

BOOKNEWS from

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HORRORS, IT'S ALMOST HALLOWEEN

And wherever we want to go now, we can get there via a bookstore.

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.

NEW TIME: TUESDAY OCTOBER 17 10:00 AM

Join two publicists from Berkley as they preview Fall Romance titles with John

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18 7:00 PM Live

Lev AC Rosen discusses [The Bell in the Fog](#) (Forge \$27.99)
1952 gay San Francisco PI Evander Mills

THURSDAY OCTOBER 19 12:00 PM

Tim Johnston with Karen
Johnston discusses [Distant Sons](#) (Algonquin \$29)
A perfect read for fans of Cormac McCarthy or Dennis Lehane

THURSDAY OCTOBER 19 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime discusses [Three Aces](#) from the Stark House Crime Classics (\$19.95)

FRIDAY OCTOBER 20 7:00 PM Live

Danielle Valentine discusses [Delicate Condition](#) (Sourcebooks \$27.99)
Ashley Winstead discusses [Midnight is the Darkest Hour](#) (Sourcebooks \$27.99)

FRIDAY OCTOBER 20 7:00 PM

SciFi Friday discusses T. Kingfisher's [A House with Good Bones](#) (Tor \$26.99)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 21 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger discusses Sarah Pearse's [The Sanatorium](#) (\$17)

SUNDAY OCTOBER 22 2:00 PM Live

Historicon
Tasha Alexander discusses [Cold Highland Wind](#) (St Martins \$28)
Lady Emily and family investigate in Scotland
Stephanie Barron discusses [Jane and the Final Mystery](#) (Soho \$27.95)
The Jane Austen Series concludes (sob)
Boyd and Beth Morrison discuss [The Last True Templar](#) (Zeus \$29.99)
English Knight Gerard Fox's 2nd Tales of the Lawless Land medieval adventures

MONDAY OCTOBER 23 7:00 PM Live

Jack Reacher Book launch
Andrew Grant discusses [The Secret](#) (Random \$28.99)

TUESDAY OCTOBER 24 7:00 PM Live

The Dogs Have It
Paula Munier discusses [Home at Night](#) (St Martins \$29)
Mercy Carr and her dog Elvis
Spencer Quinn discusses [Up on the Woof Top](#) (Forge \$27.99)
A Chet and Bernie Christmas mystery

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 25 6:00 PM Live

Jack Carr introduces debut author Jim Shockey
They discuss Shockey's debut [Call Me Hunter](#) (Atria \$27.99)
An elite secret society of killers monopolizes priceless art

THURSDAY OCTOBER 26 7:00 PM Live

Robert Dugoni discusses [One Last Kill](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$16.99)
The 10th for Seattle's cop Tracy Crosswhite

FRIDAY OCTOBER 27 5:00 PM

Lisa Unger discusses [Christmas Presents](#) (Penzler \$23.95)
Signed books available

SATURDAY OCTOBER 28 6:00 PM Live

David Baldacci discusses his work and his forthcoming new novel [The Edge](#) (Grand Central \$29.99)
You may buy and have *The Edge* inscribed but we have to take it back until November 14
David will sign any books purchased at the event. You may also bring no more than two personal books for signing

And for November, mostly LIVE

November 1 Janice Hallett (virtual) November 2 Steve Hockensmith November 4 Rhys Bowen November 5 Kate Carlisle, Hannah Dennison, Michelle Hoffman November 6 Vanessa Lillie, November 8 Janet Evanovich (virtual) November 9 Michael Connelly offsite November 10 Kevin Hearne November 11 Dirk Cussler November 13 Martin Walker November 14 Tess Gerritsen November 15 Jack Stewart and Steve Urszenyi with Connor Sullivan (virtual) November 16 Matt Coyle & Tim Maleeny November 20 Charles Cumming (virtual) November 28 Jeffery Deaver November 29 12 PM Jillian Cantor November 29 7 PM Charlotte Vassell November 30 Lauren Nossett (virtual)

OUR OCTOBER BOOKS OF THE MONTH

We select a book and charge it to you. Free shipping. It's a treat each month, for you or as a gift.

Email Karen@poisonedpen.com to join

British Crime Club One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Kelly, Julia. [A Traitor in Whitehall](#)

Cozy Crimes Club One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Falco, Michael. [Murder in an Italian Village](#)

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

McCloskey, David. [Moscow X](#)

First Mystery Club One Signed First Printing per month

Armitage, Richard. [Geneva](#) (Signed copies sold out)

Hardboiled/Noir Club One Signed First Printing per month

Teran, Boston. [Big Island LA](#)

History/Mystery Club One First Printing per month

Mukerji, Ritu. [Murder by Degrees](#)

Historical Fiction Paperback Club One Unsigned paperback per month

Harper, Elodie. [The House with a Golden Door](#)

Notable New Fiction One Signed First Printing per month

Scalzi, John. [Starter Villain](#)

International Crime One Unsigned Hardcover or paperback per month

DeMille, Nelson/Alex. [Blood Lines](#)

Romance and Relationships One unsigned hardcover or 2 paperbacks per month

Fraser, Jackie. [The Beginning of Everything](#)

MORE SIGNED BOOKS

⌘ Alexander, Tasha. [A Cold Highland Wind](#) (St Martins \$28). The beauty of the Highlands has always appealed to Lady Emily Hargreaves. So in the summer of 1905, Lady Emily, husband Colin Hargreaves, and their three sons eagerly embark on a family vacation at Cairnfarn Castle belonging to dear friend Jeremy, Duke of Bainbridge. But a high-spirited celebration comes to a grisly end when the duke's gamekeeper is found murdered on the banks of the loch. What is the meaning of the curious runic stone left on Sinclair's forehead? Clues may be found in the story of Lady MacAllister, wife of the Laird of Cairnfarn Castle, who in 1676 suddenly found herself widowed and thrown out of her home. Her sole companion was a Moorish slave girl who helped her secretly spirit her most prized possessions—a collection of strange books—out of the castle. Hmm... Is witchcraft, a 17th Century Scottish obsession, in play again?

⌘ Archer, Jeffery. [Traitor's Gate](#) (Collins UK \$39). The ancient Tower of London is home to the most valuable jewels on earth. Once a year the Metropolitan Police must execute the most secret operation in their armory when they transport the Crown Jewels across London. For four years, the Yard's Chief Superintendent William Warwick – together with his second-in-command Inspector Ross Hogan – has been in charge. And for four years it's run like clockwork. But this year, master criminal Miles Faulkner has set his heart on pulling off the most outrageous theft in history – and with a man on the inside, the odds are in his favor. The [Unsigned US edition](#) is now in stock.

NEW: Auster, Paul. [Baumgartner](#) (Grove \$27 Tip-ins) offers a profound character study of a man whose advancing years are shaped by mourning and memory. Sy Baumgartner is a 70-year-old philosophy professor at Princeton who, at the novel's outset, has spent the past decade grieving his beloved wife Anna's death in a swimming accident. Though he attends to a banal domestic routine, writes scholarly books, and even proposes

marriage to a divorced colleague, Sy is so surrounded by effects of his old life with Anna (including manuscripts of her poetry, a book of which he shepherded into print posthumously) and so steeped in his reminiscences of her that at one point he becomes convinced she's called him over a long-ago disconnected phone line. Sy lives simultaneously in both the present and the past in a "beautiful approximation of memory's fluidity and allure."

Baldacci, David. [The Edge](#) (Grand Central \$29.99). **Signed for you, and personalized if you wish, on October 28 but then held until its November 14 on sale date.** When CIA operative Jenny Silkwell is murdered in rural Maine, government officials have immediate concerns over national security. Her laptop and phone were full of state secrets that, in the wrong hands, endanger the lives of countless operatives. In need of someone who can solve the murder quickly and retrieve the missing information, the U.S. government knows just the chameleon they can call on. Yes, The 6:20 Man is back, dropped by his handlers into a small coastal town in Maine to solve the murder of a CIA agent who knew America's dirtiest secrets—can Travis Devine uncover the truth before his time runs out?

⌘ Barron, Stephanie. [Jane and the Final Mystery](#) (Soho \$27.95). As one who has read Barron's Jane Austen mysteries from the beginning, I'm sad to offer this last in series to you. Jane had too short a life and so the series' end was inevitable. And it of course takes her to Winchester where she died in 1817, a setting which allows Barron to dig into the cruelties (and rewards) of the English public school system.

I agree completely with this Starred Review: "Suffering from an unknown ailment and determined not to brood on the ravages of her declining health, Jane agrees to investigate the case of 16-year-old Winchester College student William Heathcote, a friend of her nephew, Edward. Relentlessly mocked at school because of his stutter, William stands accused of knocking his chief tormentor, Arthur Pendergast, on the head and sending him into a canal where he drowned. Another student swears

Arthur intended to expose William's illicit alliance with a local girl and William killed him to protect the lady's reputation. To make matters worse, William refuses to reveal his whereabouts on the day Arthur died. Jane's investigation uncovers a dark plot to frame William and foment rebellion at the school. Barron expertly underscores the purposeful cruelty and classism of English public schools in Austen's time, which existed strictly to harden the future leaders of the Empire, and elicits deep emotion out of Jane's struggles against her own mortality. This is a fitting send-off for a beautifully realized series." [Here's a link to the whole](#). With Regency fiction on the rise again, don't miss all the Being a Jane Austen Mysteries. You can read an excellent article about Barron [HERE](#).

Carlisle, Kate. [The Twelve Books of Christmas](#) (Penguin \$27). Lesa recommends: San Francisco book-restoration expert Brooklyn Wainwright and her security-agent husband, Derek Stone, face a locked-room murder mystery during the Christmas holidays in Scotland. Their dear friend Claire in Loch Ness, Scotland, plans to marry the laird of the castle on New Year's Day, and they want Brooklyn and Derek as witnesses. And while they're visiting, she hopes Brooklyn will be able to solve a little mystery – twelve very rare, very important Christmas books have gone missing. Once in Scotland, Brooklyn starts working on the mystery of the missing books. But, when one guest is poisoned and another is killed, Brooklyn and Derek must race to find a killer and book thief. You who like bibliomysteries should make time for this popular cozy [Bibliophile Mystery](#) series.

Carr, Jack. [First Five Terminal Lists](#) (Atria \$150 free shipping within the US)
And [All Six Terminal Lists](#) (Atria \$180 with free shipping within the US).

Note that these are not all first prints. Also [individual titles](#) can be signed on October 25 but they do not come with free shipping.

Child, Lee/Andrew. [The Secret](#) (Random \$28.99). Lord, can it be #28 for Jack Reacher? I well remember Lee coming to the store with the first. Here, looking back, it's 1992 and Reacher is still in the Army. Eight respectable, upstanding people have been found dead across the United States. These deaths look like accidents and don't appear to be connected until one body—the victim of a fatal fall from a hospital window—generates some unexpected attention from the Secretary of Defense, who promptly calls for an interagency task force to investigate. Reacher is assigned as the army's representative. Reacher may be an exceptional soldier, but sweeping other people's secrets under the carpet isn't part of his skill set...anyway, not yet.

Chizmar, Richard. [Becoming the Boogeyman](#) (Gallery \$27.99). I recommend watching the fascinating conversation with Rich, Michael Koryta, Patrick and me on [You Tube](#) (which you can enjoy on your smart TV like a movie).

This riveting, sequel to the 2021 thriller [Chasing the Boogeyman](#) (\$17.99), told as if Chizmar is the lead and filled with photographs to underline the realism, is a tale of obsession and the adulation of evil, exploring modern society's true-crime obsession with unflinching honesty, sparing no one from the glare of the spotlight. "The author again brings a metafictional approach to the serial killer thriller. Decades after the first book's Boogeyman killings in Edgewood, Md., journalist and horror

writer Rich finds a garbage bag filled with human remains while walking his dog. They belong to Annie Riggs, the sole survivor of the Boogeyman's 1980s killing spree, and Rich, who became a key figure in that investigation, is thrust back into the spotlight. As media attention about a potential copycat killer starts to overwhelm Rich and threaten his marriage, more girls begin to disappear; when their bodies are found, each is missing an ear. Reluctantly, Rich investigates once again."—*PW*

DeMille, Nelson/Alex. [Blood Lines](#) (Scribner \$29.99), our **October International Crime Book of the Month—we've had to ship more copies to the authors to sign so a small delay**—features the return of Army CID Special Agents Scott Brodie and Maggie Taylor. Five months after their last assignment, they are reunited in Berlin and tasked with investigating the murder of one of their own, an accomplished counterterrorism agent whose body was found in the heart of Berlin's Arab refugee community. The two discover that that the murder was merely the prelude to a much more sinister future event, and they must unravel the mystery in order to stop it. This fabulous thriller of some 490 pages, thoroughly authenticated in its Berlin landscape and the various languages. Don't miss this one.

