

BOOKNEWS from

ISSN 1056-5655, © The Poisoned Pen, Ltd.
Volume 37, Number 5
April Booknews 2025
sales@poisonedpen.com tel (888)560-9919
http://poisonedpen.com

4014 N. Goldwater Blvd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
480-947-2974



AN AWESOME APRIL

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.

For streaming the times given are PDT
For Arizonans, they are MST

TUESDAY APRIL 1 6:00 PM Live Event

Art Bell & Joshua Moehling

Bell discusses [What She's Hiding](#) (Ulysses Press \$28.95)

A dark, stylish legal thriller debut

Moehling discusses [A Long Time Gone](#) (Sourcebooks \$27.99)

Minnesota Deputy Ben Packard

WEDNESDAY APRIL 2 1:00 PM Virtual Event

British authors CB Everett and Jess Kidd

Everett discusses [The Other People](#) (Atria \$27.99)

A dark Christie-style house murder

Kidd discusses [Murder at Gulls Nest](#) (Atria \$28.99)

Our British Crime Club Pick for April

WEDNESDAY APRIL 2 6:00 PM Virtual Event

Allison Gunn discusses [Nowhere](#) (Atria \$27.99)

A horror debut for fans of Stephen King

WEDNESDAY APRIL 2 7:00 PM Live Event

Christa Faust discusses [Get Off](#) (Titan/Hard Case Crime \$17.99)

FRIDAY APRIL 4 6:00 PM Live Event

Melissa Marr with Liana de la Rosa

Marr discusses [Reluctant Witch](#) (Tor/Forge \$18.99)

A Course in Magic Sapphic Fantasy Book 2

MONDAY APRIL 7 7:00 PM Live Event

Steve Cavanagh discusses [Witness 8](#) (Atria \$29.99)

This terrific UK author visits us at last!!

TUESDAY APRIL 8 7:00 PM Live Event

Kelly Mullen discusses [This is Not a Game](#) (Penguin \$29)

Our April First Mystery Book of the Month

London's Mullen sets her locked-room debut mystery on Michigan's Mackinac Island

She is treating you to champagne and nibbles!

WEDNESDAY APRIL 9 7:00 PM Live Event

Maxym M. Martineau discusses [House of Blight](#) (Harper \$30)

The Threadmender Chronicles #1 Gothic Fantasy

THURSDAY APRIL 10 7:00 PM Live Event

Nita Prose discusses [The Maid's Secret](#) (Random House \$30)

Our April Cozy Crimes Pick

Note: Prose also appears at Cave Creek's Desert Foothills Library at 1:00 PM

FRIDAY APRIL 11 5:00 PM Virtual Event

Bryan Gruley discusses [Who Will Remember](#) (Severn House \$29)

Starts a hard hitting Midwest series

Signed books available

SATURDAY APRIL 12 10:00 AM Live Event

Local Authors Fair

Support independently published authors

SUNDAY APRIL 13 2:00 PM Live Event

Jeffrey Siger discusses [Not Dead Yet](#) (Severn House \$29.99)

Greece's Chief Inspector Andrea Kaldis in a real stunner

MONDAY APRIL 14 7:00 PM Live Event

Matt Goldman discusses [The Murder Show](#) (Forge \$32.99)

A writer returns to Minnesota hoping for inspiration for his hit TV show

WEDNESDAY APRIL 16 7:00 PM Live Event

Elizabeth Kaufman discusses [Ruth Run](#) (Putnam \$29)

A debut introducing us to digital theft ace Ruth...on the run

THURSDAY APRIL 18 7:00 PM Live Event

Adam Plantinga discusses [Hard Town](#) (Grand Central \$30)

A Jack Reacher style thriller set in a small Arizona town

SATURDAY APRIL 19 1:30 AM Live & Virtual

Croak and Dagger Club discusses Tim Maleeny's [Hanging the Devil](#) (\$16.99)

SATURDAY APRIL 19 5:00 PM Live Event

CS Harris discusses [Who Will Remember](#) (Berkley \$29)

A Sebastian St Cyr Regency era investigation

SUNDAY APRIL 20

Closed for Easter

MONDAY APRIL 21 7:00 PM Live Book Launch

Anne Hillerman discusses [Shadow of the Solstice](#) (Harper \$30)

Leaphorn, Chee, & Manuelito of *Dark Winds*

TUESDAY APRIL 22 12:00 PM Live Event
Emily Henry Book Release Party (No author)
Henry's book is [Great Big Beautiful Life](#) (Berkley \$29)
But come for special swag, and frozen ice treats
Attendees will draw for our dozen signed copies

WEDNESDAY APRIL 23 7:00 PM Live Event
SJ Rozan discusses [The Railway Conspiracy](#) (Soho \$27.95).
Rozan and John Shen Yen Nee's fiendishly clever second
whodunit featuring Tang Dynasty magistrate Judge Dee in 1924
London

THURSDAY APRIL 24 5:00 PM Virtual Event
Will Thomas discusses [Season of Death](#) (St Martins \$28)
Victorian private enquiry agents Cyrus Barker and Thomas
Llewelyn

THURSDAY APRIL 24 7:00 PM Live Event
Hardboiled Crime Club discusses Ivy Pochoda's [Sing Her
Down](#) (\$18)

FRIDAY APRIL 25 6:00 PM Virtual Event
Jason Bailey with host Jen Johans
Bailey discusses [Gandolfini: Jim, Tony, and the Life of a Legend](#)
(Abrams \$30)

FRIDAY APRIL 25 7:00 PM Live and Virtual Event
SciFi Friday Club discusses Andy Weir's [The Martian](#) (\$17)

SATURDAY APRIL 26 All Day
It's Independent Bookstore Day 2025
Please come by to browse, chat, and for treats, a sale, a grand
prize

SATURDAY APRIL 26 11:00 AM Live Event
The Cookbook Club discusses Jessie Sheehan's [Salty, Cheesy,
Herby, Crispy Snackable Bakes](#) (\$28)
Please bring a dish to share

SUNDAY APRIL 27 2:00 PM Live Event
Brad Taylor with host Don Bentley
Taylor discusses [Into the Gray Zone](#) (Harper \$30).
A Pike Logan thriller

MONDAY APRIL 28 7:00 PM Live Event
Chuck Wendig with Pat King
Wendig discusses [The Staircase in the Woods](#) (Random House
Worlds \$30)
Friends investigate a strange staircase in Wendig's new novel of
horror

TUESDAY APRIL 29 5:00 PM Virtual event
Maha Kahn Phillips discusses [The Museum Detective](#) (Soho
Press \$27.95)
Set in Pakistan with archaeology, history, fraud...and murder

TUESDAY APRIL 29 7:00 PM Live Event
Ashley Winstead discusses [This Book Will Bury Me](#)
(Sourcebooks \$27.99)
Interrogates the True Crime Culture

WEDNESDAY April 30 5:00 PM Virtual Event
Emily Sullivan discusses [A Death on Corfu](#) (Kensington \$27)
Our May Historical Fiction Pick, a series debut set on Corfu
Signed books available

WEDNESDAY APRIL 30 7:00 PM Live Event
Robert Bailey with host Deb Ledford
Bailey discusses [The Boomerang](#) (Thomas & Mercer
\$28.99/\$16.99)
John Grisham meets *Yellowstone* in a gripping political thriller

OUR SUBSCRIPTION CLUB PICKS FOR APRIL

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.

To join, gift, or request information please email sales@poisonedpen.com

British Crime Club One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per
month
Kidd, Jess. [Murder at Gulls Nest](#)

Cozy Crimes Club One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per
month
Prose, Nita. [The Maid's Secret](#)

The Crime Collectors Book of the Month Club One Signed
First Printing per month
Phillips, Maha Khan. [The Museum Detective](#)

First Mystery Club One Signed First Printing per month
Mullen, Kelly. [This is Not a Game](#)

Hardboiled/Noir Club One Signed First Printing per month
TBD

Historical Fiction Club One First Printing per month
Willig, Lauren. [The Girl from Greenwich Street](#)

Historical Fiction Paperback Club One Unsigned paperback
per month
Boyd, Natasha. [The Indigo Girl](#)

Notable New Fiction One Signed First Printing per month
Henry, Patti Callahan. [The Story She Left Behind](#)

Romance and Relationships One unsigned hardcover or paper-
back per month
Malone, Nana. [Gold Coast Dilemma](#)

NEW SIGNED BOOKS FOR APRIL

Atkinson, Rick. [Fate of the Day: The War for America](#) (Crown \$42). Tip ins. Fort Ticonderoga to Charleston, 1777-1780, the 2nd volume in Atkinson's The Revolutionary Trilogy.

Bailey, Robert. [The Boomerang](#) (Thomas and Mercer \$28.99). The president of the United States has terminal cancer. Chief of Staff Eli James, his faithful consigliere and best friend, is one of the few who know. But just as the president's condition mysteriously improves, Eli's hit with another blow: his daughter has cancer too. Stumbling upon a devastating cover-up Eli flees West and allies with a land baron. So a kind of *Yellowstone* thriller develops....

* Baldacci, David. [Strangers in Time](#) (Grand Central \$30). Baldacci does Dickens in 1944 London where a bereaved bookshop owner and two teenagers scarred by the war come together to survive and even thrive in lives transformed by the Blitz. Charlie Matters, an orphaned, street-smart 13-year-old, lives with his grandmother and uses his wits to survive. After Charlie steals money and a book from widower Ignatius Oliver's bookshop, he returns everything out of guilt and Oliver befriends him. Molly Wakefield, 15, returns to London after a long evacuation in the countryside to discover that both her parents are missing. She meets Charlie on the street and asks him to guide her to the government office where she believes her father works, but he's nowhere to be found. Later, while looking for Charlie, Molly meets Oliver, who's impressed by her maturity and kindness. After Charlie's grandmother dies and Molly's home is destroyed by another round of German bombings, Oliver takes in the two teenagers. As the three weather more assaults on the city, the author illustrates the horrors of war and the utter helplessness of citizens in the face of such daunting challenges, but highlights the value of found family.

Bell, Art. [What She's Hiding](#) (Ulysses Press \$28.95) is a noir, stylish thriller debut by the former president of *Court TV* featuring a hotshot NY City lawyer at a white shoe NYC law firm unexpectedly drawn into a web of violence and intrigue by the ex-wife he hasn't spoken to since their bitter divorce. Actually their relationship is much more complex than the usual divorce, complicated by her past entangled with a ruthless, rich Russian mobster, her missing engagement ring, death threats—and Henry Gladstone's absolute inability to resist Leslie Dunlop from the day he spotted her working at his firm through their affair, their marriage, and now her pleas for \$250,000 to save her life. He's convinced it's a scam even though part of him can't resist her. But he does. And then.... So Henry assembles a team that includes his best friend Aiden, a private investigator named Gabriella, and Aiden's ex-wife Emma, to track down a missing engagement ring, stay one step ahead of the Russian mob, and uncover the secrets of Leslie's past.

Blake, Olivie. [Gifted & Talented](#) (Tor/Forge \$29.99). Where there's a will, there's a war. Thayer Wren, the brilliant CEO of Wrenfare Magitech and so-called father of modern technology, is dead. Any one of his three telepathically and electrokinetically gifted children would be a plausible inheritor to the Wrenfare throne. Or at least, so they like to think. So, think *Succession*....

* Callaghan, Jo. [Human Remains](#) (Spectra \$40). One of my favorite new British series is one where Warwickshire DCI Kat Frank has had to learn to investigate with an unusual partner, AIDE Lock, an AI detective created by the computer science gurus at the local university. The two have cracked two tough cases in the British Midlands and here is the third. The books are published (so far) in large paperback in the US so I thought we'd give you a Signed UK Hardcover for this third one. Start with the debut [In the Blink of an Eye](#) and continue with [Leave No Trace](#) (both Random House \$18 each). This is one of my top favorite English series, a passion shared by Deb and others.

Cambridge, Colleen. [A Fashionably French Murder](#) (Kensington \$27). American expat Tabitha Knight has found a new life in postwar Paris, along with a delightful friend in aspiring chef Julia Child. The two join a mother-of-the-bride for a private showing at an exclusive fashion atelier, Maison Lannet. It turns out bespoke dresses are one of a kind so the American mom is out of luck. But when Tabitha returns later that evening to search for a lost glove, she finds the lights still on—and the couturier dead, strangled by a length of lace. The shop manager suspects that a jealous rival—perhaps Dior himself—committed the crime. There's a lot of post-war fashion and more to be found here. Join Colleen and others on May 4 2:00 PM for our annual Cozy Con with John

Cassidy, Nat. [When the Wolf Comes Home](#) (Tor/Forge \$18.99). It's a big spring for Horror and here is one such for you. Pat King is our PP Staffer best acquainted with horror and is hosting some Horror authors. Here the author of [Mary](#) (\$21.99) returns with an unabashed, adrenaline-fueled pop horror thriller where the darkest fears can become reality. One night, Jess, a struggling actress, finds a five-year-old runaway hiding in the bushes outside her apartment. After a violent, bloody encounter with the boy's father, she and the boy find themselves running for their lives. As they attempt to evade the boy's increasingly desperate father, Jess slowly comes to a horrifying understanding—the boy can turn his every fear into reality. "This is the kind of great, big, epic horror novel we got back in the '80s that came out swinging for the fences and left everything on the field. Welcome back, you shaggy, bloody monster of a book!"—Grady Hendrix.

Cavanagh, Steve. [Witness 8](#) (Atria \$29.99) presents 22-year-old maid Ruby Johnson, whose financial troubles have reduced her to working in the kinds of Upper West Side homes she once lived in. Unassuming, she sees everyone's dirty secrets from the inside of their beautiful, renovated brownstones. But when Ruby witnesses a murder, she has wicked plans in mind that begin when she recognizes an unnamed man gun down one of the residents on the street. Ruby retrieves the gun the killer abandoned in a garbage can and uses it to frame Dr. John Jackson, one of her employers, for the crime, then takes credit for tracking him down. Jackson retains street-wise con man turned attorney Eddie Flynn to fight the ensuing murder charge—a difficult proposition, considering Ruby managed to plant his fingerprints on the gun. Meanwhile, Flynn tries to dodge a hit put out on him by an unknown enemy, which draws out-of-town gunmen to New York once Flynn's mob boss friend ensures that no one local accepts the contract.

Faust, Christa. [Get Off](#) (Titan/Hard Case Crime \$17.99). Patrick reviews: It's been nearly 15 years since readers last heard from former porn star and occasional sex worker Gina Moretti, aka Angel Dare. Now she's over 40, pregnant, and not sure what to do about it. When a revenge scheme against her sworn enemy, mobster Vukasin, goes horribly wrong, Angel accidentally kills a cop and is forced on the run. She barely makes it out of California alive before landing in Yuma, Arizona, where an old friend arranges for her to find sanctuary with an elderly couple living off the grid in the far reaches of Washington State, near the Canadian border. A professional rodeo bullfighter is tasked with ushering Angel to safety, and the two embark on a raucous road odyssey across the West. Faust fortifies her classic setup with pulpy sidesteps into rodeo culture and the world of wealthy cattle barons, mashing up picaresque, neo-noir, and old-fashioned western into a supremely satisfying saga

Gaige, Amity. [Heartwood](#) (Simon Schuster \$28.99). **This marvelous novel is out in April but is our May Notable New Fiction Subscription Pick. Members get a signed copy with free shipping.**

In the heart of the Maine woods, an experienced Appalachian Trail hiker goes missing. She is forty-two-year-old Valerie Gillis, who has vanished 200 miles from her final destination. Alone in the wilderness, Valerie pours her thoughts into fractured, poetic letters to her mother as she battles the elements and struggles to keep hoping. At the heart of the investigation is Beverly, the determined Maine State Game Warden tasked with finding Valerie, who leads the search on the ground. Meanwhile, Lena, a seventy-six-year-old birdwatcher in a Connecticut retirement community, becomes an unexpected armchair detective. Roving between these compelling narratives, a puzzle emerges, intensifying the frantic search, as Valerie's disappearance may not be accidental. *Heartwood* is a "gem of a thousand facets

Goldman, Matt. [The Murder Show](#) (Forge \$32.99). Showrunner Ethan Harris had a hit with *The Murder Show*, a television crime drama that features a private detective who solves cases the police can't. But after his pitch for the fourth season is rejected by the network, he returns home to Minnesota looking for inspiration. His timing is fortunate — his former classmate Ro Gree-man is now a local police officer, and she's uncovered new information about the devastating hit and run that killed their mutual friend Ricky the summer after high school. She asks Ethan to help her investigate and thinks that if he portrays the killing on *The Murder Show*, the publicity may bring Ricky's killer to justice. Ethan is skeptical that Ricky's death was anything but a horrible accident, but with the clock running out on his career, he's willing to try anything. Who better than TV honcho Goldman to know how dangerous this will be? [Paperback edition](#) (\$18.99).

