campus for the commemorative event. But as a storm descends.... Goodman is an accomplished writer with many excellent novels to her credit.

✎Hall, Emylia. [The Shell House Detectives](#) (Alyson \$16.99). This beautifully written cozy coastal mystery packs a real punch plus if you yearn for a Cornish summer, Hall dishes it up in this series start. Ally Bright has been a bit of a recluse since the death of her husband, Bill, last year. Though Bill was a well-regarded police detective in Porthpella, Ally prefers to spend her time at home in Shell House, fabricating sculptures from trash washed up by the sea, and isn't close to her neighbors. When her daughter, Evie, tries to convince her to move to Australia, Ally—who has a hard time even leaving Shell House—is hard-pressed to answer Evie's question about what's left for her in the town. Jayden Weston, a newcomer to Porthpella, is wondering about his own place in the world. He's come to the family home of his wife, Cat, so the two can raise their baby, who's due any day now. Then Ally's and Jayden's paths cross one morning when they meet over Lewis Pascoe's body on the seashore.

Howzell Hall, Rachel. [What Never Happened](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$16.99). Colette "Coco" Weber has relocated to her Catalina

Island home, where, twenty years before, she was the sole survivor of a deadly home invasion. All Coco wants is to see her aunt Gwen, get as far away from her ex as possible, and get back to her craft—writing obituaries. Thankfully, her college best friend, Maddy, owns the local paper and has a job sure to keep Coco busy, considering the number of elderly folks who are dying on the island. But as Coco learns more about these deaths, she quickly realizes that the circumstances surrounding them are remarkably similar...and not natural. Then Coco receives a sinister threat in the mail: her own obituary. As Coco begins to draw connections between a serial killer's crimes and her own family tragedy, she fears that the secrets on Catalina Island might be too deep to survive. There's a hardcover noted in Some July Hardcovers.

Irwin, Sophie. [A Lady's Guide to Scandal](#) (Berkley \$17). "At 28, widow Eliza Balfour is the dowager Lady Somerset, and plans to enjoy her wealth and title. How Eliza relates to the people around her and how she changes are wonderfully nuanced and satisfying. Irwin's story forges its own path with liveliness and an attention to a wider scope of high society. Highly recommended to fans of historical romance" by Library Reads. Meaning here, Regency Romance. As I said, it's a Big Thing this summer.

James, Kelsey. [The Woman in the Castello](#) (Kensington \$16.95). "1960s Italy: a horror movie filmed in a crumbling, possibly haunted, castle owned by the estranged aunt of the starlet. What could be better? As the lines between reality and the movie plot begin to blur in this tautly written novel, family secrets begin to emerge that if revealed, might lead to unforeseen (and possibly deadly) consequences for everyone."

Kalla, Daniel. [Fit to Die](#) (\$17) is a thriller about online body shaming, toxic diet pills, a vulnerable mega-celebrity, and a rapidly rising body count.

Kistler, Bonnie. [Her, Too](#) (Harper \$18.99). See Some July Hardcover for a review.

Koontz, Dean. [The House at the End of the World](#) (\$16.99). See Signed Books for a review—this is the simultaneous paperback edition.

Lange, Richard. [Rovers](#) (\$17.99). Set during the summer of 1976, this outstanding supernatural noir from Hammett Prize winner Lange follows brothers Jesse and Edgar, both vampire-like creatures known as rovers, as they travel across the southwest, targeting transients, prostitutes, and addicts. The brothers do their best to keep their nocturnal feeding under the radar, but things get complicated when Jesse falls for a bartender who resembles a doomed love who died 70 years earlier. Meanwhile, an undead biker gang blazes its own trail of carnage.

March, Nev. [Peril at the Exposition](#) (\$18). Edgar finalist March takes Anglo-Indian Jim Agnihotri, a former British army captain, and his bride, Diana, whom he met while probing the supposed suicides of her sister and sister-in-law, from India to America in 1893. Before they can settle into their new life in Boston, Jim's employers at the Dupree Detective Agency send him to Chicago, the site of the under-construction World's Fair, to investigate the murder of a security guard. When weeks pass with no word from Jim, Diana gets increasingly anxious. She has more to worry about when a stranger shares a message in German intended for Jim referencing explosives....