Dugoni, Robert. [One Last Kill](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$16.99). Here is the 10th Tracy Crosswhite in the series that made Bob a bestseller. Dugoni brilliantly folds murders past and present into his heroine's earlier cases and her troubled history as the Seattle cop draws a long dormant serial killer out of hiding. After thirteen victims, the Route 99 SK stopped hunting and the trail went cold, stirring public outrage. Now, nearly three decades after his first kill, Tracy is expected to finally bring closure to the victims' families and redeem the Seattle PD's reputation. Even if it means working with her nemesis, Captain Johnny Nolasco, who was the lead detective of the original task force. Now *The Seattle Times* is about to begin marking the 25th anniversary of a series of strangulations that mysteriously ended two years after it began without a single arrest. Questions are: Why did he (presumably the perp was a male) shift from prostitutes to middle-class family women with his 10th through 13th victims? Why did he carve a set of angel's wings onto the shoulder of every one of them? And why did the killings cease as suddenly as they'd started? Recognizing that Weber has staked her out as the sacrificial lamb if she doesn't produce results, Tracy begins poring over the old records and quickly realizes... well, read it to learn what. You can [order all 10 of Tracey's cases](#) but ASAP so we can get them to the store by October 26.

Evanovich, Janet. [Dirty Thirty](#) (Atria \$29.99). And here is another series we've followed from the beginning with [One for the Money](#) (\$9.99) to this Plum, number 30. Once again, Janet has graciously agreed to sign our copies which probably won't reach us until very early November.

Trenton's Stephanie Plum is offered a freelance assignment that seems simple enough. Local jeweler Martin Plover wants her to locate his former security guard, Andy Manley (a.k.a. Nutsy), who he is convinced stole a fortune in diamonds out of his safe. Stephanie is also looking for Duncan Dugan, a fugitive from justice arrested for robbing the same jewelry store on the same day. With her boyfriend Morelli away in Miami on police business, Stephanie is taking care of Bob, Morelli's giant orange dog who will devour anything, from Stephanie's stray donuts to the upholstery in her car. Morelli's

absence also means the inscrutable, irresistible security expert Ranger is front and center in Stephanie's life when things inevitably go sideways. To complicate matters, her best friend Lula is convinced she is being stalked by a mythological demon hell-bent on relieving her of her wardrobe. An overnight stakeout with Stephanie's mother and Grandma Mazur reveals three generations of women with nerves of steel and driving skills worthy of NASCAR champions.

NEW: Gabaldon, Diana. [The Official Outlander Coloring Book](#) (Random House \$18.99). Volume 2... a fun gift for *Outlander* fans or for anyone who enjoys coloring. Diana is ever gracious and will sign our copies. A nice gift idea.

And here is another, equally so, in November:

Heughan, Sam/Graham McTavish/Diana Gabaldon. [Clanlands in New Zealand](#) (Mobius \$28). Join our intrepid Scotsmen on their latest epic adventure across The Land of the Long White Cloud in this thrilling follow-up to *Clanlands*. Setting out to explore a country that Graham calls home, and that Sam has longed to visit, these sturdy friends immerse themselves in all that New Zealand has to offer: stunning landscapes, rich history, world-class food and drink, and – much to Graham's mounting anxiety and Sam's deep satisfaction – famously adrenaline-fuelled activities! Our copies are signed by all three authors.

NEW: Gay, Roxane. [Opinions: A Decade of Arguments, Criticisms, and Minding Other People's Business](#) (Harper \$30). Tip-ins from cultural critic Gay. Recently an Alabama library banned an author because the last name is "ay." Maybe her?

✦ Griffith, Nicola. [Menewood](#) (Farrar Strauss \$35). Tip-ins. Making a much-anticipated return to the world of [Hild](#) (\$18), Griffith transports readers back to 7th Century Britain, a land of rival kings and religions poised for epochal change. Hild is no longer the bright child who made a place in Edwin Overking's court with her seemingly supernatural insight. She is now eighteen, honed and tested, the formidable lady of Elmet, now building her personal stronghold in the valley of Menewood. But old alliances are fraying. Younger rivals are snapping at Edwin's heels. War is brewing—bitter war, winter war. Edwin recalls his young advisor to court where Hild begins to understand the true extent of the chaos ahead. Griffith earlier wrote some nifty mysteries including 1998 First Mystery Book of the Month *The Blue Place*.

NEW: ✦ Hallett, Janice. [The Christmas Appeal](#) (Viper UK \$28). It's Christmas in Lower Lockwood, and the Fairway Players are busy rehearsing their festive pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, to raise money for the church roof appeal. But despite the season, goodwill is distinctly lacking amongst the amateur dramatics enthusiasts. Sarah-Jane is fending off threats to her new position as Chair, the fiberglass beanstalk might be full of asbestos, and someone is intent on ruining the play even before the curtain goes up. But then the giant beanstalk refurbished for the production splits and... there's one dead Santa. Join lawyers Femi and Charlotte as they read the emails and pore over the police transcripts in what is an epistolary narrative structure like that in Hallett's first blockbuster [The Appeal](#) (\$18.99). Hallett and I discuss this gem virtually on November 1 at 1:00 PM. It's a perfect gift for anyone loving British humor and fiction, whether mystery reader or not. There is an [Unsigned US edition](#) (\$19.99) of this novella, a perfect stocking stuffer for lovers of British humor and fiction.

NEW: ✦ Hannah, Sophie. [Hercule Poirot's Silent Night](#) (Collins UK \$44). It's 19 December, 1931. Hercule Poirot and Inspector Edward Catchpool are called to investigate the murder of a man in the apparent safe haven of a Norfolk hospital ward. Catchpool's mother, the irrepressible Cynthia, insists that Poirot stays in a crumbling mansion by the coast, so that they can all be together for the festive period while Poirot solves the case. Cynthia's friend Arnold is soon to be admitted to that same hospital and his wife is convinced he will be the killer's next victim, though she refuses to explain why. Poirot has less than a week to solve the crime and prevent more murders, if he is to escape from this nightmare scenario and get home in time for Christmas. Meanwhile, someone else – someone utterly ruthless – has other ideas... There is an [Unsigned US edition](#).

We also have a 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle coming: [The World of Hercule Poirot](#) (\$21.99), a perfect pairing.

Harrow, Alix E. [Starling House](#) (Tor \$28.99). Tip-ins. This haunted house fantasy by the author of [The Ten Thousand Doors of January](#) (\$19.99) and [Once and Future Witches](#) (\$19.99) is one of fall's hot books. Opal is a lot of things-orphan, high school dropout, full-time cynic and part-time cashier-but above all, she's determined to find a better life for her younger brother Jasper. One that gets them out of Eden, Kentucky, a town remarkable for only two things: bad luck and E. Starling, the reclusive 19th century author of *The Underland*, who disappeared over 100 years ago. All she left behind were dark rumors-and her home. Everyone agrees that it's best to ignore the uncanny mansion and its misanthropic heir, Arthur. Almost everyone, anyway. Opal has been obsessed with *The Underland* since she was a child. When she gets the chance to step inside Starling House-and make some extra cash for her brother's escape fund-she can't resist. Welcome to Starling House: enter, if you dare.

Jiles, Paulette. [Chenneville](#) (Harper \$30). Tip-ins. Union soldier John Chenneville suffered a traumatic head wound in battle. His recovery took the better part of a year as he struggled to regain his senses and mobility. By the time he returned home, the Civil War was over, but tragedy awaited. John's beloved sister and her family had been brutally murdered. Their killer goes by many names. He fought for the North in the late unpleasantness, and wore a badge in the name of the law. But the man John knows as A. J. Dodd is little more than a rabid animal, slaughtering without reason or remorse, needing to be put down. Traveling through the unforgiving landscape of a shattered nation in the midst of Reconstruction, an undeterred John braves winter storms and confronts desperate people in pursuit of his quarry.

NEW: Kwok, Jean. [The Leftover Woman](#) (Harper \$30). A rural Chinese villager becomes a nanny by day and cocktail waitress by night after illegally immigrating to the U.S. She is not only escaping her abusive husband, Wen, who has political power, but also searching for their only child, a daughter taken from Jasmine at birth. Mindful of China's one-child policy, Wen arranged for the baby to be spirited out of the country in an under-the-table adoption and told Jasmine the baby had died. By snooping through Wen's email account, Jasmine discovered the truth, identified the adoptive parents as New York City couple Brandon and Rebecca Whitney, and resolved to track down her daughter whatever the cost. Month after month, Jasmine tries to find work in Manhattan's Chinatown, but her lack of documentation compels most aboveboard employers to turn her away. She owes

an astronomical sum to the snakeheads—human smugglers—who ferried her to New York. If she doesn't repay them by a certain date, they'll force her into prostitution. Meanwhile publishing executive Rebecca, whose father was a brilliant editor and whose professor husband is a language polymath, is looking for a nanny. You can see where this is going, but not the nature of the threats made to the Whitney household nor how powerfully the past ensnares all the characters. "A heart-wrenching examination of transracial adoption and its influence in the lives of a Chinese American child and the two mothers who love her. . . . The resulting intersection of their lives makes this book not only a suspenseful read, but also an introspective journey into the bonds of family, country, class, and race." — *Elle Magazine*, Best Books of the Year, and our **November Notable New Fiction Book of the Month**.

Lethem, Jonathan. [Brooklyn Crime](#) (Harper \$29.99 Tip-ins) takes Lethem back to the place where he grew up. Two literal crimes, perpetuated by children, are at its heart. But the larger crime it explores is, essentially, gentrification, the way families were pushed out of that street, out of that neighborhood, out of the city. Who did the pushing, and why, and how did they justify it. "A blistering book. A love story. Social commentary. History. Protest novel. And mystery joins the whole together: is the crime 'time'? Or the almighty dollar? I got a great laugh from it too. Every city deserves a book like this." — Colum McCann

NEW: Lillie, Vanessa. [Blood Sisters](#) (Berkley \$27) is "A visceral and compelling mystery about a Cherokee archeologist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs who is summoned to rural Oklahoma to investigate the disappearance of two women...one of them her sister." But more women than she have gone missing over decades. **November is National American Indian Heritage Month and here is our November Crime Collectors Book of the Month signed here November 6.**

Two authors chime in: "Combines pulse-pounding action with Cherokee myth and customs. I loved Syd Walker, a compelling new character who's dealing with her own disturbing family history while trying to unravel the disappearance of several Native women. I hope we'll see more of Syd Walker soon!" —David Heska Wanbli Weiden. "[A] tale with all the twisting fury of a tornado. Set on the complex checkerboard of Indian land in northeastern Oklahoma, it delves deeply and dramatically into the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women. But it also mines the rich territory of family, kinship, love, loyalty, guilt, and regret. Vanessa Lillie is a remarkable and courageous storyteller and an important Native voice. I recommend this book with all my heart and the hope that it will make a difference." —William Kent Krueger

✦ Marston, Edward. [The Danger of Defeat](#) (Allison & Busby UK \$35). February 1918. Detective Inspector Harvey Marmion and Detective Sergeant Joe Keedy are pulled from their beds to attend a sinister siege involving three burglars where one policeman has already been shot dead. Attempts at talking the men in the house into surrender are met with stony silence so the police proceed to batter down the door and Keedy bravely leads the way. A gunshot is heard. Keedy is hit. As Keedy is rushed to hospital, Marmion is on the trail of the men who fled the scene and startling revelations emerge.

McCloskey, David. [Moscow X](#) (Norton \$30). Our **October Crime Collectors Book of the Month** is a splendid spy story alive with high action and deep penetration into Russia. This is only McCloskey's second book and already he's being compared to greats like Le Carré. It helps that his background is CIA. A Starred Review: "McCloskey serves up another entertaining espionage caper. Disgraced CIA case Officer Artemis Aphrodite Procter sees a way to get back into her superior's good graces with a scheme to turn Russian private banker and intelligence officer Anna Andreevna Agapova into a spy for the U.S. and to use her key position to destabilize Putin's regime. To recruit her, Procter selects Max Castillo, whose cover involves running his family's horse-breeding operation, and Hortensia Fox, a London-based lawyer who helps the rich hide their assets. The stakes are high for all involved. . . . Standing in the way of their operation is Konstantin Konstantinovich Chernov, a Javert-like Russian intelligence officer. McCloskey mixes the tradecraft of Le Carré with the glitz of Sidney Sheldon and the effervescence of Dashiell Hammett's *The Thin Man* to produce a narrative filled with double- and triple-crosses enriched by pitch-perfect insider details, such as the paperwork Max and Sia must submit to the CIA before they can consummate their affair. This sparkling work of escapism contains a smattering of real-world jitters." I add that the opening scene in a small Russian city proves that anything can become a weapon! McCloskey little knew when he began this novel how relevant his penetration of Russia would become.

✦ McDermid, Val. [Past Lying](#) (Sphere UK \$44). Edinburgh, haunted by the ghosts of its many writers, is also the cold case beat of DCI Karen Pirie. So she shouldn't be surprised when an author's manuscript appears to be a blueprint for an actual crime. Karen can't ignore the plot's chilling similarities to the unsolved case of an Edinburgh University student who vanished from her own doorstep. The manuscript seems to be the key to unlocking what happened to Lara Hardie, but there's a problem: the author died before he finished it. The unsigned US edition publishes in December. As Karen digs deeper, she uncovers a spiraling game of betrayal and revenge. An Unsigned US edition published in December.

NEW: McGuire, Sean. [Sleep No More](#) (Astra \$28). Our Science Fiction Selector Pat King scored a few signed copies of the 17th novel in the Hugo-nominated, bestselling October Daye urban fantasy series. October is very happy with her life as the second daughter of her pureblood parents, Amandine and Simon Torquill. Born to be the changeling handmaid to her beloved sister August, she spends her days working in her family's tower, serving as August's companion, and waiting for the day when her sister sets up a household of her own. Everything is right in October's Faerie. Everything is perfect. Everything is a lie.

