

BOOKNEWS from

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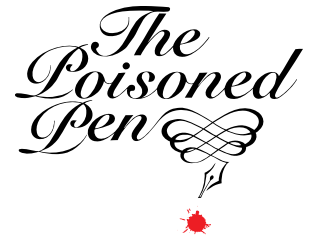
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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 1 6:00 PM Live Event

An Evening with Zibby Owens and Friends

Sarah Sawyer discusses [The Undercurrent](#) (Zibby Books \$27.99)

A debut praised by Gillian Flynn

Authors also attending: Betty Cayouette, Annabel Monaghan, Maggie Smith, Tara Schuster. Jessica Knoll has dropped out

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2 5:00 PM Live Event

Ellison, JT. [A Very Bad Thing](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$28.99)

Our November Crime Subscription Book of the Month

TIME CHANGE OUR EVENTS NOW ARE ON MST

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Live Event

Our second Authors Fair

Free to attend. Come and support local authors

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9 2:00 PM Live Event

Adriana Allegri discusses [The Sunflower House](#) (St Martins \$29).

Historical fiction debut set in 1939 Germany

MONDAY NOVEMBER 11 5:00 PM Virtual Event

Watch a recorded interview with Barbara and David Baldacci

They discuss [To Die For](#) (Grand Central \$30)

Our Signed copies come with a custom foil bookmark

The 6.20 Man on a mission in the Seattle area

MONDAY NOVEMBER 11 7:00 PM Live Book Launch

Graham Brown discusses [Clive Cussler Desolation Code](#)

(Putnam \$32)

NUMA is sucked into an extinction scheme in the Indian Ocean

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14 7:00 PM Live Event

Phil Margolin and Dan Bronson

Margolin discusses [An Insignificant Case](#) (St Martins \$29)

Start a new series where an unsuccessful lawyer is sucked into a surprising case

Bronson discusses *Shout* (\$20), independently published

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15 6:00 PM Live Event

Joel Thompson discusses [The Bentley Barrister](#) (Page \$24.95)

Debut legal thriller by a local author

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15 7:30 PM Live or Virtual Event

SciFi Friday discusses Octavia Butler's [Fledgling](#) (\$18.99)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16 10:30 AM Live or Virtual Event

Croak & Dagger Club discusses Percival Everett's [Dr. No](#) (\$16)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16 5:00 PM Live Book Launch Conversation and wine

Rhys Bowen discusses [We Three Queens](#) (Berkley \$28)

Her Royal Spyness contends with pregnancy, relatives, and Mrs. Simpson

MONDAY NOVEMBER 18 7:00 PM Live Book Launch

Craig Johnson discusses [Tooth and Claw: A Longmire Story](#) (Viking \$25)

On sale at the event at a special price: [First Frost Signed](#) (Penguin \$24),

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20 12:00 PM Virtual Event

Celeste Connally discusses [All's Fair in Love and Treachery](#) (St Martins \$28)

Lady Petra Regency #2

Deborah J. Benoit discusses [The Gardener's Plot](#) (St Martins \$28)

A debut and our November Cozy Crimes Subscription Book

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20 7:00 PM Live Event

Jack Stewart and Steve Urszenyi

Stewart discusses [Bogey Spades](#) (Severn River \$17.99)

TOPGUN pilot Colt Bancroft #3

Urszenyi discusses [Out in the Cold](#) (St Martins \$29)

Special Agent Alex Martel allies with the CIA in Finland

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21 7:00 PM Live Event
Hardboiled Discussion Group discusses Richard Stark's [The Score](#) (\$17)
Donald E Westlake writing as Stark, John Banville the Introduction

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23 11:00 AM Live Event
The Cookbook Club discusses *Food Gifts: 150+ Irresistible Recipes* by America's Test Kitchen

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23 5:00 pm Live Event
ML Rio discusses [Graveyard Shift](#) (Flatiron \$26.99)
The author of [If We Were Villains](#) (\$18.99) returns with a story about a ragtag group of night shift workers meeting in a college cemetery
[Paperback edition](#) \$16.99)

MONDAY NOVEMBER 25 6:00 PM MST Virtual Event
Mike Lupica discusses [Robert B Parker's Hot Property](#) (Putnam \$30)
Signed books featuring Spenser and Hawk available

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28 All Day
Closed for Thanksgiving

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30 All Day Live Event
Small Business Saturday
Join us for sales, giveaways, treats, TikTok filming

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30 Time TBA
Tom Van Dyke is on hand to discuss and sell his 1873 tale [A Cowboy Christmas: An American Tale](#) (\$19.95)
7th and final edition)

OUR NOVEMBER BOOK SUBSCRIPTION CLUB PICKS

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
Bamford, Emma. [Eye of the Beholder](#)

Cozy Crimes Club One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month
Benoit, Deborah J. [The Gardener's Plot](#)

The Crime Collectors Book of the Month Club One Signed First Printing per month
Ellison, JT. [A Very Bad Thing](#)

First Mystery Club One Signed First Printing per month
Idov, Michael. [The Collaborators](#)

Hardboiled/Noir Club One Signed First Printing per month

Historical Fiction Club One First Printing per month
Lewis, David. [A Jewel in the Crown](#)

Historical Fiction Paperback Club One Unsigned paperback per month
Ashford, Lindsay Jayne. [The Woman on the Orient Express](#)

Notable New Fiction One Signed First Printing per month
Chizmar, Richard. [Memorials](#)

Romance and Relationships One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Elliot, Amanda. [Love You a Latke](#)

SIGNED BOOKS

Allegri, Adriana. [The Sunflower House](#) (St Martins \$29). John reviews: No one in her family knew anything about Allina Strauss's life prior to her emigrating to the United States after World War II. Then one fateful afternoon, Allina's daughter Katrine finds a wooden box hidden under the floor in Allina's bedroom. The discovery of this box proves to be the key to unlocking Allina's past as she now shares with her daughter exactly what her life was like back in Germany. Allegri's riveting debut focuses on Nazi Germany's notorious Lebensborn through which the Nazi's tried to breed their version of a perfect race. Allegri's deft command of historical details is matched by her gift for creating memorable characters including Allina, whose efforts to do whatever small part she can to combat the evil spreading through Europe will have readers on the edge of their seats. "Allegri keenly depicts her characters' moral calculations, and she convincingly portrays the horrors of the Lebensborn program."

Atwood, Margaret. [Paper Boat: New and Selection Poems 1961-2023](#) (Knopf \$40). Spanning six decades of work—from her earliest beginnings to brand-new poems—this volume charts the evolution of one of our most iconic authors.

Baldacci, David. [To Die For](#) (Grand Central \$30). David has signed our copies and they come with a really snazzy custom foil bookmark!

We left veteran Travis Devine in Maine at the end of his awesome 2nd outing: [The Edge](#) (\$19.99). This book was so very good in part because of David's long family ties to Maine, knowing the landscape of the story well. And for the characters and a nail biting plot that included a woman determined to kill Travis, the 6.20 Man.

Blood flows, bombs explode, and people perish. Travis' new mission finds him sent across the country to Seattle. It's an odd one: He is to aid the FBI in escorting orphaned, twelve-year-old Betsy Odom to a meeting with her uncle, a man deemed dangerously corrupt and under federal investigation. Instead, Travis is hoping to lay low and keep off the radar of that enemy from Maine—the one he calls the girl on the train from an almost deadly incident on one. What he finds is a hostile, bitter, uncooperative FBI Agent, another female to outwit if he can't negotiate, and another in a precocious 12-year-old who is determined to live with her uncle, a girl who has been orphaned by the unexpected death of her parents. OK, you know right there that there is much

more to this assignment than babysitting. And that Travis has to outwit or at least neutralize the girl on the train if she has followed him West as well as the FBI and young Betsy....

* Bowen, Rhys. [We Three Queens](#) (Berkley \$28). It's late 1936, and King Edward is in turmoil, having fallen in love with the scandalously divorced and even more scandalously American Wallis Simpson. He wants to marry her but knows that doing so will jeopardize his crown. Edward confides in his dear friend Darcy, Georgie's husband, and the couple agrees to hide Wallis in their home while Edward figures out what to do. But unbeknownst to Georgie and Darcy, Sir Hubert, the owner of the estate, has given a film crew permission to shoot a motion picture about Henry the Eighth and Anne Boleyn on the grounds. Trying to keep Mrs. Simpson hidden while raising a newborn baby seems like it couldn't be any more stressful for the Rannochs, until one of the stars of the film is found murdered on set. Yes, Her Royal Spyness' country manor is invaded by its actual and benevolent owner, by a movie company, and by Mrs. Simpson, not to mention Georgie's dread brother and his wife from Scotland.

Brown, Graham. [Clive Cussler Desolation Code](#) (Putnam \$32). Publication day is Tuesday November 12 so you can ask for your copy to be dated November 11 if you wish. Graham has outdone himself with this chapter in the NUMA Files. Our event is on Armistice Day and Graham launches us into a new kind of war.

First, we are mostly in the Indian Ocean. Second, he's done a deep dive into AI and a kind of *Hunger Games* scenario with a twisted genius at the plot's core who reminds me of Elon Musk. Not kidding. The opening scenes where whales and other marine creatures are beaching themselves are gripping, as is the on-the-spot brilliant engineering Kurt Austin conceives to save the largest whale. Whales, as he points out, rapidly become crushed by their own weight on land, deprived of the buoyancy of the sea. Next, Kurt and his team and volunteers begin to collect evidence of the mass stranding and deaths in order to stop them. But then other marine creatures are bio-hacked including a deadly swarm of sea locusts, and NUMA is forced into a high-speed chase — someone didn't want them examining those dead whales. But who, and why? A cryptic text through the NUMA satellite network makes things still stranger: these odd phrases and numbers look like NUMA codes. More hacking? Are they being helped by an old friend, or lured into a trap by a traitor who knows a little too much about NUMA's inner workings? Kurt, Joe, and even Max, the agency's supercomputer, furiously decrypt data, infiltrate a cult of cloned men, and prepare for a battle on two very different planes: one physical; one digital. The aquatic stranding was just the beginning of a sinister plan....

Dean, Will. [Ice Town](#) (Hodder \$42). "Deaf teenager goes missing in Esseberg. Mountain rescue are launching a search party but conditions hinder their efforts. The tunnel is being kept open all night as an exception." When journalist Tuva Moodyson reads this news alert she knows she must join the search. If this teenager is found, she will be able to communicate with him in a way no one else can. Esseberg lies on the other side of a mountain tunnel: there is only one way in and one way out. When the tunnel closes at night, the residents are left to fend for themselves. And as more people go missing, it becomes clear that there is a killer among them. Britain's Dean, who lives in the deep woods in Sweden, is a massive UK bestseller with this series.

Edim, Glory. [Gather Me, A Memoir in Praise of the Books That Saved Me](#) (Random \$28) by the founder of Well-Read Black Girls on-line book club

Ellison, JT. [A Very Bad Thing](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$28.99). J.T. says, "This is a book about mothers and daughters. About the life of a brand name writer. About the secrets we hold deep in our hearts and how we curate our lives for strangers. It's set in New York, Colorado, and Tennessee, with a cast of characters I think you'll love—and love to hate. And it is a wild ride."

For a mystery writer, the juiciest plot twist would be her own murder. Is this what the celebrated author Columbia Jones will deliver? With a number of hit titles and a highly anticipated movie tie-in, she's at the top of her game. Fans around the world adore her. But on the final night of her latest book tour, one face in the crowd makes the author collapse. And by the next morning, she's lying dead in a pool of blood. This leaves Darian, her daughter and publicist, reeling. The police have nothing to go on—at first. But then details emerge, pointing to Columbia's unsuspected past.... Here is our **November Crime Subscription Club Book of the Month**. [Paperback edition](#) (\$16.99).

Evanovich, Janet. [Now or Never](#) (Atria \$29.99). Plum #31. Stephanie said yes to Morelli. She said yes to Ranger. Now she has two fiancés and no idea what to do about it. While Stephanie stalls for time, she buries herself in her work as a bounty hunter, tracking down an unusually varied assortment of fugitives from justice. There's Eugene Fleck, a seemingly sweet online influencer who might also be YouTube star Robin Hoodie, masked hero to the homeless, who hijacks delivery trucks and distributes their contents to the needy. She's also on the trail of Bruno Jug, a wealthy and connected man in the wholesale produce business who is rumored to traffic young girls alongside lettuce and tomatoes. Most terrifying of all is Zoran—a laundromat manager by day and self-proclaimed vampire by night with a taste for the blood of pretty girls. When he shows up on Stephanie's doorstep, it's not for the meatloaf dinner. With timely assists from her stalwart supporters Lula, Connie, and Grandma Mazur, Stephanie works to reel everyone in...or out.

Harkaway, Nick. [Karla's Choice](#) (Viking UK \$44). Just 5 now available. Deb recommends: Harkaway captures his late father's voice, giving us one more time with fan favorite characters master spy George Smiley and his Soviet counterpart, Karla. An unexpected delight for long-time fans of the series or a shorter treat for newbies wanting to read about spycraft as a skill, soaked in 1960's atmosphere. We also have the [Unsigned US edition](#) (\$30).

