

BOOKNEWS from

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WELCOME TO JUNE

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.

SUNDAY JUNE 1 2:00 PM Live Event

Jayne Castle (Jayne Ann Krentz) with Neely Tubati Alexander

Alexander discusses [Courtroom Drama](#) (Harper \$17.99)

Castle discusses [It Takes a Psychic](#) (Berkley \$30)

MONDAY JUNE 2 5:00 PM Virtual Event

James Lee Burke with Patrick

They discuss [Don't Forget Me, Little Bessie](#) (Grove \$28)

The 5th installment in the Holland Family Saga

Signed books available

TUESDAY JUNE 3 7:00 PM Live Event

Douglas Preston discusses [Badlands](#) (Grand Central \$30)

Lincoln Child joins us on video

Signed here by Preston, signed at home first by Child

WEDNESDAY JUNE 4 7:00 PM Live Event

Kimberley Belle discusses [The Expat Affair](#) (Park Row \$30)

Julie Clark discusses [The Ghostwriter](#) (Sourcebooks \$27.99)

THURSDAY JUNE 5 7:00 PM Live Event

Elevenegdden, A SciFi Meet & Greet Fest

Ryan Dalton, Clint Hall, Candace Kade, Mary Robinson Kowal, Jonathan Maberry, Maxym M. Martineau, James Rollins, Michael Stackpole, and more

SATURDAY JUNE 7 5:00 PM

Laurie R. King with Leslie S. Klinger Live Book Launch

King discusses [Knave of Diamonds](#): (Random House \$30)

Mary Russell & Sherlock Holmes

Our copies come with original art work

TUESDAY JUNE 10 1:00 PM Virtual Event

British barrister Sally Smith discusses [A Case of Mice and Murder](#) (Bloomsbury \$28.99)

A knockout debut 1900s mystery set within the walls of London's Temple

WEDNESDAY JUNE 11 5:00 PM Virtual Event

AJ Landau discusses [Cold Burn](#) (St Martins \$28)

Our July Crime Book of the Month set at Glacier Bay National Park

A thriller for fans of Nevada Barr, Clive Cussler, James Rollins

Our books are signed by both authors

THURSDAY JUNE 12 5:00 PM Virtual Event

Kate Khavari discusses [A Botanist's Guide to Rituals and Revenge](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99)

1920 Botanist Saffron Everleigh investigates murder at Ellington Manor

Signed books available

SATURDAY JUNE 14 5:00 PM Live Event

Karen Dukess discusses [Welcome to Murder Week](#) (Gallery Books \$28.99)

David Lewis discusses [A Beacon in the Night](#) (Kensington \$27)

MONDAY JUNE 16 5:00 PM Virtual Event

Ashley Weaver discusses [One Final Turn](#) (St Martins \$28)

Electra MacDonald's WWII work continues in an excellent series for fans of Maisie Dobbs

Signed books available

TUESDAY JUNE 17 5:00 PM Virtual Event

Brett Battles discusses [Stuart Woods' Finders Keepers](#) (Penguin \$30)

Rob Hart discusses [The Medusa Protocol](#) (Putnam \$30)

Signed books available for both

WEDNESDAY JUNE 18 7:00 PM Live Event

Ivy Pochoda discusses [Ecstasy](#) (Putnam \$28)

THURSDAY JUNE 19 5:00 PM Virtual Event

Dwyer Murphy discusses [The House on Buzzards Bay](#) (Viking \$30)

Signed books available

FRIDAY JUNE 20 7:00 PM Live and Virtual Event

SciFi Friday Book Club discusses Malka Oder's [The Mimicking of Known Successes](#) (\$19.99)

SATURDAY JUNE 21 10:30 AM Live and Virtual Event

Croak & Dagger Book Club discusses Julie Perrin's [How to Solve Your Own Murder](#) (\$18)

MONDAY JUNE 23 7:00 PM Live Book Launch

Megan Abbott discusses [Eldorado Drive](#) (Putnam \$30). A tense and twisty suburban Detroit thriller.

THURSDAY JUNE 26 5:00 PM Virtual Event

Meg Waite Clayton with Laura Dave

Clayton discusses [Typewriter Beach](#) (Harper \$30)

Signed books available for our **July Notable New Fiction Pick**

THURSDAY JUNE 26 7:00 PM Live Event

Hardboiled Crime Book Club discusses Hervé Le Corre's [Dogs & Wolves](#) (Europa Publishing \$17)

SATURDAY JUNE 28 11:00 AM Live Event

The Cookbook Club discusses Monique Volz, [The Ambitious Kitchen Cookbook](#) (Clarkson Potter \$35)

Bring a dish to share

SUNDAY JUNE 29 2:00 PM Live Event

A sort of Historicon

Lynn Cahoon discusses [An Amateur Sleuth's Guide to Murder](#) (Kensington \$27)

Christina Dodd discusses [Thus with a Kiss I Die](#) (Kensington \$28)

Mary Anna Evans discusses [Dark Library](#) (Poisoned Pen Press \$32.99)

Dianne Freeman discusses [A Daughter's Guide to Mothers and Murder](#) (Kensington \$27)

Sam Lumley discusses [How to Have a Killer Time in DC](#) (Kensington \$27)

MONDAY JUNE 30 6:30 PM NEW TIME Ticketed Event

Brad Thor discusses [Edge of Honor](#) (Atria Books \$29.99)

Scot Harvath #24

Tickets: [\\$30 admits one with one copy of the book](#)

[\\$35 admits two with one copy of the book](#)

TUESDAY JULY 1 4:00 PM Virtual Book Launch

Michael Robotham discusses [The White Crow](#) (Scribner \$28.99)

London police officer Philomena McCarthy is back

OUR SUBSCRIPTION CLUB PICKS FOR JUNE

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British Crime Club One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month
TBA

Cozy Crimes Club One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month
Lippman, Laura. [Murder Takes a Vacation](#)

