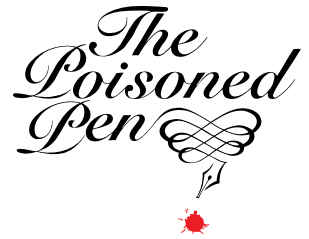


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Opening Hours M-Fri 10 AM-7 PM; Sat 10 AM-6PM; Sun 12-5 PM

Note: Event times are in Pacific Daylight Time

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

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

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.

SATURDAY JUNE 1 2:00 PM Live

Kristan Higgins and Jenn McKinlay

Higgins discusses [Look on the Bright Side](#) (Berkley \$30)

McKinlay discusses [Love at First Book](#) (Berkley \$18) and [Fondant Fumble](#) (Berkley (\$9.99))

TUESDAY JUNE 4 7:00 PM Live

Jacqueline Winspear discusses [The Comfort of Ghosts](#) (Soho \$29.95)

Maisie Dobbs

WEDNESDAY JUNE 5 5:00 PM

Kate Khavari discusses [The Botanist's Guide to Society and Secrets](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99)

Signed books available

WEDNESDAY JUNE 5 7:00 PM Live

Brett Battles discusses [Stuart Woods Smolder](#) (Penguin \$30)

Stone Barrington lives on

THURSDAY JUNE 6 7:00 PM Live

Susan Elia MacNeal discusses [The Last Hope](#) (Ballantine \$29)

The last Maggie Hope

MONDAY JUNE 10 2:00 PM

James Lee Burke with Patrick

Burke discusses [Clete](#) (Grove \$28)

Dave Robicheaux

Signed books available

MONDAY JUNE 10 7:00 PM Live

Alex Finlay discusses [If Something Happens to Me](#) (St Martins \$28)

Our June Crime Book of the Month

TUESDAY JUNE 11 5:00 PM

Steve Berry and Grant Blackwood discuss [Red Star Falling](#) (Grand Central \$30)

A Luke Daniels thriller

Books signed by both available

WEDNESDAY JUNE 12 4:00 PM

John Copenhaver discusses [Hall of Mirrors](#) (Pegasus \$27.95)

McCarthy era serial killer thriller

A novel for Gay Pride Month

Signed books available

WEDNESDAY JUNE 12 7:00 PM Live

Randy Wayne White discusses [One Deadly Eye](#) (Hanover House \$28.99)

Doc Ford returns

THURSDAY JUNE 13 7:00 PM Live

Rob Hart discusses [Assassins Anonymous](#) (Putnam \$28)

Not your typical AA Meetings

SATURDAY JUNE 15 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger discuss Jo Spain's [The Last to Disappear](#) (\$17.99)

MONDAY JUNE 17 7:00 PM Live

Walter Mosley discusses [Farewell, Amethystine](#) (LittleBrown \$29)

1970 Easy Rawlins investigation

TUESDAY JUNE 18 7:00 PM Live

Meg Gardiner discusses [Shadowheart](#) (Blackstone \$27.99)

New in the UNSUB Serial Killer series

WEDNESDAY JUNE 19 5:00 PM

Baron Birtcher discusses [Knife River](#) (Open Road \$19.99)

A 1970s Oregon Sheriff's investigation

WEDNESDAY JUNE 19 7:00 PM Live

Rosalie Lin discusses [Daughter of Calamity](#) (St Martins \$29)

A 1920s Shanghai fantasy debut

THURSDAY JUNE 20 1:00 PM

UK's Robert Lloyd with Phoenix author Karen Odden

Lloyd discusses [The Bedlam Cadaver](#) (\$19.99)

A new 1681 London Hunt and Hooke novel

THURSDAY JUNE 20 7:00 PM Live TICKETED Event

May be sold out by the time you read this so please check
Carley Fortune discusses [This Summer Will Be Different](#) (Berkley \$29)

[Ticket](#) (\$20) includes one copy of the [paperback edition](#)

FRIDAY JUNE 21 7:00 PM Live

Lisa Barr discusses [The Goddess of Warsaw](#) (Harper \$30)

Our June Historical Book of the Month

Also a [paperback edition](#) (\$18.99)

FRIDAY JUNE 21 7:00 PM—Date may change

SciFi Friday discusses Connie Willis' [The Road to Roswell](#) (\$18)

SATURDAY JUNE 22 11:00 AM

The Cookbook Club discusses a "Healthy" cookbook of your choice

Bring it along and a healthy recipe to share as well

SATURDAY JUNE 22 6:00 PM OFFSITE TICKETED EVENT

Jack Carr with Don Bentley

Carr discusses [Red Sky Mourning](#) (Atria \$29.99)

[Ticket](#) (\$33) includes one copy of the book

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

If you can't attend order in the usual way

SUNDAY JUNE 23 2:00 PM Live Book Launch

Paul Doiron discusses [Pitch Dark](#) (St Martins \$29)

Maine Game Warden Mike Bowditch

MONDAY JUNE 24 7:00 PM Live Book Launch

Joseph Kanon discusses [Shanghai](#) (Scribner \$28.99)

A dangerous mid-1930s melting pot

TUESDAY JUNE 25 7:00 PM Live

Mark Greaney discusses [Sentinel](#) (Berkley \$30)

2nd in the Armored series

Jack Stewart discusses [Outlaw](#) (Severn River \$28.99)

2nd in the Battle Born series

WEDNESDAY JUNE 26 5:00 PM

Flynn Berry discusses [Trust Her](#) (Viking \$30)

A Northern Ireland thriller

Signed books available

WEDNESDAY JUNE 26 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime discusses Raymond Chandler's [Farewell My Lovely](#) (\$16)

THURSDAY JUNE 27 7:00 PM Live

Ace Atkins discusses [Don't Let the Devil Ride](#) (Harper \$30)

A new series start

SUNDAY JUNE 30 2:00 PM

Historicon with John

Christina Dodd discusses [A Daughter of Fair Verona](#)

(Kensington \$28)

Liana de la Rosa discusses [Isabel and the Rogue](#) (Penguin \$19)

Dianne Freeman discusses [The Art Lovers Guide to Paris and Murder](#) (Kensington \$27)

Our July Historical Fiction Book of the Month

MONDAY JULY 1 1:00 PM

Lauren Kate discusses [What's in a Kiss](#) (Berkley \$19)

MONDAY JULY 1 4:00 PM

Michael Robotham discusses [Storm Child](#) (Scribner \$28)

Signed UK edition: [Storm Child](#) (Sphere UK \$46)

Psychologist Cyrus Haven

MONDAY JULY 1 5:30 PM

Kathryn Lasky discusses [Mortal Radiance](#) (Severn House \$29.99)

The 2nd Georgia O'Keeffe Mystery

Looking ahead to some live July events:

July 8: Linda Castillo and her Edgars double win party

July 9: Lisa Jewell and Peng Shepherd launch party

July 10: Kimberley McCreight

July 13: Daniel Silva offsite event, free to attend

July 15: T Jefferson Parker launch party

July 16: Joe R. Lansdale (with film clips) launch party

July 18: Bruce Borgos

July 23: Brad Thor in store Ticketed launch party

July 24: David Ellis

OUR JUNE BOOKS OF THE MONTH

We select a book and charge it to you. Free shipping to US Customers.

It's a Book in a Box treat each month. We do ask that you sign up for a minimum of 3 months.

Email Karen@poisonedpen.com to join

British Crime Club One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Lloyd, Ellery. [The Final Act of Juliette Willoughby](#)

Cozy Crimes Club One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Shrager, Rosemary. [Too Many Cooks](#)

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

Finlay, Alex. [If Something Happens to Me](#)

First Mystery Club One Signed First Printing per month
TBA

Hardboiled/Noir Club One Signed First Printing per month
TBA

History/Mystery Club One First Printing per month
Barr, Lisa. [The Goddess of Warsaw](#) (Harper \$30)

Historical Fiction Paperback Club One Unsigned paperback per month

Siegel, Natasha. [The Phoenix Bride](#)

Notable New Fiction One Signed First Printing per month
Loskutoff, Maxim. [Old King](#)

Romance and Relationships One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month
London, Julia. [Nice Work, Nora November](#)

SOME SIGNED BOOKS FOR JUNE

Atkins, Ace. [Don't Let the Devil Ride](#) (Harper \$30). International intrigue and classic P.I. sleuthing combine in this deliciously complex thriller from bestseller Atkins (the Quinn Colson series). Addison McKellar has grown used to her husband Dean's frequent work-related absences, but after several days pass without a word from him, she worries something bad has happened. Though Dean's friends and associates at his Memphis construction firm assure Addison she's overreacting, she follows her father's advice and hires private investigator Porter Hayes. It doesn't take long for the former cop and Vietnam vet to discover that Dean is not the man he claims to be, kick-starting a globe-trotting adventure involving a B-movie actress, Russian mobsters, and a suave French criminal, each of whom are after a mysterious cache of holy relics in transit from Turkey to Memphis. Atkins has loads of fun marrying his hardboiled sensibility to the gonzo espionage plot, and relies on his strengths as a storyteller to keep the whole thing from running off the rails. This should win Atkins oodles of new fans.

Barr, Lisa. [The Goddess of Warsaw](#) (Harper \$30) "gifts the reader with jaw-dropping moments worthy of a Tarantino film, a story that could not be more timely, and a heroine whose ferocity and valor knows no bounds. Bina Blonski is forced to lose and remake her identity time and time again, both to survive the Warsaw Ghetto and to carry out her secret mission years later as a Hollywood actress. Unrelentingly immersive and suspenseful to the very end, Barr spins a haunting tale of the cost of survival, sacrifice, and the long-denied secrets of the past." —Natalie Jenner on our **June Historical Mystery Book of the Month**. There is a [paperback edition](#) (\$18.99) as well.

Battles, Brett. [Stuart Woods Smolder](#) (Putnam \$30). Finally enjoying some downtime in Santa Fe, Stone Barrington agrees to attend an art exhibit with a dear friend. There, he encounters an intriguing woman who is on the trail of a ring of art thieves. Always one to please, Stone offers his help. From Santa Fe to Los Angeles, it quickly becomes clear that her investigation has links to Stone—particularly to rare Matilda Stone art, his mother's paintings. And when old grudges come to light, Stone is forced to reckon with a familiar enemy. This is a nostalgic setting for me because the first time the late Woods came to The Pen it was with his thriller [Santa Fe Rules](#) (\$9.99).

Berry, Flynn. [Trust Her](#) (Viking \$30). After nearly being killed for informing on the IRA, sisters Tessa and Marian Daly are finally settling into their new lives in Dublin when the past rears its ugly head, in Edgar winner Berry's harrowing sequel to Northern Spy. Over a sultry August weekend while her four-year-old son, Finn, is staying with her ex-husband, Tessa is snatched by IRA gunmen and given an ultimatum: reconnect with her old MI5 handler, Eamonn, and turn him into an informer—or else. The traumatized Tessa assents, forcing her to brainstorm a plan with Marian. As Tessa meets in turn with the attractive Eamonn and her menacing IRA contact, Eoin Royce, danger mounts. Then Marian vanishes during a solo mountain hike, and Tessa wonders if their old pursuers have struck again. Though some of the hairpin twists are less convincing than others—a subplot concerning a Dublin detective who's determined to prove the Daly sisters belong to an IRA sleeper cell feels particularly forced—Berry's moving depiction of a fractured family whose

love runs as deep as its rifts should please existing series fans and win her new ones. Espionage buffs will find much to enjoy.

Berry, Steve/Grant Blackwood. [Red Star Falling](#) (Grand Central \$30). Wrapping up his latest assignment for the Magellan Billet, Luke Daniels receives a surprise visit from the head of a former-CIA operation named Sommerhaus—a failed attempt to assemble an espionage network within the Ukraine on the eve of the Russian invasion. Sommerhaus ranks high on Luke's list of painful regrets for it was during this mission that his friend, CIA case officer John Vince, was captured by Russian operatives and supposedly executed. But Luke is provided some shocking news. Vince is alive, in failing health, locked behind the walls of Russia's brutal Solovetsky Island prison, and has a critical message he'll give to no one but Luke. Needing no further convincing Luke vows to bring Vince home. However, just as he manages to extract his friend from prison Vince tragically dies and his final words are rambling and incoherent. Just bits and pieces. But enough to plunge Luke into a hunt for something lost since the 15th century. The legendary library of the first Tsar of All Russia, Ivan the Terrible. Here's Berry returning in a way to the territory of his first thriller, *The Amber Room*.

✚ Billingham, Mark. [The Wrong Hands](#) (LittleBrown \$44). DS Declan Miller who debuted in [The Last Dance](#) (\$18 July) is back—with a problem. Well, two problems. First, there's his dead wife and her yet-to-be-solved murder. He really should stop talking to her ghosts... Second, and most pressing, a young man has just appeared on his doorstep with a briefcase . . . containing a pair of severed hands. Miller knows this case is proof of a contract killing commissioned by local ne'er do well Wayne Cutler—a man he suspects might also be responsible for his wife's death. Now Miller has leverage, but unfortunately, he also has something that both Cutler and a villainous fast-food kingpin are desperate to get hold of. Sprinkle in a Midsomer Murders-obsessed hitman, a psychotic welder, and a woman driven over the edge by a wayward Crème Egg, and Miller is in a mess that even he might not be able to dance his way out of.

Burke, James Lee. [Clete](#) (Grove \$28). "A stunning work... Get this now. It will take you apart and heal you. Lord, what a magnificent book!" —Nils Lofgren, Member of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band and Member of Neil Young's Crazy Horse Band. I lead with this because Nils is a very longtime customer and a great reader.