* Hawkins, Paula. [The Blue Hour](#) (Harper \$30). I admit than in my present mood I'm not much for unpleasant characters, or people for that matter (luckily I seldom encounter unpleasant people). So as this story has several, I haven't given it much of a push. The critic Tom Nolan has a [more constructive review](#) in the *Wall Street Journal* you can read. If you like art in your mysteries, and isolated Scottish islands, and multiple narrators speaking through prose segments like diary entries, newspapers, etc, plus murders, this new book by the author of *The Girl on the Train* is for you. And we appreciate her stopping by to sign them in person.

Bonus: Tom also reviews two books I can give raves: Alan Bradley's [What Time the Sexton's Spade Doth Rust](#)

(Bantam \$28) and Louise Penny's [The Grey Wolf](#) (St Martins \$30 SIGNED), both published in October.

Henry, Emily. [Funny Story](#) (Penguin \$29). A few copies for gifts to those craving romance.

Idov, Michael. [The Collaborators](#) (Scribner \$28.99). I admit I love a spy story and this debut is our **November First Mystery Subscription Club Pick**. Why? "What the ever expanding world of espionage fiction needs, it turns out, is a Yale-educated Millennial field operative who dresses in Weezer t-shirts and knows his way around a semi-automatic... [*The Collaborators* is a] slim, well-paced, deceptively complex novel of American and Russian intelligence... a novel as cool as it is accomplished, that knits together action, tradecraft and quippy dialogue with flair." —*Vogue*. *Kirkus Reviews* calls it "Sharp, freshly conceived, thoroughly entertaining spy fiction."

At the center of the action is CIA officer Ari Falk, who's investigating the likely murder of one of his prized assets, a Russian blogger who was taken off a passenger jet during an unplanned stop in Latvia and never seen again. Falk eventually connects that case to the disappearance of billionaire financier Paul Obrandt, who recently jumped from the back of his yacht off the coast of Portugal. Paul's daughter, Maya, is looking for her dad, not out of love but out of a suspicion that he staged his own death. She and Falk team up, repressing their mutual attraction as they trace Obrandt's trail across Eastern Europe to Moscow, where they learn of his links to Russia's military intelligence agency. The details of the tradecraft feel especially authentic even if the plot can be bumpy. And I can't help but recall the death of British publishing mogul (and fraudster) Robert Maxwell, also mysteriously drowned off his yacht, although there is no suggestion he was an intelligence agent and his body was recovered from the sea.

Jackson, Ketanji Brown. [Lovely One: A Memoir](#) (Random House \$35). There is a spate of memoirs flooding this fall. Some of them are Signed, like this. It's interesting to hear from one of the Justices on a Supreme Court I find fatally flawed. I used to think the Dred Scott decision was as bad as the Supremes could rule, but it's being eclipsed. In part, I suspect, because the majority can envision some reform coming depending on the election outcome.

Johnson, Craig. [Tooth and Claw: A Longmire Story](#) (Viking \$25). Sheriff Walt Longmire looks back on an episode from his early years—a life-or-death fight on Alaska's North Slope. Naturally Henry Standing Bear was involved when Walt took a security gig for an oil company drilling in Alaska in 1970. The drilling has caused tension with environmentalists in the region, who want 20 million acres of Alaskan land set aside as a national wildlife refuge. Walt is assigned to a survey team testing ice cores, but shortly after the group reaches their site, someone is killed. Initially, the evidence indicates a wild animal attack, but Blackjack, an Indigenous sniper on the security detail, warns the survivors it may actually be the work of "nanurluk, the great bear god who cannot be killed." As Longmire and his cohorts fight to stay alive, certain members of their party reveal sinister motives.

The perfect stocking stuffer for any Craig Johnson fan, this short novel fills in the chronological gap for young Walt and Henry after they have returned from fighting in Vietnam and before they become our favorite sheriff and bar owner in

Wyoming. The Alaskan cold and a corrupt oil company is no match for these two. Here's a treat in the tradition of [Wait for Signs](#) (\$17) and [The Highwayman](#) (\$16).

And on sale at the event at a special price: [First Frost Signed](#) (Penguin \$24), the most recent full length Longmire.

* Kernick, Simon. [You All Die Tonight](#) (Headline UK \$40). Seven people wake up in a remote mansion. The doors are all locked. They have no idea where they are. Who brought them there. Or how to escape. Each knew the victims of a dreadful crime committed four years earlier but that's all that links them. Then a voice echoes through the house with a terrifying message. They've been poisoned—and have less than 12 hours to live. There's an antidote on hand: but only if someone admits to being a killer. And they all claim to be innocent. How many—if any—of them will survive the night?

* Lewis, David. [A Jewel in the Crown](#) (Kensington \$27). The publisher calls this a cross between Maisie Dobbs and James Bond which isn't completely puffery for our November Historical Fiction Subscription Book of the Month. The action in this debut by Lewis is first rate. And the series lead (I learned from conversing with him at his October 26 event) will continue to be [spoiler, she survives] the Welsh policewoman Caitrin Colline, a coal miner's daughter and an ardent Socialist, forced here on a mission to secure the British Crown Jewels. It's 1940 and soon after Dunkirk Churchill devises a daring scheme to send them to Canada by secretly removing them from the Tower and driving them north to rendezvous with a ship in western Scotland. The operatives are Caitrin posing as the wife of Lord Marlton, Hector Neville-Percy. A less likely couple is at first difficult to imagine. Still they are able to grapple with enemies within and without ending in a life or death chase. Lewis reminds us that all of Britain was not united against the Nazis.

Lupica, Mike. [Robert B Parker's Hot Property](#) (Putnam \$30). Spenser is waiting out the latest Boston snowstorm when he gets word that Rita Fiore has been shot. Rita's always been a tricky one: flirting with Spenser for years, she's an ever-present figure that transcends friendship in Spenser's circle. But at the end of the day, Rita is family. And family will always be protected. Both a pit bull in the courtroom and provocateur outside it, Rita is no stranger to controversy. But as one of the city's toughest lawyers, Spenser knows that there's no short list of suspects who might want to enact revenge. With Rita's life hanging in the balance, Spenser, backed by Hawk, swings into action.... I can really get into this since one full Sunday last January I was trapped waiting out a blizzard at Boston's Logan airport.

Margolin, Phillip. [An Insignificant Case](#) (St Martins \$29). Charlie Webb is a third rate lawyer who graduated from a third rate law school and, because he couldn't get hired by any of the major law firms, has opened his own law firm, where he gets by handling cases for dubious associates from his youth and some court appointed cases. Charlie has led unremarkable life, personally and professionally until he's appointed to be the attorney for a decidedly crackpot artist who calls himself Guido Sabatini (born Lawrence Weiss). Sabatini has been arrested – again – for breaking into a restaurant. Why? This is good for fans of TV's *The Lincoln Lawyer* if somewhat lighter.

Mead, Tom. [The Indian Rope Trick and Other Violent Entertainments](#) (Crippen & Landru \$47) delivers an outstanding

collection of 11 short stories—three previously unpublished—set in 1930s England and featuring retired conjurer-turned-investigator Joseph Spector. Mead’s “impossible murder” setups include, in the title tale, a strangulation in the aftermath of a legendary magic trick; a character’s death from spontaneous combustion in a descending cable car (“Incident at Widow’s Perch”); and a stabbing in a sealed-off room that appears to give credence to a retired military man’s assertions that he’s being stalked by a supernatural creature (“Invisible Death”). In each tale, Mead, specializing in Golden Age and locked room mysteries, offers a cornucopia of remixed genre tropes and original tricks, including first-to-third person perspective shifts that pull the wool over readers’ eyes and eyebrow-raising details about murder scenes with no visible evidence of foul play. Through it all, Joseph Spector—who leads each of Mead’s three novels—remains a top-shelf amateur sleuth. These ingeniously constructed puzzles are all the more impressive for their brevity. Golden age mystery fans will be thrilled.

Meyer, Deon. [Leo](#) (Hodder \$44). Detectives Benny Griessel and Vaughn Cupido remain on duty in beautiful Stellenbosch, but run-of-the-mill police work in a leafy university town famed for its vineyards is a far cry from their previous life in Cape Town fighting crime at the highest level. For now, Benny has more pressing things to worry about—it’s the countdown to his wedding day on 12 June. Then a student is found dead on a mountain trail, and the key suspect, a local businessman, is found murdered in what looks like a professional hit delivering a message—suffocated by fast-action filler foam sprayed down his throat—Griessel and Cupido both know this the work of professionals. Benny knows he needs a cool head to untangle this web of deceit...and to wrap up the case by 12 June. South African Meyer is such a brilliant crime writer but he’s never quite caught on here in the States. Maybe his Netflix series [Heart of the Hunter](#) will change that.

Murakami, Haruki. [The City and Its Uncertain Walls](#) (Knopf \$35). Not signed but comes with an art overlay print while supply lasts.”In this reworking of a Murakami short story, the narrator grieves the loss of his teenage love. Through mysterious circumstances, he finds himself in a fantastical town, while his shadow self toils in an unfulfilled existence in Tokyo.”

Patterson, James. [The House of Cross](#) (LittleBrown \$30). Comes with a Signed Bookplate. In Washington, DC, the president-elect is planning her inauguration. The list of Supreme Court candidates is highly confidential—until it becomes evidence in Detective Alex Cross’s toughest investigation. One candidate is gunned down. A second is stabbed. A third is murdered near midnight on a city street. Cross is the FBI’s top expert in criminal behavior. Will he be good enough?

Patterson, James. [Raised by Wolves](#) (Grand Central \$32). Comes with a Signed Bookplate. Two teens appear out of nowhere, ransacking a small-town grocery and attacking police officers who come to investigate. Their clothes are torn and filthy, their hands and bare feet callused, they have fangs. They’re sister and brother, alone against the world. Where did they come from?

Qiu, Xiaolong. [Conspiracies of the Empire](#) (Severn \$29.99). A Judge Dee Mystery set in China’s Tang Dynasty. Xiaolong’s novels, the first of which won the 2003 Anthony Award, remain among my favorite mysteries whether in Shanghai with Inspector

Chen, a poet, or historical, with Judge Dee. One thing to love in this novel is all the poetry, much from the period, some from Judge Dee himself, that Xiaolong, a noted poet, has translated and included at the end of the novel.

“Qiu’s vivid second historical mystery featuring judge Dee Renjie after [The Shadow of the Empire](#) (\$17.95) plunges the seventh-century Tang Dynasty sleuth into a politically fraught search for a missing poet. Empress Wu has risen to power from her humble beginnings as “palace female talent” for the late Emperor Taizhong, then concubine to his son, Gaozhong. Wu clinched the throne after accusing Gaozhong’s wife, Wang, of murdering the couple’s infant; shortly afterward, Wang was killed, casting suspicion on the new empress. Wu has just squashed an uprising inspired by poet Luo Binwang, when news arrives that Luo has gone missing. Though many believe Luo died in the rebellion, Wu sends Dee—one of her ministers—to track him down. Dee’s inquiry gets complicated after one of his key witnesses, a maid to the late Empress Wang, is found murdered, causing him to question whether Wu is the virtuous ruler he’s always believed her to be. Qiu effortlessly constructs a dense, multilayered suspense plot, while leaving plenty of space for evocative period detail and fascinating historical asides. It’s another winner from Qiu.”

Rio, M L. [Graveyard Shift](#) (Flatiron \$26.99). The author of sales sensation [If We Were Villains](#) (\$18.99) returns with a story about a ragtag group of night shift workers who meet in the college’s ancient cemetery to unearth the secrets lurking in an open grave. Obviously this would be a better Halloween season book but the author is doing a driving tour and comes to us November 23.

Rose, Jeneva. [The Perfect Marriage Collector’s Edition](#) (Blackstone \$32.99—the original was a paperback from 2020). Sarah Morgan is a successful and powerful defense attorney in Washington D.C. As a named partner at her firm, life is going exactly how she planned. The same cannot be said for her husband, Adam. He’s a struggling writer who has had little success in his career and he tires of his and Sarah’s relationship as she is constantly working. Out in the secluded woods, at the couple’s lake house, Adam engages in a passionate affair with Kelly Summers. But one morning everything changes. Kelly is found brutally stabbed to death and now, Sarah must take on her hardest case yet, defending her own husband, a man accused of murdering his mistress.

Sallis, James. [Bright Segments: The Complete Short Fiction](#) (Soho \$35). James Sallis moves with ease among genres and modes: novels, stories, poetry, criticism, musicology, biography, translation. Best known perhaps as a crime writer—author of *Drive* and the six Lew Griffin novels along with others—his first acclaim came in the 1960s from groundbreaking short stories in science fiction publications like Michael Moorcock’s *New Worlds*, for which he served for a time as editor, and Damon Knight’s *Orbit* anthologies. Published over the six decades of Sallis’ storied career, the complete collection in this handsome doorstop size volume contains 154 stories, 12 of which are exclusive to this volume.

Sawyer, Sarah. [The Undercurrent](#) (Zibby Books \$27.99). It’s 2011 and Decie Jeffries’s missing person’s case in Austin, Texas, is still cold. New mom Bee, struggling with postpartum depression, is living in Portland, Maine, having left Austin—and those

memories—far behind. Until Leo, her childhood crush and her estranged twin Gus’s best friend, suddenly resurfaces, drawing Bee back into their shared past. Bee’s predictable life is upended, pushing her to return to her childhood home and piece together a neighborhood’s shattered history. This is one of the saddest stories I have read in years with family dynamics that are crushing and presenting a harrowing picture of new motherhood. Beautifully written, earning raves from Gillian Flynn and Chris Whitaker whose books, especially her first two, can be considered analogs.