Gruley, Bryan. [Bitterfrost](#) (Severn House \$29.99) "launches a promising new mystery series with this tense tale of murder in small-town Michigan. Jimmy Baker's minor league hockey career ended 13 years ago when he almost killed another player during a fight on the ice. Ever since, he's scraped together a living as the Zamboni driver at his local rink in Bitterfrost, Mich. One morning, Jimmy awakes on his kitchen floor with his hands and clothes covered in blood and rust and with no memory of the night before. Soon, he learns that witnesses and forensic evidence have linked him to a double murder that took place in the hours

he can't remember. Given his violent reputation, the Bitterfrost rumor mill starts up, and a desperate Jimmy turns to his friend, Devyn Payne, a former big-shot attorney who's left her Detroit firm to "fend for murderers and drug addicts and drunk drivers and wife beaters" in Bitterfrost. As she pieces together Jimmy's defense, Devyn investigates the murders on her own, putting herself directly in harm's way. Gruley buttresses the book's sleek procedural elements with a textured, lived-in setting, granting even minor characters a surprising amount of dimension."—*PW*. It's good to see Gruley back.

Gunn, Allison. [Nowhere](#) (Atria \$27.99) is a horror debut that "reads as if *Mare of Easttown* was written by Stephen King, highlighting the human fear inside a supernatural phenomenon while also illuminating the very real issues of a small-town suffering from deep-seated prejudice and a drug epidemic." OK, wow. After losing her young son in an accident, Rachel Kennan throws herself into her career as police chief of a small Virginia town to avoid focusing on her grief. Meanwhile, her husband, Finn, a washed-up writer whose alcoholism led to the devastating tragedy that changed everything, struggles to redeem himself before his family completely falls apart. Their two daughters are the only things keeping Rachel and Finn together, but the girls have demons of their own. When a disturbing crime rocks their tight knit, religious community, sending Rachel chasing leads in a place that does not take kindly to outsiders, an ominous force in the forest starts calling to the children, fear spawns hate among the townspeople, placing the Kennan family directly in the line of fire. "While the eerie stillness of the woods, complex characters, and propulsive plot building to a climax that comes at break-neck speed all make *Nowhere* a captivating. Gunn's deep research in Appalachian folk tales and personal connection to the fictional Kennans is what makes it special." Unsigned

* Harkaway, Nick. [Sleeper Beach](#) (Coronet \$45). The son of the late John Le Carré writes something unusual. On the shore of a rundown holiday town, a young woman washes up dead. Martha Erskine, the matriarch of a local dynasty, suspects a member of her own family might be involved in the murder, and calls in Cal to investigate. Cal Sounder is a detective first and a Titan second, but it's not easy to make that work. It's hard to be an ordinary guy when you're fundamentally not ordinary anymore. Cal has recently taken a dose of T7, a rare drug that is usually the preserve of the rich, making its users—called the Titans—younger and bigger each time they take it, so that as they age the bodies of the ultra-wealthy become as immense as their bank accounts. As Cal digs into the crime, he finds this forgotten town is simmering with wage disputes, strikes, and political conflict, and no one is quite who they say they are—not even the victim. As Cal second-guesses everyone he meets, he is forced to confront who he really is.

* Harris, CS. [Who Will Remember](#) (Berkley \$29). The cold, rainy London summer of 1816 provides an atmospheric backdrop for the latest investigation conducting by aristocratic sleuth Sebastian St. Cyr. It begins when a young man named Jamie summons St. Cyr to a ruined chapel on Saville Street, where the murdered Lord Preston Farnsworth hangs upside down in the position of the *Le Pendu* tarot card. In life, Farnsworth was a mercurial character, described by some as profoundly moral and by others as embittered and licentious. He also happens to be the husband of Lady Tess, who left him seven years ago

to live with St. Cyr's friend, Hugh. When Hugh is accused of killing Farnsworth, an initially ambivalent St. Cyr decides to look into the case. As ever, enjoy the series' trademarks—brisk pacing; well-wrought descriptions of Regency London. This is a superb historical series—I live for each new chapter in the lives of Sebastian, his amazing wife Hero, his surgeon friend who doubles as a kind of coroner, and their difficult relatives.

Henry, Patti Callahan. [The Story She Left Behind](#) (Atria \$29.99). **Perfect for Mother's Day!** Our April Notable New Fiction **Pick**, inspired by a true literary mystery, is so beautifully written it's a joy to read for the language alone. But throw in a legendary book and its lost potential sequel, a lost mother, and a daughter's far ranging search for them both—as I said, perfect for Mother's Day. There's also a created language, the perils of early fame, and very probably some neurodivergent elements to what's lost. The story begins in 1927 when the magical childhood of eight-year-old Clara Harrington abruptly ends when her mother, the author Bronwyn Newcastle Fordham, disappears sailing off the coast of North Carolina. Bronwyn had sparked a national sensation by writing a book in an invented language when she was just twelve. By 1952, Clara is an illustrator raising her own daughter, Wynnie. When a stranger named Charlie Jameson contacts her from London claiming to have discovered a handwritten dictionary of her mother's lost language. Clara is skeptical. Compelled by the tragedy of her mother's vanishing, she crosses the Atlantic with Wynnie only to arrive during one of London's most deadly natural disasters—the Great Smog. With asthmatic Wynnie in peril, they escape the city with Charlie and find refuge in the Jameson's family retreat nestled in the Lake District. I'll leave it there but you should not!

“Brilliant, riveting, so beautifully written, impossible to put down. I wanted to know, needed to know, about the strange manuscript left to a daughter, and the odyssey it sent her on.” — Louise Penny

Hillerman, Anne. [Shadow of the Solstice](#) (Harper \$30). Hillerman nimbly juggles several investigations in her latest for Navajo investigators Joe Leaphorn, Jim Chee, and Bernadette Manuelito. When a man's battered body is discovered at an old uranium ore processing facility in the small community of Shiprock, New Mexico, Lieutenant Chee investigates how and why the victim ended up in the restricted area. Meanwhile, officer Manuelito arrives at the enclave of a cult whose stated mission is to save the planet, though she suspects a more sinister undercurrent to their beliefs. Another story line finds Manuelito's younger sister, Darleen, looking into the disappearance of one of her home health clients and the elderly woman's teenage grandson. To top it all off, the entire police department is on edge, gearing up for a visit from U.S. energy secretary Savannah Cooper. Hillerman neatly entwines the disparate plot strands, but the real draw is the kindness, quiet intelligence, and strong moral compass of the novel's central characters. The TV series *Dark Winds* is drawn from the Hillermans' books and we remain delighted that we talked Anne into continuing Tony's characters and stories, but with her own vision.

* Horowitz, Anthony. [The Marble Hall Murders](#) (Century \$45). At the outset, Susan has just broken up with her Greek boyfriend, Andreas, leaving him and their bustling Crete hotel behind for her dreary London flat and a new freelance project with Causton Books. She's been hired to edit the late Alan Conway's unfin-

ished final novel featuring detective Atticus Pund, which has been completed by young writer Eliot Crace. Soon, Susan discovers an ulterior motive behind Eliot's additions to the story: he believes someone in his violently competitive family poisoned his famous grandmother, Miriam Crace, author of an über popular children's book series and owner of Marble Hall estate, and has nestled clues about his suspicions in Conway's manuscript, using the fictional Chalfonts as a stand-in for the Craces. Thus Horowitz throws down a gauntlet for the reader: will finding the killer in Eliot's novel, which takes up a solid chunk of this book's page count, translate to a conviction in the frame story? Horowitz is at the top of his game here, linking past and present in a virtuoso finale worthy of Agatha Christie.

Jance, JA. [Overkill](#) (Atria \$28.99). Talk about overkill. The night of his 60th birthday party, Video Games International owner Charles Brewster is murdered, stabbed 17 times while his second wife, Clarice, lies sleeping next to him in bed. Detective Raymond Horn, of Edmonds, Washington, PD Homicide, wastes no time arresting Clarice, who admits she must have killed the husband who'd filed for divorce even though she can't remember a thing about it. Adam Brewster, who'd left his father's home 20 years earlier over his discovery that Chuck was sleeping with Clarice while his first wife was dying, and Chuck's discovery that Adam was gay, is sickened by the crime, which took place hours after he attended the birthday party. So is B. Simpson, who'd co-founded VGI with Chuck. Ali Reynolds, B.'s wife and partner in cybersecurity firm High Noon, is convinced that Donna Jean Plummer—the longtime Brewster housekeeper the cops are trying to tie to the murder along with Clarice—is innocent, so she sets up a serious lawyer for Donna Jean. In the meantime, High Noon's Camille Lee spots a suspicious man during a sales trip to Los Angeles and is convinced that he's spotted her too. With the help of Frigg, High Noon's AI, Camille and Ali identify the suspect as Bulgarian trafficker Bogdan Petrov. But what designs could he possibly have on Camille? As usual, amazing plotter Jance emphasizes methodical investigative work and domestic subplots over splashy surprises.

Watch Jance discuss this book and more on our [FB](#) or our [YT](#) channels.

Karp, Marshall. [Don't Tell Me How to Die](#) (Blackstone \$26.99). Karp levels up with this captivating slow burn. In fact this book is SO good, so unusual and captivating I am trying to figure out a possible event for Mr. Karp. Stay tuned, we'll sort out something.

Maggie Dunn, mayor of Heartstone, N.Y., only has three months to live, courtesy of the same inflammatory blood disease that killed her mother. While Maggie busies herself finding a suitable new partner for her husband, Alex, before she's gone, realtor Minna Schultz dies under suspicious circumstances during a powerful rainstorm, spiking Maggie's anxiety. In flashbacks, Maggie's dying mother frets about finding her husband, Finn, a wife who will help raise Maggie and her sister. Finn eventually settles on a woman named Connie Gilchrist, whose eagerness to join the family raises alarm bells for a young Maggie. Karp toggles back and forth in time, gradually revealing the root of Maggie's deep-seated guilt in the present and building to the truth about Minna's death. What begins as a mystery-tinted character study transforms into a full-bore thriller, with a spate of jaw-dropping twists that recast the entire narrative. Readers should be prepared to stay up all night.

Kaufman, Elizabeth. [Ruth Run](#) (Putnam \$29). Ruth is an unrepentant thief sparking a fast-paced, diverting debut where cybercrime leads to a cross-country pursuit as an ambitious, misfit Ruth exploits a hacked microchip to rob banks, and learns too late that the wrong people have been watching her. Also there's a grumpy dog. "Ruth, 26, has created a microchip that allows her to skim money from banks, but when her theft is detected by a government organization known only as the Agency, she's forced to leave her quaint San Francisco apartment and go on the run. In a parallel narrative from the perspective of Mike, the agent who flagged Ruth's illicit activity, the reader learns the pair met several years earlier as colleagues at a tech company. Mike's been stalking her ever since, fantasizing about their life together even as he pursues her on behalf of the government. Out on the road, Ruth meets an eccentric cast of characters, including a truck driver who's running bombs for a domestic terror organization and an honest bachelor on a religious homestead. Kaufman's plucky heroine and slimy villain are both perfectly drawn, and the pedal-to-the-medal pacing never lets up," says one review. The Starred one from *Booklist* adds, "Readers who loved *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* will enjoy the tech-savvy protagonists, madcap circumstances, and ethical dilemmas in this fresh addition to the genre, a debut thriller in which every character's motives and methods are equally up for debate." I am excited to see so many strong debuts the first half of 2025.

Marr, Melissa. [Reluctant Witch](#) (Tor/Forge \$18.99). The sequel to [Remedial Magic](#) (\$17.99) finds Ellie, after discovering she's a witch and being whisked away to the magical land of Crenshaw, wanting nothing more than to spend time with her new wife, Prospero, who has magically altered Ellie's memories to convince her of exactly that. Prospero herself is guilt-wracked after erasing Ellie's memories and being forced into a sham marriage with the woman she loves for real. But Crenshaw is dying, poisoned by Prospero's enemies who want their community to return to the human world....

Martineau, Maxime M. [House of Blight](#) (Harper \$30). The first novel in an eerie, darkly creative, and romantic new gothic fantasy duology will appeal to readers of Sarah J. Maas. Edira Brillwyn is a threadmender. She holds a rare, lifesaving power that can cure disease and heal injuries in the blink of an eye. But magic always comes with a cost, and saving anyone sacrifices a sliver of her own life. She's always kept her abilities hidden... until the powerful Fernglove family discovers her secret. The Ferngloves are charming and beautiful, possess powerful magic, and don't take no for an answer—especially Orin, the head of these ruling elites. When Edira's brothers unexpectedly contract blight—an incurable virus killing people throughout the town, and an illness too strong for her to heal them both—Orin offers to help. Together at his estate they'll research a cure while Orin slows their sickness and Edira hones her magic. But....

McCann, Colum. [Twist](#) (Random House \$28). Anthony Fennell, an Irish journalist and playwright, is assigned to cover the underwater cables that carry the world's information. The sum of human existence—words, images, transactions, memes, voices, viruses—travels through the tiny fiber-optic tubes. But sometimes the tubes break, at an unfathomable depth. Reviews on this are mixed.

Moehling, Joshua. [A Long Time Gone](#) (Sourcebooks \$27.99). The author is visiting Arizona in late spring and making his first appearance at The Pen with the third in his Deputy Ben Packard series—an investigation taking place in a freezing Midwest winter so a nice contrast, no? "In the dark, icy heart of a Minnesota winter, Deputy Packard, a smart and courageous gay cop, embarks on a mission to uncover the truth about his brother's disappearance. It takes us into this protagonist's tragic past, adroitly peeling back the layers of his brother's disappearance thirty years ago. "With great skill, he evokes the snow-encrusted terrain and characters in his fictional Minnesota town, Sandy Lake, balancing humor with intense detective work. Above all, Packard, a gay man and member of law enforcement, defies stereotypes of police and gay men; he is a new sort of law enforcement hero, rich with complexity and fresh in his perspective; it's a thrill to follow his journey through this series!" — John Copenhaver

Mullen, Kelly. [This is Not a Game](#) (Penguin \$29). American Mullen who lives in the UK pens a debut for **April First Mystery Subscription Club Pick**. It impresses with a well crafted closed-circle whodunit, Agatha Christie style. Septuagenarian Mimi MacLaine mostly keeps to herself on Michigan's idyllic Mackinac Island, so she's surprised to receive an invitation to an auction at the home of her wealthy neighbor, Jane Ireland. Mimi's surprise turns to shock when she discovers a note inside the invitation threatening to expose an undisclosed secret unless she makes a high bid on a valuable manga. Horrified, Mimi turns to her estranged granddaughter, Addie, for help. A lifelong mystery fan, Addie is the creator of Murderscape, a popular multiplayer video game; Mimi hopes that Addie's passion for puzzles might help loosen her from the jam. Addie agrees to help, but after she and Mimi arrive at Jane's home, they find her dead, and immediately wonder if her blackmail plot has gotten her killed. Soon, a storm traps Addie, Mimi, and several more of Jane's auction guests in her mansion, and the body count starts to balloon. Mullen makes the most of her classic set up, playing scrupulously fair with readers while leavening the bloodshed with dashes of wry humor.

