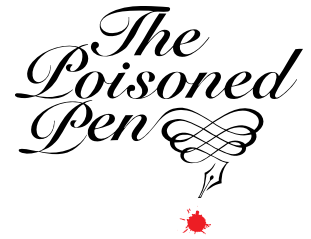


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CLOSED MONDAY SEPTEMBER 2 for Labor Day

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.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3 7:00 PM Live Book Launch

Jeffery Deaver and Isabella Maldonado

They discuss [Fatal Intrusion](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$28.99/\$16.99)
Sanchez & Heron #1—great for fans of Lincoln Rhyme

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 4 7:00 PM Live

Books and Bourbon, A Celebration of Vince Flynn

Don Bentley discusses [Vince Flynn Capture or Kill](#) (Atria \$29.99)

Joining Don are Brian Andrews, Kyle Mills, Brad Taylor, Jeff Wilson in a celebration of Mitch Rapp and favorite thrillers

Books for all the authors on hand

Bring your own list of thrillers and pitch; prizes for those who do
A libation will be poured for everyone

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5 1:00 PM

Alan Bradley discusses [What Time the Sexton's Spade Doth Rust](#) (Bantam \$28)

Young British sleuth Flavia de Luce

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5 7:00 PM Live

Theodore Pappas discusses [Combing Through the White House](#) (Harper \$24.99)

Our friend Ted from *Encyclopedia Britannica* is back!

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6 6:00 PM Live

Mike Maden discusses [Clive Cussler Ghost Soldier](#) (Penguin \$32)

The Oregon Files Series

And we offer a special price for Jack Du Brul's most recent Isaac Bell adventure, [The Heist](#) (\$24)

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7 2:00 PM Live Soho Press Party

Location: Pizzeria Virtu a few yards south of the bookstore at 6952 E Main Street 85251

Shop at the bookstore before or after the program

Admission \$5 includes a mocktail. You may order other beverages on your own tab. We will have ARCs by other Soho Press authors to give away

James R. Benn discusses [The Phantom Patrol](#) (Soho \$27.95)

American GI Billy Boyle December 1944 France

Kwei Quartey discusses [The Whitewashed Tombs](#) (Soho \$27.95)

Ghanian private detective Emma Djan

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9 1:00 PM Virtual Book Launch

Janice Hallett discusses [The Examiner](#) (Viper UK \$39)

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9 6:00 PM Virtual Book Launch

JA Jance discusses [Den of Iniquity](#) (Harper \$29.99)

Seattle's JP Beaumont

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9 7:00 PM Live Book Launch

Alison Gaylin discusses [Robert B Parker's Buzz Kill](#) (Putnam \$30)

Boston PI Sunny Randall

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10 7:00 PM Live

Rachel Koller Croft with Olivia Fierro

Koller Croft discusses [We Love the Nightlife](#) (Penguin \$29)

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16 5:00 PM

Gillian Flynn is our host for Julia Dahl

Dahl discusses [I Dreamed of Falling](#) (St Martins \$29)

AND END OF AUGUST REMINDERS

MONDAY AUGUST 26 12:00 PMs

Ann Cleeves discusses [The Dark Wives](#) (St Martins \$29 Signed)

Signed UK edition: [The Dark Wives](#) (Pan UK \$45)

A Vera Stanhope investigation in Northumberland

MONDAY AUGUST 26 7:00 PM Live

Spencer Quinn discusses [A Farewell to Arfs](#) (Forge \$27.99)

Chet & Bernie visit on National Dog Day

TUESDAY AUGUST 27 4:00 PM

Australia's Anna Downes discusses [Red River Road](#) (St Martins \$28)

Western Australia #vanlife is dangerous

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 28 5:00 PM

Eli Cranor discusses [Broiler](#) (Soho \$27.95)

Scott Phillips discusses [The Devil Raises His Own](#) (Soho \$27.95)

Signed books for both titles

SOME SIGNED BOOKS PRE-POST LABOR DAY

Benn, James R. [The Phantom Patrol](#) (Soho \$27.95). It's the winter of 1944, brutal weather, months after the liberation of France. Billy Boyle, reeling from the carnage there and from unexpected events during his brief R&R in Britain in 2023's [Proud Sorrows](#) (\$17.95), is in Paris where after a shoot-out in Père Lachaise Cemetery he finds a rare work of art. This leads him to suspect a ring of art thieves embracing the worst of French and German actors is smuggling looted art out of France to collectors (watch *The Monument Men* if you missed it). As he goes after the so-called *Syndicat* he's convinced someone at a high level is facilitating the operation and it leads him into very dangerous territory which we came to call the Battle of the Bulge. This excellent series continues to deliver facets of WWII and locations that horrify, entertain, and frankly, amaze. You can start reading it here and pick up any of the backlist as you become hooked.

Bentley, Don. [Vince Flynn Capture or Kill](#) (Atria \$29.99). In April of 2011 a Quds Force demonstration of a new missile system leads Azad Ashani, Director of Iran's Minister of Intelligence to make a bold move to save his country. From this we get Bentley writing *Capture or Kill*—"Mitch Rapp at his best—behind enemy lines, outgunned, facing hopeless odds, on an impossible time table. The defining Special Forces operation of the twenty-first century is at risk, and only one man can save it. Bentley's writing drops you in the middle of one of Rapp's most improbable missions.