The Crime Collectors Book of the Month Club One Signed First Printing per month
Karp, Marshall. [Don't Tell Me How to Die](#)

First Mystery Club One Signed First Printing per month
Dukess, Karen. [Welcome to Murder Week](#)

Hardboiled/Noir Club One Signed First Printing per month
TBA

Historical Fiction Club One First Printing per month
Sager, Riley. [With a Vengeance](#)

Historical Fiction Paperback Club One Unsigned paperback per month
McMorris, Kristina. [Girls of Good Fortune](#)

Notable New Fiction One Signed First Printing per month
Kelly, Martha Hall. [The Martha's Vineyard Beach & Book Club](#)

Romance and Relationships One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month
Sosa, Mia. [When Javi Dumped Mari](#)

NEW SIGNED BOOKS FOR JUNE

Abbott, Megan. [Eldorado Drive](#) (Putnam \$30). Cash-strapped women fall prey to a pyramid scheme in this nerve-shredding thriller. Harper Bishop flees Grosse Pointe, Michigan, in June 2008 to evade an increasingly persistent creditor, leaving behind her two older sisters who are also deeply in debt—Debra due to her husband's medical bills, Pam because of her divorce from a thieving deadbeat. When Harper returns home in October, she's shocked to find Debra sporting "meticulous highlights" and Pam driving a Lexus. The duo attribute their windfalls to the Wheel, an all-female "circle of giving" that requires new members to contribute initial dues of five grand. Her siblings' enthusiasm is so contagious that Harper sets aside her misgivings and signs on, unwittingly sealing all their fates. Though the tale unfolds from Harper's POV, and her fraught relationships are its focus, the most fully realized cast member is Pam's daughter, Vivian, a surly teen whose resentment of her mother animates the proceedings. Elsewhere, Abbott probes the minefield of sisterhood to harrowing effect, using staccato prose to amplify the inherent apprehension and anxiety of the siblings' relationships. The result is a tense and twisty delight.

Alexander, Neely Tubati. [Courtroom Drama](#) (Harper \$17.99) "delivers a wildly entertaining romance between two members of a sequestered jury. On trial is Margot Kitsch, one of the stars of Real Housewives-esque reality TV show *Authentic Moms of Malibu*, who stands accused of killing her husband. Jury member and reality TV superfan Sydney Parks is thrilled to be there—especially when she finds herself seated next to her childhood best friend, Damon Bradburn, in the jury box. The pair fell out of touch after discovering their parents' affair when they were high school sophomores, causing a rift between the two families. Now, 10 years later, unresolved feelings rise to the surface. To their frustration, there's not much opportunity for them to clear the air during court as they listen to housekeepers, other reality TV stars, and family members offer increasingly alarming testimony about a woman Sydney held on a pedestal. Instead they pass notes and steal moments at their dingy hotel... Alexander impressively drives forward both the murder trial and the romance, conjuring real chemistry between her leads and soapy, salacious intrigue in the courtroom."

Armentrout, Jennifer. [The Primal of Blood and Bone](#) (Evil Eye 31.99). Tip ins. In the Blood 7 Ash series penultimate chapters, Poppy and Casteel face their most perilous challenges yet as old enemies rise and ancient powers stir from their slumber.

Battles, Brett. [Stuart Woods' Finders Keepers](#) (Penguin \$30). After attending an Arrington properties meeting at the group's newest, The Vineyard Arrington on Martha's Vineyard, Stone Barrington returns to New York City to catch up with his old friend Jack Coulter. Over lunch, Jack requests Stone's help in settling his niece Sara into city life post-divorce. Always one to please, Stone takes Sara under his wing. Soon various men from Sara's past start getting hurt, and Jack's loved ones find themselves a target in a deadly scheme.... Brett tells me he's especially proud of this series entry.

Belle, Kimberly. [The Expat Affair](#) (Park Row \$30). "Like the rare diamonds at the heart of this book, *The Expat Affair* begins with gritty raw material—two American women in Amsterdam, expats and strangers caught up in violent forces—and applies unthinkable pressure—murders, stalking, the demands of a famous family dynasty on its last leg—to test whether its heroines will crack or be forged into something greater. The result is a marvel: a glamorous, smart, and propulsive thriller that is as much about women finding their agency as it is a high-stakes international game of cat and mouse."—Ashley Winstead on this new book by new Edgar Award winner Belle.

Brennan, Allison. [Beach Reads and Deadly Deeds](#) (Park Row \$30) delivers a breezy standalone about a book-loving accountant who gets ensnared in a murder investigation—an excellent summertime read. After years of dedication to her job at a New York City accounting firm, 29-year-old Mia Crawford is offered a partnership. To sweeten the deal, her employers insist she take a two-week, all-expenses-paid vacation to a private island in the Caribbean. All modest Mia wants is to curl up with a book and, at most, carry on a quick and casual fling. In the resort's gift shop, she spots an intriguing, water-damaged paperback on a table of books left behind by previous guests. After scooping it up, she notices messages scribbled in the margins that allude to some sort of criminal activity. When a guest's body washes up on the beach, Mia fears she's stumbled into something dangerous. As she investigates with the aid of her mysterious notes, she strikes up a romance with resort bartender Jason, and Brennan weaves in the personal dramas of other guests and employees.

Burke, James Lee. [Don't Forget Me, Little Bessie](#) (Grove \$28). The kaleidoscopic fifth installment in MWA Grand Master Burke's Holland Family saga follows 14-year-old Bessie Mae Holland as she navigates threats to her family in WWI-era Texas. The action kicks off with Betsy's brother, Cody, losing an eye during a dispute with local bully Jubal Fowler. Betsy and Cody's father, former Texas Ranger Hackberry Holland, struggles to suppress his violent instincts while confronting Jubal's father, Winthrop, but Bessie shoots Winthrop, wounding him, and ends up in jail. A friendly drifter tampers with evidence to get Bessie released, and Cody flees to New York City, where he's sucked into the criminal underworld. Meanwhile, Indian Charlie, an unscrupulous security guard for the Atlas Oil Company, seeks revenge against Hackberry for an old criminal case, putting Bessie—who longs to join her brother in New York—in harm's way. Vivid, atmospheric prose ("The grit [was] so dense it could

knock a squirrel out of a tree, the dust so high the sun was a pink wafer") enhances Burke's wrenching portrayal of Betsy's hope for a better life. This is another winner from a crime writer at the top of his game.