Penner, Sarah. [The Amalfi Curse](#) (Park Row \$30). Out April 29, **Signed here May 3 at 5:00 PM**. Please order early to avoid disappointment.

Penner weaves a rousing story of witches, deep sea diving, and family secrets on the Amalfi Coast. In 1821 Positano, Mari DeLuca belongs to a coven who cast spells on the water to protect the town from pirates. Yearning for a new life, she makes plans to flee with a sailor from Boston. Before she can, though, a shipping magnate attempts to kidnap her, hoping to force Mari into using her powers to help his fleet, and she drowns him. In a parallel narrative set two centuries later, nautical archaeologist Haven Ambrose studies shipwrecks on the Amalfi coast while secretly searching for a trove of precious gems her father found before dying of a stroke. When Conrad, another researcher, shows up to take her place, Haven suspects he knows about the treasure. She hires Enzo Rossi, a local dive shop owner, to take her out on the water, and the pair race against Conrad to find the gems. What fun!

* Perrin, Kristen. [How to Seal Your Own Fate](#) (Quercus \$38). Heiress Annie Adams settling into her new life as owner of the Gravesdown Estate near the English village of Castle Knoll. The

grounds, along with a vast 17-bedroom country house, were left to Annie by her great-aunt Frances, who spent her life cataloging the transgressions of her friends and neighbors in a series of personal diaries. Past and present collide when Peony Lane—a local fortune teller who, back in 1965, predicted Frances's murder—suddenly arrives at the estate. She tells Annie that she needs to investigate the life and death of Olivia Gravesdown, a member of the family that once owned Annie's estate who died under suspicious circumstances many years earlier. A few hours later, Penny is found dead in Annie's solarium, an ornate knife protruding from her back. Chapters following Annie's investigation and detailing her complicated love life alternate with excerpts from Frances's 1967 diaries, which illuminate Frances's own romantic entanglements and touch on a horrific car accident that claimed the lives of three members of the Gravesdown family. Perrin mixes gothic and cozy tropes with a steady hand. You will love that this book builds so well on the last one, and wonder just how many secrets exist in this small rural town."

Unsigned US edition: [How to Seal Your Own Fate](#) (Penguin \$28)

Phillips, Maha Khan. [The Museum Detective](#) (Soho Press \$27.95). Here's a wow on several fronts, so much so it's our **April Crime Book of the Month**. For one, the landscape of the Indus River Delta at Karachi and extensions into Pakistan is beautiful and worth exploring. For another the history behind the mummy that is discovered in a cave in Balochistan during a narcotics raid is that of the ancient Persian Empire of the Achaemenid Dynasty whose capital is at Persepolis. And third, the shrewd Karachi museum curator Gulsa Delani is a wonderful, shrewd character. There is a lot of excitement over the mummy, maybe a Persian princess? But as evidence mounts Gul begins to wonder if instead it is the remains of someone close to her. All in all I find myself agreeing with author SJ Rozan that "Maha Khan Phillips's Karachi is a place I didn't know, of damp alleys and grand homes, overworked cops and underfunded museums. The workaday world of archaeologists was also unfamiliar. But the crimes—corruption, murder, vicious contempt for good people—are universal. Gul Delani is a force to be reckoned with as she refuses to give in and go along. I was so glad to have her as a guide through the world of *The Museum Detective*." Those of you like me who have enjoyed Fiona Davis' [The Stolen Queen](#) (\$29 Signed Firsts), archaeology of Ancient Egypt, or Lindsay Jayne Ashford's [The Woman on the Orient Express](#) (\$14.95), the Wooleys and Max Mallowan and archaeology of ancient Ur in Mesopotamia, will eat this excellent book up.

Plantinga, Adam. [Hard Town](#) (Grand Central \$30). We did a zoom event for Plantinga's debut [The Ascent](#) (\$19.99), and how we host him here on April 17 for the series sequel that gets this Starred Review: "In Plantinga's white-knuckle sequel to, retired Detroit cop Kurt Argento gets embroiled in a deadly skirmish in a small Arizona town. The recently widowed Kurt and his dog, Hudson, are house-sitting for an old SWAT buddy in the Southwest. When anxious stranger Kristin Reed approaches Kurt with her two-year-old son and asks for his help locating her missing husband, the ex-cop feels compelled to help. Strangely, however, Kristin fails to arrive for their subsequent appointment in the neighboring town of Fenton, and when Kurt sticks around

to question locals about the Reed family's disappearance, he's met with hostility and suspicion. There's a shroud of secrecy surrounding Fenton, and his investigation courts the attention of Department of Homeland Security agent Marisol Sumaya, who warns Kurt to leave town. Subsequent attacks on Kurt and Hudson bolster Kurt's resolve to undermine Sumaya and her associates, even as the stakes ratchet up. The narrative builds to a nerve-jangling climax as gangland assassins, mercenaries, and federal agents clash in a battle to take control of a top-secret government project with enormous global consequences. Once again, Plantinga hits the mark, serving up perfectly paced action and intriguing new wrinkles to Kurt's psychology." Recommended highly to fans of Reacher but Plantinga also breaks one taboo which I won't reveal, but brace yourself....

Prose, Nita. [The Maid's Secret](#) (Random House \$30). Head maid Molly Gray has recently been promoted to special events manager at the Regency Grand Hotel. She's also two months out from marrying Juan Manuel, so things are going great ... until a film crew arrives to shoot a reality show. The show, "Hidden Treasures", centers on art appraisers Brown and Beagle, and it inspires Molly to bring in a shoebox of her grandmother's old things for appraisal. One item turns out to be incredibly valuable, making Molly rich and turning her into a big media story. But then the piece vanishes, setting us up for a sure-to-be-interesting mystery involving Molly's gran's diary. Canadian Prose makes her first visit to us on April 10 with our **April Cozy Crimes Subscription Club Pick**.

Pulley, Natasha. [Hymn to Dionysius](#) (Gollancz \$40). If you have reveled in the retelling of ancient Greek myths for adults (not the Rick Riordan YA books), this reimagining of the kingdom of Thebes and the god of revelry is for you. In Dionysus's company, Legionnaire Phaidros witnesses sudden outbursts of riots and unrest, and everywhere Dionysus goes, rumors follow about a new god, one sired by Zeus but lost in a fire. "Pulley transports us to an ancient empire on the edge of ruin to tell an utterly captivating story about a man needing a god to remind him how to be a human." The cover of this UK edition is wildly different than the gorgeous wine-colored [US edition](#) (Bloomsbury \$30.99), which I think reflects two different takes on what Pulley's story is about. She learned ancient Greek to read source materials before writing this, as she has before (Japanese, Russian...) with her other novels.

Rozan, SJ. [The Railway Conspiracy](#) (Soho \$27.95) is Rozan and Nee's fiendishly clever second whodunit featuring Tang Dynasty magistrate Judge Dee. In 1924, Judge Dee returns to London from China and meets with his friend, Professor Lao She, just in time to tackle a pair of cases with international ramifications. The two must use all their powers of deduction—and kung fu skills—to take down a sinister conspiracy between Imperial Russia, Japan, and China in a rollicking new mystery set in 1920s London. The follow-up to [The Murder of Mr. Ma](#) (\$18.95), this historical adventure-mystery is perfect for fans of Laurie R. King and the Guy Ritchie Sherlock Holmes films. "A glorious mash up of fan fiction, kung fu prowess and droll social commentary."—*The New York Times Book Review*

Scalzi, John. [When the Moon Hits Your Eye](#) (Tor/Forge \$29.99). Scalzi may visit The Pen on June 5 but meanwhile he has signed his latest fantastic tale for us. The moon has turned into cheese.

Now humanity has to deal with it. For some it's an opportunity. For others it's a moment to question their faith: In God, in science, in everything. Still others try to keep the world running in the face of absurdity and uncertainty. And then there are the billions looking to the sky and wondering how a thing that was always just there is now... something absolutely impossible. Astronauts and billionaires, comedians and bank executives, professors and presidents, teenagers and terminal patients at the end of their lives — over the length of an entire lunar cycle, each get their moment in the moonlight in Scalzi's wild moonage daydream.

Shelton, Paige. [Written in Stone](#) (St Martins \$28). Moving to Edinburgh has changed Delaney's life. She loves her work at the Cracked Spine bookshop, her marriage to pub owner Tom, and the friends who've helped solve so many murders. Now she's thrilled to have received a coveted invitation to a special Hidden Door Festival invitation to artist Ryory Bennigan's studio, she isn't sure quite what to expect. What she finds is an elusive fellow obsessed with the Picts—complete with his own versions of their blue tattoos and vibrant red hair—recreating the stones they left behind. She also meets a visiting paleontologist, Dr. Adam Pace, from the University of Kansas attempting to sell an artifact that might just explain what the Picts' language really sounded like. Or at least that's what he claimed the artifact was for. Before the deal can close and Ryory can get a closer look at it, Dr. Pace is found dead. With the police dragging their feet in the investigation, Delaney takes it upon herself to dig into Dr. Pace's past. Her research goes murky as she quickly discovers Pace's shady background—selling fake dinosaur bones and running into some 3D-printing trouble back in Kansas.

Signed copies available now or wait for Paige's appearance at our May 4 Cozy Con.

Siger, Jeffrey. [Not Dead Yet](#) (Severn \$29.99). Here's another chance to travel abroad in books this April. A suspicious plane crash on the Peloponnese is merely the tip of a criminal iceberg. The nefarious Dimitris Onofrio, missing for a week and declared dead, is actually very much alive, having stumbled away from the wreckage of his private plane. He's found on a remote Ionian beach, weeping over the body of his wife, Alexandra Boutsis. Athens-based Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis' feelings about the news are dominated by concern for the safety of his own wife, Lila Vardi, whose history with "Greece's kingpin for international drug-smuggling operations" is long and tangled. Multiple murders are just some of Onofrio's alleged crimes. An extended cat-and-mouse game follows.... Multiple inconsistencies about the crash lead investigators down various rabbit holes as the plot caroms like a pinball from one surprising discovery to the next. Murder and attempted murder further complicate the case. Not until Andreas finally gets to interview Onofrio face-to-face do the pieces of the complex puzzle come into sharp relief."—*Kirkus Starred Review*.

Sullivan, Emily. [A Death on Corfu](#) (Kensington \$27). And another escape abroad is yours in our **May Historical Fiction Subscription Club Pick**. It's a charming tale reminding me of PBS' *The Durrells* set on Corfu, and starts slow but picks up engagingly. Nice humor too. And ultimately sets up a sequel. Minnie Harper isn't used to putting herself first. Not after she moved away from England only to be left raising two children alone on the Greek Island of Corfu following her husband's unexpected

death. But with her daughter begging to be sent to school abroad and her son grasping at his own independence, Minnie realizes she must brace for the next stage of her life. When famous mystery author Stephen Dorian settles into a neighboring villa to escape writer's block and hidden scandals, she is intrigued at first by the handsome Londoner—until he proves to be a bad tempered boor. Determined to avoid him, Minnie is shocked when he, desperately behind his deadline offers her a well-paid job as his typist. Before Minnie can fully regret her decision to take the job, she makes a horrifying discovery: as young maid has been murdered, and local authorities aren't moving fast enough to bring justice to the terrible crime. So what if....?

Taylor, Brad. [Into the Gray Zone](#) (Harper \$32). Drawing on over two decades of service as a U.S. Army Special Forces Lieutenant Colonel, including eight years within Delta Force, Taylor delivers an authentic, unflinching portrayal of how battles are fought—and won—in the ambiguous space between peace and war. As the world grapples with proxy wars, economic aggression, and cyber threats, Taylor's work hits at the heart of these realities. While on a routine security assessment in India, Taskforce operator Pike Logan foils an attempted attack on a meeting between the CIA and India's intelligence service. Both government agencies believe it's nothing more than a minor terrorist attack, but Pike suspects that something much more sinister is at play. After another terrorist operation at the Taj Mahal, he begins to believe that outside powers are attacking India in the gray zone between peace and war, leveraging terrorist groups for nothing more than economic gain. But the separatists conducting the operations have their own agenda. After a massive slaughter and kidnapping of hostages during an elaborate Indian pre-wedding party, two global powers are destabilized, and only Pike Logan and his team can de-escalate the tension by rescuing the captives as they race against the clock.

* Thomas, Will. [Season of Death](#) (St Martins \$28). Cyrus Barker's shady past in outposts of the British Empire and the skills and wealth he accumulated allow him as a Victorian private enquiry agent to plumb the many cultures, classes, and races of late Victorian London, backed by his younger agent Thomas Llewelyn, a Welshman with a prison past of his own. They make a kind of Holmes/Watson team. The sudden collapse of a railway tunnel in the East End kills dozens and shuts down services all over the city. Meanwhile, a mysterious beggar—called a "crawler" because she can't use her legs and calling herself "Dutch" — guides Barker and Llewelyn to an attempt by a powerful aristocrat to take over London's criminal underworld. A missing heiress and a riot at a women's shelter acting as distractions designed to block the duo's investigations, which become increasingly bizarre as a second wealthy woman is also at risk....

Wendig, Chuck. [The Staircase in the Woods](#) (Del Rey \$30). Four friends are haunted when another climbs a mysterious staircase and never comes down. Years later, they decide to rescue the boy they lost. What they find is a haunted house preying on their personal nightmares. "A coming-of-age story reminiscent of *Stranger Things* and *It*—plus all the perfect scary things that Wendig is known for."

Winstead, Ashley. [This Book Will Bury Me](#) (Sourcebooks \$27.99) is a massive interrogation of the true crime culture. It

also “nods to the genre of dark academia and feels like both a satire of and a homage to true crime. On its surface, it’s the story of unsolved murder—the deaths of three college girls in Delphine, ID—and the true crime fans who take justice into their own hands. The compulsively readable story shows how things can be hidden in plain sight, even when the world is watching a crime unfold. Written with footnotes, narrative gaps, and a narrative voice that is unreliable to say the least, the novel spins in unpredictable ways that will keep readers guessing at every police misstep and each personal revelation along the way. Between the cheeky humor of TV’s *Only Murders in the Building* and the grim, psychological recasting of facts through fiction and memory (as exemplified by Gillian Flynn’s *Gone Girl*), Winstead’s novel breathes life into stories that, the narrator hints, might be better off dead and buried.”—*LJ Starred Review* for our **May Crime Book of the Month**.

APRIL IS POETRY MONTH

Anonymous. [Poetry Is Not a Luxury](#) (Washington Square Press \$24). Inspired by writer and philosopher Audre Lorde’s famous claim: “Poetry is not a luxury,” this anthology proves the vitality of poetry as a crucial source of inspiration, comfort, and delight. In a first section, “Summer,” you’ll find lush landscapes and love poems for weddings and anniversaries, alongside poems on travel, protest, and expressions of sheer joy and exhilaration. “Autumn” ushers in nostalgic poems about home and family and friendship, fall leaves, nesting and gratitude. You may turn to “Winter” should you require a poem for mourning, some lyrics for loneliness, or an ode to comfort. Rounding out a year’s worth of verse is “Spring,” in which you’ll discover celebratory poems, in the form of praise for rain and flowers, new beginnings, and all that the future might hold. Each poem within has been chosen from centuries of verse from around the world, with an emphasis on living poets. Friends old and new await, with selections from Rita Dove, Victoria Chang, Ross Gay, Naomi Shihab Nye, C.D. Wright, Eileen Myles, Ada Limón, Ross Gay, Ilya Kaminsky, Jos Charles, and more.

Deming, Alison Hawthorne. [The Gift of Animals: Poems of Love, Loss and Connection](#) (Storey Publishing \$25). With a Foreword by Robin Wall Kimmerer, here is a treasure trove of (re)connections to flamingos, oysters, and other hearts that beat like ours no matter how many chambers they have.