Don says his first foray into the Rapp universe is "a 'throwback' to the era in which Vince Flynn still wrote his iconic Mitch Rapp protagonist—meaning that the story takes place between Flynn-authored books *Pursuit of Honor* and *The Last Man*. The novel answers a question that Vince Flynn fans have been asking for more than a decade: What role did Mitch Rapp play in the Navy SEAL-led operation to Capture or Kill Osama bin Laden?"

This is Don's first Mitch Rapp thriller and Kyle Mills, the former legacy author, will be on hand for discussion along with Brad Taylor and Andrews and Wilson. We have copies of everyone's books on hand to be signed.

Child, Lee. [Safe Enough: And Other Stories](#) (Mysterious Press \$28.99). Liberated from Reacher, Lee has enjoyed writing short fiction without him and here is a collection of twenty that show what else he can do. "Throughout, Child gleefully toys with readers' expectations, mirroring his duplicitous characters as he performs a series of satisfying bait-and-switches, most memorably in "Ten Keys," which initially appears to center on two men in a bar waiting for an assassin. His dialogue, too, has the grit and punch of top-shelf crime fiction."—*PW*

☒ Cleaves, Ann. [The Dark Wives](#) (St Martins \$29). So delighted to have a new DI Vera Stanhope from Ann, so sad to know that Vera's last season is filming even now for TV. Brenda Blethyn has had an amazing run, bless her.

Ann says the idea for this new book came from reading about the privatizing of care homes for children/youths and how the profit motive replaced government funding—much like privatizing prisons or care homes for the aged and more here in the US. The story begins when a man's body is found in the early morning light by a local dog walker in the park outside Rosebank,

a home for troubled teens in the coastal village of Longwater. The victim is Josh, a staff member, who was due to work the previous night but never showed up. Vera is called out to investigate the death, with her only clue being the disappearance of one of the home's residents, fourteen-year-old Chloe Spence. Vera can't bring herself to believe that a teenager is responsible for the murder, but even she can't dismiss the possibility. Vera, Joe, and new team member Rosie Bell, soon face a second body near the Three Dark Wives monument in the wilds of the Northumberland countryside as superstition and folklore begin to collide with fact. Just as the team collides with new recruit Rosie while mourning the death of their mate Holly. Signed UK edition: [The Dark Wives](#) (Pan UK \$45) is also available

Corey, James S.A. [The Mercy of Gods](#) (Orbit \$29.99). Devotees of galaxy-spanning science fiction will want to check out this new space opera trilogy start. In a far-future universe, the last remnants of humanity are abducted and forced into a Darwinian cage match with another captive species. Only one man has the vision to recognize the divide-and-conquer politics—and fight the real enemy. We suspect allegory.

Croft, Rachel Koller. [We Love the Nightlife](#) (Penguin \$29). London 1979. Two women with a deep love for disco meet one fateful night on the dance floor. Locked in a toxic female friendship, these two vampires careen toward catastrophe. The *PW* Starred Review: "A throbbing disco beat powers screenwriter Croft's stunning sophomore effort which centers on a pair of vampires ensnared in a toxic partnership. In 1979, wily vampire Nicola Claughton spots 23-year-old Amber Wells on a London dance floor. Instant attraction moves Nicola to "turn" (read: bite) Amber and bring her back to her ancestral manse in Hampstead. Fast-forward 50 years and Amber has begun to feel stifled, so she plots an escape, hoping to spend her eternal youth elsewhere. Nicola can feel Amber pulling away, and makes an alluring proposition: they'll open their own nightclub and recapture their glory days. Amber agrees, but both women are keeping their cards close to their vests—Nicola has never taken kindly to attempted abandonment, and Amber plans to use the club's opening to make a grand gesture and end their relationship. Concealed family histories, betrayals, and carefully parceled flashbacks usher the narrative toward an incendiary climax, and Croft's devilish plotting pays heed to classic vampire tropes without succumbing to them. Readers should rush to sink their teeth into this."

Dahl, Julia. [I Dreamed of Falling](#) (St Martins \$29). I am not sure how to describe this amazing and appalling story which so struck Gillian Flynn she signed up to host a zoom with Dahl on September 16. She says this is "one of those rare novels in which you feel the pulse of every single character down to the mail carrier. It's an uncompromising look at love and its complications, and a frank, sometimes burning story about the tricky business of learning how to be a grownup. Oh, and it's all wrapped up in a blistering mystery." As a depiction of small town life in a Hudson Valley town where generations have made lives, often messy, and where growing up is bounded by history and expectations, it's penetrating, arresting, and a gut-wrenching read. Critics are unanimous in high ratings. Here's Lesa giving our

September Book of the Month a Star in *Library Journal*:

“This stand-alone from award-winning Dahl, author of the Rebekah Roberts series, introduces a journalist forced to uncover secrets in his own family. As the only reporter in a small Hudson Valley town, Roman Grady covers everything from meetings to park-bench dedications. When his romantic partner Ashley dies at the home of Bella, a known drug user, he is devastated. Roman thought he knew the town’s story, and he knew Ashley experienced depression after the birth of their son, Mason, four years earlier at the height of the pandemic. He didn’t know Ashley had resumed a friendship with Bella. When the police chief shows little interest in investigating Ashley’s death, Roman turns to his mother, Tara, for help. Tara had been a lousy teenage mother, but she redeemed herself with her devotion to Mason. Now she and Roman are determined to investigate. As Roman and Tara dig into Ashley’s relationships and uncover her plans for the future, they learn they didn’t know as much about her as they thought.” Lesa recommends this to fans, like me, of Julia Keller’s Bell Elkins books. I wouldn’t call it *Hillbilly Elegy* which is seen through the lens of one person with an agenda, but more accurately “a great reckoning with the moment we find ourselves in.” –*The New York Times Book Review*

