

# BOOKNEWS from

ISSN 1056-5655, © The Poisoned Pen, Ltd.  
Volume 35, Number 15  
November Booknews 2023  
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## Happy Thanksgiving

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

Note: Event times are in Mountain Standard Time from Nov. 5

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.

### WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 1 1:00 PM

**Janice Hallett** discusses [The Christmas Appeal](#) (Atria \$21.99)  
The theater group from *The Appeal* return  
Signed UK edition: [The Christmas Appeal](#) (Viper UK \$28)

### WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 1 5:00 PM

**Andrew Klavan** discusses [The House of Love and Death](#) (Penzler \$26.95)  
Chicago Professor Cameron Winter  
Signed books available

### THURSDAY NOVEMBER 2 5:00 PM

**Eliot Pattison** discusses [Freedom's Ghost](#) (Catapult \$29)  
Our November Historical Fiction Book of the Month  
Signed books available plus a few titles donated by Pattison

### THURSDAY NOVEMBER 2 7:00 PM Live

**Steve Hockensmith** discusses [Hunters of the Dead](#) (Rough Edges Press \$18.99) and other Holmes on the Range mysteries like [The Double-A Western Detective Agency](#) (\$18)

### IMPORTANT: EVENTS NOW SHIFT TO MST

### SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5 2:00 PM Live

**John** hosts a holiday duo  
**Kate Carlisle** discusses [The Twelve Books of Christmas](#) (Berkley \$27)  
**Michelle Hoffman** discusses [The Second Ending](#) (Random \$18)  
UPDATE: Hannah Dennison has had to cancel with regrets

### RESCHEDULE: MONDAY NOVEMBER 6 5:00 PM

**Rhys Bowen** discusses [The Proof of the Pudding](#) (Berkley \$28)  
Her Royal Spyness acquires a French chef  
Signed bookplates

### MONDAY NOVEMBER 6 7:00 PM Live

**Vanessa Lillie** discusses [Blood Sisters](#) (Berkley \$27)  
Our November Crime Collectors Book of the Month

### WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8 6:00 PM

**Janet Evanovich** discusses [Dirty Thirty](#) (Atria \$29.99)  
The 30<sup>th</sup> Stephanie Plum  
Janet has signed all our copies for us

### THURSDAY NOVEMBER 9 7:00 PM Live

**Michael Connelly** discusses [Resurrection Walk](#) (LittleBrown \$30)  
Mickey Haller and Harry Bosch in a long-shot legal case  
**LOCATION:** Scottsdale United Methodist Church 4140 N Miller Road Scottsdale 85251. Lots of parking.

### FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10 7:00 PM Live

**Kevin Hearne** discusses [A Curse of Krakens](#) (Random \$32)  
Book Three of the Seven Kennings

### SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11 4:00 PM

**Dirk Cussler with Graham Brown, Jack DuBrul, Mike Maden,**  
A celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Clive Cussler Dirk Pitt adventure, [The Mediterranean Caper](#) (\$9.99)

### SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11 6:00 PM Live

**Dirk Cussler** discusses [Clive Cussler The Corsican Shadow](#) (Putnam \$29.95)  
A Dirk Pitt adventure

### MONDAY NOVEMBER 13 5:00 PM

**David Swinson** discusses [Sweet Thing](#) (Little Brown \$29)  
Signed copies of our November Hardboiled/Noir Book of the Month available

### MONDAY NOVEMBER 13 7:00 PM Live

**Martin Walker** discusses [A Chateau Under Siege](#) (Knopf \$28)  
A Bruno, Chief of Police investigation  
And [Bruno's Cookbook](#) (Knopf \$40)

### TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14 7:00 PM Live

**Tess Gerritsen** discusses [The Spy Coast](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$28.99)  
This book is THE perfect pairing with David Baldacci's [The Edge](#) (Grand Central \$29.99), also set in a Maine small town with spy action threads  
Also attending: JT Ellison who also writes as [Joss Walker](#) so her Jayne Thorne, CIA Librarian, books will be available too

⌘ = British PW=Publishers Weekly LJ=Library Journal

**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 15 6:00 PM**

**Connor Sullivan** hosts

**Jack Stewart** discusses [Unknown Rider](#) (Seyvern River \$28.99) or (17.99). Signed books later in November

**Steve Urszenyi** discusses [Perfect Shot](#) (St Martins \$28) Signed books for Urszenyi, our November First Mystery Book of the Month

**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16 7:00 PM Live**

**Matt Coyle** discusses [Odyssey's End](#) (Oceanview \$27.95) 10<sup>th</sup> for San Diego PI Rick Cahill

**Tim Maleeny** discusses [Hanging the Devil](#) (Poisoned Pen \$16.99)

PIs Cape Weathers and Sally

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17 7:00 PM**

**SciFi Friday** discusses T.L. Hulchu's [The Library of the Dead](#) (\$18.99)

**MONDAY NOVEMBER 20 6:00 PM**

**Charles Cumming** discusses [Kennedy 35](#) (Penzler \$27.95)

Spy story

Signed books available

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25 10:30 AM**

**Croak & Dagger** discusses Laurie R. King's [Back to the Garden](#) (\$18)

The club will meet upstairs in our Annex

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25 10 AM-6:00 PM**

**Celebrate Small Business Saturday with us**

**We're devising a sale of some sort and offering treats**

**MONDAY NOVEMBER 27 6:00 PM**

**Mike Lupica** discusses [Robert B Parker's Broken Trust](#) (Putnam \$29)

Spenser as Lupica writes him

Signed books available

**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 28 7:00 PM Live**

**Jeffery Deaver** discusses [The Watchmaker's Hand](#) (Putnam \$29)

Lincoln Rhyme is back!

**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 29 12:00 PM Live**

**Jillian Cantor** discusses [The Fiction Writer](#) (Park Row \$17.99)

**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 29 7:00 PM Live**

**British author Charlotte Vassell** discusses [The Other Half](#)

(Knopf \$27)

Debut

**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30 6:00 PM**

**Lauren Nossett** discusses [The Professor](#) (Flatiron \$28.99)

Signed books available

**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30 7:00 PM**

**Hardboiled Crime** discusses a trio, [Three Aces](#) (Stark House

\$19.95)

**OUR NOVEMBER 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](mailto:Karen@poisonedpen.com) to join**

**British Crime Club** One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Macmillan, Gilly. [The Manor House](#)

**Cozy Crimes Club** One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Cordani, Adreina. [The Twelve Days of Murder](#)

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

Lillie, Vanessa. [Blood Sisters](#)

**First Mystery Club** One Signed First Printing per month

Urszenyi, Steve. [Perfect Shot](#)

**Hardboiled/Noir Club** One Signed First Printing per month

Swinson, David. [Sweet Thing](#)

**History/Mystery Club** One First Printing per month

Pattison, Eliot. [Freedom's Ghost](#)

**Historical Fiction Paperback Club** One Unsigned paperback per month

Foenkinos, David. [The Mystery of Henri Pick](#)

**Notable New Fiction** One Signed First Printing per month

Kwok, Jean. [The Leftover Woman](#)

**International Crime** One Unsigned Hardcover or paperback per month

Pitoniak, Anna. [The Helsinki Affair](#)

**Romance and Relationships** One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Jalaluddin, Uzma/Marissa Stapley. [Three Holidays and a Wedding](#)

Baldacci, David. [The Edge](#) (Grand Central \$29.99). 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.

**SIGNED BOOKS**

Albom, Mitch. [Little Liar](#) (Harper \$26.99). Tip-ins. A moving parable that explores honesty, survival, revenge and devotion in Albom's first novel set during the Holocaust. It interweaves the stories of Nico, his brother Sebastian, and their schoolmate Fanni, who miraculously survive the death camps and spend years searching for Nico, who has become a pathological liar, and the Nazi officer who radically changed their lives. As the decades pass, Albom reveals the consequences of what they said, did, and endured. This story has tragically become all too timely.

But the small town has its own secrets, a class system operates, can he sort out the local from the national? Baldacci describes rural Maine compellingly—he has a family history in Maine and knows the landscapes well—and paces his way towards his trademark twists.....

✎ Bowen, Rhys. [The Proof of the Pudding](#) (Berkley \$28). **Signed Bookplates or wait for Rhys to return to Arizona.**

Her Royal Spyness and her husband Darcy, the actual spy, are expecting their first child. Living at Elizabethan estate Eynsleigh, a grace-and-favor situation thanks to Georgie's wealthy godfather, they acquire a French chef. Georgie's disaster prone maid Queenie, who's been doing the cooking, agrees to act as Pierre's assistant. Their first dinner party is such a smashing success that mystery author Sir Mordred Mortimer asks Georgie to let Pierre cook for a dinner to raise money for South African orphans. Mortimer seems a bit of a poseur, but his house and gardens, especially the poison garden, are a subject of considerable interest. And then.... Well, the police to arrest Pierre for murder. Once Georgie sets out to prove the chef innocent, she is aided by Agatha Christie, who's quite an expert on poisons.

Butcher, Jim. [The Olympian Affair](#) (Berkley \$29.99). "Butcher's long-awaited sequel to *The Aeronaut's Windlass* is an exciting epic fantasy, set in the sky and filled with airships, magic, and the connections of blood and found family."—*Library Journal*. "Butcher's fans will delight in the new characters and alternate Spires while enjoying favorites from the first book and will be eager for the next episode in the action-packed Cinder Spires series."—*Booklist* (starred review)

Cantor, Jillian. [The Fiction Writer](#) (Park Row \$17.99)—no hardcover, alas. Olivia Fitzgerald had written a bestselling debut, but her second novel, entitled *Becky*, a riff on *Rebecca*, has tanked, her boyfriend has dumped her, and she has writer's block. She's about broke. You can imagine her delight when she is offered a high-paying ghost writing opportunity by a handsome billionaire who says his family has a history with Daphne du Maurier involving plagiarism. Olivia leaves Boston for LA and quickly finds herself drawn into a tangled web of obsession, marital secrets, and stolen manuscripts. This is not a romance, neither is it murder mystery.

Carlisle, Kate. [The Twelve Books of Christmas](#) (Berkley \$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 plans to marry the laird of his castle on Loch Ness 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 face finding a killer as well as a 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.

Chast, Roz. [I Must Be Dreaming](#) (Bloomsbury \$27.99). Tip-ins. Award-winning *New Yorker* cartoonist Roz Chast's new graphic narrative illustrates her own dream world, a place that is sometimes creepy but always hilarious, accompanied by an illustrated tour through "Dream-Theory Land" guided by insights from poets, philosophers, and psychoanalysts alike.

Chin, Jimmy. [There and Back \(Deluxe Signed Edition\)](#): (Clarkson Potter \$500). A deluxe signed edition of the New York Times bestselling collection of adventure photography from the Academy Award-winning director of *Free Solo*, with exclusive features including: An oversized clothbound hardcover format. Author signature page. Clothbound clamshell case. A separate 12" x 10.75" Jimmy Chin B&W photo printed on archival high quality Fuji Photographic matte paper. All 200+ extraordinary images from the original edition, including many in a larger size. We only have 3 copies left.

Clavin, Tom. [The Last Outlaws](#) (St Martins \$30). The dreaded Dalton Gang consisted of three brothers and their rotating cast of colorful accomplices who saw themselves as descended from the legendary James brothers. They soon became legends themselves, beginning their career as common horse thieves before graduating to robbing banks and trains. On October 5, 1892, the Dalton Gang attempted their boldest and bloodiest raid yet: robbing two banks in broad daylight in Coffeyville, Kansas, simultaneously. Armed citizens arrived. When the smoke from the guns cleared, eight men lay dead—including four of the five members of the doomed Dalton Gang.

Connelly, Michael. [Resurrection Walk](#) (LittleBrown \$30). Mickey Haller takes long shot cases as this one: representing a woman in prison for killing her husband, a sheriff's deputy. She pleaded Nolo (no contest) four years earlier while still maintaining her innocence in order to avoid a hostile jury trial. But her young son may now be facing pressure to join a gang. Harry Bosch, retired and undergoing an experimental cancer treatment, is driving the Lincoln for Mickey. His cop instincts say they should take the case and focus on questioning the original investigation. Mickey gets to work questioning her original lawyer's work.