CLASSICS

* Carnac, Carol. [Impact of Evidence: A Welsh Borders Mystery](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.99). Near St. Brynneys in the Welsh border country, isolated by heavy snow and flooding from the thaw, a calamity has occurred. Old Dr. Robinson, a known menace on the roads has met his end in a collision. But when the police arrive at the scene, a burning question hints at something murkier than mere accident: why was there a second body, a man not recognized by any locals, in the back of Robinson’s car? As the local inspectors dive into the muddy waters of this strange crime, Chief Inspector Julian Rivers and Inspector Lancing are summoned from Scotland Yard to the windswept wilds, where danger and deceit lie in wait. Puzzling and wonderfully evocative of the British countryside, this exceedingly rare mystery from one of the masters of crime fiction’s Golden Age returns to print in the British Library Crime Classics series for the first time since its publication in 1954.

Dodge, David. [To Catch a Thief](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.99). This Library of Congress Crime Classic was made into a Cary Grant/Grace Kelly movie. It’s 1951, and someone has been at work using retired jewel thief John Robie’s old MO. When the police come to arrest him, Robie escapes to Cannes. There, he reconnects with his former comrade Bellini, who convinces Robie to help catch the copycat. Disguised as a pudgy, middle-aged American businessman, Robie scouts the local nightclubs and casinos and tries to outthink the new thief. When he meets Francie Stevens, the daughter of a wealthy tourist, she becomes Robie’s unwelcome ally, and together they hatch a dangerous plan to catch the thief at a gala party. But soon they both realize that Robie really is a thief at heart. With Oriol and the police on his trail, will he escape capture? Will the real thief be caught? And will Robie give up the thief? Introduction by Leslie S. Klinger.

See More April Large Paperbacks below for Mark O’Neill’s [To Catch a Spy](#) (Poisoned Pen \$17.99), bringing John Robie back together with Francie at the first ever Riviera Fashion Week where she is modeling for a top French designer. What could go wrong?

* White, Ethel Lina. [Fear Stalks the Village](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.99). What could be better than a British Library Crime Classic set in a model English village, filled with flowers, Tudor cottages, and cobbled streets? Joan Brook loved working there as a companion to Lady d’Arcy, living in the huge mansion with its surrounding park. And small though the village was, it was not too small for Joan to have found a man there whom she could love. Suddenly the peaceful surface of life there is shattered as a poisonous letter is received by the town’s most saintly citizen. It is followed by others; no one is safe from the anonymous letter writer. And the letters bring death. In the anguished days that follow, Joan realizes her own danger. For to receive one of these letters could mean the end of her love—and her life!

COZIES

There’s a bumper crop of cozies for April what with Spring! And the run up to Mother’s Day. There are many to grab and hold to see you through the summer too, smart for both escape and comfort reading. John will host more with our annual Cozy Con on Sunday May 4 2:00 PM)

Berry, Tamara. [Murder Runs in the Family](#) (Sourcebooks \$17.99). Amber Winslow’s life has taken a serious turn for the worse. When an impulsive decision forces her to flee her former life carrying nothing but the clothes on her back, she heads to the sunny state of Arizona and the luxury accommodations of her grandmother’s retirement community. Never mind that Amber’s never actually met her estranged and eccentric grandmother. As soon as she sneaks her things into Seven Ponds (a place she technically doesn’t qualify for and definitely can’t afford), she’s shocked to learn that George Vincent, a.k.a. the Admiral, was found dead the very night of her arrival. Much to Amber’s dismay, no one seems particularly distraught over the news of the Admiral’s death or the disappearance of his prize pet tortoise. All anyone can talk about is a missing Vincent family heirloom, and they’re quick to blame Jade for both the Admiral’s murder and the theft of the priceless ring. Amber doesn’t want to admit the woman she’s just met—and who accepted her without question—could be a villain, and she’s determined to clear her grandmother’s name

Brown, Rita Mae. [Sealed with a Hiss](#) (Random House \$30). When a decades-forgotten car bobs to the surface of a local creek, with a body still in the driver's seat, it's up to Mary Minor "Harry" Haristeen and her beloved cats and dogs to save the day. This long-running series set in a fictional Crozet, Virginia (Brown lives in Charlottesville) is timed this year to put the characters into lay during a spring in full bloom when a long-shuttered school campus may be up for sale.

Cambridge, Colleen. [A Fashionably French Murder](#) (Kensington \$27). See Signed Books for this new Julia Child mystery to be Signed here at Cozy Con on May 4.

Clancy, Christina. [The Snowbirds](#) (St Martins \$29). Kim and Grant are at a turning point. A couple for thirty years, their "separate but together" partnership is running up against the realities of late middle age: Grant's mother has died, the college where he taught philosophy was shuttered, and their twin girls are grown and gone. Escaping the bitter cold of a Midwestern winter for the hot desert sun of Palm Springs seems as good a solution as any to the more intractable problems they face. When they arrive at Le Desert, a quirky condo community where everyone knows everyone's business, Kim immediately embraces the opportunity to make new friends and explore a more adventurous side of her personality. Meanwhile, Grant struggles to find his footing in this unfamiliar landscape, leaving Kim to wonder if their relationship can survive the snowbird season. But when Grant goes missing on a hike in the Palm Springs mountains, Kim is forced to consider two terrifying outcomes: either Grant is truly lost, or this time he's really left her.

Claire, Ann. [A Cyclist's Guide to Crime & Croissants](#) (\$17.95). Nine months ago, Sadie Greene shocked friends and family by ditching her sensible office job in the Chicago suburbs and buying a sight-unseen French bicycling tour company, Oui Cycle. Now she's living the unconventional life of her dreams in the gorgeous village of Sans-Souci-sur-Mer. Sadie feels enough pressure to burst a tire when hometown friends arrive for a tour, including her former boss, Dom Appleton. She hopes her meticulously planned nine-day itinerary will win them over, with its stunning seascapes, delicious wine tastings, hilltop villages, and, of course, frequent stops for croissants. When Dom drags his heels on fun, Sadie vows he'll enjoy it if it kills her. Then it kills him....

Courage, Rachel Ekstrom. [Murder by Cheesecake: A Golden Girls Cozy](#) (Disney \$16.99). When Dorothy's obnoxious date is found dead in a hotel freezer, it not only ruins a gorgeous cheesecake but threatens the elaborate St. Olaf-themed wedding Rose is hosting. Library Reads adds, "*Golden Girls* plus cozy mystery equals match made in heaven! This novel is nostalgic fun for fans of the TV show and might even draw some new fans in with the atmospheric '80s Miami vibes. The story is over-the-top silly at turns, but it's all part of the fun."

Our Deb adds, A cozy mystery written by a literary agent continuing the wonderful characters from *The Golden Girls*! If you need more quality time with the remarkable ladies from the TV show and a fun look back at Miami in the 1980's this is for you. When Dorothy's obnoxious date is found dead in a hotel freezer, the mayhem begins. All the zinger one liners you remember, this is the start of a fun new series.

Coyle, Cleo. [No Roast for the Weary](#) (Berkley \$29). As much as master roaster Clare Cosi adores coffee, the landmark shop she manages won't survive if she doesn't sell enough of it. So when the Village Blend's customer traffic grinds to a halt, she turns to her staff for creative ideas, and the Writer's Block Lounge is born. Madame, the eccentric octogenarian owner of the shop, is upset by this news. Years ago, a group of accomplished writers used the shop's second-floor lounge to inspire each other, but the group disbanded when something dark occurred. Though that history is shrouded in mystery, Clare presses forward. Soon the Village Blend tables are filled with aspiring novelists, playwrights, and poets, all happy to be coaxed, cajoled, and caffeinated by her coffeehouse crew. ...and then fiction turns fatal....

Graves, Sarah. [Death by Chocolate Pumpkin Muffin](#) (Kensington \$27). One of the sweetest places to visit in Eastport, Maine, is Jacobia "Jake" Tiptree and Ellie White's bakery, the Chocolate Moose. Revelers have gathered on the waterfront for a party at local celebrity Hank Rafferty's ramshackle mansion, known as Stone House. The home repair TV show star and his guests await a devilish dessert delivery from Jake and Ellie—who arrive just after Hank's body falls to his death from the house's turret's balcony. Despite his show's popularity, Hank was not exactly beloved in Eastport, prompting the police to conduct a homicide investigation. Their number one suspect is the temperamental boyfriend of police chief Lizzie Snow, whom Hank openly hit on during the party. But many don't believe in his guilt, including Jake and Ellie.

Prose, Nita. [The Maid's Secret](#) (Random House \$30). See Signed Books for a new Molly the Maid cozy, our **April Cozy Crimes Subscription Club Pick**. We're excited that the Canadian author is making her first visit to the Pen on April 10 to sign it.

Rose, Bellamy. [Pomona Afton Can So Solve a Murder](#) (Atria \$27.99). When Pomona Afton, Upper East Side spoiled hotel heiress, stumbles out of a gala and upon the scene of her grandmother's murder, her first thought is that the society queen won't be missed for her kind, cookie-baking ways. In fact, she was mean, greedy, and paranoid—so paranoid that she secretly slipped a clause into her will mandating that, should she die an unnatural death, all the family assets get frozen. And if the "unnatural death" isn't explained? Those accounts *stay* frozen. Practically overnight, Pomona is locked out of her penthouse with no other option than to move in with Gabe, the irritable (yet handsome) son of her former nanny. Not only is his apartment cramped, but it doesn't even have a doorman. Or a chef! Pom *needs* someone to solve this murder, like, yesterday, so she can get her trust fund back. Gabe has a financial stake in this too. Will they—can they—work together? I enjoyed this but think the author worked too hard at making it...work.

Saeed, Aisha. [The Matchmaker](#) (Random House \$18). Our Deb makes this a Pick, writing "As a former caterer, I couldn't resist this story about a successful matchmaker whose client's weddings are being sabotaged. An intriguing look at matchmaking along with a secret romance, the pages fly by in this one."

* Spencer, Tom. [The Mystery of the Crooked Man](#) (Pushkin/Vertigo \$18.95). Meet Agatha Dorn, cantankerous archivist, grammar pedant, gin *aficionada* and murder mystery addict.

When she discovers a lost manuscript by Gladden Green, the Empress of Golden Age detective fiction, Agatha's life takes an unexpected twist. She becomes an overnight sensation, basking in the limelight of literary stardom. But Agatha's newfound fame takes a nosedive when the 'rediscovered' novel is exposed as a hoax. And when her ex-lover turns up dead, with a scrap of the manuscript by her side, Agatha suspects foul play. Cancelled, ostracized and severely ticked off, Agatha turns detective....

Waxman, Abi. [One Death at a Time](#) (Penguin \$19). When Julia Mann, a bad-tempered ex-actress and professional thorn in the side of authority, runs into Natasha Mason at an AA meeting, it's anything but a meet-cute. Julia just found a dead body in her swimming pool, and the cops say she did it (she already went to jail for murder once, so now they think she's making a habit of it). Mason is eager to clear Julia's name and help keep her sober, but all Julia wants is for Mason to leave her alone. As their investigation ranges from the Hollywood Hills to the world of burlesque to the country clubs of Palm Springs, this unconventional team realizes their shared love of sarcasm and poor life choices are proving to be a powerful combination. Will secrets from their past trip them up, or will their team of showgirls, cat burglars, and Hollywood agents help them stay one step ahead?

* Whyte, Nicola. [10 Marchfield Square](#) (Union Square Company \$18.99). *The Paris Apartment meets Only Murders in the Building* in this debut murder mystery with an intriguing cast of characters inhabiting a quirky block of flats in modern-day London. When a minor criminal is murdered in the smallest residential square in London, elderly heiress and landlady Celeste van Duren recruits two of her tenants to investigate. Her cleaner, Audrey, knows everyone and is liked by all, while failed writer Lewis is known by no one. He hates his job, hates his life, and he's not that fond of Audrey either—but Celeste is persuasive. As they hunt for clues in and around the Square, they discover everyone has something to hide, including their fellow residents.

FOR LOVERS OF BRITISH CRIME, A FIND

Edwards, Martin, ed. [Playing Dead: Stories by Members of The Detection Club](#) (Severn House \$29.99). What a joy to pick up this volume and find myself with new stories by such as Elly Griffiths and Abir Mukherjee, Peter Lovesey, Michael Jecks, Aline Templeton, Frances Brody, Peter Lovesey, Ann Cleeves, Alison Joseph, LC Tyler, Kate Ellis, and Martin Edwards. But irresistible are tales by authors we've been missing. Head back to St. Martha's College with its Mistress known as Jack Troutbeck by Ruth Dudley Edwards. To Calleshire with Catherine Aird's county constabulary. With John Harvey for a London investigation by Charlie Resnick. Lynn Truss's Brighton with Constable Twitten and the career criminal charlady. With a truly wicked luncheon date by the late Christopher Fowler and a kind of Poirot tribute by the late David Stuart Davies. A mystery, not an historical, by Andrew Taylor. And last, but very much not least, Simon Brett, who's brought back his much-loved amateur sleuth, washed-up actor Charles Paris, to tread the boards once again. Actually this collection is published to pay tribute to the former Chair of the Detection Club Simon Brett on his 80th birthday so there are little Easter Eggs throughout for Brett.

SOME NOTABLE DEBUTS

This spring season is rich in them....

Bell, Art. [What She's Hiding](#) (Ulysses Press \$28.95) is a noir, stylish thriller debut by the former president of *Court TV* featuring a hotshot NY City lawyer at a white shoe NYC law firm unexpectedly drawn into a web of violence and intrigue by the ex-wife he hasn't spoken to since their bitter divorce. See **Signed Books** for more.

Gunn, Allison. [Nowhere](#) (Atria \$27.99) is a horror debut that "reads as if *Mare of Easttown* was written by Stephen King. See **Signed Books** for more.

* Hall, Clare Leslie. [Broken Country](#) (Simon Schuster \$28.99). One of the hottest debuts of this year, a story of grief, love, and murder set in the Dorset countryside. Our Signed copies sold out but I'd recommend grabbing this one.

* Hegarty, Louise. [Fair Play](#) (Harper \$28.99) kicks off with a murder mystery-themed New Year's Eve party at a posh London Airbnb. "I've been searching for a book that conjures the spirit of one of my absolute favorite movies *Clue*, and this might be the one to do it: a murder mystery party where suspects play predetermined archetypes, an Airbnb likely full of hidden rooms not featured on the listing (and perhaps a lurking host)—but also real gravitas about grief and loss juxtaposed with solving a murder in real-time?" says one reviewer.

Hickey, John. [Big Chief](#) (Simon & Schuster \$28.99). This heralded debut is a good read for you William Kent Krueger fans... see more below in New in Hardcover.

Kaufman, Elizabeth. [Ruth Run](#) (Putnam \$29). Ruth is an unrepentant thief sparking a fast-paced, diverting debut where cybercrime leads to a cross-country pursuit as an ambitious, misfit Ruth exploits a hacked microchip to rob banks, and learns too late that the wrong people have been watching her. See **Signed Books** for more.

Kelley, Austin. [The Fact Checker](#) (Atlantic Monthly \$27). As disinformation grows wilder and wilder, and more dangerous, this debut by a former fact checker for the *New Yorker* is not only ironic and funny, but in its way, a warning to all of us not to swallow ads on Instagram or outrageous claims in whatever media without checking something other than Google. It's a propulsive soft thriller too—our checker is propelled into investigation suspicious activity at an organic farmer's market. There's a missing woman, too, and slipshod journalism, and deceit. Bonus—you will learn a lot about heirloom tomatoes!

Kenney, John. [I See You've Called in Dead](#) (Zibby Publishing \$27.99). Bud Stanley is an obituary writer who is afraid to live. Yes, his wife recently left him for a "far more interesting" man. Yes, he goes on a particularly awful blind date with a woman who brings her ex. And yes, he has too many glasses of Scotch one night and proceeds to pen and publish his own obituary. The newspaper wants to fire him. But now the company's system has him listed as dead. And the company can't fire a dead person. The ensuing fallout forces him to realize that life may be actually worth living. As Bud awaits his fate at work, his life hangs in the balance. Given another shot by his boss and encouraged by his best friend, Tim, a worldly and wise former art dealer, Bud starts to attend the wakes and funerals of strangers and gains a new lease on life.