Cahoon, Lynn. [An Amateur Sleuth's Guide to Murder](#) (Kensington \$27). Meg Gates could use a guidebook for life. Indeed, she's faced some challenges. She dropped out of college to work for a tech startup that failed—and her fiancé just took her bridesmaid to Italy on what was supposed to be her own honeymoon. Now, at twenty-six, Meg has taken the ferry ride of shame from Seattle back to Bainbridge Island to live with her family. At least she has her rescue cocker spaniel, Watson, by her side. But it's Meg who could use a rescue—and she's hoping it will come in the form of a part-time gig doing research for a bestselling mystery writer. That's when the light bulb goes on: Meg will write her own guidebook—a manual on criminal investigation. But before she can impress her new boss with her pet project, the author's manager is found dead on the rocks beneath the author's Gothic mansion. And now.... This is the first hardcover for an author John enjoys.

Castle, Jayne. [It Takes a Psychic](#) (Berkley \$30). This book can be considered a continuation (but can be read as a stand-alone) of [People in Glass Houses](#) (\$9.99 or \$29). Leona Griffin is at the height of her career as a para-archeologist thanks to a recent Underworld discovery. Her high profile attracts the attention of an organization of elite, secretive collectors. They want her to authenticate the artifacts that aspiring members submit as evidence to join their group. The ceremony takes place at a glittering reception where Leona is shocked to discover that one of the relics is a powerful Old-World object known as Pandora's Box. But she's not the only one interested in that artifact. Oliver Rancourt, a man with a unique talent—they say you never see him coming—is also there. Leona knows she must not underestimate him. Attempting to make a discreet exit, she stumbles over the body of a waiter wearing the emblem of a dangerous cult. Before she can alert authorities, a police raid sends the reception into chaos. To avoid being arrested, Leona slips away with Oliver—a risky decision that gets her fired. Now forced to work together, Leona and Oliver pursue an investigation that leads them to the town of Lost Creek where the locals are obsessed with a chilling legend

Clark, Julie. [The Ghostwriter](#) (Sourcebooks \$27.99) "effortlessly delivers on her clever, metatextual premise in this devilish thriller. Olivia Dumont had a successful career ghostwriting celebrity memoirs until her public rebuke of John Calder, a bestselling but misogynistic author, tarnished her reputation in the industry. Desperate for money, Dumont accepts a lucrative assignment to ghostwrite a book by horror superstar Vincent Taylor, despite her utter lack of experience writing fiction. The other problem? Taylor is Olivia's estranged father. Fifty years ago, he became the prime suspect in the 1975 double murder of his siblings, Danny and Poppy, in their Ojai, Calif., home. Though rumors about the killings persist, they remain unsolved, and Taylor still lives in Ojai, where he's been churning out bestsellers for decades. In recent years, his cognitive abilities have declined, but Olivia remains wary of him—especially when she realizes his new book is a supposed tell-all about the murders. Clark keeps readers guessing about Taylor's motives and guilt, all while playing scrupulously fair with the reader. It adds up to

a deeply satisfying shocker in the vein of Riley Sager..."—*PW* Starred Review

Read an [interview with Clark](#) and a [review of this gem](#)

Clayton, Meg Waite. [Typewriter Beach](#) (Harper \$30). Out July 1 to make our **July Notable New Fiction Subscription Club Pick**, this gem set in Carmel-by-the-Sea and Hollywood tells the story of the unlikely friendship between an Oscar-nominated screenwriter and a young actress hoping to be Alfred Hitchcock's new star. 1957. Isabella Giori is ten months into a standard seven-year studio contract when she auditions with Hitchcock. Just weeks later, she is sequestered by the studio's "fixer" in a tiny Carmel cottage, waiting and dreading. Meanwhile, next door, Léon Chazan is annoyed as hell when Iz interrupts his work on yet another screenplay he won't be able to sell, because he's been blacklisted. Soon, they're together in his roadster, speeding down the fog-shrouded Big Sur coast. 2018. Twenty-six-year-old screenwriter Gemma Chazan, in Carmel to sell her grandfather's cottage, finds a hidden safe full of secrets—raising questions about who the screenwriter known simply as Chazan really was, and whether she can live up to his name.

Our June 26 virtual conversation gives you a chance to hear Laura Dave, the author of [The Last Thing He Told Me](#) (\$17.99) and [The Night We Lost Him](#) (\$28.99), Meg's conversation partner, as well.

Dodd, Christina. [Thus With a Kiss I Die](#) (Kensington \$28) is book two in Dodd's sparkling mysteries featuring Romeo and Juliet's irreverent eldest daughter, Rosie. No, the lovers did not die. And now Rosie, thwarted in her love for Lysander, is unwed at twenty. Trapped. "Then!" she says, "I'm presented with a solution. Escalon's father, Prince Escalus the Elder, appears to me. He tasks that I find his killer. Did I mention Elder is a ghost? Given that I only recently dispatched Verona's first serial killer, I'm less than pleased. Yet Elder promises to unite me with my One True Love, so I gather clues. Meanwhile, revolution threatens, for beneath Verona society's glittering surface lurk dark shadows—and an enemy eager to make me a tragic heroine in my own right...."

