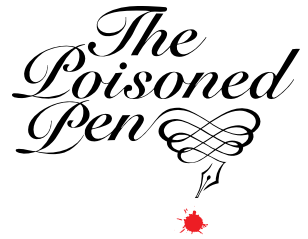


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MORE JULY AND LEANING IN TO AUGUST

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.

NEW: MONDAY JULY 21 1:00 PM Virtual Event

Britain's Tom Mead discusses [The House at Devil's Neck](#) (Penzler \$26.95).

Puzzle through a locked room mystery in a London townhouse twinned with an allegedly haunted house on a lonely island called Devil's Neck

Signed copies available

TUESDAY JULY 22 6:30 PM Live Event SOLD OUT

But you can still order a signed copy of Daniel Silva's [An Inside Job](#) (Harper \$32)

Or drop by around 8:00 PM to buy a copy and join the end of the signing line

There is no streaming for this event

WEDNESDAY JULY 23 6:30 Live Event Could Start close to 7:00

Lisa Scottoline discusses [The Unraveling of Julia](#) (Grand Central \$30)

Head for Florence where a new American widow has inherited a run-down Tuscan villa

Serving Italian Mocktails while they last.... And all our copies come with a Poisoned Pen Sticker

FRIDAY JULY 25 6:30 PM Live Event

Joe Pan discusses his debut [Florida Palms](#) (Simon & Schuster \$29.99)

A debut making our **Hardboiled Crime Pick for July**

A group of young men are dragged into drug-running along Florida's Space Coast and a turf war develops

[Read this full page review](#) in the NY Times

SATURDAY JULY 26 11:00 AM Live Event

The Cookbook Club discusses Cathy Whims' [The Italian Summer Kitchen](#) (Countryman Press \$28)

Bring a dish to share

MONDAY JULY 28 1:00 PM Virtual Event

Scotland's Denise Mina discusses [The Good Liar](#) (Little Brown (\$29)

[Signed UK edition](#) ((Harvill \$40) available in late August

Introducing blood spatter expert Doctor Claudia O'Sheil

TUESDAY JULY 29 6:30 PM Live Book Launch

Kyle Mills with host Don Bentley

Mills discusses [Fade In](#) (Authors Equity \$29.99)

Reintroducing ex-navy SEAL Salam al-Fayed-Fade to his friends
This is a book for the moment!

Our copies will come with an alternative ending bonus chapter written by Kyle that will also be Signed.

And we have two Advance Reading Copies of the September Vince Flynn by Don, who can sign them, to give away in a drawing for those who purchase *Fade In*.

WEDNESDAY JULY 30 6:30 PM Live Event

Knits and Kits with One Sharp Stitch

Bestitched Needlepoint Shop presents Allie Pleiter

Pleiter discusses [One Sharp Stitch](#) (Kensington \$27)

This is a fundraiser for Scottsdale's [Newborn Kitten Rescue](#).

Local needlepoint shop [BeStitched](#) has created an exclusive limited edition canvas that will be available in conjunction with the event. Feel free to bring your needlework to the signing—stitching is welcome! Allie will make a donation to Newborn Kittens Rescue for each book sold that evening

THURSDAY JULY 31 5:00 PM Virtual Event

Canadian Daniel Kalla discusses [The Deepest Fake](#) (\$18.99)

A terminally ill CEO questions everything in his life...and then....

THURSDAY JULY 31 7:00 PM Live Event

Hardboiled Crime discusses Dell Shannon's [Case Pending](#) (\$14.99)

A Library of Congress Crime Classic

MONDAY AUGUST 4 5:00 PM Virtual Book Launch

Rhys Bowen discusses [Mrs. Endicott's Splendid Adventure](#) (Lake Union \$28.99/\$16.99)

Three women of a certain age decamp from village life in Suffolk to that on the French Riviera

TUESDAY AUGUST 5 6:30 PM Live Event

Dan Fesperman discusses [Pariah](#) (Knopf \$30)

The CIA tries celebrity diplomacy to infiltrate a dictatorship in a satirical spy story you can read in several ways

[Read a review](#) in the *NY Times* with a lot to say

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 6 7:00 PM Offsite Live Event

An Outlander Evening with Diana Gabaldon

Diana discusses [The Outlander Oracle](#) (\$26 Signed Boxed set) as well as *Blood of My Blood* on Starz premiering August 8

Location: Scottsdale United Methodist Church, 4140 N Miller Road Scottsdale 85251

Doors Open 6:00 PM

Free to attend but you must buy one book by Diana at the event, or preordered to pick up, to join the signing line

THURSDAY AUGUST 7 6:30 PM Live Event

JT Ellison and Megan Miranda

Ellison discusses [Last Seen](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$28.99)

Fearless Virginia forensic scientist Halley James learns her mom didn't die in a car crash...and her dad has lied about. Do answers lie in a small town in Tennessee?