Kerr, Jakob. [Dead Money](#) (Random \$30). Kerr puts his background as a lawyer and tech executive to good use in his impressively unpredictable debut. Mackenzie Clyde, an attorney from humble beginnings, now works as an investigator for Hammersmith, one of San Francisco's hottest venture capital firms. When Trevor Canon, head of tech startup Journy, is discovered dead in his office and the SFPD fail to make headway on the case, enter Hammersmith.... **Signed copies** still available.

Limoncelli, Rosanne. [The Four Queens of Crime](#) (Crooked Lane \$19.99). A delightful historical mystery brings together Golden Age mystery writers Christie, Sayers, Allingham and Marsh. We sold out of the Signed hardcover but the unsigned is available: [The Four Queens of Crime](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99).

Ludington, Andrew. [Splinter Effect](#) (St Martins \$28). Ludington debuts with a rip-roaring thriller about a time-traveling treasure hunter—think Indiana Jones — who journeys to Justinian Constantinople in hopes of recovering the menorah of the Temple of Jerusalem. This is brilliant for fans of James Rollins, Steve Berry, and Clive Cussler adventures. **Signed copies** still available.

McCluskey, Laura. [The Wolf Tree](#) (Putnam \$30). The setting is a community of some 200 souls living on a remote, storm-lashed island off the west coast of Scotland where a young man has been found dead at the base of the abandoned lighthouse. The plot is creepy enough for Alfred Hitchcock, dark enough for Raymond Chandler, and convoluted enough for Agatha Christie.

Mullen, Kelly. [This is Not a Game](#) (Penguin \$29). American Mullen who lives in the UK pens a debut for **April First Mystery Subscription Club Pick**. It impresses with a well crafted closed-circle whodunit, Agatha Christie style, set on Michigan's Mackinac Island. See **Signed Books** for more.

Pattee, Emma. [Tilt](#) (Simon & Schuster \$27.99). The April #1 Indie Next Pick is a debut for fans of [Station Eleven](#) (\$18). "Last night, you and I were safe."

Pliego, Ande. [You Are Fatally Invited](#) (Random \$30). Another meta adventure in crime fiction, this debut features a writers' retreat gone terribly wrong.

* Whyte, Nicola. [10 Marchfield Square](#) (Union Square Company \$18.99). *The Paris Apartment meets Only Murders in the Building* in this debut murder mystery with an intriguing cast of characters inhabiting a quirky block of flats in modern-day London.

NEW IN HARDCOVER

Andrews, Brian/Jeff Wilson. [Dark Rising](#) (Blackstone \$28.99). In this fourth installment of the Shepherds Series, Navy SEAL Jedidiah Johnson and his team are at the tip of the spear. Only weeks ago, former Navy SEAL Jedidiah Johnson, head of Joshua Bravo team at the Shepherds, helped to defeat Victor, the leader of the devil's Dark Ones. Now, his boss, Ben Morvant, has tasked him with an even harder mission: Take a vacation. But before Jed has even managed to hit the beach in the Dominican Republic, he comes face-to-face with a new evil: Orphans are being abducted right off the streets of Santo Domingo. Are these disappearances just an unfortunate crime in an unfamiliar country, or do they hint at something bigger—a new threat emerging out of the power vacuum Victor left behind? When Jed needs help after a violent encounter, he finds himself with an unexpected new ally: CIA

liaison Gayle James. Together, the two of them must follow the trail of the missing orphans before it runs cold. [Paperback edition](#) (\$17.99).

Barnes, S.A. [Cold Eternity](#) (Tor Nightfire \$28.99). Hiding out due to a political scandal, Halley decides to take a job in the most remote place she can find. That turns out to be a large space barge holding cryogenically frozen wealthy people. The horror begins as Halley starts hearing noises and notices a presence at the foot of her bed. Thrilling and downright scary.

Bartz, Julia. [The Last Session](#) (Atria \$27.99). When a catatonic woman shows up at the psychiatric unit, social worker Thea swears she knows her from somewhere. She's shocked to discover the patient holds a link to a traumatic time in her past. Upon regaining lucidity, the patient claims she can't remember the horrific recent events that caused her brain to shut down. Thea's at a loss—especially when the patient is ripped away from her as suddenly as she appeared. Determined to find her, Thea follows a trail of clues to a remote center in Southwestern New Mexico. Forced to participate in increasingly intimate exercises, Thea finds herself inching closer not only to her missing patient, but also to tantalizing answers about her own harrowing past.

* Bauer, Belinda. [The Impossible Thing](#) (Grove \$27). Bauer doesn't get much play here in the US despite her impressive body of work. Here's a Star for her latest—surprisingly relevant given what's going on with eggs pricing—which "tugs at the heartstrings in this extraordinary literary mystery that unfolds across intersecting timelines. In 1926, young Celie Sheppard retrieves a striking red egg from a guillemot's nest near her home in Yorkshire. With rare egg collecting booming in the region, Celie's discovery rescues her family from poverty—the egg's particular hue has never been seen before, and Celie finds it on a cliff near Metland Farm that's too treacherous for full-grown men to navigate. Her mother sells the egg to pay months of back rent, and enters into a contract to sell any other eggs that Celie finds. Eventually, the broker who buys Celie's egg is murdered. Bauer alternates that narrative thread with one set in the 21st century, in which a post about one of the so-called 'Metland eggs' on eBay triggers a robbery that pits brothers Patrick and Nick Fort against an international crime ring. Bauer's deep empathy—for both her human characters and for the birds whose nests are looted—elevates the immersive and unpredictable plot. It's another winner from an impressively versatile writer."

Bennett, Robert Jackson. [A Drop of Corruption: An Ana and Din Mystery](#) (Del Rey \$30). "Din and Ana return in a new sci-fi/fantasy mystery. This time an official in the Treasury delegation has gone missing from a locked room. Tense negotiations are ongoing between the Treasury and a small outpost kingdom. What Din and Ana find is a hidden hornet's nest and extreme danger to the Empire. Can the two stop a terrorist from destroying everything?"

Berest, Anne. [Gabrièle](#) (Europa \$28). "A beautiful piece of *belle époque* historical fiction rich with characters, art and spicy intimacy based on the life of the co-authors' great grandmother, Gabrièle Buffet, Francis Picabia and Marcel Duchamp. Grab your passport and travel to this storied time in the *avant-garde* art movement and enjoy your time in this poignant story full of fascinating and important figures."

Carpenter, Emily. [Gothictown](#) (Kensington \$28). The line between Gothic and Horror is blurring as this Southern Gothic shows. The email that lands in Billie Hope's inbox seems like a gift from the universe. For \$100, she can purchase a spacious Victorian home in Juliana, Georgia, a small town eager to boost its economy in the wake of the pandemic. She can leave behind her cramped New York City rental and the painful memories of shuttering her once thriving restaurant and start over with her husband and her daughter. Plus, she'll get a business grant to open a new restaurant in a charming riverside community that is town is everything promised—two hours northwest of Atlanta but a world away from city living. It seems like a dream come true... or is it a devil's bargain? To understand Juliana one has to hark all the way back to the Civil War and Sherman's March to the Sea....

Coelho, Paulo. [The Alchemist Deluxe Edition](#) (Harper \$27.99). In line with the burst of interest in Shelf Wealth, my term for the handsome new packaging running rampant, publishers are going back to their vaults to reissue books in fancy editions. Here is one.

Cohen, Julie Mae. [Eat, Slay, Love](#): (The Overlook Press \$28). A friend will help you move on. A best friend will help you move his body. Marina gave up her career as a chef to raise her children, but her divorce has left her harried, lonely, and the black sheep of her family. It's also left her in dire financial straits. Opal is a post-menopausal fitness guru who spends her days chasing likes and followers in an industry that worships youth. Lilah is a shy and optimistic librarian who spends her days tending to the stacks, until she wins an unbelievable sum in the lottery. With a growing bank account and a dashing fiancé, life seems too good to be true—and it just might be. These three women have nothing in common except for one thing: the man who's been lying to them all—and who they are now holding hostage in Marina's basement.

* Dean, Abigail. [The Death of Us](#) (Penguin \$30). Thirty years ago, the South London Invader broke into the home of playwright Isabel Nolan and her husband, lawyer George Hennessy. The couple made it out shaken but alive; their relationship, however, never recovered. Decades later, the Invader—retired policeman Nigel Wood—has been caught, tried, and convicted, and Isabel and George, now in their fifties, are preparing to deliver victim statements before his sentencing.... “Dean has taken a case that closely resembles California's Golden State Killer and combined it with the story of Isabel and Edward, a couple whose love is put under a breaking strain by an almost unimaginable tragedy....”—Stephen King, a generous reader and reviewer.

PP Staffer Deb, making this an April Pick, adds, A love story wrapped in a thriller, this one doesn't disappoint.

Falco, J T. [Blood on the Vine](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99). See More Large Paperbacks below for what this simultaneous hardcover is all about.

Griffin, Martin. [The Last Visitor](#) (Pegasus Crime \$27.95), When I read this I wasn't sure what I thought. Great background, another island! And characters. Now here is the *NY Times* with its take: “Tess Macfarlane, a documentary filmmaker harboring a shameful professional secret, gets an offer that sounds too good to be true: A marine research foundation wants her to accompany a small team studying seals on Navigaceo, an island two hours off the coast of Madeira. And, oh yes, she has to leave right away. If

Tess had any sense at all, she would know that if you're suddenly offered a job in a remote place with limited cell service and reachable only via a boat from the faraway mainland, you should scream “No!” and run in the other direction. Especially when the island is as creepy as this one. “Desolation was the word that most quickly sprang to mind,” Tess thinks when she sets foot on Navigaceo with the three researchers. Alas, it gets worse. There's a body on the beach, even though the island has supposedly been deserted for 50 years. The dead person? Steven Clay, a former employee of the foundation, who's been missing for the last two years.

* Harkins, Jo. [The Pretender](#) (Knopf \$30). If you can't get enough of the real life Game of Thrones played by the Lancastrians and Yorkists ending with the Tudors, this book is for you. Lambert Simnel was a 10 year old positioned as a Yorkist heir and figurehead of the 1487 Yorkist rebellion against Henry VII, the first Tudor monarch. Simnel was not executed but exonerated as a pawn, and ended up working as a falconer in Henry's Court. Pretenders plus no concrete knowledge of what happened to her two missing brothers must have been a constant source of pain of Henry's queen, Elizabeth, the Yorkist princess he married. I'm not sure if the book's thesis is that Simnel was legit, or groomed for his claim, but historians generally discount him as the real deal.

* Harrod Eagles, Cynthia. [Easeful Death](#) (Severn \$29.99). As a father of two daughters, DCI Bill Slider can't help but take it harder when the victim is a young woman. Rhianne Morgan, just eighteen, waiting for her A-level results, lies dead in her comfortable middle-class home in a nice, respectable area. Neighbors remember rows with her stepfather. Schoolmates talk of a boyfriend humiliatingly dumped. Her bestie mentions an unnamed new boyfriend, who possibly provided her with drugs. But the back gate was open, and anyone could have walked in. Did she even know her assailant? Secrets and lies flourished around this troubled teenager, a thicket of thorns Slider and his team must cut through to find the truth. Who killed Rhianne? I've been a 30+ year fan of this clever, witty, and always surprising British policing series. **Supply is very limited and is available only by Order on Demand.**

* Hegarty, Louise. [Fair Play](#) (Harper \$28.99) is a debut that kicks off with a murder mystery—themed New Year's Eve party at a posh London Airbnb. The guests of wealthy siblings Abigail and Benjamin include work acquaintance Barbara; Benjamin's childhood friend, Stephen; bankrupt spoilsport Declan; extravagant couple Cormac and Olivia; and Dorcas, the maid. The morning after the festivities, Benjamin is found dead in his locked bedroom. The doctor who arrives on the scene suspects suicide, but a skeptical Abigail hires famous PI Auguste Bell to investigate. When Benjamin and Abigail's eccentric aunt arrives to console Abigail, she, too, is unconvinced that Benjamin took his own life, and she partners with Bell to solve the crime. “There are too many clues,” complains a frustrated Bell, who asks absurd questions. “Readers of both classic mysteries and literary fiction will enjoy this intermingling of the two in Louise Hegarty's first novel, an utterly fresh approach to the standard whodunit that adds emotional heft to playful pastiche.... Hagerty skillfully manipulates the genre, calling attention to the reader's expectations and subverting familiar tropes in the service of

nuanced storytelling.” I went with Jess Kidd’s novel below for our April British Mystery Pick, it’s not as clever but was more satisfying...plus a sequel is promised.

Henry, Emily. [Great Big Beautiful Life](#) (Penguin \$29). Alice Scott is an eternal optimist still dreaming of her big writing break. Hayden Anderson is a Pulitzer-prize winning human thundercloud. And they’re both on balmy Little Crescent Island for the same reason: to write the biography of a woman no one has seen in years—or at least to meet with the octogenarian who claims to be the Margaret Ives. Tragic heiress, former tabloid princess, and daughter of one of the most storied (and scandalous) families of the twentieth century. When Margaret invites them both for a one-month trial period, after which she’ll choose the person who’ll tell her story, there are three things keeping Alice’s head in the game. You’ll have to read the book to discover what they are.

Note: We are hosting a noon release party for this book on April 22. In addition to some special swag, frozen treats, the chance to pitch a romance to the attendees that you admire, we have a dozen Signed Books to raffle one at a time for you who come and participate in the event and the raffle.

Hickey, John. [Big Chief](#) (Simon & Schuster \$28.99). This heralded debut is a good read for you William Kent Krueger fans (OK, he’s not Native but this is in his wheelhouse), or various Indigenous Authors. Mitch Caddo, a young law school graduate and aspiring political fixer, is an outsider in the homeland of his Anishinaabe ancestors. But alongside his childhood friend, Tribal President Mack Beck, he runs the government of the Passage Rouge Nation, and with it, the tribe’s Golden Eagle Casino and Hotel. On the eve of Mack’s reelection, their tenuous grip on power is threatened by a nationally known activist and politician, Gloria Hawkins, and her young aide, Layla Beck, none other than Mack’s estranged sister and Mitch’s former love. In their struggle for control over Passage Rouge, the campaigns resort to bare-knuckle political gamesmanship, testing the limits of how far they will go—and what they will sacrifice—to win it all. But when an accident claims the life of Mitch’s mentor, a power broker in the reservation’s political scene, the election slides into chaos and pits Mitch against the only family he has.

Jouhanneau, Anne-Sophie. [The French Honeymoon](#) (Sourcebooks \$27.99). This is not how she imagined it, any of it. Taylor Quinn arrives at her honeymoon suite in the City of Love alone, sans suitcase, but with wads of stolen cash. When she catches a glimpse of newlyweds Cassie and Olivier enjoying their happily ever, she can’t tear her eyes away. And Cassie makes their antics easy to follow as she reveals every detail of their picture-perfect trip on social media. Taylor’s obsession builds as she tracks their every move. This was the kind of life she was supposed to be living, this was the marriage she should have had, this was the honeymoon she dreamed of. The illusion is shattered when she overhears a heated argument between Cassie and Olivier, which reveals that they’re not the love struck couple they pretend to be. But Cassie and Olivier have agendas of their own and Taylor can’t see the danger in getting in the middle of this... until it’s too late.