Marra, Anthony. [Mercury Pictures Presents](#) (\$18) a brilliant woman who must reinvent herself to survive in 1940s Hollywood and fascist Europe, a timeless tale of love, deceit, and sacrifice. Indie Next says, “*Mercury Pictures Presents* is an utterly satisfying novel, full of rich characters and a beautifully choreographed plot told with wry humor, great love, and writing so smart you’ll want to underline every paragraph. Read it!”

Mina, Denise. [Confidence](#) (\$17.99). Glasgow’s Anna McDonald and Fin Cohen, a pair of podcasters whose spouses left each of them for one another, escape a hideous blended family vacation to go looking for Lisa Lee, a minor maker of videos about the joys of urban exploring who went missing after discovering a small silver casket in an abandoned French chateau that is disintegrating daily. But the casket, an artifact whose legend purports to offer proof of Pontius Pilate’s conversion to Christianity and the resurrection itself, is up for auction in Paris, and Anna and Fin decide to head there hoping to find clues to Lisa’s whereabouts. Bram van Wyk, a mysterious South African art expert who knows the casket’s recent history, offers to help.... A treasure hunt is always a fun read.

Rogers, Deb. [Florida Woman](#) (\$18.99). “Jamie is grateful to be able to live out her house arrest term at a monkey sanctuary in the Florida wilderness. The women there seem so spiritual and welcoming... but what’s really going on behind closed doors? I couldn’t put this down!”

Rosenfelt, David. [Holy Chow](#) (\$18). Andy Carpenter, the “professionally retired” Paterson, N.J., defense attorney, arranges for Rachel Morehouse to adopt a Chow Chow through his dog rescue organization, the Tara Foundation. When Rachel suddenly dies, Andy is surprised to learn she ran a multibillion-dollar corporation and left the Tara Foundation \$2 million. He attends the reading of the will, where he meets her stepson, Tony, a high school chemistry teacher who had been staying with Rachel as they attempted to build a relationship after the death of Tony’s estranged father. When an autopsy reveals that Rachel was murdered with potassium chloride, the police arrest Tony and charge him with murder. Believing in Tony’s innocence, Andy takes on the case.

Schwab, VE. [A Conjuring of Light](#) (\$18.99). The conclusion to the Shades of Magic trilogy picks up shortly after the events in 2016’s [A Gathering of Shadows](#) (\$17.99). A ball is in full swing in Red London (one of several parallel Londons). The partiers are celebrating the conclusion of the Essen Tasch, a competition where the most powerful magicians (called Antari) fight each other for the win, but a shadow falls upon the kingdom. Osaron, a being made of powerful magic, wants to take over Red London and make it his own, but first, he’ll need a vessel, and only an Antari will do...”Desperate gambits, magical battles, and meaningful sacrifice make this a thrilling read—and there’s even a little time to further complicate and deepen some of the series’ compelling characters.” Schwab appears at The Pen September 29 in a ticketed event. Details to come soon.

✂Sterling, Siena. [The Game She Plays](#) (Morrow \$18.99). I thought this novel was off to a sweet start when a young American whose life has imploded bravely embarks on a trip to Paris and gains a charismatic seatmate in Englishman James Shuttleworth. Who wouldn’t love to be swept off one’s feet

by sheer luck? They end up romancing in his family home in southern France. But moving on to his home in London James accepts a weekend for them with his aristocratic friends at a country estate. And there Nicola, floundering in a foreign culture, is further put off by the arrival of the siren Juliet from Hong Kong, James’ former lover. And it goes from there in a story that reflects the way the tribal rituals and nuances of upper class England form a formidable barrier to an outsider, and how one act of bravery isn’t enough to remake a life. Do not expect Nicola to have the agency of a Ruth Ware or Lisa Jewell woman.