Miranda discusses [You Belong Here](#) (Simon & Schuster \$28.99)

Campus crime in the Blue Ridge mountains

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Robotham, Michael. [The White Crow](#)

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Cahoon, Lynn. [An Amateur Sleuth's Guide to Murder](#)

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

Landau, AJ. [Cold Burn, A National Parks Thriller](#)

First Mystery Club One Signed First Printing per month

Berry, Kristen L. [We Don't Talk About Carol](#)

Hardboiled/Noir Club One Signed First Printing per month

Pan, Joe. [Florida Palm](#)

Historical Fiction Club One First Printing per month

Stiefvater, Maggie. [The Listeners](#)

Historical Fiction Paperback Club One Unsigned paperback per month

Reay, Katherine. [The English Masterpiece](#)

Notable New Fiction Club One Signed First Printing per month

Claton, Meg Waite. [Typewriter Beach](#)

Romance and Relationships Club One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Michelle, Holly. [Last Night Was Fun](#)

SIGNED BOOKS REPEAT

Berry, Kristen L. [We Don't Talk About Carol](#) (Random House \$30). It's the richness of the characters that made this our July **First Mystery Pick** over the beautifully done, multiple-narrator debut set in a stunning mansion (think *Rebecca* and *Manderley*) [Party of Lies](#) (St Martins \$28 SIGNED) by Kelsey Cox that we recommend too.

Berry's debut is a story of family, fertility, and personal trauma brilliantly layered over a thrilling investigation into six unsolved disappearances. Ex-reporter Sydney Singleton, who is in the unsettling process of undergoing fertility treatments, discovers the existence of her Aunt Carol, who disappeared in the 1960s along with five more Black girls from her neighborhood, and becomes fixated on their disappearances. But as she investigates, she worries that her fixation is all too similar to her out-of-control obsession with a kidnapping case that led to an eight-day stay in the psychiatric department of a San Francisco hospital—events that ultimately caused her to leave journalism. Berry pulls these two intertwined narrative threads taut, making for a compulsive read. "So much more than your typical missing person story, *We Don't Talk About Carol* is a twisting mystery spanning six decades, as well as a stark reminder of the disproportionate treatment given to missing Black girls by the media. Berry has managed to weave such an elaborate web of thematic threads that when you take a step back to admire the full picture, it's a pretty wondrous thing to behold. A fantastic debut."—Stacy Willingham.

Berry, Steve. [The List](#) (Grand Central \$29). A standalone novel in the vein of John Grisham, even David Baldacci, draws upon Steve's years practicing law in St Mary's, Georgia, a company town. The paper mill was the largest employer and over time Steve represented both the workers and management. The terrifying plot for this thriller, first created in 1992, arises from those years. That mill is long gone.

After a ten-year self-imposed exile as a prosecutor in Atlanta, Brent Walker is returning home to Concord, a quaint town in central Georgia nestled close to the Savannah River. Two years ago, his father died, and now Brent, hired by Southern Republic Pulp and Paper Company as its assistant general counsel, is returning to care for his ailing mother. For decades, Southern Republic has invested heavily in Concord, creating a thriving community where its employees live, work, and retire. It all looks serene and thriving. But it isn't, thanks to the list....

Cameron, Marc. [Dead Line](#) (Kensington \$30). Marc will be coming to us from Alaska but for various reasons not until late September. Please advise if you want this Arliss Cutter story shipped to you unsigned on July 29 or you prefer to wait.

Ellison, J T. [Last Seen](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$28.99). Halley James knows her marriage is over. But she's not prepared for the rest of her life to fall apart too. She just lost her job at the forensics lab. Her dad needs emergency surgery. But the biggest blow comes back home in Marchburg, Virginia, where she discovers her mother didn't actually die in a car crash. Her mom was murdered—and her father lied about it all these years. Since she was six years old, it's been Halley and her

dad. Now, she doesn't know what to believe. Desperate for the truth, Halley chases down a lead in Brockville, Tennessee, a not so utopian town. "Darkly original and bursting with hold-your-breath suspense, *Last Seen* by J.T. Ellison is a haunting deep dive into a harrowing crime, buried memories, and one woman's obsession to discover the truth no matter the consequences."