Morrison, Boyd/Beth. [The Last True Templar](#) (Head of Zeus \$29.99). Brother and sister Morrison once again combine their expertises—he an engineer and the co-author of several Clive Cussler adventure thrillers, she a noted medievalist who works at the Getty—to produce a second "perilous quest" novel set in the 14th Century. This time excommunicated English knight Gerard Fox and the resourceful maiden Willa (who rejected a cloistered life for one with Fox) are in Tuscany. It's 1351, the world still terrified by the Black Death. And in a small village where two

parties meet to conclude a banking deal, everyone is terrified by a brutal ambush. Everyone but Gerard and Willa. They rescue Luciana Corosi, daughter of a man who thought of himself as the Last Templar, a man killed at the public execution of the order's last Grand Master as ordered by a corrupt king and a weak pope. Did Domenico Ramberti successfully conceal the Templars' treasure? Was the key to its whereabouts one Ramberti's daughter, this Luciana, could decipher if indeed she worked out that her husband was a bad actor, the very man who murdered her father? So, think Dan Brown crossed with Clive Cussler many centuries ago in a well researched adventure.

Note: by accident I ordered the series start, [The Lawless Land](#) (\$29.99), in hardcover for our October 22 Historicon event. So we'll discount it to \$19.99). I add that this UK publisher produces truly beautiful physical books

Mosley, Walter. [Touched](#) (Grove \$26). Tip-ins. Intergalactic visions, deadly threats, and explosive standoffs between mostly good and completely evil converge in a dystopian fantasy that could only be conceived by the inimitable Walter Mosley. Martin Just wakes up one morning after what feels like, and might actually be, a centuries-long sleep with two innate pieces of knowledge. Humanity is a virus destined to destroy all existence. And he is the Cure. Expansive and innovative, sexy and satirical, *Touched* brilliantly imagines the ways in which human life and technological innovation threaten existence itself. Mosley writes all kinds of books and thus has all kinds of publishers. It's been a real pleasure to follow him on his literary path.

Mukerji, Ritu. [Murder by Degrees](#) (Simon & Schuster \$27.99). This thoughtful and well researched debut by a practicing internist is our **October Historical Fiction Book of the Month**. Set in Philadelphia, 1875. Lesa, mystery reviewer for *Library Journal (LJ)*, awards this a Star saying: "... When Anna's body is fished from the river, a suspected suicide, Lydia can't believe it. Inspector Thomas Volcker doesn't believe it either. Despite police reluctance to work with a woman, Lydia insists on helping with Anna's autopsy and the case of her murder. Anna's diary entries show a woman trying to better herself, but in the last weeks of her life those entries take a disturbing turn. As a woman who fights daily against male attitudes of superiority and who herself struggled to improve her conditions, Lydia is determined to find answers for Anna. On the surface, this debut by Mukerji, herself a medical doctor, appears to be a mystery about the death of a working-class servant, but it's much more, as it examines women's rights, social conditions, and medicine in Philadelphia just a decade after the Civil War. Fans of Maddie Day's "Quaker Midwife" series will appreciate this detailed historical mystery."

Munier, Paula. [Home at Night](#) (St Martins \$29). Lesa our blogger, now retired from her library post, will be reviewing more often for The Pen. Here she recommends Munier's new mystery: It's Halloween in Vermont in the fifth Mercy Carr mystery. Mercy's small cabin is too small for five humans, two dogs, and a cat. She needs more room – and she knows just the place: Grackle Tree Farm, with thirty acres of woods and wetlands and a Victorian manor to die for. They say it's haunted by the ghosts of missing children and lost poets and a murderer or two, but Mercy loves it anyway. Even when her dog Elvis finds a dead body in the library. When a masked man attacks Mercy, Captain Thrasher, and Elvis, she and Elvis manage to run him off, but Thrasher is left fighting for his life. Mercy is on crutches, and Elvis on the

mend, but she, Troy and their two dogs must track down the masked murderer in a county overflowing with leaf peepers, Halloween revelers, and treasure hunters.

Pattison, Eliot. [Freedom's Ghost](#) (Catapult \$29) is a book we should all be reading as the rousing adventure set in Marblehead and Boston reminds us why we fought for a break from monarchy and how messy rebellion and government can be. It's the latest on a journey through the American Revolution that is compared to Patrick O'Brian's Master and Commander novels traveling through the Napoleonic Wars and is our **November Historical Fiction Book of the Month**. It's a big book and should occupy Thanksgiving week, the perfect time to read it, very nicely for you. Also, Pattison, who won the Edgar for [The Skull Mantra](#) (\$18.99), one of my favorite thrillers ever and a 1999 First Mystery Pick, has gifted us with some of his earlier novels we can give away by a drawing among those who buy this one. Our zoom event is November 2.

It's 1770, and Massachusetts is a powder keg waiting to explode as tensions mount between the British Redcoats and the American Sons of Liberty. When a British soldier is found dead with his lips sewn shut, it falls to Scotsman Duncan McCallum, our hero, currently employed by merchant John Hancock, to uncover who is responsible. During his investigation, McCallum rubs elbows with John Adams, British Major General Thomas Gage, Benjamin Franklin, and Crispus Attucks, the real-life Black Indigenous sailor who was the first person killed at the Boston Massacre. As more Redcoat bodies pile up, McCallum's investigation, aided by his resourceful fiancée, Sarah Ramsey, is stymied by agents working for the shadowy Black Office of the British War Council. The climax involves a furious chase up the Hudson River as McCallum's brig, filled with escaped slaves, is pursued by a slave-catching schooner. Multiple plot threads run simultaneously, maintaining suspense as McCallum tracks a sadistic killer.

Quinn, Spencer. [Up on the Woof Top](#) (Forge \$27.99). Oh joy, a Christmas mystery for Chet and Bernie. In their 14th adventure, the dog and the detective meet famous Christmas-mysteries writer Dame Ariadne Carlisle at a book signing and are contacted by her soon after. Rudy, one of the nine reindeer who roam Kringle Ranch, Ariadne's estate in the mountains, has disappeared, and Chet and Bernie are the perfect detectives to find him. The duo learns about the author's friends and hangers-on, as well as her tragic past in this small mountain town. As they search the estate, the two detectives find the body of Ariadne's personal assistant at the base of a cliff from which he has presumably fallen. When they learn it is also the site of a tragedy from Ariadne's youth, they wonder if it was an accident and if the two events are connected. With a Christmas deadline approaching, Chet and Bernie face dangers both natural and manmade to solve a case that becomes ever more complicated.

Rosen, Lev AC. [The Bell in the Fog](#) (Forge \$27.99). This novel picks up right after the events in [Lavender House](#) (\$17.99). Its 1950s setting is richly cinematic, with gin martinis, bananas foster and a fantastic mid-century soundtrack... Andy Mills, who was fired from the SFPD when his superiors learned he was gay, is still struggling to find clients for his private detective agency so he can pay his landlady. One afternoon, James Morris, a captain in the Navy and Andy's former lover, walks into his office. Though Andy is still scarred by their breakup, he can't afford to

turn down work and soon learns that James is being blackmailed with explicit photographs after a tryst with a young man named Danny. With his Navy career in the balance, James asks Andy to retrieve the photos and negatives for him. Andy's search takes him on a dizzying tour of San Francisco's gay and lesbian clubs, into murder and blackmail and the constant danger faced by gay men.

Rosenfelt, David. ['Twas the Bite Before Christmas](#) (St Martins \$26). Professionally retired lawyer Andy Carpenter is attending the Tara Foundation annual Christmas party when homicide cops crash the party and arrest Derek Moore, one of the charity's best volunteers to foster dogs. Spurred to action as usual when a dog or dog person is in trouble, and by having to take in two dogs being fostered by Derek, Andy soon discovers that Derek is really Bobby, a man in Witness Protection who gave evidence against his former gang. The cops believe Bobby killed one of them. But Bobby has built a new life, a new business, and overcome being a foster failure. So....

Shockey, Jim. [Call Me Hunter](#) (Atria \$27.99). This debut thriller is truly original in premise and format. An elite secret society of killers has controlled the world's most valuable art for hundreds of years...until one member tears himself free. Gregg Hurwitz: "My hat's off to Jim Shockey. One of the world's greatest hunters spins a tale of pursuit of a different stripe—a fascinating descent into the world of priceless art and artifacts and the brilliant savant child born to identify them. Throw in a passel of psychopathic killers and a shadowy organization bent on obtaining these objects at any cost and you have the making of a first-rate thriller."

Or Jack Carr, our October 25 evening's host for Shockey, who says: "If you think you know Jim Shockey from his award-winning shows on television, think again. *Call Me Hunter* proves Jim is more than one of the world's most respected hunters and outdoorsman. Much more. He is a man of letters. Astoundingly original, relentlessly paced, and purely authentic in a way that only Jim could deliver, Shockey's debut thriller exceeds all expectations. It will leave you wondering if the story that just consumed you was written on a foundation of more than mere whispers of the truth."

Teran, Boston. [Big Island LA](#) (High Top \$24). Patrick makes this the **October Hardboiled/Noir Book of the Month** and writes, Teran's identity has been kept a tightly-guarded secret for decades, and so it is a treat to be able to offer signed copies of his (or her) latest novel, an instant classic of LA crime literature. Back in 2002, Teran introduced agoraphobic crime columnist William Worth, who operated in seclusion from his compound in the hills. Now, Worth hosts a podcast called "Big Island L.A.," tackling issues of injustice, labor unrest and social history. When Worth hears from his sources about the theft of a large cache of weapons from the LAPD's academy gun shop, he begins to investigate. The reclusive writer enters into the orbit of a shadowy cast of characters, including lethal former marine Ana Ride (who lost a foot in Afghanistan and has attitude to spare). A terrific read.

NEW: Torres, Justin. [Blackout](#) (Farrar Strauss \$29.99). Short-listed for the National Book Award for Fiction and praised by *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Literary Hub*, *The Rumpus*, *The Bay Area Reporter*, *Datebook*, *Electric Literature*, *The*

Stacks, *Publishers Weekly*. More than a decade after his debut novel *We the Animals*, Torres returns with an enigmatic and thought-provoking puzzle box of a novel about the limitations of historical accounts and narrative. An unnamed narrator arrives at a mysterious facility called merely "the Palace" to keep company with Juan Gay, a dying man he once knew, and begins telling stories to pass the darkening hours. But Juan has a story to tell in return: one about himself and about Jan Gay, a queer researcher whose lifelong work was co-opted by others. Based on a real book from the early 1940s, *Sex Variants: A Study in Homosexual Patterns*. Torres's novel is a fragmentary tale, conversations become snippets of stories woven together with visual artifacts, much in the style of W.G. Sebald. Torres juxtaposes shards of narrative with photographs and documents, as well as censored documents that visualize the blacked-out gaps that define subversive stories. The *NY Times* finds the narrative "proposes and complicates questions about how history is made."

Unger, Lisa. [Christmas Presents](#) (Penzler \$23.95). This novella is not a Christmas cozy but instead is written with Unger's trademark twisty suspense as a true crime podcaster opens up a cold case. Madeline Martin has built a life for herself as the young owner of a thriving business, The Next Chapter Bookshop, despite her tragic childhood and now needing to care for her infirm father, the former sheriff. When Harley Granger, a failed novelist turned true crime podcaster, drifts into her shop in the days before Christmas, he seems intent on digging up events that Madeline would much rather forget. She's the only surviving victim of Evan Handy, the man who was convicted of murdering her best friend Steph, and is suspected in the disappearance of two sisters, also good friends of Madeline's, who have been missing for nearly a decade. It's an investigation that has obsessed her father right up until his stroke took his faculties. That's the set-up. Read it for more.

Valentine, Danielle. [Delicate Condition](#) (Sourcebooks \$27.99) "is the feminist update to *Rosemary's Baby*—a twisty, page-turner with unsettling details and crackling writing that's also a timely critique of sexism in modern medicine." — Andrea Bartz. Anna Alcott is desperate to have a family. But as she tries to balance her increasingly public life as an indie actress with a grueling IVF journey, she starts to suspect that someone is going to great lengths to make sure that never happens. And despite everything she's gone through to make this pregnancy a reality, not even her husband is willing to believe that someone is playing twisted games with her. Vague warnings become direct threats as someone stalks her through the bleak ghost town of the snowy Hamptons. As her symptoms and sense of danger grow ever more horrifying, Anna grows both increasingly desperate, and determined.... There's lots of media buzz about this book which is a *Good Morning America* Buzz Pick.

And for Teens, [How to Survive Your Murder](#) (\$11.99).

Vidich, Paul. [Beirut Station](#) (Pegasus \$27.95). With a stunning depiction of this beleaguered city and a keen sense of Lebanon's history, Vidich crafts a killer case for CIA officer, Analise, whose mission to assassinate a high-level, Hezbollah terrorist reveals a dark that that puts her life at risk. As her plan to locate the terrorist is put into action, she begins to suspect Mossad has a motive of its own. Told by the CIA to drop it, she becomes the target, and can't trust the CIA, Mossad, or the Lebanese government to protect her. Like David McCloskey, his partner in

our zoom (watch it on [YouTube](#)), Vidich could not have imagined how real terrible events could have suddenly made his book so timely. We recommend Vidich to readers of Dan Fesperman and Joe Kanon.