Stewart, Jack. [Bogey Spades](#) (Severn River \$17.99). Jack is IMHO a rising star in the world of Mark Greaney and Don Bentley. An actual pilot (he flies now for Southwest), 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 TOPGUN Colt Bancroft is no ordinary pilot.... [Outlaw](#) (Severn River \$28.99).

Tyson, Neil DeGrasse. [Merlin’s Tour of the Universe](#) (Blackstone \$29.99) has been revised and updated for today. I think it’s a marvelous gift book to a teen. In Tyson’s delightful journey through the cosmos, his fictional character Merlin responds to popular questions asked by adults and children alike. Merlin, a timeless visitor from Planet Omnicia in the Andromeda Galaxy, has observed first-hand many of the major scientific events of Earth’s history. Merlin’s friends include the most important scientific figures and explorers of all time—Da Vinci, Magellan, Newton, Einstein, and Hubble.

Urszenyi, Steve. [Out in the Cold](#) (St Martins \$29). While sailing across the Mediterranean, the megayacht *Aurora* is rocked with explosions, taken under siege by unknown assailants. On board are some of Europe’s wealthiest and most powerful political players, including the secretary general of Interpol, a high-ranking Finnish diplomat, and Special Agent Alex Martel—whose lethal sniper skills kick in to bring them safely to shore. Someone is waging a ruthless campaign of attacks against Finland, one of NATO’s newest members, in an attempt to throw the Alliance into turmoil. Teaming back up with CIA agent Caleb, Alex is thrust into the middle of the fray, pursuing the villains from the waters off of Monaco to the Baltic Sea and home to American soil. As the US is pulled deeper into the conflict, a global catastrophe seems inevitable. But who is really responsible for these escalating attacks on Finland? The Russians, or someone much closer to home? Canadian Urszenyi’s debut [Perfect Shot](#) (\$28) was a 2023 First Mystery Pick. Like Jack Stewart, with whom he appears here on November 20, Steve is a rising star in the thriller world.

Signed books for Teens:

Garber, Stephanie. [Spectacular: A Caravel Holiday Novel](#) (Flatiron \$20.99). Illustrated by Rose Fowinkle. Colorful, fun endpapers and lavishly illustrated, this is a brilliant gift for teen readers. It even has a gift tag page you can fill in if you gift this whimsical volume filled with magic that opens on Great Holiday Eve Eve. Scarlett Dragna is planning a spectacular Holiday celebration for the city. Donatella is searching for the perfect gift.

Julian is looking ridiculously handsome in green. And Legend . . . Well, sadly, Legend is not fond of the Great Holiday. Tella is hoping her perfect gift will change his mind....

Painter, Lynn. [Nothing Like the Movies](#) (Simon Schuster \$19.99). The signature is on a pasted in bookplates, pretty cute. The sequel to [Better Than the Movies](#) (\$12.99) finds Wes and Liz about to set off to UCLA to start their freshman year together when tragedy struck. Wes was left dealing with the fallout, which ultimately meant losing Liz in the process. Flash forward months and months later and Wes and Liz find themselves in college, together... Why not give a young reader both volumes?

AFFORDABLE SHELF WEALTH

Why not add beautifully produced books reasonably priced to your shelves? The stories fall mostly into Romantasy and its subclasses like CottageCore, but it’s moving into Historical Fiction and more. For many more examples of Shelf Wealth for you or for gifting, consult our first [Gift Catalogue](#). And here are some new volumes—click on the links and most of the order pages will show you how the book looks.

Start with this one:

Holloway, Jane. [Stories of Books and Libraries](#) (Everyman’s Library Pocket Classics \$25). This gem, a perfect stocking stuffer, is produced with full-cloth cases with two-color foil stamping, decorative endpapers, silk ribbon markers, European-style half-round spines, and a full-color illustrated jacket.

Sample more:

Baum, L. Frank. [The Wizard of Oz](#) (Penguin Classics \$30) with Introduction and extensive Notes by Jack Zipes. Striped cover, stenciled edges (which I call fore edge painting), a nice Ex Libris page which will tickle young readers, and two more Oz Books: *The Emerald City of Oz* and *Glinda of Oz*. This is not as gorgeous as the original illustrated volumes which my mother handed down to me but it does reproduce some in black and white and the Notes are illuminating. This is a good introduction to young readers and a sentimental reread for us older Oz fans.

Kim, Sui. [Under the Oak Tree: Volume One](#) (Inklore \$30). This handsome volume was originally published in Korea as a WebNovel and now appears under the Inklore imprint as a conveniently sized hardcover with brightly illustrated boards with silver stamping, fore edge painting, stamped endpapers, a map, and a ribbon bookmark sewn in. As is more common, there’s a warning about possible triggers to readers which is all part of the sensitivity movement in publishing – saying read at your own risk and don’t start a SM flash mob over this book. I see this creeping into crime fiction but more heavily in children’s lit and YA and Romance, possibly because the audience is more SM heavy.

Lady Maximilian is the daughter of the powerful Duke Croysso, but she is rarely allowed outside her family’s sprawling castle for fear that her stutter will tarnish their noble name. When she is forced to marry Sir Riftan, a lowborn knight caught in one of her father’s schemes, Maxi doesn’t dare hope for happiness, let alone love. Her stumbling communication and his gruff manner sour their relationship before it can begin, and Riftan leaves without a word the morning after their vows are exchanged. Now, three years after their disastrous wedding night, Riftan has returned as a war hero. Rumor has it that he was offered marriage to Princess Agnes, a beautiful and renowned sorceress....

Pearson, Mary. E. [The Courting of Bristol Keats](#) (Flatiron \$32.99). This first in a duology—and the author’s adult fiction debut—is the limited edition with nifty stenciled edges and a map to fantastic lands. Our supply is limited.

After losing both of their parents, Bristol Keats and her sisters struggle to stay afloat in their small, quiet town of Bowskeep. When Bristol begins to receive letters from an aunt she’s never heard of who promises she can help, she reluctantly agrees to meet—and discovers that everything she thought she knew about her family is a lie. Her father might even still be alive, not killed but kidnapped by terrifying creatures and taken to a whole other realm—the one he is from. Desperate to save her father and find the truth, Bristol journeys to a land of gods and fae and monsters. Pulled into a dangerous world of magic and intrigue, she makes a deadly bargain with a fae leader....

Penardanda, Chloe C. [The Stars Are Dying](#) (Tor \$32.99). A Nytefall Novel, Volume One in the Limited First Print Run featuring gorgeous, starry stenciled edges, beautiful case art under the book jacket, and exclusive bonus scenes that are for the first time in print! This is a dark romantic fantasy loosely inspired by the Greek myths of Astraea.

Wang, ML. [Blood Over Bright Haven](#) (Del Rey Books \$29.99). This first edition hardcover features red stained edges, gold and red foil on the jacket, a full-color endpaper map, and an interior illustration of an in-world magical item, all in a bold black and red palette.

The first woman ever admitted to a prestigious order of mages unravels a secret conspiracy that could change the practice of magic forever, in this standalone dark fantasy from the author of *The Sword of Kaijen*. Give to readers of RF Kuang.

CELEBRATING NOVEMBER AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MONTH

Erdrich, Louise. [The Mighty Red](#) (Harper \$32 SIGNED) portrays ordinary lives under stress during the financial crisis of 2008-2009 in North Dakota’s Red River Valley. A coming of age story, it has hallucinatory elements as well as hard truths and is a fiction companion piece for the Kimmerer essay below.

Hawk, Shane. [Never Whistle at Night](#) (Random House \$17). Whistling off our shelves is this anthology of dark stories by Indigenous writers which has racked up award nominations for the Brad Stoke Award, Locus Award and the Shirley Jackson Award. The volume features stories by: Norris Black • Amber Blaeser-Wardzala • Phoenix Boudreau • Cherie Dimaline • Carson Faust • Kelli Jo Ford • Kate Hart • Shane Hawk • Brandon Hobson • Darcie Little Badger • Conley Lyons • Nick Medina • Tiffany Morris • Tommy Orange • Mona Susan Power • Marcie R. Rendon • Waubgeshig Rice • Rebecca Roanhorse • Andrea L. Rogers • Morgan Talty • D.H. Trujillo • Theodore C. Van Alst Jr. • Richard Van Camp • David Heska Wanbli Weiden • Royce K. Young Wolf • Mathilda Zeller.

Kimmerer, Robin Wall. [The Serviceberry](#) (Scribner \$20) is an illustrated essay offering a “bold and inspiring vision for how to orient our lives around gratitude, reciprocity, and community, based on the lessons of the natural world” from the Indigenous author of [Braiding Sweetgrass](#) (\$20). Library Reads add, “A lovely and powerful essay on reciprocity and the potential of a gift economy in the face of our unsustainable current models—illustrated by the analogous natural systems that create the

serviceberry and its ecosystem. This illustrated gem brings a timely message, truly thought-provoking and inspiring.”

Nagle, Rebecca. [By the Fire We Carry](#) (Harper \$32). This multiple award winner is “A powerful work of reportage and American history that braids the story of the forced removal of Native Americans onto treaty lands in the nation’s earliest days, and a small-town murder in the 1990s that led to a Supreme Court ruling reaffirming Native rights to that land more than a century later.”

Rendon, Marcie R. [Murder on the Red River](#) (\$9.99). Cash Blackbear, a young Ojibwe woman whose visions and grit help solve a brutal murder in this award-winning debut. 1970s, Red River Valley between North Dakota and Minnesota: Renee “Cash” Blackbear is 19 years old and tough as nails. She lives in Fargo, North Dakota, where she drives truck for local farmers, drinks beer, plays pool, and helps solve criminal investigations through the power of her visions. She has one friend, Sheriff Wheaton, her guardian, who helped her out of the broken foster care system. One Saturday morning, Sheriff Wheaton is called to investigate a pile of rags in a field and finds the body of an Indian man. When Cash dreams about the dead man’s weathered house on the Red Lake Reservation, she knows that’s the place to start looking for answers. Together, Cash and Wheaton work to solve a murder that stretches across cultures in a rural community traumatized by racism, genocide, and oppression. Carry on with [Girl Gone Missing](#) and [Sinister Graves](#) (\$18.95 each).

Then grab Rendon’s new book, which has all-starred reviews and is catnip for Kent Krueger fans: [Where They Last Saw Her](#) (Random \$28). Rendon, a citizen of the White Earth Nation, creates a compelling, take-charge heroine from Minnesota’s Red Pine reservation called Quill who is based on the women raising awareness about disproportionately high rates of missing and murdered Indigenous people.”—*The Washington Post*. Simultaneous [paperback edition](#) (\$18.99).

MORE GIFT IDEAS

Anolik, Lili. [Didion and Babitz](#) (Scribner \$29.99)

Brolin, Josh. [From Under the Truck: A Memoir](#) (Harper \$32)

Cher. [Cher: The Memoir Part One](#) (Harper \$36)

Clinton, Bill. [Citizen: My Life After the White House](#) (Knopf \$38)

Cornwell, Bernard. [Uhtred’s Feast: Inside the World of the Last Kingdom Series](#) (Harper \$18.99)

Hunter, Robert. [The Silver Snarling Trumpet: The Birth of the Grateful Dead](#) (Grove \$32)

Edim, Glory. [Gather Me, A Memoir in Praise of the Books That Saved Me](#) (Random \$28 SIGNED) by the founder of Well-Read Black Girls on-line book club

Mackesy, Charlie. [Boy the Fox the Mole 5th Year Anniversary Edition](#) (Harper \$29.99)

McKibben, Bill, ed. [The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2024](#) (Harper \$18.99)

Merkel, Angela. [Freedom: Memories 1954 2021](#) (SimonSchuster \$40)

Munson, Richard. [Ingenious: A Biography of Benjamin Franklin](#) (Norton \$29.99)

Pamuk, Orhan. [Memories of Distant Mountains: Illustrated](#) (Knopf \$40)

Rundell, Katherine. [Vanishing Treasures](#) (Knopf \$30). A Bestiary of Extraordinary Endangered Creatures like seahorses that are disappearing from our world.

Sacks, Oliver. [Letters](#) (Knopf \$40)

Sobel, Dava. [The Elements of Marie Curie: How the Glow of Radium Lit a Path for Women in Science](#) (Grove Atlantic \$30). The author of *Longitude* and other landmark books of science returns with yet another accessible, complex, and fascinating study of a woman and the women whose paths she facilitated.

Tucci, Stanley. [What I Ate in One Year](#) (Gallery Books \$32.50). Tucci is always fun to read—also to watch if you catch him on TV

And

Weber, Nicholas Fox. [Mondrian: His Life, His Art, and His Quest for the Absolute](#) (Knopf \$40). This definitive biography of Dutch artist Piet Mondrian depicts at once a trailblazer who innovated abstract painting—which he saw as the best way to capture his subjects’ truest essence—and an eccentric, flighty creative whose sensitivity was essential to his work. Vivid artistic analysis and broader discussion of how Mondrian shaped the art world makes for a portrait that’s both fine-grained and sweeping.