I love the way Harry, firmly on the prosecutorial side in his career, begins to see why his half brother accepts cases similar to those pursued by the Innocence Project, cases where someone imprisoned is able to resurrect their life after walking free. The path to justice for both the lawyer and his investigator is fraught with danger from those who don't want the case reopened. The two men are gaining in mutual respect. And we get to catch up with Mads who has followed her dad Harry into the police force. This is just an outstanding book in a long, long career.

✎ Cornwell, Bernard. [Uhtred's Feast](#) (Harper \$32). Here is the companion book to his epic Last Kingdom series featuring three exclusive short stories and sixty recipes that bring Uhtred's world to life as never before. This is an exceptional gift idea whether the recipient has read the Last Kingdom series or not—a challenge even for a cook who doesn't read. It offers a detailed view of 9th Century Anglo-Saxon life in all its splendor, danger, and beauty. With his narrative flair, Cornwell explores every



aspect of this historical period, from the clothes to weapons to food, offering beautifully crafted recipes of early Anglo-Saxon fare, created by renowned UK chef Suzanne Pollak. In addition, he has written three new stories exclusive to this book that reveal the man behind the shield—Uhtred as a young boy, as Alfred's advisor, and as prince.

[Sharpe's Command](#) (Collins \$46). There is a delay while the books ship from London to Bernard. The UK edition publishes now, the US not until next spring). We have a few copies still available to order.

Cornwell, Patricia. [Unnatural Death](#) (Grand Central \$30). I think Tip-ins. Dr. Kay Scarpetta finds herself in a Northern Virginia wilderness examining the remains of two campers wanted by federal law enforcement. The victims have been savaged beyond recognition, and other evidence is terrifying and baffling, including a larger-than-life footprint. After one of the most frightening body retrievals of her career, Scarpetta must discover who would commit murders this savage, and why.

Coyle, Matt. [Odyssey's End](#) (Oceanview \$27.95). San Diego PI Rick Cahill is broke; he's been diagnosed with chronic traumatic encephalopathy, CTE, which is slowly destroying his brain; and his wife, Leah, has fled to Santa Barbara. So he's receptive to an offer from his longtime adversary Peter Stone, whose testimony helped convict Russian mobster Sergei Volkov. Volkov is about to be released from his 15-year sentence early, and Stone fears the mobster will harm his daughter, Angela Albright (who's unaware Stone's her father), in retaliation. To compound the stakes, Stone needs a kidney transplant—ideally from a blood relative—and Angela is the last one alive. Cahill reluctantly accepts \$50,000 to track Angela down which attracts attention from the FBI, which believes the detective is instead tracking Theodore Raskin, the founder of a fraudulent cryptocurrency exchange. "Coyle cleverly connects his plot threads, packing in a few strong surprises, but his real triumph is in wringing pathos from Cahill's plight. There are hints that this may be the detective's last ride."

Cumming, Charles. [Kennedy 35](#) (Penzler \$27.95). Bestseller Cumming adeptly intertwines spy missions past and present for this taut third entry in his BOX 88 series. In 1995, Lachlan "Lockie" Kite is still a fledgling agent with BOX 88, an ultra-secret Anglo-American covert ops collective. His latest assignment is to bring to justice Augustin Bagaza, who's responsible for thousands of Tutsi deaths in the Rwandan genocide and is currently living in Senegal. Kite heads to Senegal under cover of an ostensible backpacking vacation with his girlfriend, Martha. When Martha falls ill, Kite contacts an old college friend, Eric Appiah, to take her into his home and care for her while the BOX team abducts Bagaza and his accomplice/mistress, Grace Mavinga. The plan goes awry, and Kite barely escapes alive. Twenty-eight years later, Eric warns Kite that investigative journalist Lucian Michael Cablean has information on the failed operation that could endanger Kite, Martha, and the existence of BOX 88 itself. "Enthralling, haunting ... Cumming is often compared to John le Carré, but he is his own man-taking the spy thriller to a new level of storytelling, one that illuminates the darkest corners of our modern world."—*Financial Times*

Cussler, Dirk. [Clive Cussler The Corsican Shadow](#) (Putnam \$29.95). In May 1940, as the German army blitzes Europe and Parisians flee their city, the chief curator of the *Musée de l'Armée*

is ordered to get a mysterious piece of cargo out of the country. When he arrives at the port of Le Havre and learns that his intended ship has been sunk, he places the object on a decrepit steamer that sails out under German fire. In the present day, National Underwater and Marine Agency Director Dirk Pitt is on a diving expedition in the English Channel when he discovers a cache of uncut diamonds on a shipwreck. When the diamonds are stolen, Pitt and the NUMA agency find themselves up against a murderous cabal that soon reveals far more destructive plans: vital water treatment facilities around the globe are being targeted.

Should you want to order a copy of [The Mediterranean Caper](#) (\$9.99) in its small paperback format to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Dirk Cussler will sign this, the very first Dirk Pitt adventure. Also we have discovered in storage copies of [Mayday](#) (Cahill \$45), a gift edition signed by Clive back in 2004! And signed by Clive in 2016, his car collection, fully illustrated volume [Built to Thrill](#) (Putnam \$60). Clearly we should clean house more often!

Deaver, Jeffery. [The Watchmaker's Hand](#) (Putnam \$29). OK, trademark Deaver thriller here: A ticking clock. An evil foe. A huge threat. Relentless pacing. And Lincoln Rhyme and his lover, detective Amelia Sachs, on the job. They face a criminal with a bizarre and catastrophic m.o.—toppling the construction cranes in New York City. A political group claims responsibility for the sabotage and threatens another attack in 24 hours, unless its demands are met. The clock is ticking. Then a clue reveals to Rhyme that his nemesis, the Watchmaker, has come to town to fulfill his promise of murdering him. "Deaver masterfully delivers another pulse-pounding Lincoln Rhyme thriller that takes you on a frenzied ride through a New York City teetering on the edge of chaos. Deaver's exquisite plotting and meticulous research shine, constructing a web of political intrigue that ensnares Rhyme in a deadly race against time. The shadowy Watchmaker adds a layer of psychological dread..."—Mark Dawson

Epstein, Allison. [Let the Dead Bury the Dead](#) (Knopf \$28) imagines an alternate history of Russia in the aftermath of the War of 1812—so a kind of updated *War and Peace* which, by the way, sold briskly during the pandemic. Captain Sasha Dorokhin of Russia's Imperial Army returns to Catherine Palace in Tsarskoe Selo, where his lover, Grand Duke Felix—the younger son of Tsar Sergei—has been banished from Saint Petersburg for questioning his father's politics and harassing the palace maids. When Sasha discovers an unconscious Sofia Azarova outside the palace and carries her inside to safety, Felix allows her to stay. Sofia's influence at court grows, but when she convinces Felix that a series of riots demanding land and money for the people have merit, the Tsar becomes enraged, forcing Felix to flee with her—and driving a wedge between Felix and Sasha, who chooses duty over love when Felix joins the fictional Koalitsiya rebellion. Sofia, meanwhile, ignites a showdown between the palace and the people that has devastating consequences. "Epstein's unique retelling is richly enhanced by Slavic folklore, and the confusion between duty to family or country is expertly portrayed," in what will be our **December Historical Fiction Book of the Month**.

Evanovich, Janet. [Dirty Thirty](#) (Atria \$29.99). We've followed the Plums from the beginning with [One for the Money](#) (\$9.99) to this, number 30. Our copies signed by Janet have nifty end

papers displaying a signed bookplate for every Plum. And a short appendix bears a quote from each of the 30 books.

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, 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. Lula is at her most Lula self, Steph's apartment is once again firebombed, and somehow the bad guys surrender.

Heughan, Sam/Graham McTavish. [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 both authors and Diana Gabaldon.**

Also: 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 has signed our copies as she has [The Official Outlander Coloring Book](#) (\$16.99), Volume 1. A nice gift idea, singly or in a set of two.

Gerritsen, Tess. [The Spy Coast](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$28.99). I love this series start and as it's set in a very wintry Maine it's our **December Crime Collectors Book of the Month**. Gerritsen has penned an ingenious, spellbinding story that moves from Bangkok to small town Purity, Maine, seductive settings where secrets are kept and lives upended. Maggie Bird, age 60, is comfortably retired in Purity, Maine, where she considers herself "a small-town chicken farmer." Out of the spy game for 16 years, she certainly doesn't want her history to be discovered. But a woman, possibly CIA, tracks her down and asks for Maggie's help in locating a missing agent. Soon after, the woman's body ends up in Maggie's driveway. The complex plot weaves back in time to when Maggie meets her future husband, Dr. Danny Gallagher, in Bangkok. In the present, Jo Thibodeau, Purity's acting chief of police, is frustrated because the state police take control of the murder case. That doesn't stop her from asking a lot of uncomfortable questions, partly deflected by the local Martini Club made up of a klatch of other retired CIA agents This is a nice take on retirement—five old spooks whose bones may ache but whose minds remain sharp.

Hearne, Kevin. [A Curse of Krakens](#) (Random \$32 Nov 10). The final book in the epic fantasy trilogy that began with *A Plague of Giants* and continued with *A Blight of Blackwings*, **about a war that broke a continent—and opened the door to a new world**.... Pen Yas ben Min's cousin was one of the legendary heroes of the wars against the giants until her untimely death. Pen has grown up in her famous cousin's shadow, but when

she's given a quest to plant the seed of the magical Fourth Tree, she has a chance to step into the light—and usher in a new age for her country. Before Abhi can return home, there is one last mission that only Abhi can complete: to speak to the colossal creatures that wait beneath the waves—the kraken. Koesha and her shipmates have already made an impossible journey by navigating the Northern Yawn, at the end of which she secured an unusual cloak. That cloak turns out to be the key to unlocking the mystery of the Seventh Kenning....

Hockensmith, Steve. [Hunters of the Dead: A Holmes on the Range Mystery](#) (Rough Edges Press \$18.99). The [A.A. Western Detective Agency](#) (\$18) takes on a new case in 1894 Wyoming, a land of bandit gangs and rustlers, when a group of scientists come to town in the hopes of rustling up something very different-dinosaur fossils. With Big Red and Old Red Amlingmeyer on protection duty, Old Red's obsession with Sherlock Holmes is forced to take a back seat. Until a human body is shockingly discovered during an excavation, that is. As the mystery deepens, these cowboy detectives must put their sleuthing skills to the test to catch a killer stalking their client's dig site. This series is good fun and began with [Holmes on the Range](#) (\$18).

✚ Kernick, Simon. [The First 48 Hours](#) (Headline \$44). A detective is hunting cold-blooded killers, but does he know more than he admits? A mother, a lawyer, must defend a murderer—but how far will she go to protect her only child? A couple will commit the perfect crime according to their plan, but can they trust each other? Trust each other with their lives? How will these three stories play out in just two days? And is there only one secret at their heart?

Klavan, Andrew. [The House of Love and Death](#) (Penzler \$26.95). A Starred Review: "Klavan's blistering third whodunit featuring hit man-turned-poetry professor Cameron Winter is the best yet. In a gated community in the Chicago suburbs, firefighters respond to a blaze at the home of psychologist Norman Wasserman to find Norman; his wife, Marion; their teenage daughter, Lila; and their live-in nanny, Agnes, shot to death. Only seven-year-old Robert survives, as Agnes ushered him out of an upper-story window before she died. When questioned by the police, Robert reports hearing the voice of Lila's boyfriend, Mateo Hernandez, inside the house just before the tragedy.... Winter, who's recently begun psychotherapy to cope with his violent past, is drawn to the mystery for reasons he doesn't completely understand—what he does know, however, is that he's not convinced by the case against Mateo.... Klavan successfully deepens Winter's character as the professor digs into his own past, Tony Soprano style, and the central murder mystery remains gripping throughout. Fans of complex investigators like Thomas Harris's Will Graham will be enthralled."