Winstead, Ashley. [Midnight is the Darkest Hour](#) (Sourcebooks \$27.99). We're in Louisiana for this "dark romantic gothic tale of a swampy Southern town with too many bad men and too much fear of the devil"—CrimeReads. Winstead lives to explore dark themes and does them well, her point of view feminist.

Here's the *LJ* Starred Review (not by Lesa): "Timid Ruth Cornier grew up in the shadow of her overzealous evangelist father in middle-of-nowhere Bottom Springs, LA, where congregants and nonbelievers alike are controlled by preacher Cornier's decrees, including what books can be held in the library and school. She rescues a copy of *Twilight* and keeps it close. With a teenager's naive desire for romance, she finds herself in a dangerous situation with a drifter. Beautiful Everett, son of the town drunk, rescues her, and they become inseparable. Six years later, when a skull is found in the swamp, Ruth worries. Then a second skull is found. Preacher Cornier proclaims that Everett is responsible, that he's the evil reincarnation of the Low Man, a beautiful demon based on an old superstition popular in the town. Now the town's librarian, Ruth wants to clear Everett, who just wants to escape the witch hunt." Wait to read the Afterword when Winstead has much of interest to say about why and how she wrote this.

MORE SCARY SEASON STORIES

✎ Bell, Alice. [Grave Expectations](#) (Random \$17). Perfect for October is this debut in which a burnt-out Millennial medium must utilize her ability to see ghosts and team-up with a band of oddball investigators to figure out which member(s) of a posh English family are guilty of murder. So a British ghostly cozy! Yay!

✎ Bowen, Marjorie. [The House by the Poppy Field](#) (Biblioasis \$7.95). The first of a trio of Christmas Ghost Stories illustrated by renowned cartoonist Seth finds Maitland returns to his ancestral estate after having lived a largely solitary life. He soon finds himself increasingly obsessed with the magnificent field of poppies surrounding his home, as well as the man harvesting them.

✎ Caldecott, Andrew. [A Room in a Rectory: A Ghost Story for Christmas](#) (Biblioasis \$7.95). Straddling the Halloween and Christmas is this little gem, the second in cartoonist Seth's series: Reverend Nigel arrives at Tilchington Rectory expecting a comfortable living in the beautiful countryside. But when he stubbornly opens a locked chamber, it isn't long before he is plagued with disturbingly devilish visions.

Conan Doyle, Arthur. [The Captain of the Polestar: A Ghost Story](#) (Biblioasis \$7.95). The third in cartoonist Seth's Christmas Ghost Stories series, only they seem more appropriate for the Scary Season. The *Pole-Star's* voyage comes to a halt after becoming trapped in the arctic ice, threatening the lives of its crew. Superstition soon takes hold as the frightened men claim to hear ghosts in the darkness, but it's the captain's increasingly strange behaviour that concerns the doctor most.

DuBeau, JF. [A God in the Shed](#) (Inkshares \$17.99). The village of Saint-Ferdinand has all the trappings of a quiet life: farmhouses stretching from one main street, a small police precinct, a few diners and cafés, and a grocery store. Though if an out-of-towner stopped in, they would notice one unusual thing—a cemetery far too large and much too full for such a small town, lined with the victims of the Saint-Ferdinand Killer, who has eluded police for nearly two decades. It's not until after Inspector Stephen Crowley finally catches the killer that the town discovers even darker forces are at play in this ALA's Horror Book of 2017 now back in print.

Hearn, Lafcadio. [Of Ghosts and Goblins](#) (Penguin Classics \$16). The phantoms and ghouls of Japanese folklore stalk the page. Hearn, a master storyteller, drew on traditional Japanese folklore, infused with memories of his own haunted childhood in Ireland, to create these chilling tales. They are today regarded in Japan as classics in their own right.

✎ James, MR. [Ghost Stories of an Antiquary](#) (Haunted Library \$14.99). First published in 1904, this gem in the Haunted Library series presents eight tales of supernatural horror by genre master James. Highly regarded as a masterwork of horror, this collection is a must-have for fans of the frightful. I read it decades ago and will do so all over again.

Iversen, Chelsea. [The Witches at the End of the World](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99). 13 years ago, Kaija and Minna watched their mother burn to death in their coastal Norwegian village for practicing witchcraft. They spent the next decade hiding with their grandmother deep in the birchwood forest and learning more about the magic flowing through their veins. The sisters grow up to be young women, and Kaija announces her plan to return to their family's village. Minna, in a fit of rage, curses the village and starts a harmful cascade of unintended consequences.

Lewis, Maria. [The Graveyard Shift](#) (Watkins \$17.99). Tinsel Munroe has busted her guts to get where she is. Yet her dream of working in radio hasn't turned out to be everything she hoped it would. Sure, she has her own show – aptly titled "The Graveyard Shift" – where she celebrates the sounds of cult-cinema, but the wage is barely enough to cover her rent and the midnight hours are putting a strain on her relationship with her boyfriend. Even after three years at Melbourne's coolest station, she's seemingly no closer to a prime-time slot. That is, until someone is murdered live on air. A fast paced, thrilling murder mystery novel, paying homage to slasher films of the 90's, here's the perfect Halloween read for fans of Riley Sager and Grady Hendrix

Maguire, Gregory. [The Witch of Maracoor](#) (Harper \$30). Following the events of *The Oracle of Maracoor*, it's time for Rain, the adolescent greenish-skinned granddaughter of the Wicked Witch of the West, Elphaba, to return to Oz, where the Cowardly Lion rules as the absent Ozma's regent. A series of misadventures develops as Rain slowly overcomes her series-spanning amnesia and remembers her past life. Though she's coming back to herself, she's still struggling with the effects of the *Grimmerie*, a spell book with a strange level of control over her, despite having thrown it into the sea. She also pines for her young lover Tip, who is really the spellbound Ozma. Gradually, Rain tames her adolescent anger and loneliness by realizing that the key to maturity is love. Maguire's edgy take on Oz is as much fun to visit as ever,

McHugh, Mandy. [It Takes Monsters](#) (Norton \$17.95). Victoria Tate has had enough of her controlling, incompetent husband Warren. But planning the perfect murder is more difficult than she expected. When the social event of the year, an over-the-top costume ball, is rescheduled for the date she has selected for her crime, Victoria has to scramble to make sure she will still be able to follow through. But even hours of listening to crime podcasts cannot prepare her for the next wrench that is thrown into her plans: Warren turns up dead by someone else's hand. Bummer—someone got there first.

And one that's just magic:

Bancroft, Josiah. [The Hexologists](#) (Orbit \$18.99). "A married couple uses a combination of investigative skills, arcane arts, and a magic carpetbag to solve a case that threatens a kingdom in the charming and humorous fantasy-mystery, the first novel in a series. They practice hexegy, a "shallow rill" of practical magic in a world that has all but banned magicians and necromancers, and reveres alchemists. And fall into a royal muddle when the king's secretary confides to them that His Majesty wishes to be baked into a cake.... The ensuing investigation brings the Wilby pair up against a seven-foot-tall mandrake, a gang of spectral parasites in the form of disembodied limbs, and a loquacious dragon with a discerning palate. They will need all their wits, spellcraft, and love for each other to survive this case. Bancroft's nimble sesquipedalian fantasy has an emotional core as solid as its detailed magical system. Fans of steampunk and other Victoriana will rejoice at this promise of an expansive world and a lovable couple."

CHRISTMAS TREATS (Part One)

✎ Benedict, Alexandra. [Murder on the Christmas Express](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99) is the follow up to 2021's hit here at The Pen [The Christmas Murder Game](#) (\$16.99). While Benedict sticks to frothy Christie pastiche for a while, sprinkling the narrative with pub games and quizzes, cozy fans should be warned that the investigation takes a somber turn, introducing weightier-than-average themes of sexual assault into the mix, as she tears a leaf out of the Agatha Christie playbook and sets her tale on a posh locomotive full of suspicious Brits. The passengers aboard the sleeper train from London to Edinburgh for the Christmas holiday get a rude awakening when they derail in a remote, snowy section of the Scottish Highlands. Shortly after the derailment, the social media influencer is murdered.... Benedict rains down "red herrings, plot complications, and false solutions, spiced up by a series of meta-games involving anagrams, Kate Bush songs, three rounds of a Christmas quiz, and the obligatory recipe. What stands out most, though, is how poignant the central situation is, once you finally wrap your head around it."—*Kirkus Reviews*

✎ Bennett, SJ. [Murder Most Royal](#) (Harper \$30). Christmas at Sandringham among the Royals while Elizabeth still reigns. Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, both ill, have arrived in rural Norfolk to spend the holidays. When she learns a severed hand has been discovered on the local beach, Elizabeth is determined to let the police handle the matter while she copes with her flu. Then a questionable hit-and-run lands an influential villager in the hospital. Local aristocratic landowners carefully paint wholesome, uncomplicated versions of their lives, but the Queen knows which family members might want a member of their elite circle dead. "Vivid descriptions of Norfolk's wintry

landscape provide sharp contrast to the glamorous world inside Sandringham House and the trappings of royal life. The author's affection for the iconic Queen is on full display in multiple scenes that feature Elizabeth's practicality and astute discernment of human character, lifelong passion for country life, deep involvement with family, and undeniable wit. Although part of an ongoing series, this lively, delightful novel can easily be read as a stand-alone title." And a memorial to the monarch.

Datlow, Ellen, ed. [Christmas and Other Horrors: An Anthology of Solstice Horror](#) (Titan \$27.99). The winter solstice is celebrated as a time of joy around the world—yet the long nights also conjure a darker tradition. This anthology of all-new stories invites you to huddle around the fire and revel in the unholy, the dangerous, the horrific aspects of a time when families and friends come together—for better and for worse. Wow, this gem has a knockout cast of contributing authors including Tananarive Due, Christopher Golden, Stephen Graham Jones, Richard Kadrey, Alma Katsu, Josh Malerman, and Garth Nix. Note: Titan is a UK import and thus delivery can be slow so it may not become available until November.

✎ Davies, David Stuart, ed. [Classic Christmas Crime Stories](#) (Macmillan Crime Classics \$14.99). Christmas is not always the season of goodwill. As this hugely entertaining collection shows, it can also be the season of mysterious deaths, hidden poison bottles and blunt instruments. Part of the Macmillan Collector's Library; a series of stunning, cloth-bound, pocket-sized classics with gold foiled edges and ribbon markers, these beautiful books make perfect gifts or a treat for any book lover. This collection of eleven stories from the Golden Age of British crime writing includes festive whodunits by Margery Allingham and Ngaio Marsh.

✎ Dennison, Hannah. [A Killer Christmas at Honeychurch Hall](#) (LittleBrown \$17.99). Supply for this UK import is dicey but Dennison joins us on November 5 when we hope to have acquired copies.

✎ Farrell, Kathleen. [Mistletoe Malice](#) (Faber \$15.95). The fire is on, sherry poured, presents wrapped, and claws are being sharpened. In a seaside cottage perched on a cliff, one dysfunctional family reunites for Christmas. While snow falls, a tyrannical widowed matriarch presides over her unruly brood. Her niece tends to her whims, but fantasizes about eloping. As more guests arrive, each bringing their secret truths and dreams, the Christmas tree explodes, a brawl erupts, an escape occurs—and their 'midwinter madness' climaxes ... It's the Christmas holiday from hell in this rediscovered festive classic with fangs for fans of Barbara Pym, Elizabeth Taylor and Stella Gibbons.

Fluke, Joanne. [Christmas Cupcake Murder](#) (\$14.95). As December turns Lake Eden into the North Pole, the heat is on in Hannah's kitchen to honor two Christmas promises: baking irresistible holiday cupcakes and preventing a person who attempted murder from succeeding the second time around..... Plus recipes!

✎ Hallett, Janice. [The Christmas Appeal](#) (Atria \$19.99). See Signed books for this delightful UK novella by the ever inventive bestseller Hallett, one of my favorite new authors, in the UK. This US edition out in early November will be a fun stocking stuffer.

✂ Hannah, Sophie. [Hercule Poirot's Silent Night](#) (Harper \$30). See Signed books for this latest by Hannah writing in the world of Agatha Christie.

Henry, O. [The Gift of the Magi](#) (Penguin Classics \$15). This story by the brilliant Henry is both loving and ironic and a must read for the Christmas season. It was a favorite of My Mother, the fabled MM, who urged me to read it when I was young. You can do the same for your Young Reader with this hardcover edition.

✂ MacBird, Bonnie. [What Child Is This?](#) (\$18.99). What more perfect for the season than a Sherlock Holmes (and Dr. Watson) tale set in Christmastime Victorian London? Even better, this lovely volume is delightfully illustrated by Frank Cho with line drawings that complement the text.

Romeril, Christina. [A Nutcracker Nightmare](#) (Crooked Lane \$31.99). Twin sisters Alex and Hannah have a new case to crack right before Christmas. Preparing for a candy competition and negotiating their love lives—despite the town gossip throwing up roadblocks—while investigating the murder of a former classmate, puts a lot more on the sisters' plate than just chocolates.