COZIES

Benoit, Deborah J. [The Gardener’s Plot](#) (St Martins \$28). This debut, our **November Cozy Crimes Subscription Club Pick**, is the winner of the Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Award. It’s perfect for the season when we celebrate harvests and gardens. Lesa reviews: After the deaths of both her ex-husband and her grandmother, Maggie Walker bought her Gramma’s house in the Berkshires and moved home. She hopes to restore the house’s landscaping, and she is also eager to work with Violet Bloom, director of Marlowe’s new community gardens. The day of the grand opening, though, Maggie receives a note saying that Violet will be late, so Maggie lets all the gardeners into their assigned plots. One plot has a boot in it—a boot with a foot. Opening day is ruined as the police descend on the gardens. The victim was a pushy developer in town, disliked by many, including Maggie. She’s more concerned, though, that no one is as worried about Violet as she is.” And disappearing makes Violet a prime suspect.... John recommends too.

Bolton, Ginger. [Blame it on the Beignets](#) (Kensington \$17.95). As the weather cools down, business heats up at Deputy Donut Café for owner Emily Westhill. But a stubborn tabby cat, a mysterious new employee, and a trail of her freshly-made beignets in the forest by Emily’s lakeside home leading to a dead body have a chilling effect.... Love the title.

Connelly, Lucy. [Death at a Scottish Wedding](#) (\$22.99). Dr. Emilia “Em” McRoy, an American transplant to Sea Isle, is delighted to accept an invitation to her friend Angie’s wedding at a remote Scottish castle owned by constable Ewan Campbell. Soon after she arrives, a blizzard knocks out all modes of communication, isolating the wedding party. While wandering through the castle’s turret, Em stumbles across a body: the bride’s abusive ex, who was not invited to the festivities and hasn’t been in touch with anyone in the family for years. After several more suspicious

accidents and close calls, Em realizes she and the rest of the wedding party have been trapped with a killer. With no way out of the snowbound castle, and no certainty about who to trust, she teams up with Ewan to investigate.... See Christmas Crimes for the excellent sequel.

Day, Maddie. [Deadly Crush](#) (Kensington \$27). After a mostly stress-free Christmas with her college-age daughter, and despite enjoying a current budding romance with fellow newcomer, Benjamin Cohen, it’s time for Cece Barton to focus on *Vino y Vida*, the Colinas wine bar she manages. Electrical work and an outdoor security camera are needed, and she’s hired local electrician Karl Meier to do the job, along with the help of his nephew Ian. She soon regrets this, the more so when Karl’s body is found crushed beneath the lift in her automotive shop....

Laurie, Victoria. [A Trinket for the Taking](#) (Kensington \$27). The captivating Dovey Van Dalen, once the belle of 1840s Copenhagen, is now charged with recovering magic property from mortals—whatever it takes in this first in a new magical mystery series.

Manansala, Mia P. [Guilt and Ginataan](#) (Penguin \$19). Lesa reviews this new entry in a series highlighting Filipino culture: This year, the Shady Palms Corn Festival is cosponsored with the neighboring town of Shelbyville, and Mayor Judy Reyes brings her wife. Filipino restaurateur Lila Macapagal and her friends Adeena and Elena, co-owners of the Brew-ha Café, have a booth at the festival. When Reyes’s wife, Yvonne, gets a little confrontational with Adeena, the young woman handles it well. The incident is forgotten at the end of the day when Lila and her friends decide to compete in the corn maze to see who can find the end first. Lila is lost in the maze when she hears a scream—Yvonne is dead, stabbed to death, and Adeena is passed out with the bloody knife in her hand. With Adeena at the top of the suspect list, Lila rallies her friends and relatives to investigate. She usually relies on conversations and the community to help, but this time, for some reason, Elena is standing in her way.

Meier, Leslie. [Mistletoe Murder](#) (\$17.95) is just one of the many holiday themed cozies by Meier set in Tinker’s Cove, Maine.

Reyes, Raquel V. [Dominoes, Danzon, and Death](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99). It’s been three years since food anthropologist and cooking show star Miriam Quiñones-Smith had her last brush with death. Her Spanglish culinary show, *Abuela Approved*, is topping the charts. Her parents are back in Miami and living with her in Coral Shores. And her kids are great. But when bones start popping up in unexpected places, Miriam’s idyllic life is threatened in the latest in the Caribbean Kitchen Mysteries.

CHRISTMAS CRIMES AND MORE

Clegg, Sarah. [The Dead of Winter](#) (Algonquin \$22). If all the holiday season cheer needs an antidote, British historian Clegg delves deep into the Christmas season folklore in Europe and comes up with wild revelry, fearsome horseheads of southeast England, young Nordic witches, and the Krampus runs of Austria. Maybe a stocking stuffer to cut through the saccharine season with ancient darkness for the Grinch in your life?

* Coles, Richard. [Murder Under the Mistletoe](#) (Hodder \$21). This wicked novella is for those who love the very British village scene with plenty of the Anglican Church mixed in. The characters are sharply portrayed, the murder is ingenious,

justice is not really served, and the package is wrapped up like a Christmas gift. I thoroughly enjoyed it and its size and production make it an excellent stocking stuffer.

Connelly, Lucy. [Death at a Scottish Christmas](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99). I am drawn to Sea Isle, Scotland, as a village for mystery, and y the character of Dr. Emilia McRoy who left her practice back in the States to become the village doctor. And now as the village is almost magically transforming for the holidays into all the ritual cheer, a famous band comes to play. The lead singer has a gorgeous voice, and is gorgeous. And on the eve of their world tour, found dead. His new music with lyrics has disappeared. Darkening the village more, it's beloved laird and town constable who had a history with the music star is the main suspect. Emilia, believing Ewan has been framed, and fighting off a Secret Santa that wants her dead, swings once again into investigating. Just out, her last case: [Death at a Scottish Wedding](#) (\$22.99).

Evans, Richard Paul. [Christmas in Bethel](#) (Gallery \$19.99). Leigh Beth Stilton has never liked the holidays. After growing up in an unstable home, escaping an abusive marriage, and witnessing daily tragedies as an EMT, Leigh just can't bring herself to care about Christmas cheer. In fact, she's so convinced she's not worth loving that one winter's eve, she decides she can't go on—until she comes across a book called Bethel and starts to read. Leigh is unfamiliar with the author, J.D. Harper, but his words speak directly to her. And then one day, they meet...

Frost, Jacqueline. [I'll Be Home for Mischief](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99). For the fifth year in a row there is a murder in Mistletoe, Maine, at Christmas time and to make matters worse at Reindeer Games Tree Farm, this murder has thwarted Holly's mother's chance at breaking a world record for baking the largest Gingerbread Man. After a man that Holly has known since childhood is accused of the murder, she sets out to find the real killer.

Hall, Traci. [Murder at a Scottish Christmas](#) (Kensington \$17.95). The holidays in the charming seaside village of Nairn hold bright hope for sweater shop owner and knitting enthusiast Paislee Shaw. But the New Year's fireworks celebration provides cover for a killer. During Hogmanay, when the Scots welcome in the New Year with dancing, bonfires, and midnight fireworks, the police station receptionist Amelia Henry's brother McCormac, collapses as the sky brightens in a blaze of color. A shooter has used the noise to hide a gun's blast. Amelia is inconsolable, and Paislee vows to do whatever she can to help DI Zeffler solve the murder....

Ireland, Liz. [Mrs. Claus and the Nightmare Before New Year's](#) (Kensington \$17.95). April Claus is looking forward to relaxing with her hubby, Nick (aka THE Santa Claus), in the week between Christmas and New Year's Eve. But just after Santa departs for his deliveries, an elf pulls into Santaland with three people he found lost in the frozen wilderness. The survivors of a scientific expedition are injured, but their presence endangers the future of Santaland. So, while the strangers recuperate at the infirmary, April convinces Christmastown to pull off its grandest, most impossible, most magical feat yet... pretend to be normal! Posing as a touristy, albeit Christmas-centric, arctic town, the elves cover their ears, snowmen take a vow of silence, and the reindeer keep their hooves on the ground. But as New Year's

Eve draws closer, hiding their true selves becomes harder to do, especially when one of the uninvited guests dies under highly suspicious circumstances

Penzler, Otto, ed. [Christmas Crimes at the Mysterious Bookshop](#) (Mysterious Press \$19.95). Here's another stocking stuffer idea, a small hardcover with stories linked to the NY bookstore. It's worth it just for the one by Thomas Perry but Rob Hart's is fun too. Also Laura Lippman, Ragnar Jonasson, and the short story ace Jeffery Deaver among other contributors.

Prose, Nita. [The Mistletoe Mystery](#) (Random House \$22 SIGNED). Molly the Maid discovers that the Secret Santa gift exchange at the Regency Grand Hotel raises questions about who Molly can and cannot trust. This novella is another fine stocking stuffer.

Rishoi, Ingvild. [Brightly Shining](#) (Grove \$20). Translated from the Norwegian bestseller, a Christmas tale of sisterhood, financial hardship, and far-off dreams. Christmas is just around the corner, and Ronja and Melissa's dreamer of a father is out of work again. When ten-year-old Ronja hears about a job at a Christmas tree stand near where the family lives in central Oslo, she thinks it might be the stroke of luck they all need. Soon, the fridge fills with food, and their father returns home with money in his pocket and a smile on his face. But one evening he disappears into the night under the pretense of buying Christmas gifts—and the daughters know he has gone to his favorite local pub—and he may lose his wonderful new job. Melissa decides to take his place, working before and after school in the December afternoon dark, and brings along Ronja, who quickly charms all the middle-class customers. On rare breaks the sisters dream of a brighter place of kindness and plenty, and find help from some of those around them—but both understand that their family structure is a precarious one, and that they are going to need luck and strength.

SOME UPLIFTING STOCKING STUFFERS

Aoyama, Michiko. [What You Are Looking For Is in the Library](#) (Hanover Press \$21.99). I love this little book. Set in Japan, it shows in a series of charming vignettes how the perfect book recommendation can change a readers' life. Of course this requires a gifted librarian.

Kashiwai, Hisashi. [The Restaurant of Lost Recipes](#) (Penguin \$26). Every meal is a mystery.... Koishi is in her 30s and works at a restaurant in Kyoto—it's known as the Kamogawa Diner, though it doesn't have a sign—with her father, Nagare Kamogawa, the chef. Both miss Koishi's late mother, Kikuko. Their cat, Drowsy, spends its days trying to get into the restaurant, though he's banned to protect the customers from cat hair. Enjoy a Japanese café-esque setting with beloved staff who delivers plenty of empathic kindness to customers whose visits inspire stand-alone narratives. . . . "Deliciousness lingers." Honestly, the cover art is so cute this book will just leap off the shelf. What a great gift idea.

FOOD

See a listing of new cookbooks at the end of this Booknews. We have a constantly turning number in stock but we can order any book you wish.

Sharon, who belongs to our monthly Cookbook Club, recommends: Scott, Elle Simone. [Food Gifts: 100 Irresistible Recipes for Crafting Personalized Presents](#) (America's Test

Kitchen \$30). Plus you could write out a treasured recipe or two of your own to include, or present the book with a beautiful piece of kitchenware.

I recommend Martin Walker's [Bruno's Cookbook](#) (Knopf \$40 SIGNED) for the French food flair, often basic. Give it with a copy of [Bruno, Chief of Police](#) (\$17) or of [Black Diamond](#) (\$18) where truffles are mixed into the crime when an expert in truffles is murdered, for someone unfamiliar with this our bestselling paperback series. Martin wrote an essay for Crime Reads about food and much more—"Crime Fiction's Best and Worst Meals"—you can read and enjoy.

And for fans of the Great British Baking Show, I see a November release from the Bake Off Team, [The Great British Baking Show 2024](#) (Mobius \$35.99) for something we all need: 80 wonderful bakes inspired by the show's most popular signature themes—Cake, Biscuits, Bread, Pastry, Patisserie, Dessert, Chocolate – celebrating the very best in comfort bakes.

NEW IN HARDCOVER

* Bamford, Emma. [Eye of the Beholder](#) (Gallery \$28.99). A Gothic-esque setting in the Scottish Highlands? Check. Mysteriously unreliable characters? Check. A compelling premise that dives deeply into the work of a ghostwriter? A novel inspired by Alfred Hitchcock's classic thriller *Vertigo*? All this is true of our **November British Crime Subscription Book of the Month**.

What's odd for me is while I loved the deep dives into ghostwriting as a creative career (even if Maddy Wight longs to write a book with her own name on the cover) and into the aesthetics industry/anti-aging or wellness?, not to mention the very cool modern house where much takes place away from London, I am conflicted. The ghost writer is a bit too all-about-her. And the principal bad actor—while I don't condone murder, my sympathies lie there. So in its way this is an unusual book in that a rigid path to justice is not the aim (or maybe it is and I reacted unexpectedly). There's an odd romance, and appealing dogs. Anyway Bamford is an author I like a lot. Recommended to fans of Ruth Ware and Riley Sager and for me, AJ Finn, all of whom have blurry lines in their books.

Brown, Rita Mae. [Time Will Tell](#) (Random \$30). Jane "Sister" Arnold has been Master of Foxhounds for northern Virginia's Jefferson Hunt for almost 40 years and still loves every minute of it. It doesn't bother her that fox hunting was fraught with controversy in the past, when hunts were used to kill vermin, and still is today, when hunts are almost entirely "drag" events with no foxes involved. And they take money. The hunt depends on the kindness of local landowners—some of them participate, while others just allow their land to be ridden over by the horses and hounds. While returning two escaped cows to their owner, Sister and another member of the hunt discover a valuable Rolex watch that ends up leading to danger. When a local man is found shot dead, and the hounds sniff out an old truck whose cab is covered in blood, Sheriff Ben Sidell, who also hunts, takes charge. More bodies, more robberies, and more voices from horses, hounds, and foxes (who see so much their humans miss) will lead to the truth. Brown's love of her Charlottesville home turf and fox hunting power this interesting series.