Dukess, Karen. [Welcome to Murder Week](#) (Gallery Books \$28.99). An unexpected ticket for a "murder week" in England's Peak District upends the quiet routine of optician Cath who's leading a humdrum predictable life in Buffalo. Out of the blue, Cath's estranged mother, a chronic "bolter," has died, leaving nothing but a pair of tickets she had purchased to a weeklong British murder mystery party in a rural village. Unable to secure a refund in what is a Willowthrop fundraiser, Cath decides to go. Her shared accommodation in a Willowthrop cottage teams her up with Wyatt Green, who's at a crossroads in his marriage, and Amity Clark, a divorced romance writer struggling with writer's block, to try and win the contest. In the process, she unearths previously unknown details about her mother's past, and falls for sexy bartender Dev Sharma, who's staffing the party. This our **First Mystery Subscription Club Pick** for June is not so much about the village's scripted murder mystery as it is an enjoyable sojourn through the Derbyshire countryside with (mostly) booklovers who enjoy discussing their favorites while parsing clues—delightful for you, too. And more crucially, while the details (and humor) of Willowthrop's murder plot will doubtless appeal to fans of Agatha Christie and *Midsomer Murders*, the novel's depth goes far beyond a whimsical murder-solving romp. It's a perfect way to start your summer reading.

Evans, Mary Anna. [The Dark Library](#) (Poisoned Pen \$32) is a Gothic with the requisite big house, dysfunctional family, and hidden secrets that plunges us into a deceptively peaceful Hudson Valley village in the midst of wartime. 1942. Estella "E." Ecker, 31, has reluctantly returned to her childhood home of Rockfall House, a Victorian mansion near the college town of Benthamon-Hudson, after the disappearance of her mother and the sudden death of her father. Given her father's position as dean of Bentham College, E. has no trouble landing a job in the English department, though it barely pays her enough to keep up her crumbling ancestral home. As E. nurses hopes that her mother is alive and preparing to return home (despite the police's suspicion that she died by suicide), the new dean of Bentham College falls to his death from his office window, and the body of a long-dead young woman is found near Rockfall House. Suspecting that all of these developments might be connected, E. searches for clues in her father's rare book library while pursuing a romance with one of her colleagues. Evans has always enjoyed mechanical systems and coding and gives rein to both interests here.

* Freeman, Dianne. [A Daughter's Guide to Mothers and Murder](#) (Kensington \$27) is 8th in the "Countess of Harleigh" series and finds Frances and George vacationing in Paris in 1900. Frances really doesn't want to help her former rival Alicia Stoke-Whitney but reluctantly agrees to use her society contacts to investigate Carlson Deaver and determine whether he's a suitable match for Alicia's daughter. He isn't. In fact, it's looking like Deaver may have murdered his first wife, Isabelle, and he is definitely a womanizing scoundrel. The action heats up when famed actress Sarah Bernhardt receives a blackmail letter in an envelope containing one of Isabelle's earrings. Could Bernhardt somehow be involved in Deaver's case? Meanwhile, Frances discovers that she is terrible at golf, which has nothing to do with the murder investigation. This rather predictable mystery is notable mostly for the glamorous Parisian setting and the aforementioned appearance of Bernhardt.

Hart, Rob. [The Medusa Protocol](#) (Putnam \$30). Hart triumphs with this deliriously enjoyable sequel to [Assassins Anonymous](#) (\$19), a truly killer thriller we loved when it published last year. Mark, once a legendary killer known as the Pale Horse, has assumed leadership of a serial killer recovery group that meets in a Manhattan church. Among the regular attendees is Astrid—the real identity of a notorious master assassin known as Azrael—who's been conspicuously absent from recent meetings. Unlike Mark, readers know that Astrid has been snatched from the streets of New York City and is being held hostage on an island by unknown captors. After Mark gets a clue (in the form of a pizza whose toppings may contain a secret message) that Astrid is still alive, the group springs into action, though Mark struggles to balance finding his friend with his vow to abstain from violence. Hart toggles between Astrid's perspective, sections that flesh out her history in contract killing, and Mark's increasingly harried efforts to track her down. All the while, he keeps the tone sharp and the intensity high. Fans of Jeff Lindsay and Jeffery Deaver will delight in this series' effortless mix of wit and brutality.

* Jewell, Lisa. [Don't Let Him In](#) (Atria \$29.99). Nick Radcliffe is a man of substance and good taste. He has a smile that could melt the coldest heart and a knack for putting others at ease. He's just what Nina Swann needed in her life after her husband's unexpected death. But to Nina's adult daughter, Ash, Nick seems

too slick, too polished, too good to be true. Nick tries to dial up the charm in hopes that, by swindling Nina, he can secure a fortune for the one woman he truly loves: his current wife, Martha. Ash, however, is prepared to bring Nick's long con toppling down—even if it means finding his old victims herself. Without telling her mother, Ash begins digging into Nick's past. What she finds is more than unsettling...

Karp, Marshall. [Don't Tell Me How to Die](#) (Blackstone \$28.99). This complex story has some of the most arresting voices I've come across. I read mostly for voice, not plot. The lead voice is captivating but the character, a survivor of trauma, has a deep but crucial flaw. Your reaction may depend on how you accept it. This our **June Crime Subscription Book of the Month**. Here is one of its rave reviews:

"Maggie Dunn, lawyer and 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, brilliant physician Alex, and mother to her two children, before she's gone, realtor Minna Schultz dies under suspicious circumstances during a powerful rainstorm, spiking Maggie's anxiety. In fabulous 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 years of deep-seated secrets. 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."

Kelly, Martha Hall. [The Martha's Vineyard Beach and Book Club](#) (Random House \$30). After Mari Starwood's mother dies of an aneurysm in 2016 Los Angeles, she finds the name and address of famous painter Elizabeth Devereaux among her mother's belongings. Wondering what her mother's connection was to the painter, Mari travels across the country to meet the elderly woman on Martha's Vineyard. There, Elizabeth tells Mari the story of two sisters on the island during WWII—19-year-old aspiring writer Cadence Smith and her 16-year-old sister, Briar, who is obsessed with looking for German U-boats off the New England coast. When Briar spots German U-boats lurking off the island's shores, and Cadence falls into an unlikely romance with a sworn enemy, their quiet lives are officially upended. In an attempt at normalcy, Cadence and her best friend, Bess, start a book club, which grows both in members and influence as they connect with a fabulous New York publisher who could make all of Cadence's dreams come true. But all that is put at risk by a mysterious man who washes ashore—and whispers of a spy in their midst. What could be better for our **June Notable New Fiction Subscription Book of the Month**?