When Clete leaves his car at the local car wash, only to return to find it ransacked by a group of thugs tied to the drug trade from Mexican cartels to Louisiana, it feels personal – his grandniece died of a fentanyl overdose, and his fists curl when he thinks of the dealers who sold it. Just as Clete starts to trail the culprits, Clara Bow, a woman with a dark past hires Clete as a detective to investigate her scheming, slippery ex-husband, and a string of brutal deaths all link back to a heavily tattooed man who seems to lurk around every corner. Clete is experiencing shockingly lifelike hallucinations and questioning Clara's ulterior motives when he and Dave start to hear rumors of a dangerous substance with potentially catastrophic effects. The thugs who destroyed his car might have been pawns in a darker scheme....

Patrick adds this: "Burke was the first author signing I attended at the Pen, the year before I started working here. I believe the book was *Dixie City Jam*. His previous book, *In the*

Electric Mist with Confederate Dead had been my gateway, and three decades later I'm still a massive fan. There's really nobody like him out there, and his synthesis of classical themes and situations, deeply flawed characters one can't help but root for, lush vivid prose and metaphysical imagery, it just checks all the boxes for me. Now, with *Clete* we finally get to see the world from Clete Purcell's perspective for the first time. It's an experience you don't want to miss."

Carr, Jack. [Red Sky Mourning](#) (Atria \$29.99). [Ticket](#) (\$33) includes one copy of the book, event at Scottsdale United Methodist Church, but order as usual if you aren't attending.

A Chinese submarine has gone rogue and is navigating towards the continental United States, putting its nuclear missiles within striking distance of the West Coast. A rising Silicon Valley tech mogul with unknown allegiances is at the forefront of a revolution in quantum computing and Artificial Intelligence. A politician controlled by a foreign power is a breath away from the Oval Office. Three seemingly disconnected events are on a collision course to ignite a power grab unlike anything the world has ever seen. The country's only hope is a quantum computer that has gone dark, retreating to the deepest levels of the internet, learning at a rate inconceivable at her inception. But during her time in hiding, she has done more than learn. She has become a weapon. She is known as "Alice" and her only connection to the outside world is to a former Navy SEAL sniper named James Reece.

Cogman, Genevieve. [Elusive](#) (Tor UK \$44). Revolutionary France is full of blood and bite as the League of the Scarlet Pimpernel faces vampires vying for power in the thrilling sequel to [Scarlet](#) (\$17). Eleanor, once a lowly English maid, is now a member of the League of the Scarlet Pimpernel, known for their daring deeds and rescuing aristocrat vampires from the guillotine. Eleanor and the League are investigating the disappearance of Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand, the notorious French statesman and diplomat. But they soon uncover two vampire parties feuding for power, and learn that Talleyrand's disappearance is part of a bigger, more dangerous scheme

Copenhagen, John. [Hall of Mirrors](#) (Pegasus \$27.95). June is Gay Pride Month and we offer the second book in an award-winning trilogy you readers of the wonderful mysteries of Lev AC Rosen—[Lavender House](#) (\$17.99), a real favorite with our staff—will enjoy. Lesbian amateur sleuths Judy Nightingale and Philippa Watson face down a serial killer in the delayed and enjoyable sequel to 2021's *The Savage Kind*. The action kicks off when Nightingale and Watson's friend and literary hero, mystery writer Roger Raymond, is found dead in the ruins of his burned-out Washington, D.C., home during the 1950s Lavender Scare. Police quickly dismiss the death as another homosexual suicide—the body was discovered with its head in the kitchen oven—but inconsistencies at the scene lead Nightingale and Watson to speculate that the dead man may not have been Raymond at all. They team up with Raymond's lover and writing partner, Lionel Kane, to investigate, and their inquiry points toward one of their old enemies: Adrian Bodgan, a homophobic government spy and serial killer who has friends in high places. Might Nightingale and Watson's previous efforts to oust Bodgan have provoked him to lash out against Raymond?

Also signed, the trilogy's first entry [Savage Kind](#) (\$25.95), the 22 Lambda Award winner in LGBTQ Mystery. *NY*

Times critic Sara Weinman wrote, "The nervy teenage duo at the center of John Copenhagen's delicious trilogy opener each bring loneliness to a friendship that burns with intensity from the get-go. Their fascination—or is it obsession?—with each other, and with crime, begins after the death of a fellow student and the disappearance of a beloved pulp-fiction-loving teacher. To expose the darkness and rot beneath his tale, Copenhagen peppers it with literary allusion—Greek tragedy abounds, as do allusions to *Wuthering Heights*, classic poetry and contemporary detective fiction."

De La Rosa, Liana. [Isabel and the Rogue](#) (Berkley \$19.99).

Two spies find each other while skulking around the same dark corners. Isabel has gotten used to being the invisible Luna sister. In 1865, all three women are stuck in England, trying to influence the ton into supporting their beloved Mexico in its fight against the French invasion, and Isabel has secretly promised to sneak away at balls and look for any information that could help her family and country. After years of being ignored in favor of her stunning sisters, she's happy to go unseen in order to help her country, but unfortunately, one man sees her all too well: Captain Sirius Dawson, whom she knows as a handsome rogue. They first meet when he's trying to have an assignation in the same office she's scoping out, and when she unexpectedly finds herself staying at his country house, he discovers that she has "fascinating depths to her." After finding her hiding in yet another dark room, he realizes that she too snoops for the Home Office. It goes from there....

Dean, Will. [The Chamber](#) (Hodder UK \$40). *And Then There Were None* meets *The Last Breath* in this tense and suspenseful locked-room thriller. Six experienced saturation divers are locked inside a hyperbaric chamber. Calm and professional, they know that rapid decompression would be fatal and so they work in shifts, breathing helium, and surviving in hot, close quarters. Then one of them is found dead in his bunk. With four days of decompression to go before the locked hatch to the chamber can be safely opened, the group must watch one another's backs at all times. And when another diver is discovered unresponsive, everyone is on edge. What...or who...is taking them out one by one? The US edition is a paperback for August.

Dodd, Christina. [A Daughter of Fair Verona](#) (Kensington \$28). Once upon a time a young couple met and fell in love. You probably know that story, and how it ended (hint: badly). Only here's the thing: That's not how it ended at all. Romeo and Juliet are alive and well and the parents of seven kids. I'm the oldest, with the emphasis on 'old'—a certified spinster at twenty, and happy to stay that way. It's not easy to keep your taste for romance with parents like mine. Picture it—constant monologues, passionate declarations, fighting, making up, making out...it's exhausting. Each time they've presented me with a betrothal, I've set out to find the groom-to-be a more suitable bride. After all, someone sensible needs to stay home and manage this household. But their latest match, Duke Stephano, isn't so easy to palm off on anyone else. The debaucher has had three previous wives—all of whom met unfortunate ends. Kristan Hannah calls this "Fun, funny, charming, and absolutely delightful."

Doiron, Paul. [Pitch Dark](#) (St Martins \$29). Legendary bush pilot Josie Jonson can't believe her luck when a skilled builder

just happens to show up after she purchases land near Prentiss Pond. All Mark Redmond asks in return for building Josie's dream cabin is that he be left alone to home school his 12-year-old daughter, Cady. For Maine game warden investigator Mike Bowditch, the intensity of Redmond's secretiveness is troubling, especially in light of suspicious criminal activity being reported around the area—including rumors of an armed man offering large sums of money in exchange for the location of Redmond and Cady. Josie, though hesitant to violate the trust of her prized builder, eventually agrees to fly Mike and his father-in-law Charley Stevens to the secluded pond in an attempt to protect Redmond and Cady. But hours after landing, the trip takes a dark turn when they witness a horrific murder and are taken captive themselves. Freeing himself, Mike is forced to set off through the impenetrable Maine forest towards Canada, alone and unarmed in pursuit of a mysterious fugitive.

Estleman, Loren D. [Iron Star](#) (Forge \$29.99). "In this captivating sequel to 1983's *Mister St. John*, Estleman delivers a top-notch western that deromanticizes its own genre. In 1926, former Pinkerton operative Emmett Rawlings has retired to Minnesota to focus his energies on publishing a history of the detective agency. Though Rawlings received permission from his boss for the project—and already spent the advance—the agency's attorney has threatened legal action if he proceeds. Desperate for cash, Rawlings accepts an invitation from flailing western movie star Buck Jones to collaborate on a film about Rawlings's old colleague, Deputy U.S. Marshal Iron St. John. Twenty years earlier, St. John published a tight-lipped memoir, but Jones knows there's more to the story, and Rawlings might be the man to tell it. After all, he accompanied St. John on his final manhunt: the pursuit of the fugitive bank-robbing Buckner gang. Hoping to turn Rawlings's recollections into a rip-roaring screenplay that will jump-start his career, Jones instead learns that the Old West was grittier, less heroic, and quite a bit bloodier than he'd imagined. Estleman affectionately takes an axe to the tropes on which he built his career while delivering a gripping story in its own right. This finds a crime fiction legend working in a delightful new register."—*PW* Starred Review

Fedarko, Kevin. [A Walk in the Park](#) (Scribner \$32.50). The True Story of a Spectacular Misadventure in the Grand Canyon. Two friends, minimal preparation, one dream: a 750-mile odyssey, on foot, through the heart of America's most magnificent national park and the grandest wilderness on earth. From the author of the beloved bestseller [The Emerald Mile](#) (\$18.99), the thrilling true tale of the fastest boat ride ever, down the entire length of the Colorado River and through the Grand Canyon, during the legendary flood of 1983, comes a rollicking account of an epic misadventure. Everyone should visit the Canyon once, but not this way. Recommended as a Father's Day gift!

Finlay, Alex. [If Something Happens to Me](#) (St Martins \$28). Our **June Crime Book of the Month** with its great twist and a ruthless body count gets a Starred Review I completely endorse for a tightly coiled spintangler about a law student under suspicion for his high school girlfriend's disappearance. "Five years ago, while Ryan Richardson and his girlfriend, Alison Lane, were on a date, Ryan fell unconscious and Alison vanished. After Ryan woke up, he recovered vague memories of being attacked by a man with a missing finger, but the residents of Leavenworth, Kans., quickly came to suspect him of killing Alison. Now, Ryan

has changed his name and fled Leavenworth for law school. He's on a summer trip to Italy when he learns that Alison's car has been discovered in a Kansas lake—but her remains are nowhere to be found. Instead, the waterlogged vehicle contains the skeletons of two unknown men and a cryptic note from Alison. In Tuscany, Ryan catches a glimpse of a man who resembles his and Alison's possible attacker and ends up chasing him across Europe. Meanwhile, back in Kansas, the deputy who recovered Alison's car traces the case to unexpected corners of Philadelphia. As in Finlay's previous novels, relentless pacing, impressive characterizations, and the author's knack for surprise combine to produce top-shelf entertainment."

Fortune, Carley. [This Summer Will Be Different](#) (Penguin \$29). Lucy is the tourist vacationing at a beach house on Prince Edward Island. Felix is the local who shows her a very good time. The only problem: Lucy doesn't know he's her best friend's younger brother. Lucy and Felix's chemistry is unreal, but the list of reasons why they need to stay away from each other is long, and they vow to never repeat that electric night again. But then later... Fortune does a ticketed event here for the paperback edition but we'll get her to sign a few hardcovers. Prince Edward Island, birthplace of Canadian self governance, and home to magnificent oysters, is one of my favorite places to visit.

Freeman, Dianne. [An Art Lovers Guide to Paris and Murder](#) (Kensington \$27). Can't visit Paris for the Olympics this summer? Then go back in time to the 1900 Paris World's Fair in our **July Historical Mystery of the Month**, signed here June 30. It is a whirl of a tour but in depth of the city. "Freeman's superbly plotted seventh Victorian cozy finds Frances Hazelton and her husband, George, tracking down a killer in the City of Light. The action kicks off when George's aunt Julia requests that he and Frances come to Paris from England to investigate the suspicious death of her former lover and fellow artist, Paul Ducasse. After they arrive during the World's Fair, Frances learns that George has kept several secrets for his aunt, including the existence of Julia and Paul's illegitimate daughter, Lissette. When Julia dies in an apparent accident at the fair, George inherits her estate. Overwhelmed, he and Frances launch an investigation...."—*PW* Starred Review

Gardiner, Meg. [Shadowheart](#) (Blackstone \$27.99). While waiting for *Heat 2* to film starring Adam Driver under the direction of her coauthor Michael Mann for the *Heat* series, Gardiner returns to her UNSUB series. Arrested by Jessup County Deputy Marius Hayes in a Tennessee motel parking lot, drifter Efreem Judah Goode insists he had nothing to do with the deaths of the three women inside the motel or the fourth, also mummy-wrapped with duct tape, in the back seat of the car he'd been driving. But he's perfectly willing to cop to 13 other homicides stretching back to 2003. He's unsurprisingly convicted of the four brand-new murders as well, but Special Agent Caitlin Hendrix of the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit, isn't satisfied. Working with other members of the unit willing to put in endless hours in pursuit of scant evidence, she realizes that this new streak of murders, which continues apace while Goode is safely imprisoned, is the work of a copycat. Acting on further information from Finch Winter, an adopted teen who's convinced that her birth mother was one of Goode's victims, she uncovers enough links between Goode and the copycat to reach a truly alarming conclusion.... it's serial killer vs. serial killer....

Greaney, Mark. [Sentinel](#) (Berkley \$30). The second book in the Armored Series has Josh Duffy adjusting to his new life after landing a job with the security arm of the State Department. His wife Nichole also has a job with State. Once she finishes her training period, she, Josh, and their two children are assigned to Ghana, one of the most stable countries in Africa. Little do they know that a Chinese Operative is making plans to support a coup to overthrow the government with the help of mercenaries who include someone from Josh's past. As the coup unfolds, Josh finds himself and his protectees right in the thick of it, facing choosing between his mission and his family.