* Connally, Celeste. [All's Fair in Love and Treachery](#) (St Martins \$28). I enjoyed [Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Lord](#) (\$18.88),

the first in this Regency mystery series. And it ended on a cliff hanger. This sequel, sadly, falls flat as the author tries to cross romance and murder with a political plot where dissidents, some of them aristocrats, plot to topple the monarchy (it's German, remember, since George I) as news of the outcome of Waterloo is expected. It's too much to handle. Read the first one if you missed it and then wait to see if there's a third.

Delozier, Elizabeth. [Eleanore of Avignon: A Novel](#) (Penguin \$29). You'd imagine on a careless reading (as did I) that this is another novel of the famed Eleanor of Aquitaine, mother of English kings, etc. And you'd be wrong. Instead this debut is set in Medieval Avignon, 1347, where a young woman, Eleanor Blanchet, following her mother's role as midwife and herbalist, ends up talking Guigo de Chauillac, the enigmatic personal physician to the powerful Pope Clement, into taking her on as an apprentice. In time, two things converge: the Black Death makes landfall in Avignon, and the disgraced Queen Joanna of Naples is coming to stand trial for her husband's murder. She is pregnant and in need of a midwife, a role only Elea can fill. Do not look for accurate history here but instead ask how one grapples with having to make choices about whom to save, if one can indeed save anyone. I point out that also publishing this fall is a novel of the Plague coming to Florence and a powerful bishop blackmailing a young woman thought to have skill in using gemstones: Anna Rasche, [The Stone Witch of Florence](#) (Park Row Books \$30 SIGNED).

* Doherty, Paul. [Murder's Snare](#) (Severn \$29.99). Ordered Upon Request. *Normandy, 1358*: The Free Company of the Via Crucis—"the Way of the Cross"—sweeps into the peaceful village of Avranches, like the riders from the Apocalypse, leaving nothing but death and hellish destruction in their wake. *London, 1382*: Brother Athelstan is summoned to unpick the ugly truth behind a number of killings afflicting the great city. Some carried out like clean, efficient assassinations, all bearing the message "Justitia Fiat," others inflicting torture and humiliation upon the bodies. But the victims all have one thing in common: they were all once members of Via Crucis. With every new gruesome discovery, Brother Athelstan, with the help of Coroner Cranston, uncovers more clues which make up a most complicated riddle.

Graham, Elyse. [Book and Dagger](#) (Harper \$30). Such a great title, who can resist? And the book is about How Scholars and Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II. In other words, an Information War was created by forming the OSS, the precursor to the CIA, Graham draws on personal histories, letters, and declassified OSS files to tell the story of a small but connected group of humanities scholars turned spies. Among them are Joseph Curtiss, a literature professor who hunted down German spies and turned them into double agents; Sherman Kent, a smart-mouthed history professor who rose to become the head of analysis for all of Europe and Africa; and Adele Kibre, an archivist who was sent to Stockholm to secretly acquire documents for the OSS. These unforgettable characters would ultimately help lay the foundations of modern intelligence and transform American higher education when they returned after the war.

Read this [expanded review](#) to see why Elyse Graham's rescuing a cast of scholar-spies from obscurity is included in our gift suggestions.

Ibanez, Isabel. [Where the Library Hides](#) (St Martins \$20). A young woman pursues a dangerous quest in late-1800s Egypt in this sequel to [What the River Knows](#) (\$20), a brilliant book, one of our favorites here. Not least because of the terrific packaging for this compact hardcover, also because we love the Amelia Peabody novels of the late Elizabeth Peters. This series is billed for Young Adults but forget that, it's for any adult. The two novels combined make a terrific gift for your teen or yourself or....

After Inez Olivera was nearly murdered while assisting with her uncle's archaeological expedition in Egypt, Tío Ricardo is eager to ship her home to safety in Argentina. But Inez burns with the need to stay and make sure that those who committed crimes against her family are held responsible. Unfortunately, the law precludes Inez, as a young unmarried woman, from accessing her inheritance (needed to fund her quest for justice) without her guardian uncle's permission. Whitford Hayes, a former British soldier and her tío's *aide-de-camp*, proposes marriage, which could solve her problems. But can Inez trust the secretive Whit? More danger and intrigue lurk at every turn in this exciting duology closer, which fully addresses the first entry's jaw-dropping cliffhanger. Yay!

* Kelly, Julia. [Betrayal at Blackthorn Park](#) (St Martins \$28). The author of [A Traitor in Whitehall](#) (\$18) introducing Evelyne Redfern, a former typist who has now, 1940, completed her spycraft training. Her first mission: go to Blackthorn Park, a clandestine weapons facility in the Sussex countryside, and investigate an anonymous tip suggesting that vital supplies have gone missing. Just after she arrives, Evelyne hears a gunshot inside the building and rushes into the office of Sir Nigel Balram—a celebrated scientist who leads Blackthorn's development team—to find him dead at his desk with a gun in his hand. While government officials quickly characterize Balram's death as a suicide, Evelyne's not so sure. She reluctantly links up with her handler, David Poole, to dig deeper, only to uncover a thorny conspiracy mere days before Winston Churchill is scheduled to visit Blackthorn Park. Evelyne isn't Maisie Dobbs or Maggie Hope, but for fans of women in the war fiction, try this two book series.

* Kelly Vanessa. [Murder in Highbury](#) (Kensington \$27). John recommends: "Emma Knightley doesn't really find it difficult to believe that someone would murder the vicar's wife August Elton. The real challenge is winnowing out the culprit from a plethora of suspects in the village. However, it looks like it will be up to Emma – with a little help from her husband George – to track down the killer since Constable Sharpe and Dr. Hughes, the local coroner; seem to think the crime is simply a case of a robbery gone wrong. After writing a number of splendidly entertaining historical romances, Kelly makes her historical mystery debut with a charming cozy mystery that mines the most of its Austen-esque setting while also evoking the deliciously tart sense of wit for which Austen is known and loved."

Khan, Vaseem. [City of Destruction](#) (Hodder \$26.99). The Malabar House series is a big hit in Britain where it's won awards and readers. Here we are in Bombay, 1950. A political rally ends in tragedy when Persis Wadia kills a lone gunman as he attempts to assassinate India's divisive Home Minister, a man calling for war with neighboring Pakistan. With the Malabar House team tasked to hunt down his co-conspirators, Persis is given a second

case when the burned body of an unidentified white man is found on a Bombay beach. Meanwhile, Scotland Yard criminalist Archie Blackfinch, lies in a hospital fighting for his life, as all around him the country tears itself apart as a prelude to war.... This series is an import and so it's confusing to see book three ahead of later entries in a rich illumination of post-Colonial India. We'll look to stock all of them, some in paperback.

Lynch, Christina. [Pony Confidential](#) (Penguin \$28). Deb asks, "Is there anything more special than the love between a girl and her pony? Follow the incredible journey as Pony, separated from his grown mistress, Penny, sets out to find her and clear her name when she is wrongfully charged with murder. Do ponies talk? Yep. Do ponies manipulate their owners? You betcha. Do you want a pony on your side? After reading this you will! Funny, fierce, heartwarming and totally original."

Lemaitre, Pierre. [Going to the Dogs](#) (Headline \$29.99). In this UK import, 1985. Paris. Sixty-three-year-old Mathilde Perrin is on another mission. A widow, mother and decorated hero of the Resistance, she is also a ruthless and skilled contract killer, and the most unlikely suspect. But tonight, something has changed. Mathilde is agitated, forgetful and impulsive—so much so that even Ludo, her loyal and long-suffering Dalmatian, has noticed a dangerous shift in her mood. For Mathilde, retirement is not an option. And no superior, nor police detective nor meddling neighbor will stand in her way. But as Mathilde's mind unravels and the bodies pile up, how long will it take before the killer herself becomes the target?

List, David. [What Are the Odds](#) (Blackstone \$26.99). *Kirkus Reviews* calls this debut by screenwriter List "An outlandish and entertaining comic thriller. List's skill set is on display from the opening scene of his fiction debut: Tough-as-nails retired NYPD detective Raymond Dawson is flummoxed and frustrated to find himself 'bloodied, bound, and buck-naked' in the middle of nowhere, while next to him sits owlish ex-Amco Oil executive Wilbur Bailey, a fellow captive who watches a scorpion crawl over his shoe. The story rolls back from this vivid tableau to the road these two protagonists followed to get there. Wilbur's dealings with shady Russian Mika Salko have landed him in the crosshairs of dogged IRS agent Phil Dancourt. Ray, a divorced ex-marine who took early retirement from the NYPD after being wounded on the job a handful of times, feels professionally adrift until he finds a lifeline in alluring Stephanie Morego. Wilbur, devastated by a cancer diagnosis and feeling heat from the law, goes on the run. A casual meeting between Wilbur, Ray, and Stephanie in an elevator begins a series of mishaps that eventually put Wilbur and Ray on a perilous path littered with a gallery of oddballs, with Phil in dogged pursuit..."

* McKenna, Clara. [Murder at Glenloch Hill](#) (Kensington \$27). American heiress Stella, and British aristocrat, Viscount "Lyndy" Lyndhurst take a weekend trip to the Scottish countryside to connect with bride Stella's distant cousins, the McEwens, at their grand estate, Glenloch Hill. There they learn how sinister bad sportsmanship can be when a prestigious golf tournament becomes a deadly game of murder....

Noah, Trevor. [Into The Uncut Grass](#) (One World \$26). The comedian and author of [Born a Crime](#) (\$18), his story of coming of age during the twilight of South Africa's apartheid, "delights us all," says Deb, "with a gorgeously illustrated fable that follows

a boy's journey into the uncut grass to discover the secrets of sharing and compromise. A perfect holiday gift to read to the grands!

Oates, Joyce Carol. [Flint Kill Creek: Stories of Mystery and Suspense](#) (Penzler \$26.95). With holiday distractions rampant, dipping into short fiction is welcome and here are some by a master of the form collected here for the first time.

Oyebanji, Ada. [Two Times Murder](#) (Severn House \$29.99). **Ordered Upon Request.** Gregory Abimbola is a complicated fellow with an incredible past. He's the biracial British child of an African father and a Russian mother, brought up in a country where his "very skin was a scandal." He's a former Russian agent who's hiding out in Pittsburgh after a failed attempt to kill him in Djibouti, teaching Russian and French to students at a private school whose privileged parents' simplistic notions of race and culture are a constant source of frustration. Everywhere he turns there's a murder that needs to be investigated and no one as equipped as he is to solve it. Now, a local police detective asks him to identify a body found in the river; a spurned suburban wife wants him to prove that her ex-husband's death was not a suicide; and worst of all, a former colleague from the Russian Intelligence Agency orders him to discover—and dispatch—the killer of a fellow agent, threatening harm to his mother if he balks.

Parks, Brad. [Boundaries We Cross](#) (Oceanview \$29.95). Parks writes a dark academic mystery. For the last 11 years, Charles Bliss has taught creative writing at an elite Connecticut boarding school. He's shocked when the headmaster calls him into the administrative office one morning and tells him that pretty, blonde student Hayley Goodloe—whose mother is a longtime member of the Connecticut State Legislature and the school's board of trustees—has accused him of carrying on a romantic relationship with her. Charles vehemently denies the accusations, and then Hayley disappears; the evidence that eventually emerges points strongly toward Charles's involvement in her abduction. Pilloried on the internet, shunned by most of his colleagues, and named a person of interest by the police, Charles scrambles to clear his name.

Patchett, Ann. [Bel Canto: Annotated Edition](#) (Harper \$40). Another gift idea.

Peace, David. [Munichs: A Novel](#) (Norton \$29.99) is inspired by one of the greatest disasters in the history of sports. In 1958, Manchester United was flying high: the best-known soccer team in the world and reigning English champions, the team was led by a bright young group of star players nicknamed the "Busby Babes" after their charismatic manager Matt Busby. But on a snowy afternoon that February, a plane carrying the team back from a European Cup match crashed on takeoff in Munich, killing 23 people—including eight Manchester United players and three team officials. The accident destroyed the team, traumatized fans all over the world, and devastated the tight-knit community in Manchester. Peace, an author admired by Patrick and me, reimagines the crash and its aftermath, dramatizing the deep scars it left on British society. Moving between the fictionalized voices of survivors, including players, their family members, and Busby himself, *Munichs* powerfully interprets the struggles of a team, a city, and a nation to recover and rise again.

Price, Richard. [Lazarus Man](#) (Farrar \$29) presents group portrait of Harlem residents in the aftermath of a five-story tenement

collapse in 2008 that mysteriously changes the life of a survivor. "For all the darkness in the novel with its 9/11 overtones, there's a sense of transcendence in the Harlem community's shared experience and survivors' spirit."