Deaver, Jeffery/Isabella Maldonado. [Fatal Intrusion](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$28.99). Deaver’s (“Lincoln Rhyme” series) interest in technology and social media and Maldonado’s (“Nina Guerrero” series) law enforcement background blend well in this fast-paced crime novel, the first collaboration for each of them and the start of a series. Plus Deaver, author of the Colter Shaw books currently on TV in a show called “Tracker,” is an adept at chasing after bad actors, here a ring of serial killers.

Here’s Lesa again, in agreement with me who zipped through the story in a single sitting: “Homeland Security Agent Carmen Sanchez is too law-abiding to take action on her own when her younger sister is attacked by a man whom Carmen suspects to have been a multi-time offender. Selina saw a spider tattoo on his wrist and provides an excellent description. But Carmen’s out of her jurisdiction to take on the case herself. Instead, she calls in a favor. She and Professor Jake Heron have an unpleasant history, but the private security expert knows his way around computers. Jake suspects the attacker they’re calling Spider is uncovering information about his victims on the internet. Spider is one step ahead of his hunters, leaving only a few clues as he kills people who seem to be random victims. Eventually, Spider’s actions reveal that he has an accomplice—and no apparent motive.”

Gaylin, Alison. [Robert B Parker’s Buzz Kill](#) (Putnam \$30). Although Sunny Randall has repeatedly turned down millionaire Bill Welch, who wants her to look for Dylan, his son who’s been missing for two weeks, she’s in no position to say no to Bill’s imperious wife, Lydia. So concerned is Lydia over Dylan, the Gonzo CEO responsible for an energy drink that’s perked up thousands of customers, that Sunny starts her search that same day. It’s no mystery why Dylan might have gone into hiding. Gonzo was being sued, and Dylan was being threatened by Rhonda Lewis over the death of her 17-year-old daughter, Daisy, who went into cardiac arrest after downing three Gonzos mixed with alcohol. Threatening texts and a shooting death at Gonzo up the urgency of the mission. Parker, updated.

✎ Hallett, Janice. [The Examiner](#) (Viper UK \$39). British bestseller Hallett, with whom I had a delightful tea in London in June, foregoes the unreliable narrator for unreliable characters, adding even more twists to her plot. To tell the story she again utilizes an epistolary style, incorporating texts, message board postings, emails, and student essays to open up the lives of six art students who are beginning a one-year master’s program. The program is led by Gela Nathaniel, who is facing its cancellation if she can’t show that the students will make connections to real-world (i.e., commercial) entities. When the six, of disparate (and possibly fictional) backgrounds, get started, they find that the biggest challenge they’ll face is not the coursework but the personality conflicts among them. As the infighting and competition gets worse, these conflicts lead to a toxic environment that could lead to.... You fill in the blank. The [Unsigned US edition](#) (Atria \$29.99).

Haig, Matt. [The Life Impossible](#) (Viking \$30). A VERY limited supply. Deb reviews: Grace Winters’s placid, retired math teacher life is turned around when she inherits a cottage in exotic Ibiza from an old friend. And when she goes to Ibiza and learns her friend is presumed dead under mysterious circumstances, things get really interesting. Ride along with Grace as she puzzles out what happened to her friend, and the source of the mysterious happenings on the island. As in his previous bestselling book, [The Midnight Library](#) (\$18), Matt Haig has created a cast of characters that will astound you, confound you, and warm your heart. Solve a mystery and start a second life with *The Life Impossible*.

✎ Harris, Robert. [Precipice](#) (Hutchinson UK \$44). The summer of 1914, 26-year-old Venetia Stanley – aristocratic, clever, bored, reckless – is having a love affair with the Prime Minister, H. H. Asquith, a man more than twice her age. He writes to her obsessively, sharing the most sensitive matters of state. As Asquith reluctantly leads the country into war with Germany, a young intelligence officer is assigned to investigate a leak of top secret documents – and suddenly what was a sexual intrigue becomes a matter of national security that will alter the course of political history. Again Harris seamlessly weaves together fact and fiction.

For the Unsigned US edition, see Brilliant British books below.

Jance, J A. [A Den of Iniquity](#) (Harper \$29.99). Former Seattle PD detective JP Beaumont, long remarried, long sober, and a devoted dog owner, is shocked when his grandson Kyle arrives out of the blue asking to live with JP and Mal. The shock comes in part because Kyle will be giving up the rest of his last year of high school in Ashland to graduate with his class, instead to finish up by enrolling in Bellingham. Something volcanic must have blown up his family. In truth his mom has moved out with his sister and his dad has moved in the woman with whom he’s been having an affair, and who is pregnant. Kyle, now 18, refuses to return to either household. When he reveals why, JP is moved to investigate. At the same time a Thanksgiving Day death in Bellingham may be more than the overdose it appears to be, so says the young man’s grandmother. JP, acting as a PI rather than a cop, agrees to take her case which will require turning over the ME’s verdict. As ever Jance’s polished and straightforward prose moves the narrative along so smoothly you want to read the entire book in one go. At least I did.