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. There are many things to unpack in this our **November Notable Fiction Book of the Month**.

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**: “[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

Lupica, Mike. [Robert B Parker’s Broken Trust](#) (Putnam \$29). Lupica’s first Spenser after taking over from Ace Atkins centers on the past secrets of an elusive tech billionaire. A brilliant scientist and astute businessman, Andrew Crain’s groundbreaking work with lithium has made him one of the world’s richest men. He is universally adored and admired; that is, until Crain’s beautiful wife, Laura, comes to Spenser hoping that he can find out what skeletons lurk in her husband’s closet. Though Crain is a generous philanthropist and loving family man, she is concerned—he has recently become secretive, bordering on paranoid, and prone to violent outbursts. This is the opposite of the man she knew, and not only does his behavior put their marriage at risk, but also a lucrative company merger that would be life-changing for the Crains, their business partner, and everyone associated with them. It will be interesting to read Lupica’s version of Spenser’s ethics.

Maleeny, Tim. [Hanging the Devil](#) (Poisoned Pen \$16.99). It was supposed to be a simple job: steal the paintings, leave the forgeries... When a helicopter crashes through the skylight of the Asian Art Museum, an audacious heist turns into a tragedy. The only witness to the crash is eleven-year-old Grace, who watches in horror as her uncle is killed and a priceless statue stolen by two men and a—ghost? At least that’s how the eerie, smoke-like figure with parchment skin and floating hair appears to Grace. Scared almost to death, she flees into the night and seeks refuge in the back alleys of San Francisco’s Chinatown. Grace is found by Sally Mei, self-appointed guardian of Chinatown. While Sally trains Grace in basic survival skills, her erstwhile partner Cape Weathers, private detective and public nuisance, searches for the mysterious crew behind the robbery before they strike the museum a second time. As the clock winds down, Cape enlists aid from some unlikely allies to lay a trap.... I’m a mad fan for the Cape Weathers and especially of the last one, [Boxing the Octopus](#) (\$18.99).

☒ McDermid, Val. [Past Lying](#) (Sphere UK \$44). “The riveting seventh installment in McDermid’s Karen Pirie series sees the Edinburgh DCI parsing a potentially deadly literary rivalry at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. As head of Scotland’s Historic Cases Unit, Karen has spent the bulk of her time in lockdown

researching details on a stack of unsolved crimes. An especially intriguing one lands on her desk courtesy of a researcher at the National Library, who’s unearthed new evidence about the year-old disappearance of Lara Hardie, a novice crime writer who idolized bestseller Jake Stein. Stein, whose career hit the skids after he was accused of sexual assault at a book launch before the pandemic, has recently died of cancer, and a subsequent perusal of his belongings has turned up a manuscript that reads like a chilling roman à clef of Hardie’s murder....McDermid keeps the twists coming hard and fast, and she bolsters them with sharp observations about the toll of Covid on the public psyche. This page-turner grips from the outset and doesn’t let go.”—*PW* Starred Review. The Unsigned US edition: [Past Lying](#) (Grove \$27).

Nossett, Lauren. [The Professor](#) (Flatiron \$28.99). Former Athens, Georgia, police detective Marlitt Kaplan is just beginning to recover from [The Resemblance](#) (\$17.99), a debut we presented to you Signed last year and the case that cost her her job—and almost her life—when she gets sucked into another slippery investigation in Nossett’s impressive sequel to 2020’s *The Resemblance*. The new case hits close to home: Marlitt’s old colleagues have teamed up with officials at the University of Georgia, where her mother teaches in the German department, to look into the apparent suicide of undergrad Ethan Haddock and the potential involvement of his German professor, Verena Sobek, who has been accused on social media of pursuing an improper relationship with Ethan....Nossett gradually ratchets tension through the use of multiple narrators, primarily Marlitt and Verena, who’s a vulnerable German-Turkish immigrant slowly crumbling under the pressures of academia (unsparingly rendered by Nossett, a former professor of German literature.)”

O’Brien, Tim. [America Fantastica](#) (Harper \$32). Tip-ins. “Hunter S. Thompson meets Sacha Baron Cohen in this amusing and alarming road trip to the center of America’s mendacious heart, the first novel in 20 years from O’Brien. In what he has claimed will be his final novel, the National Book Award winner chronicles the downward spiral of former foreign correspondent Boyd Halverson. A long-ago Pulitzer Prize nominee, Boyd has seen his life torpedoed by his inflated résumé, which was leaked to the press by his billionaire ex—father-in-law, Jim Dooney, whose murderous corporate skullduggery Boyd was on the brink of exposing. After moldering for almost a decade while managing a JC Penney in fictitious Fulda, Calif., and plotting his revenge against Dooney, Boyd impulsively robs a nearby bank for \$81,000 and abducts a none too reluctant young evangelical teller named Angie Bing. Shortly after setting off for Mexico, Boyd discovers he’s in over his head.... If this is indeed the author’s valedictory novel, he’s bowing out with a star-spangled bang.”—*PW* Starred Review

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’Brien’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. Read an [interesting essay](#) about why he writes the Bone Rattler Series.

It's is 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.

Rothfuss, Patrick. [The Narrow Road Between Desires](#) (Astra Publishing \$26). Tip-ins. Rothfuss returns to the Kingkiller Chronicle universe with a standalone story, a reimagining of "The Lightning Tree." Expanded to twice its previous length and lavishly illustrated by Nate Taylor. Rothfuss fans have long awaited ANYTHING so.....

Smith, Jada Pinkett. [Worthy](#) (Harper Collins \$32). Tip-ins. A memoir given a lot of press due to the revelations Smith makes about her marriage to actor Will Smith.

Stewart, Jack. [Unknown Rider](#) (Severn River Publishing \$28.99). Former US Navy Top Gun instructor pilot Stewart launches a debut military thriller. Top Gun instructor Colt Bancroft has just catapulted off the USS Abraham Lincoln, his F-35C Joint Strike Fighter trailing blue and yellow flame as he climbs into the night sky off the California coast. When he is sent to investigate a series of mysterious lights floating dangerously close to his aircraft carrier, disaster strikes. His jet becomes unresponsive as it rolls inverted and enters a nosedive aimed right at the aircraft carrier's unsuspecting escort cruiser... To clear his name and unmask a traitor, Colt must survive a dangerous game of spy-vs-spy.... Stewart has let me know he drops in and out of Scottsdale so he will be able to sign if not right on the date for his November 15 zoom. Paperback edition: [Unknown Rider](#) (\$17.99)

Swensen, David. [Sweet Thing](#) (Little Brown \$29). Patrick reviews the **November Hardboiled/Noir Book of the Month**: Set in the final days of 1999, Swinson's superb new standalone follows D.C. homicide detectives Alexander Blum and Kelly Ryan as they investigate the murder of a low-level drug dealer named Doyle. Blum finds a photograph at the crime scene of the deceased with a confidential informant from Blum's days working narcotics. He pockets the photo rather than reporting it to his partner. Soon, he discovers that his C.I., one Arthur Holland, has been missing for several days. Blum has always had a sweet spot for Holland's tragic, heroin-addicted girlfriend, Celeste, and he soon crosses a dangerous line to protect her, even when the evidence starts to point directly at her. Swinson manages to capture a point in time that isn't too long ago, yet somehow tougher and darker.

Turnbull, Cadwell. [We Are the Crisis](#) (Blackstone \$26.99). Following the events of Turnbull's [No Gods, No Monsters](#) (\$18.99), the whole world knows about the existence of monsters. Now, in this powerful and intricate sequel, they've started going missing. Could these disappearances be related to the rise of antimonster hate group the Black Hand? Nonhierarchical werewolf pack Laina Calvary, Ridley Gibson, and Rebecca Vázquez investigate. Meanwhile, young Dragon looks for a family with the rebel Alexandra Trapp and shape-shifter Tezcat, and Senator Sondra Reed works to pass monster rights legislation while caring for her mother, who's recovering from a trauma. The interweaving plot lines are relayed by a multiverse-traveling narrator, Calvin, who, in his own story line, uncovers more about and the role of 'small gods' in the ongoing interspecies struggle. It's a densely packed whirlwind of magic and social change, and Turnbull keeps readers on their toes throughout. The exploration of otherness, class, and race is as nuanced and robust as ever as Turnbull expands the scope of the 'monsterverse,' taking on—and reveling in—the political complexities of this supernatural world"—*PW* Starred Review. Fans of book one—like us who loved it—won't want to miss this.

Urszenyi, Steve. [Perfect Shot](#) (St Martins \$28). Our **November First Mystery Book of the Month** comes with a nifty bookmark ad involves Special Ops and a huge stakes threat and a strong lead in Special Agent Alexandra Martel. Now an FBI special agent on loan to Interpol learns that an old friend, an MI5 officer, has been killed. Following a trail of clues left behind by the dead woman, Alex pieces together a terrifying conspiracy that has her chasing evil actors through the streets of London and bustling Turkish markets to the underbelly of Paris, all the while under some kind of surveillance from another op. While the writing is here and there over the top, Urszenyi comes at this debut and series start from an amazing background of his own that lends authenticity to his writing as well as its propulsive pace. Highly recommended to the usual suspects including Don Bentley, Mark Greaney, Kyle Mills, and Brad Thor.

✂ Vassell, Charlotte. [The Other Half](#) (Knopf \$27). A debut signed here by the British author who writes with a flavor of Evelyn Waugh. Rupert's 30th birthday party is a black-tie dinner at the Kentish Town McDonald's—catered with cocaine and expensive champagne. The morning after, his girlfriend Clemmie is found murdered on Hampstead Heath, a single stiletto heel jutting from under a bush. All the party-goers have alibis. Naturally. This investigation is going to be about aristocrats and Classics degrees, Instagram influencers and whose father knows who. Or is it 'whom'? Detective Caius Beauchamp isn't sure.

Library Reads adds, "There's something about the sleaze hidden beneath a thick veneer of lucre that is always compelling. The posh characters here are in and out of each others' pockets (and beds). When one winds up dead beneath a hedge, a trio of outsider detectives seek out who is responsible. The mystery is tidied up nicely, with enough hanging threads to leave readers excited for more." You will either enjoy the Britishness or hate it but if you belong to our **British Crime Book of the Month** you will get it delivered to you in December.

Walker, Joss. [The Keeper of Flames](#) (Two Tales Press \$28.99). Walker, aka JT Ellison, will join us November 14. I love this series featuring Jayne Thorne, CIA Librarian, originally working out of the Vanderbilt University Library in Nashville (where

Ellison lives). The books are gorgeously produced, a labor of love from this small press. Here is book three but we can get them all:

All Jayne wants to do is work with her sister to track down their missing father. But instead, she is tasked with another assignment from the CIA: go to Rome and acquire a necromantic grimoire linked to a lost fire goddess. As Jayne struggles to work with her new partner, a smug and infuriating magician who knows exactly how to push her buttons, she realizes this mission may reveal clues to her father's whereabouts. To make matters worse, the deadly terror organizations have caught wind of this powerful grimoire, and their dark magic has created all manner of terrifying new obstacles for Jayne to overcome. The closer Jayne gets to finding her father, the more she uncovers about the secret society he was part of. Then she realizes their enemies are closing in on these hunted magicians—and targeting her sister, too.

Walker, Martin. [Bruno's Cookbook](#) (Knopf \$40). The long-awaited cookbook written by Martin with his wife Julia is finally available in November in a US edition. You readers of Bruno, Chief of Police in France's Périgord region, already salivate over his local recipes. So here is your ticket to Bruno's delectable countryside cuisine featuring favorite meals from Roasted Tomato Tapenade and Tarragon Chicken to A Most Indulgent Chocolate Cake although I swoon for the raspberry walnut tarte. What a treat—and what a mouthwatering gift idea.