I remind you that JT writes a marvelous series for Jayne Thorne, CIA Librarian, involving a bit of fantasy along with spying, under the name Joss Walker. We have the [Jayne Thorne Series](#) here for you.

Fesperman, Dan. [Pariah](#) (Knopf \$30). I think of Dan as an American John Le Carré although he has no series character. His 14th novel is something new for Dan and hits at an interesting political moment for it focuses on a CIA plan to infiltrate a hostile Eastern European country with a despotic president and increasingly corrupt government who is also a buffoon, if a brutal one. And a fan of the adolescent male humor that is the trademark of Hal Knight, a comedian and movie star and very briefly, a Congressman before a disastrous #MeToo moment led to his resignation. Fleeing to a tiny Caribbean island, Hal is drinking his life away when the ops team lands to recruit him. It turns out that President Horvatz is not only a fan but wishes to invite Hal for an official visit. With nothing to lose, and doing something worthwhile for a change beckoning, Hal accepts the role of guest of honor. It becomes a his ultimate acting challenge, thrusting him into a real-life battle of wits. Hal is no trademark spy hero and frankly I'm not sure whether this is spy story or satire. Join us August 5 at the bookstore to find out.

Jackson, Holly. [Not Quite Dead Yet](#) (Random House \$28). It's not every day that a victim gets to solve their own murder. The clock is ticking for Jet, but no matter the outcome of her investigation...she's a dead woman walking. "Jet Mason has seven days to solve her own murder after being attacked on Halloween. Throughout the week, she uncovers shocking hidden truths about her family and community. This propulsive adult debut from a YA powerhouse author lives up to the incredible hook. Feisty, snarky Jet is such a fun lead, and the ticking clock towards her death will keep readers flying through the pages."

* Mead, Tom. [The House at Devil's Neck](#) (Penzler \$26.95) creates a brilliant homage to John Dickson Carr and the Golden Age of mysteries with this intricately plotted impossible crime.. It's August, 1939, on the eve of World War II. An apparent suicide in a London townhouse uncannily mirrors a similar incident from twenty-five years ago, prompting Scotland Yard's George Flint to delve deep into the past in search of the solution to a long-forgotten mystery. Meanwhile, former magician Joseph Spector travels with a coach party through the rainy English countryside to visit an allegedly haunted house on a lonely island called Devil's Neck. The house, first built by a notorious alchemist and occultist, was later used as a field hospital in the First World War before falling into disrepair.

"When a storm blows in, flooding the causeway and stranding the party there, someone — or something — begins picking them off, one by one. At the same time, the Scotland Yard inspector George Flint establishes a connection between two suicides, 25 years apart, that leads him straight to Devil's Neck. Mead keeps so many tops spinning that the narrative can feel overwhelming. But after the date changes to September and

a new war begins, the locked room — who is kept in, who is shut out — takes on greater meaning."

Mills, Kyle. [Fade In](#) (Authors Equity \$29.99). Thriller fans, rejoice! Kyle Mills has brought back fan-favorite hero Fade—Salam al-Fayed, presumed dead twice!—just in time to tackle one of the deadliest crises our planet could face after he wakes up enfeebled in a prison infirmary. And a shadowy organization offers him a new identity and next-generation medical care, But who's in charge, who's he working for?

If you like your hero fearless, conflicted, and a bad-boy ex-Navy SEAL, dive in for the start of a new series. Mills doesn't hold back on what he sees as the state of the world where government is failing, oligarchs are parceling states out, people will accept tyranny to gain stability.... As I said to Kyle, it's like a return to the Tudor Court or a real life Game of Thrones, on a global scale. What place is there in it for Fade?

Note that our Signed copies come with an Alternate Ending chapter also signed for you by Kyle.

Mina, Denise. [The Good Liar](#) (Harvill \$40). A year ago, a father and his fiancée were brutally stabbed in their opulent townhouse, sparking the most high-profile murder investigation in recent history. Blood spatter expert Doctor Claudia O'Sheil's evidence put the killer behind bars – or so everyone believes. Since the trial, Claudia's learned a horrific truth: her evidence and her testimony were wrong. And someone she knows made sure of it. Now, as she takes the stage to give a career-defining speech before London's elite, Claudia faces a devastating choice. Protect her children and her livelihood with her continued complicity or blow the whole conspiracy apart and reveal the truth: not only is the real murderer still out there, they're in the audience. As Claudia steps toward the microphone, she revisits that fateful night. What really happened? And what speech will Claudia give? Unsigned US edition of [The Good Liar](#) (Little Brown (\$29).