Jónasson, Ragnar. [Death at the Sanatorium](#) (Joseph \$45). Jónasson follows up with [The Darkness](#) (\$17.99), soon to be a TV series, with a fair-play whodunit worthy of Agatha Christie, whose work Ragnar translates into Icelandic. There are several time periods in the narrative. In 2012 Reykjavik, 30-something Helgi Reykadi is finishing his criminology dissertation on an unsolved homicide in a tuberculosis sanatorium turned research facility. Flashbacks fill in details about Helgi's subject: in 1983, someone tortured and murdered Ysra, a nurse at the facility, and a few days later the institution's director suffered a suspicious fall from the balcony. Police arrested the building's janitor on a false tip from nurse Tinna—who threw the janitor under the bus to distract from her own suspicious behavior—then let him go. After that, the case went cold. In 2012, Tinna turns up dead, so Helgi tracks down her and Ysra's old coworkers in hopes of solving both murders. When his interview subjects turn out to be strangely tight-lipped, he launches into a twisty investigation that culminates in a volcanic finale—two, actually. Jonasson is also the author of the bestseller [Reykjavik](#) (\$19) written with Katrin Jakobsdottir, Iceland's Prime Minister in 2023.

Kearsley, Susanna. [The King's Messenger](#) (Simon & Shuster UK \$44). Canadian Kearsley went to London in August in part to sign her book which has a spring 2025 US publication.

It is the year 1613, and King James is sending his messenger Andrew Logan into Scotland with secret orders to arrest Sir David Moray, close friend and advisor of the late Prince Henry. Secrets are second nature to Andrew, who must hide his Second Sight to stay alive. Joined by a court scrivener and the scrivener's spirited daughter Phoebe, Andrew slowly untangles the true purpose of his mission—to frame Sir David for Prince Henry's murder. But Andrew is unwilling to betray an innocent man. Phoebe Westaway dislikes Andrew, and their history makes it hard for her to trust him. But as their journey draws them deeper into the dark web of court intrigue, Phoebe begins to suspect that she might have need of the King's Messenger and his unusual gifts. I add that Diana Gabaldon, like me, is a rabid Kearsley fan. So here's a book to read while awaiting *Outlander* Book Ten.

Maden, Mike. [Clive Cussler Ghost Soldier](#) (Penguin \$32). I've always been a fan of Maden's propulsive and well researched writing. Lacking a reading copy I quote a review I am sure to agree with: "Juan Cabrillo and his crew aboard the warship *Oregon* face off against a brilliant and evil arms dealer in the entertaining latest Oregon Files adventure. The action opens during WWII, when an American airman is captured and imprisoned in a Japanese research center for chemical and biological weapons. In the present, a sadistic gunrunner known only as "the Vendor" has been selling \$80 billion in weaponry abandoned after America withdrew from Afghanistan. The U.S. government taps Cabrillo to figure out who's behind the transactions. Eventually, he leads his team—with the addition of beautiful and brainy engineer Callie Cosima, who designs state-of-the-art submersibles—to the Vendor's remote, booby-trapped island in the Bismarck Sea, where they fight flame-breathing robots and other obstacles. Maden effortlessly weaves subplots about the American POW and the Vendor's scheme to unleash biotoxins into the main action, which is vivid, bloody, and occasionally jaw-dropping. This fires on all cylinders."

Osman, Richard. [We Solve Murders](#) (Penguin UK \$42). British TV celebrity and popular author Osman starts a new series where solving murders is a family business. Father Steve Wheeler is enjoying retirement and his comfortable routines revolving around the pub out and his cat at home. Daughter Amy is the one pumping adrenaline now, currently on a remote island protecting mega-bestselling author Rosie D'Antonio, until a dead body and a bag of money mean trouble in paradise. So she sends an SOS to the only person she trusts.... Unsigned [US edition](#) (Viking \$30).

Pappas, Theodore. [Combing Through the White House](#) (Harper \$24.99). Only the charming and erudite researcher Pappas, who has visited us before Covid in his role at *Encyclopedia Britannica*, could devise and publish this concept: looking at U.S. presidents, the first families, and American history—all through the lens of hair. Through storytelling and full-color visuals we enter a deep window into the past. Go deep for such topics as: Abraham Lincoln's famously ridiculed appearance and the surprising role hair played in both his presidency and assassination. John F. Kennedy's connection to James Bond and how hair factored into his vast image-making and infidelities. The lush tradition of collecting hair as a way of honoring leaders (given impetus under the Victorian compulsion for mourning), remembering our loved ones, and preserving their memories. Scientific hair analysis and how DNA has been used to solve long-standing presidential mysteries. Who doesn't believe that his hair does now and won't define Trump?