Martin will also be signing [A Chateau Under Siege](#) (Knopf \$28). When the French town of Sarlat hosts a reenactment of the Hundred Years War, its main actor, intelligence agent Brice Kerquelin, is stabbed during the performance and ends up in critical condition. Various government agencies scramble to solve the apparent assassination attempt, while Bruno is charged with protecting Kerquelin's adult daughters, Claire and Nadia. Before long, however, Bruno learns that the performance had not been going as planned, with Kerquelin pulling a series of unrehearsed moves just before the supposed assassination. The detective smells a rat.... Best of all, Bruno's beloved dog Balzac who keeps Bruno company while he cooks several decadent and vividly described meals. Bonus: Walker presents some arresting intel about South Dakota as a financial haven for the rich which was a complete surprise to me. Take it to your estate planner.

Pair the cookbook and the novel together for an extra delicious present—although this is the 16<sup>th</sup> Bruno it stands just fine on its own. And a new reader will then have the extra treat of starting the series at the beginning.

Wallace, Joanne. [You'd Look Better as a Ghost](#) (Viper U.K. \$36). *Dexter meets* Killing Eve. The night after her father's funeral, Claire meets Lucas in a bar. Lucas doesn't know it, but it's not a chance meeting. One thoughtless mistyped email has put him in the crosshairs of an extremely put-out serial killer. But even before they make eye contact, before Claire lets him buy her a drink, before she takes him home and carves him up into little pieces, something about that night is very wrong. Because someone is watching Claire. Someone who is about to discover her murderous little hobby. Hmmm....it's not sensible to tangle with a part-time serial killer, even one who is distracted by attending a weekly bereavement support group and trying to get her art career off the ground. Claire will do anything to keep her secret hidden—not to mention the bodies buried in her garden. Let the games begin...This will be a US paperback in April, 2024.

## CLASSICS

Cather, Willa. [Death Comes for the Archbishop](#) (Penguin \$27). A new edition honoring the 150th anniversary of Willa Cather's birth, and, for the first time in Penguin Classics, her quietly beautiful novel of one man's life as he encounters the harsh landscape of the New Mexico desert and the people who inhabit it, with an introduction by National Book Award finalist Kali Fajardo-Anstine.

A fine companion: Taylor, Benjamin. [Chasing Bright Medusas: A Life of Willa Cather](#) (Penguin \$28).

✦ Christie, Agatha. [The Murder of Roger Ackroyd](#) (Penguin \$8.99). Here's a case with a truly unreliable narrator. Reread it or give it to a new mystery fan.

✦ Dickson, Carter. [The White Priory Murders](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.99). A Mystery for Christmas is the British Library Crime Classics' offering from John Dickson Carr writing as Carter Dickson. Sir Henry Merrivale is on the case after a glamorous Hollywood actress is murdered a cold December night at White Priory, her body found in the lakeside pavilion. Her producer, her lover, the playwright for her next hit and her agent are all here, all suspects. But only the footprints of her discoverer disturb the snow which fell overnight – and which stopped just shortly after Marcia was last seen alive. How did the murderer get in and out of the pavilion without leaving a trace? Will Sir Henry solve this Impossible Crime?

Gardner, Erle Stanley. [The Case of the Rolling Bones](#) (American Mystery Classics \$15.95). Years ago, Alden Leeds struck it rich when he discovered a vein of gold. Now, aging and single, he finds himself surrounded by family waiting patiently to inherit his fortune. When he announces his engagement to a much younger woman, that family has him admitted into a sanitarium, claiming incompetence. Enter Perry Mason as things grow more complicated, finally to be sorted out in a trademark courtroom cross examination.

Sims, Michael, ed. [The Penguin Book of Murder Mysteries](#) (Penguin \$17). Looking for something different in crime? Sims has sought out the unfamiliar, the unjustly forgotten, and little-known gems by writers in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century who added a remarkable, fierce modern twist to the genre. The volume includes stories never before reprinted, features rebellious early “lady detectives,” and spotlights former stars of the crime field—Austrian novelist Auguste Groner and prolific American Geraldine Bonner among them.

Stout, Rex. [Seed on the Wind](#) (Hard Case Crime \$15.95). From 1930, a psychological thriller from Stout (I often remind people he wrote many a book before he conceived of Nero Wolfe). The lawyer, the jeweler, the art critic, and the oil-company man...self-possessed, independent Lora Winter has had a child with each of them. But when one of these men drives up to her house with a fifth man in the car, Lora runs to hide. That's the set up.

Talbot, Hake. [The Rim of the Pit](#) (American Mystery Classics \$15.95) with an Introduction by Rupert Holmes. This creepy and unusual mystery is celebrated to this day as one of the greatest “impossible crime” novels of all time. When a family's promise to protect the beloved pine grove of their dead father creates a financial strain, a séance is suggested to summon his ghost.



A mixed group of skeptics and believers convene at a snow-bound lodge to call up his spirit. Tensions run high — but when one of the participants ends up dead, there is reason to suspect that a nefarious spirit is to blame. The body is discovered in a locked room, impenetrable from the outside . . .”With its off-beat exposition, puzzling plot and exceptional prose, *Rim of the Pit* is a cult classic of the Golden Age era. Hake Talbot is a pen name of the American writer and magician Henning Nelms (1900-1986).

Walker, Alice. [Meridian](#) (Harper \$17.99). From Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Color Purple*, now available in a new edition featuring an introduction by Tayari Jones. And [The Temple of My Familiar](#) (\$19.99) presents 36 essays where Walker contemplates her own work and that of other writers.

Wilde, Oscar. [The Star-Child](#) (Penguin \$16). Looking for a stocking stuffer? Go no further than this very first Little Clothbound Classics: irresistible, mini editions of short works by the world’s greatest writers, designed by the award-winning Coralie Bickford-Smith.

## MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHIES

Cheney, Liz. [Oath and Honor: A Memoir and a Warning](#) (LittleBrown \$32.50).

Graham, Lauren. [Have I Told You This Already?: Stories](#) (\$18).

Melville, Doug. [Invisible Generals: Rediscovering Family Legacy, and a Quest to Honor America’s First Black Generals](#) (Atria \$27.99).

Schwab, Tim. [The Bill Gates Problem, Reckoning with the Myth of the Good Billionaire](#) (Holt \$33.99)

Scribner, Charles III. [Scribners: Five Generations in Publishing](#) (LittleBrown \$27.95)

Streisand, Barbra. [My Name Is Barbra](#) (Dutton \$47).

Taylor, Benjamin. [Chasing Bright Medusas: A Life of Willa Cather](#) (Penguin \$28). And see Classics above.

Tweedy, Jeff. [World Within a Song: Music That Changed My Life](#) (Penguin \$26)

## COOKBOOKS, BEVERAGES, AND MORE

*We have a delicious inventory of classic and new books about cooking, food, wine and more. A couple of interest:*

Drummond, Ree. [The Pioneer Woman Cooks: Dinner’s Ready](#) (Harper \$32.50). 112 Fast and Fabulous Recipes for Slightly Impatient Home Cooks

Monahan, Sherry. [Signature Dishes of America: Recipes and Culinary Treasures from Historic Hotels and Restaurants](#) (Globe Pequot \$35). One I mention because I love history, historic institutions, and travel. These culinary treasures are household names, but their true origin has slipped back into history. *Signature Dishes of America* captures nearly 100 of these well-known dishes and their origins. Foods like Eggs Benedict, Green Goddess Dressing, and Hot Browns were created decades ago and remain mainstays in our culinary world today.

## COZY CRIMES AND MORE...

Coyle, Cleo. [Bulletproof Barista](#) (Penguin \$28). Clare Cosi is a big fan of comedian Jerry Sullivan, so she’s thrilled when his

popular TV series *Only Murders in Gotham* chooses the Village Blend as a place to shoot. Another fan is Clare’s barista Tucker, an actor who has a speaking role. The production has already suffered its share of problems. Jerry’s assistant has been injured in an accident, and Lizzy Meeks, the president of Jerry’s fan club, is stalking him. When it appears that the coffee in the craft services truck run by Driftwood Coffee, avowed enemy of the Village Blend, has poisoned the property master, who survives. Clare, who’s helped solve many a murder, follows the man to Central Park, where he’s shot dead. Though Clare’s fiancé, Mike Quinn, is an NYPD detective whose position makes Clare’s own position awkward, he’s steps up now. “Scads of red herrings, peeks behind the show-biz curtain, and bountiful appended recipes will leave fans smiling contentedly.”

Elliott, Lauren. [Murder in a Cup](#) (Kensington \$27). As the descendant of an Irish witch and the owner of a New Age tea shop, intuitive gemologist Shay Myers has been living her most authentic life since moving home to California’s scenic Monterey Peninsula. Self-taught “seer” Shay has much to learn as autumn hits the quaint coastal town of Bray Harbor. Since attempting the art of blending herbs at her popular shop, Crystals & CuriosiTeas, she’s set on growing ingredients in the mysterious greenhouse on the second floor—if only she can separate the medicinal plants from the deadly ones. Then her new skills are put to the test....

Graves, Sarah. [Death by Chocolate Chip Cupcake](#) (\$16.95). Jacobia “Jake” Tiptree and Ellie White, owners of the Chocolate Moose Bakery, are hired to cater a retired film star’s party in what’s rumored to be Eastport, Maine’s most haunted house. Some of the guests even try to summon a spirit during the party, using a Ouija board. What arrives instead is a freak autumn storm that downs an ancient tree, trapping everyone on the property and setting the stage for a killer’s planned spree....

Greenwood, Kerry. [Murder in Williamstown](#) (Poisoned Pen \$16.99). Miss Fisher of 1920s Melbourne returns in a new high fashion romp. See New in Hardcover Below too.

Howell, Dorothy. [Hanging by a Thread](#) (Kensington \$27). After setting up a small sewing studio in quaint Hideaway Grove, Abbey Chandler is focused on finding crafty, creative ideas to build up her clientele. Some of the independent shops in this sleepy town are barely hanging on financially—and that includes Sarah’s Sweets, Abbey’s aunt’s bakery. The shop’s advantage—aside from the deliciousness of its products—is the fact that it’s the only bakery in the area. But it looks like that’s about to change. The second wife of a wealthy businessman wants her own bakery—and money is no object. When murder unravels the plans for the competing shop, Aunt Sarah is an immediate suspect....

Laurie, Victoria. [Coaching Fire](#) (Kensington \$27). Everything’s bigger in Texas when Hamptons life coach Cat Cooper and her saucy bestie Gilley show up for the Texas Rose Festival with their customary pizzaz. The festival is nothing short of spectacular, bringing in half a million people (and their wallets) to see the artistic displays, and exquisite gowns and jewels worn by the Rose Queen and her court. Creative Director Stuart Jacobs (Cat’s whirlwind romance) and his crew seem to have it all under control. But the night Cat arrives in Texas, someone is shot in cold blood....

Reyes, Raquel V. [Barbacoa, Bomba, and Betrayal](#) (Crooked Lane \$30.99). In the third installment of the Caribbean Kitchen mysteries, for fans of Mia P. Manansala, Miriam Quiñones, cooking show sensation and amateur sleuth, has sand between her toes and a murderer nipping at her heels thanks to a surprise trip to Miriam's parents in Punta Cana, which should be filled with *arroz con pollo* and breezy days under the tamarind tree, quickly becomes a hunt for a possible property saboteur.

#### AND MORE FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON...

Cordani, Adreina. [The Twelve Days of Murder](#) (Pegasus \$27.95). Our **November Cozy Crimes Club Book of the Month** is a debut featuring a devious holiday whodunit. See below for a review.

✦ Dickson, Carter. [The White Priory Murders](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.99). A Mystery for Christmas is the British Library Crime Classics' offering from John Dickson Carr writing as Carter Dickson. See Classics for a review

Evans, Richard Paul. [The Christmas Box](#) (Gallery \$19.99). Self-published in paperback during the Christmas season of 1994, Evans's first novel quickly gained national media attention. Now on its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the cleverly told tale, which the author reputedly wrote for his daughters, is available in hardcover. The story relates how a young couple, Richard (who narrates) and Keri, accept a position to care for a lonely widow, Mary Parkin, in her spacious Victorian mansion. As Christmas draws near, Mary becomes anxious about Richard's obsession with success and his failure to make time for his family. She urges him to reconsider his priorities, but he is always too busy to heed her advice. But then....