The East Harlem tenement building that collapses kills six of its tenants. The ruin becomes a spectacle, drawing myriad characters including Felix Pearl, a young filmmaker who lives near the building and was roused that morning by the "abrupt harsh clatter and buckshot pop of shattered glass suddenly raining down on the street" followed by a more alarming "absolute silence." Royal Davis, a mortician with a failing business, capitalizes on the accident as a way to solicit new clients, while Mary Roe, an NYPD detective with a complicated home life, puts all her energy into finding out what happened to Christopher Diaz, a tenant who is mysteriously unaccounted for. Price also focuses on survivor Anthony Carter, an unemployed teacher and recovering cocaine addict who was rescued after being buried in the rubble for 36 hours, and who becomes a symbol of hope for a community ravaged by blight and gentrification. As these vivid characters cross paths following the tragedy, they compose a searing snapshot of contemporary Harlem annotated with the author's precise observations...."—*PW* Starred Review

Renkl, Margaret. [Leaf, Cloud, Crow: A Weekly Backyard Journal](#) (Spiegel & Grau \$24). This gorgeous journal is organized by seasons like Winter with dates not tied to any specific year, and enriched with illustrations. It's a marvelous work and, whether one is moved by the natural world or just wants to record personal events, for everyone.

It's tied to Renkl's much praised memoir [The Comfort of Crows, A Backyard Year](#) (Spiegel & Grau \$32) which could be a much welcomed companion book for you or for your gift list.

Rieger, Susan. [Like Mother, Like Mother](#) (Random House \$29). Deb recommends: "This novel blurs the line between reality and fiction in a way that will have you stopping and Googling at the end of each chapter: did that really happen? Are these characters real or fiction? Follow the lives of three very different generations as these powerful, witty and wonderful women live, love and lie. Was Zelda committed to an asylum or did she run away and leave her kids with her abusive husband? How do you mother when you have no mother of your own? Be prepared to fall in love with the sparkling dialogue and bigger than life characters here."

Share, Amber. [SubPar Planet](#) (Penguin \$30). I am a big fan of the snarky illustrated entries in Share's [SubPar Parks](#) (\$30)—looking at many of our beloved National Parks, so here's fun looking at The World's Most Celebrated Landmarks and Their Most Disappointed Visitors. I don't know where Parks finds the (mostly) hysterical and harsh reviews from vocal critics which say a lot more about the critics than the landmarks. I'm a fan of The Darwin Awards so this fits right in.

By contrast try DK's [USA National Parks, Lands of Wonder](#) (\$30) as a companion piece to *SubPar Parks*. It could teach irony to younger readers.

Shaw, Hannah. [Cats of the World](#) (Penguin \$32). Hannah "Kitten Lady" Shaw and professional cat photographer Andrew Marttila journey to thirty countries to bring you hundreds of photos and stories of cats from every corner of the world.

Straley, John. [Big Breath In](#) (Soho \$28.95). A retired marine biologist turned amateur sleuth has an ax to grind—and a child to save—in this new standalone mystery from the Alaskan author of the acclaimed Cecil Younger series which is, he says in the Afterword, based on his wife’s struggles with Parkinsons. Diagnosed with terminal cancer, retired marine biologist Delphine is on the brink of throwing in the towel. She has outlived her PI husband and worries she’s become a burden to her son and his growing family. One night, while contemplating how to go on, Delphine witnesses a violent argument between a man and his girlfriend. When Delphine discovers the woman has gone missing along with her young child, Delphine embarks on a quest to find them.

Taylor, Elena. [Cold, Cold World](#) (Severn House \$29.99). Ordered Upon Request. With winter coming, what better than a murder investigation beset by a blizzard? A female sheriff tries to fill her late father’s boots and be the sheriff her small Washington State mountain town needs as a deadly snow storm engulfs the town, in this dark, twisty mystery. In the months since Bet Rivers solved her first murder investigation and secured the sheriff’s seat in Collier, she’s remained determined to keep her town safe. With a massive snowstorm looming, it’s more important than ever that she stays vigilant. When Bet gets a call that a family of tourists has stumbled across a teen injured in a snowmobile accident on a mountain ridge, she braves the storm to investigate. However, once she arrives at the scene of the accident it’s clear to Bet that the teen is not injured; he’s dead. And has been for some time. Recommended by author Karen Odden.

Williams, Beatriz/Lauren Willig/Karen White. [The Author’s Guide to Murder](#) (Harper \$30). Fans of the authors will enjoy this self-indulgent (and self-congratulatory) tale with all its insider references to their careers and publishing, but I can’t recommend it to the new reader. However that’s just my take. Library Reads finds that it “starts off as bawdy Scottish entertainment for three authors evolves into a sincere, deeply emotional story of women’s strength and survival.”

The faux-friendship between authors Cassie Parsons, who writes baking-centered cozy mysteries; Emma Endicott, whose historicals center the lives of underappreciated women; and Kat de Noir, whose work leans toward the racy and supernatural, has been arranged by their publicists so the three can apply together to a writers’ residency at a Scottish castle. The residency is run by loutish local author Brett Saffron Presley, and when Presley is found stabbed to death by a stag’s antler on the night of the town festival, the American women become the primary suspects.

OUR NOVEMBER LARGE PAPERBACK PICS

Ashford, Lindsay Jayne. [The Woman on the Orient Express](#) (Lake Union \$14.95). As one who loves Agatha Christie’s memoir [Come Tell Me How You Live](#) (\$16.99) I cannot resist this beautifully imagined story of post-divorce Christie boarding the fabled train in disguise as Mary Miller and the encounters she has—a very pregnant and terrified young woman Nancy Nelson hoping to find shelter with a cousin in Baghdad, a young archaeologist called Max Mallowan, and the glamorous and mysterious widowed Katharine Keeling, affianced to the famous archaeologist Leonard Wooley whose dig is the talk of the Middle East. Alas Agatha cannot summon up Hercule Poirot

when the secrets the three women harbor grow dangerous, but she finds surprising strength in herself. One thing that makes our **November Historical Paperback Fiction Subscription Club Pick** so fascinating is the Wooleys. I urge you to Google them only AFTER you finish this enterprising novel to learn their difficult story. Recommended to all fans of Agatha Christie and to those who like real history based fiction.

Berry, Steve. [The Atlas Maneuver](#) (\$19.99). This is a fascinating Cotton Malone thriller based on actual events of 1945 when the Japanese occupying the Philippines hid quantities of gold and valuables in booby-trapped underground caches across the islands. Some was recovered by 1947 by the US. What happened to them? What if the CIA stashed it in Luxembourg’s Bank of St. George and what if the so-called Black Eagle Trust funds a cryptocurrency assault on the world’s banking system? It’s enough to get Malone out of his bookshop in Copenhagen and into action, stymied at every turn until....

DeMille, Nelson/Alex. [Blood Lines](#) (\$18.99). Army Criminal Investigation Agents Scott Brodie and Maggie Taylor are reunited in Berlin investigating the murder of one of their own, CID Special Agent Harry Vance, a crack counterterrorism agent stationed in West Berlin whose body is found in the city’s Arab refugee community. Is his murder an act of Islamic terrorism, or was Harry tangled up in some legacy of the Stasi and the rise of Neo-Nazis? Brodie and Taylor are also stymied by US agents hoping to stem leaks about clandestine ops.... I am so sad that discussing this book in 2023 with Nelson and his son Alex is the last event we will ever do with the late Nelson, a much missed author with a long history with The Pen. You can watch it [HERE](#) I do not know if Alex will continue to write this excellent series on his own.

Goldman, Matt. [Dead West](#) (\$18.99). Finally, the paperback! In bestseller Goldman’s excellent third mystery featuring Minneapolis PI Nils Shapiro, Beverly Mayer, a grumpy matriarch, hires Nils to check on her grown grandson, Ebben, who she believes is wasting his time in the movie business. Ebben, whose fiancée has just died, is trying to launch a creator-focused studio, but Nils suspects that Ebben’s fiancée was murdered and that Ebben himself might have been the target. Along with his good friend Jameson White—a nurse and former athlete fighting inner demons after being on shift during a school shooting—Nils dives into the L.A. scene, meeting mysterious East European mobsters, attractive screenwriters, powerful agents, and plenty of others who might have wanted to kill Ebben. Goldman takes a classic trope—a working-class private detective set loose in Hollywood—and squeezes enough originality out of it to make for a dazzling tale.

Always a clever writer, Goldman is flat-out hilarious when he’s satirizing Hollywood hustlers and their outlandish projects... Individually, these agents, managers, writers, producers, et al. are endearingly awful; but observing them in groups—pitching ideas, taking meetings and poisoning their best friends—is too funny for words. So I recommend you grab Nils’ first two cases: [Gone to Dust](#) and [Broken Ice](#) (\$18.99 each). All 3 would make a great gift.

Grumley, Michael C. [Deep Freeze](#) (\$19.99) starts when lone traveler and army vet John Reiff becomes a casualty of a wintry bus accident in a frozen river. When John is returned to life in

a medical lab, he is surrounded by scientists who are surprised that the technology worked and are wary of telling him that he has been frozen for 20 years. As this miraculous undertaking unfolds, so do the ethics of the science and the purpose behind the experiment. The reanimated Reiff must remember his past, understand what has happened in the last 20 years, and unravel the plot to dispose of him. With the help of scientists who have been duped into believing that this was a legitimate scientific project, Reiff realizes that the plot to use him is only the beginning of a dark and sinister future where man's quest for immortality knows no moral bounds. I really enjoyed this thriller which Douglas Preston fans will like by the author of the Breakthrough series.

Harper, Jordan. [The Last King of California](#) (LittleBrown \$18.99). "Edgar winner Harper combines mythic motifs and hardboiled crime tropes in this powerful California noir. After flunking out of college, 19-year-old Luke Crosswhite returns to his family's San Bernardino compound. Twelve years earlier, Luke watched his father, crime boss Big Bobby, kill a man; scarred by the incident, Luke's not sure he's ready to face the past, but he's run out of alternatives. Though Big Bobby is in prison, he continues to call the shots for the Devore Combine syndicate. When the leader of a rival gang insists that Devore pony up 10% of its ill-gotten gains in protection money, it leads to all-out war, pulling a reluctant Luke into the fray. Meanwhile, Luke's cousin, Callie, sets in motion his plan to escape the syndicate, making a large drug purchase that goes disastrously wrong. As the stakes for Luke's family escalate, wildfires rage across San Bernardino. Harper makes the story's familiar elements feel exceptionally fresh, drawing each of his characters with remarkable nuance and pulling the percussive prose of Raymond Chandler into the 21st century."—*PW* Starred Review

Havill, Steven F. [Perfect Opportunity](#) (\$18.99). Also [Signed Hardcovers](#) (\$20). Neither years of retirement nor his wheelchair can keep former Posadas County Sheriff Bill Gastner from joining forces with Undersheriff Estelle Reyes-Guzman to solve a murder and thwart some grand-scale sabotage. A year after Johnny Rabke beat a murder rap for killing Pablo Ramirez during a barroom brawl, and a day after Estelle spotted him chatting with his hand on the shoulder of Deputy Lydia Thompson, Johnny's found stabbed to death in his truck, the corpse of Pablo's brother Arturo shot dead in a ditch nearby. It looks like a clear case of mutually assured destruction until Estelle's husband, Dr. Francis Guzman, the medical examiner, explains the impossibility of the two men having killed each other. That leaves Estelle and her boss, Sheriff Jackie Taber, searching for suspects who might have wanted to kill both of these mortal enemies. After a slow and detailed start the story develops into the possibility of bad actors creating a 25-mile long crime scene if the train taking visitors to the astronomical attraction NightZone is derailed. I have enjoyed all 26 volumes in what is a kind of Southwest village mystery series set in NM's boot heel and evocative of mixed cultures. Anne Hillerman fans should devour them.

Hawkins, Rachel. [The Heiress](#) (\$18) is a first-rate Appalachian Gothic. When Ruby McTavish Callahan Woodward Miller Kenmore dies, she's not only North Carolina's richest woman, she's also its most notorious. The victim of a famous kidnapping as a child and a widow four times over, Ruby ruled the tiny town of Tavistock from Ashby House, her family's estate high in the Blue

Ridge Mountains. But in the aftermath of her death, her adopted son, Camden, wants little to do with the house or the money—and even less to do with the surviving McTavishes. Instead, he rejects his inheritance, settling into a normal life as an English teacher in Colorado and marrying Jules, a woman just as eager to escape her own messy past. Ten years later, his uncle's death pulls Cam and Jules back into the family fold at Ashby House where Ruby's legacy proves inescapable....

Lawhon, Ariel. [The Frozen River](#) (\$18) is a brilliant historical mystery, still on the bestseller list in hardcover. We've been dying for the paperback. The story is inspired by the life and the diary that Lawhon devoured written by Martha Ballard, a legendary 18th Century midwife who defied the legal system of the time. Lawhon opens this in Maine, 1789, when the frozen Kennebec River has entombed a man in the ice. Martha, who has recorded a multitude of secrets and crimes concealed behind closed doors in Hallowell in her detailed diary, knows the dead man is a rapist. When a local physician rules his death an accident, Martha elects to investigate on her own. "Martha is so vividly rendered that it is hard not to become absorbed in her narrative and emotionally invested in her life. . . Martha's journal entries flesh out further this tough, brave and resourceful woman. Her valiant fight against the evil that men do makes for a winning blend of fact and fiction." —*Minneapolis Star Tribune*

Smith, Martin Cruz. [Independence Square](#) (\$17.99). We met Russian policeman Arkady Renko 9 books ago in 1981's international sensation [Gorky Park](#) (\$18.99), a classic by any standard. And here in book 10 Arkady is caught in the run up to Putin's invasion of the Ukraine. It's June, 2021, when an acquaintance asks him to find his daughter Karina, a violinist in a string quartet and anti-Putin activist who has disappeared. What makes this novel so special is that Smith, who has faced down Parkinson's for years, gives Arkady the disease and thus, in the novel, is able to describe his own experience with the disease. It does not stop either man from his chosen work nor Arkady, an honest cop, from holding true to himself working for so corrupt a regime.