* Khavari, Kate. [A Botanist's Guide to Rituals and Revenge](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99). Saffron Everleigh returns to Ellington, the family estate, when her grandfather has a heart attack. Bill Wyatt, a dangerous man from her past, is there, posing as her grandfather's doctor. Claiming she owes him for burning notes to a deadly poison and ruining a lucrative sale, Bill orders Saffron to locate information on her late father's project which may interest a new buyer. He gives her less than a week, or her family will pay the price. With help from her beau Alexander and best

friend, Elizabeth, Saffron chases down clues only to repeatedly run into dead ends. The situation grows more complicated when a medium arrives and begins holding séances to communicate with loved ones lost in the Great War, including Saffron's childhood sweetheart. Is Madame Martin in league with Bill? When she discovers secrets about her family during her search for information to appease Bill, Saffron wonders if this is a fight she can win. This 1920s series is welcome for fans of Deanna Raybourn's Victorian mysteries.

* King, Laurie R. [Knave of Diamonds](#): (Random House \$30). Russell's black sheep Uncle Jake is back, and with a load of problems for his clever niece. Not the least of which is the reason the family rejected him in the first place: He was involved—somehow—in the infamous disappearance of the Irish Crown Jewels from an impregnable safe in Dublin Castle. It was a theft that shook a government, enraged a king, threatened the English establishment—and baffled not only the Dublin police and Scotland Yard, but Sherlock Holmes himself. And, now, Jake expects Russell to step into the middle of it all? To slip away with him, not telling Holmes what she's up to? Knowing that the theft—unsolved, hushed-up, scandalous—must have involved Mycroft Holmes as well? Will she?

Landau, A J. [Cold Burn](#) (St Martins \$28). A knockout National Parks Mystery set in Glacier Bay, Alaska, Signed for us by both authors (Jeff Ayers & Jon Land) to make our **July Crime Club Subscription Book of the Month**. Club members get free shipping. Otherwise available in mid to late June and a must for readers of James Rollins, Clive Cussler, and Nevada Barr.

National Park Services investigator Michael Walker is working undercover on a cruise ship off Alaska's coast, surveilling a pair of thieves responsible for stealing precious artifacts from the Tlingit tribe. He is prepared to apprehend them when an assassin strikes, killing the husband-and-wife thieves and fleeing. Walker guns down the shooter and recovers the Tlingit artifacts. Before fully recovering, he is called to investigate the disappearance of a USGS team in Glacier Bay. FBI investigator Gina Delgado, meanwhile, is in the Everglades, looking into the murder of an intern working on an environmental project at the behest of the president's chief of staff. Soon, Delgado learns that the intern's killing is connected to the deaths of a cutting-edge Navy submarine's entire crew and an alarming shift in the pattern of vital ocean currents. For backup, she calls Walker, and eventually, both of their inquiries point to tech mogul Axel Cole who is planning the first manned mission to Mars. His hopes depend on a new fuel source called Prometheus.... "Suspense builds throughout the book, and the payoff far exceeds expectations." I'll say. I add that historical and geographical footnotes at the beginning of each chapter are illuminating and rewarding.

Lavelle, Daria. [Aftertaste](#) (Simon & Schuster \$28.99). This debut is getting raves – "Combining the grit of the restaurant world with the magic of the afterlife, Daria Lavelle perfectly blends unexpected ingredients into a book you'll want to savor." We have scored signed copies. Until I get a moment to read it I can't say more but it may well be our August Notable New Fiction Subscription Club Pick.

Meanwhile *PW* writes: "Lavelle riffs on hungry ghost mythology in her delectable debut. As a child, Kostya Duhovny maintains emotional ties to his family's Ukrainian homeland

through the food and stories shared by his father. After his father dies unexpectedly, 11-year-old Kostya feels adrift, receiving little comfort from his depressed mother. When his tongue registers the phantom flavors of *pechonka*, a chicken liver dish that was a favorite of his father's, Kostya at first chalks it up to a fluke of memory. As an adult, he realizes his gift (called clairgustance) allows him to conjure up the favorite foods of the recently deceased and even to bring their ghosts back to share a posthumous meal with a grieving loved one. Determined to visit with his own dearly departed, Kostya begins dabbling in the afterlife—and the equally harrowing New York City restaurant scene—with dangerous repercussions.” Anthony Bourdain fans should find this irresistible.

* Lewis, David. [A Beacon in the Night](#) (Kensington \$27) . New Year's Eve 1940 during the London Blitz. Caitrin Collin, a former Welsh policewoman first met in the wonderful [A Jewel in the Crown](#) (\$17.95), meets her friend Florence Simmonds at the Blind Stag pub, managed by Caitrin's flirtatious but thuggish friend Teddy Baer. Unbeknownst to her friends, Caitrin is an operative for 512, an all-female counterespionage group led by war widow Bethany Goodman. As Churchill threatens to shut 512 down due to budgetary constraints, German bombers target British cathedrals, hospitals, and aristocratic houses with uncanny accuracy. Caitrin has learned that Florence and Teddy may be involved in the placement of homing devices that lead the Nazi bombers to their targets, and she infiltrates Teddy's inner circle to thwart the scheme. While some of Caitrin's motives are strained—notably, her fierce determination to recover her mother's ring from petty thieves rather than fight the Nazis who killed her fiancé—the action moves at a swift pace, the dialogue is sharp, and the well-placed historical details evoke the harrowing realities of English life during WWII. With a fierce heroine and nail-biting plot, this will delight fans of Jacqueline Winspear and Susan Elia MacNeal. It certainly does me.