Miranda, Megan. [You Belong Here](#) (Simon & Schuster \$28.99). Miranda has created a Town vs. Gown plot but for a small Virginia mountain college town, not Cambridge or Oxford Universities. Nevertheless the social, financial, and aspirational divides are sharp. Into this a daughter, Delilah, drags her mother Beckett by secretly applying to Wyatt College and receiving a full scholarship. It also drags Beckett back into her parents' home—they are both retired Wyatt professors—and into memories of a long ago disaster, a fire during her own senior year that left two men dead and her roommate on the run...vanished. Beckett had built a life as a working single mom, a ghostwriter for hire, after shutting down, and out, Delilah's father. Now secret college traditions, buried memories, blame, and Delilah's disappearance are cratering it. This is a story for readers of Stacy Willingham, Ashley Winstead...and JT Ellison who signs her own new book with Megan on August 7.

Moreno Garcia, Silvia. [The Bewitching](#) (Random House \$29) has fun with a time-hopping, witch-filled mystery about three women: Minerva, a scholar in the 1990s working on a dissertation about a cult-favorite horror author; Beatrice, the author herself, who a generation before attended the same university as Minerva and whose beloved novel may have been inspired by real events that occurred on campus; and Minerva's great-grandmother, Nana Alba, who has eerie witch stories of her own.

Pan, Joe. [Florida Palms](#) (Simon & Schuster \$29.99). Our **July Hardboiled Crime Subscription Book of the Month** “is the kind of debut novel that wears its regionalism proudly on its sleeve. Within the first three pages, its teenage protagonists, Eddy and Cueball, have shown us how to behead a catfish, use a paper clip to convert a Dr Pepper can into a hash pipe, and harvest sand fleas with PVC pipes to use as bait for Gulf Coast pompano. Our young heroes live lives of quiet intoxication in a brackish part of Central Florida during the Great Recession, and the author certainly seems to know the lay of the land.”—*NY Times*

Best friends Eddy, Cueball, and Jesse are fresh out of high school and wild at heart, staring at a lack of jobs along Florida’s Space Coast. With no options, they join a furniture-moving company run by Cueball’s father, a gruff ex-con biker who’s supposedly retired from the fast life. But when a mysterious old boss arrives in town, the payload is switched out, and the young men are coerced into shipping a new designer drug up the East Coast. What is advertised as a bastion of brotherhood and respect quickly spirals into back-alley deals, bloodshed, and an all-out turf war. Pan “offers up a crew of freewheeling philosophers on bikes, whose cynicism and violence—and the bizarre, hilarious screeds by which they justify themselves—are counter-balanced by the naive, heartbreaking humanity of the young men swept along in their wake. Pan’s love for Florida and its rougher, neglected corners is evident and intoxicating.” So maybe he’s darker than the late Tim Dorsey, but hey....

Pleiter, Allie. [One Sharp Stitch](#) (Kensington \$27). A cozy series start finds Shelby Phillips returning to excruciatingly harmless Gwen Lake after her graphic arts career—and the office romance blooming with it—get tossed like rejected design mockups. Her plan is as simple and fool-proof as a tent stitch: manage the family needlepoint shop Nina’s Nimble Needle during her parents’ RV vacation. It’s just a month. It’s not as if they’re retiring. But the month includes managing a trunk show featuring the work of Gina “Kat” Katsaros, a geeky type Shelby knew in high school, who now makes beautiful needlework designs and craft scissors. It didn’t include finding Gina dead with an expensive scissors in her chest.... Our event for Pleiter is a partnership with local needlework shop [BeStitched](#) so bring your own work and designs to show off. Or just come for the fun AND the fundraiser for our Scottsdale Newborn Kittens Rescue organization.