Taylor, Brad. [Dead Man's Hand](#) (\$18.99). [SIGNED hardcover](#) (\$20). Like Smith, Taylor takes Putin's Russia as the landscape for the latest in his Pike Logan series. It posits that a band of Ukrainian partisans, the Wolves, team up with Russian military to assassinate Putin. If only.... I have become ruthless in a wish to exterminate strongmen everywhere.

The catch is that Putin has put in place a plan called Dead Man's Hand, which will trigger a nuclear attack on the West if he is ever removed from power or killed by his own countrymen. The job of launching the missiles falls to Victor Petrov, commander of the Russian National Guard, who's also tasked with assassinating a Swedish official so the subsequent turmoil will result in Sweden and Finland failing in their bid to join NATO. Meanwhile, Logan and his unit, the Taskforce, are training in North Carolina when Logan is summoned to Washington, D.C., and ordered to protect Sweden and Finland's attempts to join the alliance....

MORE LARGE PAPERBACKS

Ackerman, Sara. [The Maui Effect](#) (Mira \$18.99). Iwa Young's life is high in the Maui rainforest. As a field biologist, she's happiest in the company of trees and birds and waterfalls. When

a developer arrives with plans for a so-called eco resort in the middle of a forest full of endangered species, 'Iwa puts all her energy into the fight to protect it. But a chance encounter threatens to distract her. His name is Dane Parsons, a big-wave surfer from California. 'Iwa has a few unbreakable rules, and at the top of her list: never date a surfer. Dane is part of an underground group of big-wave riders, and his connection to the ocean runs deep. When he meets 'Iwa, he can't get her out of his mind. But 'Iwa wants nothing to do with Dane until he offers to help protect her beloved forest and waterfall. So here travel deep into the Maui rainforest and hop across the globe from Hawai'i to California to Portugal, chasing waves the size of nine-story buildings—where the unthinkable is always just one breath away.

Berney, Lou. [Double Barrel Bluff](#) (Harper \$18.99). Berney returns to his critically acclaimed thriller series starring former mob wheelman Shake Bouchon, who finds himself dragged into a high-stakes hostage rescue, among the mighty temples and shadowy underground of Cambodia.

Bublitz, Jacqueline. [Leave the Girls Behind](#) (Atria \$18.99). Ruth-Ann Baker is a college dropout, a bartender—and an amateur detective who just can't stay away from true crime. Nineteen years ago, her childhood friend was murdered by suspected serial killer Ethan Oswald. Still tormented by the case, Ruth-Ann can't help but think of the long-dead Oswald when another young girl goes missing from the same town. And when she uncovers startling new evidence that suggests Oswald did not act alone, she is determined to find his deadly partner in crime and so Ruth-Ann embarks upon a global investigation. Be prepared for very unusual elements here like the ghosts of dead girls, pushing boundaries, heavy use of social media. In short, this is not True Crime although Bublitz gives it that structure. I grew weary of it.

Collins, Max Allan. [Quarry's Return](#) (\$16.99). The hitman hero of the acclaimed Cinemax series comes out of retirement when his daughter, a true-crime writer, is abducted by the subject of one of her books.

Groff, Lauren, ed. [Best American Short Stories 2024](#) (Harper \$19.99).

Harris, Robert. [Conclave](#) (\$18). Now a TV series, this novel by Harris portrays an election—a Papal one. “Robert Harris, creator of grand, symphonic thrillers from *Fatherland* to *An Officer and a Spy*, scores with a chamber piece of a novel set in the Vatican in the days after a fictional pope dies... An illuminating read for anyone interested in the inner workings of the Catholic Church; for prelate-fiction superfans, it is pure temptation.” —*Kirkus* Starred Review

Johnson, Maureen. [Death at Morning House](#) (HarperTeen \$19.99). Indie Next says, “It starts with a malfunctioning petrichor candle. Soon, the house is up in flames—and so are Marlowe's summer plans. With singular, dry wit, and sinister disquiet, Johnson crafts a novel with such suspenseful foreboding that you'll be racing with shaking fingers to the end.”

Khan, Ausma Zehanat. [Blood Betrayal](#) (\$18). Khan's second in the Detective Inaya Rahman series following [Blackwater Falls](#) (\$12) finds Rahman continuing her work in the Denver Police Department's Community Response Unit when separate police shootings take the lives of two young men—one Black, one Hispanic—on the same night. One involves a Blackwater Falls

sheriff's deputy who mistakes a can of spray paint for a gun during a late-night chase; the other, a Denver police officer who fired on an unarmed man fleeing a drug raid. Both shootings raise ghosts of the past for Rahman and her team, the first from a recent case involving the allegedly corrupt Blackwater Falls and the second rekindling the trauma of Rahman's history with the Chicago police and a possible connection with her father's refusal to discuss his past in Afghanistan. Don't read this as a police procedural, read it for the way the two cops have to navigate the narrow spaces between being officers and being people of color.

Kistler, Bonnie. [Shell Games](#) (Harper \$18.99). Julie's mother Kate is a force of nature—a glamorous woman of seventy, a self-made real estate developer, a grande dame in Florida society, and a power broker in Florida politics. It wasn't easy for Julie to grow up in the shadow of such a dynamo, but she loves her mother, and she and her husband Eric are thrilled when Kate marries her long-lost high school sweetheart, a salt-of-the-earth man named Charlie. But their storybook romance ends abruptly. On their wedding night, Kate calls the police in hysterics to report that Charlie just confessed to a notorious unsolved crime from decades before. Charlie says she imagined it. Eric says that Kate has dementia. And the FBI says that Charlie couldn't possibly have committed that crime. Now what?

Knútsdóttir, Hildur. [The Night Guest](#) (Forge \$19.99), translated from Icelandic into English by Mary Robinette Kowal. This is wizard for fans of modern horror. Set in Reykjavik, it's not Nordic Noir but stark, mysterious, spooky, and at 208 pages, short. A woman wakes up every morning, exhausted, then battered and bruised—and then with blood under her fingernails.... I find the pink cover color an odd choice.

McKinney, Chris. [Honolulu Noir](#) (Akashic Press \$16.95). The Aloha State enters the Akashic Noir Series. 2000 miles away from the rest of the country, an American city evades the mind's eye of the empire that claimed it, peddled it as paradise, then largely ignored it. And yet, Honolulu likes its anonymity. Tourists and outsiders corral themselves in hotels and resorts, vacation eyes glued to their beachfront sunsets and mai tais while the people who live here get on with their affairs. And sometimes it's dirty business. Stories by Don Wallace, Stephanie Han, Christy Passion, Morgan Miryung McKinney, Alan Brennert, Lono Waiwai'ole, Kiana Davenport, Mindy Eun Soo Pennybacker, Scott Kikkawa, Tom Gammarino, B.A. Kobayashi, Michelle Cruz Skinner, and Chris McKinney. I add that Hawai'i is the scene for more and more crime fiction.

Mead, Tom. [The Indian Rope Trick](#) (Crippen Landru \$22). See Signed Books. This is the unsigned paperback edition.

Morrissey, Hannah. [When I'm Dead](#) (\$19). As medical examiner Rowan Winthrop scrutinizes the corpse of teenager Madison Caldwell, she reflects on her 18 years in the “purgatory” of grim Black Harbor, Wisconsin. Madison, the best friend of Rowan's daughter, Chloe, has been found strangled to death in a gully. Repeated attempts to contact Chloe fail, and Rowan comes to the slow realization that her daughter is missing. Libby Lucas, a strange teenager who dabbles in taxidermy, harbors several secrets related to the murder. Ditto neighborhood hottie Reeves Singh, who was Madison's boyfriend. Chloe's father, Axel, a veteran homicide detective in Black Harbor's police department, angrily charges into the probe of his daughter's disappearance.

The investigation takes a deeply unsettling turn when it appears that Chloe was being bullied by Madison and may have had an affair with her drama teacher, Mark Cutler, who's also gone AWOL. Both parents are left to reflect on the recent changes in Chloe's personality they've mostly ignored. A second teen victim raises the specter of a serial killer. "Morrissey's second Black Harbor thriller drops the gothic trappings of her debut and goes straight for the jugular, with gruesome twists and intimations of menace from every quarter."

Muller, Marcia. [Circle in the Water](#) (\$18.99). Vandalism has hit several upscale San Francisco neighborhoods. PI Sharon McCone's agency is hired by a neighborhood watch group to keep an eye on local streets. Believing the vandalism to be pranks, McCone and her husband/partner, Hy Ripinsky, question local suspects but aren't terribly concerned. However, when an Internet maven is killed and attempts are made on McCone's life, things take a more ominous turn. I'm finding real estate is more and more a motive for murder. Kudos to Muller for another entry in this iconic womansleuth series.

Napolitano, Ann. [Hello Beautiful](#) (\$18.99) is homage to Louisa May Alcott's timeless classic, *Little Women*. William Waters grew up in a house silenced by tragedy, where his parents could hardly bear to look at him, much less love him—so when he meets the spirited and ambitious Julia Padavano in his freshman year of college, it's as if the world has lit up around him. With Julia comes her family, as she and her three sisters are inseparable: Sylvie, the family's dreamer, is happiest with her nose in a book; Cecelia is a free-spirited artist; and Emeline patiently takes care of them all. With the Padavanos, William experiences a newfound contentment; every moment in their house is filled with loving chaos. But then darkness from William's past surfaces....

O'Brien, Tim. [America Fantastica](#) (\$19.99). "A brilliant romp across the continent. Boyd Halverson feels the urge to shake things up. So, he gets up from his Kiwanis Club brunch, strolls across the street to a bank with a .38 revolver, robs it, and takes Angie Banks, the teller, hostage. Away we go!"

Roux, Jessica. [Floriography Coloring Book](#) (Anchor \$14.99). Based on artist Jessica Roux's bestselling guide to the nineteenth-century "language of flowers," this beautifully designed coloring book collects 45 of her botanical illustrations alongside easy-to-follow line art. Render dozens of flowers and herbs in Roux's iconic style while learning about the meaning behind each one. From dahlia to foxglove, hellebore to hyacinth, capture a whole garden of Victorian blooms in vivid color!

Roux has also produced [Illustrated Guides to Ornithography](#) (\$21.99) and [Floriography](#) (\$21.99 each) as well as "Field Guides to [Fairies](#) and to [Dragons](#).

* Rubin, Gareth. [The Turnglass](#) (\$17.99). This ambitious British import offers an "immersive, and unique crime story in a *tête-bêche* novel—two intertwined stories printed back-to-back. Open the book and the first novella begins. It ends in the middle of the book. Flip the book over, head to tail, and read the second story in the opposite direction. At the book's core are two separate mysteries running across two different timelines, which are inextricably, forever linked."

1880s, Essex, England: Idealistic young doctor Simeon Lee is called from London to treat his ailing relative Parson Oliver Hawes, who lives in Turnglass House on a bleak island off

the coast. Hawes believes he's being poisoned by his sister-in-law, Florence, who was declared mad years ago after killing the parson's brother in a jealous rage. Hawes keeps her locked in a glass-walled apartment in the Turnglass library; the secret to how she came to be there is found in his *tête-bêche* journal, where one side tells a very different story from the other. Flip. 1930s, Hollywood: Celebrated author Oliver Tooke, the governor's son, is found dead by apparent suicide. His aspiring actor friend Ken Kourian isn't so sure Oliver took his own life. To get to the truth, Ken must decipher clues hidden in Oliver's final book, a *tête-bêche* novel called *The Turnglass*—which is about a young doctor named Simeon Lee....

Ryan, Lindy, ed. [The Darkest Night: 22 Terrifying Winter Horror Stories](#) (Crooked Lane \$18.99). Ok, maybe better for Halloween but I think this collection by authors such as Christopher Golden, Rachel Harrison, Josh Malerman, and more is an antidote to too much cheer.

OUR NOVEMBER SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Kellerman, Jonathan. [The Ghost Orchid](#) (\$9.99). Alex Delaware #39. Consulting on the baffling double murder of a playboy heir to an Italian shoe empire and his married lover, brilliant psychologist Alex Delaware and LAPD homicide lieutenant Milo Sturgis are led to L.A.'s darkest side as they contend with one of the most shocking cases of their careers.

Penney, Elizabeth. [Madrigals and Mayhem](#) (St Martins \$9.99). Cambridge Bookshop #4. When local toyshop Pemberly's Emporium reopens, Molly Kimball is excited to meet the new owner, Charlotte Pemberly, who is determined to make the toy store a success after unexpectedly becoming her grandfather Arthur's sole heir. Arthur's new wife Althea Winters and her unpleasant family loathe Charlotte for inheriting what they believe was theirs. When Althea's grandson is poisoned by cakes from Tea & Crumpets, Charlotte becomes the top suspect. But Molly believes Charlotte was the intended victim and begins her own investigation.

Preston, Douglas/Lincoln Child. [Dead Mountain](#) (\$10.99). Nora Kelly #4. In 2008, nine mountaineers failed to return from a winter backpacking trip in the New Mexico mountains. At their final campsite, searchers found a bizarre scene: something had appeared at the door of their tent so terrifying that it impelled them to slash their way out and flee barefoot to certain death in a blizzard. The case, given the code name "Dead Mountain" by the FBI, was never solved. Now, two more bodies from the lost expedition are unexpectedly discovered in a cave, one a grisly suicide. Young FBI Agent Corrie Swanson teams up with archaeologist Nora Kelly to investigate what really happened on that fateful trip fifteen years ago—and to find the ninth victim.