Frost, Jacqueline. [Stalking Around the Christmas Tree](#) (Crooked Lane \$31.99). For inn keeper Holly White, Christmas time in Mistletoe, Maine, is the ultimate holiday gift. Business at the Reindeer Games Inn is booming, her wedding to Sheriff Evan Gray is nearly here, and the annual parade is about to begin. The town is lucky to have another gift this year with the state's ballet company staying for several performances of *The Nutcracker*. But disaster strikes when Tiffany, the lead ballerina, shows up dead on a float, the Rat King's mask nearby....

Johansen, Erika. [The Kingdom of Sweets](#) (Penguin \$28) is a reimagining of *The Nutcracker*. See below for a review.

Jones, Valona. [In the Wick of Time](#) (Crooked Lane \$31.99). December in Savannah, Georgia, is a sight to behold. With all the festivities—including the traditional riverfront luminary display during the boat parade—twin sisters Tabby and Sage Winslow are busier than ever setting up their Magical Candle Shop. But both Sage and her fellow employee Mary Nicole are also vying for the sought-after assistant manager job at the plant nursery. When their boss is found dead, Sage becomes the police's favorite suspect, but more troubling are the challenging magic problems.

✦ McKenna, Clara. [Murder on Mistletoe Lane](#) (Kensington \$27). Kentucky-born heiress Stella Kendrick has married British aristocrat Viscount Lyndhurst and moved with him to the lavish Morrington Hall in Hampshire. It's late December 1905, and the young newlyweds are preparing for their first Christmas together. Their chambermaids have decorated Morrington with freshly cut boughs of pine and holly to prepare for the arrival of the imperious Lady Isabella Kentfield and her family, who

will be staying with the Lyndhursts for the holidays. When an important member of the household staff is found dead near the estate before the Kentfields arrive, Stella and Lyndy set out to investigate. Another death soon follows....

✦ Perry, Anne. [A Christmas Vanishing](#) (Random \$22). Charlotte Pitt's grandmother accepts her longtime friend Sadie's gracious invitation to spend Christmas with her and her husband, Barton, in their picturesque village. But upon arrival, Mariah discovers that Sadie has vanished without a trace... See below for a review.

Romeril, Christina. [A Nutcracker Nightmare](#) (Crooked Lane \$31.99). The sequel to the November 2022 Cozy Crime Book of the Month [A Christmas Candy Killing](#) (\$19.99) finds Hanna and Alex, owners of the Murder and Mayhem book & chocolates shop preparing for the local high school reunion. The party is filled with drama and insults and the body of a former football star bludgeoned to death by a nutcracker that the sisters had earlier admired....

#### ENJOY A CRIME CHALLENGE

Lewis, Henry. [The Museum Heist](#) (Mobius \$19.99) is an interactive book where murder mystery meets escape room-style puzzle solving, in an epic adventure for all the family. Put yourself to the test, and follow the story, working your way from deciphering clues at crime scenes and searching for hidden pieces of evidence in the pages to satisfy your inner detective. Interactive elements within the book take each mystery to a whole new level. Created by Henry Lewis, a puzzle genius who is the Artistic Director of Mischief and writes, produces and performs for the company. Nifty to pair with *Murdle* Vols. 1 and 2 (\$16 each).

Lewis, James Weston. [British Museum: The Curse of the Tomb Robbers](#) (Nosy Crow \$14.99). Learn how to read hieroglyphs in this compelling puzzle adventure story, publishing 200 years after the Rosetta Stone was deciphered! When ancient Egyptian friends, Nub and Iteti, overhear a gang of tomb robbers plotting to raid Queen Neith's tomb, they set off on a quest to stop them. But there are lots of clues and puzzles to solve along the way, from a suspicious list of hieroglyphic words found in the marketplace to a confusing maze across the River Nile. Will they get there in time to stop the robbers unleashing a terrible curse? With artwork, fascinating facts about ancient Egypt and a fold-out guide at the back of the book which explains how to read hieroglyphs and contains an easy-to-use hieroglyphic dictionary, this is the perfect book for children who love history and hair-raising adventures. Featuring hieroglyphic messages, mazes, logic puzzles and more, children will enjoy immersing themselves in ancient Egypt and taking part in the story. A page of solutions is included at the end of the book.

Also by Lewis: [British Museum: The Plot Against the Emperor](#) (\$14.99). When ancient Roman friends Flavia and Julius uncover a plot to overthrow the emperor, they must stop the criminals before it's too late. But there are a lot of puzzles to solve along the way. Featuring Latin messages, mazes, logic puzzles and more, children will enjoy immersing themselves in ancient Rome and taking part in the story. A page of solutions is included at the end of the book.

✦ Rubin, Gareth. [The Turnglass](#) (Simon & Schuster UK \$27.99). Stuart Turton meets *The Magpie Murders* in this immersive and unique story for fans of clever crime fiction. It begins in 1880s

England. On the bleak island of Ray, off the Essex coast, an idealistic young doctor, Simeon Lee, is called from London to treat his dying cousin, Parson Oliver Hawes, who lives in the island's only house—Turnglass House. Hawes believes he is being poisoned and suspects his sister-in-law, Florence, who was declared insane after killing Oliver's brother in a jealous rage and is now kept in a glass-walled apartment in Oliver's library. The secret to how she came to be there is found in Oliver's *tete-beche* journal. Then we flip to 1930s California. Celebrated author Oliver Tooke, the son of the state governor, is found dead in his writing hut off the coast of the family residence, Turnglass House. His friend Ken doesn't believe that Oliver would take his own life. Ken's investigations lead him to the mysterious kidnapping of Oliver's brother when they were children, and the subsequent secret incarceration of his mother, Florence, in an asylum. To really figure out what's going on, Ken must decipher clues hidden in Oliver's final book, a *tete-beche* novel—about a young doctor called Simeon Lee....

FYI, to save you Googling: *Tete-Beche* books have two beginnings, plus two ends that meet in the middle. Each cover of the book is a front cover for one of two different texts; in other words, two stories are presented bound back to back.

### NEW IN HARDCOVER

Cameron, Marc. [Tom Clancy Command and Control](#) (Penguin \$29.95). President Jack Ryan, Sr., is stuck in Panama during a coup from the socialist opposition. As the threat grows and the obstacles mount, will Ryan and his Secret Service team, cut off from DC, survive to fight another day? If you've trusted Jack Ryan for your action-packed thrill reads thus far, don't stop now. But Cameron has, this is his last Clancy thriller which will be taken over by.... Yes, I know by whom, but can't tell.

Cordani, Adreina. [The Twelve Days of Murder](#) (Pegasus \$27.95). Our **November Cozy Crimes Club Book of the Month** is a debut featuring a devious holiday whodunit. Twelve years ago, a group of university friends formed a murder mystery cosplaying group called the Masquerade Society. During their final game, the group's ringleader, Karl, went missing, and another member's expensive necklace vanished. In the present, each of the society's former members (Charley, Leo, Sam, Gideon, Pan, and Shona) has been summoned by a mysterious invitation to a hunting lodge in the Scottish Highlands for a Christmas reunion game. What begins as lighthearted fun turns grave when Pan, who'd been assigned the role of "Lady Partridge," is found dead and dangling from a pear tree. As the body count starts to rise, the group is forced to reopen questions about what happened to Karl all those years ago.... "Cordani starts in the key of a holiday cozy but gets dark fast, a risky transition she pulls off without a hitch. Mystery lovers of all stripes will relish this."

Fadipe, Kehinde. [The Sun Sets in Singapore](#) (Grand Central \$28). The debut novel from actor and screenwriter Fadipe tells the sexy story of Dara, Amaka, and Lillian, three expatriate women living in Singapore, whose friendship is threatened by the arrival of a handsome lawyer. It's not a mystery but hooks you with an exploration of the dynamics of friendship, community, and race in a warm way rather than angry or edgy. I like exploring particular landscapes such as this Asian city through fiction, and hearing new voices offering their own perspectives. This would make a winning gift for anyone who feels the same way.

Greenwood, Kerry. [Murder in Williamstown](#) (Poisoned Pen \$34.99). 1920s Melbourne's Miss Phryne Fisher is busy juggling a host of cases: a Chinese laborer has been murdered; a peeping Tom has been leaving nasty anonymous letters in her mailbox; someone has been embezzling funds from a charity for the blind; and a prominent socialite has been killed during an elaborate party at his home. This time out Miss Fisher's three adopted children—Ruth, Mary, and Tinker—pitch in to help their mother sniff out clues and tail suspects. Their assistance leaves Miss Fisher free to visit her lover, Lin Chung, drop by her seamstress to order fabulous gowns for her teenage wards, and enjoy high society gatherings. This 22<sup>nd</sup> romp for Phryne splurges on lavish outfits, dashing romance, and fantasies of wealth. If you somehow missed the *Miss Fisher Mysteries*, waste no time watching the TV series. There is a paperback edition: [Murder in Williamstown](#) (Poisoned Pen \$16.99)

Hadfield, Chris. [The Defector](#) (Little Brown \$29). The sequel to the astronaut and pilot's debut thriller [The Apollo Murders](#) (\$17.99) is apposite to the moment. Real-life figures collide with fictional espionage. In the fall of 1973, U.S. Navy commander "Kaz" Zemeckis is on a beach in Israel when he spots an unusual contrail in the sky. He calls his boss, Gen. Sam Phillips, to report the sighting, and Phillips discovers that Soviet Air Force pilot Alexander Vasilyevich Abramovich has landed his MiG 25 Foxbat—the world's newest, most dangerous aircraft—in Israel and announced his wishes to defect to the U.S. With Israel on the brink of the Yom Kippur War, Prime Minister Golda Meir offers to trade Abramovich and his ultra-valuable plane to the U.S. in exchange for arms and other supplies. There's just one question: is the defection real, or is Abramovich a double agent?

Hamilton, Laurell K. [Slay](#) (Penguin \$28). Here's the 30th Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter. Anita is small, dark, and dangerous. Her turf is the city of St. Louis. Her job: U.S. Marshal—Preternatural Branch. She had to face horrifying monsters and brutal killers, so she never expected her walk down the aisle with Jean-Claude to go smoothly. They've already been confronted with naysayers and a power-hungry ancient evil, but now Anita has to do the one thing that actually scares her: introduce her very religious, very human relatives to her fiancé—the newly crowned vampire king of America.

Hennigan, Rosemary. [The Favorites](#) (Grand Central \$28.99) is "dark academia at its best. From the moment she discovered her sister's secret relationship with charismatic professor Jay Crane, Jessie Mooney has been convinced that he's to blame for the events leading to her death. Haunted by their last email exchange—*You know what you did*—she enrolls in graduate school and competes her way into Crane's famous "Law and Literature" class, setting into motion a plan to get close to him so she can expose who he really is. Jessie will cross any line to hold Crane accountable. But when she finally earns his trust and the coveted position as one of his "favorites," attracting the other students' envy and suspicion, the truth becomes darkly twisted.

Note: if you like Dark Academe stories, read this [brilliant essay](#) by Francine Mathews/Stephanie Barron on her favorites.

