

BOOKNEWS from

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LOTS TO CELEBRATE IN THIS LEAP YEAR

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

Note: Event times are in Mountain Standard Time

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

Watch these virtual events on [Facebook Live](#) or on our [YouTube](#) channel and any time thereafter at a time that suits you. You don't have to belong to Facebook to click in.
You also can listen to our [Podcasts](#) on [Google Music](#), [iTunes](#), [Spotify](#), and other popular podcast sites.

Note that we have opened a [YouTube channel just for John Charles'](#) many author interviews, most of which do not appear in our regular calendar but are supplemental and varied. Watch at your leisure.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2 6:00 PM Live

David Rosenfelt discusses [Flop Dead Gorgeous](#) (St Martins \$28) and ['Twas the Bite Before Christmas](#) (\$26)

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3 2:00 PM Live

Hannah Dennison discusses [A Killer Christmas at Honeychurch Hall](#) (\$17.99) and [Dagger of Death at Honeychurch Hall](#) (\$17.99)
Hannah is offering an English Trivia Quiz with prizes for attendees

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4 3:00 PM

Jonathan Kellerman discusses [The Ghost Orchid](#) (Random \$29.99)
Alex Delaware
Signed books available

MONDAY FEBRUARY 5 7:00 PM Live

[Ticketed Event](#)

Location: The Poisoned Pen

Diana Gabaldon and Douglas Preston discuss [Fourteen Days. A Collaborative Novel](#) (Harper \$32)

This is a fundraiser for the Authors Guild with many contributors including Margaret Atwood, John Grisham....

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6 7:00 PM Live Book Launch

Nick Petrie discusses [The Price You Pay](#) (Putnam \$29)
Peter Ash is back at last

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 7 5:00 PM

Canada's Ian Hamilton discusses [The Fury of Beijing](#) (Anansi \$16.99)
My favorite financial ninja Ava Lee returns

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 7 7:00 PM Live

Iris Yamashita discusses [Village in the Dark](#) (Berkley \$28)
Detective Cara Kennedy of Point Mettier, Alaska, returns

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8 7:00 PM Live

Jeffery Siger discusses [At Any Cost](#) (Severn \$29.99)
Athens' Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis #13

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10 4:00 PM Live Book Launch

It's 30 years of Bees... and a wine and yummys party
Laurie R. King discusses [The Lantern's Dance](#) (Random \$28.99)
Our copies come with an exclusive (and relevant) art print created by us by Team King
Read an [interview with King](#)

MONDAY FEBRUARY 12 7:00 PM Live

Australia's Terry Hayes discusses [The Year of the Locust](#) (Atria \$26.99)
Our February Crime Book of the Month

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13 7:00 PM Live Publication Day Party

Gregg Hurwitz discusses [Lone Wolf](#) (St Martins \$29)
Our copies come with a printed Orphan X short story

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14 7:00 PM Live

A Valentine's Party with wine and chocolates!
Come at 6:00 PM for the treats, stay for the talk
Host: John Charles

Jenn McKinlay discusses [Fatal First Edition](#) (Berkley \$28)
A Library Lover's Mystery

Susan Elizabeth Phillips discusses [Simply the Best](#) (Harper \$30)

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15 5:00 PM

Jahmal Mayfield discusses [Smoke Kings](#) (Melville House \$19.99) with Patrick

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15 7:00 PM Live

Alexander Sammartino discusses [Last Acts](#) (Scribner \$27)
A debut and our February Notable New Fiction Book of the Month set here in Phoenix

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16 7:00 PM

SciFi Friday discusses Stephen King's [11/22/63](#) (\$22.99)

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger discusses Boyd/Beth Morrison, [The Lawless Land](#) (\$19.99 Signed)

MONDAY FEBRUARY 19 7:00 PM Live Book Launch

Steve Berry discusses [The Atlas Maneuver](#) (Grand Central \$30)
Cotton Malone investigates a legendary treasure known as Yamashita's Gold
Our copies come with a letter from Berry and a photo spread

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20 Live Publication Day Party

Mark Greaney with Brad Taylor

They discuss [The Chaos Agent](#) (Berkley \$30)

The Gray Man and AI

Brad will chime in with more on his 18th TaskForce thriller [Dead Man's Hand](#) (Morrow \$32) and we'll give away more flashlights and swag

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22 6:00 PM Live Offsite

Ticketed Event: \$35 admits one with book; \$40 admits two with one book

Location: Scottsdale United Methodist Church, 4140 N Miller Road, Scottsdale

Tons of parking front and back of the church

Diana Gabaldon hosts Coinneach MacLeod

They discuss [The Hebridean Baker: My Scottish Island Kitchen](#) (Sourcebooks \$29.99)

If you cannot attend you can order a Signed copy (Diana will not add her signature) by clicking on the title. Please do by February 8

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23 2:00 PM Live

Claire Isenthal discusses [The Rising Order](#) (Greenleaf \$29.95)
A Chicago thriller

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24 11:00 AM Live

The Cook Book Club meets to bond over [The Joy of Cooking](#) and share a dish or three

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24 11:00 AM Live

Local YA author Rebecca Roque with Pat

Roque discusses [Till Human Voices Wake Us](#) (Blackstone \$15.99)

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24 3:00 PM

Brad Thor hosts a webinar discussion of [Rising Tiger](#) (\$17.99)

This is for fans who've read his 2023 Scot Harvath thriller

MONDAY FEBRUARY 26 6:00 PM Live Book Launch

Location: Scottsdale United Methodist Church, 4140 N Miller Road, Scottsdale

Tons of parking front and back of the church

CJ Box discusses [Three-Inch Teeth](#) (Putnam \$30)

A Joe Pickett Wyoming thriller

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime discusses Michael Fessier's [Fully Dressed and in his Right Mind](#) (\$12.99)

OUR FEBRUARY BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Here's the perfect gift for Your Valentine: a monthly Blind Date with a Book (in a Box)

A Club is a Great Present to give to yourself or to someone who will then think of you every month when a carefully chosen book arrives.

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

Email Karen@poisonedpen.com to join

British Crime Club One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Schillace, Brandy. [The Framed Women of Ardmore House](#)

Cozy Crimes Club One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Lewis, Gerri. [The Last Word](#)

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

Hayes, Terry. [The Year of the Locust](#)

First Mystery Club One Signed First Printing per month

Pease, Amy. [Northwoods](#)

Hardboiled/Noir Club One Signed First Printing per month

Pelecanos, George. [Owning Up](#)

History/Mystery Club One First Printing per month

Choo, Yangsze. [The Fox Wife](#)

Historical Fiction Paperback Club One Unsigned paperback per month

Quinn, Kate/Janie Chang. [The Phoenix Crown](#)

Notable New Fiction One Signed First Printing per month

Sammartino, Alex. [Last Acts](#)

Romance and Relationships One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Phillips, Susan Elizabeth. [Simply the Best](#)

COOKBOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB UPDATE

The cookbook chosen for the February 24, 11:00 Meeting is [The Joy of Cooking](#), any edition. Going forward on fourth Saturdays, the group will select their monthly choices from a range of classic cookbooks, newer and new-ish cookbooks, and culinary adjacent titles like culinary memoirs and novels with a food focus and recipes. The only stipulation is that they be titles currently in print and available for ordering from The Poisoned Pen in order to support our work. Attendees are welcome to bring a recipe from the book to share. For more information or to register email Johnc@poisonedpen.com

SOME SIGNED BOOKS FOR FEBRUARY

Berry, Steve. [The Atlas Maneuver](#) (Grand Central \$30). Berry informs me that one reason he wrote this excellent Cotton Malone thriller that begins in Basel, Switzerland, one of my favorite cities and home to my second favorite hotel, *Les Trois Rois* (why does no character in this book stay there?) is that he was able to both explore cryptocurrency for himself and then weave as much explanation of its origin and how it works into the plot—along with its future implications—as he could. At the story’s core is the massive amount of gold (and other valuables) amassed by the Japanese (for the benefit of Emperor Hirohito and the royal family, Berry says) and buried in about 150 underground vaults constructed in the Philippines under the supervision of General Yamashita as MacArthur was closing in in 1945. The value has only increased. So what becomes of so much money, and indeed of CIA funds? A private Swiss bank, very private, has had a decade’s long financial arrangement with the CIA through a Black Eagle Trust, but its director has decided to weaponize crypto and change up the world’s financial system. And all this spins into play as Cotton, Cassiopeia, and a woman from his past spin through Lake Baikal, Luxembourg, Geneva, Morocco, and the Atlas Mountains.

Our copies come with a special letter from Berry attached to a bookmark, and we are adding a photo spread of Basel which I took in December.

Box, C J. [Three-Inch Teeth](#) (Putnam \$30). A rogue grizzly bear has gone on a rampage—killing, among others, the potential fiancé of Joe’s daughter. At the same time, Dallas Cates, who Joe helped lock up years ago, is released from prison with a special list tattooed on his skin. He wants revenge on the people who sent him away: the six people he blames for the deaths of his entire family and the loss of his reputation and property. Using the grizzly attacks as cover, Cates sets out to methodically check off his list. No surprise—Joe Pickett and Nate Romanowski are on it....

Choo, Yangsze. [The Fox Wife](#) (Holt \$27.99). Northern China is the ancestral home of the Fox cult, notes Choo in her excellent Notes section which includes a brief glossary of Chinese names. I agree with this: “This wonderful weaving of fantasy and Chinese folklore builds on ancient lore that foxes can change form into humans. When a young woman is found dead in the snow, Bao, a thoughtful investigator, is hired to explain her death. Rumor has it that foxes might be involved, and Bao follows clues shrouded in mystery to find the story of her death—and more. Highly recommended for fans of whodunits that feature vivid characters and settings.” OK and a little fantasy. Our fox is that rare one: a silver fox. Plus there is history in the form of the end of the Manchu or Qing dynasty and role of Dr. Sun Yat Sen. Lisa See joins me in a zoom with Choo, author of our **February Historical Fiction Book of the Month**, on March 5 at 4:00 PM MST.

Finn, A J. [End of Story](#) (Harper \$30). **Out in February, Signed here March 14.** Do order early to secure your first print. This is Finn’s first book since his bestseller [The Woman in the Window](#) (\$17.99).

“I’ll be dead in three months. Come tell my story.” So writes Sebastian Trapp, reclusive mystery novelist, to his longtime correspondent Nicky Hunter, an expert in detective

fiction. With mere months to live, Trapp invites Nicky to his spectacular San Francisco mansion to help draft his life story... while living alongside his beautiful second wife, Diana; his wayward nephew, Freddy; and his protective daughter, Madeleine. Soon Nicky finds herself caught in “detective fever.” 20 years earlier—on New Year’s Eve 1999—Sebastian’s first wife and teenage son vanished from different locations, never to be seen again. Did the perfect crime writer commit the perfect crime? And why has he emerged from seclusion, two decades later, to allow a stranger to dig into his past? As Nicky attempts to weave together the strands of Sebastian’s life while Madeleine begins to question what her beloved father might actually know about that long-ago night. And when a corpse appears in the family’s koi pond, both women are shocked to find that the past isn’t gone—it’s just waiting.

Grady, James. [The Smoke in Our Eyes](#) (Pegasus \$26.95) presents an action-filled coming of age novel about love, vengeance, corruption, and justice by the acclaimed author of *Six Days of the Condor*. “This episodic, noir-tinged story from Grady finds 10-year-old Lucas Ross grappling with the confusions of adolescence in 1950s small-town Montana. After a car accident kills local teen Earl Klise, Lucas watches quietly as the tenuous bonds in rural Martin County begin to fray. His progressive, newcomer fifth grade teacher, Jordan Smith, helps Lucas foster an awareness of the world with classroom lessons inspired by her own travels. Not everyone takes kindly to Jordan’s enlightened sensibilities, and tensions rise when she’s drawn into an affair with her coworker Neal Dylan. Neal enlists Lucas to take care of his infant daughter and alcoholic wife, entangling the boy in the family’s volatile domestic situation.... Though the threat of violence looms throughout the narrative, Grady for the most part delivers a spare tale of domestic tragedy, rich with nostalgia and memorable characters.”—PW

Greaney, Mark. [The Chaos Agent](#) (Berkley \$29.99). Artificial intelligence may be the deadliest battlefield game changer since the creation of gunpowder. The first nation to field weapons that can act at the speed of computer commands will rule the battlefield. Court Gentry’s quest for a quiet life has led the Gray Man to Central America where he and his lover, Zoya Zakharova, have assumed new identities. With a list of enemies that includes billionaires, terrorists, and governments, they need to keep a low profile, but the world’s deadliest assassin can’t expect to hide out forever. Eventually, the pair is tracked down and offered a job by an old acquaintance of Zoya’s. He needs their help extracting a Russian scientist who is on the kill list. They reject the offer, but just being seen with him is enough to put assassins on their trail. Now, they’re back on the run, with whoever’s tracking them always going to be one step ahead.