Rosenfelt, David. [Santa's Little Yelpers](#) (\$18). 'Tis the season in Paterson, New Jersey. And Andy Carpenter, that ornament of the Paterson bar, is dragged out of professional retirement yet again. The Tara Foundation has its hands full with a recent litter. Eight puppies are a lot to handle, and Andy is relieved when his co-worker Chris Myers agrees to foster them. Myers, a newer employee at the Tara Foundation, did time for a crime he swears he didn't commit. When Myers discovers a key witness against him lied on the stand, he goes to Andy to ask for representation in getting the conviction overturned. Myers thinks they can have this wrapped up by Christmas, no problem. But when the witness is murdered, and Myers is arrested for the crime, things go from bad to worse. Not many dogs, even less about Christmas, but this holiday package still delivers the goods.

✂ Schellman, Katharine. [Murder at Midnight](#) (Crooked Lane \$30.99 SIGNED). In her delightful 1816 Regency mystery, a Christmas country house murder scenario, feisty widow Lily Adler is attending a Christmas ball. Lily has brought along her late husband's mother, Lady Adler, and his brother, Sir John, to Mrs. Grantham's annual yuletide celebration in Hertfordshire. Also in attendance are Jack Harley and Matthew Spencer, both of whom harbor feelings for Lily. After much dining, dancing, and gossiping, a terrible snowstorm hits, forcing the guests to stay at the house overnight. Next morning, someone is found shot to death in the poultry yard. Motives for the murder abound: fraud, blackmail, theft, and romantic jealousy. Mrs. Grantham, who has heard murmurings about Lily's success at solving crimes, asks her to quietly investigate. It's an Agatha Christie set-up for sure.

Score, Lucy. [The Christmas Fix](#) (Bloom \$18.95). An enemies to lover standalone romantic comedy between a Grinchy city manager and the sparkling reality TV star who might be the answer to all his problems, as long as she doesn't cause new ones. She'll save Christmas just to spite him...

Swanson, Peter. [The Christmas Guest](#) (Harper \$19.99). In 2019, an unnamed narrator decides to spend Christmas cleaning her NY apartment and rediscovers a diary written by an American grad student in London named Ashley Smith who writes that

December, 1989, was a "murderous year." Ashley's diary entries recount her invitation to the Cotswold home of her student colleague, Emma Chapman, for the holidays. En route to Starvewood Hall, she wonders if her time at the estate will feel like "a romance novel, or maybe a murder mystery." Ashley is quickly enchanted by the Chapman clan and an English Christmas. Then her visit turns creepy when she's followed through the woods. Now, 30 years later, the truth will be revealed about that haunting Christmas season.

Unger, Lisa. [Christmas Presents](#) (Penzler \$23.95). See Signed books for this novella which is trademark Unger, i.e. not a cozy but with a Christmastime setting.

CLASSICS

Edwards, Martin. [Final Acts](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.99). The British Library Crime Classics turns to the theater for 14 mystery stories by giants of the classic crime genre such as Dorothy L. Sayers, Julian Symons and Ngaio Marsh, as well as firm favorites from the British Library Crime Classics series: Anthony Wynne, Christianna Brand, Bernard J. Farmer and many more. As ever the multiple award winning author Martin Edwards edits the volume and provides a sterling introduction. Gems like this make wonderful gifts, no?

Keene, Day. [Acapulco GPO](#) (Stark House \$12.99). Too much money and too much temptation is a bad breeding ground. Jim Harris knows that all too well. As a painter, his glory days are behind him, and all he can do is teach. His wife Sonia has become the breadwinner, modeling in the nude for the other painters. So Jim and Sonia argue-and drink. But now Sally, a teenage girl Harris teaches, has gone missing, and he is the last person to see her. Harris knows he was drunk last night, but he's sure he didn't rape and murder his young student. He wasn't *that* drunk. So why do they find one of his pallet knives, sharpened to a deadly point, near a pile of Sally's clothes?

Van Dine S.S. [The "Canary" Murder Case](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.99). Switching to the US and the Library of Congress Crime Classics edited by another multi-award winner, Leslie S. Klinger, here is the second mystery by the hugely popular in his day SS Van Dine. Margaret Odell, the famous Broadway beauty and ex-Follies girl known as "The Canary", is found murdered in her ransacked apartment, her jewelry stolen. It appears to be a robbery gone wrong, but the police can find no physical evidence to pinpoint a culprit. No one witnessed anyone entering or leaving, and the only unwatched entrance to the apartment building was bolted from the inside. Who could have killed the Canary in her locked cage?

Whittington, Harry. [A Woman Possessed / Prime Sucker](#) (Stark House \$19.95). This small press brings us hardboiled/noir classics, sometimes in single volumes, sometimes with two or more in one book. Patrick is your go to bookseller for all things Stark House – Patrick@poisonedpen.com

MORE OCTOBER HARDCOVERS

Arikawa, Hiro. [The Goodbye Cat](#) (Putnam \$24). In the much-anticipated follow-up to the bestselling and beloved [The Travelling Cat Chronicles](#) (\$24), seven cats weave their way through their owners' lives, climbing, comforting, nestling, and sometimes just tripping everyone up in this uplifting collection of tales. Karin Slaughter fans will love this book's cover art...and the cat.

Aoyama, Michiko. [What You Are Looking for Is in The Library](#) (Hanover Square \$21.99). This amazing little novel takes several Tokyo residents whose lives are stifling into a local library where enigmatic librarian Sayuri Komachi, an oversize woman who is constantly felting, asks “What are you looking for?” Deploying her flying fingers on her keyboard, and gifting the patron with an unexpected book recommendation and one of her squishy felted figures, she somehow also gifts the several characters with motivation they didn’t realize they needed. And it changes lives. Aoyama’s charming novel highlights the magic of libraries and the ability of books to alter lives just when we need this message—along with underlining friendship and community, even love. This is truly a magical book and a superb gift idea.

Black, Laura Gail. [Caught on the Book](#) (Crooked Lane \$31.99). An Antique Bookshop Mystery set in Hokes Folly, NC, finds antiquarian bookseller Jenna Quinn hoping to hook new customers with a fishing-themed display at a local festival. It goes swimmingly until a local author is found dead in his booth....

Also from Crooked Lane, Allison Brook, [Overdue or Die](#) (\$31.99). Carrie Singleton of the Clover Ridge Library is preparing for her wedding and hoping the local art gallery doesn’t steal one of her part-time employees. She’s planning an art show at the library and goes to select paintings from a local collector. Her fiancé spots a forgery in his collection; the art gallerist is found murdered. Luckily the library’s resident cat and its resident ghost are on hand to help with the sleuthing.

And in a third bookish cozy, Samara Yee’s [Murder by the Seashore](#) (\$31.99), Scarlett Gardner’s dream to open a bookshop Palm Trees and Page Turners in Southern California soon becomes a nightmare when she finds the dead body of a customer—and becomes the prime suspect

Brown, Rita Mae. [Lost & Hound](#) (Random \$28). A thin mystery but a nice visit to fall in Virginia at the start of fox hunting season. It’s “Sister” Jane Arnold’s favorite time of year. And this year, the Jefferson Hunt Club is busier than ever, organizing a fundraising drive to help with the upkeep of their beloved hunting grounds. But the festive season is interrupted by the appearance of a dead body, tied to a chair and placed directly in the path of an early-season hunt. No one recognizes the victim, but the intentional placement makes it clear that someone is sending a message. Then, one huntsman’s valuable stamp collection is stolen, and they discover the victim was also a stamp collector. Sister suspects a connection....

Collins, Max Allan. [Heller: Too Many Bullets](#) (Hard Case Crime \$26.99). In 1968, Nate Heller is there when Robert Kennedy is shot at the Ambassador Hotel. Heller takes it upon himself to investigate the murder when a friend raises doubts about the LAPD’s investigation. Heller strongly suspects the involvement of Jimmy Hoffa (currently imprisoned), but Hoffa seems to be in the clear as the private eye looks into the possible presence of Bobby’s CIA enemies on the murder night, the apparent manipulation of Sirhan Sirhan into a Manchurian Candidate-style assassin, and a probable second shooter.

Crichton, Michael. [Drug of Choice](#) (Blackstone \$24.99). Two patients in comas, not expected to live: when they both recover, sharing the same bizarre symptom of blue urine, it’s a medical miracle that Dr. Roger Clark cannot explain. One of the patients is Sharon Wilder, a beautiful Hollywood starlet. When she offers

Dr. Clark the chance to accompany her to the private Caribbean island called Eden, he has to accept—if only to learn more about the bioengineering company Advance, Inc., and their promise to make your wildest dreams come true. Really? The Crichton estate is releasing material written by Crichton as a medical student under the name John Lange. He also wrote one under the name Jeffrey Hudson that won the Edgar and decided him to drop the pseudonyms.

✠ Doherty, Paul. [Murder Most Treasonable](#) (Severn \$31.99). Ordered Upon Request. March, 1382. A clandestine organization known as the Secret Chancery operates under the sinister leadership of John of Gaunt’s Master of Secrets. When two clerks from this covert group meet their demise in suspicious circumstances, Sir John Cranston, Lord High Coroner of the City of London, and his friend, the humble Brother Athelstan, Dominican Parish Priest of St. Erconwald’s in Southwark, are urgently summoned to crack this impossible crime. How did the killer manage to navigate a labyrinth of locked doors, leaving no trace behind? As Brother Athelstan delves deeper into the mystery, a terrifying threat also emerges: the possibility of treason. King Richard’s spies in France are also dying, almost as if someone’s discovered exactly who they are.

Eekhout, Anne. [Mary & the Birth of Frankenstein](#) (Harper Via \$30). The Dutch author’s first work to be translated into English in her words tells the story of “The enigmatic summer Mary Shelley spends in Scotland at the age of 14 which turns out to be the breeding ground for writing *Frankenstein* four years later.”

Eng, Tan Twan. [The House of Doors](#) (Bloomsbury \$28.99). I can’t think of enough of the right words to praise this splendid novel and the sheer beauty of its writing (and breadth of its vocabulary). It evokes the British Empire in its final heyday. Sun Yat Sen, the great fighter for Chinese independence, appears in its pages, as does that masterly betrayer of expatriate secrets, the short story writer Somerset Maugham. “In fact, Eng’s gripping book could almost have been written by Maugham himself.” The Booker Prize winner is simply not available to sign and it hurts to leave him off the October Signed Books List.

“An amazingly transporting novel about love, desire, and duty, *The House of Doors* does what the very best stories do—it draws us into many fascinating worlds at once: The British Empire’s incursions into South-East Asia; the secret life of one of England’s finest writers; a forgotten murder trial playing out in the Kuala Lumpur courts a century ago so a terrific courtroom drama. Weaving all this together with great skill and power, bringing the reader a surfeit of pleasure, Tan Twan Eng also teaches us a crucial lesson: never trust a writer.”—Jonathan Lee

Gibb, Rebecca. [Vintage Crime: A Short History of Wine Fraud](#) (University of California \$29.95). Gibb’s history of wine reveals that, whether by adding toxic sweeteners or passing off counterfeit bottles, wine fraud is abundant—and as old as wine itself. *Vintage Crime* will intrigue even the most sated of wine drinkers with its juicy tales of deception, raising interesting questions along the way: what counts as wine, why do we drink it, and what makes a wine truly authentic? The world of wine prides itself on its aura of respectability, but it has always had a murky side. Packed with engaging vignettes, *Vintage Crime* brings to life famous enthusiasts and crafty con artists from ancient Rome to modern-day California. Gibb holds the rare,

sought-after distinction of Master of Wine, yet she writes in an engaging style that doesn't require any prior wine knowledge, skillfully synthesizing popular wine histories for amateur sleuths and armchair sommeliers alike. *A portion of book royalties will be donated by the author towards finding a cure for Duchenne muscular dystrophy.*

Golden, SK. [Socialite's Guide to Death and Dating](#) (Crooked Lane \$30.99). New York, 1958. Even though Evelyn Murphy has made progress conquering her agoraphobia by leaving the Pinnacle, she still feels most comfortable inside her father's hotel. With Malcolm Cooper, her new boyfriend and fellow employee, Evelyn feels prepared for whatever happens next. It's throwing a big fundraiser with the who's who of New York City. The night is a success, and Evelyn finally takes up Malcolm's offer to visit his apartment in Yonkers. As they sneak away to the garage to get Evelyn's car, she discovers the dead body of a guest, Judge Baker—with a needle in his arm. Two cops arrive, but before they can begin to question Evelyn, they are startled by another mysterious discovery: there's a woman in the trunk of the car, and she screams as soon as she sees Evelyn's face

Hiaasen, Carl. [Wrecker](#) (Random \$18.99) puts a trademark Hiaasen plot into play for readers ages 10+. Teenager Valdez Jones VIII, aka Wrecker, is returning from a fishing trip when he witnesses an expensive speedboat run aground. When he sails over to help, the captain of the vessel, "Silver Mustache," behaves suspiciously, offering Wrecker a beer can with a wad of cash inside. "Yo," he says, "just remember: you never saw us." Wrecker takes the money, but as he's working his odd job cleaning iguana droppings off a gravestone, Silver Mustache approaches and asks him to keep an eye on the crypt of a recently deceased friend. Wrecker reluctantly agrees, but senses that something fishy is afoot when black-coated thugs begin standing guard at the crypt and threatening passersby. After a chance encounter with a sunken speedboat—and its potentially illegal contents—Wrecker hatches a plan to thwart Silver Mustache's clandestine operations.