Turow, Scott. [The Suspect](#) (\$18.99). Sandy Stern’s granddaughter Pinky, an offbeat character at 33, is assisting Rik on the case of a client, Highland Isle police chief Lucia Gomez-Barrera. Three male subordinates have accused Gomez-Barrera of offering them promotions in return for sex. With criminal charges still being considered, the local Police and Fire Commission has moved ahead with disciplinary hearings that could result in Gomez-Barrera’s termination. Pinky’s digging into the chief’s accusers coincides with her growing fascination with a hunky neighbor’s eccentric and reclusive habits.... Very few writers could create an administrative hearing of a local Police and Fire Commission that is as captivating as any murder trial, with shocking testimony, surprise evidence, and huge emotional swings.” –*National Book Review*

Yagisawa, Satoshi. [Days at the Morisaki Bookshop](#) (Harper \$16.99). “A charming book about the restorative powers of book communities and family. Takako’s uncle invites her to help run the family bookshop, where she makes new friends, learns how different love can look, and reconnects with family.”

Yokomizo, Seishi. [The Devil’s Flute Murders](#) (Steerforth \$15.95). Locked room mysteries are hot again, and this classic from the golden age of crime presents a mind-bending Japanese mystery from the great Seishi Yokomizo, whose fictional detective Kosuke Kindaichi is a pop culture phenomenon akin to Sherlock Holmes. This time the beloved scruffy sleuth Kosuke Kindaichi investigates a series of gruesome murders within the feuding family of a brooding, troubled composer, whose most famous work chills the blood of all who hear it. See the extra numbers of classics in this Enews, a summer reading bonanza.

OUR JULY SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Adams, Ellery. [Murder in the Book Lover’s Loft](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Book Retreat #9. While vacationing in North Carolina with her fiancé, Jane stumbles upon a dead body that sends her on a literary chase through time, unearthing a dark family secret for which she must make amends in the past while trying to stop a vengeful killer in the present.

✂Beaton, M C. [Devil’s Delight](#) (\$8.99). Agatha Raisin #33. Agatha Raisin investigates after a naked man bursts out of the woods claiming to have seen a dead body near a site supposedly once used for sacrifices.

Child, Lee/Andrew. [No Plan B: A Jack Reacher Novel](#) (\$9.99). Jack Reacher #27. Witnessing a woman pushed to her death in front of a bus, Jack Reacher, following the killer on foot, is unaware that this is part of a secret conspiracy with no room for error and any threats will be permanently removed, including Reacher.

Gardner, Lisa. [The Other Daughter](#) (\$9.99). Reissue. Twenty years ago, Melanie Stokes was abandoned in a Boston hospital,

and then adopted by a wealthy young couple. Gifted with loving parents, a doting brother, and an indulgent uncle, Melanie has always considered herself lucky. Until tonight. Tonight, a has-been reporter turns up, investigating her past. Tonight, the first note arrives, saying, "You Get What You Deserve." And tonight, Melanie has her first, horrifying vision of the past.

Mills, Kyle. [Vince Flynn: Oath of Loyalty](#) (\$10.99). Mitch Rapp #21. When the president's power-hungry security adviser betrays him by leaking the true identity of his partner, Mitch Rapp, racing to neutralize the enemies conspiring against her, is faced with the seemingly impossible task of finding and stopping a killer whose business model is based on double-blind secrecy.

Quirk, Matthew. [Red Warning](#) (\$9.99). When the Russian deep cover operative responsible for a string of assassinations in the West follows CIA officer Sam Hudson back to the States, Sam goes up against this formidable foe who, targeting everyone close to him.

JULY SMALL PAPERBACKS

Baldacci, David. [Total Control](#) (\$9.99). Reissue. When her husband mysteriously disappears in a plane crash into the Virginia countryside, a devastated Sidney Archer must sort out truth from lies not knowing whom she can trust.

Blacke, Olivia. [A Fatal Groove](#) (St Martins \$8.99). Record Shop #2. While providing music for the annual barbeque festival in Cedar River, Texas, the Jessup sisters, and owners of the newly opened Power Records, find things skipping a beat when the mayor is murdered before he can announce the grand prize winner.