Lippman, Laura. [Murder Takes a Vacation](#) (Harper \$30) is, surprise!, a cozy—our **June Cozy Crimes Pick**—that is as much a study of a woman discovering herself at midlife as it is a story of possible murder, stolen art, and people being not what—or who—they seem to be. And as reviewer Oline Cogdill adds, It is “an homage to the joys of travel, of discovering new passions, of never giving up — with a bit of a nod to *The Maltese Falcon*. It also is a valentine to aging well, to older women who often feel invisible, and a plea to not fade away.”

Muriel Blossom, a Baltimore widow—and former assistant to PI Tess Monaghan, star of another Lippman series—who finds an \$8 million lottery ticket abandoned in a parking lot. In the decade since Muriel's husband died, she's carved out a pleasant but bland existence with her daughter's family. After she hits the jackpot, she makes arrangements for a cruise in France with her best friend, Elinor. On the flight over, Muriel meets the charming Allan, who takes her to dinner after they land in Paris. When Allan suspiciously dies the next day, the police question Muriel, since she was in one of the most recent photos on Allan's phone. Enter American stranger Danny Johnson, who ingratiates himself with Muriel and warns her she might be in danger. After her and Elinor's ship leaves port, Muriel's stateroom is ransacked, a man attempts to mug her, and she learns Danny is lying about his identity. Lippman fans will be delighted by the appearance of Tess, who enlivens the plot after Muriel calls her for advice.

Lumley, Sam. [How to Have a Killer Time in DC](#) (Kensington \$27). For 24-year-old Oliver Popp, autism is just another fact of life. As long as Oliver sticks to a comfortable itinerary planned well in advance, he gets by just fine as a staff writer for Offbeat Traveler magazine. But a curveball drops into Oliver's budding career when his first feature assignment takes him to Washington, DC, to chronicle the latest tourism trends. His freelance project photographer is Ricky Warner, a gregarious and impulsively adorable shot of adrenaline. If the flirty gay photographer isn't enough to unbalance shy Oliver at the get-go, there's also an unsettling chance encounter with old acquaintance, Elise Perkins, and a congressional hearing that's shaking up both the capitol and an entrepreneurial billionaire. The unexpected distractions soon collide—quite literally—when Elise is struck dead by a speeding car. Funny how she didn't move and didn't scream. She just stared it down like she knew it was coming. Forget the National Mall and Mt. Vernon Square. Oliver and Ricky are game for something much more interesting: solving a mystery and a murder.

Murphy, Dwyer. [The House on Buzzards Bay](#) (Penguin \$30). For his second novel after [The Stolen Coast](#) (\$18), *CrimeReads* editor-in-chief Murphy charts the complex relationships between a group of longtime friends in this masterful psychological thriller. After attorney Jim inherited his family's beach house in southeastern Massachusetts, he made it a summer retreat for his four closest college friends and nicknamed it the Nanumett Sand and Swim Club. In recent years, the group has drifted apart, but Jim and his new wife, Valentina, have decided to reunite the crew, who are all at new phases of their lives: Bruce is a bestselling novelist; Rami a diplomat; Maya an art teacher; and her partner, Shannon, an expectant mother. Though the reunion begins well, things take a turn when Bruce chides Jim for bad parenting, causing the pair to get into a physical confrontation. The next day, Bruce disappears. Ties between the group unravel further when a woman named Camille arrives, claiming Bruce invited her. Eventually, somebody winds up dead. Murphy takes time to flesh out each of his main characters before executing a series of dizzying rug pulls. It's a devilish twist on the traditional locked-room mystery.

Oates, Joyce Carol. [Fox: A Novel](#) (Random House \$32) is “a hypnotic journey through the mind of a madman that you'll want to share with everyone you know.” Who is Francis Fox? A charming English teacher new to the idyllic Langhorne Academy, Fox beguiles many of his students, their parents, and his colleagues at the elite boarding school, while leaving others wondering where he came from and why his biography is so enigmatic. When two brothers discover Fox's car half-submerged in a pond in a local nature preserve and parts of an unidentified body strewn about the nearby woods, the entire community, including Detective Horace Zwender and his deputy, begins to ask disturbing questions about Francis Fox and who he might really be.

Preston, Douglas/Lincoln Child. [Badlands](#) (Grand Central \$30). Signed here by Preston on June 3, signed at home first by Child. Our copies come with an exclusive set of trading cards as usual.

Why would two women, years apart, disrobe and lay down to die under the scorching sun in the same New Mexican desert? That's the question Preston and Child pose for forensic anthropologist Nora Kelly and FBI Agent Corrie Swanson, both

stationed in Santa Fe, in the crackling sequel to [Dead Mountain](#) (\$18.99). I was riveted to the pages and you will be too.

After the skeletal remains of high school science teacher Molly Vine are spotted by a drone, Corrie Swanson is assigned to investigate. She finds that Vine apparently died five years earlier, after venturing into an area that the Navajo believed to be the home of skinwalkers. A spear point found under Vine's bones leads her to consult Kelly. The FBI canvasses the area and discovers the older remains of geological consultant Mandy Driver, leading Swanson and Kelly to theorize that the deaths might be connected to the Gallinas, an Indigenous tribe who were wiped out in the 13th century. The tribe, thought to have moved north from Mexico into the hoodoos and wild canyons of northern NM where fracking is ongoing under protest, disappeared centuries ago.

"Preston and Child once again use real history as the starting point for their hair-raising plot, which makes a series of tantalizing turns before culminating in an encounter with the supernatural. This is on a par with the best of the authors' Pendergast series." I wonder if Doug will need to make an apology to the University of NM faculty after publication....