Johnston, Tim. [Distant Sons](#) (Algonquin \$29). If you are missing Cormac McCarthy, step right up for this one. Michael Koryta sums it up beautifully: "...an intricate, haunting novel sure to resonate with fans of Dennis Lehane, Peter Heller, and James Lee Burke. Johnston's plot is tense and his pacing swift, but he's after bigger game here, with questions of identity, intentions, and legacies merging in a tale that will linger long after it is finished. He's also one of the finest prose stylists in the game, stacking polished sentences with a master's touch."

✦ Kelly, Julia. [A Traitor in Whitehall](#) (St Martins \$28). **Our October British Crime Book of the Month** takes readers into the heart of London's cabinet war rooms during World War II. Evelyn Redfern isn't thrilled with her job at a munitions factory, though she's proud to be doing her bit. But a mysterious interview with an old friend of her father's leads to new job where she becomes part of the typing pool and also (secretly) keeps her eyes peeled for information. Days later, one of her fellow typists is murdered, and Evie finds the body. Determined to catch the killer, she teams up with David Poole, an aide with a secret assignment of his own: to find both the murderer and a mole who may be leaking vital information to the Germans. Kelly's narrative zips along, taking Evie from the cabinet war

rooms to various parts of London (even dodging Nazi bombs, when necessary) and back to the boardinghouse where she shares a room with her friend Moira and stacks of mystery novels. Evie's first adventure is a well-plotted start to an entertaining new series by an author of previous historical fiction and just drew a rave in the *NY Times Book Review*.

Lagani, Chiara. [My Brilliant Friend: The Graphic Novel](#): (Europa \$26). Book One of the international bestselling *Neapolitan Quartet* novels by Elena Ferrante becomes a visually vibrant graphic novel, with text adapted by Chiara Lagani, and illustrations by Mara Cerri. This could really hook younger readers....

Moore, Ian. [The Man Who Didn't Burn](#) (Duckworth UK \$22). Moore, author of the hit cozy caper *Death and Croissants*, brings a British sensibility to a mystery set in France's historic, tourist-riddled Loire Valley. When a busy retired English expat is brutally murdered, his crucified corpse left on a hillside, the police turn to judge d'instruction Matthieu Lombard to find the killer because he's half-English, and also needs a kick in the pants to get back to work. Lombard and his prickly partner discover a wealth of secrets, grudges and feuds in the idyllic town of Saint-Genève-sur-Loire and turn up close links to Joan of Arc's story. He begins to suspect that the remaining members of the Comité des Fêtes know more about the death than they are letting on. Is the answer to the murder hiding in the barroom gossip of the Lion d'Or? Or in another century altogether? Comedian Moore has some excellent things to say about retirement and small towns and grieving even if the plot is jerky although it gets there in the end.

Smith, Alexander McCall. [From a Far and Lovely Country](#) (Knopf \$28). Mma Ramotswe and Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni are enjoying a meal out at a *peri-peri* restaurant when an American woman named Julia approaches. Julia's beloved late grandfather was Botswanan, and he instilled in her an abiding love of his homeland. Julia has come to visit Botswana and to find her relatives. Unfortunately, her grandfather's stories, while charming and entertaining, were somewhat light on detail; all Julia can remember are a few first names and some descriptions of his village. It's not a lot to go on, but Mma Ramotswe, Botswana's No 1 Lady Detective, is up for the challenge. A second case has Mma Ramotswe sending apprentice Charley undercover into a dubious, word-of-mouth get-together known as the Cool Singles Evening Club, where married men are encouraged to pretend to be single and meet women under false pretenses. "This is largely a comic novel, enlivened by Precious' reflections, Grace's jockeying for status, and part-time mechanic and Charlie's struggles to overcome his unreliability. A total delight." — *Booklist* Starred Review.

Teschner, John. [Valley of Refuge](#) (Forge \$29.99) finds Nalani Winthrop weighing the financial opportunity of a lifetime against her family's legacy in Hawai'i. Winthrop has inherited a small parcel of land that's of interest to the AinaKai Alliance, a nonprofit scientific organization that wants to research marine life off Kauai's North Shore. Selling her land would help protect vulnerable native species while providing Winthrop's family a life-changing windfall. In reality, tech billionaire Franky Dalton—best-known for creating a social media platform that thrives on promoting the kind of incendiary political content that radicalizes its users—funds AinaKai and its activities.

Publicly, Dalton claims that his pursuit of Winthrop's land is about sustainability, but in reality, his ambitions lie in creating a haven for his family, whom Dalton fears may become targets for the zealous user base he's cultivated. As Nalani wavers, Dalton makes it clear he'll stop at nothing and they become locked in a potentially dangerous battle.

While this isn't as suspenseful as Teschner's 2022 First Mystery Book of the Month [Project Namahama](#) (\$18.99), I agree with reviewer Oline Cogdill: "Teschner deftly contrasts his characters' motives against the backdrop of Hawaii's seamy side, depicting how Dalton became driven by his ego, going from a volunteer with pure ideals to a megalomaniac who is unconcerned about others or land destruction. Dalton thinks he is a good man, trying to protect his family and building a future for his wife and twin sons. He is wrong. Nalani could be seduced by wealth, but she believes the past is more important. Strong characters coupled with solid action flow throughout." I add there's a terrific glossary well worth studying (in three languages).

Walker, Wendy. [American Girl](#) (Blackstone \$26.99). Autistic 17-old Charlie Hudson is intent on leaving her small Sawyer, Pennsylvania for MIT; she just needs to earn enough money making sandwiches at the Triple S to afford tuition. Everyone in Sawyer despises the Triple S's odious owner, Clay Cooper, so few are surprised when he's found murdered on a street near his home. Police believe Coop was killed elsewhere and then moved, and surveillance footage that shows a terrified Charlie hiding under the Triple S's counter one night after closing confirms. Autistic Charlie refuses to divulge what she witnessed—several people she loves have motives, and while she isn't sure who offed Coop, she won't risk implicating any of them. But Charlie's silence could be putting her in grave danger. "The twisty tale unfolds in urgent first-person-present narration, and Charlie initially keeps as many secrets from readers as she does authorities, instilling an air of uncertainty that fosters tension and momentum. The exquisitely rendered and emotionally complex characters add depth. Nita Prose fans, take note."

Ward, Jesmyn. [Let Us Descend](#) (Scribner \$28) is a reimagining of American slavery, a journey from the rice fields of the Carolinas to the slave markets of New Orleans and into the fearsome heart of a Louisiana sugar plantation. Annis, sold south by the white enslaver who fathered her, is the reader's guide through this hellscape. Ward, the two-time National Book Award winner, youngest winner of the Library of Congress Prize for Fiction, and MacArthur Fellow—"inscribes Black American grief and joy into the very land—the rich but unforgiving forests, swamps, and rivers of the American South."

MORE BIOGRAPHIES AND MEMOIRS

(Shop Early for the Holidays. This selection of biographies and memoirs will appeal to a wide range of people on your gift list. If no publisher is listed then the book is a paperback reprint)

First, an important book for the moment:

Frank, Michael. [One Hundred Saturdays](#) (\$19.99) is the emotionally stunning biography of Stella Levi, one of the last Jewish survivors of the Greek island of Rhodes, home to the Juderia, Rhodes's Jewish quarter with cobblestoned streets and courtyards smelling of "jasmine and rosemary, lavender and roses and rue." At one of their first meetings—eventually becoming 100 Saturdays over the course of six years, Frank asks Levi to

share her life story. "Possibly," she says. "But not the camps.... I don't want to be that person." Levi recalls her youth: weddings, Yom Kippur, Passover, the frisson of first love. The image of her packing a suitcase at age 14 to be ready for university echoes throughout the book. Levi eventually describes her deportation to Auschwitz, among the 1,650 Jews collected from Rhodes, and her survival of five different camps. Maira Kalman's gouache paintings depict moments both small (wearing an outfit her sister sent from "Ah-merica") and life-altering ("The window [that] was the last thing Stella saw that connected her to the Juderia"). This biography, winner of the Jewish Book Council's Natan Notable Book Award, pins to the page a lost world preserved in these carefully captured memories. Anti-Semitism is on the rise again; this book highlights why we should fight it.

More titles:

Fisher, Paul. [The Grand Affair: John Singer Sargent in His World](#) (\$20)

Fox, Julia. [Down the Drain](#) (St Martins \$28.99)

Herzog, Werner. [Every Man for Himself and God Against All](#) (Penguin \$30)

Houseman, Victoria. American [Classicist: The Life and Loves of Edith Hamilton](#) (Princeton University Press \$39.95)...The 20th Century go-to interpreter of the Classical World and author of [Mythology](#) (\$10.99), a gift we highly recommend for young readers as well as adults, and especially Rick Riordan fans

Leerschen, Charles. [Down and Out in Paradise: The Life of Anthony Bourdain](#) (\$18.99)

Mantel, Hilary. [A Memoir of My Former Self](#) (Holt \$40)

Meacham, Jon. [And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle](#) (\$24)

Newman, Melissa/Andrew Kelly. [Head Over Heels: Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman: A Love Affair in Words and Pictures](#) (Little Brown \$50).

Nguyen, Viet Thanh. [A Man of Two Faces](#) (Grove \$28)

Ogilvie, Sarah. [The Dictionary People: The Unsung Heroes who Created the Oxford English Dictionary](#) (Knopf \$30), known to me and many as the OED.

Parton, Dolly. [Behind the Seams: My Life in Rhinestones](#) (Clarkson Potter \$50)

Rendell, Kenneth. [Safeguarding History: Trailblazing Adventures Inside the Worlds of Collecting and Forging History](#) (Whitman \$24.95). Rendell is a notable collector, dealer, and appraiser of letters, documents, and artifacts.

Sargent, John. [Turning Pages: The Adventures and Misadventures of a Publisher](#) (Arcade \$26.99)

Schiff, Stacy. [The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams](#) (\$21.99)

Spears, Britney. [The Woman in Me](#) (Gallery \$32.99)

Stewart, Patrick. [Making It So](#) (Gallery \$35).

Streisand, Barbara. [My Name Is Barbara](#) (Penguin \$45). Coming November 7

Winkler, Henry. [Being Henry: The Fonz and Beyond](#) (Celadon \$30 Signed Tip-ins).

SOME TRUE CRIME OF NOTE

Monroe, Jana. [Hearts of Darkness: Serial Killers, The Behavioral Science Unit, and My Life as a Woman in the FBI](#) (Abrams \$28). For fans of *Mindhunter*, *Criminal Minds*, and *My Favorite Murder*, a riveting memoir of a trailblazing woman's life hunting down serial killers as one of the first female profilers of the FBI Behavioral Sciences Unit and the real-life model for Clarice Starling in *The Silence of the Lambs* who consulted on over 850 homicide cases including Dahmer, Kemper, Bundy, and Wuornos, and later the Columbine and Las Vegas shootings. Lots of photos enrich her story which included helping train Jodie Foster for her role.

Norton, Laurah. [Lay Them to Rest: On the Road with Cold Case Investigators](#) (Hachette \$30). Podcaster Norton, spurred by the mishandled 1990s cold case of the Millbrook twins, created "The Fall Line" and built a platform to uncover unsolved murders, unidentified persons and unexplained disappearances, often in communities deprioritized (is that a verb?) by mainstream media. She teams up with forensic anthropologist Dr. Amy Michael and various experts her to unearth the identity of "Ina Jane Doe" in real time.

Schechter, Harold. [Murderabilia: A History of Crime in 100 Objects](#) (Workman \$30). Veteran true crime writer Schechter presents 100 murder-related artifacts spanning 1808–2014. A visual and literary journey, it presents a history unlike any previously told in the true crime genre, one that speaks to the dark fascination of true crime fans while also presenting a larger historical timeline of how and why we continue to be captivated by the most sensational crimes and killers among us. The false teeth of a female serial killer from 1908, the cut-and-paste confession of the Black Dahlia killer, the newly cracked cipher of the Zodiac killer, the shotgun used in the Clutter family murders, which were made famous by Truman Capote's true crime classic [In Cold Blood](#) (\$16.95—they are objects of fascination to the legion of true crime buffs around the world. Photographs, drawings, and illustrations highlight the text and there's a solid Index.

Whiteman, Noah. [Most Delicious Poisons](#) (Spark \$29). A history of nature's toxin, how they evolved, and why we use and abuse them based on cutting-edge experience in evolution, chemistry, and neuroscience from evolutionary biologist Whiteman of UC Berkeley. It's scary to consider the coffee bean, red pepper flake, poppy seed, foxglove leaf, magic mushroom cap, or apple seed in this context.

FOR SHERLOCKIANS

Klaver, Christian. [The Classified Dossier, Sherlock Holmes and Mr. Hyde](#) (Titan \$16.95). A mash-up of Victorian mystery and horror 1903. A darkness has descended on London. A series of grisly murders are uncovered, trophies taken, bodies arranged and soon there are whispers of Jack the Ripper's return. A new client arrives at Baker Street: Dr Jekyll claims his friend Mr. Edward Hyde has been wrongfully accused of the hideous crimes, a friend whose very existence relies on a potion administered by the doctor himself. But the case becomes more unsettling than simply proving Mr. Hyde's innocence – Holmes and Watson unearth beastly transformations, a killer who moves unseen, a secret organization, and a traitor in their midst....