Hunter, Lindsay. [Hot Springs Drive](#) (Grove \$27). Theresa Linden, a 40-something suburban mother, is bludgeoned to death



in her garage. The culprit is identified quickly as her 14-year-old neighbor Douglas Stinson. As the fractured and nonlinear novel unfolds, Hunter reveals how Douglas was egged on by his mother, Jackie Newsome, who was Theresa's best friend. "We often lament how long it takes us to see our parents as people, but we don't talk enough about what it feels like, what it does to us, when our parents are terrible people. With fearless, pitch-perfect prose, Hunter mines the treacherous territory of loving one's parents despite their brokenness, and of the interior lives of children who are left to pick up the pieces. This is truly brilliant, sexy, and sly storytelling."—Deesha Philyaw

Ibañez, Isabel. [What the River Knows](#) (St Martins \$20). Secrets of the Nile #1 is immersive historical fantasy set in Egypt and filled with adventure, a rivals-to-lovers romance, and a dangerous race. I'm thinking Amelia Peabody. Jodi Picoult is thinking "Take a plucky heroine, a historically grounded Indiana Jones-esque adventure through Ancient Egypt, and add a surprising dollop of magic — it's a recipe for a delightful read." Our heroine is heiress Inez Olivera, a wow of 19th Century Buenos Aires society, who inherits a mysterious guardian, an archeologist in partnership with his Egyptian brother-in-law, when her parents meet a tragic death. Yearning for answers, Inez sails to Cairo, bringing her sketch pads and a golden ring her father sent to her for safekeeping before he died. But upon her arrival, the old world magic tethered to the ring pulls her down a path where she soon discovers there's more to her parent's disappearance than what her guardian led her to believe.

Johansen, Erika. [The Kingdom of Sweets](#) (Penguin \$28) is a reimagining of *The Nutcracker*. "In the 1900s, Natasha and Clara are twins cursed as infants to be "Dark" and "Light," respectively, by their sorcerer godfather, the mysterious and dastardly Drosselmeyer. Clara steps into the limelight while Natasha is relegated to the shadows. Natasha has a secret, though: her love for Conrad, the heir of a duke, who slips through her bedroom window at night, then out with the dawn. On the eve of the twins' 17th birthday, which falls on Christmas, Drosselmeyer presents them with gifts—a large nutcracker for Clara and a creepy clown for Natasha. Those simple presents open the door to a portal realm of magic, mayhem, and many types of monster, complete with a complex love triangle, some murderous twists, and a thematic exploration of haves versus have-nots.... It's a mixed bag, but fans of thorny fairy tales and inventive retellings will want to check it out."—PW

Jones, Stephen Mack. [Deus X](#) (Soho \$27.95). For various reasons Detroit's Jones will join us in March rather than November to discuss his new investigation for August Snow who puts his life on the line to protect a friend from modern-day Templars sworn to protect the name of the Catholic church at all costs. **Signed copies then.**

Kayode, Femi. [Gaslight](#) (LittleBrown \$29). I lapped up Kayode's 2021 series start [Lightseekers](#) (\$28), its vivid characters and evocative scenes of Nairobi life. Here at last is SFPD psychologist Philip Taiwo back again in his native Nigeria searching for the missing wife of Jeremiah Dawodu, the ultrarich bishop of a local megachurch. In the eyes of her husband's congregants, Sade is a flighty troublemaker known to skip public appearances, so there's little concern. But before long, police claim to have evidence of foul play and tap Philip and

his sidekick, Chika Makuochi, to sift through suspects. It takes a dangerous turn. Meanwhile, Philip and his wife, law professor Folake, grapple with their 15-year-old daughter's compulsive stealing and the fact that his family hasn't entirely escaped the racism left behind in America. **We will zoom to Nigeria with Koyode in January and he will send signed bookplates to us.**

Kells, Claire. [Forgotten Trail](#) (Crooked Lane \$30.99). How I miss Nevada Barr's Anna Pigeon series. Kells is doing something similar with Investigative Services Branch Special Agent Felicity Harland, not a Ranger but a Park Service investigator. In her third case, having just learned that some of California's smaller national parks have been added to her list of responsibilities, she gets a call about a murder at the Pinnacles Grand Hotel. She and her partner, Hux, trek into Pinnacles National Park (southeast of Monterey up in the mountains) where a guest has been found in his posh suite, stabbed by a large shard of glass. He's all alone but had checked in with a woman who is not the wealthy wife that had secretly followed him to the hotel. Kells displays her crafty plotting with a series of surprises as Felicity and Hux pursue their queries. A great sense of place is a bonus. Recommended on several counts.

Khan, Ausma Zehanat. [Blood Betrayal](#) (St Martins \$28). During a routine patrol of a quiet residential neighborhood, Harry Cooper, a white officer with the Blackwater Falls Sheriff's Department, shoots and kills Duante Young, a 20-year-old Black street artist whose spray paint Harry allegedly mistakes for a gun. That same evening in nearby Denver, another white cop shoots and kills a 22-year-old Latino bystander, Mateo Ruiz, in the course of a botched drug raid. Lt. Waqas Seif, head of the Denver Police Department's Community Response Unit, instructs Det. Inaya Rahman and her CRU colleagues to focus on investigating the Blackwater Falls incident. But then.... for the series start in *Blackwater Falls*, see our November Large Paperback Picks.

✦ Macmillan, Gilly. [The Manor House](#) (Harper \$29.99). Childhood sweethearts Nicole and Tom are a normal, loving couple until a massive lottery thrusts them into a life of splendor. Soon they've moved into a custom-built state-of-the-art Glass Barn on the stunning grounds of Lancut Manor in Gloucestershire on the Welsh border. They acquire fancy cars, expensive hobbies, and an exclusive lifestyle they never could have imagined. But when Tom turns up dead in the pool, Nicole doesn't know whom she can trust—was Tom's death a tragic accident or is someone trying to get a piece of the winnings? And is Nicole's life in danger as well? **Our November British Crime Book of the Month** takes the Agatha Christie playbook to a contemporary level that highlights how dangerous big money is to those who unexpectedly acquire it. Library Reads adds, "Macmillan's latest is perfectly paced suspense."

McDermid, Val. [Past Lying](#) (Grove \$27). I love this series and this is an outstanding entry. See Signed Books for a full rave review. We zoom with Val on December 4 at 12 PM MST.

Morrissey, Hannah. [When I'm Dead](#) (St Martins \$28). As medical examiner Rowan Winthrop scrutinizes the corpse of teenager Madison Caldwell, she reflects on her 18 years in the "purgatory" of grim Black Harbor, Wisconsin. Madison, the best friend of Rowan's daughter, Chloe, has been found strangled to death in a gully. Repeated attempts to contact Chloe fail, and Rowan comes to the slow realization that her daughter is missing. Morrissey's

second Black Harbor thriller drops the gothic trappings of her debut and goes straight for the jugular, with gruesome twists and intimations of menace from every quarter....”—*Kirkus Reviews*

Park, Ed. [Same Bed, Different Dreams](#) (Random \$30). In 1919, far-flung Korean patriots establish the Korean Provisional Government to protest the Japanese occupation of their country. This government-in-exile proves mostly symbolic, though, and after Japan’s defeat in World War II, the KPG dissolves and civil war erupts, resulting in the North-South split that remains today. But what if the KPG still existed now, today—working toward a unified Korea, secretly harnessing the might of a giant tech company to further its aims? That’s the outrageous premise here in an alternate secret history of Korea and the traces it leaves on the present—loaded with assassins and mad poets, RPGs and slasher films, K-pop bands and the perils of social media.

Patterson, James. [Alex Cross Must Die](#) (LittleBrown \$30 with Signed Bookplates). “Drop whatever you’re doing, Detective Cross, and head to Reagan Airport,” DC Metro Police dispatch says. “A jet just crashed and exploded on the runway. The chief and the FBI want you and John Sampson there pronto.” Cross and Sampson race to the crash site. The plane didn’t fail—it was shot down by a stolen Vietnam War-era machine gun. The list of experts who can operate the weapon is short. And time before another lethal strike runs even shorter.

Pearsall, Kate. [Bittersweet in the Hollow](#) (Putnam \$18.99). For Teen Readers. Four sisters with unusual talents investigate a mysterious disappearance in their secluded Appalachian town. Indie Next says, “I was hooked on the premise of a murder mystery linked to Mothman. I didn’t expect how quickly I’d fall in love with the language that just drips with magic, the cast of amazing witchy women on every page, and the intricately woven story.”

✦ Perry, Anne. [A Christmas Vanishing](#) (Random \$22). This is the first Perry Christmas novella we have not been able to offer you as Signed by the author, who died last spring. Mariah Ellison, Charlotte Pitt’s grandmother, accepts her longtime friend Sadie’s gracious invitation to spend Christmas with her and her husband, Barton, in their picturesque village. But upon arrival, Mariah discovers that Sadie has vanished without a trace, and Barton rudely rescinds the invitation. Once Mariah finds another acquaintance to stay with during the holiday season, she begins investigating Sadie’s disappearance. Mariah’s uncanny knack for solving mysteries serves her well during her search, which is driven by gossip as icy as the December weather. In the process of getting to know Sadie’s neighbors, Mariah finds a kind of redemption, as she rediscovers her kinder side, and her ability to love—and get to the bottom of what occurred before Christmas day.

Pitoniak, Anna. [The Helsinki Affair](#) (Simon & Schuster \$27.99). “In this delicious female spy novel, CIA up-and-comer Amanda and her mentor, a 73-year-old CIA superstar named Kath Frost, untangle a global conspiracy involving Russian oligarchs and—gulp—Amanda’s own father, an agency lifer himself.”—*People Magazine*. Rob highly recommends this our **November International Thriller of the Month** which takes on added edge now that Finland, sharing a border with Russia, has joined NATO. Amanda Cole is dying of boredom at the sleepy Rome bureau of the CIA when a tip comes in from a Russian bureaucrat

on vacation—an American senator will be assassinated the next day in Egypt. The ripple effects of this event will change the lives of both Amanda and her father, Charlie Cole, also a CIA operative. Shortly after Amanda is promoted to Rome station chief, her father gives her a stack of papers found in the late Senator Vogel’s office. These papers contain notes that indicate the senator was working with a Russian oligarch to uncover a nefarious scheme involving “meme stocks” and day traders. For reasons Charlie does not understand (but can anxiously suspect), his name is written on the last page. Though part of him wishes to destroy the information, he delivers the papers to Amanda, setting in motion a complex plot that unfolds both in the present and decades earlier, during Charlie’s posting in Helsinki, which is where Amanda was born. Pitoniak has proved that [Our American Friend](#) (\$17.99) was not a one-shot success with this twisty new novel.

Porter, Michelle. [A Grandmother Begins the Story](#) (Algonquin \$28). Written like a crooked Métis jig, you follow five generations of women and bison as they reach for the stories that could remake their worlds and rebuild their futures. This extraordinary novel, told by a chorus of vividly realized, funny, wise, confused, struggling characters—including descendants of the bison that once freely roamed the land. Fans of William Kent Krueger will enjoy a different Métis voice from that of Henry Meloux.

Prose, Nita. [The Mystery Guest: A Maid Novel](#) (Random \$29). Our January 2022 Cozy Crime Book of the Month [The Maid](#) (\$18) turned into a months-long bestseller. I adored it. Now Molly Gray has just been promoted to head maid at the five-star Regency Grand Hotel (city unnamed—Prose is Canadian). Neurodivergent Molly—whose penchant for cleanliness makes her great at her job, even though her difficulty understanding social cues sometimes gets her into trouble—gets caught up in another scandal when renowned mystery author J.D. Grimthorpe elects to make an electrifying announcement in the hotel’s recently restored Grand Tearoom. Journalists, fans, and eager hotel staff gather to hear Grimthorpe speak, only to witness him fall dead at the podium. Police detective Stark, who believed Molly to be a killer in the previous book, heads up the investigation, and again suspects Molly of murder on account of her stoic demeanor (and, in this case, her proximity to Grimthorpe’s tea before he died). If this sequel lacks the same punch, it’s still a delightful read.

✦ Shearer, L T. [The Cat Who Caught a Killer](#) (Pan \$27.99). Meet Conrad. You’ve never met a cat like him before. Neither has Lulu Lewis when he walks into her life one summer’s day. Mourning the recent death of her husband, the former police detective had expected a gentle retirement, quietly enjoying life on her new canal boat, The Lark, and visiting her mother-in-law Emily in a nearby care home. But when Emily dies suddenly in suspicious circumstances, Lulu senses foul play and resolves to find out what really happened. And a remarkable cat named Conrad will be with her every step of the way.... And, joy, this is Conrad the Cat Detective #1 indicating there will be a #2.