* Kidd, Jess. [Murder at Gulls Nest](#) (Atria \$28.99) is a sparky series launch and our **British Crime Subscription Club Pick for April** about a nun who forsakes her vows to search for a former

novice. In 1954, Sister Nora Breen’s friend and former trainee, Frieda Brogan, abruptly stops sending her letters. Frieda’s last known address is the Gulls Nest, a forlorn boarding house in the charming seaside town of Gore-on-Sea, and a frightened Nora asks to be released from her monastery after 30 years to track Frieda down. Nora takes a room at the Gulls Nest, ingratiates herself with its ragtag collection of boarders, and soon realizes she’s not the only one concealing a secret past. As she starts to dig into Frieda’s stay there, other boarders begin to die under unusual circumstances, making her wonder whether Frieda might have met a similar fate. At first a thorn in the side of Detective Inspector Rideout, who’s assigned to investigate the deaths, the intelligent and outspoken Nora gradually gains the policeman’s respect. Elegant prose, vivid characterizations, and a fascinating protagonist add up to our **April British Crime Subscription Club Pick**. Lest there be any doubt that Nora’s further adventures will include the colorful residents of Gulls Nest, the story fades out with Rideout requesting Nora’s help on another baffling case.

Landau, AJ. [Cold Burn](#) (St Martins \$28). This is a sensational story in a second National Parks thriller (I missed the first one) that is a knockout for readers of Nevada Barr, James Rollins... you get it. Since “Landau” is two authors, Jeff Ayers and Jon Land, I have not figured out yet what to do to present it to you more fully via an event or club pick. I will say you should preorder it while I work on this. And as Glacier National Park is the key location, it is a natural for summer reading!! If you don’t care about signatures then please let us know when you order it so we can get it to you. Publication date is April 29.

Miller, Nathaniel Ian. [Red Dog Farm](#) (Little Brown \$28). “A moving and well-crafted story of a young man’s return to his family’s struggling cattle farm in western Iceland. Told with wit, insight, and a keen eye for the landscape of the human heart.” I include this as many of you read Icelandic authors. Or maybe have or want to travel to the island. Plus prep for a visit by its former First Lady Eliza Reid in May with her debut mystery [Death on the Island](#) (Sourcebooks \$32.99 or \$17.99).

* Miller, Joanna. [The Eights](#) (Penguin \$29). Oxford, 1920. For the first time in its one-thousand-year history, Oxford University officially admits female students. Burning with dreams of equality, four young women move into neighboring rooms in Corridor 8. Beatrice, Dora, Marianne, and Otto—collectively known as The Eights—come from all walks of life, each driven by their own motives, each holding tight to their secrets, and are thrown into an unlikely, unshakable friendship. I include this book because of Dorothy L. Sayers’ personal history as well as this is a period shaping other Golden Age crime writers.

Natsukawa, Sosuke. [The Cat Who Saved the Library](#) (Harper \$24). Another comfort feline frolic from Japan. Asthmatic Nanami loves to read and happily spends much of her free time in the library, cocooned among the stacks. Then one day, Nanami notices that, despite the library being as deserted as ever, some of her favorite books, including literary classics like Arsène Lupin, Gentleman Thief and Anne of Green Gables are disappearing from the shelves. When she alerts the library staff, they dismiss her concerns. But just as Nanami is about to return to her reading, she spots a suspicious man in a gray suit. Eager to discover what he’s up to, she follows him. The chase is cut short when Nanami suffers an asthma attack. By the time she catches her breath, the

man has disappeared and all that is left behind is a mysterious light filtering through the library's familiar passageways. That's when Tiger, the talking tabby cat who saves books, comes to the rescue.

Pattee, Emma. [Tilt](#) (Simon & Schuster \$27.99). The April #1 Indie Next Pick is a debut for fans of [Station Eleven](#) (\$18). "Last night, you and I were safe. Last night, in another universe, your father and I stood fighting in the kitchen." Annie is nine months pregnant and shopping for a crib at IKEA when a massive earthquake hits Portland, Oregon. With no way to reach her husband, no phone or money, and a city left in chaos, there's nothing to do but walk across her hometown, now a disaster zone. Making her harrowing way across the city's wreckage, Annie experiences human desperation and kindness: strangers offering help, a riot at a grocery store, and an unlikely friendship with a young mother. As she walks, Annie reflects on her struggling marriage, her disappointing career, and her anxiety about having a baby. If she can just make it home, she's determined to change her life—all this in a single day.

Patterson, James. [2 Sisters Murder Investigations](#) (Little Brown \$35). Rhonda and Barbara "Baby" Bird are half-sisters—and full partners in their Los Angeles detective agency. They agree on nothing. Can they even tell a client from a killer?

And [25 Alive](#) (\$30), the 25th Women's Murder Club Thriller, has Sergeant Lindsay Boxer plus the ME and ADA and reporter Cindy Thomas investigating the murder of a former SFPD Chief in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. Moving to True Crime, Patterson presents [The Last Days of Marilyn Monroe](#) (\$32.50), timed to the star's 100th birthday. All with co-authors.

Rho, Helena. [Stone Angels](#) (Grand Central \$29). Angelina Lee feels like she doesn't belong. Newly divorced and completely unmoored by the sudden, tragic death of her mother, she hopes studying Korean will reconnect her to her roots. But nothing about Seoul feels familiar. Further complicating matters is the resurgence of an alluring man from Angelina's past, and fellow classmate Keisuke Ono, an irritatingly good-looking Japanese American journalist who refuses to leave her alone. Angelina is reluctant to admit the true reason for her trip—trying to understand her mother's suicide. A shocking conversation with an estranged relative reveals her mother had an older sister, Sunyuh, who disappeared under the Japanese occupation of Korea during WWII—a secret the family buried for over sixty years. Angelina knows, deep down, her mother's fateful decision must be linked to Sunyuh.... Here's an interesting choice for readers of Lisa See or *Pachinko*.

Rose, Geneva. [The Perfect Divorce](#) (Blackstone \$29.99). It's been eleven years since high-powered attorney Sarah Morgan defended her husband, Adam, against the charge of murdering his mistress. Sarah has long since moved on, starting a family with her new husband, Bob Miller, and changing careers. Her life is back to being exactly how she always wanted ... or is it? After discovering Bob engaged in a one-night stand, Sarah wastes no time filing for divorce. However, amid their ugly separation, new DNA evidence is uncovered in the case against Adam, forcing the police to reopen the investigation and putting Sarah right back in the spotlight. Everyone wants to know what really happened, most of all former deputy Marcus Hudson, who is hell-bent on finding the truth. But when the woman Bob slept with is reported

missing, he and Sarah start to fight dirty, and a high-stakes game of cat and mouse ensues. Our thanks to those who preordered the Signed Limited Edition which sold out some weeks ago.

Ryan, Lindy. [Another Fine Mess](#) (St Martins \$28). If you're missing Charlaine Harris' Southern vampire series try Ryan although I think she goes darker in the vein of Grady Hendrix. You could start with [Bless Your Heart](#) (\$19)—See More April Large Paperbacks below. Or plunge in here.

It all starts in 1982, when 93-year-old Pie Evans digs her own grave and invites a dead man to help her rest in it. The Evans women have long operated the only funeral parlor in their small Texas town. Now, there are only two of them left to carry on the tradition of protecting the town from the restless dead—Lenore and her late daughter Grace's teenage daughter, Luna. Not even including missing pets, many locals have mysteriously died or vanished over the years, including Lenore's mother, Ducey. Now that the sheriff has also become a victim, Undersheriff Roger Taylor blames everything on attacks by a rabid "ghost wolf," a coyote-red wolf hybrid seen in the area. Lenore, who knows the deaths have been caused by a strigoi—a troubled spirit—goes along with the tale of ghost wolves, but Luna, who's the offspring of Grace and a monster, may be the key to finding the killer. "Ryan has crafted a book with broad appeal: a clever blend of horror, mystery, and humor, featuring a core of strong women who learn that bonds created by love are as strong as those forged by blood. The novel exposes hidden tensions that exist behind tidy porches and pretty flowerbeds..."—LJ

Seybolt, Bailey. [Coram House](#) (Atria \$28.99). On a blistering summer day in 1968, nine-year-old Tommy vanishes without a trace from Coram House, an orphanage on the shores of Lake Champlain. Some say a nun drowned him, others say he ran away. Or maybe he never existed. Fifty years later, his disappearance is still unsolved. Struggling true crime writer Alex Kelley needs a fresh start. When she's asked to ghostwrite a book about the orphanage—and the abuses that occurred there—she packs up her belongings and moves to wintry Burlington, Vermont. As Alex tries to untangle the conflicting stories surrounding Tommy's disappearance, her investigation takes a chilling turn when she discovers a woman's body in the lake. Alex is convinced the death is connected to Coram House's dark past, even if local police officer Russell Parker thinks she's just desperate for a career-saving story. As the body count rises, Alex must prove that the key to finding the killer lies in Tommy's murder

Sutanto, Jesse Q. [Vera Wong's Guide to Snooping on a Dead](#) (Penguin \$30) Ever since a man was found dead in Vera's teahouse, life has been good—for Vera. Still, Vera wishes more dead bodies would pop up in her shop, but one mustn't be ungrateful, even if one is slightly...bored.

SOME NONFICTION OF NOTE

Bailey, Jason. [Gandolfini: Jim, Tony, and the Life of a Legend](#) (Abrams \$30). Our staffer Jen Johans, Bailey's host, reviews: Notable film critic and historian Jason Bailey follows up his acclaimed exploration of New York film in *Fun City Cinema* with this extensively well-researched, critically affectionate, intimate, and eye-opening biography of the beloved late star of HBO's series "The Sopranos," James Gandolfini. While chronicling his early years, we follow his upbringing as the son of Italian

immigrants in New Jersey who was always drawn to the theater to Gandolfini's discovery of the power of acting as a way to process his grief in college following the death of a loved one. Deftly blending the personal with his professional achievements, including insights from the colleagues and friends who knew him best, such as Edie Falco, Lorraine Bracco, and Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Bailey's book thoughtfully charts Gandolfini's life and career and paints a fully three dimensional portrait of the man most people identify as Tony Soprano. As author Megan Abbott notes, "It gives us the thing we've all been missing most: more time with the brilliant actor... A true gift."

Hammer, Joshua. [The Mesopotamian Riddle](#) (Simon & Schuster \$29.99). The author of the terrific [The Bad Ass Librarians of Timbuktu](#) (418) is back with a new rollicking adventure. Around 3,400 BCE—as humans were gathering in complex urban settlements—a scribe in the mud-walled city-state of Uruk picked up a reed stylus to press tiny symbols into clay. For three millennia, wedge shape cuneiform script would record the military conquests, scientific discoveries, and epic literature of the great Mesopotamian kingdoms of Sumer, Assyria, and Babylon and of Persia's mighty Achaemenid Empire, along with precious minutiae about everyday life in the cradle of civilization. And then... the meaning of the characters was lost. London 1857. Enter three Victorians: a swashbuckling archaeologist, a suave British military officer turned diplomat, and a cloistered Irish rector, all vying for glory in a race to decipher this script that will make their mark in a Golden Age of Archaeology.

Lodge, Sara. [The Mysterious Case of the Victorian Female Detective](#) (Yale University Press \$). In a scholarly but readable, often funny, look at real and fictional women in the police and private crime-busting sectors, Lodge focuses heavily on the British scene but has a splendid final section on Kate Warn (later Warne), Alan Pinkerton, and the mythology around Kate that Pinkerton created along with real history. This is a fascinating volume to dip in and out of and will be of interest to fans of Martin Edwards, Anne Perry, Will Thomas.

Risen, Clay. [Red Scare](#) (Scribner \$31) presents a narrative history of the anti-Communist witch hunt that gripped America in the decade following World War II. The cultural phenomenon, most often referred to as McCarthyism, was an outgrowth of the conflict between social conservatives and New Deal progressives, coupled with the terrifying onset of the Cold War. This defining moment in American history, unlike any that preceded it, was marked by an unprecedented degree of political hysteria. Drawing upon newly declassified documents, journalist Clay Risen recounts how politicians like Joseph McCarthy, with the help of an extended network of other government officials and organizations, systematically ruined thousands of lives in their deluded pursuit of alleged Communist conspiracies. Historical and spy fiction is returning to this era for story source material at a time when baseless conspiracies are running rampant.

* Williams, Molly. [Jane Austen's Garden: A Botanical Tour of the Classic Novels](#) (Andrews & McNeel \$24.99) explores the botanical inspirations and symbolism in Austen's work and personal life, as well as historical information about the gardens and landscapes of the Regency Era. Go back in time to the lush English landscape of the early 1800s. Woven throughout are DIY projects to help you create a home garden worthy of a surprise

visit from Lady Catherine de Bourgh or maybe just give your dining table a bit of historical flair.

Wynn-Williams, Sarah. [Careless People](#) (Flatiron \$32.99). For seven years, beginning in 2011, Wynn-Williams worked at Facebook (now called Meta), eventually as a director of global public policy. Now she has written an insider account of a company that she says was run by status-hungry and self-absorbed leaders, who chafed at the burdens of responsibility and became ever more feckless, even as Facebook became a vector for disinformation campaigns and cozied up to authoritarian regimes. The *NY Times*, where it has become the instant #1 Nonfiction Bestseller, calls it "darkly funny and genuinely shocking: an ugly, detailed portrait of one of the most powerful companies in the world. [Read our review.](#)" And Meta, showing its true colors, has done its best to muzzle the author, denying her the opportunity to promote this book, which of course is guaranteed to give it massive free publicity (as here) and propel it into being a bestseller.

OUR APRIL LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Charles, Janet Skeslien. [Miss Morgan's Book Brigade](#) (\$18.99). With librarians under threat every day today, this historical fiction is very modern. In January 1918, Jessie Carson, a librarian for the New York Public Library, accepts an invitation from Anne Morgan, the daughter of J.P. Morgan and founder of the American Committee for Devastated France ("CARD," after the French name), to help establish a library for civilians living near the front lines in northern France. Overcoming worries that she won't be up to the task, Jessie devotes herself to distributing books, especially to local children. A parallel narrative set in 1987 follows aspiring author Wendy Peterson, whose day job involves scanning old documents into the NYPL's microfiche system. When Wendy comes across a box of CARD records, she's instantly intrigued by the women who volunteered for the organization and determines to tell their story. Wendy's interest is especially piqued by Jessie, as it's clear from the records that she didn't return to the NYPL after the war. Charles, author of the hit [The Paris Library](#) (\$17.99) is the perfect person to write this story.

Dees, Cindy. [Double Tap](#) (\$17.95). I love a good spy story with a top-notch woman agent and here we get her in the sequel to [Second Shot](#) (\$17.99), equally fabulous. Helen Warwick is a highly trained CIA assassin trying to navigate retirement, reconnect with family and friends...and with no shot at either (think Deanna Raybourn's four killers of a certain age here). Read up first on Helen vs. The DaVinci Killer, then move on to Scorpius, a Russian mole embedded in the Agency who recruits sociopaths to, for example, take a shot at Helen's own son, a rising politician, at a DC press conference. Targeting her family means Helen rejoins the CIA and starts digging deep for the mole and his squad.

Garmus, Bonnie. [Lessons in Chemistry](#) (\$19). "In Garmus' debut novel, a frustrated chemist finds herself at the helm of a cooking show that sparks a revolution. Welcome to the 1960s, where a woman's arsenal of tools was often limited to the kitchen—and where Elizabeth Zott is hellbent on overturning the status quo one meal at a time."—*The New York Times*

Hillerman, Anne. [Lost Birds](#) (\$18.99). Joe Leaphorn may be long retired from the Navajo Tribal Police, but his detective skills are still sharp, honed by his work as a private detective. His experience will be essential to solve a compelling new case: finding the birth parents of a woman who was raised by a bilagáana family but believes she is Diné based on one solid clue, an old photograph with a classic Navajo child's blanket. Leaphorn discovers that his client's adoption was questionable, and her adoptive family not what they seem. His quest for answers takes him to an old trading post and leads him to a deadly cache of long-buried family secrets. When a call ends in an explosion Bernie Manuelito is called in.... For the sequel, see Signed Books.