Havill, Steven. [Perfect Opportunity](#) (Severn \$30). Joy, a new Posadas County, NM, mystery from longtime Poisoned Pen favorite Steve Havill. I absolutely love the way he brings his community in the boot heel of his state so warmly to life. And his clever plots. This book is on its way to Steve next week as I write so I can only quote the jacket copy although I’ve seen a hint that there could be a 25-mile long crime scene if sabotage of the county’s NightZone astronomical site train is in play:

The morning after his 87th birthday bash, former Posadas County sheriff Bill Gastner drives past a couple of

vehicles stopped on the highway shoulder. It's not an unusual sight: a sheriff's patrol unit, emergency lights ablaze, pulled in behind a pickup truck. The female deputy hasn't radioed for backup. But there's something about the scene that makes him feel uneasy. The next day, Undersheriff Estelle Reyes-Guzman is called to a rather more dramatic and disturbing roadside scene, with the same truck the star of the show. But this time, its occupant is in no fit state to talk—his dead body is stabbed through the chest with a Ka-Bar and a second corpse lies in the ditch beside the car. What happened to the two men? And what were the dead man and the deputy discussing in the quiet of pre-dawn the previous day?

Hayes, Terry. [The Year of the Locust](#) (Atria \$32). CIA operative Kane redefines the smart but vulnerable bad ass super spy in this dazzling cat-and-mouse thriller where the entire globe is a chessboard, and everyone's playing for keeps. "If Daniel Silva and Michael Crichton had written a near-apocalyptic epic thriller, it might look something like this. The spycraft is unflinching and authentic. The stakes both global and intimate. The action throat-clutching. And I dare not hint at the shocking, daring twists that tangle this story into a masterpiece of suspense and intrigue."—James Rollins. Indeed, at 788 pages, this rousing international thriller, our **February Crime Book of the Month**, is worth the ten year wait since Hayes' massive global bestseller—a 2014 First Mystery Book of the Month—[I Am Pilgrim](#) (\$18.99) published.

Hurwitz, Gregg. [Lone Wolf](#) (St Martins \$29). **Our copies come with a printed Orphan X short story.**

Evan Smoak comes to consciousness, bloody and broken and barely alive, in a remote part of Texas outside the range of the RoamZone tracker that monitors him. While Evan reestablishes contact with teenage sidekick/protégé Joey and undertakes the goofy but heart-tugging challenge of finding his niece Sofia's missing dog, Loco, efficient assassin Karissa Lopatina is hard at work, drowning software engineering manager Anwuli Okonkwo in her bathtub, then killing AI expert Dr. Benjamin Hill, whose path happens to have crossed Loco's. She's still on the scene when Evan arrives (what are the odds?). Their showdown takes a tragic turn when Hill's teenage daughter tries to intervene, allowing Karissa to get away and leaving Evan to deal with the police. His narrow escape, combining guile and muscle, is vintage Hurwitz, set forth with gritty edge and puckish humor in short, punchy chapters that include several similar nail-biting scenes. Loco remains at large as Evan's twisty path takes him to a creepy megalomaniac ironically named Allman and eventually to a face-to-face with Karissa, who, gender aside, could be his identical twin. A handful of characters from previous Orphan X capers return, including Tanner and Devine.

Isenthal, Claire. [The Rising Order](#) (Greenleaf Book Group \$29.95). A debut set in Chicago by a visiting author. Flynn Zarytsky, recruiter for the Chicago mega-tech company Magnetic, comes face-to-face with true terror amid a horrific mass shooting by homegrown terrorist organization REDS. Wolf, a REDS soldier, has her in his sights, then decides to spare her life. But in doing so, he may have ensnared her in a fate worse than death. REDS' master plan is to make society pay for its greed and to establish a new order. Wolf sees manipulating Flynn in her role at Magnetic as the perfect way to infiltrate the tech company and use its reach to unleash catastrophic devastation on

the city of Chicago. He never expected Flynn could chip away at his resolve and question REDS' mission. And she never dreamed she'd be a pawn in a dangerous game.... Reviews liken this to *The Hunger Games*.

Kellerman, Jonathan. [The Ghost Orchid](#) (Random \$30). After LA psychologist Delaware was nearly crushed to death by a violent criminal while assisting the LAPD's homicide ace Milo Sturgis on a previous case, the pair's relationship has been tense. Now, however, they take steps toward repairing the partnership when Sturgis asks Delaware to consult on a double murder. The naked bodies of Giovanni Aggiunta, whose family operates a luxury men's shoe business in L.A., and Meagin March, the married neighbor he was having an affair with, have been found shot to death next to Aggiunta's pool. What at first looks like an open-and-shut case of revenge by Meagin's husband quickly takes on eyebrow-raising new dimensions when Sturgis and Delaware discover strange holes in her backstory that suggest she may have been more than the wife next door. "Kellerman delivers clever twists alongside the lived-in banter between his leads that sets this series apart. It's both a treat for longtime fans and a great entry point for newcomers."

Kemmerer, Brigid. [Destroy the Day](#) (Bloomsbury \$20.99). A YA trilogy comes to an end. Prince Corrick, held captive by the vicious Oren Crane, is desperate to reunite with Tessa, but will need to ally with the rebel leader Lochlan, who until now wished him dead. An unlikely but deadly pair, Corrick and Lochlan must plot their next moves carefully. An island away, Tessa Cade is heartbroken and angry. Grieving Corrick, and unsure how to find a way back to Kandala, she doesn't know who to trust. Until Rian—the man she trusts least—makes an offer: aid in a plot to finally oust Oren Crane and see what the future holds...

King, Laurie R. [The Lantern's Dance](#) (Random \$28.99). **Our copies come with an exclusive (and relevant) art print created by us by Team King.**

There are so many things to enjoy about this Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes investigation although in many ways it's really a series of revelations tied together mostly by Russell. We learn much more about Holmes' family. We learn a lot more about Irene Adler. And we become immersed in Victorian India under the Raj through the medium of a technological marvel, a zoetrope, mostly a toy for children that spins and imitates animated motion via drawings on strips of paper – the lantern's dance. And also through a set of coded diaries that Russell discovers, and cracks, at Irene Adler's home in the rural south of France. As she learns the story these artifacts tell Holmes is off with his son Damian investigating a possible threat to Damian and his family. So, alternating chapters, time in Paris too, and as I said, Big Revelations. You'll love it.

Lawson, Mike. [Kingpin](#) (Grove \$27). In his 17th outing, Congressional bagman Joe DeMarco sets his sights on the man who had a University of Virginia law student and summer intern for Rep. John Mahoney, killed. Both Brian's mother and his girlfriend rejected the official call of an overdose. DeMarco satisfies himself that the guilty party is Trump-y crime boss Carson Newman, on whose bribery schemes Brian had been compiling an extensive secret dossier that's now vanished. But Newman—who has always taken care to insulate himself from any legal consequences for tipping the scales among his friends

in Congress—has taken care to arrange Brian’s death through a series of proxies who’ll never betray him. When hired PI Morgenthal is killed, presumably on Newman’s orders, DeMarco begins to loop carefully chosen law-enforcement agents into the hunt.

MacLeod, Coinneach. [The Hebridean Baker: My Scottish Island Kitchen](#) (Sourcebooks \$29.99). Great recipes, lots of fun. **We may run out of books to sell if you do not order your copy by February 8.**

McKinlay, Jenn. [Fatal First Edition](#) (Berkley \$28). Library director Lindsey Norris and her husband, Mike Sullivan, are in Chicago attending a conference. During a book restoration lecture on the last day, someone leaves a bag under Lindsey’s seat containing a first edition of Patricia Highsmith’s *Strangers on a Train* inscribed from the author to Alfred Hitchcock, making it potentially very valuable. Lindsey turns it over to conference head Henry Standish, a man with a checkered past that’s earned him multiple enemies. Lindsey and Sully, along with Henry and many other conference participants, had taken a train from the East Coast to Chicago for the conference; now, as they settle into their roomette for the return trip, prospects for a pleasant ride turn sour when Lydia Armand—who took over Henry’s job after he was accused of fraud—turns up. The next morning, Henry is found murdered in his compartment. Upon the arrival of a dangerous snowstorm, the police remove passengers to a local inn near Briar Creek, Connecticut, Lindsey and Sully’s hometown, while they investigate in this latest Library Lover’s Mystery.

O’Connor, Carlene. [Murder at an Irish Chipper](#) (Kensington \$27). Lesa reviews: It’s hotter than usual in Ireland, but Garda Siobhán O’Sullivan and her husband, Detective Sergeant Macdara Flannery, decide to take a delayed honeymoon trip to Lahinch, a seaside resort, and Siobhán brings all five of her siblings along. They have plans to help support a fish and chip shop, but they are too late. There’s a line outside the locked door when they arrive, Macdara and Siobhán insist on a wellness check, and they find the owner, Vera, dead, covered in flour with a vinegar bottle beside her. It looks like murder to Siobhán, but it’s not her case. Macdara teases that she doesn’t know how to holiday. Siobhán is intrigued by the locked doors to the shop, Vera’s war with her ex-husband, who is opening a new chipper across the street, and stories of Vera’s unusual behavior in the weeks leading up to her murder. When another murder occurs, Siobhán and Macdara are both assigned to investigate in a town where even the local Gardai is personally involved with the other suspects. This 10th in O’Connor’s Irish Village Mysteries will appeal to cozy series fans who appreciate Irish village settings, the large O’Sullivan family, and eccentric characters.

Patterson, James. [Private: Missing Persons](#) (Grand Central \$32). **Signed bookplates.** In Afghanistan, a US pilot is shot down during a covert mission. In New York, a mother is forced to flee with her two young children. Finding the connection between the two will lead the Private team, the world’s largest investigative agency head by Jack Morgan, a former US Marine whose career ended in catastrophe, right into a deadly trap.

Pease, Amy. [Northwoods](#) (Atria \$27). Our **February First Mystery of the Month Pick** highlights a surge in Midwestern Murder. The dark underbelly of an idyllic Wisconsin resort town is revealed in the aftermath of a murder with ties to America’s opioid epidemic in this debut that is perfect for fans of James

Lee Burke, William Kent Krueger, and Mindy Mejia. The *NY Times* reviews it: “Eli North has returned to Shaky Lake, after a harrowing tour of Afghanistan, struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder. His mother, Marge — the town sheriff — throws him a lifeline: She loves her son, and thinks that working as her deputy might offer him a way out of the darkness. But when Eli, responding to a disturbance call from a lakeside resort, discovers the body of a teenager named Ben crumpled in a small fishing boat. Marge becomes convinced that ‘Ben’s death and Eli’s life might be intertwined somehow.’ She’s right, of course, and as Eli grapples with his problems, self-medicating with alcohol, the investigation plunges him into an abyss of ruthless pharmaceutical companies and personal betrayals. Pease’s writing reflects the reality and the bleakness of living in a place like Shaky Lake. Through Eli, we see the damage, but also the promise of a way into the sunlight.”

Pelecanos, George. [Owning Up](#) (Mulholland \$28). Patrick reviews the **February Hardboiled/Noir Book of the Month**: “This intense, moving collection of novellas showcases Pelecanos at his best. In one of the pieces, two former prison inmates reconnect on the set of a TV production. Both are working hard to put the past behind them, but one of them can’t resist the temptation of an easy score and it threatens to take them both down. In perhaps the most powerful and personal novella, a family struggles to recover after a police S.W.A.T. unit executes a ‘no-knock warrant’ on their 18-year old son, who was involved in the hold-up of a marijuana dealer. The police trash the house and pull guns on the terrorized family, each of whom is forever changed by the incident. Elsewhere, a young man sees the opportunity to step up when a hostage crisis grips the community. Pelecanos has been one of my favorite writers for nearly three decades now, and I only wish he’d publish more books. We need him now more than ever.”

Petrie, Nick. [The Price You Pay](#) (Putnam \$29). In a bitterly cold Wisconsin winter, Peter Ash’s tight friend Lewis rushes the two of them north to check on Teddy “Upstate” Wilson, a one-eyed ex-con, only to find him shivering in the snow while his cabin burns to the ground. Attackers have shot his dogs and stolen his notebooks, which are key to the story. As part of his therapy after having been shot in the head, Teddy has been writing down everything he can remember including sex with his speech pathologist to the many crimes he’s committed—including dates, locations, and the names of everyone involved. Those latter details could get a lot of folks, Lewis included, offed or imprisoned. Series fans already know that Lewis occasionally heads an elusive group that robs and often kills upper-level bad guys. Said group is an underworld legend often called the Ghost Killers, and even law enforcement is unsure whether the group is more than a myth. Both are smart and deadly in a fight. Here the mortal enemy is an ex-CIA dude named Jay Streyling. Above him is a fearsome boss whose personal grief fuels an enduring over-the-top rage. On the good-guy side of the ledger, Peter and Lewis have June and Dinah, respectively, in their lives. For sheer entertainment value, though, there’s no beating Teddy Wilson. All he wants is his set of notebooks and permission to fire tranquilizer darts. Oh, and maybe to hang someone by his ankles outside a 23rd-floor window.