Singh, Nalini. [There Should Have Been Eight](#) (Berkley \$28). I am a sucker for New Zealand’s South Island and have toured its Southern Alps. So I will read this lackluster version of *And Then There Were None* for the story’s landscape even though I expect

no surprises. Nine years after her younger sister Bea's death by suicide, Darcie invites six of their college roommates to the family's remote, rundown estate in the Southern Alps. Luna, the novel's narrator, plans to confront Darcie. Why did she have Bea cremated without giving the group a chance to grieve? When Darcie's husband reveals that Darcie is pregnant, Luna reins in her anger. But new trouble is ahead. Lesa adds, "Accidents, injuries, poisonings, and finally, a death make it obvious that someone intends to harm the seven surviving college friends. A surprise spring snowstorm traps and isolates them, with no cell coverage, creating the perfect scenario for an opportunistic person intent on revenge. While "Psy-Changeling" series author Singh's numerous fans will appreciate this intricate psychological thriller, there's nothing new in the plot."

Townsend, Peggy. [The Beautiful and the Wild](#) (Penguin \$27). For months, Liv Russo has believed her filmmaker husband died after jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge. But when a series of cryptic texts and emails lure her and her developmentally disabled seven-year-old son, Xander, from California to a compound in southeastern Alaska, Liv finds Mark alive, cohabitating with another woman and a 10-year-old boy who calls him "Dad." Stunned, Liv threatens to leave with Xander and return to California. Mark responds by locking her in a shipping container for weeks until she convinces him that she's accepted their new polyamorous, off-the-grid lifestyle. Once she's freed, Liv begins to plot her and Xander's escape, but Mark becomes increasingly violent and unhinged. "Townsend elevates the proceedings above standard-issue genre fare by zeroing in on Liv and Xander's relationship, which she renders with aching sensitivity." Good for fans of *The Room*.

✎ Upson, Nicola. [Shot with Crimson](#) (Crooked Lane \$30.99). September, 1939. The worries of war follow novelist Josephine Tey to Hollywood, where a different sort of battle is raging on the set of Hitchcock's *Rebecca*. Then a shocking act of violence reawakens the shadows of the past, with consequences on both sides of the Atlantic, and Josephine and DCI Archie Penrose find themselves on a trail leading back to the house that inspired a young Daphne du Maurier—a trail that echoes Rebecca's timeless themes of obsession, jealousy and murder.

#### OUR NOVEMBER LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Baldree, Travis. [Bookshops & Bonedust](#) (Tor \$17.99). In its #1 Pick for November, Library Reads writes of a new fantasy, "In this delightful prequel to [Legends & Lattes](#) (\$17.99), a young Viv is laid up in the quiet town of Murk after her enthusiastic inexperience leads to a serious injury. She gradually assembles a group of friends including a swear-happy bookshop owner, a mercenary turned baker, and an irrepressible Gallina, eager to join Rackham's Raiders. Murk doesn't stay quiet for long with Viv around, and there's plenty of coziness in the bookshop, eating delicious baked goods, and flirting with a new friend."

Foenkinos, David. [The Mystery of Henri Pick](#) (Steerforth Press \$16.95). Our **November Paperback Historical Fiction** is not only a super charming bookish mystery but comes as a handsome package with end flaps. It's not entirely historical but it skips around in time as it cites wonderful books. Plus it's ridiculously French, erudite, and yet a comedy caper with characters who will surprise you. I love the idea of a library for homeless manuscripts, books that were never accepted for publication

shelved for some possible posterity. And such a library has been established in Crozon, Brittany (a place where if you read the fabulous Jean-Luc Bannalec mysteries for Commissaire Dupin you already know is filled with the unusual), and it becomes key to the rise of a surprising international bestseller. Very surprising as it turns out....

Greenwood, Kerry. [Murder in Williamstown](#) (Poisoned Pen \$16.99). The 22<sup>nd</sup> Phryne Fisher mystery. See above for a full review for the hardcover edition.

✎ Griffiths, Elly. [Bleeding Heart Yard](#) (\$18.99). Griffiths moves her Edgar-winning Detective Inspector Harbinder Kaur from England's South Coast to London where a school reunion goes badly awry. Freshly promoted, the DI is boss to Cassie Fitzgerald, a student at Manor Park in the 1990s. When a celebrity alum is murdered at the celebration, Cassie wonders if one of her classmates has killed again, or if Garfield Rice was knocked off by a political crony. I love Harbinder and her investigation and recommend this one highly.

Harper, Elodie. [The Temple of Fortuna](#) (Union Square \$17.99). This completes the extraordinary Wolf Den Trilogy, set in Roman Pompeii. It's gorgeously set and gorgeously written. It begins with [The Wolf Den](#) (\$16.99) and proceeds to [The House with the Golden Door](#) (\$17.99), our October Historical Fiction Paperback Book of the Month. And now in November we get the climax of Amara's story as she moves from enslavement in Pompeii's Wolf Den brothel to broker a precarious independence in the city and to a high-powered courtesan in Rome, playing for power in the imperial palace while those dearest to her remain in Pompeii. But it is 79 CE, and mighty Mount Vesuvius is about to erupt.... This series is a must for fans of Ariadne and other stories of women exploring, and based on, the worlds of Ancient Greece and Rome.

Haven, Josh. [Fake Money, Blue Smoke](#) (\$17.95). This exceptional heist thriller kicks off when former army sergeant Matt Kubelsky is picked up from an upstate New York prison by his ex-girlfriend, Kelly Haggerty, who's hoping he might know someone who can pull off a robbery for her. Kelly's been using skills learned studying art in college to make a decent living at counterfeiting (mostly foreign currency, easily passed in New York City, where she lives), but now she wants to make a big score: paying robbers in fake cash to steal some Klimt drawings, which she can sell to a Qatari gentleman wanted by the DEA for laundering cocaine money for Hezbollah. Matt happens to know a guy, naturally, who agrees to take on the theft of the Klimts. It goes from there.... Haven also writes the superb Napoleonic era spy/adventure series as JH Gelernter.

✎ Hawkins, Rachel. [The Villa](#) (\$18) is "a moody labyrinth of a novel fortified by Hawkins's evident knowledge of Gothic conventions: missing manuscripts, debauched aristocrats, isolated locales and the like....a spooky, intricate thriller." — *The Washington Post*. As children, Chess Chandler and Emily Sheridan were inseparable, but they grew apart as Chess became a popular self-help guru with books, videos, and TED talks, while Emily found moderate success writing an amateur sleuth mystery series. Chess's star and wealth continue to rise as Emily deals with a divorce conflict over her royalties, health problems, and writer's block. Then Chess suggests a "hard reset" to their friendship with a six-week stay at Villa Aestas outside Orvieto, Italy. Emily is reluctant until she learns the villa was rented in



the summer of 1974 by rock star Noel Gordon. The villa became known as the Murder House after a guest of Noel's, an unknown musician, was murdered there that summer. The villa—and its past, chronicled in a hidden diary—energizes Emily, who begins to write again, starting with the provocative first sentence: “Houses remember.” Then Chess finds Emily's rough draft....

✎ Horowitz, Anthony. [A Twist of a Knife](#) (\$19.99). What's worse than having an influential London critic skewer your latest play? Getting arrested for her murder, that's what. Anthony Horowitz is accused of a crime he didn't commit. After writing three books and solving several murders, he has just ended his partnership with ex-detective Daniel Hawthorne so that he can focus on his play *Mindgame*, which is making its West End debut. On opening night, *Mindgame* receives a malice-filled review from *Sunday Times* critic Harriet Throsby. Early the next morning, Horowitz is awakened by the London police, seeking to question him in the murder of Throsby, who has just been stabbed to death in her home. Horowitz soon finds himself under arrest and in need of help from his now ex-partner Hawthorne. 4<sup>th</sup> in a kind of meta-fiction mystery series, very good fun.

Khan, Ausma Zehanat. [Blackwater Falls](#) (\$12). The corpse of high school student and Syrian refugee Razan Elkader is found nailed to the door of a mosque in Blackwater Falls, Colorado. Lt. Waqas Seif of the Community Response Unit, a small team assigned to cases involving vulnerable and minority groups, selects Inaya Rahman for the investigation, her first hands-on case since moving to Blackwater six months earlier. Rahman discovers that two Somali girls who were friends of Razan's disappeared months before, but were dismissed as runaways by Blackwater's powerful sheriff, who's known to mistreat minorities. Though the girls' bodies haven't been found, Rahman fears they too may be dead. Sarah Weinman writes in the *NY Times*: “Inaya is a fabulous character — shrewd and stalwart, yes, but also complicated and fully fleshed-out, as is the marginalized Syrian community of Blackwater Falls.” See New in Hardcover for the sequel.

Maleeny, Tim. [Hanging the Devil](#) (Poisoned Pen \$16.99). See Signed Books for a full review.

✎ Winters, Mary. [Murder in Postscript](#) (Penguin \$17). A series debuts in 1860 London. Amelia Amesbury, the daughter of an innkeeper who had married a man with a degenerative disease before learning he was a wealthy Earl, is widowed and bored. So she takes up the role of “Lady Agony,” an advice columnist, as her secret alter ego. Then one of her readers writes saying she's a maid who witnessed the murder of her mistress. When Amelia sneaks out to meet the woman she's followed by her late husband's friend the Marquis of Bainbridge. When she finds a woman's body, she can't reveal her identity, so Simon must call in the police, establishing their partnership. Lesa adds, “The atmosphere of Victorian London with its class differences are essential elements in this delightful character-driven historical mystery for fans of Katharine Schellman or Dianne Freeman.”

#### NEW IN LARGE PAPERBACK

Barbara, Rawya Jarjoura. [East Jerusalem Noir](#) (Akashic \$17.95) and Eitan, Maayan. [West Jerusalem Noir](#) (Akashic \$17.95). Two in the Urban Noirs series that take us into the ancient city.

✎ Chapman, Julia. [Date with Mystery](#) (Pan \$18.99). The Dales Detective Agency's latest assignment appears to be an open and shut case. Hired by a local solicitor to find a death certificate for a young woman who died over twenty years ago, Samson O'Brien is about to find out that things in Bruncliffe are rarely that straightforward. Particularly when the solicitor insists that Delilah Metcalfe, with her wealth of local knowledge, works alongside Samson on this sensitive investigation. Delilah is eager to help, needing to take her mind off the impending custody case for her precious dog, Tolpuddle, and problems with her dating agency. As Samson and Delilah begin their inquiries they soon become embroiled in a mystery that has lain at the heart of the town for decades

Clark, Mary Higgins. [You Belong to Me](#) (\$17.99). Reissue of a 1998 story about a killer who targets lonely women on cruise ships,

Connelly, Michael. [The Crossing](#) (\$12). A TV-tie in cover graces a reissue of a 2015 investigation. Detective Harry Bosch has retired from the LAPD, but his half-brother, defense attorney Mickey Haller, needs his help. A woman has been brutally murdered in her bed and all evidence points to Haller's client, a former gang member turned family man. Though the murder rap seems ironclad, Mickey is sure it's a setup.

Dubeau, JF. [A God in the Shed](#) (Inkshares \$17.99) “reads like a super-cut of every small-town horror trope of the last 40 years. Eldritch horror in a cave? Check. Town leaders are actually a cult? Check. Creepy circus? Check. The story follows several characters as an ancient, bloodthirsty being, previously contained for decades, is let loose on the sleepy village of Saint-Ferdinand. It finds itself trapped again in a shed—an actual, literal shed—in the backyard of Venus McKenzie, a teenage daughter of hippies. She must find a way to kill the monster as others in the town try to track it down and use it for their own purposes. Subplots accumulate like snowdrifts in a blizzard...” —*PW*. It's not Stephen King but King's fans might like this.

Dumas, Luke. [The Paleontologist](#) (Simon & Schuster \$17.99). Curator of paleontology Dr. Simon Nealy never expected to return to his Pennsylvania hometown, let alone the Hawthorne Museum of Natural History where his sister was abducted years earlier. And he is faced with a terrifying and murderous ghost, maybe a prehistoric killer, in this chilling novel for fans of Michael Crichton and Douglas Preston/Lincoln Child.