Quartey, Kwei. [The Whitewashed Tombs](#) (Soho \$27.95). Born in Ghana to a Ghanaian father and a Black American mother, retired physician Quartey has written distinguished mysteries. Michael Connelly is a fan. In his latest in the Emma Djan series which has won him an Edgar nomination, Quartey addresses with passion the surge of hate crimes and the anti-gay bill threatening to tear Ghana apart in real life by making it central to private detective Emma's investigation. Here's one Starred Review:

"Quartey's fourth mystery featuring PI Emma Djan is the best yet, interweaving an agonizing portrait of anti-LGBTQ prejudice in Ghana with a top-notch whodunit. Djan works for Accra's Sowah Agency, an investigative firm retained by Godfrey Tetteh to probe the murder of his gay 27-year-old son, Marcelo, who's been hacked to death by someone who posed as a potential partner on a hookup app. Godfrey hires Djan's agency because he doesn't trust the local authorities with the inquiry, given Marcelo's status as one of Ghana's most vocal queer activists. Emma's investigation—which treats Ghana's antigay tourism minister, Peter Ansah, as a primary suspect—grows complicated when she learns that her closeted partner used to date Marcelo. To find answers, Emma goes undercover, with one of her least favorite colleagues, to infiltrate the upper ranks of Ghana's government. Quartey never puts a foot wrong, keeping the plot twists coming fast and furious without sacrificing the story's heart. Readers will be wowed." I was also wowed by Emma's last cases: [Last Seen in Lapaz](#) (\$17.99).

Mark Greaney's June thriller [The Sentinel](#) (Berkley \$30 Signed) took Ghana as the background for American Diplomatic Security Service ace Josh Duffy.

Quinn, Spencer. [A Farewell to Arfs](#) (Forge \$27.99). I have to lead with this review by Stephen King: "I have been a Chet and Bernie fan from the start. Chet is a wonderful narrator—top dog,

you could say—but he never descends to cuteness, and Bernie is as tough a PI as Spade or Marlowe, a man as quick with his .38 as he is with a Slim Jim for his sidekick.” Indeed we here have been with Chet and Bernie since the start since Quinn sets the series in Pottsville, a kind of clone of Scottsdale. Their elderly next door neighbor, Mr. Parsons, thought he was doing the right thing by loaning his ne’er do well son, Billy, some money to help get himself settled. But soon, Mr. Parsons discovers that his entire life savings is gone. A run-of-the-mill scam? Bernie isn’t convinced, but it’s Chet who senses what they’re really up against. Only Billy knows the truth, but he’s disappeared. While this is no cozy, Chet delights with some of his funniest dialogue ever.

Shafak, Elif. [There Are Rivers in the Sky](#) (Knopf \$29). In the ancient city of Nineveh, on the bank of the River Tigris, King Ashurbanipal of Mesopotamia, erudite but ruthless, built a great library that would crumble with the end of his reign. From its ruins, however, emerged a poem, the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, that would infuse the existence of two rivers and bind together three lives. The narrative then moves to 1840 London besides the Thames; 2014 Turkey where lands along the Tigris are under threat; and 2018 London, back by the Thames.

I strongly recommend you read the first two marvelous fantasies in the Sumerians Trilogy retelling the Gilgamesh epic by Emily H. Wilson: [Inanna](#) (\$17.99) and [Gilgamesh](#) (\$17.99). They are every bit as entralling as the retelling of the Greek myths and legends so popular now. Both paperbacks are beautifully packaged by UK publisher Titan. I love them.

Woodward, MP. [Tom Clancy Shadow State](#) (Penguin \$32). The vibrant economy of the new Vietnam is a shiny lure for Western capital as companies race to uncover ideal opportunities. Hendley Associates has sent their best analyst, Jack Ryan, Jr., to mine for investment gold. And he may have found some in a rare earth mining company—GeoTech. But a trip with a Hendley colleague to the Highlands to observe the company’s operations takes a treacherous turn when their helicopter is shot down. The Chinese will ruthlessly keep Jack from finding the truth about what exactly is being processed at the isolated factory.... We have supported Ryan universe from the days when Grant Sutherland and Mark Greaney stepped in, and now look forward to what Woodward will do following Bentley’s move to the Vince Flynn world. Mike may join us December 3 for a Legacy Authors Night with Brett Battles (Stuart Woods) and Andrews & Wilson (Clancy).

MORE SIGNED BOOKS FOR SEPTEMBER

Reviews to come

Aaronovitch, Ben. [Masquerades of Spring](#) (Orion UK \$36)

Alam, Rumaan. [Entitlement](#) (Penguin \$30)

✦ Archer, Jeffrey. [An Eye for an Eye](#) (Collins UK \$42)

Carr, Jack. [Targeted: Beirut](#) (Atria \$29.99) Might arrive in October

Dicker, Joel. [The Alaska Sanders Affair](#) (Harper \$32). The Swiss authors’ book is out late September but will not arrive here until early October

✦ Edwards, Martin. [Hemlock Bay](#) (Zeus UK \$42)

✦ Meyer, Nicholas. [Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell](#) (Penzler \$26.95) Signed here September 23

Nesbø, Jo. [Blood Ties](#) (Harvill UK \$44)

Rooney, Sally. [Intermezzo](#) (Farrar \$29) Tip-ins

✦ Rubin, Gareth. [Holmes and Moriarty](#) (SimonSchuster UK \$39)

Walker, Martin. [The Grave in the Woods](#) (Knopf \$29) Signed here September 24

Wrobel, Stephanie. [The Hitchcock Hotel](#) (Berkley \$29)

A LABOR DAY SUMMER OF SPIES SALE

Ends September 7. Now skip to some excellent new spy stories ending this Booknews

Du Brul Jack. [Clive Cussler: The Heist](#) (Putnam \$24 Signed). Ok, reaching back to May for an ingenious spy story set in 1914 as the Federal Reserve moves to consolidate US banking under its aegis and bad actors domestic and foreign work to bring the US to its knees. Truly terrific – Clive would have loved this Isaac Bell story.