Rosenfelt, David. [Dogged Pursuit](#) (St Martins \$28). In the origin story for Paterson NJ lawyer Andy Carpenter’s career as defense attorney and crack crime solver, we meet him as he’s left the prosecutor’s office to start his own practice. Over a fruit stand (he does a deal for free peaches and apples, seasonally). His office neighbor Sam is an accountant but in fact a passionate and skillful hacker. And Andy’s wife Nicole has again moved out, uncertain where this new career trajectory will take him. So Andy fulfills a childhood wish by going to the shelter to adopt a dog. Where a Golden called Tara mesmerizes him. But Tara has befriended a little Beagle called Sunny and Andy can’t take them both because Sunny’s owner Ryan is in jail on a murder charge. So you see where this is going.... The dogs go home with Andy, Andy takes on Ryan’s defense, his ethics stretch to employing Sam’s skills, and new friend Police Captain Pete recommends a just retired cop called Laurie as Andy’s investigator. Laurie seems to know a freelancer called Marcus. And the game’s afoot.

Scottoline, Lisa. [The Unraveling of Julia](#) (Grand Central \$30). “The latest by Scottoline has it all: a shocking murder, a crumbling Tuscan villa, and a heroine forced to rise above her grief after a tragic loss. Scottoline deftly weaves a touch of astrology through this fast-paced thriller, and the result is a stunning novel that explores the lines between reality and dreams, sanity and madness,...”—Fiona Davis. OK, but remember, this is Scottoline, a lawyer with a love for Italy and its history, writing the story.

Silva, Daniel. [An Inside Job](#) (Harper \$32). The story, which begins in Venice where Gabriel Allon is restoring a magnificent painting and discovers the body of a woman floating in the water nearby, moves to Rome, more specifically the Vatican, for there may be a stupendous discovery at play, a lost masterpiece. Although Gabriel may be a retired spy he has not lost either his skills or his high level connections. And he crafts a nifty scam in pursuit of justice and the painting. Silva paints a masterly picture of the Vatican and the Curia as well as delving into the life of Leonardo. If you have not yet seen the movie *The Conclave*, I recommend it, it pairs with *An Inside Job* in various ways. And with the election of a new Pope, this novel is even more fascinating. Both the movie and this novel imagine a perhaps different path for a Pope to take.

Smith, Martin Cruz. [Hotel Ukraine: The Final Arkady Renko Novel](#) (Simon Schuster \$27.99). By now you may have heard that Martin died on July 11 from the long-term effect of Parkinson’s. He was a lovely man and terrific author and we have lost a good friend. He wanted to sign this his last book for us but by the time the shipment reached him it was too late. But we have the book.

The 11th and final installment in the Arkady Renko series that began with *Gorky Park* in 1981. The Russian homicide detective has lived under communism, witnessed its fall, and now lives during Vladimir Putin’s reign. As Russia launches its “special military operation” against Ukraine, Renko must investigate the brutal murder of the deputy minister of defense in Moscow’s Hotel Ukraine. Apparently, two people bashed his head in using two different types of weapons. Adding to the challenge, Renko suffers from Parkinson’s disease, making it increasingly difficult to function. He knows it will only get worse, though he insists he’s not an invalid. Meanwhile, he’s in love with Tatiana Petrovna, a Moscow-based correspondent for the *New York Times* who hates injustice and is “constitutionally incapable of seeing a bear without poking it.” She wants to report on Bucha, a Ukrainian city that suffered horrific destruction at the hands of the Russians. Renko’s investigation takes him there as well. Is the killing tied in with the invasion? Renko and Petrovna take extraordinary risks for the sake of finding the truth.. However it comes out, Arkady’s career is complete (he and the author both had Parkinson’s).

Here’s a coda from the *NY Times*: Arkady’s newest case — the murder of a deputy defense minister — is one that his superiors aren’t thrilled to see him try to solve. When one of them tries to thwart the investigation by forcing him out on sick leave, his son is apoplectic. “Don’t they realize that even with Parkinson’s you’re the best they’ve got?” he asks. Arkady knows “he could stay at home, do nothing, and surrender as his symptoms got worse,” but refuses to: “He was defined by who he was and what he could still do.”

* Smith, Sally. [A Case of Life and Limb](#) (Raven UK \$39). 1901. Gabriel Ward KC is hard at work on a thorny libel case involving London's most famous music hall star and its most notorious tabloid newspaper, but the Inner Temple remains as quiet and calm as ever. Quiet, that is, until the mummified hand arrives in the post... While the hand's recipient, Temple Treasurer Sir William Waring, is rightfully shaken, Gabriel is filled with curiosity. Who would want to send such a thing? And why? But as more parcels arrive—one with fatal consequences—Gabriel realizes that it is not Sir William who is the target, but the Temple itself. Someone is holding a grudge that has already led to at least one death. Now it's up to Gabriel, and Constable Wright of the City of London Police to uncover the killer. This is the sequel to the delightful [A Case of Mice and Murder](#) (Bloomsbury \$28.99), a 2024 British Crime Club Pick also set within the Temple, 1901, both written by a British lawyer with chambers in the Temple.