Hart, Matthew. [The Lucifer Cut](#) (Pantheon \$27.95). In Hart's exhilarating third adventure for U.S. Treasury agent Alex Turner, the former jewel thief goes on a globe-trotting quest to keep a powerful counterfeiting technology out of foreign hands. When prominent Upper East Side diamond merchant Lou Fine and his wife, Coco, are murdered in their home, the ensuing investigation reveals that Lou utilized a mysterious process to manufacture and sell undetectable fake diamonds. In the wake of that discovery, Alex's cohorts at the Treasury call him in to discuss the partnership between his girlfriend, multimillionaire diamond thief Lily, and Xi Mei, a well-connected Chinese woman who operates a diamond mine. Evidence suggests that Mei—and, by extension, the Chinese—are attempting to harness the fake diamond technology to get a leg up in the global economy. Alex embarks on an international quest to locate the technology's source, encountering double agents and hidden motives at every turn. I love Hart's thrillers and agree with *Booklist*: "The story is exciting and suspenseful, and Hart knows his stuff, having spent years writing about the diamond trade. This tale has a ring of truth about it that you just can't fake. Recommend it to everyone who enjoys a good, fast-paced thriller and, especially, to readers who admire the gem-based thrillers of Gerald A. Browne." Zoom event in July.

Hart, Rob. [Assassins Anonymous](#) (Putnam \$28). For those missing the hitmen of Lawrence Sanders and Donald E. Westlake, try this one from Hart. "In a novel packed with explosive fight scenes and non-stop action, Rob Hart has written a fresh, thoughtful and surprisingly self-aware lead character in former assassin Mark, who's trying to start a new chapter of his life. *Assassins Anonymous* has an emotional center I didn't expect in a book about a professional killer. As a long time fan of Hart's, this is one hell of a ride, and certainly his best book yet." —Jennifer Hillier

Higgins, Kristan. [Look on the Bright Side](#) (Berkley \$30). In a welcome to romantic June, "Higgins proves her mastery of the romance genre in this emotional tour de force. Lark Smith fell in love with her late fiancé, Justin, in kindergarten. Now, seven years after his death, she doesn't believe she'll ever love again and pours all her passion into her work as an oncology resident. That's why she's so disappointed when she's demoted to the ER due to her overly emotional reaction to the death of her favorite patient. So when universally despised surgeon Lorenzo Santini (aka Dr. Satan) asks her to pose as his girlfriend at a family wedding to placate his grandmother, Lark reluctantly agrees in exchange for 25 grand and Santini's promise that he can get her back in oncology. While Dr. Satan lives up to his nickname, Lark falls in love with his welcoming Italian family—especially his brother Dante, who has a surprising tie to her past. Braided into

this central romance plot are the stories of Lark's mother, Elsbeth, and her landlady, Joy. When Elsbeth discovers that her husband has had an emotional affair, Joy, who's spent a lifetime recovering from her father's psychological abuse, offers her a place to stay and the women heal together. Higgins balances tear-jerking moments with happiness and hope."—*PW* Starred Review

Kanon, Joseph. [Shanghai](#) (Scribner \$28.99). In this superbly written WWII espionage thriller, Edgar winner Kanon, one of my all time favorite spy fiction authors, introduces Daniel Lohr, a German Jew who escapes 1938 Berlin for Shanghai, the only port city that doesn't require an entry visa. On the journey there, Daniel's unexpected liaison with fellow passenger Leah Auerbach is overshadowed by a close call with Colonel Yamada, an officer in the dreaded Japanese military police and a close ally of the Nazis. When Daniel arrives in Shanghai, he takes refuge with his uncle, Nathan, who operates a casino and a jazz club while steadily expanding his partnership with Chinese mob bosses across the city. After surviving a gang-related ambush that nearly kills Nathan, Daniel rises to prominence in Shanghai's criminal underworld. However, his obsession with Leah and hatred of Yamada threaten to undermine him as he navigates the combined perils of Shanghai's German-allied Japanese occupation, the city's ballooning gang violence, and the psychological pressures of his own refugee status. "From the opening paragraph, it's clear readers are in expert hands: Kanon writes with a master's touch, flexing his gift for atmosphere and crafting characters who seem capable of walking off the page and taking a seat next to the reader. With pulse-pounding suspense, top-shelf dialogue, and a palpable evocation of its period setting, this is as good as crime fiction gets."—*PW* Starred Review

Khavari, Kate. [The Botanist's Guide to Society and Secrets](#) (Crippen \$29.99) will immerse you in 1920s academic London. Saffron Everleigh, a botanist specializing in poisonous plants who's already been involved in solving several murder cases, is struggling to succeed at University College London. Female scholars get precious little respect in the 1920s, and many feel that she's trading on the name of her well-regarded father. Upon returning from a conference in Paris, Saffron learns that Adrian Ashton—the brother of her sometime love interest, microbiologist Alexander—is a suspect in the death of a Russian horticulturalist. Her connection with DI Green prompts Alexander to ask her to investigate, and she starts sleuthing with help from various colleagues. Also involved is her roommate Elizabeth Hale's brother, Nick, whose claim to work for the Agricultural Ministry is most likely a cover for something more sinister. On top of that, Nick has had mysterious dealings with Alexander in the past that neither man wants to discuss. After another scientist dies from poisoning, Nick talks Saffron into taking an undercover job at the lab where the Russian had been working. And then.... This is a delightful offbeat historical series, not quite cozy, and well researched and told.

Lasky, Kathryn. [Mortal Radiance](#) (Severn \$29.99). "Kathryn Lasky draws Georgia O'Keeffe's New Mexico with her own skillful hand. The deftest of efforts, [Light on Bone](#) (\$19.99) gives us a murder mystery as seen through the mind of a mid-century artist free enough from convention to catch what others miss. I couldn't put it down."—Gregory Maguire. That says if for me about Lasky's first in this series, a 2023 Historical Mystery Book of the Month. And our much loved author Spencer Quinn/Peter

Abrahams adds that “the portrait of the artist is superb.”

So warmed up to sleuthing, it’s 1935 and Georgia is at her friend Mabel Dodge Luhan’s home, Los Gallos, a house inhabited by a colorful range of artists, authors and society figures, to attend the memorial service of the renowned writer D.H. Lawrence. Georgia has been commissioned to design the stained-glass windows for the small memorial chapel in Lawrence’s honor. But when she checks to see how the light comes through the glass, another much more horrible sight awaits her: beloved Navajo potter Flora Namingha is dead, her face smashed in with a stone... With Flora’s fiancé locked up as the obvious suspect and the local police negligent in its investigation, it seems like no one other than Georgia is capable of solving the murder and making sure justice is done. Then the sheriff comes to town unannounced....

Lin, Rosalie M. [Daughter of Calamity](#) (St Martins \$29). Always love an intriguing debut. And intrigue there is in plenty. Cabaret dancers square off against gangsters, foreign businessmen, Mongolian shamans, and angry gods for control of Jazz Age Shanghai, “the Sin City of the East.” Yue Jingwen’s grandmother, Yue Liqing, makes her living attaching magical silver arms to members of the Society of the Blue Dawn gang, but Jingwen refuses to become her apprentice. A chorus girl in the East Sea Follies, her greatest ambition is to win a backroom contest among her coworkers to “bring the richest date to the annual Firefighters’ Yuletide Ball.” American doctor Bailey Thompson seems like her ticket to victory when he buys the East Sea Follies and promotes her to leading lady, but soon Jingwen is drawn into Bailey’s schemes to export a rare drug that, when smoked, makes the inhaler feel like an ancient Chinese god. And Jingwen’s grandmother may know more about what’s happening than she lets on. “This debut is a genre blend of mystery and fantasy with some amazing world-building...Fans of fantasy will want to know Lin’s name.”—*Booklist* Starred Review. “Historical fantasy enthusiasts will be delighted by the worldbuilding.”—*Library Journal*. “The author’s love for Shanghai is clear from the early pages, and her descriptions of the Jazz Age and its effects on the city unfold in gorgeous, vivid detail.”—*Kirkus*. The other major review media, *PW*, finds it overwritten, proving once again that everyone’s taste differs. Since Joseph Kanon shows us WWII Shanghai this month, why not admire another perspective?

Loskutoff, Maxim. [Old King](#) (Norton \$27.99), our **June Notable New Fiction Book of the Month**, will please Cormac McCarthy fans as well as historical fiction fans because the pivot of the story is the Unabomber, Ted Kaczynski, a violent radical living within a rural community. Following an unwanted divorce, Duane leaves Salt Lake City for the tiny town of Lincoln, Montana, where mining and logging companies clash with radical environmentalists. Six years later, Duane’s troubled teenage son, Hudson, visits him for the summer to help build a log cabin. Duane’s cabin is adjacent to the reclusive Ted’s tar-paper shack, and Ted initially bonds with Hudson over their anger at the world. The friendship crumbles after Hudson takes up dirt-biking with some kids from the area—the bikes’ buzz-saw motors and turf-wrecking treads draw Ted’s ire and trigger his debilitating headaches. The author animates Ted’s intertwined feelings of superiority and grievance, which are partly a reaction against his unfeeling parents and a harmful psychology experiment he was subjected to as a 16-year-old Harvard student. Suspense

mounts as Ted constructs mail bombs, poisons another neighbor’s dogs, and commits other acts of mayhem. Loskutoff’s narrative is swiftly paced and deeply textured, with a keen sense of the landscape and its cantankerous human inhabitants while forging an exhilarating journey through the terrain of our uneasy kinship with the wilderness. The real life terrorist may be the least interesting element.

MacNeal, Susan Elia. [The Last Hope](#) (Random \$29). “In the gripping swan song for the bestselling Maggie Hope series, MacNeal weaves fascinating bits of real-life espionage into her intrepid British spy’s final mission. In January 1944, Maggie receives an assignment from Kim Philby, the head of the Iberian Section of MI6. Her mission is to go to Spain, where German physicist Werner Heisenberg, winner of the 1932 Nobel Prize, will be lecturing at the University of Madrid. Based on the contents of that lecture, Maggie is to determine how close the Nazis are to developing an atomic bomb, and to assassinate Heisenberg if necessary. That’s not her only mission: at the same time, Coco Chanel, who saved Maggie’s life during a 1941 mission in Paris, wants the British spy to serve as a go-between for herself and Winston Churchill. First, however, Maggie must suss out where exactly the fashion designer’s loyalties lie. MacNeal avoids playing too fast and loose with the historical record, proving that truth—including Chanel’s ties to both the Nazis and the British royal family—really is stranger than fiction. It all makes for a marvelously high-stakes adventure,” says *PW*. Can’t wait! Meanwhile go see *The Catcher was a Spy*, a film about Moe Berg to whom this book is dedicated.

McKinlay, Jenn. [Love at First Book](#) (Berkley \$18). The multi-genre-producing McKinlay gives you romance. Emily Allen, a librarian on Martha’s Vineyard, has always dreamed of a life of travel and adventure. So when her favorite author, Siobhan Riordan, offers her a job in the Emerald Isle, Emily jumps at the opportunity. After all, Siobhan’s novels got Em through some of the darkest days of her existence. When Em arrives in the quaint Irish village where her favorite novelist lives, the last thing she expects is to fall for the author’s prickly son... until their story becomes one for the books.

And a mystery, [Fondant Fumble](#) (Berkley (\$9.99), a new chapter in her Cupcake Bakery Mysteries set here in Scottsdale. Professional football players Keogh Graham and Tyler Matthews want to open a Fairy Tale Cupcakes franchise. They’re spending the off-season in Scottsdale working in Mel’s bakery, learning about the business and how to bake show-stopping cupcakes. The popular athletes bring a boom of customers to the store as football fans flock to see the friends mixing batter and piping icing. Everyone’s excited the athletes are pursuing their dream of owning a bakery—except for those who fear the players will ditch football for fondant and retire early from professional sports. The angry naysayers include their team owner and Keogh’s sports agent, along with some very vocal fans. When the owner of their team, the Arizona Scorpions, is found dead on the floor of their new bakery following an argument with Keogh, the pros become prime suspects. As the investigation heats up, Mel and the rest of the cupcake bakery crew must step up and prove their franchise owners are innocent. Or...

Moore, Liz. [God of the Woods](#) (Penguin \$30). Tip ins. “An immersive reading experience that will draw audiences. Its explorations of class, crime, and family dynamics, in addition

to Moore's incredible storytelling, will appeal to readers of Lisa Jewell, Tana French, and Lucy Foley." Enjoy a seamlessly woven crossover lit-fic mystery set in the atmospheric Adirondack Mountains. In the summer of 1975, Barbara Van Laar, the rebellious teenage daughter of a wealthy land-owning family, asks to attend the summer camp her family owns. Then she disappears from camp one night. Barbara isn't the first Van Laar child to go missing on that tract of land; her older brother Bear disappeared 14 years prior, never to be seen again. As so many secrets are hidden within the Van Laar family, and the surrounding community is reliant upon the family's land holdings, panic and suspicion take over. The novel's artfully described setting and the intricately interwoven plots and perspectives of its many players—some innocent and others monstrous—result in expert storytelling that is equally fascinating and devastating.

Mosley, Walter. [Farewell, Amethystine](#) (LittleBrown \$29). The latest Easy Rawlins book finds him, at age 50 in January, 1970, more at peace with himself and the world than before. Somehow you know that won't last. It starts out "There I was, a Black man in 1970, driving through the countryside with a corpse in the trunk. I had a trick or two up my sleeve and a loaded .38 in my pocket." Easy's business humming so well at his detective agency that he and his staff can kick back Monday mornings to chat about flu epidemics, Russian spy satellites, and UCLA's attempt to oust Professor Angela Davis from her job. One bull session is interrupted by the entrance of a sultry young Black woman named Amethystine "Amy" Stoller. She wants Easy to find her ex-husband, a white accountant named Curt Fields, who's dropped abruptly from sight. Rawlins is getting peculiar vibes from this case, most of them resonating from his younger days back in Houston's Fifth Ward, where he'd fallen hard for an older woman named Anger Lee. Memories of that bitter affair stalk Easy as he sets out to find Fields—whose body he eventually discovers on an office floor on top of a sealed envelope with the name "Amethystine" scrawled in pencil. Easy could use some help from Melvin Suggs, his one true LAPD friend. Problem is, Suggs is in hiding, on the run trying to protect his wife from being implicated in a capital crime....