Hart, Matthew. [The Lucifer Cut](#) (Pegasus \$24 Signed). US Treasury Agent Alex Turner risks all confronting an execution of a diamond merchant, real vs. fake gems, and bad geopolitical actors, mostly Chinese. High action and informative.

Kanon, Joseph. [Shanghai](#) (Scribner \$23 Signed). Refugees from Europe mix with native Shanghai citizens and incoming Japanese in 1938 where drumbeats of the coming war are faint but growing.

Rollins, James. [Arkangel](#) (Morrow \$24 Signed). As with Scot Harvath, Sigma Force moves into action where Russia is pushing boundaries in the Arctic as the seas defrost.

Silva, Daniel. [A Death in Cornwall](#) (Harper \$29 Signed). Not a spy story but an international art fraud and political scam game with retired spy Gabriel Allon, not yet ready to give up on action.

Thor, Brad. [Shadow of Doubt](#) (Atria \$24 Signed). Scot Harvath takes on the CIA when a (probable) Russian top gun defects to Norway.

THE SPIES OF SUMMER UPDATE

This was a rich season of spy stories of all types but with an emphasis on Russia as the bad actor, thus mirroring much of real life.

First, read this terrific informative article about the [Start of Spy Thrillers](#) referring to such classics as Dumas’ *The Three Musketeers*; Fenimore Cooper’s *The Spy*; Kipling’s *Kim*; Hope’s *The Prisoner of Zenda*; Orczy’s *The Scarlet Pimpernel* [note Genevieve Cogman’s updated fantasy version]; Ernest Childers’ *The Riddle of the Sands* from 1903, a favorite; Conrad’s *The Secret Agent* of 1907; Buchan’s *The Thirty-Nine Steps* of 1915; and later Eric Ambler, Graham Greene, Geoffrey Household, Helen MacInnes, and my all time favorite spy series still, Manning Coles’ Tommy Hambledon epics starting for me with *A Toast to Tomorrow*.

Speaking of classics, on October 24 a new George Smiley story [Karla’s Choice](#) (Viking UK \$44 Signed) written by the son of John Le Carré, writing as Nick Harkaway, will publish. Set in the missing decade between two iconic installments in Le Carré’s George Smiley saga, *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* and *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, it opens in the spring of 1963 and George Smiley has left the Circus. With the wreckage of the

West's spy war against the Soviets strewn across Europe, he has eyes only for a more peaceful life. And indeed, with his marriage more secure than ever, there is a rumor that George Smiley might almost be happy. But Control has other plans. A Russian agent has defected in the most unusual of circumstances, and the man he was sent to kill in London is nowhere to be found. Smiley reluctantly agrees to one last simple task: interview Szusanna, a Hungarian émigré and employee of the missing man, and sniff out a lead.... There will be an unsigned US edition also: [Karla's Choice](#) (Viking \$30).

Meanwhile here is a quartet of new Summer Spy Stories

Chambers, AJ. [The Vicar](#) (Blackstone \$17.99). Chambers draws upon his career in the British military, much of it in Northern Ireland, to craft this debut reminiscent of vintage spy fiction. Kirkus reviews: "In 1989, novice MI5 agent Terry Nolan works undercover in Belfast, on the trail of IRA terrorist Kieran Martin. Then one night Terry walks out of a pub and into an ambush, landing in a London hospital. In 2018, Terry is drinking too much and lives on a Catalina sloop moored in Boston Harbor. He's still with MI5 and still in pursuit of the IRA, but in a managerial position in which he's known as "the Vicar." This time he awakes after too much vodka to two armed thugs, dispatching both with panache. Both narratives share a laconic edge and a focus on action, reminiscent of Ian Fleming's James Bond, right down to the hero's wry stoicism. The contrast between the eager young Terry and the jaded elder Terry adds pathos. As the deft killing of the two would-be assassins proves, the elder Terry may have lost his innocence but not his skill set. It's good that Chambers gives Terry a chance to shake off the rust and regain his dedication, for the deadly duo forms just the tip of an annihilating iceberg. Terry's trail takes him all over the East Coast, to much of England, and through a platoon of henchmen."

Crawley, Harriet. [The Translator](#) (Bitter Lemon Press \$17.99). Wow, this absolute gem by a British journalist married once to a Russian and living in Moscow until 2016, is enthralling. I can't recommend it highly enough. Published first in the UK where both the *Sunday Times* and the *Financial Times* rated it as among the Best Thriller Books of 2023. I discovered it courtesy of the Wall Street books coverage which calls it "An espionage tale and a Romeo-and-Juliet romance zipped into one irresistible package." Clive Franklin, a Russian language expert in the Foreign Office, is summoned unexpectedly to Moscow to act as translator for the British Prime Minister. His life is upended when he discovers that his former lover, Marina Volina, is the interpreter to the Russian President, clearly modeled on Vladimir Putin. What is afoot is a Russian plot to cut the undersea communication cables linking the US to the UK, thus opening a new global threat front. Think of this as 'A gripping, prophetic and ingenious novel of love and political intrigue in the new Cold War.' It also links to both the James Rollins and Brad Thor stories where Russia is a bad actor on sale above.