Williams, Beatriz. [Under the Stars](#) (Random House \$30). Out July 29 but signed here on September 11. Best to order to secure a first printing and we will hold your book to be signed then.

When a daughter, a world-class chef, and her famous mother, an actress, return to New England's Winthrop Island to confront their complicated past, they discover a secret trove of paintings that connect them to a mysterious woman who vanished on a luxury steamship two centuries earlier.

A FOCUS ON BRITISH IMPORTS

Some have British settings, some other....

* Blackwell, Amelia. [A Crime Through Time](#) (Pan UK \$28.99). I suppose that it's the 250th Jane Austen Anniversary that has prompted so many riffs on Jane, her family, and her characters. I think the Being Jane Austen series by Stephanie Barron is the best. Here we get a cozy time-traveling series blending an *Outlander* concept with *Pride and Prejudice*.

Pemberley, 1799. When Miss Georgiana Darcy attempts to escape an unwanted marriage proposal, she isn't expecting to end up *quite* so far from home. But after encountering a mysterious object in the nearby woods, she finds herself transported almost two hundred years into the future. Saltram, 1995. At a grand country house where a film crew are busy shooting the latest Jane Austen adaptation, a terrible crime has been committed. And Miss Darcy—newly arrived, impeccably dressed, and thoroughly confused—is the only witness. It soon becomes clear that, somehow, Georgiana was *meant* to solve this riddle. With the help of a distractingly handsome Irishman named Quinn and a border collie named Watson, she sets out to stop the killer. But wait! Trouble is brewing back at Pemberley....

* Cummins, Fiona. [Some of Us Are Liars](#) (\$19.99). To celebrate her sister Jen Miller's wedding, global superstar Winter Kellaway throws the party of the decade at her luxurious beachside estate. The decorations are flawless. The champagne is on ice. The guests have arrived. But one misstep will have heartbreaking consequences that rock the close-knit family to its core. With Jen's life now in pieces, how can she ever begin to forgive? Saul Anguish, a brilliant but tormented young detective, is called in to investigate and uncovers a shocking, long-buried secret.

* Dennison, Hannah. [A Fatal Feast at Honeychurch Hall](#) (\$17.99). When Eric Pugsley, who runs the unsightly scrap yard on the Honeychurch Hall estate, brings home his Turkish fiancée,

everyone is delighted—even if the marriage does seem to include her outrageously feisty mother. A Safari Supper at the Hall is held in their honor, but trouble begins when, somewhere between the first course and dessert, one of the villagers goes missing and is later found drowned in the estate's ornamental lake. Rumors of foul play abound, given that competition is fierce to clinch a trophy at the upcoming Flower and Produce Festival, where sabotage had already come into play when someone released a herd of goats into the village allotments and one of the planned entries was eaten. But things take an even more sinister turn when Eric asks our heroine, Kat Stanford, to value the bride-to-be's 19th century Etruscan engagement ring, only to be told that historically it was used to carry poison.

We have ordered a whole run of this [cozy British crime series](#) by a longtime staff favorite but there are just a couple of copies of each title available.

* Gladwell, Jennifer. [The Bookshop Murders](#) (Hodder \$18.99). This is a little gem is a series start with great Golden Age of Mystery atmosphere—London, 1928, focused on Cecil Court which is today, and then, a bookselling mecca. Strong willed Lucy Darkwether has always made her own rules. After breaking off her engagement to pursue a degree in Ancient History at Oxford, she's now the proud owner of London's newest bookshop. So when a rival shop in Cecil Court is chosen to host an exhibition of Egyptian treasures, Lucy's pride is stung—until the grand opening there ends in a gruesome murder. Is this the revenge of a disgraced colleague? A private vendetta? Or a curse visited upon those who disturb the past? Is any of her eclectic staff involved? Ignoring the Inspector's warning to stay out of it, Lucy refuses.... Highly recommended with one caveat: the type is quite small.