Nick has written a short story called “The Cleveland Job” set in Lewis’ criminal past. You can order it from *Mystery Quarterly* #21 on this [LINK](#).

Phillips, Susan Elizabeth. [Simply the Best](#) (Harper \$30). John reviews our **February Romance Book of the Month**: Sports agent Brett Rivers has never been involved in a negotiation that he hasn't won. That is until he crosses paths with aspiring artisanal chocolatier Rory Garrett. In order to prove her half-brother Chicago Stars quarterback Clint Garrett did not murder his ex-girlfriend Ashley, Rory needs some help from Brett. While Brett may think he can keep Rory from getting involved in a police investigation, it turns out he is defenseless when it comes to saying no to her. Phillips scores another touchdown with her latest, a winning combination of madcap mystery and delicious romance expertly infused with an abundance of wicked wit and some mouthwatering descriptions of chocolates.

Plantinga, Adam. [The Ascent](#) (Grand Central \$30). A repeat review here for a debut thriller of note: "If you're looking for action, Adam Plantinga's debut thriller is the book for you. Kurt Argento is a former Detroit cop who ends up in a Missouri jail—it's a long story having to do with a corrupt sheriff. When the computerized lock system goes on the fritz, he has to help a group of terrified visitors escape through six floors of mayhem."—*Kirkus* Starred Review. You who value first novels should snag this; he's working on book two and his publisher plans a big push.

Preston, Douglas, ed. with Margaret Atwood. [Fourteen Days. A Collaborative Novel](#) (Harper \$32). Our copies Signed by Preston and Diana Gabaldon who each contribute a tale, Gabaldon two in fact. "Putting a bold new twist on the plague novel, this bountiful, unpredictable, witty, and affecting tale-of-tales is made all the more intriguing by the fact that it's a collaboration by 36 exceptional North American writers.... This enthralling novel of many voices and moods dramatizes the transformation of isolation into community via stories and explores a grand spectrum of human experiences."—*Booklist* Starred Review

A message from Doug: "Never in the history of books have America's authors faced such challenges—including book banning, rampant piracy, the wholesale theft of books by AI developers, and Big Tech's attacks on copyright. There is, however, one powerful and effective organization fighting back, and that is the Authors Guild. Talk is cheap, but action, especially on the legal front, is expensive. We're pleased to reach the halfway mark in this campaign and have \$4.5 million more to raise. Building the Guild's capacity is one the most effective, long-term ways you can support American literary culture and reify your love of books."

Rosenfelt, David. [Flop Dead Gorgeous](#) (St Martins \$28). Rosenfelt joins us on February 1 to kick off our month with two of his 2023 Andy Carpenter novels. In *Flop*, professionally retired NJ lawyer Andy Carpenter remembers every dog that's come through the Tara Foundation's doors, but the most well-known alum of the dog rescue organization that Andy founded in Paterson, New Jersey, may be Mamie. Adopted by famous actress Jenny Nichols—Andy's high school girlfriend—the miniature French poodle is now practically a starlet in her own right. Andy doesn't hold it against his friend. In fact, he and his wife, Laurie, have dinner with Jenny while she's in town filming her next big hit. But after an eventful meal, there's a plot twist the next morning that none of them see coming: Jenny's costar is found dead, a knife in his back. It's not long before Jenny is arrested for the murder and finds herself in need of Andy's legal services

In '[Twas the Bite Before Christmas](#) (\$26), Andy is at the Tara Foundation's annual Christmas party. This is one holiday tradition he can get behind because every dog that's come through the rescue—and their families—are invited to celebrate. But before the stockings can be hung by the chimney with care, homicide detectives ruin the evening. Derek Moore, one of the foundation's best foster volunteers, is arrested for murder.

Roque, Rebecca. [Till Human Voices Wake Us](#) (Blackstone \$15.99). A teenage girl's relentless investigation into her best friend's death plunges her deep into a dangerous underground society where every secret has a price. Seventeen-year-old Cia lived in a house of secrets until she was five, when her father literally burned it all down, killing Cia's entire family and taking her leg. When her best friend Alice says she has a secret too, Cia wants nothing to do with it—even if it could shed light on her family's dark past. Alice doesn't let go so easily, but then the police find her body floating in the quarry. Roque beautifully blends conflict with power, loyalty and betrayal, and dealing with loss as Cia untangles a web of lies.

Ryan, Hank Phillippi. [One Wrong Word](#) (Forge \$28.99). **Out in February. Signed here March 7.** Please order early to secure your Signed first printing.

One wrong word can ruin your life. And no one knows that better than savvy crisis management expert Arden Ward. But here comes a shocking crisis of her own when she's unfairly accused of having an affair with a powerful client. She's given an ultimatum: she has just two weeks to save her career and her reputation. Is Cordelia Bannister the answer? Cordelia needs Arden's help for her husband Ned, a Boston real estate mogul. Though he was recently acquitted in a fatal drunk driving accident, his reputation is ruined, and the fallout is devastating not only to the Bannisters' lives, but the lives of their two children. Arden devotes her skill and determination—and maybe her final days on the job—to helping this shattered family, but soon, revelations begin to emerge about what really happened the night of the accident. And then—another car crash throws Ned back into the spotlight. This case is Arden's final chance to protect her own future and clear her name. But the more she tries to untangle the truth, the more she's haunted by one disturbing question—what if she's also protecting a killer?

Sammartino, Alexander. [Last Acts](#) (Scribner \$27). A debut set in Phoenix making **our February Notable New Fiction Book of the Month**. Even though his firearms store in Phoenix, Arizona, is failing, things are looking up for David Rizzo. His son, Nick, has just recovered after a near-fatal overdose, which means one thing: Rizzo can use Nick's resurrection to create the most compelling television commercial for a gun emporium that the world has ever seen. After all, this is America, Rizzo tells himself. Surely anything is possible. But the relationship between father and son is fragile, mired in mutual disappointment. And when the pair embarks on their scheme to avoid bankruptcy, a high stakes crash of hijinks, hope, and disaster ensues. Featuring a cast of unforgettable characters, this razor-sharp social satire lays bare both the gun and opioid crises. "What a taut, energetic, tender, and wholly original debut novel Alexander Sammartino has written. He knows something deep about the dark heart of America that somehow doesn't stop him from writing about it with genuine, goofy love. Somewhere, Denis Johnson and Saul Bellow are smiling because their lineage—that of honest,

highwire, virtuosic writing that summons up the world with all its charms and hazards, has found a worthy heir.”—George Saunders.

I like this comment from a reviewer: “I’m a bit of a sucker for offbeat father-son stories, so I was piqued by Sammartino’s debut. It’s about a failing guns and ammo shop in Phoenix, and the schemes whipped up by the proprietor and his son to save the business are mordantly hilarious.”

Siger, Jeffrey. [At Any Cost](#) (Severn \$29.99). The 13th case for Athens Chief Inspector Andres Kaldis and his squad. Lesa reviews: “The Greek team is assigned to investigate the wildfires that raged on the islands of the Aegean Sea last summer. They discover that it’s not just a matter of arsonists burning down forests. Someone is buying up property on the islands, and police interviews reveal that there may be several nations working together to profit off the land development. Also, there is gossip about hungry technology giants hoping to use wind power and marine cables to build a world presence on Syros. As no one on his team has the technological know-how to fill him in, Kaldis turns to his niece’s fiancé, a teacher and software engineer whose knowledge might be just what Kaldis needs, or it could put everyone on the team—and Andreas’s family—in danger. Enjoy scenes of breakneck action along with long technological discussions of the metaverse and AI. Fans of Siger’s gorgeous descriptions of Greece and the returning cast of supporting characters are the best audience for the latest in this atmospheric series.”

Stevenson, Benjamin. [Everyone on This Train Is a Suspect](#) (Harper \$30). **Tip-ins** from the hot, hot, hot Australian author. Read the rave review in the [Wall Street Journal](#). And the *NYTBR* chimes in: In his first outing, [Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone](#) (\$18.99), Ernest outwitted a serial killer ‘picking off my extended family one by one.’ Now Stevenson plops him in the middle of a crime writers’ festival taking place aboard an opulent train traveling through the Australian desert from Darwin to Adelaide. Think *Murder on the Orient Express*, but where every character (and suspect) writes in a different genre category. It’s fun and diverting, with a plethora of red herrings. What gives the book weight is Ernest’s relationship with his girlfriend Juliette, one that challenges the very heart of whose story gets told, and which mystery is solved.”

Tata, A.J. [The Phalanx Code](#) (St Martins \$29). **Out February 27, Signed here on March 6 7:00 PM.**

Early on, Lt. General Garrett receives an unexpected pardon from U.S. president Kim Campbell, but he’s liberated by Jake Mahegan, his former colleague on the secretive Dagger team, before official channels can reach him. The rest of the Dagger team gathers in Wyoming at the underground complex of billionaire tech mogul Mitch Drewson, who warns Garrett that his business rival, Aurelius Blanc, is on the cusp of establishing a technofascist “global security state.” Coding savant Misha Constance and French cryptologist Evelyn Champollion attempt to break Blanc’s Phalanx Code, an encrypted “kill list” of Garrett’s inner circle, as he contends with a series of explosive family revelations.

Walker, Joss. [The Prophecy of Wind](#) (Two Tales Press \$25). Jayne Thorne, CIA Librarian and secret operative, thought finding her father would solve everything. She couldn’t have

been more mistaken. Henry Thorne is a prime target for all her enemies, and everyone around him is in danger. Though Jayne’s powers are reaching new heights, she must contend with her reluctant new Rogue, Vivienne, her inconvenient and growing attraction to her partner, Tristan, and a prophecy from an unnamed warrior goddess that warns her of the impending danger from the Torrent’s powerful hidden mage who is controlling her mother, Ruth. Not to mention face down an ancient secret society tasked with protecting a grimoire vital to their cause. With the help of her friends, family, and new allies, Jayne must decipher the prophecy, acquire the grimoire, and stop the powerful mage hidden in the Torrent. But even with their help, Jayne is not sure if she will be able to succeed.

This is a delightful series written by JT Ellison as Walker. Jayne is a brilliant character, her universe is charming and intelligently conceived, and best, it’s just plain fun. The first three for Jayne are [Tomb of the Queen](#) (\$18.99); [Master of Shadows](#) (\$25 Signed or \$15.99); [The Keeper of Flames](#) (\$25 Signed or \$15.99)

Yamashita, Iris. [Village in the Dark](#) (Berkley \$28). *PW* raves: “Yamashita’s riveting sequel to 2023’s [City Under One Roof](#) (\$17—a First Mystery Club Book of the Month) sets a chilling murder mystery against the backdrop of the Alaskan wilderness. Detective Cara Kennedy has come to believe that her husband and son died in a natural accident. After Cara discovered and buried the pair’s remains in the Talkeetna forest near where they disappeared on a hike, she takes leave to cope with her loss. But when investigators find a series of photographs in a deceased gang member’s possession, including an image of Cara and her family, she suspects foul play. Fueled by grief, Cara makes a startling discovery—the people in each of the gang member’s photographs are either dead or missing. Among them is Mia Upash, a quiet young woman who grew up in hiding from an abusive man and harbors key secrets that may connect each of the missing people. Enlisting the help of her former partner J.B. Barkowski, Cara sets out to find Mia, uncovering dark truths that endanger herself and her colleagues along the way. Yamashita maintains a breakneck pace throughout—Readers will be glued to the page.” Lesa adds this is a “compelling story, perfect for readers of crime novels set in isolated areas or those that feature strong, independent characters forced to fight for their lives.”

MUCH LOVE TO BOOKISH BOOKS

BoReum, Hwang. [Welcome to the Hyunam-Dong Bookshop](#) (Bloomsbury \$28.99). The Korean smash hit is available for the first time in English, a slice-of-life novel for readers of Matt Haig’s *The Midnight Library* and Gabrielle Zevin’s *The Storied Life of AJ Fikry*. The heartwarming story about finding acceptance in your life and the healing power of books begins as Yeongju is burned out. She did everything she was supposed to: go to school, marry a decent man, get a respectable job. Then it all fell apart. In a leap of faith, Yeongju abandons her old life, quits her high-flying career, and follows her dream. She opens a bookshop. In a quaint neighborhood in Seoul, surrounded by books, Yeongju and her customers take refuge. From the lonely barista to the unhappily married coffee roaster—and the writer who sees something special in Yeongju—they all have disappointments in their past. The Hyunam-dong Bookshop becomes the place where they all learn how to truly live.