Lovegrove, James. [The Cthulu Casebooks—Sherlock Holmes and the Highgate Horrors](#) (Titan \$22.95). It's 1929 and an ageing Dr John Watson, conscious of his imminent demise, finally sits down to write a fresh chronicle disclosing the true events behind his published accounts of Sherlock Holmes's exploits. The two encounter reanimated corpses in Highgate Cemetery; a very different, though ever elusive, Irene Adler; t madness and murder in the frozen wastes of the north; grotesque organic machines; and more. Each case brings the illustrious pair ever closer to the dramatic and terrifying truth about the mysterious aliens, the Mi-Go, and their plans for Earth.

✦ MacBird, Bonnie. [What Child Is This?](#) (\$18.99). What more perfect for the season than a Sherlock Holmes (and Dr. Watson) tale set in Christmastime Victorian London? Even better, this lovely volume is delightfully illustrated by Frank Cho with line drawings that complement the text.

OUR OCTOBER LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

✦ Benedict, Alexandra. [Murder on the Christmas Express](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99) presents a darkly disturbing Christmas mystery, perfect for fans of Ashley Winstead or Ruth Ware. The novel—which pays homage to classic Golden Age mysteries like those of Agatha Christie—depicts how quickly people's civilized veneers can devolve when trapped in precarious situations. And see Christmas Treats above.

Berry, Steve. [The Last Kingdom](#) (\$17.99). The mission for Cotton Malone takes him to Bavaria where Berry crafts a really brilliant move made by "Mad" King Ludwig, he of the 19th Century Fairy Tale Castles, Richard Wagner bankroller, and other extravagances including the manner of his death—was he deliberately drowned in the lake or was it suicide?—echoes into the present. There's an exciting lake chase scene as well as the past playing into the present in a way that could unbalance relationships between the United States, China, and Germany to enjoy.

Cumming, Charles. [Judas 62](#) (\$17.95). After a lifetime working with BOX 88, the transatlantic counterintelligence agency so covert that not even the CIA knows of its existence, master spy Lachlan Kite has made plenty of enemies. And now, as the director of the outfit's operations in the UK, one of those past enemies has him in their sights.... "The first Kite novel [Box 88](#) (\$17.95) was excellent, but this is even better — an elegant exposition of what being a spy in the field actually feels like and the fear it can instill in even the most hardened operator. Superbly constructed, it never hurries, but evokes the world of espionage in a way the late John LeCarre would have much admired."—*Daily Mail*. Cumming signs his new book, [Kennedy 35](#) (Penzler \$27.99), for us in late November.

✦ Hall, Emylia. [The Harbour Lights Mystery](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$16.99). Our Croak & Dagger discussion group loved the [The Shell House Detectives](#) (\$16.99). Here is the duo's second investigation. It's December on the Cornish coast, and Mousehole harbor is illuminated with its famous Christmas lights. Ally Bright is among the crowd listening to the carol singers—and then to the piercing screams that rip through the darkness. A body has been found, brutally murdered and dumped in a fisherman's boat. The victim is Chef JP Sharpe and there is no shortage of people who might have wanted him dead. Eager for a new case for The Shell House Detectives, Ally calls her fellow sleuth, ex-cop Jayden Weston, but he's keen to leave it to the police—

until a letter in Sharpe's pocket draws them into a seemingly unconnected family mystery.

Karber, GT. [Murdle: Volume 2](#) (St Martins \$16). [Murdle: Volume 1](#) (\$16) presents the first collection of 100 original murder mystery logic puzzles—a perfect gift for armchair detectives and puzzlers to hone their minds and solve a series of crimes. Here now is Volume 2 with [Murdle Volume 3](#) (\$16) slated to publish next April, 100 new puzzles each. This is bound to be a hit with players of, say, Wordle, like me, or anyone who loves a brain quest.

Manning, Kate. [Gilded Mountain](#) (\$18). The Indie Next Pick: “An epic tale! Sylvie Pelletier is the daughter of a mine worker in early 1900s Colorado. She glimpses at how the wealthy owners live and is changed forever. A full-bodied historical novel relatable to today's issues of wage inequality.”

Mathews, Francine. [Death on a Winter Stroll](#) (\$16.95). Festive Nantucket is a marvelous Christmas escape. Although Police Chief Meredith Folger is acutely conscious of the stress COVID-19 has placed on the community she loves. Although the island has proved a refuge for many during the pandemic, the cost to Nantucket has been high. Merry hopes that the Christmas Stroll, one of Nantucket's favorite traditions, in which Main Street is transformed into a winter wonderland, will lift the island's spirits. But the arrival of a large-scale TV production, and the Secretary of State and her family leads to secrets revealed and...murder.

Nossett, Lauren. [The Resemblance](#) (\$17.99). This debut, a campus thriller, “begins at a busy intersection on the campus of (presumably) a stand-in for the University of Georgia. It's often the scene of accidents and most recently the death of a seemingly blameless student named Jay Kemp, killed by a hit-and-run driver. But wait, was he? So we follow Detective Marlitt Kaplan into the deepest recesses of Jay's skeezy, Greek-brotherhood-obsessed fraternity, Kappa Phi Omicron, a place she disdains with all her heart because of her own past traumas and understandably post-#MeToo outlook. She has troubles of her own — a difficult relationship with her parents, a precarious position at work, an inexplicable tendency to speak German at times of stress. Observant readers will notice the echo in the title of Tana French's classic thriller *The Likeness* about an undercover cop who impersonates a dead woman in order to ferret out her murderer.

Rankin, Ian. [A Heart Full of Headstones](#) (\$17.99). Officially retired but still on the job, John Rebus stands in the dock charged with a crime that's not revealed until the denouement. Flashbacks show familiar characters from Rebus's Edinburgh world pursuing various agendas. Organized crime kingpin Morris “Big Ger” Cafferty asks Rebus to find a man he wronged, but Rebus still has eyes on taking down Cafferty. DI Siobhan Clarke is investigating a policeman accused of domestic abuse who threatens to expose a culture of police corruption. Malcolm Fox, a loathsome, ambitious detective inspector, wants to contain that threat's collateral damage. Every thread leads to murder. The well-constructed plot is matched by brooding, atmospheric prose (Rebus has ‘spent his whole life in... a city perpetually dark, feeling increasingly weighed down, his heart full of headstones’). This is one of Rankin's best Rebus novels in years. We have a few [Signed UK editions](#) left at a special price of \$25. Don't miss out.

Scott, J. Todd. [Call the Dark](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$16.99). Our old friend J. Todd is back with something new. A small white plane hurtles from the sky, vanishing into the wilderness. Hiker Maggie Roby watches its final descent, certain that no one could have survived. But to her shock, a fifteen-year-old girl emerges from the wreckage, wounded but miraculously, impossibly alive. Maggie approaches with trepidation; she has secrets of her own, a past she can't escape. Saving the girl means risking her future, but she can't just abandon her, can she? With the young survivor, Maggie embarks on a dangerous trek through the remote Appalachian backcountry, joining up with two veterans from the local sheriff's department who know the land better than anyone. But even as Maggie charts their course through the mountains, she can sense someone—or something—else watching.

Tracy, P J. [The Devil You Know](#) (\$18). In LAPD Detective Margaret Nolan's third case, her personal demons finally take a back seat to the demons battenning on a gallery of Hollywood types. When a scurrilous video pops up on the web showing beloved Disney actor Evan Hobbes having sex with a minor, the star's career implodes, despite his fervent denials and claims that the video must be a deepfake. The following day, his battered body is found at the bottom of a cliff behind the home of Disney executive David Baum. Hobbes had been one of hundreds of well-heeled guests celebrating at a lavish party on the Baum estate. Was his death an accident, suicide, or murder? The displays of colossal Hollywood egos and Nolan's reaction to them make her interviews with potential suspects and witnesses highly entertaining. Adding personal interest is Nolan's ongoing friendship with Sam Easton, a troubled Afghan War vet who suffers from PTSD.

MORE OCTOBER LARGE PAPERBACKS

Billier, Anna. [Bluebeard's Castle](#) (Verso \$19.95). Billier, the filmmaker of *The Love Witch*, updates this French tale to a feminist Gothic. Thirteen years ago, Kaija and Minna watched their mother burn to death in their coastal Norwegian village, for practicing witchcraft. They spent the next decade hiding with their grandmother deep in the birchwood forest and learning more about the magic flowing through their veins. The sisters grow up to be young women, and Kaija announces her plan to return to their family's village. Minna, in a fit of rage, curses the village and starts a harmful cascade of unintended consequences.

Bilyeau, Nancy. [The Orchid Hour](#) (Lume Books \$16.99). Nancy Bilyeau's loving recreation of Jazz Age New York hums with authenticity... Her heroine, underdog Italian immigrant Zia, is irresistible...” reeks with the smell of lasagna in Little Italy, the smell of cheap gin in a 1920s speakeasy, and most importantly and most delicately with the scent of orchids at midnight...

✦ Bryce, Denny S. [The Other Princess](#) (Harper \$19.99) brings to life the little-known story of Aina, the daughter of a chieftain in West Africa, who later becomes Queen Victoria's goddaughter Sarah Forbes Bonetta. This powerful, sweeping saga of resilience, of a young princess ripped from all she knows and thrust into a world not of her choosing is “written with energy, compassion, and candor [as it depicts] the horrors of war and slavery, the pain of separation from one's family and country, and the saving graces of friendship of spirit and personal resilience that Bonetta exemplified in real life. An essential and entrancing work of historical fiction.” — Natalie Jenner

Claire, Ann. [Last Word to the Wise](#) (Random \$17). Sisters Ellie and Meg Christie share a love of books, reading, and their new roles as co-caretakers of the Book Chalet, their family's historic bookshop tucked midway up a scenic Colorado mountain. But romance? Ellie and Meg joke that they're in sisterly competition for worst relationships. So when their cousin signs them up for her newest business endeavor—matchmaking based on bookish tastes—the sisters approach their blind double dates with foot-dragging dread. While Ellie's date meets her low expectations, Meg's match, a book-loving romantic straight out of classic literature, charms her over a lovely dinner. The next morning, Meg is giddy with anticipation of a second date—until she's stood up without a word. She fumes that she should have known better. However, her date had a good reason for ghosting her: He's dead. Murdered. As the last known person to see the victim alive, Meg becomes a prime suspect in his death....

Dornbush, Jennifer Graese. [Last One Alive](#) (Blackstone \$16.99). Third in the Coroner's Daughter mysteries by local author Dornbush who will sign this and the hardcover on December 7. More then.

Green, George Dawes. [The Kingdoms of Savannah](#) (\$18). Savannah may appear to be "some town out of a fable," with its vine flowers, turreted mansions, and ghost tours that romanticize the city's history. But look deeper. On a balmy Southern night as some locals gather at Bo Peep's, one of the town's favorite watering holes. Within an hour, however, a man will be murdered and his companion will be "disappeared." An unlikely detective, Morgana Musgrove, doyenne of Savannah society, is called upon to unravel the mystery of these crimes. Morgana is an imperious, demanding, and conniving woman, whose four grown children are weary of her schemes. But one by one she inveigles them into helping with her investigation, and soon the family uncovers some terrifying truths—truths that will rock Savannah's power structure to its core.

Harper, Elodie. [The House with a Golden Door](#) (Harper \$17.99) continues with reimagining Pompeii from a female perspective and will delight readers of *Circe*, *The Song of Achilles*, and other modern tales of Ancient Greece and Rome. The life of a courtesan in Pompeii is glamorous yet perilous. At night in the home her patron bought for her, the house with the golden door, Amara's dreams are haunted by her past. This second book in the Wolf Den Trilogy follows Amara as she escapes her life as a slave in the city's most notorious brothel, the Wolf Den. Her survival depends on the affections of a man she might not know as well as she once thought.... Here is our **October Historical Fiction Book of the Month**—you can start with [The Wolf Den](#) (\$16.99) although our Pick stands alone.

☒ Hendy, Hannah. [A Frightfully Fatal Affair](#) (Canelo UK \$12). Margery and Clementine Butcher-Baker are coming to the end of another busy half term as dinner ladies at Summerview Secondary school. The school is abuzz with chatter about the upcoming break, the local harvest festival, and the fact that maths teacher, Mr. Weaver, hasn't turned up to work in days. When the pair embarks on an evening walk, they discover Mr. Weaver's body in the woods, with a mysterious symbol painted on the tree beside him. Something suspicious is clearly afoot. As the nights grow darker and the mysterious symbols continue to appear around Dewstow, the Dinner Lady Detectives are pulled deeper into the case....

Klavan, Andrew. [A Strange Habit of Mind](#) (\$17.95). Cameron Winter, who once worked for a covert government entity called the Division, now a literature professor at a Midwestern university after blackmailing the dean about "things the dean wanted to keep hidden until the end of the world." Winter is troubled by the suicide of a former student, Adam Kemp, who jumped from the roof of his San Francisco apartment building right after texting Winter, "Help me." Winter, who defended Kemp against a date rape charge and is curious why Kemp hadn't waited a few minutes for a response to the text, travels to California to investigate. Though he accepts the official verdict of suicide, Winter comes to believe that a powerful tech titan, an in-law of Kemp's girlfriend, played a role in the death

Geum-yi, Lee. [The Picture Bride](#) (Tor \$18.99). *Pachinko* meets *The Island of Sea Women* in this captivating journey of a young Korean "picture bride" and her immigrant experience in 1918 Hawai'i, perfect for fans of Min Jin Lee, Yangsze Choo, and Lisa See.