* Granger, Ann. [Death on the Prowl](#) (Headline \$19.99). When Jerry Harrison receives an unwelcome visitor at his remote Cotswold cottage one winter's night, the last thing he expects is to end up dead. But, next morning, his cleaners find him fatally stabbed. At first, Inspector Jess Campbell and Superintendent Ian Carter aren't sure of the victim's identity, but it's not long before neighbor, Eleanor Holder, comes forward to say Jerry Harrison was not a popular man in the village of Weston St Ambrose. With no witnesses coming forward and very little evidence to go on, Jess and Ian must dig deep to find the answers to this baffling case. But not before another villager is attacked and left for dead. . . Again the type is on the small side.

* Hallett, Janice. [A Box Full of Murders](#) (Random House UK \$12.99). A YA mystery from the clever plotter and witty Hallett delivered in her usual multiple formats and narrators. When Ava and Luke discover a mysterious box of papers in their attic they are instantly curious about secrets it might hold. As they read through letters, diary entries, newspaper cuttings and listen to secret recordings, they realize that a decades-old, still unsolved, murder mystery is unfolding right in front of them. Ava and Luke decide to try and crack the case themselves.

Harris, Joanne. [Vianne](#) (Orion \$40 SIGNED). Harris' debut in [Chocolat](#) (\$17) was and remains one of my favorite novels, plus the story of how our first 100 copies sent to her to sign got hijacked and it took a year to find replacement first prints, will never die. And now Vianne, whom we met when she opened her *chocolaterie* in the small village of Lansquenet, reveals her story that begins six

years before that momentous occasion. And best of all for me, it takes Vianne to Marseilles, a city I just spent time visiting in May. If you go ride *Le Train Touristique* from the *Vieux Port* (old port) along the promenade and up to the staggering Basilique Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde far above the city. Joanne infuses her storytelling with her love for French cuisine for an extra delicious treat.

Howard, Catherine Ryan. [Burn After Reading](#) (Transworld \$28). Irish bestseller Howard taps into the ghostwriter as sleuth trope. Jack Smyth, the author of a major Richard and Judy Book Club pick, ran into flames in a desperate attempt to save his wife from their burning home. He was, tragically, too late—but hailed a hero until it emerged that Kate was dead long before the fire began. Suspicion has stalked him ever since. After all, there's no smoke without fire. A year on, he's signed a book deal. He wants to tell his side of the story, to prove his own innocence in print. He just needs someone to help him write it. Emily, a single hit author struggling to write her second novel, has never ghostwritten anything before, but she's desperate. And her advance will need to be paid back. Emily knows what it's like to live with a guilty secret. And she's about to learn that some stories should never be told.

Jones, Philip Gwynne. [The Venetian Sanctuary](#) (Little Brown \$15.99). Venice, June 2020. The city has returned to the Venetians during a merciful pause in the Covid pandemic, and few overseas visitors are to be seen. Yet Dominic Vicari, a British private investigator haunted by loss, has travelled across Europe to the tiny island of San Francesco del Deserto. The ancient monastery there, it is said, was founded by St Francis himself in the 13th century. Its population now consists of five Franciscan brothers and three pilgrims on retreat. Or, rather, two pilgrims and a dead man. Nathan Sutherland is called in when Vicari's broken body is found at the base of the campanile, his death seemingly nothing more than a terrible accident. But Nathan isn't so sure.... A different Venice from that of Donna Leon. And a series good for fans of David Hewson. We were able to get a few of Jones' [earlier Venetian mysteries](#) too but act quickly as supply is limited.

* Kone, Remi. [Innocent Guilt](#) (Quercus \$36). On a misty autumn afternoon, a woman covered in blood clutching a baseball bat walks silently into a London police station. The two officers assigned to her case are DI Leah Hutch and DS Benjamin Randle. But the woman refuses to speak. She is not injured and the blood on the bat is not hers. As Leah and Randle start their inquiry, a man is found battered to death in a nearby park. Journalist Odie Reid receives a tip off and is determined to solve the case first, trying to link this death to the woman held in custody. This debut is a UK bestseller, praised by Lee Child for one.

* Lovesey, Peter. [The Best of Peter Lovesey](#) (Allison & Busby \$30). How we miss Diamond Dagger/Gold Dagger/Edgar etc winner Lovesey who died last December. His novels, especially those for Bath Superintendent Peter Diamond, were devilishly plotted and beautifully written. Those same skills are on gorgeous display here in stories ranging all over. I absolutely gobbled this volume up and recommend it highly. You can dip in and out which provides extra charm.