Jance, JA. [Fatal Error](#) (\$19.99). Ali Reynolds begins the summer thinking her most difficult challenge will be surviving a six-week-long course as the lone forty-something female at the Arizona Police Academy—not to mention taking over the 6 a.m. shift at her family's restaurant while her parents enjoy a long overdue Caribbean cruise. However, when Brenda Riley, a colleague from Ali's old news broadcasting days in California, shows up in town with an alcohol problem and an unlikely story about a missing fiancé, Ali reluctantly agrees to help. The man posing as Brenda's fiancé is revealed to be Richard Lowensdale, a cyber-sociopath who has left a trail of broken hearts in his virtual wake. When he is viciously murdered, the women he once victimized are considered suspects. The police soon focus their investigation on Brenda.... For the sequel see Signed Books

Mills, Kyle. [Code Red](#) (\$18.99) is Mills' last Mitch Rapp thriller before handing Mitch over to Don Bentley. When Damian Losa, a billionaire Mexican and “the most powerful criminal in the world,” calls him for a favor, Rapp can't refuse. Losa wants to know about the growing Captagon business in Western Europe, where the illicit drug causes irreversible brain damage and permanent psychosis in its users. Losa asks Rapp to find out how the Syrians are making huge quantities of the drug economically. Rapp goes to Syria disguised as a wealthy Canadian attorney and learns.... High action, no surprises who are the bad guys.

Paretsky, Sara. [Pay Dirt](#) (\$19.99). Lesa reviews: Chicago PI V.I. Warshawski hasn't been herself since one of her cases ended in tragedy. Friends persuade her to head to Kansas for a college basketball game featuring her protégée Angela. When Angela's housemate Sabrina goes missing, V.I. reluctantly agrees to help search for the young woman. With no support network in Lawrence, and the police suspicious of her motives, V.I. finally finds Sabrina almost dead in a drug den on Yancy Hill. It gets worse: the FBI shows up to question V.I. about kidnapping the girl, and the police don't believe her. When V.I. returns to the drug house, she finds the body of a woman who had been stirring up trouble in town. Now V.I. is suspected of kidnapping and murder, and she only has two junk men and an ambitious young reporter to turn to for help. As V.I. investigates the death, she finds evidence that connects the land around Yancy Hill with Lawrence's industrial future and Kansas's bloody past before the Civil War. History buffs will appreciate Paretsky's exploration of Kansas's violent past.

* Perrin, Kristen. [How to Solve Your Own Murder](#) (\$18) is an enormously fun mystery about a woman who spends her entire life trying to prevent her foretold murder, only to be proven right

sixty years later when the woman's great-niece Annie Adams, summoned to a meeting at Frances' sprawling estate by the quaint village of Castle Knoll, finds Frances already dead. Now it's up to Annie to catch the killer. For the Signed UK sequel in the Castle Knoll Series, [How to Steal Your Own Fate](#) (Quercus \$38) See Signed Books. The [Unsigned US edition](#) (\$28) publishes April 29.

Petrie, Nick. [The Price You Pay](#) (\$19). One bitterly cold Wisconsin winter, Marine combat vet Peter Ash and his tight friend Lewis pay a visit to Teddy “Upstate” Wilson, a one-eyed ex-con, only to find him shivering in the snow while his cabin burns to the ground. Attackers have shot his dogs and stolen his notebooks, which are key to the story. As part of his therapy after having been shot in the head, Teddy has been writing down everything he can remember, fr

om bowel movements to sex with his speech pathologist to the many crimes he's committed—including dates, locations, and the names of everyone involved. Those latter details could get a lot of folks, Lewis included, offed or imprisoned. Series fans already know that Lewis occasionally heads an elusive group that robs and often kills upper-level bad guys. Said group is an underworld legend often called the Ghost Killers, and even law enforcement is unsure whether the group is more than a myth. Dive into this new paperback edition to find out.

Preston, Douglas. [Extinction](#) (\$19.99). One of my favorites from last spring, a Michael Crichton style thriller based on real science. When newlyweds are attacked at Colorado's exclusive Erebus Resort, investigator Frankie Cash and Sheriff Colcord team up to find the killers. There is more going on than meets the eye as the killers carry out more blatant attacks at this unique location featuring resurrected species, including a new family of woolly mammoths. In fact, the science of possibly recreating a mammoth is very much in play today.

James Rollins, adds, “Preston's latest thriller, *Extinction*, is *Jurassic Park* for the Pleistocene Era—and that's no exaggeration. It's got everything I love: fantastic creatures, wild adventures, and dynamic heroes. But most frightening of all, it shines a disturbing light on where the science of genetic engineering might be venturing next. Read at your own risk” I add that the interactions of the two sleuths are gripping and I prevented Doug from a false step. So there will be something of a sequel or two.

Reich, Christopher. [Matterhorn](#) (\$16.99). I am a forever fans of the international thrillers, often involving banking and/or spying, by Reich. Here is non-stop, high Alpine action. Writing a review for *LJ*, Jeff Ayers says “This would make a great movie and fans of the Bond tales and special-ops action novels should add this to their reading lists. The death of a spy in the Alps leads Mac Dekker, a former CIA agent, to resurrect himself and hunt down the culprits. Dekker was presumed dead and had been living undercover in a small Alpine town, but he won't hide any longer when he learns that his son, also a spy, has died. The person responsible, Ilya Ivashka, was once someone Mac considered a brother, before Ilya defected to the enemy. After Mac makes his presence known, Ilya and other enemies will stop at nothing to put him in the ground for good. Even the people who loved Mac before he had to fake his death are not happy to learn that he has been alive all this time. The pace is relentless, and the spycraft is in full gear as Mac tries to get justice for his son and himself.”

Winslow, Don. [City in Ruins](#) (\$19.99) completes the Danny Ryan Trilogy in what Winslow says is his final novel. However I have spotted a new book called [Final Score: Six Short Novels](#) (Morrow \$30), never before published, set for September 16, so more on that when we know it.

* Winspear, Jacqueline. [The Comfort of Ghosts](#) (\$19.95). “World War II is over, but the United Kingdom is in recovery mode. Maisie Dobbs is assisting a family with the disposal of some of their properties. When they hear of squatters living in the Belgravia mansion the family evacuated during the war, Maisie volunteers to deal with them. The four young squatters have taken in a wounded soldier—who turns out to be Will, Maisie’s partner’s son. He was a prisoner of war in Japan and in bad condition physical and mentally. The four teenage squatters are actually trained to be civilian soldiers in case of a German invasion. and they lead Maisie to a murder in Kent. The biggest mystery to conclude this series is when Maisie discovers that her deceased first husband, James Compton, fathered a child before the First World War. Maisie tracks down this man and must decide if she will tell him who he really is. This is an emotional and satisfying conclusion to a long running and beloved series.”—*LJ* Starred Review

MORE APRIL LARGE PAPERBACKS

Albom, Mitch. [The Little Liar](#) (\$18.99). Eleven-year-old Nico Krispis has never told a lie. When the Nazis invade his home in Salonika, Greece, the trustworthy boy is discovered by a German officer, who offers him a chance to save his family. All Nico has to do is persuade his fellow Jewish residents to board trains heading “north,” where new jobs and safety await. Unaware that this is all a cruel ruse, the innocent boy reassures passengers on the station platform every day. But when the final train is loaded, Nico sees his family being herded into a boxcar. Only then does he discover that he has helped send them—and everyone he knows and loves—to their doom at Auschwitz.

Alvarez, Julia. [The Cemetery of Untold Stories](#) (\$17.99). When Alma inherits a piece of land in the Dominican Republic, she decides to use it as a place to bury her unfinished manuscripts. But the characters she puts to rest have lives of their own, and whisper their stories to Filomena, the groundskeeper.

Bostwick, Marie. [The Book Club for Troublesome Women](#) (\$18.99). An unabashedly sentimental novel examines the impact of feminism on four upper-middle-class white women in a suburb of Washington, D.C., in 1963. Bostwick’s latest is ideal for fans of historical fiction and those who enjoyed Bonnie Garmus’s *Lessons in Chemistry*, Kristin Hannah’s *The Women*, or Kate Quinn’s *The Briar Club*, which explore the historical roles of women and the challenges they faced within a society structured to define and limit their roles in and out of the home.

Cornwell, Bernard. [Sharpe’s Command: Richard Sharpe](#) (\$18.99) takes us back in to the Napoleonic Wars where the impossible is exactly what the formidable Captain Sharpe is asked to do when he’s sent on an undercover mission to a small village in the Spanish countryside, far behind enemy lines. It’s May, 1812. For the quiet, remote village, sitting high above the Almaraz bridge, is about to become the center of a battle for the future of Europe. Two French armies march towards the bridge, one from the North and one from the South. If they meet, the British are lost. Only Sharpe’s small group of men stand in their way....and Sharpe.

Falco, JT. [Blood on the Vine](#) (Crippen Landru \$19.99). Lana Burrell grew up on an idyllic Napa Valley vineyard with her best friend Jess—until Jess mysteriously disappeared and Lana’s father was falsely accused of her murder. Over twenty years later, he’s still serving a life sentence, but Lana knows he’s innocent, just like she knows Jess’s real killer is still out there. Now, as a seasoned FBI agent in the San Francisco field office, Lana figures she can handle just about anything—until a killer strikes the Valley again. This is not a cozy but a hardboiled investigation and very good on wine.

Goldis, Jaelyn. [The Main Character](#) (\$18.99). In exchange for \$100,000, individuals agree to answer personal questions, undergo psychological evaluations, and have their lives probed by Ginerva Ex’s private investigators. Her “latest, and finest, main character,” Rory, has recently been fired from her job as a news anchor for running an error-ridden story. In addition to providing Rory with the standard stipend, Ginerva has invited her on an extravagant train trip across Italy aboard the Orient Express. Rory’s elation turns to bafflement, however, when she discovers they’ll be joined by her ex-fiancé, her brother, and her best friend. As Goldis gradually reveals the secrets of each person in Rory’s orbit, Ginerva’s unorthodox writing methods start to look more and more sinister.

Grisham, John. [Camino Ghosts](#) (\$18). Mercer Mann, a popular writer from Camino Island, is back on the beach, marrying her boyfriend, Thomas, in a seaside ceremony. Bruce Cable, infamous owner of Bay Books, performs the wedding. Afterward, Bruce tells Mercer that he has stumbled upon an incredible story. Mercer desperately needs an idea for her next novel, and Bruce now has one. The true story is about Dark Isle, a sliver of a barrier island not far off the North Florida coast. It was settled by freed slaves three hundred years ago, and their descendants lived there until 1955, when the last one was forced to leave. That last descendant is Lovely Jackson, elderly now, who loves her birthplace and its remarkable history. But now Tidal Breeze, a huge, ruthless corporate developer, wants to build a resort and casino on the island, which Lovely knows, deep down, is rightfully hers. Mercer befriends Lovely, and they plunge into an enormous fight over who owns Dark Isle, taking on Tidal Breeze Corporation, its lawyers, lobbyists, and powerful Florida politicians.

Hewson, David. [A Season for the Dead](#) (Canongate \$15). Back in print, the first investigation for Roman cop Nic Costa in a series I really like. While Rome is sweltering in the height of summer, a serial killer is on the loose. Sara Farnese is working in the Vatican library, when a man bursts in intent on showing her the contents of his bloodied bag, until a guard shoots him. But why was the man targeting Sara? Determined to find answers, Sara’s path crosses with a young up-and-coming Roman detective, Nic Costa. He’s determined to track down the dangerous killer behind this bizarre and brutal murder and to protect Sara from becoming the next victim. I’m looking for later entries but we do also have [The Villa of Mysteries](#) (\$17.95).

Hodgson, Antonia. [The Raven Scholar](#) (Orbit \$21.99). OK, move from dragons to ravens in this terrific Romantasy that starts a trilogy. It’s got that Shelf Wealth packaging, French flaps and silver foil cover highlights. So let us now fly to the empire of Orrun where 24 years of peace under Bersun the Brusque end

as strategists scheme to replace him. One of them is murdered leaving the Emperor's High Scholar to crack the crime. The opener with the family of an executed traitor summoned to the imperial court is so Hilary Mantel writing the Tudors.

Lillie, Vanessa. [Desperate Deadly Widows](#) (Sourcebooks \$17.99). Layne Fargo, Cate Holahan, Kimberly Belle join Lillie in *Widows #2*. Providence, Rhode Island, circa 1987, just two years after a plane carrying four mafia-affiliated law-firm partners exploded over the Atlantic along with the cushy lives of their once wealthy wives. Now, Krystle fights to keep their fallen law firm afloat. Justine hustles as a lawyer-in-training. Meredith owns and operates the strip club where she once danced. And Camille orchestrates honey-pot schemes for scorned women—until one of her arrangements goes terribly wrong, and she becomes implicated in the debauched Mayor Tom's mysterious murder in the champagne room. With everything on the line, the widows must join forces once more while testing each other. Can they afford loyalty?

Lyuzna, Olesya. [Glitter in the Dark](#) (Penzler \$17.95). Sisterhood and a string of suspicious disappearances take center stage in a magnetic historical noir debut. Magazine writer Ginny Dugan believes she's mastered the art of living dangerously in smoky, champagne-soaked Prohibition-era New York, but a brush with the criminal underworld and a partnership with a secretive private eye, a queer, crotchety, hard-drinking Manhattan private eye, will put her grit, wits, and moral code to the test. Lucky for Ginny, action comes in the form of a kidnapping plot that sweeps the borough's jazz clubs, which gives her a shot at becoming a serious journalist.

* Marsh, Violet. [Our Dear Miss H Is on the Case](#) (Forever \$17.99) sends Marsh's Georgian-era characters on a wildly entertaining adventure whose breakneck pace matches the speed of their daring curricula rides. Miss Georgina Harrington, a brilliant antiquarian who must publish her work under her cousin Percy's name to be taken seriously, is elated to discover a valuable helmet in a barrow on her Essex property. Soon, however, both the helmet and Percy go missing, and Georgina heads to London to find them (while evading her brother's plans to marry her off) with help from her mischievous dog, a fluffy rooster, and Percy's annoyingly handsome best friend, Alexander. Marsh brings her characters to the Black Sheep coffeehouse, the raucous, joyful establishment first introduced in *Lady Charlotte Always Gets Her Man*. A dastardly plot against the monarchy doesn't foil their plans for romance. Once again, fans of screwball comedies, English history, and independent women will find much to enjoy.

Mason Doan, Amy. [The California Dreamers](#) (\$18.99). A group of siblings captured in an 1980s iconic beach nostalgia photo reunite decades later on a sunny California island, where they're forced to face the fallout of their unconventional upbringing—and the golden secret that has been simmering ever since....

ONeill, Mark. [To Catch a Spy](#) (Poisoned Pen \$17.99) brings jewel thief John Robie (Cary Grant in *To Catch a Thief*) back together with Francie Stevens (Grace Kelly) at the first ever Riviera Fashion Week where she is modeling for a top French designer. What could go wrong? What about a boyfriend after her? A mysterious courier after him? Or the spy ring—could Francie be a spy?

Patchett, Ann. [Tom Lake](#) (\$19) “is about romantic love, marital love and maternal love, but also the love of animals, the love of stories, love of the land and trees and the tiny, red, cordiform object that is a cherry... This generous writer hits the mark again with her ninth novel.”

Politano, Joanna Davidson. [The Curious Inheritance of Blakely House](#) (Baker House \$18.99). In this twisty Edwardian mystery, a strange woman informs Sydney Forrester that she's inherited an estate on a nearby island, she is understandably confused: she's never met the uncle who owned the estate and isn't certain of the woman's identity. But Sydney's curiosity is piqued and, sensing that God wants her to embark on the adventure, she sets out to claim her inheritance. Things go awry almost immediately after she arrives on the island, however. Not only do distant cousins and fellow heirs Dane Hutchcraft and Tom Jolly cast doubt on Sydney's claim to the estate, she also discovers that her uncle died under suspicious circumstances. When it becomes clear that her cousins are planning to frame her for the murder and steal her inheritance.