Llewellyn, Molly, ed. [Peach Pit](#) (Dzanc \$16.95). A stunning anthology of fierce and dangerous women, featuring stories from Lauren Groff, Deesha Philyaw, K-Ming Chang, and 13 other award-winning and bestselling authors. A middle-aged Black woman exacts revenge on the aggressively average men she meets on dating sites. A girl buries pieces of herself in a hole beneath an apple tree, hoping to escape her mother's life of struggle and servitude. A group of teenage girls compete for the title of "Worst Girl in America." A young woman in Taiwan becomes infatuated with a female scam caller, a fleeting ghost of a love that blossoms from strangeness. And a wealthy woman goes to unconventional, and perhaps not entirely ethical, lengths to find her dream man.

McFadden, Freida. [The Locked Door](#) (Sourcebooks \$17.99). While eleven-year-old Nora Davis was up in her bedroom doing homework, she had no idea her father was killing women in the basement. Until the day the police arrived at their front door. Decades later, Nora's father is spending his life behind bars, and Nora is a successful surgeon with a quiet, solitary existence. Nobody knows about her past, and she'll do anything to keep it that way. Then one of her young female patients is murdered, killed in the same unique and horrific manner that her father used to kill his victims. Somebody knows who Nora is. Somebody wants her to take the fall for this unthinkable crime. But she's not like her father. The police can't pin anything on her. As long as they don't look in her basement...

Morrissey, Hannah. [The Widowmaker](#) (\$18). At first glance, straight-arrow police officer Ryan Hudson, whose former patrol partner has just been fatally shot during a convenience store stickup, and goth photographer Morgan Mori, a traumatized eyewitness, have little in common besides the bad luck to be living in crime-infested Black Harbor, Wisconsin. But as guilt-ridden Ryan pursues his own unofficial investigation, gradually breaking through the defenses Morgan has built up as a survivor of childhood abuse, the pair develops a friendship. And Ryan comes to realize that Morgan may unwittingly hold the key to not only his partner's murder but also the town's most high-profile cold case: the disappearance 20 years earlier of wealthy mogul Clive Reynolds. You have to buy into some of the plot twists but enjoy a second visit to Black Harbor.

Patterson, James. [Triple Cross](#) (\$18.99). DC Detective Alex Cross hunts down a serial killer who targets entire families—and who will next be coming for the Crosses.

Phillips, Gary. [Witnesses for the Dead: Stories](#) (\$16.95). Lesa writes, The stories in this collection are inspired by Darnella Frazier's actions in recording George Floyd's murder. They feature characters who observe a crime, then take the initiative to see that the guilty are punished, and the victim receives justice. Usually the stories feature ordinary people who witness the crime in the course of their daily lives. Editors Haywood and Phillips are two of the authors included in the collection along with Alex Segura, Cara Black and 10 more. The premise is unusual for a crime collection, with characters who witness a crime, and sometimes take justice into their own hands. Royalties go to the Alliance for Safe Traffic Stops.

Saunders, George. [Liberation Day: Stories](#) (\$17) is a collection of prismatic, resonant stories that encompass joy and despair, oppression and revolution, bizarre fantasy and brutal reality.

Spotswood, Stephen. [Secrets Typed in Blood](#) (\$17). In 1940s NY, a pulp magazine writer claims that a killer is copying crimes from her work. Here, the famous P.I. Lillian Pentecost and her spiky junior partner, Willowjean 'Will' Parker, immerse themselves in the seedy milieu of pulp magazines. 3rd in series.

Staalesen, Gunnar. [Mirror Image](#) (Orenda \$16.99). As Bergen PI Varg Veum investigates two different cases, it becomes clear that they are uncannily similar to harrowing events that took place thirty-six years earlier... A lawyer, anxious to protect her privacy, asks Varg to find her sister, who has disappeared with her husband, seemingly without trace, while a ship carrying unknown cargo is heading towards the Norwegian coast, and the authorities need answers. Varg immerses himself in the investigations and uncovers a possible link to a woman and her saxophonist lover drove their car off a cliff, in an apparent double suicide.... Staalesen is father of Nordic Noir. We have copies of some of his other cases. Copies are in stock now regardless of what our webstore says.

Winslow, Don. [Way Down on the High Lonely](#) (Blackstone \$16.95). Neal Carey's three-year confinement in a Chinese monastery is finally over, but his troubles are just beginning. The elusive financial benefactors who have bought his freedom expect a return on their investment. They want him to find Cody McCall, a two-year-old boy recently abducted by his father in a bitter Hollywood custody battle, a task that will propel Neal from the glittering Hollywood hills to the remote wilds of Nevada. To find Cody, Neal has to turn outlaw in a land of two-bit casinos and roadside cathouses to infiltrate a vicious white supremacist group by presenting himself as a "fund-raiser" for Hansen's thugs. Seduced by Nevada ranch life and a local schoolmarm, he ignores orders to come home. His superiors at the bank concoct grand scams that go zany awry, lead to the chase and wind up with a gunfight at an old corral. The womenfolk hold their own, the setting is True West, and the wit is drier than sagebrush. 3rd in the Neal Carey mysteries being republished after [A Cool Breeze on the Underground](#) and [The Trail to Buddha's Mirror](#) (\$16.95) each.

OUR OCTOBER SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Brady, Eileen. [Murders of a Feather](#) (Sourcebooks \$8.99). Dr. Kate Vet #3. Veterinarian Kate Turner and her assistant are

making house calls on a winter day when they are flagged down by a passerby, who has found a body in the woods. As Kate investigates the scene, another body is found. Everyone's first thought is murder-suicide, but Kate hears through the grapevine that the police now think it was a double murder. Determined to figure out what is going on, Kate has to juggle her amateur sleuthing with her busy vet practice, including treating a wild crow, in this sequel to [Last But Not Leashed](#) (\$8.99).

Cameron, Marc. [Tom Clancy Red Winter](#) (\$9.99). Jack Ryan #22. When possibly Soviet defector offers the CIA details of his government's espionage plans in return for asylum, former Marine and brilliant CIA analyst Jack Ryan goes behind the Iron Curtain to find answers before the Cold War turns into a Red Winter.

Hawkins, Rachel. [Reckless Girls](#) (\$9.99). When they arrive at Meroe Island, a remote island paradise in the South Pacific despite a mysterious history of shipwrecks, cannibalism and murder, six people find their dream vacation turning into a nightmare when history starts repeating itself.

McKinlay, Jenn. [Sugar Plum Poisoned](#) (Penguin \$8.99 Signed). Cupcake Bakery #15. Hired by singing sensation Shelby Vaughn to supply cupcakes for the VIP guest lounge every night, Mel, when Shelby's manager is found dead and suspicion falls on her, stands up for her new friend, searching for clues sprinkled around the crime scene to clear her name. This fun cozy series is set here in Scottsdale.

✎ Penney, Elizabeth. [The Fatal Folio](#) (St Martins \$8.99). Cambridge Bookshop #3. While cataloging her boyfriend Kieran's intimidating family's library, Molly Kimball, who has moved to Cambridge and into her family's ancestral bookshop, finds the original manuscript of a Gothic novel called *The Fatal Folio* by the pseudonymous Selwyn Scott. Kieran's cousin Oliver, a professor specializing in Gothic literature, is eager to publish a paper on the mystery—especially because a troublesome student, Thad, is threatening to file a complaint against him and prevent his long-awaited promotion. On Guy Fawkes Night, Molly, Kieran, and her friends set out to enjoy the costumes, fireworks, and fun—at least until a stray firework starts a panic, and the group stumbles upon a prone body, their face covered by a mask. It's Thad, and he's been stabbed to death....

Preston, Douglas. [Diablo Mesa](#) (\$9.99). Nora Kelly #3. Responding to the promise of a hefty donation from a wealthy, eccentric billionaire with space travel ambitions, the Santa Fe Archaeological Institute excavates the site of the 1947 Roswell incident and immediately uncovers two unknown murder victims.

Slaughter, Karin. [Girl, Forgotten](#) (\$9.99). Forty years after Emily Vaughn was murdered on her prom night, U.S. Marshal Andrea Oliver picks up the cold case to find justice in the follow-up to *Pieces of Her*.

OCTOBER SMALL PAPERBACKS

Bruns, Catherine. [Syrup to No Good](#) (Sourcebooks \$8.99). Maple Syrup #2. The owner of Sappy Endings farm in Sugar Ridge, Vermont, Leila Khoury finds herself in a sticky situation when, during a last-minute bridal shower for her best friend, the groom's rich and ruthless aunt is found with a knife in her back.

Childs, Lisa. [The Buried](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Going undercover at Halcyon Hall, an exclusive retreat, to investigate the murder

of her sister, Maine state trooper Mae Montgomery must place her trust in fitness trainer Bode James, whom she blames for her sister's death, to uncover a legacy of evil before it buries them all.

Corrigan, Maya. [A Parfait Crime](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Five-Ingredient #9. Chosen to replace Jane, who perished in a fatal blaze, in the upcoming Agatha Christie play, café manager Val, when it's revealed that Jane's death was due to something other than smoke inhalation, teams up with her grandfather to sift through the ashes for clues to the killer's identity.

Coyle, Cleo. [Honey Roasted](#) (\$8.99). Coffeehouse #19. Coffeehouse manager Clare Cosi investigates when her friend "Queen" Bea Hastings is found unconscious after falling from her high-rise rooftop where she kept her prize-winning honey bees.

Elliott, Lauren. [Steeped in Secrets](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Crystals and CuriousiTEAS #1. Taking over an estate bequeathed to her by Bridget Early, a woman she had barely known, intuitive gemologist Shay Myers finds her heightened senses going into overdrive as she runs Bridget's eclectic tea and psychic shop and discovers she inherited an eclectic mix of customers—and the attention of a killer.

Flower, Amanda. [Dating Can Be Deadly](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Amish Matchmaker #5. While her very not Amish best friend searches for husband number five, Millie enters the Holmes County Fair's quilting competition in hopes of winning the cash prize but soon discovers that some people will literally kill to win.

Fox, Sarah. [Baking Spirits Bright](#) (Penguin \$8.99). True Confections #2. Competing in the Baking Spirits Bright holiday baking contest, chocolatier Becca Ransom, when the competition quickly heats up, resulting in the murder of an entrant by her chocolate chipper, tries to salvage the holiday season by finding a killer before she gets burned.

Griffin, Laura. [The Last Close Call](#) (Penguin \$8.99). Shifting her focus from tracing the family trees of violent criminals to helping adoptees find their biological parents, forensic genealogist Rowan Healy agrees to help Austin detective Jack Bruner find justice for the victims of the West Campus Rapist through her DNA research, which leads them down a dark path.

Harding, Robyn. [The Perfect Family](#) (\$9.99). When the seemingly perfect Adler family falls victim to random acts of violence, their lives are overtaken by fear and the only way out is to reveal the secrets that they have kept from the outside world and from each other.

Kelly, Diane. [Snow Place for Murder](#) (St Martin's \$8.99). Mountain Lodge #3. When her sons discover the dead body of Nigel Goodwin, the international resort developer bent on disturbing their peaceful community in the Blue Ridge Mountains, lodge owner Misty Murphy, knowing murder is bad for business, must figure out who put the developer on ice and why.

Kirsanow, Peter. [W E B Griffin: The Devil's Weapons](#) (\$9.99). Men at War #8. Dick Canidy and the agents of the OSS scour war-torn Poland looking for a rocket scientist who holds the secrets to the Nazis most dangerous weapon.

Margolin, Phillip. [Murder at Black Oaks](#) (\$9.99). Robin Lockwood #6. After getting a wrongful conviction overturned for

retired DA Francis Hardy, Robin Lockwood is invited to a party at Black Oaks, his home in the Oregon mountains rumored to be cursed, and finds murder in attendance when Hardy is found dead.

Mentink, Dana. [Spoon to Be Dead](#) (Sourcebooks \$8.99). Shake Shop #3. While catering a holiday steamboat party for a money-grabbing customer, Trinidad Jones, the owner of the Shimmy and Shake shop, agrees to help her good-for-nothing ex investigate a hit-and-run, one he may be responsible for, setting out to get the real scoop on a cold-hearted killer.

Newman, Jay. [Undermoney](#) (\$9.99). A group of American patriots, all former military, and a lethal CIA agent, who is an expert on global dark money, search for a way to get their number one choice, Senator Ben Corn, elected president, to implement their own foreign policy and restructure American society.

Olsen, Gregg. [The Last Thing She Ever Did](#) (Kensington \$8.99). For years, up-and-comers Liz and Owen have admired their good friends and neighbors, Carole and David. They appear to have it all—security, happiness, and a beautiful young son, Charlie. Then Charlie vanishes without a trace, and all that seemed safe is shattered by a tragedy that is incomprehensible—except to Liz. She can't undo the terrible mistake she made. Or her unforgivable decision to conceal it.