Update on Doug's thriller *Extinction*. The sequel is set for spring of 2026 and follows CBI agent Frankie Cash and Eagle County, Colo., sheriff Jim Colcord from *Extinction* on "their most enigmatic and dangerous case yet, which begins in Rome with the inexplicable defacement of an ancient holy relic before taking readers to the scene of a ritualistic murder in the Colorado wilderness."

Pochoda, Ivy. [Ecstasy](#) (Putnam \$28) sweeps you to the island of Naxos in a "defiantly feminist reimagining of Euripides' *The Bacchae*. Broke babes Lena and Hedy were partying their way around the world when Lena met ruthless hotel developer Stavros. Seduced by his wealth, Lena "stumbled into a hasty marriage" that produced "asshole" son Drew and trapped her in a suffocating life of cloistered luxury. Lena assumes she's finally free when, 35 years later, Stavros dies on the dunes near Agape Villas, his under-construction resort on Naxos, Greece, but Drew takes over as CEO and family despot. Hedy has remained a firecracker, so a fun-starved Lena brings her along to the soft launch of Agape Villas and into an encampment on the beach. Disgusted and irate, Drew vows to evict the "feral" group, but unbeknownst to him, something ancient is at play.

Reid, Taylor Jenkins. [Atmosphere: A Love Story](#) (Random House \$30). In 1984, a botched satellite deployment by the Navigator space shuttle kills several members of the crew. As the disaster unfolds, capsule communicator Joan Goodwin desperately tries to advise surviving engineer Vanessa Ford from Houston's Johnson Space Center. The narrative then rewinds seven years, to when Joan, a "Goody Two-shoes" astronomer at Rice University, feels a "pull deep down in the layers of her skin" upon learning that NASA is recruiting women for its astronaut corps. While training as a mission specialist, she meets tall, curly-haired Vanessa, an aeronautical engineer who longs to pilot the space shuttle. The two women are drawn to each other and begin a romance, which they keep secret due to NASA's prohibition against "sexual deviation." Their reticence makes the ill-fated 1984 flight even more poignant as Reid keeps the reader in suspense about what happens to Vanessa. Along the way, Reid makes palpable the astronauts' passion for their work and captures in vibrant detail the era's high-stakes and fast-paced shuttle program.

Sager, Riley. [With a Vengeance](#) (Dutton \$30). Here's "A clever and fun mashup of Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* and *Murder on the Orient Express*" that makes our **June Historical Fiction Pick**. I can't resist as Rob and I are booked on the Orient Express from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur next February. We can only hope for an uneventful trip.

Anna Matheson was 16 when one of her railroad tycoon father's trains, which was transporting WWII troops, exploded and killed 37 people, including her brother, Tommy. A dozen years later, in 1954, Anna, the sole surviving member of her family, has managed to lure the six individuals she blames for the tragedy onto an overnight train ride from Philadelphia to Chicago. She hopes that by confronting the dirty half-dozen with smoking guns she's discovered during her investigation, she can elicit confessions before turning them over to the FBI at their destination. A few hours into the 13-hour-trip, just after Anna reveals herself and her agenda, one of her suspects keels over. Blindsided, Anna realizes she has effectively trapped herself with desperate people who want her dead—at least one of whom is ready to do the job. From there, Sager swiftly ratchets up the suspense through a Survivor-worthy series of alliances and betrayals as the body count mounts.

Note: luxury trains are making a serious comeback despite this!

Schwab, V E. [Bury Our Bones in the Midnight Soil](#) (Tor/Forge \$29.99). Spanning centuries and continents, this epic fantasy traces the lives of three female vampires, each from a different era, slowly revealing the ways in which their stories are violently and sensually connected. It's Schwab's most ambitious—and most explicitly queer—novel yet wherein three lesbian vampires stay connected through 16th-century Spain, 1827 London and contemporary Boston (Harvard! maybe it needs vampires)—Schwab's latest novel follows three queer women seeking love and autonomy as they become vampires and, in their new condition, grapple with loss, jealousy, forbidden relationships and the loneliness of immortality. "Schwab crafts intricate backstories for her leads, beautifully balancing the humanity and monstrosity of all three women while chronicling their transformations over time as they learn what it means to live forever."

Smith, Martin Cruz. [Hotel Ukraine, The Last Arkady Renko Novel](#) (Simon & Schuster \$27.99). Publishes July 8 but I mention it here as preordering is essential as our supply is limited. We have loved Martin (aka Bill) and his work for decades and are so grateful he has agreed, despite his Parkinson's disease, the same disease that Arkady lives with, to sign Arkady's last case for us.

Thor, Brad. [Edge of Honor](#) (Atria \$29.99). After six months abroad, Scot Harvath returns to a new administration, a new set of global priorities, and a power struggle so shadowy and heinous our spy must risk all to survive. Honestly, this is all I know right now. If you're planning on attending the June 30 event, order tickets rather than the book.

Walker, Martin. [An Enemy in the Village](#) (Knopf \$28). Out July 1, Signed here on July 8 6:30 PM.

When Bruno, Chief of Police of St. Denis, stumbles upon a motionless figure in a car parked at a scenic overpass on the ridge of the Vézère valley, he's ready to investigate. Inside, he finds a suicide note and the dead body of Monique, a successful businesswoman who rented châteaux to wealthy expats. It seems like an open-and-shut case but Bruno suspects something more sinister in her death. And he's right....

Walter, Jess. [So Far Gone](#) (Harper \$30). Rhys Kinnick, a journalist and a recluse, is living off the grid in the woods near Spokane, Washington, when his grandchildren are kidnapped by thugs. With the help of an unlikely crew, Rhys springs into action to locate them, even if it means leading his squad straight into a firefight. “Rhys gets help from a variety of partners: Lucy, an old flame from the newspaper; Chuck, who’s her old flame; and a Native American friend named Brian. Two out of three of these are packing heat, and several showdowns ensue, plus a high-spirited visit to a drug-positive festival in the Canadian woods. The characters are created with loving care, the plot with reckless glee; Walter seems as fed up with various aspects of modern life as the smartphone-hating Rhys, and gives his version of the modern Northwest a distinctly Old West vibrational overlay.”