Patrick adds this: "Another perennial favorite, Mosley is one of our great storytellers, a true man of letters whose breadth of imagination never ceases to amaze me. The groundbreaking Easy Rawlins series put him on the map and every few years he'll give us a new chapter. The new book moves forward to 1970, which still has one foot in the turbulent 1960's but has lost some of its Utopian idealism. Middle-aged Rawlins is by all appearances enjoying the good life—he has a family, a great home, and a successful P.I. business. Then, of course, trouble walks through the door, this time in the form of one Amethystine Stoller, who wants Rawlins to look into the disappearance of her ex-husband, a forensic accountant who was working for some sketchy clients when he vanished. The detective also comes to the aid of a friend in the LAPD who's gotten himself caught up in some trouble and needs help. Longtime readers will welcome the appearance of Fearless Jones, who plays a supporting role. I recommend that the uninitiated (are there any at this point?) go back to the beginning and start with Mosley's first novel, *Devil in a Blue Dress*."

Roanhorse, Rebecca. [Mirrored Heavens](#) (Saga \$29.99).

"Bestseller Roanhorse is in top form in the satisfying conclusion to her *Between Earth and Sky* epic fantasy trilogy after [Black Sun](#) (\$17.99) and [Fevered Star](#) (\$18.99). The future of Serapio, the newly ascendant Carrion King, hinges on comprehending a cryptic prophecy conveyed by Zataya of the Coyote Clan, a witch who reads astronomical portents as signifying that "something terrible" is coming for the people of the land called the Meridian. She tells Serapio that he faces "three wars to lose, three wars to win," but that in achieving victory, he will sacrifice everything. Serapio believes some of the message is clear enough for him to take action, but his plans to fulfill the prophecy without losing all he holds dear face numerous challenges. Other characters, including Xiala, a sea captain belonging to a community that lives on floating islands and has mostly lost its ability to perform magic through singing, are equally three-dimensional, and Roanhorse weaves the myriad plot threads together seamlessly, building to an epic climax. It's a worthy finale to a blockbuster series.."—*PW* Starred Review

Robotham, Michael. [Storm Child](#) (Sphere UK \$46). Signed by Robotham for us in London. Zoom event with the Australian author July 1 for the Unsigned US edition: [Storm Child](#) (Scribner \$28).

The mystery of Evie Cormac's background has followed her into adulthood. As a child, she was discovered hiding in a secret room where a man had been tortured to death. Haven interviewed her, learning she'd been trafficked into the UK from Albania, and he adopted her, in time leaning on her hard-earned skills as a human lie detector to crack cases. Many of her captors and abusers escaped justice, unseen but not forgotten. Now, on a hot summer's day, the past drags Evie back as she watches the bodies of 17 migrants wash up on a Lincolnshire beach. There is only one survivor, a teenage boy, who tells police their small boat was deliberately rammed and sunk. Psychologist Cyrus Haven is recruited by the police to investigate the murders—but recognizes immediately that Evie has some link to the tragedy. By solving this crime, he could finally unlock the secrets of her past. Seeking answers, Haven learns of a master criminal called "the Ferryman," a trafficker one of his National Crime Agency contacts calls "a Keyser Söze or a Lex Luthor or a Moriarty." Soon, Haven discovers that the Ferryman is even more powerful than the rumors suggest....

Sager, Riley. [Middle of the Night](#) (Penguin \$30). The worst thing to ever happen on Hemlock Circle occurred in Ethan Marsh's backyard. One July night, ten-year-old Ethan and his best friend and neighbor, Billy, fell asleep in a tent set up on a manicured lawn in a quiet, quaint New Jersey cul de sac. In the morning, Ethan woke up alone. During the night, someone had sliced the tent open with a knife and taken Billy. He was never seen again. Thirty years later, Ethan has reluctantly returned to his childhood home. Plagued by bad dreams and insomnia, he begins to notice strange things happening in the middle of the night. Someone seems to be roaming the cul de sac at odd hours, and signs of Billy's presence keep appearing in Ethan's backyard. Is someone playing a cruel prank? Or has Billy, long thought to be dead, somehow returned to Hemlock Circle?

Sloan, Robin. [Moonbound](#) (Farrar \$29). Tip ins. The author of *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* expands the Penumbraverse

to new reaches of time and space. It is 11,000 years from now.... A lot has happened, and yet a lot is still very familiar. Ariel is a boy in a small town under a wizard's rule. Like many adventurers before him, Ariel is called to explore a world full of unimaginable glories and challenges: unknown enemies, a mission to save the world, a girl. Here, as they say, be dragons. But none of this happens before Ariel comes across an artifact from an earlier civilization, a sentient, record-keeping artificial intelligence that carries with it the perspective of the whole of human history—and becomes both Ariel's greatest ally and the narrator of our story.

Stewart, Jack. [Outlaw](#) (Severn River \$28.99). When a rogue military faction in China kidnaps a CIA case officer, global tensions ignite. Desperate to forestall the looming firestorm, the United States deploys an elite team of Navy SEALs to rescue the agent, protected by nothing but their training and a single pilot providing air cover from his FA-18E Super Hornet—normally, it wouldn't be enough. But these aren't normal times...and this is no ordinary pilot. Fresh off his latest mission in [Unknown Rider](#) (\$28.99/\$17.99), TOPGUN pilot Colt Bancroft is tasked with providing air support to the SEALs. But when Chinese jets engage him just as a bioweapon is simultaneously deployed against Colt's aircraft carrier, he realizes this is more than a simple kidnapping: it's a prelude to world war. Stewart's thrillers are endorsed by Jack Carr and Mark Greaney with whom he appears here June 25.

Swanson, Peter. [A Talent for Murder](#) (Harper \$30). The ever talented and very twisty in his plotting Swanson's latest revolves around a newlywed's suspicions that her husband might be a murderer. Maine librarian Martha Ratliff is feeling uneasy about her recent marriage to traveling salesman Alan Peralta. Her fear that she doesn't truly know Alan is exacerbated when he returns from a trip to Connecticut in an unusually severe mood. When Martha searches online for details about his trip, she turns up a news story about the supposed suicide of a young woman named Josie Nixon at the same art conference Alan visited. Soon, Martha starts drawing connections between Alan's past trips and nearby homicides. For guidance, she turns to Lily Kintner, her old friend from graduate school (and a character from Swanson's previous novels). Together, the women stage a meeting between Lily and Alan, which only serves to illuminate that little is as it seems when it comes to Josie's death. "Swanson's gift for well-earned yet seismic reveals is on full display, and he fortifies them with unexpected heart through the story of Lily and Martha's friendship. This is a masterpiece of misdirection."

Whitaker, Chris. [All the Colours of the Dark](#) (Orion \$45). A new member of our staff whose name we'll announce in July reviews a favorite June book: "As a mystery reader, I started my love affair with the genre with Nancy Drew and The Hardy Boys. If you like a read where the pace of each plot twist and chapter drops off and leaves you scrambling for the next chapter, cursing your clumsy fingers for not being able to turn the pages fast enough, I have an amazing next read for you, the life story of 13-year-old Patch who saves a local girl from being snatched by a serial killer, only to become his next victim. It begins his lifelong quest to find another missing girl, and tests his friendships, molds his life's arc, and is filled with unforgettable characters who are permanently changed by Patch's determination to find the truth. Chris Whitaker has written a sprawling, 600-page turner with a

truly evil serial killer, an obsessive search for a missing girl, and one of the most spine-tingling accounts of captivity spent in the dark you will ever read. If you liked the lyrical writing of *Where the Crawdads Sing* and the suspense of Stephen King's *Stand By Me*, pre-order this gem today."

I add that the British bestseller sets all his novels here in America but sadly he won't be visiting The Pen this time.

White, Randy Wayne. [One Deadly Eye](#) (Hanover House \$28.99). "Who could better weave the convergence of a 500-year tropical hurricane and the high voltage evil of a deviant crime syndicate than Randy Wayne White. *One Deadly Eye* hits more powerfully and reads faster than Hurricane Ian. If you weren't on or near the SW Florida barrier islands around the end of September 2022, now's your chance...." But beforehand, a Russian diplomat disappears while Doc Ford is tagging great white sharks in South Africa, and members of a criminal brotherhood, Bratva, don't think it's a coincidence. They track the biologist to Dinkin's Bay Marina on the west coast of Florida, where Brotherhood mercenaries have already deployed, prepared to pillage and kill in the wake of Ian's strike. Doc has a lot at stake—the lives of his fiancée, Hannah Smith, and their son, plus the fate of his hipster pal, Tomlinson, whose sailboat has disappeared in the Gulf of Mexico.

Winspear, Jacqueline. [The Comfort of Ghosts](#) (Soho \$29.95). Once a maid in Lady Rowan Compton's household, then a university student, a nurse, and an agent of the British Secret Service, Maisie has blossomed into a psychologist and private investigator. Her first husband, James Compton, died while test-flying an experimental aircraft. The end of World War II finds her living in the Dower House of the Compton estate with her second husband, Mark Scott—an American diplomat—and their adopted daughter, Anna, and comforting her former mother-in-law, Lady Rowan, who's just lost her own spouse who left the estate to the National Trust. Lady Rowan faces moving along with grieving.

When she hears there are squatters living in the Comptons' London house, Maisie heads to Belgravia, where she finds four teenagers in residence. The four young squatters have taken in a wounded soldier—who turns out to be Will Beale, Maisie's partner's son. He was a prisoner of war in Japan and in bad condition physical and mentally. The four teenage squatters are actually trained to be civilian soldiers in case of a German invasion. and they lead Maisie to a murder in Kent. But wait, there's more in this nostalgic and satisfying wrap up of a much loved series. In 2003, Jackie signed her first Maisie Dobbs here at The Pen, and now she signs the last one. But, she isn't done, there is work in the works....

Wroblewski, David. [Familiaris](#) (Blackstone \$34.99). More in July as this is our **July Notable New Fiction Book of the Month**, an impressively large story and a coming Book Club Pick. Here's the start of a Starred Review: "A great American novel of people and passions and ideas—and, of course, dogs. For the many fans of 2008's [The Story of Edgar Sawtelle](#) (\$22), this ambitious and captivating prequel focuses on that character's grandfather, John Sawtelle. Its nearly 1,200 pages begin in 1919 when John, who has been working as a road-tester at a car factory, finds a perfect piece of land when his jalopy breaks down in middle-of-nowhere Wisconsin, where he surprises his dog, Gus, by walking 63 yards on his hands. John won't take possession of this inspiring tract for another 300-some pages, necessary to introduce the key

characters and elements Wroblewski has invented to populate his cabinet of wonders. And then....”

GIFTS FOR DAD

Don't forget the [Poisoned Pen Gift Card](#). It's flexible and can be for any dollar amount or for a specific book that might deliver late or not yet be published

Also signing Dad up for a [Book of the Month Club](#) that shows him your love every month. We ask that a membership have a minimum of 3 months. Email Karen@poisonedpen.com to enroll him and we will send an acknowledgement. It's not too late to catch the June Club selections for a nice six months subscription. The titles are listed above right after the Events roster, and they are once again a terrific batch of Picks.

Our Number One Pick for a thrilling summer read, on sale in June up to Father's Day

Preston, Douglas. [Extinction](#) (\$20 SIGNED). What more adventurous than a stay in an exclusive, high-end Colorado resort in a remote area where de-extincted mammals like the woolly mammoth roam, a movie is being made in a kind of ghost town, camping is elegant....and something is on a killing spree? On every count this gem is a winner, it even has a kind of love story between two prickly law enforcement agents. And, tad da!, it will get a sequel.

Other fabulous thrillers we love involving history, banking, economics, and war

Du Brul, Jack. Du Brul, Jack. [Clive Cussler The Heist](#) (Putnam \$32). The formation of the Federal Reserve system overriding individual states' banking and monetary systems, a currency heist, a great plane chase with a 1914 model, followed by one in an airboat. How Clive would have loved the machines, but it's the strong history that makes this such a standout in a revamped Isaac Bell, senior investigator at a PI agency.

Ignatius, David. Ignatius, David. [Phantom Orbit](#) (Norton \$29.99). *Washington Post* columnist Ignatius writes fine, low action, character driven spy thrillers which I find akin to the work of Joseph Kanon. Here he expands that universe with a nifty concept that is prescient as well: major powers jockeying for dominance in space. It follows Ivan Volkov, a Russian student in Beijing, who discovers an unsolved puzzle in the writings of the 17th-century astronomer Johannes Kepler. So brilliant, both a thriller and informative.

Moore, Graham. [The Wealth of Shadows](#) (Knopf \$29.99) completes this trio of, basically, spy thrillers. The economics behind the rebirth of Germany and the Nazi war machine, the role of John Maynard Keynes in nearly thwarting isolationist America's aid to Europe, the role of the Treasury Department's rogue operators and the complicity of FDR in trying to funnel arms and funds despite Congress (sound familiar?), the crucial role of the US dollar, and finally the quiet and patient work of one man, a real person, Ansel Luxford, who stayed out of the limelight his entire life—even his three children had no idea Dad was essentially a Black Ops Treasury Man instead of a simple lawyer from St. Paul, and Mom worked for the FBI which would have arrested him if exposed. Deeply researched and presented as a cinematic narrative by Academy Award winning screenwriter and novelist Moore.