Brown, Gareth. [The Book of Doors](#) (Morrow \$30). Cassie Andrews works in a New York City bookshop, shelving books, making coffee for customers, and living an unassuming, ordinary life. Until the day one of her favorite customers—a lonely yet charming old man—dies right in front of her. Cassie is devastated. She always loved his stories, and now she has nothing to remember him by. Nothing but the last book he was reading. But this is no ordinary book... Inscribed with enigmatic words and mysterious drawings, it promises Cassie that any door is every door. You just need to know how to open them. Then she's approached by a gaunt stranger in a ruffled black suit with a Scottish brogue who calls himself Drummond Fox. He's a librarian who keeps watch over a unique set of rare volumes. The tome now in Cassie's possession is not the only book with great power, but it is the one most coveted by those who collect them. Now Cassie is being hunted by those few who know of the Special Books.... This fantastical time travel novel has several interesting twists.

Reed, Shannon. [Why We Read](#) (Hanover Square \$27.99). Can you resist "On Bookworms, Libraries, and Just One More Page Before Lights Out"? In keeping with our 2024 mission, the message here is "we read to escape, to learn, to find love, to feel seen. We read to encounter new worlds, to discover new recipes, to find connection across difference, or simply to pass a rainy afternoon. No matter the reason, books have the power to keep us safe, to challenge us, and perhaps most importantly, to make us more fully human."

BOOKS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

Buttermore, Jessica. [The Love Language of Flowers: Floriography](#) (Mango \$34.99). For those who want to create beautiful bouquets and flower arrangements with history, this floriography guide is a gorgeous and inspired combination of vintage Victorian flower meanings, quotes, and lore perfectly entwined with a contemporary toolbox for creating stunning flower arrangements and bouquets. Readers of historical fiction have run across the language of flowers in fiction.

Garbera, Katherine. [The Bookbinder's Guide to Love](#) (Harlequin \$12.99). A witty, wacky, wickedly sexy romance about love, books, friendship and the unexpected connections that bind us together. Bookbinding (verb): the art of creating something magical out of fabric, leather and paper. As a lonely foster kid, Serafina Conte sought refuge in hand journals by hand—and writing her wishes within their pages. Now, in the quirky new age store she shares with her two best friends, Sera's intentions have paid off. Her journals are in the spotlight—and rumored to manifest great things. Whether it's witchy skills, real magic or not, Sera's finally ready to be the leading lady of her life story.... This starts a series called WiCKed Sisters #1

Harris, Joanne. [Chocolat](#) (\$17). In case you somehow missed Harris's debut, a brilliant novel involving relationships, acceptance, love, and chocolate, all in the embrace (not always a fond one) of a French village. My advice: rent the movie too with its brilliant cast headed by Juliette Binoche.

Linden, Rachel. [Recipe for a Charmed Life](#) (Penguin \$17). Georgia May Jackson has worked hard to realize her lifelong dream, to run her own restaurant in Paris. She's on the cusp and then in just one night, she loses it all: her lover Chef Michel,

her sous-chef position, and her sense of taste. Devastated, she's surprised by an invitation from her estranged mother Star, a hippie living on a small island near Seattle. With nothing left for her or her dream in Paris, she accepts, and then... you can see where it's going to go but the joy here is to be immersed in food including a recipe or two. Yum.

Link, Kelly. [The Book of Love](#) (Random \$31). Library Reads recommends: "Three teens are newly back from the dead. Endowed with mysterious magical powers, they have to figure out how they died and what to do to keep from returning to the world of the dead. A huge cast of characters from the underworld and from their cute New England seaside town help (and hinder) them. This romantic, sexy, funny, and queer novel is recommended for readers who enjoy mythology and magical hijinks."

Orange Hippo! [The Little Book of Love](#) (Wellbeck \$8.95). From Shakespeare's sonnets to today's romcoms, Enlightenment philosophy to the latest Nicholas Sparks novel, has any other topic inspired such beauty—in art, literature, poetry or music—than that of love? Here is a complication of a whole host of poignant and inspiring reflections on love, as well as some of the most famous, endearing and enduring declarations of love ever spoken.

Stein, Charlotte. [When Grumpy Met Sunshine](#) (St. Martin's Griffin \$18). "When Mabel meets ex-footballer Alfie to discuss ghostwriting his memoirs, it doesn't go well. After he convinces her to work with him, the press gets involved, and they decide to pretend to be a couple. Filled with playful banter, embarrassing mishaps, and believable, respectful relationship building, this is great rom-com."

Williams, Tia. [A Love Song for Ricki Wilde](#) (Grand Central \$29). Another recommendation by librarians nationwide: "Ricki has been given an opportunity to achieve her dreams. Ezra is looking for an opportunity to be himself. They were destined to meet! With flashbacks to the Harlem Renaissance, this entertaining read is both modern and classic and does not disappoint. (Do yourself a favor and play some jazz in the background while reading.)"

And for those who love games, especially with a nostalgic vibe:

[Monopoly Scottsdale Edition](#) (\$44.99). The couple that plays together, stays together.... why not tackle this popular game reimagined for Scottsdale?

SOME FEBRUARY HARDCOVERS

Armstrong, Kelley. [The Boy Who Cried Bear](#) (St Martins \$28). If you are a fan of the locked-village thrillers set in the Yukon by Armstrong, this continuation is for you. When the remote Yukon village of Rockton disbands, Sheriff Eric Dalton and Detective Casey Duncan vow to continue its mission of offering protection to people who need to disappear for a while. Now they serve as de facto managers of Haven's Rock, an equally protective shelter whose residents they carefully vet with the help of Émilie, a shadowy benefactor with deep roots in the intelligence community. One change the couple adopts is to open Haven's Rock to families as well as individuals. That's how Dana and her sons, Carson and Max, join the community after the U.S. witness protection program failed to prevent her husband from being killed. And now Max has disappeared. Is there a bear in the forest? Or...?

☒ Beaton, M C. [Death of a Spy](#) (Grand Central \$28). Sergeant Hamish Macbeth faces a string of mysterious robberies that are only the beginning of an international threat to his sleepy Scottish village of Lochdubh. This series is continuing under RW Green, as is Agatha Raisin.

Collins, Sarah-Jane. [Radiant Heat](#) (Penguin \$27). The wildfire that devastated the Victoria countryside Alison calls home sets in motion a chain of events that threatens to obliterate the carefully constructed life she is living. She spots a soot-covered cherry red car in her driveway, and in it, a dead woman. Alison has never met Simone Arnold in her life . . . or so she thinks. So what is she doing here? As Alison searches for answers across Australia's scorched bush lands, she soon learns that the fire isn't the only threat she's facing. . . . she spots a soot-covered cherry red car in her driveway, and in it, a dead woman. Alison has never met Simone Arnold in her life . . . or so she thinks. So what is she doing here? As Alison searches for answers across Australia's scorched bushlands, she soon learns that the fire isn't the only threat she's facing. . . .

De la Motte, Anders. [The Mountain King](#) (Atria \$28.99). This superb Scandinavian noir for fans of Jo Nesbø opens with the disappearance of Smilla Holst and Malik Mansur, a college-age couple who explore abandoned buildings in southern Sweden. Leonore Asker, head of the Serious Crime Command in Skåne, is dismayed when national bigwig detective Jonas Hellman arrives from Stockholm to assist her. Their affair ended when Asker reported Hellman for misconduct. After Hellman arrives, she's swiftly demoted to manage a team of "HR nightmares" in the Resources Unit—better-known as "the Department of Orphaned Cases and Lost Souls"—and discovers that her new team has been working on a seemingly trivial vandalism case involving an extraordinarily detailed model railroad in nearby Hässelholm. As the plot slowly unfolds, that vandalism becomes key to discovering what happened to the missing college students, and to uncovering several other crimes carried out by a figure who calls himself the Mountain King.

Downing, David. [Union Station](#) (Soho \$27.95). Downing's WWII series titled after Berlin railroad stations featured English journalist John Russell who found himself trapped as a reluctant spy for the Soviets and American intelligence. Now it's 1953 and Russell and his family including wife actress Effi and adopted daughter Rosa are in Los Angeles where Effi has a starring role in a sitcom. Russell has just begun work on a book investigating American firms that continued doing business with Germany during Nazi occupation. Then he notices someone is tailing him. Has someone not taken kindly to his research? Or could it be that the deal Russell struck all those years ago has left him with unfinished business? The answer may lie in Berlin, where John and Effi decide to return for the Third Annual Berlin International Film Festival. Braving the political disorder of a city that was once their home, the two are thrust into a perilous mission, What I found especially fascinating is Downing's portrayal of the East Germans and the Russians, the CIA and the Communists, all trying to map out a post-war scenario. It's a big cast here.

Golden, Christopher. [The House of Last Resort](#) (St Martins \$29). Putting a new spin on a demonic possession narrative is no easy task, but that's exactly what Golden has done to delight you fans of Horror. The story follows a young American couple, Tommy

and Kate Puglisi, who buy an old house in Becchina, Italy, for a single euro through a special town revitalization initiative. The move seems great — the town is full of flowers and cozy cafes, and it allows them to work from home and enjoy free health care. It also gives Tommy the opportunity to reconnect with his grandparents, who live in Italy, and whom Tommy's father stopped visiting for reasons that were never clear. This novel shines. Golden's frenzied tale of demons and exorcisms is fast-paced, his portrayal of the insidiousness of possession is unsettling and it all comes together in a thrilling closing act."—*NY Times*

Frick, Kit. [The Split](#) (Atria \$27)."Plain" Jane Connor has returned to her Connecticut hometown to spend time with her mother, now living in an assisted-living facility. Jane and her younger, enigmatic sister Esme have never had a close relationship, but when Esme, in Manhattan, calls for help on a fateful night, Jane faces a life-changing decision: whether or not to drive to her sister's rescue in a storm that conjures traumatic memories of her past. And thus, the story is split in two, where separate plotlines lay out the consequences of each decision. In one reality, Esme returns to their childhood home with Jane, and tensions are thick from Esme's furtive goings-on. In the other, Jane is deterred by the storm, and soon after Esme goes missing. In both, Jane attempts to understand her sister by untangling the intricacies of Esme's life while bringing family secrets to light. "This is two thrillers in one, and YA thriller author Frick, making her adult debut, expertly demonstrates how one decision can change a life, and how, despite those decisions, some things, and some people, remain the same."—*LJ*

Grippando, James. [Goodbye Girl](#) (Harper \$30). The longtime author/attorney gets a review from [Oline Cogdill](#): "*Goodbye Girl* revolves around piracy — not the kind of pirates who sail the high seas, robbing ships of treasure. Instead, Grippando builds on digital pirates — those who illegally download music, films and more, robbing artists and companies of profits. Grippando then delves into the current saga of who owns that entertainment property. Enter Miami criminal attorney Jack Swytek, whose 18th outing has him wading into this contentious situation that has global repercussions. The case spirals into a war between ex-spouses, an unsolved murder and myriad issues surrounding piracy. An evocative sense of place permeates as Grippando, who lives in South Florida, takes the plot to several Florida locales, then seamlessly moves the story to London and Russia. The debate over intellectual property makes terrific fodder for a thriller, having been in the news, especially involving Taylor Swift and Scooter Braun. Grippando, a trial lawyer who was involved in the lawsuit for ownership of EMI Records, brings a sense of realism to his story."

Hannah, Kristin. [The Women](#) (St Martins \$30). Women can be heroes. When nursing student Frances McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But it's 1965 and she suddenly dares to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path. As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is over-whelmed by the chaos and destruction of war. Each day is a

gamble at war. She meets—and becomes one of—the lucky, the brave, the broken, and the lost. But war is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies in coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam. *The Women* is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and have too often been forgotten.

Hollander, Jenny. [Everyone Who Can Forgive Me Is Dead](#) (St Martins \$28). This debut's story arises from horrible events at Charlie Colbert's elite graduate school. Charlie, a "witness" who still can't grasp what happened, fled and has rebuilt her life as editor-in-chief of a major magazine and fiancée to Tripp, the wealthy heir of a NY publishing dynasty. Then one of the other students involved in the bloody scene that Christmas Eve decides to make a film adaptation of the events. Charlie sees the threat it brings to her world as her memories surge back—did she do it? And how far will she go to kill the film and...?

Jayatissa, Amanda. [Island Witch](#) (Berkley \$28). Set in 19th century Sri Lanka and inspired by local folklore, the daughter of a traditional demon-priest—relentlessly bullied by peers and accused of witchcraft herself—tries to solve the mysterious attacks that have been terrorizing her coastal village.