Childs, Laura. [A Dark and Stormy Tea](#) (\$8.99). Tea Shop #24. After witnessing the murder of her friend Lois' daughter, tea shop owner and amateur sleuth Theodosia Browning investigates and is surprised when so many suspects turn up.

Graham, Heather. [Secrets in the Dark](#) (\$9.99). After bringing peace back to Lillehammer, Norway, FBI agents Della Hamilton and Mason Carter arrive in London where another killer stalks the streets and must shine a light on the shadowy corners in a city almost 2,000 years old to draw out evil.

Griffin, Laura. [Untraceable](#) (\$9.99). Reissue. Tracers #1. When one of her clients vanishes for real, PI Alexandra Lovell, who specializes in making people disappear and begin new lives in safety, turns to the Tracers, an elite team of forensic scientists, and a sexy detective for help.

Hannah, Darci. [Murder at the Pumpkin Pageant](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Beacon Bakeshop #4. Allowing her influencer and podcaster best friend to host a live ghost-hunting investigation in her lighthouse home, bakery owner Lindsey Bakewell finds the segment taking a terrifying turn when someone spoils the fun with a deadly trick.

Hollis, Lee. [Death of a Clam Digger](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Food and Cocktails #16. When her BFF Mona's sworn enemy, seafood restaurant owner Lonnie Leighton, is murdered after trying to break up her son's and his daughter's engagement, Hayley sets out to trap a killer before things boil over.

Jance, JA. [Queen of the Night](#) (\$9.99). Walker Family #4. Reissue. The traditions of the Tohono O'odham people are

woven into the fabric of three families as Dr. Lani Walker and Pima County homicide investigator Brian Fellows join forces to protect a little girl who witnessed her mother's murder.

Klein, Libby. [Mischiefs Are Murder](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Poppy McAllister #8. Coerced into participating in the Cape May Haunted Dinners Tour during the Halloween season, B&B owners Poppy McAllister and her aunt Ginny, when a guest meets their demise in a plate of tiramisu on Mischief Night, realize they have bigger worries than getting their house TP'd.

Marlowe, Stephen. [Blonde Bait](#) (Stark House \$11.99). Reissue. Hired by a beautiful woman to find her former lover, Philip Marlowe discovers that the man's disappearance is tied to a series of baffling events that pits Marlowe against one of Bay City's wealthiest families.

Patterson, James. [The Perfect Assassin](#) (\$9.99). Doc Savage #1. Forced into a top-secret training program, Dr. Brandt Savage, on sabbatical from the University of Chicago, is mentally and physically transformed into the perfect assassin and must prevent a new class of killers from escaping this harsh place where their ancestors first fought to make a better world.

Robb, J D. [Encore in Death: An Eve Dallas Novel](#) (\$9.99). Eva Dallas #56. Eve Dallas investigates after one half of a celebrity couple falls to the floor dead after making a toast at an event attended by A-listers.

Ryan, Sofie. [Scaredy Cat](#) (Penguin \$8.99). Second Chance Cat #10. While on a house tour with her friend Detective Michelle Andrews, secondhand store owner Sarah Grayson stumbles upon the dead body of a ghost hunter and, with the help of her rescue cat, Elvis, and a crew of senior citizen PIs, sets out to solve this seemingly supernatural crime.

Webb, Brandon. [Cold Fear](#) (\$9.99). Finn #2. Wanted for questioning in connection to war crimes in Yemen, a disgraced Navy SEAL is on the run and trying to clear his name while being stalked by a fellow SEAL-turned-contract-killer in the follow-up to *Steel Fear*.

Woods, Stuart. [Distant Thunder](#) (\$9.99). Stone Barrington #63. After a strange storm deposits a dead man on his doorstep, Stone Barrington is determined to uncover who he was and how he got there.

Zanetti, Rebecca. [You Can Die](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Laurel Snow #3. When a serial killer targets men in the Pacific Northwest, leaving valentine candy hearts shoved down their throats, Laurel Snow and her team investigate and she finds the case taking a personal turn when the father she's never met, a former pastor, turns up among the dead.