And if he's not a reader of fiction:

SOME IMPORTANT NONFICTION

WW Norton is a very highly thought-of independent publisher that we strive to support and urge you to also by buying what they publish. Grove/Atlantic is another:

Ackerman, Jennifer. [What an Owl Knows](#) (\$19) presents a brilliant scientific investigation into owls—the most elusive of birds—and why they exert such a hold on human imagination. Ackerman joins scientists in the field and explores how researchers are using modern technology and tools to learn how owls communicate, hunt, court, mate, raise their young, and move about from season to season. Ackerman brings this research alive with her own personal field observations; the result is an awe-inspiring exploration of owls across the globe and through human history,

Beers, Laura. [Orwell's Ghosts](#) (Norton \$26.99). George Orwell dedicated his career to exposing social injustice and political duplicity, urging his readers to face hard truths about Western society and politics. Now, the uncanny parallels between the interwar era and our own—rising inequality, censorship, and challenges to traditional social hierarchies—make his writing even more of the moment. Invocations of Orwell and his classic dystopian novel *1984* have reached new heights, with both sides of the political spectrum embracing the rhetoric of Orwellianism.

Eckstein, Bob. [Footnotes from the Most Fascinating Museums](#) (Princeton Architectural Press \$27.50). What an absolute joy and treasure this is. Looking at a wide spread of museums large and small, major and just plain eccentric, each entry in this collection comes with a colorful painting by cartoonist Eckstein, author of [Footnotes from the Word's Greatest Bookstores](#) (\$22). And filled with anecdotes from curators, museum visitors and workers.... Museum junkies like Steve Martin, Michael Palin, and even me enthuse over this love letter to museums that is perfect for Dad to browse, laugh, and plan visits.

Egan, Timothy. [A Fever in the Heartland](#) (\$18). A huge bestseller in hardcover for a reason: “With narrative elan, Egan gives us a riveting saga of how a predatory con man became one of the most powerful people in 1920s America, Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, with a plan to rule the country—and how a grisly murder of a woman brought him down. Compelling and chillingly resonant with our own time.” —Erik Larson

Fedarko, Kevin. [A Walk in the Park](#) (Scribner \$32.50 SIGNED). The True Story of a Spectacular Misadventure in the Grand Canyon. Two friends, minimal preparation, one dream: a 750-mile odyssey, on foot, through the heart of America's most magnificent national park and the grandest wilderness on earth. From the author of the beloved bestseller [The Emerald Mile](#) (\$18.99), the thrilling true tale of the fastest boat ride ever, down the entire length of the Colorado River and through the Grand Canyon, during the legendary flood of 1983, comes a rollicking account of an epic misadventure. Everyone should visit the Canyon once, but not this way. Why not give Dad both?

Finkel, Michael. [The Art Thief](#) (\$18). One of the most remarkable true-crime narratives of the 21st century: the story of the world's most prolific art thief, Stéphane Breitwieser. Unlike most thieves, he never stole for money, keeping all his treasures in a single room where he could admire them. A great piece to read with

the July 13 event here for Daniel Silva's art restorer/spy Gabriel Allon's latest [A Death in Cornwall](#) (Harper \$32). Give Finkel to Dad and add a Gift Certificate for the Silva.

Markel, Howard. [Origin Story](#) (Norton \$35). In 1860 a group gathered in front of Oxford University's new Museum of Natural History. The subject of discussion for the British Association for the Advancement of Science was: Was Charles' Darwin's new treatise *On the Origin of Species* fact—or fiction? How far science has come since Darwin's work on natural selection transformed science and society (OK, and tourism such as the push to visit the Galapagos Islands). This is also an investigation into the mysterious illness that plagued the reclusive yet intellectually audacious Darwin, a case that has long fascinated medical historians.

Munson, Helen. [The Feldafing Boys](#) (Norton/The Experiment \$18.95). When Helene Munson finally reads her father, Hans Dunker's, wartime journal, she discovers secrets he kept buried for seven decades. This is no ordinary historical document but a personal account of devastating trauma. During World War II, the Nazis trained some three hundred thousand German children to fight for Hitler. Hans was just one of those boy soldiers. Sent to the elite Feldafing school at nine years old, he found himself in the grip of a system that substituted dummy grenades for Frisbees. As Helene translates Hans's journal and walks his path of suffering and redemption, she uncovers the lost history of an entire generation brainwashed by the Third Reich's school system and funneled into the Hitler Youth.

Newitz, Annalee. [Stories Are Weapons](#) (Norton \$27.99). Newitz traces the way disinformation, propaganda, and violent threats—the essential tool kit for psychological warfare—have evolved from military weapons deployed against foreign adversaries into tools in domestic culture wars. Newitz delves into America's deep-rooted history with psychological operations, beginning with Benjamin Franklin's Revolutionary War-era fake newspaper and nineteenth-century wars on Indigenous nations, and reaching its apotheosis with the Cold War and twenty-first-century influence campaigns online. America's secret weapon has long been coercive storytelling. And there's a reason for that: operatives who shaped modern psychological warfare drew on their experiences as science fiction writers and in the advertising industry. Now, through a weapons-transfer program long unacknowledged, psyops have found their way into the hands of culture warriors, transforming democratic debates into toxic wars over American identity. As crucial, this is the Russian playbook we keep falling for.

O'Donnell, Patrick. [The Unvanquished](#) (Grove \$30). The Civil War is most remembered for the grand battles that have come to define it: Gettysburg, Antietam, Shiloh, among others. However, a vital shadow war raged amid and away from the major battlefields that was in many ways equally consequential to the conflict's outcome. Here is "The Untold Story of Lincoln's Special Forces, the Manhunt for Mosby's Rangers, and the Shadow War That Forged America's Special Operations."

Perry, Matthew. [Friends and Lovers](#) (\$18.99). The death of the *Friends* star inspired this bio which looks at his celebrity and addiction.

Scheel, David. [Many Things Under a Rock](#) (\$18.99). Of all the creatures of the deep blue, none is as captivating as the octopus. Marine biologist Scheel investigates four major mysteries about these elusive beings. How can we study an animal with perfect camouflage and secretive habitats? How does a soft and boneless creature defeat sharks and eels, while thriving as a predator of the most heavily armored animals in the sea? How do octopus bodies work? And how does a solitary animal form friendships, entice mates, and outwit rivals?

THE PERFECT BOOKS FOR JUNETEENTH

Adeyemi, Tomi. [Children of Anguish and Anarchy](#) (Holt \$24.99). 3rd in a YA series called *The Legacy of Orisha* and featuring gorgeous designed edges, dazzling metallic foil designs on the jacket and case, and an exclusive endpaper map that reveals new unexplored territories. Not Signed I think, but "Adeyemi keeps it fresh with an all-black cast of characters, a meaningful emphasis on fighting for justice, a complex heroine saving her own people, and a brand of magic made more powerful by the strength of heritage and ancestry. Perfect for fans of the expansive fantasy worlds of Leigh Bardugo, Daniel Jose' Older, and Sabaa Tahir."

Dixon, Phyllis R. [A Taste for More](#) (Kensington \$17.95). In a saga spanning the final three decades of the Great Migration—from the Jim Crow south in rural midcentury Mississippi through the transformative 1970s—a tenacious single mother and culinary genius builds an unprecedented empire. But at a cost: neglecting her daughter who begins to display a mercenary streak and may shatter their worlds.

Morrison, Sidney. [Frederick Douglass: A Novel](#) (Hawthorne \$32) shows Douglas has instrumental in ending the institution of slavery from which he escapes to become a fierce abolitionist, gifted orator, and newspaper publisher of *The North Star*. Douglass collaborates with William Lloyd Garrison, John Brown, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and the Underground Railroad, as well as Presidents Abraham Lincoln to Grover Cleveland and becomes the first African American to hold esteemed political positions such as U.S. Marshal of the District of Columbia and Minister to Haiti. "What makes this portrayal of Douglass unique is that it takes readers beyond the public persona by also detailing the women in his life: Anna Murray Douglass, instrumental to his escape, becomes his wife and the mother to his five children; English abolitionist, Julia Griffith, works with Douglass until a scandalized community whispers about an extramarital affair and she returns to England; German journalist, Otilie Assing, dies by suicide after years of waiting for Douglass to marry her and instead he marries a white abolitionist 20 years his junior, Helen Pitts, following Anna's death." These stories are central to a complex life and reminds me of Martin Luther King, Jr.

NY Times. [The 1619 Project, A New Origin Story](#) (Random House \$25). A dramatic expansion of a groundbreaking work of journalism now an Emmy-winning Hulu Docuseries. In late August 1619, a ship arrived in the British colony of Virginia bearing a cargo of 20 to 30 enslaved people from Africa. The original edition reframed our understanding of American history by placing slavery and its continuing legacy at the center of our national narrative. This new book substantially expands on that work,

weaving together eighteen essays that explore the legacy of slavery in present-day America with thirty-six poems and works of fiction that illuminate key moments of oppression, struggle, and resistance. The essays show how the inheritance of 1619 reaches into every part of contemporary American society, from politics, music, diet, traffic, and citizenship to capitalism, religion, and our democracy itself. Click the title link to see the remarkable list of contributors to the essays.

CLASSICS

Benchley, Peter. [Jaws](#) (Random \$30). A reissue for its 50th Anniversary with an exclusive foreword from the author's wife, renowned ocean conservation advocate Wendy Benchley

✦ Ferguson, John. [Death of Mr. Dodsley, A London Bibliomystery](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.99). Mr. Richard Dodsley, owner of a fine secondhand bookshop on Charing Cross Road, has been found murdered in the cold hours of the morning. He'd been shot in his own office, where few clues remain besides three cigarette ends, two spent matches, and a few books on the shelves which have been rearranged. In an investigation spanning the secondhand bookshops of London and the Houses of Parliament, Ferguson's series sleuth MacNab, is at hand to assist Scotland Yard. This fair play, double twist mystery is Introduced by Martin Edwards, series editor for the British Library Crime Classics... such as this.

Fleming, Ian. [The Man with the Golden Gun](#) (Harper \$18.99). In lucky Bond #13, Bond may have a license to kill, but "Pistols" Scaramanga has a talent for it. He's a KGB-trained assassin who's left a trail of dead British Secret Service agents in his wake. His weapon of choice? A gold-plated Colt .45.

Stout, Rex. [How Like a God](#) (Titan \$15.99). I remind you frequently that Rex Stout wrote many books for many years before he created Nero Wolfe and his universe. Here's one back after some 50 years: In the shadowy stairwell of a New York City brownstone, a man stealthily begins to climb. In the pocket of his coat, a loaded revolver. At the top of the stairs, a woman he intends to kill. But who...? As William Sidney climbs the stairs, you'll dive deep into his troubled past, uncovering scandalous secrets and deceptions. And all the while, step by creeping step, he draws closer to a shocking act of violence...

And I can't resist a new review of a real gem, such a good summer read:

✦ Lorac, ECR. [Death of an Author](#) (Poisoned pen \$15.99). "First published in 1935 and revived here by the invaluable British Library Crime Classics series, this missing-person mystery should be admired for both its profeminist layers of provocation and the puzzle at its heart. As it begins, celebrity novelist Michael Ashe is telling his publisher that he wants to be introduced to a successful thriller writer in the publisher's stable: the reclusive—and presumed male—Vivian Lestrangle. Lestrangle agrees to meet with Ashe and their publisher on the condition that no one reveals that she's actually female. Three months after this meeting, a woman arrives at the Hampstead Police Station to say that she's Lestrangle's secretary and that Lestrangle has gone missing. Or are the woman and Lestrangle the same person, as one detective suspects?

Lorac (1894-1958) has scads of fun with gender teases (there's a running conversation about whether one can tell a man's writing from a woman's) and with the book's meta

chatter about the merits of crime novels and their authors (two characters make disparaging remarks about "thriller merchants"). Lorac also clearly delights in her odd-couple detectives. While Chief Inspector Warner finds Inspector Bond's ready skepticism dispiriting, Bond doesn't appreciate Warner's "flights of fancy." Qualifying as such a flight is perhaps a first from a crime novel detective: Warner's spontaneous recitation of a homespun limerick."—Nell Beram

COZIES

Berenson, Laurien. [Peg and Rose Play the Ponies](#) (Kensington \$27). Rival sisters-in-law Peg Turnbull and Rose Donovan spent their summer doing the unthinkable: sleuthing for dangerous suspects and becoming (almost) friends. In the fall the seniors head to Kentucky where Peg, after she brings her canine expertise to prestigious conformation shows, is selling her Thoroughbred broodmare's offspring at a high-stakes yearling sale. And when the ladies arrive to meet the young horse at Six Oaks farm, something seems off about the place—especially Jim Grable, the yearling manager with serious anger issues. While Peg feels comfortable again judging pedigree pups over Labor Day Weekend, Rose judges a shocking new turn of events. Jim has been found dead on the farm....

Delany, Vicki. [Steeped in Malice](#) (\$17.95). Thanks to the Great Teacup Shortage, Cape Cod tearoom proprietress Lily Roberts is already feeling strained. But when a family fracas turns deadly over an antique tea set, she'll really have to pour through the clues to see if simple greed or something darker has been brewing.

✦ Douglas, Stuart. [Death at the Dress Rehearsal](#) (Titan \$17.99). Two ageing actors attempt to solve a murder after a body is found on the set in this witty, fun whodunnit, perfect for fans of *Thursday Murder Club* and *Death & Croissants*. In 1970, on the set of downmarket sitcom *Floggit and Leggit*, leading man Edward Lowe stumbles across the body of a woman, apparently the victim of a tragic drowning accident. But there's something about her that rings the faintest of bells in Edward's head and, convinced the woman has been murdered, he enlists the help of his co-star John le Breton to investigate further.