Kahler, Abbott. [Where You End](#) (Holt \$27.99). I mention this one again because the medical stuff and the concept are nifty. "Kat and Jude Bird are "mirror image twins" — one is right-handed and the other left-handed, for instance — and unusually close. 'No one but identical twins begin life as the same exact person, and only mirror twins cleave together as long as nature will allow, parting almost reluctantly in the womb,' Kat thinks. When Kat lapses into a coma after an accident, Jude intuits that her sister's consciousness is receding, in a "slow chalkboard erasing of people and places and events." When Kat wakes up with no memory of the past, it's up to Jude to fill in the blanks. "Only I can remake her," she thinks. But why does Jude's account seem so fake? The book is exquisitely written and you'll ache for the sisters, despite their extreme behavior and a plot that sometimes wanders off the road and into the woods. Kat and Jude are a mesmerizing pair. Do they have a secret language, and can they slip into each other's identities? Yes they do, and yes they can."—*NY Times Book Review*

Kashiwai, Hisashi. [The Kamogawa Food Detectives](#) (Penguin \$25). "Each chapter of this outstanding novel (Kashiwai's first to be translated into English) begins with a different character—a policeman, a politician, a piano teacher, an entrepreneur, a housewife, and a restaurateur's ex-wife—wandering the side streets of Kyoto to find the mysterious and hidden Kawogawa restaurant, which doubles as an agency for "food detectives." Visitors to the agency express their longing to taste a specific dish from their past. Putting together scant clues and partial memories, it is up to retired policeman and now master chef Nagare Kawogawa and his daughter Koishi to search out and successfully recreate the meal. What ensues is a culinary and cultural exploration of Japanese cuisine. The novel includes mouthwatering descriptions of food as well as a nuanced description of life in Japan. There's also a restaurant cat named Drowsy who inserts himself into the mix. Readers will take delight in Kashiwai's exquisite meals and the culinary history that accompanies them."—*LJ Starred Review*.

Landau, A.J. [Leave No Trace: A National Parks Thriller](#) (St Martins \$28). This isn't Nevada Barr but it is a series start visiting national parks. When a powerful explosion engulfs Liberty Island. National Park Service agent Michael Walker is sent to NYC to take charge of the emergency. On the scene, he gets a hostile reaction from the FBI's Gina Delgado, who's heading the Joint Terrorism Task Force. Amidst the mayhem, Walker finds a shaken and wounded kid, Danny, who tells him about the strange boat he saw before the explosion. Despite their awkward first meeting, Walker and Delgado must work together to thwart what is a domestic terrorism plot that is audacious, and disastrous, in scope. This is only Act One.

⌘ Larsen, Samantha. [Once Upon a Murder](#) (Crooked Lane \$31.99). 1784 England. Officially hired as the librarian for the Duchess of Beaufort, Miss Tiffany Woodall is through with masquerades and murders for good. That is, until she stumbles upon the frozen dead body of former footman Mr. Bernard Coram. The speed with which her peaceful new life is upended is one for the record books: the justice of the peace immediately declares her the primary suspect in the murder. As Tiffany hunts for the truth to clear her name, she learns that Bernard got into a fight over a woman at the local pub the night of his death—but he was also overheard blackmailing Samir. The justice of the peace arrests Samir, and Tiffany realizes that her life may have more in common with a tragic play than a light-hearted romance. I loved Tiffany's first appearance and here again we get an "An admirable cross between a thorny mystery and a love story, with plenty of historical tidbits."

McLaughlin, MA. [The Lost Dresses of Italy](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99). McLaughlin captures the essence of famed Victorian poet, Christina Rossetti and her family in this dual timeline mystery that is full of intrigue, fashion, art and passion all within the scenic backdrop of Verona. Within the dual-framing between Victorian-era poet Christina Rossetti (1864) and Marianne, a 1940s textile expert, McLaughlin weaves an intricate tapestry of secrets and family losses among fabrics and a mysterious casket. As Marianne faces suspicion and the possibility of new love, she must unravel messages entrusted to her from the past. A delicious, curl-up-by-the-fire read." —C.W. Gortner

Orange, Tommy. [Wandering Stars](#) (Knopf \$29). Library Reads again: "Orange's second novel depicts over a century's worth of atrocities against the indigenous people of America, while also being a multigenerational family story full of the richly drawn, fascinating characters first introduced in *There There*."

⌘ Paris, B.A. [The Guest](#) (St Martins \$29). Paris' debut in [Behind Closed Doors](#) (\$17.99) was a spectacular example of the domestic thriller. I loved it. Now here she is with a new one that is less engaging, in part because there's no one to like. Iris and Gabriel have just arrived home in the village from a make-or-break holiday. But a shock awaits them. One of their closest friends, Laure, is in their house. Laure has walked out from Paris on her husband—and their good friend—Pierre, over his confession of an affair and a secret child. Iris and Gabriel want to be supportive, but Laure oversteps again and again: sleeping in their bed, wearing Iris' clothes, even rearranging the furniture. (Why put up with this?). Iris and Gabriel's only respite comes in the form of a couple new to town. But with them comes their gardener, who has a checkered past. Soon, secrets from all their pasts will

(dangerously) unravel and a shocker of an ending will...shock.

Quindlen, Anna. [After Annie](#) (Random \$30) depicts the aftermath of grief following the unexpected death of Annie, told through the eyes of husband Bill, 13-year-old daughter, Ali, and best friend, Annemarie. Written with Quindlen's trademark unsparing yet tender storytelling, the novel lets readers see into the hearts of these characters as they deal with the day-to-day realities of surviving life minus the person they most loved.

Redman, Eric. [Death in Hilo](#) (Crooked Lane \$30.99). Honolulu cop Major Kawika Wong, first met in [Bones of Hilo](#) (\$18.99), is juggling grisly cases past and present. When a serial killer nicknamed the Kapi'olani Park Slasher kills five locals seemingly at random and dumps their bodies in Kapi'olani Park, Wong shirks his traditional supervisor role to investigate. The discovery of a sixth body in Kapi'olani with its head and hands missing—distinguishing it from the earlier corpses—leads Wong to consider the possibility of a copycat killer. Then there is renewed public scrutiny of a high-profile case Wong solved 12 years earlier as pressure mounts to catch the Slasher. “Redman juggles the plotlines nimbly, creating palpable stakes for Wong while keeping readers guessing about the truth behind each slaying. Fans of Naomi Hirahara's Leilani Santiago Hawai'i Mysteries should give this a spin.”

✦ Schillace, Brandy. [The Framed Women of Ardemore House](#) (Hanover Square \$30). An autistic book editor stumbles into a murder mystery while attempting to claim her inheritance in this wonderful series launch from historian Schillace. After her mother dies, New York City's Josephine Jones heads to England to take possession of her family's long-abandoned country estate. Following a divorce and a devastating job loss, Jo plans to restore the property and start a new life. When she arrives, however, she finds caretaker Sid Randles dead in his cottage on the property. A short time later, she discovers a strange portrait of a woman who resembles one of her ancestors hidden in the main house's attic that subsequently goes missing. She reports both incidents, but the locals are skeptical of Jo's outsider status and insensitive to her autism. Teaming up with an antiques dealer and an innkeeper's wife whom she meets in town, Jo sets out to clear her name, and find the killer and the thief before they strike again. Schillace, who's autistic herself, draws a marvelously believable heroine in Jo, and sets her up with an expertly constructed mystery which is **our February British Crime Club Book of the Month** for all those reasons and more including just fun.

Tate, Reshonda. [The Queen of Sugar Hill](#) (Harper \$30). A novel about Hattie McDaniel, the first Black person to win an Oscar... for her role in *Gone with the Wind*. An excellent read for Black History Month.

ROMANTASY AND MORE

Bennett, Robert Jackson. [The Tainted Cup](#) (Del Rey \$28.99). “In a world where leviathan blood allows people to acquire amazing abilities, a brilliant investigator, Ana, and her sidekick in training, an ‘engraver’ named Din capable of recalling details with amazing accuracy, work together to uncover the culprit behind the grisly death of a wealthy official. This hugely enjoyable fantasy and mystery blend” is right on trend....

Bond, Gwenda. [The Frame Up](#) (Del Rey \$18). From the bestselling author of *Stranger Things: Suspicious Minds* comes the story of Dani Poissant, the daughter and former accomplice of the world's most famous art thief. There was no job too big for Maria and her loyal crew. The secret to their success? A little thing called magic, kept rigorously secret from the non-magical world. They seemed unstoppable... until a teenage Dani turned her mother over to the FBI. Now, ten years later, with Maria still in prison, Dani finds herself approached for a job that only Maria and her crew could pull off... if any of them were still speaking to her. But it's the job of a lifetime and might just be the lure Dani needs to reconcile with her mother and be reunited with her mother's old gang.

✦ Bristow, Su. [The Fair Folk](#) (Europa \$18). Travel to a failing English farm in the 1960s, where Felicity finds herself drawn to the woods and the creatures within who possess dangerous magic. In recompense for a tragedy, their queen, Elfrida, offers her a gift, but it will not be until later—after Felicity has left her old life behind—that her sinister designs are revealed and old family secrets come to light. Interwoven with traditional stories, Bristow once again proves that she is a voice to be reckoned with in the canon of literary folklore. “The wonders of nature are exquisitely sketched in this cautionary tale about the danger of striking bargains with spirits.” —*Kirkus Reviews*. “A Faustian, tender *bildungsroman* mixed with an origin story about the fair folk. ...rendered poetic in Bristow's quiet but moving words.” —*Booklist*

Fawcett, Heather. [Emily Wilde's Map of the Otherlands](#) (Random House Worlds \$28). Emily Wilde is a genius scholar of faerie folklore who just wrote the world's first comprehensive encyclopaedia of faeries. She's learned many of the secrets of the Hidden Ones on her adventures... and also from her fellow scholar and former rival Wendell Bumbleby. Because Bumbleby is more than infuriatingly charming. He's an exiled faerie king on the run from his murderous mother and in search of a door back to his realm. When mysterious faeries from other realms appear at her university, curmudgeonly professor Emily must uncover their secrets before it's too late

Jensen, Danielle L. [A Fate Inked in Blood](#) (Del Rey \$29.99). Library Reads recommends: “We're all used to the Viking stories that center around men. This story features Freya, who has to marry a fanatical chieftain to protect her family and her land. She's been blessed with magical powers, and it's been foretold that she'll be the one to unite the kingdoms. This is a great start to a new series that will appeal to everyone who enjoys nonstop action with a strong female warrior and a steamy love story to boot.”

Kemmerer, Brigid. [Destroy the Day](#) (Bloomsbury \$20.99). A YA trilogy comes to an end. See Signed books for more.

Klune, T.J. [Heartsong](#) (Tor \$29.99). Robbie Fontaine, seeking belonging after his mother's death, finds solace in the Caswell, Maine wolf stronghold. As the trusted second to Alpha Michelle Hughes, he learns the true meaning of pack and home. However, a mission raises doubts, unraveling whispers of traitorous wolves and wild magic. Among them is Kelly Bennett, possibly Robbie's mate.

Walker, Joss. [The Prophecy of Wind](#) (Two Tales Press \$25). Jayne Thorne, CIA Librarian and secret operative, thought finding her father would solve everything. She couldn't have been more mistaken! See Signed Books for more and for the first three Jayne Thorne fantastic adventures.

COZIES

Bolton, Ginger. [Double Grudge Donuts](#) (Kensington \$17.95). Baker Emily Westhill has been looking forward to the Fallingbrook Arts Festival. The entertaining open-air presentations throughout the village also draw extra traffic to her shop, Deputy Donut, where she offers elaborately decorated treats. Emily's parents serve as judges, so they're staying with her in town instead of at the local campground, where they usually park their RV when they're not in Florida. But on Musical Monday, bagpiper Kirk MacLean begins interrupting other performers. It gets worse. By Wednesday, he's dead in Emily's parking lot. Who punked the piper?

Crawford, Isis. [A Catered Quilting Bee](#) (Kensington \$27). Quilts, quiet, and delicious food. That's exactly what Bernie and Libby expect as they build the menu for the Sip and Sew Quilting Circle's first-ever exhibition hosted at the local library. The eclectic ladies of the group couldn't appear more harmlessly wholesome if they tried, especially mild-mannered kindergarten teacher Cecilia Larson, who hired A Little of Taste of Heaven to cater the event. So it's a complete shock when disturbing news drops about member Ellen Fisher, found hanging from a plant hook in her otherwise pristine sewing room....

Ferguson, Will & Ian. [I Only Read Murder](#) (Mira \$18.99). A cozy series introduces aging Miranda Abbott, once known for the crime-solving, karate-chopping church pastor she played on network television. She's facing ruin when a mysterious postcard arrives, summoning her to Happy Rock, a small Oregon town in her past. But when she endures a long bus ride there, she's greeted with divorce. In dire straits, she signs up for an amateur production at the Happy Rock Little Theater. On opening night, one of the actors is murdered, live, in front of the audience. But no one actually saw what happened. Clearly, Miranda must summon her skills as Pastor Fran to crack the case. Miranda is over the top so enjoy this if you like broad humor.