Sanders, Angela M. [The Witch Is Back](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Witch Way Librarian #6. Just when residents thought life was settling down in small-town Wilfred, Oregon, poison pen letters begin to arrive. Who can celebrate the retreat's success or the opening of The Wallingford Guesthouse when secrets and less than neighborly transgressions are aired? Librarian Josie Way is lucky to be a witch, since the spellbound books know plenty about murders.

MORE NOVEMBER SMALL PAPERBACKS

Brown, Sandra. [Out of Nowhere](#) (\$10.99). Brought together by a

mass shooting at a Texas county fair, children's book author and single mother Elle Portman and high-rolling corporate consultant Calder Hudson, both fueled by revenge, search for a killer while wondering if the attraction growing between them is too painful and complicated to sustain.

Cates, Bailey. [Rituals and Rolling Pins](#) (Penguin \$9.99). Magical Bakery #11. Since hedgewitch Katie Lightfoot opened a busy bakery in Savannah serving up sweet treats—with a little spellwork on the side—she's always on the go. While Katie is on a run in the local marshland preserve to de-swamp her jumbled thoughts, she encounters the shocking sight of her friend, reporter and druid Steve Dawes, standing over a dead body. The way the victim was killed suggests a magical ritual may have been involved.

Erickson, Alex. [Death By Caramel Macchiato](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Bookstore Café #13. When Pine Hills, Ohio hosts an inter-town murder mystery game, bookstore-café owner and sometimes-sleuth Krissy Hancock assumes it'll all be in good fun, but that's before the competition claims its first real-life victim.

Hannah, Darci. [Murder at the Lemonberry Tea](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Beacon Bookshop #6. Lindsey Bakewell's iconic lighthouse bakeshop in beautiful Beacon Harbor, Michigan, is hosting a celebrity cookbook author from the UK—but the notorious diva is now DOA leaving Lindsey no option but to play amateur sleuth.

Margolin, Phillip. [Betrayal](#) (\$9.99). Robin Lockwood #7. Attorney Robin Lockwood finds herself defending her old nemesis in a multiple murder case with too many suspects where success might cost her own life.

Patterson, James. [Countdown](#) (\$10.99). Amy Cornwell #2. Agent Amy Cornwall must go dark after a botched field operation reveals sinister dealings between her bosses and an informant.

Robb, J D. [Random in Death: An Eve Dallas Novel](#) (\$9.99). Eve Dallas #58. When a 16-year-old girl is murdered during a show at a New York club, Lieutenant Eve Dallas, with the lab results showing a toxic mix of substances and infectious agents in the victim's body, must find a madman consumed by hatred who's just another face in the crowd.

Slaughter, Karin. [After That Night](#) (\$9.99). Fifteen years ago, Sara Linton's life changed forever when a celebratory night out ended in a violent attack that tore her world apart. Since then, Sara has remade her life. A successful doctor engaged to a man she loves; she has finally managed to leave the past behind her. Until one evening, on call in the ER, everything changes. Sara battles to save a broken young woman who's been brutally attacked. But as the investigation progresses, led by GBI Special Agent Will Trent, it becomes clear that Dani Cooper's assault is uncannily linked to Sara's

COOKBOOKS AND MORE

Alexiadou, Vefa. [Greece: The Cookbook](#) (Penguin \$54.95)

Alpers, Jackie. [Taste of Tucson: Sonoran Style Recipes](#) (Weidenfeld \$34.99)

America's, Test Kitchen. [The Complete One Pot: 400 Meals for You](#) (Alyson \$34.99)

America's, Test Kitchen. [Everything Chocolate: A Decadent](#)

[Collection](#) (\$35)

America's, Test Kitchen. [Food Gifts: 150+ Irresistible Recipes](#) (\$30)

Anderson, Robert Tuesley. [Jane Austen's Table](#) (Thunder Bay \$19.99)

Andres, Jose. [World Central Kitchen Cookbook](#) (Clarkson \$35)

Arefi, Yossy. [Snacking Bakes: Simple Recipes for Cooking](#) (Clarkson \$25)

Attar Bashi, Lamees. [Middle Eastern Delights: 60 Delicious](#) (Page \$23.99)

Barron, Frank Adrian. [Sweet Paris: Seasonal Recipes from an American Baker in France](#) (Harper \$29.99)

Bastianich, Lidia Matticc. [Lidia's from Our Family Table to Yours](#) (Knopf \$35)

Baz, Molly. [More Is More: Get Loose in the Kitchen](#): (Clarkson \$35)

Bertch, Jane. [The French Ingredient](#) (Random \$30)

Bodrug, Carleigh. [Plantyou: Scrappy Cooking: 140+ Plant Based Recipes](#) (Hachette \$32)

Bourdain, Anthony. [Kitchen Confidential](#) (Ecco \$18.99)

Bourdain, Anthony. [Kitchen Confidential Annotated Edition](#) (Harper \$24)

Bovis, Natalie. [Cocktails with My Cat: Tasty Tipples](#) (Running Press \$24)

Carrillo Arronte, Margari. [Mexican Vegetarian Cookbook](#) (Penguin \$54.95)

Carrillo Arronte, Margari. [Mexico: The Cookbook](#) (Penguin \$54.95)

Child, Julia. [French Chef Cookbook](#) (Knopf \$35)

Child, Julia. [People Who Love to Eat Are Always the Best](#) (Knopf \$18.95)

Cider Mill Press. [Cocktail America: Over 200 Cocktails](#) (Clarkson \$29.99)

Colbert, Stephen. [Does This Taste Funny?: Recipes](#) (Celadon \$35)

Concerned Ape. [Official Stardew Valley Cookbook](#) (Random \$28)

CraneLeroux, Chloe. [Artful Way to Plant Based Cooking](#) (Running Press \$35)

Darlington, Andre. [Cowboy Cocktails: 60 Recipes Inspired by the American West](#) (Epic Ink \$19.99)

Davis, Hillary. [French from the Market](#) (Gibbs Smith \$35)

Devlukia Shetty, Radhi. [Joyfull: Cook Effortlessly, Eat Freely](#), (Running Press \$35)

Dzafic, Julia. [Garden Grown: GardenToTable Recipes to](#) (Diamond \$32)

Federle, Tim. [Are You There God? It's Me, Margarita](#) (Running Press \$17)

Federle, Tim. [Tequila Mockingbird](#) (Running Press \$17)

Federle, Tim. [Tequila Mockingbird \(10th Anniversary\)](#) (Running Press \$17)

Fong, Stacey Mei Yan. [50 Pies, 50 States: An Immigrant's Love](#) (LittleBrown \$35)

French, Erin. [Big Heart Little Stove: Bringing Home Me](#)

(Celadon \$38)

Gabaldon, Diana. [Outlander Cocktails: The Official Drinks](#) (Random \$32)

Gaylard, Linda. [The Tea Book](#) (DK \$23.99)

Gladwin, Laura. [A Cocktail in Paris: 65 Recipes](#) (Ryland Peters \$14.99)

Goodwin, Jason. [Yashim Cooks Istanbul](#) (Poisoned Pen \$10)

Grossman, Jo. [Second Helping of Murder](#) (Poisoned Pen \$19.95)

Grossman, Jo. [Taste of Murder](#) (Poisoned Pen \$19.95)

Hazan, Marcella. [Essentials of Classic Italian Cooking: 3](#) (Knopf \$40.99)

Heuck, Lidey. [Cooking in Real Life: Delicious & Doable](#) (Running Press \$35)

Hollis, B Dylan. [Baking Yesteryear: The Best Recipes from the 1900s to the 1980s](#) (DK \$32)

Isle, Ray. [The World in a Wineglass](#) (Scribner \$50)

Jacobsen, Rowan. [Wild Chocolate: Across the Americas](#) (Berkley \$28.99)

Johnson, JJ. [Simple Art of Rice, The: Recipes from Around the World](#) (Flatiron \$34.99)

Jones, Anna. [Easy Wins: 12 Flavour Hits, 125 Delicious Recipes](#) (Harper \$35)

Khan, Yasmin. [Ripe Figs: Recipes and Stories from Turke, Greece, & Cyprus](#) (Norton \$35)

Kieffer, Sarah. [100 Afternoon Sweets: With Snacking](#) (Chronicle \$27.5)

Kimball Christopher. [Milk Street 365](#) (Virago \$45)

Kimball, Christopher. [Milk Street Vegetables: 250 Bold, Simple](#) (Little Brown \$40)

Kimball, Christopher. [Milk Street: Cook What You Have](#) (Little Brown \$35)

Kimball, Christopher. [Milk Street: Cookish: Throw it Together](#) (Little Brown \$35)

King, Michelle T. [Chop Fry Watch Learn: Fu Pei Mei and the Making of Modern Chinese Food](#) (Norton \$29.99)

Kochilas, Diane. [Ikaria Way, The: 100 Delicious Plant Base Recipes](#) (St Martins \$37)

Koenig, Leah. [Portico: Cooking and Feasting in Rome's Jewish Kitchen](#) (Norton \$37.5)

Lopez, Bricia. [Asada: The Art of Mexican Style Grilling](#) (Harper \$40)

Macleod, Coinneach. [Hebridean Baker: At Home: Flavors & Folk](#) (Sourcebooks \$29.99)

Macleod, Coinneach. [Hebridean Baker: My Scottish Island Kitchen](#) (Sourcebooks \$29.99)

Macleod, Coinneach. [Hebridean Baker: Recipes and Wee Stories](#) (Sourcebooks \$28.99)

Mah, Ann. [Mastering the Art of French Eating](#) (Penguin \$17)

Massov, Olga. [Hot Sheet: Sweet and Savory Sheet Pan Recipes](#) (Harper \$32.5)

Matheson, Matty. [Matty Matheson: Soups, Salads, Sandwiches](#) (Clarkson \$35)

Mccloskey, Robert. [Blueberries for Sal Cookbook](#) (Clarkson \$14)

McKinlay, Jenn. [Fairy Tale Cupcakes Cookbook Signed](#) (Ivy \$12.99)

Mckinnon, Hetty Lui. [Tenderheart: A Cookbook About Vegetables](#) (Knopf \$40)

Mowbray, Scott. [Gthe Global Pantry Cookbook](#) (Morrow \$35)

Mullaney, Colleen. [Agatha Whiskey: 50 Cocktails to Celebrate the Bestselling Novelist](#) (Sskyhorse \$19.99)

Mullaney, Colleen. [Gin Austen](#) (Sterling \$16.99)

Nosrat, Samin. [Salt Fat Acid Heat](#) (Simon Schuster \$40)

Oliver, Jamie. [5 Ingredients Mediterranean: Simple](#) (Flatiron \$39.99)

Ottolenghi, Yotam. [Ottolenghi Comfort: A Cookbook](#) (Clarkson \$37.99)

Overhiser, Sonja. [A Couple Cooks: 100 Recipes to Cook Together](#) (Chronicle \$40)

Parton, Dolly. [Good Lookin' Cookin': A Year of Meals](#) (Clarkson \$35)

Pashman, Dan. [Anything's Pastable: 81 Inventive Pasta](#) (Harper \$35)

Peerbhai, Shaheen. [Paris Picnic Club: More Than 100 Recipes](#) (Union Square \$30)

Pepin, Jacques. [Jacques Pepin Art of the Chicken](#) (Harper \$35)

Pepin, Jacques. [Jacques Pepin Cooking My Way: Recipes an](#) (Harper \$37.5)

Peppler, Rebekah. [Le Sud: Recipes from Provence](#) (Chronicle \$35)

Pianaro, Roberta. [Brunetti's Cookbook](#) (Atlantic \$30)

Pierce, Karen. [Recipes for Murder: 66 Dishes That Celebrates the Mysteries of Agatha Christie](#) (Countryman Press \$19.95)

Prescott, Dennis. [Cook with Confidence](#) (Harper \$29.99)

Puckette, Madeline. [Wine Folly Magnum Edition](#) (Avery \$37)

Reichl, Ruth. [Comfort Me with Apples](#) (Random \$20)

Ross, David a. [Tarot & Tequila: A Tarot Guide with Cocktails](#) (Forge \$19.99)

Saffitz, Claire. [What's for Dessert: Simple Recipes](#) (Clarkson \$37.5)

Salazar, Marisel. [LatinIsh: 100 Recipes](#) (Norton \$35)

Sanchez, Ericka. [Spicy Salsas & Moles](#) (\$19.99)

Sharma, Nik. [Veg-Table: Recipes, Techniques, And Plan](#) (Chronicle \$35)

Sheehan, Jessie. [Salty, Cheesy, Herby, Crispy Snackable B](#) (Norton \$28)

Sifton, Sam. [Thanksgiving: How to Cook It Well](#) (Random \$22)

Snodgrass, Alex. [Dinner Tonight: 100 Simple, Healthy Recipes](#) (Harper \$35)

Sondereker, Kierra. [Mixology and Murder: Cocktails Inspired by Infamous Cases](#) (Ulysses Press \$19.95)

Stewart, Amy. [The Drunken Botanist](#) (Algonquin \$25)

Thielen, Amy. [Company: The Radically Casual Art of Cooking for Others](#) (Norton \$40)