✦ Ellicott, Jessica. [Murder at an English Séance](#) (Kensington \$27). Hidden beneath her British reserve, Edwina has a secret: she's finished her novel and is bravely mailing the manuscript to a publisher despite the gossipy postmistress. Beryl also has a secret: as thanks for solving a case, the American adventuress has been gifted an airplane. After swooping over the fields and hedgerows of Walmsley Parva, she flamboyantly lands the plane on the village green, prompting a startled Edwina to consider a stiff gin fizz. Beryl's aircraft is not the only disruption of village peace. Miss Dinsdale, a psychic medium, has started holding séances. After the church organist resigns to serve as musical accompaniment for the séances, the vicar's wife hires the enquiry agents to expose the medium as a charlatan. Beryl is confident she can spot the fraud, having learned from Harry Houdini himself some tricks of the trade. The dubious Miss Dinsdale claims her spirit guide is an Egyptian princess whose mummy resides in a sarcophagus in the room. But the only body in the sarcophagus belongs to a murdered villager impaled with a dagger. This is a slow burn, charmingly British post-war cozy with a surprise conclusion.

James, Miranda. [Requiem for a Mouse](#) (Penguin \$29). The doldrums of mid-January can't keep Charlie Harris down, particularly now that he's only a month away from his long-anticipated wedding to Helen Louise Brady. His workload at the library has recently been lightened with the hire of hardworking Tara Martin, an odd duck who's weirdly reclusive and prone to fits of rage. Charlie and his frequent feline co-worker, Diesel, have long experience when it comes to dealing with mercurial moods, so they're more than capable of handling Tara, though it's doubtful whether her blend of hard work and challenging temperament is a fit for her other part-time job at Helen Louise's bistro. Then she goes missing and Charlie learns Tara has been the victim of a hit-and-run. Somehow, he's not surprised to learn that Tara had multiple addresses and identities, and suspects she was really murdered in this latest Cat in the Stacks Mystery.

Levine, Laura. [Murder Buys a One-Way Ticket](#) (Kensington \$27). What could be more idyllic than starting a new ghost-writing project with a luxury train ride from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara? A whole lot as Hollywood's Jaine Austen and her snarky cat, Prozac, figure out how to tolerate her client—Chip Miller, aka Iron Man, a wealthy gym chain owner—who Jaine soon discovers is a tyrant and a bully. Practically everyone on board seems to have it in for Chip, so it's no shocker when he's found dead in his cabin. Unlucky Jaine is the one who finds Chip's body, leaving her DNA on the murder weapon, and making her a prime suspect in the police investigation.

MacRae, Molly. [Come Shell or High Water](#) (Kensington \$27) is the first in a new series set on a beautiful barrier island off the coast of North Carolina and featuring a widowed folklorist, a seashell shop, and the ghost of an 18th century Welsh pirate called Emrys Lloyd who offers supernatural assistance to professional malacologist Maureen Nash, a grieving widow moving on with her life, in clearing up the murder of a controversial Ocracoke local. The Outer Banks island setting is colorful, clearing up after the most recent hurricane instructive, and there's humor in the writing, but I found the unfolding of the plot, possibly due to the fragmented nature of the pirate's participation, muddled.

✦ Morton, Mandy. [The Suspicions of Mr. Whisker](#) (Farrago \$12.99). A Golden Age style cozy we have imported from the UK. Hettie Bagshot and Tilly Jenkins are hired to investigate a spate of mysterious deaths at Mr Whisker's Academy for Wayward Cats. Before Tilly even opens her notebook, the hockey mistress is brutally murdered on the playing field. Faced with an increasing body count, our feline detectives sharpen their claws and set out to catch a serial killer. Did Pomadora Moseley really murder her family on the rollercoaster at Butlins? Is Clara Toddlebury's Country Dance Class under threat? And why does Mr. Whisker lock himself in his headmaster's study? Join Hettie and Tilly as they chalk up another case, revealing a school full of scandal, a dormitory of death and the latest Butters' pie filling. Start with [Death of Downton Tabby](#) (\$12.99). I'll check on more in the series which has adorable cover illustrations.

Perry, Carol J. [Haunting License](#) (Kensington \$17.95). Haven, Florida, a quaint, scenic old town on the Gulf Coast where Massachusetts transplant Maureen Doherty and her excessively friendly Golden retriever are the newest proprietors of the charming local inn...along with its many ghostly tenants.

Inspired by an old brochure she finds in a trunk she inherited along with the inn from her mysterious benefactor Penelope Josephine Gray, she gets the brilliant idea to revive a June fishing tournament from twenty years ago, hoping to reel in anglers who'd love to catch the Gulf Coast's popular kingfish and take home a trophy. But one fisherman won't make it to the tournament. While walking on the beach with her golden retriever Finn, Maureen discovers a body.

✦ Shrager, Rosemary. [Too Many Cooks](#) (LittleBrown UK \$28.99). Our **June Cozy Crimes Book of the Month** (a British import) is filled with scones and skullduggery. Retired celebrity chef Prudence Bulstrode has fond memories of St Marianne's School for Girls, the beautiful Cornish school where she boarded as a girl. It was at St Marianne's that Prudence first learned the joy of cooking, from her dear old Home Economics teacher, Mrs. Agatha Jubber. So when she's invited back to the school, to lead an Easter holidays course in the fundamentals of cookery, Prudence couldn't be more delighted. What's more, it's a chance to show her grand-daughter Suki the way school used to be in the good old days. But no sooner has Prudence arrived at St Marianne's, a gruesome discovery is made...which turns into Prudence's very first cold case as she follows a recipe to die for to investigate.

✦ Thorogood, Robert. [The Queen of Poisons](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99). The English village of Marlow is once again roiled by murder, this time involving a victim at the very top of the local food chain. Seeking zoning approval for the pod hotel she's convinced will make her a mint, dog walker Suzie Harris attends a meeting of the Marlow town council to get the lay of the land. Her attempt to pass herself off as having official business before the council is torpedoed by the fatal poisoning of Marlow mayor Geoffrey Lushington, who gets a dose of aconite in his coffee, or maybe in his sugar, that stops the meeting before it starts. The obvious suspects are the four other council members who were present in the room. Once DI Tanika Malik appoints Suzie and her partners in crime detection, Judith Potts and Becks Starling, queries move quickly and broaden.... Start with [The Marlow Murder Club](#) and [Death Comes to Marlow](#) (\$16.99 each). All great fun.

A FEW NEW HARDCOVERS

Addison, Esme. [An Intrigue of Witches](#) (Severn House \$29.99). "Watch out, Robert Langdon, because Sidney Taylor has arrived! An intrepid historian with a lot of voice, a national conspiracy dating back centuries, a secret magical society, and discovering one's legacy—the best elements to a captivating read, a blend of cozy and contemporary fantasy." Sidney Taylor is furloughed from a position she loves at the Smithsonian. As she prepares to leave, she receives a mysterious invitation to find an archaeological treasure. Since the invitation directs her to Robbinsville, NC, where she went to college and still has family, Sidney decides to combine the treasure hunt with a visit to her beloved grandmother. Intrigue and danger build around her search as incredible secrets are revealed about friends, family, and history. Then the story draws to a near-catastrophic climax in which Sidney discovers her true powers and destiny. Addison sketches her characters and setting with fine brushstrokes, highlighting the close relationships between family and friends cutting across lines of race and social standing. She shows

the flow of life in a Southern town, expertly intertwined with mystery, magic, and an insidious plot to disrupt life and liberty in the United States. Those who enjoy a little history with their magic will find this novel difficult to put down.

✦ Berry, Connie. [A Collection of Lies](#) (Crooked Lane \$30.99). As Kate Hamilton and her new husband, DI Tom Mallory, honeymoon in Devon, a local history museum asks them to trace the provenance of a bloodstained dress said to belong to a Victorian lacemaker accused of murder. If genuine, the dress and its puzzling connections to a 19th-century Romani family who camped on Dartmoor will be the centerpiece of a new historic crimes exhibit—exactly Kate’s kind of mystery. But matters turn deadly when a shot is fired during a fundraising gala, injuring the man who donated the dress. The injured donor, Gideon Littlejohn, is a cybersecurity expert who lives and dresses as a Victorian gentleman, but everyone believes the real target of the attack to be another attendee—a controversial politician intent on rooting out local corruption. This belief is overturned when Gideon is found dead in a pool of blood. But then the politician receives a death threat. So who was the real target? I am a fan of this intelligent series set in England but viewed through an American widow who finds second love in a village. The antiques lore is a real plus for fans of Jane Cleveland, whose series I miss.

Chevalier, Tracy. [The Glassmaker](#) (Penguin \$32). “Tracy Chevalier pens a novel as ambitious, audacious, and artistic as a Venetian glass goblet. Beginning in the height of the Renaissance and hopscotching with casual ease through the centuries to the modern day, she examines the ever-changing city of Venice through the eyes of Orsola Rosso, defiantly gifted daughter of a Murano glassmaking family, and how her unique gift with glass shines through time, fragile but unbreakable.”—Kate Quinn. “Between fascinating descriptions of artisans at work and the glassware they create, Chevalier embeds a love story that transcends time as Orsola, across 500 years, holds on to the love she carries for a man she knew in her youth. With colorful narrative and dialogue, Chevalier lets time roll forward through independent women who are determined to shape glass into works of art and frame life paths of their own design. History flows like molten glass in this stunning novel.”—*Kirkus* Starred Review. I’m a glass junkie and cannot wait to read this. How I loved her book *The Lady and the Unicorn* about the 15th Century medieval tapestries industry,

Constantine, Liv. [The Next Mrs Parrish](#) (Random \$30). Here’s your chance to go another round with the characters met in the bestseller [The Last Mrs. Parrish](#) (\$18.99), specifically the children of the broken marriage and remarriage and what is meted out to the adults. Some of it good, much bad.

Crichton, Michael/James Patterson. [Eruption](#) (LittleBrown \$32). A history-making eruption is about to destroy the Big Island of Hawaii. But a secret held for decades by the US military is far more terrifying than any volcano. The story is that this was a passion project for the late author and his widow held onto his partial manuscript and notes until Patterson agreed to complete it.

✦ Foley, Lucy. [The Midnight Feast](#) (Harper \$30). Guests gather for the opening of The Manor hotel, the new jewel on the Dorset coastline. The champagne is flowing, the guest list sparkling, the sun setting on an unforgettable summer solstice. But under the cloak of celebration, something dark is stirring. The Manor has a

secret history; built in the shadows of an ancient wood. Now old friends and enemies are creeping out of the shadows—perfect for our **July British Crime Book of the Month** so club members, don’t order.

Grimaldi, Virginie. [A Good Life](#) (Europa \$28). “Lovers of Europa Editions’ other titles *My Brilliant Friend* and *Fresh Water for Flowers* will fall hard for this beautiful, heartbreaking, and healing story set over a summer in the French Basque Country.” That’s what hooked me. My favorite wine is a Basque white wine and I’ve always wanted to visit there.

Grisham, John. [Camino Ghosts](#) (Knopf \$29.95). Bookseller Bruce Cable tells Mercer Mann an irresistible tale that might be her next novel. A giant resort developer is using its political muscle and deep pockets to claim ownership of a deserted island between Florida and Georgia. Only the last living inhabitant of the island, Lovely Jackson, stands in its way. What the developer doesn’t know is that the island has a remarkable history, and locals believe it is cursed...

Hilderbrand, Elin. [Swan Song](#) (LittleBrown \$30). Chief of Police Ed Kapenash is about to retire. Blond Sharon is going through a divorce. But when a 22-million-dollar summer home is purchased by the mysterious Richardsons—how did they make their money, exactly?—Ed, Sharon, and everyone in the community are swept up in high drama in this finish to the Nantucket series.

Hilliard, ME. [Smoke and Mirrors](#) (Crooked Lane \$30.99). Lesa reviews: Greer Hogan’s work at the Raven Hill Public Library in the Hudson River Valley is on hold after a fire at the library, so she has a temporary job cataloging the contents of the Archive of Illusionists and Conjurers. The work brings Greer back to Manhattan, where her husband, Danny, was murdered four years earlier. She’s always believed the man imprisoned for the crime, who says Danny was unconscious but alive when he left him. She now has the chance to ask questions at New Leaf, where Danny worked when he was killed. After she questions the management team, she’s followed. Then someone breaks into the archives and into Greer’s parents’ house, where they leave a man dead. Greer is even more convinced that New Leaf holds the key to Danny’s murder. With the help of a magician named Grim and a small group of friends, Greer sets several traps to catch a killer. After four books, the story arc Hilliard began in [The Unkindness of Ravens](#) is resolved, with hints of a new mystery to come. Fans of TV’s *Only Murders in the Building* might appreciate this series.

Lawrence, Mark. [The Book That Broke The World](#) (Berkley \$29). I missed this April Book but it sounds like summer fun. After the shocking ending to [The Book That Wouldn’t Burn](#) (\$19), Lawrence has a lot to answer for—and he doesn’t disappoint; there’s no trace of sophomore slump in this fast-paced sequel. The kaleidoscopic story of the vast and perilous athenaeum library continues, again jumping between different perspectives and points in time. Celcha and her brother Hellet, a pair of small, silky-furred ganars enslaved by the library, act on the instructions of the angels that Hellet sees. Meanwhile, siblings Evar, Clovis, and Kerrol, now free from the library chamber that trapped them since birth, are pursued by an insectoid race known as the skeer and a large mechanical monster that seems intent on killing Evar. Arpix and the other escaped librarians are now trapped in the wasteland called the Dust but protected from the skeer by a mysterious weapon. Meanwhile ghosts Livira

and Malar search for a way to find solid form again. As these different perspectives weave together, the characters come closer to answers about who built the library, what future awaits it, who determines that future—and how the book Livira wrote affects them all. Lawrence makes the intertwining stories fascinating and propulsive, with enough scattered clues and shocking twists to keep the pages flying. This will keep readers up long past their bedtime.

✉ Lloyd, Ellery. [The Final Act of Juliette Willoughby](#) (Harper \$29.99) is our **June British Crime Book of the Month** with all those landscapes you like for a British novel such as Cambridge University, a crumbling stately home and an old unsolved disappearance, a 1991 21st grand birthday party gone badly, loads of eccentrics and worse, plus the 1938 British and Parisian art scene focused on the Surrealists, again in 1991, and eventually we land in Dubai. It's a complex story with three narrators, one via a journal, tangled plot lines, and an admittedly over the top conclusion but so far all of us who've read it are riveted.