George, Emily. [A High Tide Murder](#) (Kensington \$17.95). After her dream of becoming a Parisian pastry chef—and a wife—crashed and burned, Chloe Barnes returned home to the seaside town of Azalea Bay, California and opened a cannabis café. Just as Chloe is musing on how her life has taken a turn for the better, largely because of the success of the cannabis-infused goodies at her new cafe, Baked by Chloe, she finds herself smack in the middle of an investigation of another suspicious death. The police think surfer Aaron Gill took his own life, but Aaron's roommate, Ethan Wilson, isn't so sure. After all, Aaron had been looking forward to competing in the Azalea Bay Pro Challenger Surf Competition and talking with optimism about his future. Chloe's last stab at sleuthing was to protect her Aunt Dawn when the police suspected Dawn of killing an unsavory old acquaintance. Now the neophyte entrepreneur decides to help Ethan, her good friend Matt's younger brother, prove that Aaron was the victim of foul play....

Lewis, Gerri. [The Last Word](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99). A cozy debut led by an amateur sleuth with an unusual job is our

February Cozy Crimes Book of the Month. Winter Snow is no stranger to grief, and writing obituaries for the citizens of Ridgefield, Connecticut, is her way of providing comfort to those who have been in her shoes. But funerals and eulogies are meant for the dead, so when the very much alive Leocadia Arlington requests her own obituary by the end of the week, Winter's curiosity is piqued. Even more so when she finds Mrs. Arlington dead soon after. Officer Kip Michaels and his relentless partner Tom Bellini make it clear that Winter is under suspicion for the death. Our friend author Paula Munier adds, "Who knew the obit business could be so funny—and so dangerous? This cleverly plotted cozy mixes the inevitability of death with the surprise of murder with wit and wisdom and good-old New England know-how. Obituary writer Winter Snow is a character readers will want to come back to again and again... a wonderful debut!"

✦ Miller, C L. [The Antique Hunter's Guide to Murder](#) (Atria \$27.99). Britain's Miller enters the cozy-mystery arena with this offering set amid the illegal antiques market. Freya Lockwood, feeling at loose ends with her life, is suddenly summoned by her Aunt Carole back to the quaint English village where she grew up. Arthur Crockleford, antiques dealer and Freya's former mentor, has died under mysterious circumstances. His murder sends an unconfident Freya back to her long-abandoned career as an investigator. A trail of clues left by Arthur leads Freya and Carole to an old manor house filled with antiques and populated by various mysterious guests, all of them with hidden agendas and exuding varying degrees of menace. The author, daughter of Judith Miller (*Miller's Antique Price Guide*), draws on her own knowledge of antiques to develop the backdrop of the mystery.

Pandian, Gigi. [The Raven Thief](#) (\$19). Tempest Raj returns in a story where sliding bookcases, trick tables, and hidden reading nooks hide something much more sinister than the Secret Staircase Construction crew ever imagined. In her modern take on a Golden Age Mystery, and one highlighting a diverse cast of characters, Pandian's sequel to [Under Lock and Skeleton Key](#) (\$9.99), the first in her Secret Staircase Mysteries, presents a classic locked-room mystery built around a séance and a series of suspects, each with secrets to hide.

Rue, Gretchen. [A Pie to Die For](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99). Este March runs the family-owned Lucky Pie Diner on Split Pine Island in Northern Michigan. The pies at Lucky Pie are magical, from a family recipe that grants certain customers their greatest hopes and dreams when they eat the pie. The remote island is closed to outsiders over the winter months, but on the last day of the season, the unpopular new produce vendor, Jeff, turns up dead on his boat, and Split Pine Island's peace goes up in smoke. Tom Cunningham, the local sheriff, casts suspicion onto Este, who may have been the last person to see Jeff alive. Este decides to clear her name and her diner's reputation, which means she must turn suspicion on her friends and neighbors—only a local could have murdered the victim.

✦ Winters, Mary. [Murder in Masquerade](#) (Penguin \$18). Lady Agony is actually Amelia, Lady Amesbury, a widow who shares a close friendship and maybe more with her late husband's best friend, Simon, Lord Bainbridge. His sister, Lady Marielle, is thinking of eloping to Gretna Green with a man her family strongly disapproves of. Simon has excellent reasons to dislike their former stable manager, George Davies, but he can't get

Marielle to see sense. So Amelia and Simon go to the opera to keep an eye on Marielle, who's attending with George. After an evening of ticklish conversation, George vanishes, and the three find him in a nearby alley, stabbed to death. Clearly, Amelia and Simon must solve the murder if Simon is to regain his sister's respect. Lesa adds, "The follow-up to 2024 Mary Higgins Clark Award nominee [Murder in Postscript](#) (\$17) emphasizes Victorian social customs and society.

A CLASSIC

✦ Fleming, Ian. [The Spy Who Loved Me](#) (\$18.99). Vivienne Michel, a precocious French Canadian raised in the United Kingdom, travels into the pine forests of the Adirondacks. After stopping at the Dreamy Pines Motor Court and being coerced into caretaking at the vacant motel for the night, Viv opens the door to two armed mobsters. Then a third stranger arrives. James Bond, still reeling in the wake of Operation Thunderball, had planned for his jaunt through the Adirondacks to relax. But that all changes when 007's tire goes flat outside the motel.... This story is told from Vivienne's perspective, not Bond's.

OUR FEBRUARY LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Black, Cara. [Night Flight to Paris](#) (\$16.95). Set in 1942, bestseller Black's stirring sequel to 2020's [Three Hours in Paris](#) (\$16.95) finds American markswoman Kate Rees in the Scottish Highlands, serving as a rifle/sniper instructor. Kate receives orders to undertake a dangerous mission to Paris. She must disguise herself as a Red Cross nurse to foil the German occupiers who hunted her after her failed attempt to assassinate Hitler in Paris in the previous book. Kate knows only a fraction of the plans at first, but eventually learns that she must assassinate a high-ranking German official and rescue a British agent who once saved her life. Meanwhile, Kate still obsesses about killing Hitler and mourns her husband and daughter, who were killed during a German U-boat attack in the Orkneys early in the war. And also about a lover who may have been concealing a secret. Black vividly evokes the sights, sounds, and smells of Paris under Nazi occupation. She signs her new Aimee LeDuc Paris mystery [Murder at La Villette](#) (Soho \$27.95) here on Sunday March 3 at 2:00 PM.

✦ Crombie, Deborah. [A Killing of Innocents](#) (\$18.99). The Yard's Detective Superintendent Duncan Kincaid and Detective Inspector Gemma James are called to Russell Square, where Sasha Johnson, a trainee doctor at Thomas Coram Hospital, lies dead, stabbed in the chest. The victim's assailant acted swiftly and efficiently, fading away into the crowd before even Sasha realized she'd been mortally stabbed. The stakes rise after the nurse in charge of Sasha's ward at the hospital is fatally stabbed in Soho Square. What's the connection between the two murders? Crombie provides an excellent gallery of suspects and motives amid entertaining interplay, including some friction, among the members of the squad who pursue various threads of a complex investigation. The excellent map of part of London is a plus.

Hamilton, Ian. [The Fury of Beijing](#) (House of Anansi \$16.99). Still reeling from the brutal murder of her close associates Lau Lau and Chen, Ava Lee embarks on a quest for revenge that takes her from Toronto to Los Angeles to Beijing. Along the way, Ava is aided by some familiar faces and old comrades-in-arms, including Sonny Kwon, Jimmy Li, Lop, and Xu, the mountain master of Shanghai. The search leads first to Ava's old opponent,

Mo, the chairman of the China Movie Syndicate, and then to a shadowy figure at the very top of the Chinese Security Service—the man who gave the order to kill her friends. Events reach a deadly climax in front of the Tianqiao Theatre in Beijing, but exacting her revenge is only half the battle—getting out of China alive is another matter entirely....

Harper, Jane. [Exiles](#) (\$18.99) brings back Federal Agent Aaron Falk of [The Dry](#) (\$16.99) and [Force of Nature](#) (\$18.99) who is summoned to wine country for the christening of a fellow investigator's baby. It's also the one-year anniversary of the disappearance of Kim Gillespie, a mother who was with her baby at the small town's annual festival when she vanished, leaving the sleeping child behind. Falk is plunged into Kim's close circle of family and friends while the local law, on vacation when she disappeared, ramps up the search and Falk's old buddy Raco who invited him to the christening can't leave the case alone. We are deep in Southern Australia (Harper again obligingly tours us around her country) in a lush valley, such a contrast to the landscape of *The Dry*.

Hurwitz, Gregg. [The Last Orphan](#) (\$12). Having eliminated most of the Orphans in the program, the government will stop at nothing to eliminate the threat they see in Evan Smoak. But Orphan X has always been several steps ahead of his pursuers. Until he makes one little mistake.... Now the President, the new one, not the one he offed, has him in her control and offers Evan a deal: eliminate a rich, powerful man she says is too dangerous to live and, in turn, she'll let Evan survive. But when Evan left the Program he swore to only use his skills against those who really deserve it. Now he has to decide what's more important—his principles or his life. Or...find a third way.

✦ Lumsden, Katie. [The Secrets of Hartwood Hall](#) (\$18). Initially, this debut would seem to be a classic gothic romance with a remote crumbling manor; a forbidden east wing; an attractive governess with limited resources; a precocious, lovable child; and bumps in the night. Then we meet the sexiest gardener since Lady Chatterley's. Everyone at Hartwood Hall has secrets, which are revealed during the course of this Victorian mystery. Surprise elements such as a feminist perspective and homosexuality add a contemporary slant to the Victorian setting. If Charlotte Brontë were with us today, she might have written this.

Morrison, Boyd/Beth. [The Last True Templar](#) (\$16.99). In the sequel to this medieval series start [The Lawless Land](#) (\$16.99), brother and sister Morrison produce a second "perilous quest" novel. This time excommunicated English knight Gerard Fox and the resourceful maiden Willa (who rejected a cloistered life for one with Fox) are in Tuscany. It's 1351, the world still terrified by the Black Death. And in a small village where two parties meet to conclude a banking deal, everyone is terrified by a brutal ambush. Everyone but Gerard and Willa who rescue Luciana Corosi, daughter of a man who thought of himself as the Last Templar, a man killed at the public execution of the order's last Grand Master in Paris. Had he concealed the Templars' treasure? Was the key one Luciana could decipher if she worked out that her husband is the very man who murdered her father? So, think Dan Brown crossed with Clive Cussler many centuries ago in well researched adventures.

Perry, Thomas. [Murder Book](#) (\$16.95). Harry Duncan, a cop turned private detective who's been tasked by a U.S. attorney —

his ex-wife, as it happens — to investigate a brutal Midwestern crime ring. Though the job begins with a touch of humor when Harry epoxies the criminals' guns to the dashboard and windows of their car, things quickly turn violent along their trail in Indiana small towns. The concept is slow burn, Perry is assured but sneaky as he develops momentum, and definitely surges to a splendid conclusion. *Murder Book* offers a master class in the craft of suspense. I add that the use of bird calls is unexpected and truly fabulous.

✦ Raybourn, Deanna. [A Sinister Revenge](#) (\$18). Set in 1889, unconventional lepidopterist Veronica Speedwell has been traveling with Viscount Tiberius Templeton-Vane for the summer—she's estranged from her lover the Viscount's brother, Revelstoke. When they reach Bavaria where sightings of a monstrous wolf man burgeon, she knows they have found Stoker. He's still sulking. Meanwhile Tiberius has recently received two newspaper clippings describing the deaths of two dead men who were part of the Seven Sinners, as was Tiberius at Cambridge University. One, Lorenzo d'Ambrogio, had died years ago in a storm after uncovering the complete fossilized skeleton of a new species of dinosaur at the Templeton-Vane Cliffside estate. Though Tiberius believed the death an accident, the new murders have led him to reconsider. The trio returns to England to protect him Tiberius and investigate. As ever in the fabulous series, superior prose matches the clever plot and a deep dive into female empowerment, or its lack. I found the solution to this one wrenching.

You can preorder now a Signed copy of sequel, [A Grave Robbery](#) (Berkley \$28), on sale March 12.

Silva, Daniel. [The Collector](#) (\$19.99). Art restorer Gabriel Allon is leveraged out of Venice, operating again in the world of international espionage and action, drawing in characters you have missed from his past. It begins with an art heist that propels Gabriel into joining forces with a brilliant and beautiful master-thief to track down the world's most valuable missing painting. Significant action shifts to Denmark and soon we're in a desperate race to prevent an unthinkable conflict between Russia and the West. I point out that for Silva, Russia has always been the enemy in his sights.

Slocumb, Brendan. [Symphony of Secrets](#) (\$18). In 1936, composer Frederick Delaney's reputation is in tatters after the premiere of RED, last in a cycle of operas inspired by the five colored circles in the Olympics flag. Why were his earlier pieces so eloquent and this one so bad? Now, musicologist Bern Hendricks receives an email from the Delaney Foundation (which has supported hundreds of poor children with musical talent, including him), asking Bern to work on a newly discovered manuscript of RED, richer and fuller than the hack version presented in 1936. He is to prepare it for performance. But Delaney's notation system—Delaney Doodles—is indecipherable. And what does the annotation JaR stand for? Aided by computer whiz Eboni, Bern cracks the code and they're off on a wild ride. By the end, it's a case of murder"...and creative work appropriation."