Dees, Cindy. [Double Tap](#) (Kensington \$28). Cindy Dees puts her own military and intelligence experience to great use in this beautifully executed series (of two so far) that features former CIA assassin Helen Warwick. As in the novels of say Dan Fesperman, Helen is a former operative who's done her best to hang up her guns and put her past behind her, which doesn't stop it from continuing to catch up with her. This time, that happens

when a sniper takes a shot at her politician son. Helen saves the day, but what about tomorrow? With no other choice, she returns to her former life to track down the Russian sleeper agent behind the attempt on her son's life which turns out to be part of a much more wide-ranging and nefarious plot with nothing less than the fate of the country hanging in the balance. Dees has a great sense of pace and action, both enhanced by the quality of her writing which is every bit the match for her storytelling.

But start by meeting Helen in [Second Shot](#) (\$17.99), wherein the highly skilled CIA assassin is trying to navigate retirement, settle into a normal life, and reconnect with her family...in the midst of mortal combat. It reinforces the idea put forth elsewhere by authors such as Tess Gerritsen in her new series start zinger [The Spy Coast](#) (\$16.99) that spies don't get to retire to civilian life and if they present a danger to their organization, might be executed. Even the new Alan Bradley [Flavia de Luce](#) (Bantam \$28 out September 3), is framed around this point.

Shi, Hansen. [The Expat](#) (Pegasus \$27.99). Dive into geopolitics and a disaffected Asian American tech worker ripe for exploitation. "The main character in Hansen Shi's excellent debut spy novel is an alienated young man named Michael Wang. He's a first generation Chinese American a few years out of Princeton who's hit the bamboo ceiling at General Motors in San Francisco, where he's been working on technology for self-driving cars. Enter a femme fatale named Vivian who flatters Michael into believing that his brilliance will be recognized by her enigmatic boss in China. Once Michael settles into life in Beijing, however, he realizes he's been tapped, not as a prodigy, but a patsy. I wanted this moody espionage tale to go on longer."—Maureen Corrigan, NPR

AND DON'T MISS BRILLIANT BRITISH CRIME

As is the way with publishing, a burst of books in one grouping will appear. And so it is with some British mystery that I eagerly call to your attention here. They come in hardcover and paperback by British authors. Some are more "British" than others but you who love the nuances of British class and culture and navigate "Britspeak" – August has been Women in Translation Month and to an extent a bit of translation can be required to navigate vocabulary, idioms, humor and jokes here—will be richly rewarded reading any or all of the below.

Ashford, Lindsay Jayne. [Through the Mist](#) (Lake Union \$16.99). Picture Cornwall and the artists' haven of St. Ives. Imagine it in the winter of 1947 when Britain was in the grip of weather and rationing. But newlyweds Ellen and Tony Wylde, she a successful maker of wooden toys, he a painter of the *plein air* school, arrive, she in jeep, he in motorbike, to live in abandoned, fairly primitive Carreg Cottage up in boulders above the village, are optimistic about their new life. Iris Birch as she calls herself, age nineteen, also arrives just before Christmas, having escaped her father and stepmother and an arranged marriage. Iris' mother died near Carreg Cottage. How these two women unite in their work and in a quest to uncover the village's dark secrets before they are destroyed make a propulsive, atmospheric, story. And, when you get to the end, there's a fascinating summation of all the real characters who appear as themselves like the sculptress Barbara Hepworth, or who form the basis for the fictional like famed abstract painter Wilhelmina Barns-Graham as Iris. This book is compelling on several levels.

Ashford is also the author of [The Woman on the Orient Express](#) (\$14.99) taking Agatha Christie making a break from her divorce from Archie by boarding the famous train in disguise. But she's not the only passenger guarding secrets. Not yet read by me—I ordered a copy—but I'm guessing this is another of Ashford's trademark mix of fiction with events and people from real life and evoking the power of sisterhood.

Callaghan, Jo. [In the Blink of an Eye](#) (Random \$18) is the winner of the 2024 Theakston Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year as well as the John Creasey Debut Dagger Award. Here's why: Two detectives, one human, one AI, are forced to work together in an experiment on the future of policing. And in a case that will test them both. The interplay between these two leads is believable, tense but humorous, effective, and each overcomes initial prejudice to learn from the other. Our new bookseller Deb adds: "Two detectives, one a female veteran and the other an AI creation, are forced to work together to solve a missing person cold case. This debut will have you sitting on the edge of your seat and wondering where the lines between human and AI blur. Hunches versus statistics, heart versus head, what makes a human detective better than an AI one?"

NOTE: We have the sequel in stock you can buy now. BUT we have secured enough hardcover copies, [Leave No Trace](#) (Bloomsbury \$28) **for members of our October British Crime Club Book of the Month** that ships to club members with free shipping in the US. If you are a fan of British Crime you would do well to join this club for September–December and get great books in your subscription box with free shipping. To join email Karen@poisonedpen.com

Caudwell, Sarah. [The Sybil in Her Grave](#) (\$18). Reissued this month, the 4th in a brilliant and beloved series featuring Oxford fellow and legal eagle Professor Hilary Tamar (sex and proclivities never identified). Another mystery icon, the much missed Amanda Cross, was a fan: "This is the last novel we will have from Sarah Caudwell; like all her marvelous books, it combines wit and forbearance, intellect and passion, above all, humor and perfection of language. Sarah set out to write a classic English village crime story, complete with vicar and mad virgin, and here it is, together with Hilary Tamar and the brilliant, sexy, young lawyers at the Chancery Bar. I hardly know whether to cry for joy at their return, or to weep for the finality of this bittersweet adventure."