* Weaver, Ashley. [One Final Turn](#) (St Martins \$28). Electra McDonnell, born into a family of safecrackers, was recruited by posh Major Ramsey to help retrieve documents crucial to the war effort, and together they’ve embarked on a series of dangerous missions. Raised by her Uncle Mick after her mother died while in prison for murdering her father, Ellie feels that Mick’s sons, Toby and Colm, are her true brothers. Toby hasn’t been seen since the Battle of Dunkirk, but he turns out to have escaped from a prisoner-of-war camp and is believed to be crossing the Pyrenees. British intelligence wants to find him, learn more about his escape route, and help other fugitives while also learning from them what they learned in France. The operation is led by Captain Archie Blandings with Major Ramsey’s support, even though Ramsey dismissed Ellie after their last mission. Ellie meanwhile is keeping secret her search for evidence to clear her mother. It all comes together as this excellent series ends.

SOME JUNE CLASSICS REISSUES

Abbey, Edward. [The Monkey Wrench Gang \[50th Anniversary Edition\]](#) (Harper \$18.99)

Ayukawa, Tetsuya. [The Black Swan Mystery](#) (Pushkin/Vertigo \$18.95). Riley Sager’s new book is a railway historical mystery. Here we have a Japanese classic also in the vein of Agatha Christie. Early one morning, the owner of a local mill is found lying next to the railway tracks just outside of Kuki Station. Suspicion initially falls on the workers’ union, with whom the man had been embroiled in a labor dispute, then on a new religious sect that has been gaining followers recently. Chief Inspector Onitsura and his assistant Tanna are called in to investigate, and soon set off in a journey across Japan, from Tokyo to Kyoto and Osaka, and finally to the island of Kyūshū, in a hunt for the killer—who keeps striking again and again. Having journeyed from Osaka to Kyoto and to the islands of Shikoku and Kyūshū, this was a special treat to read.

* Brand, Christianna. [London Particular](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.99). A British Library Crime Classic originally published in 1952 by the Golden Age author Robert Barnard most admired. She’s having a new Moment thanks to the BLCCs and the series editor Martin Edwards who writes an Introduction. What is a “London Particular?” It was the pea soup, dangerous fog that once enveloped the city boosted by burning coal as well as wood. In Maida Vale, Rose and her family doctor Tedward struggle through the dark after a man has telephoned from Rose’s house, claiming to have been attacked. By the time they arrive, the victim, Raoul Vernet, is dead. The news he brought from Switzerland for Rose’s

mother has died with him. Arriving to the scene, Inspector Cockrill faces a fiendish case with seven suspects who could have murdered their guest—family members and friends with alibis muddled by the suffocating fog and motives wrapped in mystery.

* Christie, Agatha. [Hallowe’en Party: A Hercule Poirot Mystery](#) (Harper \$18.99) that inspired the, IMHO, terrible movie *A Haunting in Venice* powered by Kenneth Branagh as Poirot. Read the book instead.

Gardner, Erle Stanley. [The DA Calls It Murder](#) (American Mystery Classics \$15.95). From 1937, and reissued again after 30 years, not a Perry Mason but one of DA Doug Selby’s cases. In a small town north of Los Angeles, Doug Selby claims narrow victory in a hotly-contested race for District Attorney. Then his troubles begin: First, when the local paper, supportive of the incumbent, immediately launches an effort to get Selby recalled. And then there’s the murdered man that turns up in the very hotel that housed Selby’s campaign headquarters. If he can quickly solve the case, Selby will prove that he deserves his new position; if not, he risks providing more fodder to his enemies at *The Blade*. Selby’s investigation includes a famous actress, a stolen identity, and plenty of red herrings as Selby, the sheriff, and a sympathetic journalist endeavor to determine whodunit.

Post, Melville Davisson. [Uncle Abner](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.99). A Library of Congress Crime Classic. First published in 1918, this collection of tales of Abner’s investigations, told by his nephew and chronicled by the prolific Melville Davisson Post, was then hailed as the most important volume of American crime fiction since the work of Edgar Allan Poe. “The titular Uncle Abner is a man with extraordinary powers of observation, a close reader of the Bible, and a towering code of morality, and he does not shy from taking matters into his own hands when the law is too slow or too blind to dispense justice. A landowner in nineteenth-century West Virginia, Abner is a fountainhead of God’s wisdom and justice for the territory. Post’s stories and novels were highly popular, appearing in national magazines and book form. Though the stories are little read today, there is nothing old-fashioned about the terrible crimes committed in the backwoods.”

Simenon, Georges. [The Carter of “La Providence”](#); [Night at the Crossroads](#); [The Yellow Dog](#) (Picador \$16). Three Inspector Maigret investigations, Numbers 4, 5, 6, reissued by Picador. These French classics have proved timeless.

OUR JUNE PAPERBACK PICKS

Note: small paperbacks are largely extinct so we will incorporate new releases in that format and price into monthly Paperback sections.

Belle, Kimberly. [The Expat Affair](#) (\$18.99)

Cavanagh, Steve. [Fifty Fifty](#) (\$18.99)

Dave, Laura. [The Night We Lost Him](#) (\$18.99)

* Gray, Claudia. [The Rushworth Family Plot](#) (\$18)

* Hallett, Janice. [The Examiner](#) (\$19.99)

* Kinsey, T E. [The Beast of Littleton Woods](#) (\$16.99)

* Lloyd, Ellery. [The Final Act of Juliette Willoughby](#) (\$18.99)

Parker, T Jefferson. [Desperation Reef](#) (\$19.99)

Walker, Martin. [A Grave in the Woods](#) (\$18)

Wise, Henry. [Holy City](#) (Grove \$18)

COZIES, HARDCOVERS, MORE PAPERBACKS TO COME SOON