In 1938, runaway heiress and artist Juliette Willoughby perished in an accidental studio fire in Paris, alongside her masterpiece *Self Portrait as Sphinx*. Fifty years later, two Cambridge art history students are confounded when they stumble across proof that the fire was no accident but something more sinister. What they uncover threatens the very foundation of Juliette's aristocratic family and revives rumors of the infamous curse that has haunted the Willoughbys for generations. Could the two have discovered the painting? And how is it connected to a brutal murder in present-day Dubai?

Miller, Kirsten. [Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books](#) (Harper \$30) finds a Georgia town transformed amid a fight over book bans. Lula Dean, a restless empty nester who's starved for attention, finds purpose by banning books she deems inappropriate for children, among them Anne Frank's *The Diary of a Young Girl* and Toni Morrison's *Beloved*. Furthering her crusade, Lula stocks a makeshift lending library in front of her house with "appropriate" titles like *The Southern Belle's Guide to Etiquette*. Lindsay Underwood, a lesbian teen, takes action by sneaking banned books into the lending library under the cover of dust jackets belonging to Lula's approved books. As various townspeople read the works Lula meant to ban, they start changing their lives and the town for the better. The story climaxes with a heated race for town mayor between Lindsay's mother, Beverly, who vehemently opposes the book bans, and Lula. While some of the plot turns strain credulity, they make for a clever send-up of book banners' misplaced fears.

I list this without knowing if it's a good read but because I, we, oppose book bans and the key here, as I think often true in the real world, is "starved for attention." It's a small way to grab and wield power.

OUR JUNE LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

There are so many excellent choices I will do a new 4th of July Booknews/list before I do the July Booknews.

Borgos, Bruce. [The Bitter Past](#) (\$19). A 2023 First Mystery Book of the Month plunged us into a truly fascinating story bridging 1957 with 60 years later in Lincoln County, eastern Nevada, spy territory then and now thanks to the US nuclear program. I so loved the voices of then KGB agent Peter and his story and that of today's Sheriff Porter Beck. And of the true surprise revealed.

Our blogger Lesa agrees and writes, "Borgos writes a compelling story with two timelines and elements of mystery, espionage, and history. Sheriff Porter Beck of Lincoln County, NV, was in the Army for 20 years, but he's never seen anything like the torture and murder of FBI agent Ralph Atterbury. He suspects that Ralph's killer didn't find the files the retired agent might have hidden. When FBI agent Sana Locke shows up, she gives Beck just enough information to realize he's looking for a killer with connections to the late 1950s. Borgos brings us the sequel, [Shades of Mercy](#) (\$28), on July 18. Yay.

Burke, James Lee. [Flags on the Bayou](#) (\$18). The 2024 Edgar Award winner for Best Novel now in paperback. The Civil War comes to New Iberia, Louisiana, the capital of Burke's wondrous fictional empire, in the fall of 1863... When Hannah Laveau, an enslaved woman working on the Lufkin plantation, is accused of murder, she goes on the run with Florence Milton, an abolitionist schoolteacher, dodging the local constable and the slavecatchers that prowl the bayous. Wade Lufkin, haunted by what he observed—and did—as a surgeon on the battlefield, has returned to his uncle's plantation to convalesce, where he becomes enraptured by Hannah. For his new novel [Clete](#) (Grove \$28) see Signed Books.

Cameron, Marc. [Bone Rattle](#) (\$17.95). Alaska thriller writer Cameron has passed the torch of the Jack Ryan, Sr., Clancy franchise to focus on his own work like this excellent 3rd entry in his Arliss Cutter series that follows the work of Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal Arliss Cutter and his deputy Lola Teariki in Alaska. A Tlingit archaeologist disappears after being sent to the site of a new building project; a woman's torso washes up near a running path; and Cutter and Teariki are sent to oversee a sequestered jury on a drug case. Chapters are each devoted to one of the characters, giving them space to develop; most often, a new chapter means the perspectives change, while the plot stays on the same timeline. The last half of the book involves the court case. Rumors of a secret informant change the direction of the job, and the author pulls together the various storylines and characters to an exciting climax. Cameron writes with great respect for Indigenous Alaskans and builds suspense steadily in this story.

Castillo, Linda. [An Evil Heart](#) (\$19). The 2024 Sue Grafton Memorial Award at the Edgars is now in paperback. On a crisp autumn day in Painters Mill, Chief of Police Kate Burkholder responds to a call only to discover an Amish man who has been violently killed with a crossbow, his body abandoned on a dirt road. Aden Karn was just twenty years old, well liked, and from an upstanding Amish family. Who would commit such a heinous crime against a young man whose life was just beginning? The more Kate gets to know his devastated family and the people—both English and Amish—who loved him, the more determined she becomes to solve the case. But as she delves into Karn's past, Kate begins to hear whispers about a dark side. What if Aden Karn was...what? Linda launches the next Kate, [The Burning](#) (St Martins \$28), here at The Pen on July 8.

Connelly, Michael. [Resurrection Walk](#) (\$19.99). Mickey Haller takes long shot cases as this one: representing a woman in prison for killing her husband, a sheriff's deputy. She pleaded Nolo (no contest) four years earlier while still maintaining her innocence in order to avoid a hostile jury trial. But her young son may

now be facing pressure to join a gang. Harry Bosch, retired and undergoing an experimental cancer treatment, is driving the Lincoln for Mickey. His cop instincts say they should take the case and focus on questioning the original investigation. Mickey gets to work questioning her original lawyer's work.

I love the way Harry, firmly on the prosecutorial side in his career, begins to see why his half brother accepts cases similar to those pursued by the Innocence Project, cases where someone imprisoned is able to resurrect their life after walking free. The path to justice for both the lawyer and his investigator is fraught with danger from those who don't want the case reopened. The two men are gaining in mutual respect. And we get to catch up with Mads who has followed her dad Harry into the police force. This is just an outstanding book in a long, long career. We are taking orders now for October 15's [The Waiting](#) (\$30 Signed), Renee Ballard and Maddie Bosch.

Doiron, Paul. [Dead Man's Wake](#) (\$19). An absolute humdinger for Maine Game Warden Investigator Mike Bowditch is set on the shores of and into the waters of a lake and allows the many facets of his job to mesh. Bowditch and the spirited Stacey are enjoying their engagement party at Mike's stepdad's home on Golden Pond, when the roar of a speedboat on the lake preludes a crash. Rescue efforts bring up a severed arm. But whose is it? Who may have died? What's up at the nearby private island owned by a prestigious Maine family? When the dive team recovers not one but two bodies, several sets of investigators go to work with the usual conflicts.... This splendid series set all over Maine is absolutely perfect for readers of CJ Box's Joe Pickett novels. For the new book see Signed Books. And we recommend [ordering the whole set](#). It would be, with the new book, a perfect gift for Dad to binge all summer.

Gelernter, J H. [The Montevideo Brief](#) (\$16.99). Napoleonic warrior Captain Thomas Grey is off on another mission. The year is 1804. Grey, former British Royal Marine and dutiful agent of His Majesty's Secret Service, must complete an urgent mission: intercepting a Spanish armada full of gold and other valuable metals before it reaches Europe. Why? A secret treaty between France and Spain pledges that the two countries will unite in war against Britain as soon as the riches have arrived. Once Grey embarks and bands together with a detachment of the recently independent American military in South America, we get a third swashbuckling tale of adventure, piracy, and international intrigue. [Signed copies](#) (\$28)

Although Thomas Grey is an invention, most other names, events, and details spring straight from the historical record; Gelernter's work draws inspiration from Patrick O'Brian, whose Master and Commander series similarly takes place during the Napoleonic Wars" in this "treat for spy novel junkies and devotees of British history alike." And said Patrick O'Brian fans. Grey's debut in [Hold Fast](#) (\$16.99) and the sequel, [Captain Grey's Gambit](#) (\$25.95 Signed or \$17.95) are bestsellers here at The Pen.

✦ Hay, Alex. [The Housekeepers](#) (\$18.99).). When Mrs. King, housekeeper to the most illustrious home in Mayfair, is suddenly dismissed after years of loyal service, she knows just who to recruit to help her take revenge. Mrs. King has an audacious heist in mind, one that will reunite her women in the depths of the house on the night of a magnificent ball—and play out right under the noses of her former employers... Mrs. King's predecessor has been keeping the dark secrets of Park Lane far

too long. A riotous, explosive mashup of *Bridgerton* and *Ocean 8*, with perfectly drawn characters.

Hunter, Stephen. [The Bullet Garden](#) (\$18.99) is the origin story of legendary Marine and father of literary icon Bob Lee. It takes us to the battlefields of World War II as Earl Swagger embarks on a top secret and deadly mission. July, 1944: The lush, rolling hills of Normandy are dotted with a new feature—German snipers. From their vantage points, they pick off hundreds of Allied soldiers every day, bringing the D-Day invasion to its knees. It's clear that someone is tipping off these snipers with the locations of American GIs, but who? And how? General Eisenhower demands his intelligence service to find the best shot in the Allied military to counter this deadly SS operation. Enter Pacific hero Earl Swagger, assigned this crucial and bloody mission. With crosshairs on his back, Swagger can't trust anyone as he infiltrates the shadowy corners of London and France.

✦ Jewell, Lisa. [None of This Is True](#) (\$18.99). In the 2024 British Book Award Best Thriller winner meet meek housewife Josie Fair. She and true crime podcaster Alix Summers are by chance in a pub where both are celebrating their 45th birthdays. Immediately obsessed with her more successful counterpart, Josie engineers several "chance" meetings with Alix—including one outside her children's school—in order to forge a friendship. Instead of feeling threatened, Alix decides to feature Josie on a podcast about the lives of ordinary women. Before long, though, Josie divulges that beneath her modest middle-class home life lie instances of pedophilia, child abuse, and even murder. But are any of Josie's stories true? As Alix digs deeper, she begins to question her new friend's motives for meeting her in the first place, and through a series of reversals, comes to fear she's been set up in a twisted game of cat and mouse....

And be sure to join us at 7:00 PM on July 9 when Jewell brings us a thriller for Jessica James in a new Marvel thriller series: [Breaking the Dark](#) (Disney \$28.99).

✦ Lloyd, Robert. [The Bedlam Cadaver](#) (Melville House \$19.99). 1681 London cooks in summer heat. Bonfires are lit in protest against the King's brother, James, heir to the throne but openly Catholic. Rumors abound of a 'Black Box', said to conceal proof the King's illegitimate son is really the rightful heir. When a wealthy merchant's daughter is kidnapped and murdered—even though a ransom was paid—the King orders Harry Hunt of the Royal Society to help investigate. A second woman goes missing: Elizabeth Thynne, England's richest heiress. Her husband has a ransom letter from the same kidnappers. Pressured by powerful men to find the killers and rescue Elizabeth, Harry uncovers a disturbing link to Bethlehem Hospital, better known as Bedlam. Then he is falsely accused of the crimes.... Earlier two in series are [The Bloodless Boy](#) and [The Poisoned Machine](#) (\$17.99 each).

Quirk, Matthew. [Inside Threat](#) (\$18.99). Quirk returns to the world of the U.S. Secret Service in this page-turning thriller. Agent Eric Hill, stuck on temporary desk duty after a physical confrontation with a cabinet official, is fed up with D.C. politics and contemplating retirement when an attack on the White House sends the President and his top aides to take shelter in a top secret government facility buried deep underground—but they soon discover the threat is locked inside with them. Quirk, for long a Washington DC insider, is the author of the Netflix hit *The Night Agent* and one of my favorite writers of action espionage fiction.

See, Lisa. [Lady Tan's Circle of Women](#) (\$18). So brilliant! See bases this novel on book of medical cases of Ming Dynasty physician Lady Tan Yunxian published in 1511 and will immerse you once again in a fascinating bygone culture. Incredibly, despite historical China's restrictive patriarchal structures, some of Tan Yunxian's remedies survive to the present day. I can't begin to detail all the features See weaves into this incredible story. They include family structures (wives and concubines), pregnancy and childbirth, other medical issues, rigid social traditions, travel, a real crime, and a shocker See, whose first three novels were mysteries, tells me she is immensely proud of. Plus for those who loved her mega-bestseller [Snow Flower and the Secret Fan](#) (\$17), foot-binding—in 1469, Yunxian's mother teaches her eight-year-old daughter how to care for her agonizing bound feet, as well as her place in the world—is revisited in its cultural and medical and sexual aspects.

Urrea, Luis Alberto. [Good Night, Irene](#) (\$19.99). Pulitzer Prize and Edgar winner Urrea says, "My book is a novel based on the experiences of my mom, and the dozens of other women who were part of the Red Cross Clubmobile Corps. I used their letters and scrapbooks to imagine a different kind of war story, a different kind of hero. I hope my novel illuminates their experiences and puts these fantastic women back into the historical record. They are armed only with coffee urns and a donut fryer, and sustained by an immediate and deep friendship. Irene, fleeing an abusive fiancé in New York, and Dorothy, so enraged by her brother's death at Pearl Harbor that she abandons her family's Indiana farm, commit to serving in a role available to women in 1943—Red Cross Clubmobile staff. They become "a perfect donut-coffee machine" team in their two-tone truck-kitchen, entering Europe after D-Day. There's an accident. Eventually Irene goes home to rebuild a life marred with survivor's guilt and shell shock... Urrea bookends the wrenching narrative with a surprising discovery 50 years later. A Starred Review calls it "a moving and graceful tribute to friendship and to heroic women who have shouldered the burdens of war."