Earth, Anthony. [Court at Constantinople](#) (Earth \$18.99). Constantinople, 1859. Under coercion, James Bingham, a struggling English barrister, joins Her Britannic Majesty's Supreme Consular Court at Constantinople. Osman Mehmed, a brilliant Turkish law student, loathes the British court, but the Ottoman government orders him to work with it on legal reform. Angry about injustices that women suffer, Rosamund Colborne initiates a relationship with James to escape a grim future dictated by her ruthless father. The court's cases and the courtship's twists intertwine the fates of Mehmed, James, and Rosamund as a brutal crime threatens to destroy them. This novel, written by an international law expert, is a challenging read but fascinating in its discussion of how the British sought to govern their empire and how older civilizations had to modernize.

Flower, Amanda. [I Heard a Fly Buzz When I Died](#) (Penguin \$17). August 1856. The Dickinson family is comfortably settled in their homestead on Main Street. Emily's brother, Austin Dickinson, and his new wife are delighted when famous thinker and writer Ralph Waldo Emerson comes to Amherst to speak at a local literary society and decides he and his young secretary, Luther Howard, will stay with the newlyweds. But then Luther is found dead in the Dickinson's garden. Poisoned.....

Hauty, Chris. [Storm Rising](#) (\$17.99). Former White House staffer and Army veteran Hayley Chill is in Texas operating undercover as a U.S. senator's aide. Hayley, working as part of a clandestine "deeper state" effort to preserve America's constitutional democracy, is pursuing clues about her father's death and looking into possible terrorist attacks on the Permian Basin oil fields. She's soon deep into a hornet's nest of destabilizing activities: white supremacy in the military, anti-immigration sentiment, and even "satanic death cults," all coalescing into a large and seditious plot. What she learns about her father's role at a pivotal point of American history makes the stakes personal. 3<sup>rd</sup> in series.

Henry, Christina. [Good Girls Don't Die](#) (Berkley \$17). "Celia finds herself trapped in someone else's life. Allie's birthday trip turns into a slasher fest in a cabin in the woods. Maggie is kidnapped and made to play a dangerous dystopian maze game. All three women find themselves in situations reminiscent of their favorite horror fiction, and are fighting to survive. What is really happening, and is it possible to make it out alive?" asks Library Reads making a November Pick.

Manchette, Jean Patrick. [Skeletons in the Closet](#) (NY Review of Books \$16.95). Eugène Tarpon, the private-eye protagonist from Manchette's *No Room at the Morgue*, appears once more for a characteristically brisk and brutal story, he drags his only friends, Charlotte Malrakis and Jean-Baptiste Haymann along, full of unexpected comedy and feeling.

Sanderson, Brandon. [The Lost Metal](#) (\$23.95). The large paperback edition of the 7<sup>th</sup> in the *Mistborn* Saga.

Sedky-Winter, Amal. [Escape to Aswan](#) (Cune Press \$16). On a brief visit to Cairo to support an investigation her fiancé, a Jewish American journalist, has undertaken, Salma is caught up in the machinations of a new, radical Islamist group with a vendetta against her father, a man with his own dark side. A former lover and Islamist kidnaps her, and forces her to flee with him from Cairo to Aswan in the far south. As they navigate the backroads, Salma, a privileged Egyptian-American, finds herself hiding under a burqa, running desert sandstorms and relying on the goodwill of poor villagers. "In this incredible debut, Sedky-Winter creates a brilliant tale focusing not just on the prolific corruption and poverty of Egypt, but also on the resilience and kindness that the women of Egypt embody... Best of all, the women are not depicted in a way that would be a caricature or exacerbated depiction of their grueling lives."—Alison Norquist

✦ Rhodes, Kate. [Brutal Tide: Isles of Scilly Mysteries](#) (\$17.99). Having visited the beautiful Isles in 2019, I acquired this UK import for you. DI Ben Kitto made many enemies in his time working as an undercover officer for the Met police, none more ruthless and calculating than gang leader Craig Travis. Travis has longed to make Kitto pay for his role in getting him convicted—and that day has finally arrived. Now, a dark and twisted killer is heading for the Scilly Isles, one who has waited a long time for

revenge. And with Kitto busy investigating the discovery of a body on the islands and distracted by the imminent arrival of his first child, his defences are down.

Straley, John. [Blown By the Same Wind](#) (\$16.95). It's 1968 in Straley's excellent fourth novel set in Cold Storage, Alaska after 2020's [What Is Time to a Pig?](#) (\$16.95), and the remote fishing community deals with an influx of outsiders, including real-life poet and peace activist Thomas Merton, the Trappist monk, on leave from his abbey as a result of his antiwar activities; a pair of bigoted sport fishermen; and Boston Corbett, a bumbling FBI agent who has personal reasons for coming to the little fishing village.

✦ Tyce, Harriet. [It Ends at Midnight](#) (\$16.99). Deputy district judge Sylvie is focused on becoming a Crown Court judge and Edinburgh chef Gareth. Then Sylvie's best friend, Tess, announces that she has brain cancer. Will Sylvie give the bad news to Tess' estranged husband, Marcus, so they can do a 20th anniversary renewal of wedding vows at Hogmanay (the Scottish New Year's celebration), with Sylvie once again standing as sole bridesmaid. And find and make amends to old classmate, Linda, who served time for the death of Sylvie's then boyfriend, largely on the basis of Tess and Sylvie's false testimony. Clues to what's really going on are dropped at a perfect pace as Sylvie's distrust of herself and others grows and the plot barrels toward its deadly conclusion at Hogmanay.

Winslow, Don. [A Long Walk Up the Water Slide](#) (\$16.95). Here's the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of the 4<sup>th</sup> Neal Carey with an Intro by Winslow. Sometime student and ever-reluctant detective Neal Carey would rather be finishing a dull doctoral thesis than staring down the nose of a loaded gun, but his new assignment doesn't sound dangerous. All he has to do is pull off the ultimate make-over: turn Polly Paget, a gum-chewing, foul-mouthed, big-haired broad, into a perfect lady in time to testify in a rape case against Jack Landis, head of the Family Cable Network and America's most beloved family man. But Polly isn't cooperating, and everyone (including a former FBI agent, an obsessive-compulsive hit man, the Mafia, a porn prince, and a slew of tabloid reporters) is on her trail, turning Neal's "simple" assignment into a deadly game of duck-duck-goose. In a hellish and hilarious escapade that takes him from the deserts of Nevada to the bright lights of Las Vegas.

Yakovleva, Yulia. [Death of the Red Rider](#) (Steerforth Press \$16.95) "offers a brilliant interplay of Communist manipulation, Soviet terror, Tsarist survivals, military rifts and kulak opposition...." It's 1931 Leningrad. Detective Vasily Zaitsev takes the case of a harness racing driver named Perlov, who's died in a suspicious accident. Perlov was an instructor at a prestigious cavalry school, and when its leaders and cadets suddenly depart for the southern city of Novocherkassk after his death, Zaitsev follows, arriving at what Soviet leaders have passed off as the land of plenty only to find people starving in the streets. Among a sprawling cast of jaded bureaucrats and suffering citizens, Zaitsev must navigate shifting political mores as he tries to solve the mystery of Perlov's death.

## OUR NOVEMBER SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Box, C J. [Treasure State](#) (\$9.99). Hoyt/Dewell #6. Cassie Dewell has her hands full with two cases—finding the man who conned a wealthy Florida widow out of her fortune, which takes her to Montana, and decoding a poem that promises buried treasure to one lucky adventurer, which has led to five deaths.

Brown, Sandra. [Overkill](#) (\$9.99). When Eban—the scion of a wealthy North Carolina family who brutally attacked Rebecca Pratt, leaving her on life support—gets an early release from prison, brilliant state prosecutor Kate Lennon asks former Super Bowl MVP quarterback—and Rebecca’s ex-husband—to make an impossible decision for justice.

Deaver, Jeffery. [Hunting Time](#) (\$9.99). Colter Shaw #4. A wealthy entrepreneur hires Colter Shaw to track down and protect his employee, Allison Parker, a brilliant engineer, who is on the run from her ex-husband with her teenage daughter.

Greaney, Mark. [Burner](#) (\$9.99). Gray Man #12. Court Gentry and his lover, Zoya Zakharova, discover they both want to capture Alex Velesky, who stole records from his Swiss bank employer, but for very different reasons.

Kellerman, Jonathan. [Unnatural History](#) (\$9.99). Alex Delaware #38. When a wealthy photographer, who had recently received rave media attention for his images of homeless people in their personal “dream” situations, is shot to death, Dr. Alex Delaware and Detective Milo Sturgis, when new murders arise, are confronted by one of the deadliest threats they’ve ever faced.

Shelton, Paige. [Winter’s End](#) (\$8.99). Alaska Wild #5. In Benedict, Alaska, while on the annual Death March—a search of the community for those who might have somehow gotten stuck at home during the winter, Beth Rivers, dealing with her own trauma, is faced with a murder linked to her best friend Orin, who’s been acting strangely lately.

## NEW IN SMALL PAPERBACK

Carr, Jack. [Only the Dead](#) (\$10.99). James Reece #6. On a mission generations in the making, former Navy SEAL James Reece, as a secret cabal of global elites prepare to assume control of the U.S., picks up his tomahawk and sniper rifle, showing his enemies that no one is out of range as he blows a global conspiracy wide open.

Ehrhart, Peggy. [Knitmare on Beech Street](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Knit & Nibble #10. When Pamela, Bettina, and their friends show up at the Voorhees House to greet its new owner, they’re met with a most unwelcome sight: the dead body of Tassie Hunt, who just inherited the old Victorian, on the kitchen floor.

Finlay, Alex. [What Have We Done](#) (\$9.99). The survivors of Savior House, an abusive group home for wayward teens, are forced to come together when someone one starts killing them one by one—a reunion none of them asked for or wanted, but one that may be the only way to save all their lives.

Jackson, Lisa. [Shiver](#) (Kensington \$9.99). Reissue. A serial killer is turning the Big Easy into his personal playground. The victims are killed in pairs—no connection, no apparent motive, no real clues. It’s a very sick game, and it’s only just begun, and now Detectives Rick Bentz and Reuben Montoya must race to find the killer before another victim turns up.

King, Stephen. [Just After Sunset: Stories](#) (\$10.99). Reissue. A collection of short works is comprised of pieces that previously appeared in such publications as *The New Yorker*, *Playboy*, and *McSweeney’s*, in a volume that includes such tales as “The Gingerbread Girl” and “N.”

Laurie, Victoria. [Coached Red Handed](#) (\$8.99). Cat & Gilley #4. Life coach Cat cooper and her friend Gilley’s plans for an Italian vacation are dashed when an elderly, wealthy matriarch turns up dead after threatening to cut her children out of her will.

Michaelides, Alex. [The Maidens](#) (\$10.99). When a member of a secret society known as The Maidens is murdered, a brilliant, but troubled, group therapist finds her obsession with proving the guilt of an untouchable Cambridge University professor spiraling out of control, threatening to destroy her credibility as well as her life.

Smith, Karen Rose. [Murder with Chocolate Tea](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Daisy’s Tea Garden #10. When an anonymous tip during a true crime podcast reveals clues to a 20-year-old unsolved murder, tea shop owner and bride-to-be Daisy Swanson suspects a connection between a current homicide and this cold case, setting out to solve it before she walks down the aisle.

St. James, Dorothy. [A Book Club to Die For](#) (\$8.99). Beloved Bookroom #3. Invited to speak at an exclusive club, assistant librarian Trudell Becket and her friend Flossie discover the club’s president dead in her kitchen before the meeting and investigate.

Thompson, Victoria. [City of Fortune](#) (\$8.99). Counterfeit Lady #6. When a day at the races reveals sabotage and subterfuge, Elizabeth Miles must use every ounce of her craftiness to even the score.