Posey, Kate. [Serial Killer Games](#) (Penguin \$19). Here's another debut. It's November in Canada, and the offices of the unnamed company Dolores della Cruz works for are “clenched in the white-knuckled death grip of Christmas season hysteria.” Dolores, with her penchant for dressing in black and morbid sense of humor, drags herself to work every day. She perks up when the handsome, mysterious Jake Ripper arrives at her company as an office temp. The two share a deep interest in the crimes of a serial killer known as the Paper Pusher, whose victims have all died from falls off the roofs of downtown office buildings. As the oddball pair develop a budding romance, a major question hangs over their courtship: might Jake be the Paper Pusher? (“Even serial killers get their meet-cute,” Dolores muses.) Posey tells the tale in bright, punchy chapters that alternate between Dolores's and Jake's perspectives, and populates their love story with a cast of charming weirdos.

* Powell, Karen. [Fifteen Wild Decembers](#) (Europa \$18) offers a stirring tale of English novelist Emily Brontë and her siblings. Six-year-old Emily joins three of her older sisters at a school for girls in 1824. They're appalled by the dirty conditions as classmates start falling ill. After their sister Maria dies from tuberculosis, their widowed clergyman father takes them home, where their sister Elizabeth soon dies. Charlotte leaves for a new school, but Emily is much happier staying at home in Yorkshire, playing with toy soldiers and imagining fantastical kingdoms among the moors. Later, as a young woman teaching at a girls' school, Emily is exhausted by the deadening routine. The sisters are fatefully reunited at home after a stint studying abroad, when Charlotte pushes Emily to publish her poems, thus sparking all of their writerly ambitions. With suitably gothic prose, Powell keenly evokes the Yorkshire landscape. I've been there, it's bleak and some think the proximity of the parish churchyard made it unhealthy.

Preston, Douglas/Lincoln Child. [Angel of Vengeance](#) (\$19.99) is the latest wild investigation for Agent Pendergast, one that thrusts him back into 19th Century New York City. Pendergast has used a dimensional portal to follow his ward, Constance Greene, to an alternate version of 1880 New York City, where they hope to protect Constance's siblings from sadistic doctor Enoch Leng,

who is prepared to kill them in his pursuit of Constance's life-extending formula. Pendergast's evil twin brother, Diogenes, has followed the pair through the portal and begun cozying up to Leng....

Reissued: [The Cabinet of Curiosities](#) (\$19.99). In one of NPR's 100 Best Thrillers Ever, FBI agent Pendergast discovers thirty-six murdered bodies in a New York City charnel house . . . and now, more than a century later, a killer strikes again. Start there if you are new to the series.

Ryan, Lindy. [Bless Your Heart](#) (\$19). Ryan melds mystery, horror, and family drama in her sharp solo debut about the descent of ancient ghouls on a small Texas town. In the summer of 1999, the women of the Evans family—matriarch Ducey; her daughter, Lenore; her granddaughter, Grace; and her great-granddaughter, Luna—witness recently deceased busybody Mina Jean Murphy rise from the dead, setting off alarm bells in Ducey and Lenore's heads: for the first time in 15 years, the bloodthirsty, undead strigoi ("sort of like zombies and vampires combined") have returned to Southeast Texas. But why? As the number of strigoi multiplies and the sheriff starts asking questions, the elder Evans women reveal bits and pieces of family history to the younger ones. Before long, it becomes clear that they may be the only family in the region who are equipped to stop their new, blood-starved neighbors from sucking the state dry. For the sequel see New in Hardcover above.

Smith, Wilbur. [When the Lion Feeds](#) (\$18.99) is the reissue of Smith's debut novel and the start of the Courtney clan adventures. Heirs to their father's fortune, destiny divides the Courtney twins from the start. Sean Courtney is strong, determined and adventurous, while Garrick Courtney is eager to escape the hardships of cattle-rearing, preferring to stay indoors with a book. But when Garrick is suddenly forced to take ownership of the family farm, Sean must explore the opportunities awaiting him: the rush and horrors of the Zulu Wars, the women who will fall for his charms, the rise and fall of gold fever and the deadly thrills of big game hunting on the African plains.

Sparks, Nicholas. [Nights in Rodanthe](#) (\$18.99). The reissue of a story where when her husband leaves her for a younger woman, Adrienne Willis, suddenly abandoned at 45, she reels without purpose. Lacking any clear plan, she accepts a friend's invitation and flees for a weekend to the small coastal town of Rodanthe, North Carolina. Located near the northern tip of Hatteras Island, this Outer Banks retreat seems well suited to be a quiet respite, but a brutal storm destroys any sense of sanctuary. Adrienne's stranding is complicated and relieved by the presence of Paul Flanner, a 54-year-old physician with his own shattered past.

Sutanto, Jesse Q. [Vera Wong's Guide to Snooping](#) (Penguin \$19) is the quirky second adventure for the eponymous tea shop owner. Vera's feeling bored and luckily for us, a murder gets dropped in her lap. Does Vera fall prey to a phone scam? After reporting the incident to Officer Selena Gray—who's dating Vera's son, Tilly—Vera notices a distressed young woman waiting outside the police station. Vera insists on taking the woman, Millie, to her shop, where the woman reveals that her friend Thomas went missing three nights earlier. Then, while feeding Selena and Tilly's cat, Vera stumbles upon Selena's briefcase, which includes a file outlining the apparent suicide of social media influencer Xander Lin. Using her well-honed

sleuthing skills, Vera discovers that Xander and Thomas are the same person, and she then proceeds to ingratiate herself with a group of suspects....

Thomas, Scarlett. [The Sleepwalkers](#) (\$17.99). Evelyn and Richard are honeymooning at a Greek resort that is famous both for its exclusivity and for the fact that it was the last stop for a couple that drowned together in the sea—the sleepwalkers of the title. The narrative begins in a letter Evelyn is writing to Richard, and two things are immediately clear: She and her new husband lightly despise each other, and isolated Villa Rosa is a strange and possibly dangerous place. Fans of Gothic literature are likely to settle in comfortably right away. For other readers, Evelyn's voice should be compelling enough to let them forget that they're reading a letter—a very long letter, crafted by hand, during one night...

I can't resist repeating this snarky comment by *Kirkus Reviews*: "Writing a narrative in letters might have given Samuel Richardson license to let his characters speak in candid, informal ways that were otherwise inaccessible, but his innovations are so much a part of Anglophone literature now that his runaway bestsellers *Pamela* and *Clarissa* mostly persist as punishment for English majors. That said, Thomas is nothing if not adventurous. In her latest novel, she dares to ask the reader for willing suspension of disbelief as she composes a novel from lengthy confessions written by a husband and a wife."

* Thomas, Will. [Death and Glory](#) (\$19). The US Civil War may have ended nearly 30 years ago, but that doesn't deter four officers from the Confederate army—General James Woodson, Brigadier David St. Ives, Colonel Zebedee Beaufort, and Captain Manuel Cortes—from leaving the far-flung places in Latin America where they've been soldiering on to ask Cyrus Barker and Thomas Llewelyn to wangle them an audience with Prime Minister Lord Rosebery. Granted 15 minutes, they waste no time in demanding that England fulfill an 1865 treaty that promised to deliver the Confederacy an ironclad warship. "Things can't possibly go well for the Crown whether it grants or denies the request, thus ratifying the Confederacy as a going concern in 1894. Barker and Llewelyn can't ignore the genie they've helped escape from the bottle, and follow up hints that link the treaty to both the recent murder of former U.S. Senator turned Confederate diplomat Jubal Slidell, the last survivor of the real-life seizure of two Confederate officers from *HMS Trent* during the war, and two wildly unlikely historical figures who are supposed to have died long ago." For the sequel see Signed Books.

Towles, Amor. [Table for Two: Fictions](#) (Penguin \$18) collects six short stories set in New York around the new millennium. There's also one story set in Golden Age Hollywood, a continuation of his novel *Rules of Civility*.

Westerbeke, Douglas. [A Short Walk Through a Wide World](#) (\$18.99) is an epic novel charting the adventurous journey of one woman trying to outrun a mysterious curse that will destroy her if she stops moving. "In 1885 Paris, nine-year-old Aubry Tourvel, suddenly racked with pain, begins bleeding from her eyes, nose, and lips. After visits to myriad doctors yield no diagnosis, trial and error proves she becomes deathly ill if she stays anywhere for more than a few days or visits the same location twice. Her mother joins her on the road for three years, until Aubry, seeing her exhaustion, steals away alone one night.

Aubry, who eventually circles the globe five times.... Though she speaks openly about her strange affliction, she keeps to herself the moments when, facing dangers or impassable obstacles such as the Himalayan mountains, she finds doors to vast subterranean libraries in which time and space seem to loosen. Capturing each moment of Aubry's sweeping odyssey with extraordinary vividness, Westerbeke's poignant epic speaks to the challenges of knowing oneself and others in a world of endless change."—*PW* Starred Review

Whishaw, Iona. [The Cost of a Hostage](#) (Touchstone \$19.95). I thoroughly enjoy this Canadian series set in the post-WWII Kootenays but with forays abroad. Here it's a slow August morning in King's Cove. Lane has a book to read and a lawn that needs mowing. At the Nelson Police Station her husband, Inspector Darling, and his team are tidying their desks during a rare lull. Then Lane receives a call with news that Darling's brother Bob has gone missing from a mining camp in Mexico and the police station is visited by the frantic mother of a boy kidnapped from his bedroom. From bustling Mexico City, through the desert and into the mountain range beyond, Darling and Lane's search for Bob puts them out of the realm of the law and at the mercy of a local *bandido*. Meanwhile Lane is certain she's recognized someone from her past she'd rather forget. Then it's back home where a body turns up in the lake's ferry boat.... This is the 12th in a series that will appeal to readers of Louise Penney.

Young, Adrienne. [Spells for Forgetting](#) (Random House \$17). I read this for the Puget Sound island setting and the magic of apple orchards. And agree with this review of a piece of escape fiction: "deep magic" runs in the women of Saoirse, a fictional island in Puget Sound. After high school graduation, Emery Blackwood hopes to move away with her boyfriend, August Salt, but when the island's orchard burns to the ground on the same night that Emery's best friend, Lily Morgan, is mysteriously killed, their plans to leave the next morning are aborted. All signs point to August as the culprit behind Lily's death, but there's not enough evidence to charge him, and he and his mother flee Saoirse, leaving Emery to take over her family's tea shop, which dispenses "mystical brews" to help with love and luck. Now, 14 years later, August returns to Saoirse to bury his mother and sell her cottage. August's return raises questions about what actually happened all those years ago, and it appears every islander is hiding a piece of the puzzle. The plot is convoluted, but Young entrances with the island's witchy vibes, and makes palpable the unfinished childhood love story between Emery and August, which comes back to life after his return.

OUR APRIL SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Andrews/Brian/Jeff Wilson. [Tom Clancy Act of Defiance](#) (\$10.99). A rogue nuclear Russian submarine is steaming toward the East Coast of the United States. The Russians' deadliest submarine, the *Belgorod*, has unexpectedly launched, and taken along with it a long list of questions. Who authorized the departure? What mission is it on? And, most disturbing of all, what weapons do the giant doors on the sub's bow hide? It's been four decades since a similar incident with the Soviet sub, Red October, ended happily, thanks to a young CIA analyst named Jack Ryan. Now, President Jack Ryan finds himself with fleets of ships, squadrons of jets, and teams of SEALs at his command, but what he doesn't have is any idea what is going on....

Harper, Jane. [Exiles](#) (\$9.99). Aaron Falk #3. A federal investigator, Aaron Falk, investigates the disappearance of young mother who left her baby alone in a festival crowd and vanished. Leads go nowhere. It's an amazing story.

Kuang, R F. [The Poppy War](#) (\$9.99). An epic military fantasy, inspired by the violent history of twentieth-century China, follows the efforts of an unlikely war orphan to obtain an education at Nikan's most elite military school in spite of prejudice and the challenges of her lethal shaman skills.

Reichs, Kathy. [The Bone Hacker](#) (\$10.99). Temperance Brennan #22. Called in to help investigate the murders of young male tourists on the islands of Turks and Caicos, forensic anthropologist Temperance Brennan makes a discovery that could have global significance, making herself a target.

Rollins, James. [Arkangel: A Sigma Force Novel](#) (\$10.99). Sigma Force #18. Sigma Force is summoned to help search for a missing trove of ancient books after a Vatican archivist is murdered near the Kremlin.

Thor, Brad. [Shadow of Doubt](#) (\$10.99). Scot Harvath #23. When a plot to destroy the United States is uncovered, the lives of a shadowy Russian defector, a beautiful Norwegian intelligence officer and a deadly American spy are intertwined.

Unger, Lisa. [Secluded Cabin Sleeps Six](#) (\$9.99). While staying at an isolated luxury cabin in the woods with her brother, their spouses and another couple, Hannah finds their dream weekend turning into nightmare when someone comes looking to exact a payback for deeds long buried.

MORE SMALL PAPERBACKS

Bell, Darcey. [All I Want](#) (Pocket \$10.99). A young couple with a baby on the way moves to an old Victorian house in rural, upstate New York, where strange happenings contribute to their disintegrating marriage-and to their terrifying descent into the darker side of human nature.

Bell, Ted. [Pirate](#) (Pocket \$10.99) Alex Hawke #3. Reissue. When the free world is threatened by an oil-hungry Red China and her secret allies, Alexander Hawke works with British Naval Intelligence and the CIA to uncover a dangerous scheme intended to topple America and establish China's international supremacy.

Brennan, Allison. [Stolen](#) (\$9.99). Lucy Kincaid #6. Reissue. Given an ultimatum by the FBI to either help take down a dangerous rogue agent or go to prison, private investigator Sean Rogan is forced to hide the truth from FBI trainee Lucy Kincaid.

Chien, Vivien. [The Chow Maniac](#) (St Martins \$9.99). Noodle Shop #11. Lana Lee teams up with private detective Lydia Shepard to solve the murders of members of the secretive Eight Immortals order in Asia Village, navigating hidden connections, personal stakes, and dangerous deceptions to prevent the killer from claiming their next victim.

Coco, Nancy. [Fudge and Marriage](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Candy-Coated #14. Fudge maker Allie McMurphy juggles wedding plans, family chaos, and a murder investigation on Mackinac Island after Velma French is found dead, vowing to uncover the truth before her big day despite a killer's dangerous focus on her.

Day, Maddie. [Scone Cold Dead](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Country Store #13. Expectant mother and café owner Robbie Jordan

balances maternity preparations and her bustling business while investigating a murder tied to her aunt Adele.

Kelly, Diane. [Dead Post Society](#) (St Martins \$9.99). House-Flipper #7. Carpenter Whitney Whitaker and her cousin Buck take on a Victorian house with a violent past, navigating rumors of restless spirits and an unsolved double murder, as they work to restore the property while unraveling its decades-old mysteries.

King, Stephen. [Roadwork](#) (\$11.99). Reissue. When a highway project leaves him unemployed and threatens to destroy his home, one man takes on the forces of progress as he embarks on a vengeful showdown of epic proportions.

Moss, Korina. [Bait and Swiss: A Cheese Shop Mystery](#) (Double S Press \$9.99). Cheese Shop #6. Cheesemonger Willa Bauer faces a murder mystery in Sonoma Valley when a reporter is found dead at her ex-fiancé's chocolate pop-up, forcing her and her team to investigate while balancing personal grudges and the town's ongoing tourism crisis.

Patterson, James. [12 Months to Live](#) (\$10.99). Jane Smith #1. An ex-NYPD beat cop, unrelenting PI and undefeated defense attorney, terminally ill Jane Smith, while knee-deep in the murder of trial of the century, is targeted by a killer who's determined to end her life before her expiration date.

Roberts, Sheila. [The Best Life Book Club](#) (\$9.99). Leaving Seattle and her cheating husband behind, single mother Karissa moves to Puget Sound where she meets her new neighbors, who are also dealing with their own crises, and together they start a book club as a distraction until it becomes a way to build a better life together.

Woodson Harvey, Kristy. [The Summer of Songbirds](#) (\$10.99). When they learn Camp Holly Springs, their childhood oasis, is in danger of closing, three best friends, in spite of their personal problems, come together to save it, rediscovering themselves in the process.