Torzs, Emma. [Ink Blood Sister Scribe](#) (\$18.99). Törzs' spellbinding fantasy debut imagines a parallel Earth where gruesome magical spell books are written with the blood and bodies of people known as Scribes. The magic system is built on a familiar foundation—magical books and secret groups that make and collect them—but the details are inventive. "Ink Blood Sister Scribe is so many things at once: an adventure, a puzzle, a twisty thriller, and a tender romance. It's a magical book about the magic of books; I adored it." —Alix E. Harrow

Zevin, Gabrielle. [Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow](#) (\$19). Sam and Sadie—two college friends, often in love, but never lovers—become creative partners in a dazzling and intricately imagined world of video game design, where success brings them fame, joy, tragedy, duplicity, and, ultimately, a kind of immortality. It is a love story, but not one you have read before, and spans some 30 years.

AND A FEW MORE

Allende, Isabel. [The Wind Knows My Name](#) (\$18) "transports us to two dark periods in history: Nazi-overrun Vienna in 1938 and the current dire situation at the border between the United States and Mexico.... Both stories are rich enough to carry the weight of one novel, but Allende expertly intertwines them. Employing

her signature touch of magical realism, she wraps us in a compassionate story that reminds us 'we could all just as easily find ourselves in similar situations.'"—*The Washington Post*

Benedict, Marie. [The First Ladies](#) (\$19). Civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt forge a partnership that changed America. "While the depictions of the women's activism are inspiring, the novel really shines in the behind-the-scenes moments when the women support each other during personal struggles with marital infidelity, illness, and loss." This is definitely a book for the moment.

Birtcher, Baron. [Knife River](#) (Open Road \$19.99). Patrick reviews: Korean War vet, rancher, and somewhat reluctant sheriff Ty Dawson knows that the buried secrets of the past have a way of coming up through the soil eventually. The small rural town of Meriwether, Oregon is a place where folks mostly stick to themselves, and the 1970's has ushered in a whole new era that doesn't always sit so well with them. In this fourth entry in the series, Dawson discovers a new music studio compound built outside of town by a famous rock musician, who has been filming the sessions for a new album he's recording. The singer also has plans to launch his new project at a big live concert to be staged at a brand new outdoor amphitheater. Dawson, who remembers the tragedy that occurred just a handful of years back at Altamont Speedway, does not want something similar to go down on his watch. He also soon learns that the musician might have a hidden motive from picking Meriwether, and that it may connect back to a violent episode that occurred back in 1964... Birtcher is a real writer's writer, and I love what he is doing with this series. Critics will inevitably compare him with Craig Johnson, which makes sense, but I also see a good bit of early Jim Harrison and Tom McGuane.

Box, C J. [The Bitterroots](#) (\$12). This may be my favorite Box, a dynamite look at Butte, Montana, its geography, its history as a mining town and incubator of the labor movement, and its Western small town vibe. The case that PI Cassie Dewell works incorporates all that plus it riffs on the real and dangerous treasure hunt put into motion by Santa Fe art dealer Forrest Fenn. Don't miss this one.

Child, Lee/Andrew. [The Secret: A Jack Reacher Novel](#) (\$18). The Department of Defense has been keeping a secret since 1969 concerning an accident at a lab where a group of scientists were working. When one of the scientists speaks out and two die by apparent suicide, the DOD forms a task force of marginal officers from various agencies to investigate. It's obvious from the make-up of the task force team and the lack of information given to work with, that the team is set up to fail. Failure will probably involve loss of rank and position for all on the force. Reacher is the Army's representative on the task force, and he leads two of the other agents in tracking down needed information. The killer always seems one step ahead of the trio. This is more of a slow burn than many Reachers and a pleasure to see more of early Jack.

✦ Clements, Oliver. [The Queen's Men](#) (\$18.99). Lesa reviews: Clements's second "Agents of the Crown" novel after [The Eyes of the Queen](#) (\$17.99) is a fast-paced, riveting historical thriller narrated by various supporters of Queen Elizabeth I; it asks the question "What if the Good Queen Bess were a spy?" While all of England watches the Great Comet of 1577, the queen falls

ill and elects to return to London. When her entourage reaches Waltham Forest, they're attacked by a dozen gunmen who leave her carriage riddled with holes (fortunately, she wasn't inside it at the time). Her spymaster, Francis Walsingham, had no warning—heard no rumors—that there might be an attempt on the queen's life; now he must track down the would-be assassins. All of the queen's supporters, even a lady-in-waiting, get involved in plots to protect her (and to save their own necks if all goes awry.... Clements's mystery might be too violent for some, but fans of historical spy novels will be hooked.

✦ Huber, Anna Lee. [A Deceptive Composition](#) (Penguin \$18). Although the birth of his granddaughter has improved Lord Gage's rocky relationship with his son, Sebastian, and daughter-in-law, Kiera, a letter from his aunt Amelia revives unpleasant memories of more family trauma involving Gage's youth in Cornwall and the Roscarrock relatives he remembers as rogues and smugglers. Drafted at age 11 into their activities, he was arrested and his best friend killed. His grandfather bought him a commission in the navy to keep him out of prison, setting him on the path to wealth and respectability. Now Aunt Amelia claims that Gage's Uncle Branok was murdered and wants him to investigate. He's loath to do so until Sebastian and Kiera convince him—but when they all arrive at Roscarrock House.... 12th in an excellent historical series.... Best to order and read the [Lady Darby Mysteries](#) from the beginning.

Jurczyk, Eva. [That Night in the Library](#) (Sourcebooks \$17.99). In the mood for a locked library mystery? Look no further. On the night before graduation, seven students gather in the basement of their university's rare books library. They're not allowed in the library after closing time, but it's the perfect place for the ritual they want to perform—one borrowed from the Greeks, said to free those who take part in it from the fear of death. And what better time to seek the wisdom of ancient gods than in the hours before they'll scatter in different directions to start their real lives? But just a few minutes into their celebration, the lights go out—and one of them drops dead. As the body count rises, with nothing but the books to protect them, the group must figure out how to survive the night while trapped with a murderer. Jurczyk, a Canadian librarian, debuted with [The Department of Rare Books and Special Collections](#) (\$16.99)—fun to read along with Sulari Gentill's bestseller [The Woman in the Library](#) (\$16.99).

Madsen, Jenny Lund. [Thirty Days of Darkness](#) (Orenda \$16.99). A snobbish Danish literary author with contempt for genre fiction is challenged to write a crime novel in thirty days, travelling to a tight-knit small village in Iceland for inspiration, and then a body appears ... What begins as a search for plot material quickly turns into a messy and dangerous investigation that threatens to uncover secrets that put everything at risk....including Hannah...

McFadden, Freida. [The Housemaid Is Watching](#) (Sourcebooks \$17.99). The latest in a bestselling series. The narrator begins, "Even though I'm wary of our new neighbor Mrs. Lowell, when she invites us over for dinner it's our chance to make friends. Her maid opens the door wearing a white apron, her hair in a tight bun. I know exactly what it's like to be in her shoes. But her cold stare gives me chills... The Lowells' maid isn't the only strange thing on our street. I'm sure I see a shadowy figure watching us. My husband leaves the house late at night. And when I meet a woman who lives across the way, her words chill me to the

bone: Be careful of your neighbors. Did I make a terrible mistake moving my family here? I thought I'd left my darkest secrets behind...."

Ward, Jessica. [The St Ambrose School for Girls](#) (\$17.99). Looking for campus crime now that school's out? When Sarah Taylor arrives at the exclusive St. Ambrose School, she's carrying more baggage than just what fits in her suitcase. She knows she's not like the other girls—if the shabby, all-black, non-designer clothes don't give that away, the bottle of lithium hidden in her desk drawer sure does. St. Ambrose's queen bee, Greta Stanhope, picks Sarah as a target from day one and the most popular, powerful, horrible girl at school is relentless in making sure Sarah knows what the pecking order is. Thankfully, Sarah makes an ally out of her roommate Ellen. Sarah hopes she can make it through the semester, dealing with not only her schoolwork and a recent bipolar diagnosis, but Greta's increasingly malicious pranks. This is a brilliant, affecting look at the challenges of navigating the world as neurodivergent. Be patient...and surprised.

Whishaw, Iona. [Lightning Strikes the Silence](#) (Touchwood \$19.95). "Iona Whishaw's historical mysteries set in B.C.'s Kootenay region are reliable bestsellers. An explosion, a jewellery heist, and an injured Japanese girl who does not speak are part of a tale of old prejudices in the 11th book in Lane Winslow series." —*Quill & Quire*. I love this series, [buy them all](#) and binge read.

Whitehead, Colson. [The Crook Manifesto](#) (\$18). War has broken out between the NYPD and the Black Liberation Army. Amidst this collective nervous breakdown furniture store owner and ex-fence Ray Carney tries to keep his head down and his business thriving. His days moving stolen goods around the city are over. It's strictly the straight-and-narrow for him — until he needs Jackson 5 tickets for his daughter May and he decides to hit up his old police contact Munson, fixer extraordinaire. But Munson has his own favors to ask of Carney and staying out of the game gets a lot more complicated – and deadly. The two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and bestselling author of *Harlem Shuffle* continues his Harlem saga that summons 1970s New York in all its seedy glory.

OUR JUNE SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Baldacci, David. [6:20 Man](#) (\$10.99). Travis Devine #1. After a cryptic murder, a former soldier-turned-entry-level analyst, who boards the 6:20 commuter train like clockwork, is forced into a clandestine investigation into his firm that takes him to the darkest corners of the country's economic halls of power, rife with corruption, where a killer awaits.

Bentley, Don. [Tom Clancy Weapons Grade](#) (\$10.99). Jack Ryan Jr. #11. After witnessing a professional hit, Jack Ryan Jr., following one lead, is drawn into the seedy underbelly of a small Texas town and the cold case of a college student who vanished from its streets—an investigation that pulls him into an international conspiracy of epic proportions.

Brennan, Allison. [You'll Never Find Me](#) (\$9.99). Angelhart Investigations #1. Working alone, P.I. Margo Angelhart, when she takes on a seemingly simple case of proving a wealthy husband is a cheater to void a pre-nup, is forced to team up with her estranged siblings when her investigation becomes much more than she bargained for.

King, Stephen. [Fairy Tale](#) (\$11.99). A seventeen-year-old boy inherits the keys to a parallel world where good and evil are at war, and the stakes could not be higher—for that world or ours.

McKinlay, Jenn. [Fondant Fumble](#) (Berkley \$9.99 SIGNED). Cupcake Bakery #16. Helping professional football players Keogh and Tyler open a Fairy Tale Cupcakes Bakery franchise, Mel, when the two athletes are accused of murdering the owner of their team, must prove their innocence before it's game-over for the new bakers.

MORE JUNE SMALL PAPERBACKS

✦ Beaton, M C. [Dead on Target](#) (\$9.99). Agatha Raisin #34. Convinced of foul play, Agatha Raisin disregards the conclusion of her old adversary, Detective Chief Inspector Wilkes and investigates the death of a local landowner struck by an arrow.

Calhoun, Belle. [Falling for Alaska](#) (Forever \$8.99). A small-town restaurateur and a big city former football player go head-to-head in this heartfelt enemies-to-lovers romance.

Day, Maddie. [Murder at the Rusty Anchor](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Cozy Capers Book Group #6. When it's last call for an elderly high school teacher whose body is found behind the bar inside the Rusty Anchor Pub, Mac and the Cozy Capers Book Group study the clues and sort through a list of suspects to determine who decided to teach Mr. Byrne a deadly lesson.

Fluke, Joanne. [Pink Lemonade Cake Murder](#) (\$9.99). Hannah Swensen #29. Serving super sweet pink lemonade desserts at the Tri-County Summer Solstice Celebration, Hannah Swensen finds the mood souring when a retired professional MLB player meets his demise.

Goldin, Megan. [Stay Awake](#) (\$9.99). Liv Reese wakes up in the back of a taxi with no idea where she is or how she got there. When she's dropped off at the door of her brownstone, a stranger answers—a stranger who claims to live in her apartment. She reaches for her phone to call for help, only to discover it's missing. In its place is a bloodstained knife. Her hands are covered in scribbled messages, like graffiti on her skin: STAY AWAKE.

Graham, Heather. [Market for Murder](#) (Mira \$9.99). Blackbird Files #2. In Edinburgh, where murder victims are being dissected and sold for spare parts, Special Agent Luke Kendrick and Carly MacDonald, with the clock ticking on every organ being harvested, are running out of time—and people they can trust—to catch the killers before they themselves are put on ice.

Johansen, Iris. [The Survivor](#) (\$10.99). Eve Duncan #30. Unearthing the perfectly preserved body of a female warrior in Southeast Asia, archeologist Riley Smith and Eve Duncan seek answers about this extraordinary past life, leading Riley to make a discovery that will change history—if she can survive long enough to share it with the world

✦ Jones, Sandie. [The Blame Game](#) (\$9.99). A psychologist specializing in domestic abuse, Naomi, after her client's file goes missing, wonders if her own dark past is coming back to haunt her—and if her clients aren't the only ones in danger.

Lillard, Amy. [A Murder for the Sages](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Sunflower Café #3. When local herb farmer Ginger Reed's death is ruled an accident, and Naomi, a longtime employee of Ginger's, asks her to unearth the truth, Sissy, as she digs up the

dirt, discovers Naomi may well be a suspect and must solve this case quickly before more deaths take root.

Reichs, Kathy. [Monday Mourning](#) (\$10.99). Reissue. Temperance Brennan #7. Journeying to wintry Montreal to testify at a murder trial, forensic anthropologist Tempe Brennan discovers three skeletons in the basement of a pizza parlor and realizes that she has stumbled into a crime from the past.

Steel, Danielle. [Palazzo](#) (\$9.99) The head of her family's *haute couture* Italian leather brand, Cosima Saverio, partnering with France's most successful handbag company, must make an impossible choice when her brother loses a hefty sum at the casino and his debt must be repaid with money or his life.