In its way, this is a kind of *The DaVinci Code*, but the plot also heralds the burgeoning debate about AI for creatives. Slocumb is clearly interested in heists and frauds as evidenced in his gorgeous debut [The Violin Conspiracy](#) (\$17), a 2022 First Mystery Book of the Month.

Thor, Brad. [Rising Tiger](#) (\$17.99). Thor takes it to Russia as an evil actor but the main theater here is the Ukraine. In its war-ravaged borderlands, a Russian military unit has gone rogue. Its members, conscripted from the worst prisons and mental asylums across Russia, are the most criminally violent, psychologically dangerous combatants to ever set foot upon the modern battlefield. When multiple American aid workers are killed, the lethal Scot Harvath is sent in to settle the score. But in a country almost the size of Texas, will he be able to execute his mission?

FEBRUARY LARGE PAPERBACKS

✦ Archer, Jeffrey. [Next in Line](#) (\$18.99). London, 1988. Detective Chief Inspector William Warwick and his Scotland Yard squad are sent in to investigate the elite Royalty Protection Command, and its commanding officer, as Royal fever sweeps the nation as Britain falls in love with Princess Diana.

Banville, John. [Doctor Copernicus](#); [Kepler](#) (Hanover House \$18.99 each). Two earlier historical novels, each focused on a major European scholar, are reissued.

Beaumont, Jack. [Dark Arena: A Frenchman Novel](#) (Blackstone \$17.99). Alec de Payns, espionage operative of the Y Division of the DGSE, France's famed foreign intelligence service, is tasked with tracking down an agent of influence sending highly classified material against the Kremlin to embassies all over Europe. A deadly conspiracy is aligning the West against Russia. But who is behind it? And to what end? The clues lead to a secret meeting of businessmen, terrorists, and mercenaries on a luxury yacht in the Mediterranean, which de Payns must infiltrate. What he discovers sets off a Europe-wide manhunt...

Benn, James R. [The Refusal Camp](#) (\$16.95) presents an eclectic mix of new and previously published mystery stories rife with historical detail and riveting wartime storytelling that goes beyond the range of Benn's superb WWII Billy Boyle thrillers.

Bowen, Rhys/Clare Broyles. [All That is Hidden](#) (\$18). New York, Autumn, 1907: Former private detective Molly Murphy Sullivan is happy with her place in the world. She and her policeman husband, Daniel, have built quite a life for themselves in Greenwich Village. So why would Daniel announce they're moving to a fancy home on Fifth Avenue—and that he's running for the sheriff of New York? On the Tammany Hall (corrupt) ticket? Molly is left reeling. But they make the move. And then...

Brooks, Geraldine. [Horse](#) (\$19). "Every character is carefully and believably explored, including Lexington, the horse, an excellent racehorse and one of the best sires, ever, whose closest relationship is with his enslaved caretaker and exercise rider, whose insights into Lexington are spectacular. There is plenty of drama, given the era (1850s), but Brooks handles it perfectly. She also reveals a lot about racing art and biological science. Best horse book I've ever read, including all of my own." —Jane Smiley

Cambridge, Colleen. [Mastering the Art of French Murder](#) (\$17.95). The first in a new series that blends history, mystery and food pairs a fictional amateur sleuth with Julia Child for a murder investigation in postwar Paris. The night after Child's sister, Dort, hosts a party at Child's apartment, a guest is found dead in the basement—and the murder weapon is one of Child's knives. Tabitha Knight, a hopeless cook and fellow American expat who's befriended Child in hopes some of her culinary

skills might rub off on her, takes interest in the crime. Tabitha's investigation leads her to a local English-language theater where Dort worked with the victim, and where most of the suspects are rehearsing an Agatha Christie play. While Tabitha serves as a competent narrator for this spry, sturdy whodunit, Cambridge captures Child's distinct voice and energy with *joie de vivre*.... Cozy fans as well as historical fiction fans will enjoy this.

Carmen, Christa. [The Daughters of Block Island](#) (\$16.99). By the time attorney Thalia Mills gets a letter from Blake Bronson informing her that Blake is the sister she never knew existed, Blake is already dead. She was found with her wrists slit in White Hall, the venerable B&B/vineyard/winery kept by Aileen Searles, where Blake, a barely recovering abuser of alcohol and opioids, had gone to confront Maureen Mills, the mother who gave her up for adoption soon after her birth and then pretended she'd never been born. In a flashback, Blake falls under the spell of White Hall, which she compares to the haunted settings of *The Castle of Otranto*, *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, and *Rebecca*. When the local cops decide that Blake's apparent suicide was murder and place a suspect under arrest, Thalia determines to retrace Blake's footsteps. The convoluted mystery, in which everyone acts guilty of something because pretty much everyone is, is repeatedly upstaged by what Carmen, in an unusually candid and illuminating afterword, calls her decision to go for 'gothic meta,' compelling both her heroines and her villains to play by the rules of the genre even as they recognize their creaky artifice. Great fun for readers who've done their background reading and want to try a Gothic,"—says *Kirkus Reviews*.

Clark, Jack. [Nobody's Angel](#) (Hard Case Crime \$15.95). Clark originally self-published this slim, sparse, and heartbreaking novel, selling it to passengers in his Chicago taxicab, and apparently autobiographical elements add poignant realism at the cost of emotional resolution. Eddie Miles is shaken when fellow nighttime cabbie Lenny Smigelkowski falls victim to a serial killer. Eddie also discovers Relita, a teen prostitute brutally mutilated and abandoned in an alley. As Eddie mourns Lenny's death and Relita's pain and tries to find their assailants, he ponders other losses as his fares try to abuse, intimidate, and rob him. There's no wasted word or a false note... "[the] crimes add suspense and realism to the novel, but its real beauty lies in Eddie's bittersweet existence and the special romance and danger of the cabdriver's life—lives we often glimpse but rarely give a second thought.—*The Washington Post*

✦ Coombs, Alex. [Murder on the Menu](#) (\$12.99). A British import is something of a cozy that starts a series but I think of it as a village mystery. We're in the Chilterns where Chef Charlie Hunter has bought the Old Forge to fulfill her dream of owning her own restaurant. From the start she's given rough treatment as an outsider and the Forge is pretty much a wreck. Then a local builder who'd bullied her is found dead in suspicious circumstances and Charlie is immediately the obvious suspect. Her allies are her student waitress, her kitchen porter, and her own grim determination to use her kitchen craft to nab the real killer.

Dorsey, Tim. [The Maltese Iguana](#) (\$18.99). I'm sad to say that we have lost Dorsey and his comic voice, so enjoy this last ride with Florida's Serge Storms, the vigilante serial killer. It begins in Honduras where a mishandled CIA operation leads to the death of

the wrong man, and an honest police officer, Yandy Falcón, who witnesses the debacle, realizes he must flee the country to save his life. Yandy winds up in South Florida, where he eventually comes under the protective wing of Serge, who has been having fun leading Serge's Florida Keys Underbelly Spy Tours. At the spectacular climax, Serge drives a tour bus onto an abandoned bridge where an action movie is being filmed....

Everhart, Donna. [When the Jessamine Grows](#) (Kensington \$16.95). **Our copies come with handsome recipe cards designed for this book, one for a dessert (yum) and one for a drink.**

Southern historical fiction set in North Carolina as one woman fights to keep her family neutral as the Civil War looms and blooms while keeping the family farm going despite the deeply divisive conflict.

Goldberg, Lee. [Dream Town](#) (Thomas & Mercer 16.99). LA Sheriff's Department divisive Homicide Detective Eve Ronin, hating the TV series being shot based on her actual life, is called to Hidden Hills, a celebrity private enclave for the mega rich where Kitty Winslow (think Kim Kardashian), star of the huge hit reality show with her family, has been killed in what looks like another Chilean gang burglary—the target, her enormous diamond engagement ring flashed on Instagram. But of course it isn't that simple.... Goldberg, with years of Hollywood and LA experience, enjoys satirizing both along with constructing another zinger of a plot for Eve.

Huber, Anna Lee. [Sisters of Fortune](#) (Kensington \$17.95). A novel based on the true story of a Canadian family, the Fortunes, three of them daughters, who boarded the *RMS Titanic* in April, 1912, and found their lives forever altered.

Johnstone, Carole. [The Blackhouse](#) (Scribner \$17). The scenery is magnificent and the lifestyle in the Hebrides (her island is fiction, but think of Lewis and Harris) fascinating. Who knew that a thriving local industry is making gin from seaweed? And that the beaches and waves are world class? Johnstone uses this wild "thin place" (where the division between this world and the next is porous) to great effect—in what she describes as a Gothic Horror debut.

Koontz, Dean. [After Death](#) (\$16.99). Michael Mace, head of security at a top-secret research facility, opens his eyes in a makeshift morgue twenty-four hours following an event in which everyone perished—including him and his best friend, Shelby Shrewsbury. Having awakened with an extraordinary ability unlike anything he—or anyone else—has ever imagined, Michael is capable of being as elusive as a ghost. He sets out to honor his late friend by helping Nina Dozier and her son, John, whom Shelby greatly admired. Although what Michael does for Nina is life changing, his actions also evoke the wrath of John's father, a member of one of the most violent street gangs in Los Angeles. But an even greater threat is descending: the Internal Security Agency's most vicious assassin, Durand Calaphas.

Littell, Robert. [A Plague on Both Your Houses](#) (Blackstone \$16.99) is the fictional story of one bloody episode in Moscow's Great Turf War, when clans fought brutally in the streets and the future of the Russian nation was anything but assured once Gorbachev delivered a ten-minute televised speech announcing his resignation as Soviet president on Christmas Day, 1991. This

is a thriller but instructive on Vladimir Putin's rise and regime.

✦ Marsh, Beezy. [Queen of Clubs](#) (Harper \$18.99). London, 1957: After rising up against gangland's queen, Alice Diamond, formerly downtrodden Nell is living the perfect life of crime. Far from the East End slums where she was raised, she's now an accomplished professional thief by day—lifting luxury goods from high-end department stores—and a glamorous nightclub owner after dark. Dressed in stolen silks and furs, Nell cuts a dazzling figure in the dimly lit clubs where she calls the shots. But a betrayal and botched robbery suddenly reverse Nell's fortunes...and her old rival Alice is hell-bent on taking her down. Nightclub dancer Zoe is finally earning a living after escaping a poverty-stricken childhood. She'd rather work for Nell than set scores for Alice. But the life of luxury Zoe craves comes at a terrible price. When a vicious gang tightens its grip on Soho, all three women realize it pays to keep your friends close and your enemies closer.

McFadden, Freida. [The Teacher](#) (Sourcebooks \$17.99). Something isn't quite right at Caseham High. More than one person is keeping dangerous secrets. "Eve, a married high school math teacher, has been warned that Addie, a teenage student coping with trauma and alienation from her fellow classmates, could not be trusted. Inappropriate conduct soon occurs. The twists and turns in this psychological thriller will leave the reader with a deep feeling of unease" says Library Reads.

Mo, Corjan. [The Jerusalem Files](#) (Wattpad \$22.95). The authors' thrilling real-life treasure hunt tracing the voyage of the legendary Jewish Menorah from the Jerusalem of the Knights Templar through France, Portugal and North America, providing mind-blowing history and mystery for fans of 'The Curse of Oak Island'. Spoiler alert: founding fathers Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and George Washington helped pave the way. You Douglas Preston fans will want to snap this up.

Mullen, Thomas. [Blind Spots](#) (\$18). Seven years ago, everyone in the world went blind in a matter of months. Technology helped people adjust to the new normal, creating a device that approximates vision, downloading visual data directly to people's brains. But what happens when someone finds a way to hack it and change what people see? Homicide detective Mark Owens has been on the force since before The Blinding. When a scientist is murdered, and the only witness insists the killer was blacked out of her vision, Owens doesn't believe her—until a similar murder happens in front of him...

Patterson, James. [The 23rd Midnight](#) (\$19.99). The Poisoned Pen has a cameo in this 2023 thriller in the Women's Murder Club series.

Quinn, Kate/Janie Chang. [The Phoenix Crown](#) (Harper \$18.99) is our **February Historical Fiction Paperback Book of the Month?** Why? Author Marie Benedicts say it well: "An irresistible proposition for a gifted operatic soprano. The double lives of a talented young Chinese woman and her artist lover. A tenacious, globe-trotting female botanist. The legendary crown of an Empress. The devastating San Francisco earthquake of 1906 and the ensuing rampant, deadly fire. Brilliant authors Kate Quinn and Janie Chang weave these threads together into seamless, page-turning masterpiece of history and suspense — shot through with women rising up from the margins of society to claim their own singular futures."