Book 3, [The Sirens Sang of Murder](#) (\$18), won the 2000 Anthony Award for Best Novel, but you really want to start with [Thus Was Adonis Murdered](#) (\$18), the first, and continue with [The Shortest Way to Hades](#) (\$18). I add that the *NY Times Book Review* mystery columnist recently gave the 4 reprints a rave as do I.

Gauntlett, AE. [The Stranger at the Wedding](#) (Harper \$28.99). This debut by a UK author will be our **September British Crime Club Pick** so club members should not order it. For those of you interested in debuts, do not miss this one just because it isn't signed. Raves are in from all over, including mine, for characters and a plot that is truly original and imbued with a strong sense of Greek myth.

Annie and Mark met on the 5:38 train to London Bridge. As they would discover, both had traumas in their past. Annie's was the sudden death of her two-year-old sister, Jessica. Mark's was the disappearance of his wife, Hope, who walked

out the door one day and was never heard from again. They bonded quickly, dated, courted, and got engaged. And then, on the wedding day, as Annie gazes around the pews, she sees a face she does not recognize, and for some reason, a chill runs through her in a rollercoaster of a book that will leave your head spinning. The stranger is Cameron Wilkes, a retired detective inspector hired by Hope's father to find out the truth about Hope's disappearance. But truth is such a slippery concept. Hope had secrets. So does Mark. So does Annie. So, it turns out, does Cameron Wilkes. In the weeks that follow, all those secrets will emerge, collide, and turn their lives upside down. No one will survive unscathed. Some will not survive at all. Gauntlett succeeds here in reversing a familiar Romance trope too.

Harris, Robert. [Precipice](#) (Harper \$30). Harris writes, "As Britain was sucked into a catastrophic war in the summer of 1914, the Prime Minister, H.H. Asquith had other things on his mind. He was in the grip of an obsessive love affair with Venetia Stanley, a young aristocratic woman less than half his age. In all, he wrote her more than five hundred letters – up to three a day, sometimes during Cabinet meetings – passionate declarations of love, often including top secret documents. The existence of the affair was first revealed in the 1960s, when Roy Jenkins was allowed to quote from the letters in his authorized biography of Asquith. In 1982, a scholarly edition of just over half the archive was published by the Oxford University Press. Venetia Stanley carefully preserved Asquith's letters to her, but he destroyed all hers to him. This has inevitably given a skewed impression of the relationship. So, as I was writing this novel, my first important task was to try to construct her side of the correspondence. As I did so, a different picture began to emerge." And here it is.

Smith, Sally. [A Case of Mice and Murder](#) (\$36 Signed UK edition or \$28 Unsigned UK edition). I made a point when in London in June in walking down the Embankment past the ancient Inns of Court, the very heart of Britain's legal professions and bounded also by Fleet Street. There's a very useful map in Smith's debut. A lawyer herself she draws upon her life's work to write a skillful, elegant, gentle satire imagining a murder within the hallowed precincts of the Lord Chief Justice. It's 1901 so finding a body wearing socks but not shoes is shocking. A reluctant barrister, a man we'd call a back-room lawyer, is deputized to investigate—the Yard and city police have no jurisdiction within the boundaries of the Inns. He has to weed among those ambitious to succeed the victim as well as the man's household and friends. If you like historical or deeply British fiction, this is for you. I adored this our **British Crime Book of the Month for August**, but then I was primed for it by the work of Sarah Caudwell noted above.

Vassell, Charlotte. [The Other Half](#) (\$18). This (so far two book) series kicks off with posh Rupert's 30th birthday party, a black-tie dinner at the Kentish Town McDonald's—catered with cocaine and expensive champagne. The morning after, his girlfriend Clemmie is found murdered on Hampstead Heath, a single stiletto heel jutting from under a bush. All the party-goers have alibis. Naturally. This investigation is going to be about aristocrats and Classics degrees, Instagram influencers and whose father knows who—a huge challenge for DI Caius Beauchamp.

But this is prelude to an even more spectacular romp [The In Crowd](#) (Knopf \$28). Vassell has even more wicked fun shifting narrators and timelines, and her satire remains sharp but

good humored, not mean but brilliantly illuminating character and society. In her way she's a social historian in the way that Georgette Heyer portrayed Regency society, and she's less esoteric than Sarah Caudwell whose society in her glorious books is narrowly circumscribed by Oxford and the legal world. The story of more bad behavior of England's upper class begins when a rowing team discovers a dead body floating in the Thames, It looks more like a tragic suicide than a crime. But Caius' investigation soon links the body to two seemingly unconnected cold cases: the decades-old disappearance of a teenage girl from a Cornish boarding school and the vanishing of an apparel executive who ran off with his company's pension fund and was never seen again.

Williams, Pip. [The Bookbinder](#) (\$19). Not a mystery but wonderfully illuminating the world of Oxford and publishing. It's 1914 and women are stepping up to keep Britain running as war begins. Sisters Peggy and Maude work in Oxford University Press' bookbinding department. Peggy sees that women at Somerville College (Dorothy L. Sayers studied there) have a whole library of finished books and dreams of joining them while Maude prefers the routine of the bindery and the company of the other girls there. When refugees arrive from the war-torn cities of Belgium, sending ripples through the Oxford community and the sisters' lives, Peggy imagines a new future. This is an excellent book for fans of Maisie Dobbs. "*The Bookbinder* is a story about knowledge—who creates it, who can access it, and what truths get lost in the process."