Royce, Deborah Goodrich. [Reef Road](#) (\$18.99). Lesa reviews: In a nod to the true crime that inspired *Reef Road*, Royce probes unhealed generational scars. In 1948, 12-year-old Noelle Huber was brutally murdered. 72 years later, an obsessed, lonely writer named Noelle (after the murdered girl) stalks Linda Alonso in search of the truth. Noelle is convinced that her namesake was killed by Matthew Huber, her older brother. She latches onto Linda because Linda is Matthew's daughter and inserts herself into Linda's life and befriends her. Linda isn't suspicious until Noelle reveals her ties to the long-ago murder and knows that Linda's husband and children supposedly fly to Argentina, leaving Linda behind—she can't go during the pandemic because she's not an Argentine citizen like her family. Now, Linda is trapped in Palm Beach, FL, her family is AWOL, and she's being stalked by a writer who believes she knows everything. Inspired by an actual murder, this title by actress and author Royce will be appreciated by fans of psychological thrillers and stories of traumas affecting multiple generations.

Seeck, Max. [Ghost Island](#) (Penguin \$18). Jessica Niemi has been on leave from the Helsinki Police Violent Crimes Unit since she had a violent altercation with a man who accosted her outside her psychiatrist's office, where she'd been working through the recent death of her mentor and trying to deal with her lifetime of hallucinations. Jessica has enough money to go anywhere during her enforced vacation time, but she chooses to go to a small inn on a remote Swedish island rumored to be haunted by a young girl's ghost. Astrid Nordin, the owner of the inn, calls her attention to a group of guests—it's the yearly arrival of "the birds of spring," three elderly people who are all that remain of a group who lived at the island's orphanage in 1946. Though she should be focusing on inner peace, Jessica is drawn to investigate what happened all those years ago

Smith, Tom Rob. [Cold People](#) (\$18) is a thriller about an Antarctic colony of global apocalypse survivors. The world has fallen. Without warning, a mysterious and omnipotent force has claimed the planet for its own. There are no negotiations, no demands, no reasons given for their actions. All they have is a message: humanity has thirty days to reach the one place on Earth where they will be allowed to exist...Antarctica. *Cold People* follows the perilous journeys of a handful of those who endure the frantic exodus to the most extreme environment on the planet. But their goal is not merely to survive the present. "A brilliantly conceived postapocalyptic story that tackles a well-worn subject (a desperate race to save humanity) from a new and absolutely captivating angle.

Swanson, Peter. [The Kind Worth Saving](#) (\$18.99). "This isn't exactly a sequel to Swanson's [The Kind Worth Killing](#) (\$18.99), though several of the characters, including the gloriously warped Lily Kintner, reappear here, but it does reprise the same creepy theme: sociopathic spiders and the not-quite-innocent flies they attempt to entrap in their labyrinthine webs (when they aren't trapping one another). Only this time Swanson ups the ante dramatically. . . It isn't so much plot twists that keep the reader reeling here (though there are plenty of those) as it is the growing realization of the horrors lurking within the minds of seemingly ordinary people." — *Booklist* Starred Review. His next book: June, 2024.

✦ Todd, Charles. [The Cliff's Edge](#) (\$18.99). Restless and uncertain of her future in the wake of World War I, former battlefield nurse Bess Crawford agrees to travel to Yorkshire to help a friend of her cousin Melinda through surgery. But circumstances change suddenly when news of a terrible accident reaches them. Bess agrees to go to isolated Scarfdale and the Neville family, where one man has been killed and another gravely injured. The police are asking questions, and Bess is quickly drawn into the fray as two once close families take sides, even as they are forced to remain in the same house until the inquest is completed. When another tragedy strikes, the police are ready to make an arrest. Bess struggles to keep order as tensions rise and shots are fired. What dark truth is behind these deaths? And what about the tale of an older murder—one that doesn't seem to have anything to do with the Nevilles? This book was completed by Caroline and Charles before Caroline suddenly died. Until her estate is settled the future of the two Todd series is in limbo.

Winslow, Don. [City of Dreams](#) (\$18.99), book two in the Danny Ryan Trilogy, maintains the fierce trajectory of its predecessor, [City on Fire](#) (\$18.99). "As before with the prodigiously gifted Winslow, we are presented with a cinematic vision in which the moral equivalence of criminal and police organizations is rigorously counterpointed." — *Financial Times*. Winslow launches the third and last book, [City in Ruins](#) (Morrow \$32), here on March 8 at 7 PM, bookending his first appearance here for [The Trail to Buddha's Mirror](#) (\$16.99), second in the Edgar-nominated Neal Carey series after [A Cool Breeze on the Underground](#) (\$16.99).

✦ Wray, CJ. [The Excitements](#) (Morrow \$19.99). Seniors are the stars "In this irresistible caper where the past comes to bear on nonagenarian British WWII veteran sisters, Penny and Josephine Williamson. As the women prepare to receive yet another award for their service (this time for their help liberating France), their doting gay great-nephew, Archie, whisks them off to Paris, where his former lover happens to be auctioning off a spectacular jewelry collection belonging to the family of Josephine and Penny's childhood neighbors. Old vendettas emerge, and the sisters prepare to pull off a heist to settle some outstanding debts. As that adventure unfolds, Wray fills in the past 90-plus years of Penny and Josephine's lives, making readers privy to secrets that neither sister has dared to share with the other, particularly when it comes to their extracurricular activities during wartime."—*PW Starred Review*

OUR FEBRUARY SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Alexander, Ellie. [A Smoking Bun](#) (St Martins \$9.99). Bakershop #18. While baking up spiced curry buns and chai cookies for a moonlit snowshoe tour, pastry chef turned amateur sleuth Jules Capshaw takes Ramiro's family to the annual Downhill Dummy competition in which murder comes in first and must catch a stone-cold killer before they strike again.

Bentley, Don. [Tom Clancy Flash Point](#) (\$10.99). Jack Ryan Jr. #10. To stop an unseen enemy from destroying the Campus, Jack Ryan Jr. is led to the South China Sea where he must put the pieces of a conspiracy together to stop the world's two remaining super powers from going to war.

Box, CJ. [Storm Watch](#) (\$10.99). When a prominent University of Wyoming professor goes missing, authorities are stumped.

That is, until Game Warden Joe Pickett makes two surprising discoveries while hunting down a wounded elk on his district as an epic spring storm descends upon him....

Foley, Lucy. [The Paris Apartment](#) (\$10.99). Arriving in Paris to stay with her brother Ben, Jess learns that he has gone missing, and to find him, starts digging into his life, realizing even though she has come to the City of Lights to escape her past, it's his future hanging in the balance.

Hepworth, Sally. [The Younger Wife](#) (\$9.99). When their father decides to divorce their mother, who is in a care facility for dementia, so he can marry his young girlfriend Heather, sisters Tully and Rachel must find the truth about their family's secrets, Heather and who their father really is.

Miranda, Megan. [The Girl from Widow Hills](#) (\$10.99). Rendered famous in childhood for her miraculous survival of a dangerous storm, a young woman changes her name and struggles to hide from the media before waking up one evening to find a corpse at her feet.

Sandford, John. [Righteous Prey](#) (\$10.99). Prey #32. When a mysterious vigilante group known only as "The Five" starts targeting the very worst of society, using their unlimited resources to offset the damage done by those they've killed, Lucas Davenport and Virgil Flowers are called in to investigate—and destroy—this virtually untraceable group.

FEBRUARY SMALL PAPERBACKS

Bamford, Emma. [Deep Water](#) (\$10.99). Responding to a rescue call in the Indian Ocean, a Captain discovers a mortally injured man and his traumatized wife who describes how their exotic trip to a tiny, remote island forced her to become a murderer.

Blackhurst, Jenny. [The Summer Girl](#) (Canelo \$9.99). Claire knows her sister Holly didn't send the text message saying she was safe in Martha's Vineyard...but who did? And what happened to Holly?

Brown, Sandra. [Friction](#) (\$10.99). Reissue. Petitioning to regain custody of his young daughter in the aftermath of a reckless decision, a Texas Ranger intervenes during the attempted assassination of an attractive judge who he risks his life to protect when the gunman escapes.

Cahoon, Lynn. [Five Furry Familiars](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Kitchen Witch #5. While dealing with some paranormal pets and her boyfriend Trent's new familiar, catering director at a ski lodge, Mia Malone finds things going downhill when her roommate Christina's ex checks in, and along with him, a murderer.

Campbell, Rick. [Deep Strike](#) (St Martins \$9.99). Trident Deception #6. It's a race against time when the U.S. Atlantic Fleet rushes to stop a rogue submarine from launching a nuclear attack on the Eastern Seaboard of the U.S.

Childs, Laura. [Lemon Curd Killer](#) (\$9.99). Tea Shop #25. When murder takes center stage during Charleston Fashion Week, tea shop entrepreneur Theodosia Browning, implored by the victim's daughter to help find the killer, enters a world of backstabbing business partners, crazed clothing designers, angry film producers and drug deals.

Chow, Jennifer J. [Ill-Fated Fortune](#) (St Martins \$8.99). Magic Fortune Cookie #1. In her family's magical bakery, Felicity Jin

crafts handmade fortune cookies, making her own personalized predictions, but when one customer's ill-fated fortune results in murder, she must find a way to turn her luck around and clear her name.

Coulter, Catherine. [Reckoning: An FBI Thriller](#) (\$9.99). FBI 26. Agent Savich is called in to help a commonwealth attorney put the big-time criminal responsible for her parents' deaths behind bars, while Agent Sherlock is assigned to protect a 12-year-old piano prodigy—and granddaughter of a powerful crime boss—from would-be kidnappers.

Dodd, Christina. [Forget What You Know](#) (\$9.99). Zoey Phoenix is almost killed in a car accident on the same day her mother disappears and must rely on her ex-husband for help in both her recovery and also searching for answers about what happened to her mother.

Downes, Anna. [The Shadow House](#) (\$9.99). Seeking refuge in the rural community of Pine Ridge, single mother Alex uncovers hidden secrets in her new home that sets off a chain of events that places her family in danger.

Flower, Amanda. [Crime and Cherry Pits](#) (Sourcebooks \$8.99). Farm to Table #4. Earning a spot in the National Cherry Festival, Shiloh Bellamy finds her sweet excitement turning sour when a drama professor chokes and dies during the annual cherry pit spitting competition and her cousin Stacey is accused of the crime.

Johansen, Iris. [More Than Meets the Eye](#) (\$10.99). Kendra Michaels #10. When brutal murders with the same signature as serial killer James Michael Barrett mysteriously continue after his death, FBI consultant Kendra Michaels teams up with the only survivor of Barrett's attacks and soon discovers the killer has a terrifying plan that they are only beginning to understand.

Lovering, Carola. [Can't Look Away](#) (\$9.99). Lonely and feeling out of place in their wealthy suburb, Molly, plagued by fertility issues, believes she's finally found a friend in newcomer Sabrina, but soon discovers that this woman's secrets are linked to her own, forcing her to confront an obsessive love from her past.

Lustbader, Eric Van. [The Quantum Solution](#) (\$9.99). Evan Ryder #4. When an elite Russian scientist and the American secretary of defense die, at the same time half a world apart, of inexplicable sudden catastrophic brain damage, intelligence field agent Evan Ryder risks her life to stop a quantum war.

Patterson, James/David Ellis. [Escape](#) (\$10.99). As Chicago PD's special-ops leader, Detective Billy Harney knows well that money is not the only valuable currency. The filthy rich man he's investigating is down to his last twenty million. He's also being held in jail. For now. Then Billy's unit is called in when an escape plan results in officers down and inmates vanished.

Ryan, Sofie. [Fur Love or Money](#) (Penguin \$9.99). Second Chance Cat #11.

When she and her canine companion stumble upon the dead body of a sticky-fingered financial adviser who swindled millions from investors, Sarah Grayson and Charlotte's Angels, the senior citizen sleuths who work out of her secondhand shop, find the fur flying as they try to untangle the truth.

Sanders, Angela M. [Gone with the Witch](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Witch Way Librarian #5. When a fatal turn of events plagues the

town, librarian witch Josie Way asks the spellbound books help, seeking the aid of Sherlock Holmes, but when strange things continue to happen, she wonders if she is dealing with her own Moriarty as she tries to solve this mystery.

Vaughan, Sarah. [Little Disasters](#) (\$10.99). A pediatrician makes unsettling discoveries when her best friend arrives in the emergency room with her infant daughter and a story that does not quite add up.

Wilton, Traci. [Mrs. Morris and the Mermaid](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Salem B & B #8.

With the town overrun by mermaids in preparation for Salem, Massachusetts' newest attraction -mermaid parade, which stars two rival Hollywood actresses—B&B owner Charlene Morris, discovering a dead mermaid, instead finds the spotlight shining on murder.

Woods, Stuart. [Near Miss](#) (\$10.99). Stone Barrington #64. Following a string of adventures, Stone Barrington is enjoying some downtime in New York City when a chance encounter introduces him to a charming new companion. Too bad she also comes with the baggage of persistent ex-boyfriend intent on retribution.