* McCleave, Simon. [The Abersoch Killings](#) (Canelo \$28). Fancy time in Wales? This case for DI Ruth Hunter puts you there. At his beachside mansion, with his large family and beautiful wife, Jack Rush celebrated his stepdaughter's wedding: an extravagant,

happy day. But that night, the movie producer is found in a pool of blood having snorted cyanide instead of cocaine. With security tight, DI Ruth Hunter and DS Nick Evans are looking for a suspect among the guests. Jack's wife knew of his many infidelities; his twin sons resented his control; and Charlie, the new son-in-law, was furious about the pre-nup. They all had motive and opportunity but who switched the drugs?

McCulloch, Amy. [Runner 13](#) (Doubleday UK \$28). I have read some amazing thrillers over the years but this scorcher pitching you headlong into the world of ultra-running and here, into the ultimate test of human endurance, a 250-mile race across the brutally heated Sahara in Morocco with only what you can carry in a pack on your back—food, clothes, medicine, food prep materials, toilet paper, you name it. The prize is enormous for the winner. But death stalks the field. Returning to ultra-running in the wake of a scandal, British runner Adri needs to prove to herself – and her young son – that she's still a winner. She's trained. She's ready. She can even face her past including her ex, the marathon's frankly insane sponsor. Yet when a fellow runner is badly injured, Adri knows something isn't right. In a race this extreme, can even a dead body can be explained away? This is gold medal storytelling, deeply convincing and immersive. I read it in one marathon gulp. Wow.

Nadel, Barbara. [The Wooden Library](#) (Headline \$30). Ikmen Mystery 27th in a series that I have read from the first entry and is now the basis for TV's *The Turkish Detective* featuring Çetin Ikmen and Mehmet Süleyman. Although the setting is Istanbul this story could as well be set in England as it highlights the Turkish class system (left over from the Ottoman Empire that ended with WWI) and in its way resembles a country house murder. Ikmen is now retired and acting as a private investigator. Inspector Mehmet from an aristocratic family is on holiday in Romania. when his distant cousin calls. Nurettin Süleyman has bought the Wooden Library, an ancient building in Istanbul once owned by their ancestor. He needs help cataloguing its priceless contents and who better for the job than Mehmet's old friend Çetin Ikmen? As Ikmen sets to work, he detects a terrible smell pervading the library that leads to the discovery of a rotting corpse. The dead body is that of Senol Ulusoy, the man who sold Nurettin the library. A long-running feud between the two families comes to light, as does the bitter rivalry between the three Ulusoy brothers, fuelled by their father's cruel manipulation. Then pathologist Arto Sarkissian makes a shocking discovery that turns this case on its head,

* Paton, Maureen. [The Mystery at Rake Hall](#) (Swift Press \$28). Immerse yourself in 1947 Oxford where rationing is biting and the black market is thriving. And University Don CS Lewis, known as Jack, find himself pulled in a missing student drama that could have been penned by his friend Dorothy L. Sayers. Susan Temple, his brightest student, has hidden herself away at Rake Hall — a hostel for unmarried, outcast mothers – and hasn't been heard from since. With no experience beyond catching the occasional student plagiarist, Lewis is hardly a detective. But when Susan's absence continues to haunt him, he teams up with her concerned friend Lucy and together they delve into the disturbing rumors of a nasty racket, and worse, at Rake Hall. Can Lewis' nose for the truth separate fact from fiction? This novel is based upon the real story of the author's mother, who lived at the real-life Rake Hall while pregnant with Maureen.

* Smith, Sally. [A Case of Life and Limb](#) (Raven \$39 SIGNED). Joy, the sequel to the delightful clever [A Case of Mice and Murder](#) (Bloomsbury \$28.99), a debut taking us into the London Temple grounds (law courts) of 1901 London where the Lord Chief Justice is eccentrically murdered and the lawyer forced to investigate when he's rather be pursuing his copyright case over a children's book with a magical mouse lead does the job.

* Sweet, Matthew. [The New Forest Murders](#) (Simon & Schuster UK \$28.99). You fans of the late and much missed Christopher Fowler will love the voice in this World War II mystery—so clever, sly, unexpected—and the wonderfully British characters and family and village dynamics in what is a surprising murder.... Actually this is excellent for fans of *Foyle's War* too. I have ordered a new book by Sweet to read called [Bookish](#) (\$28.99). I'll review it in August.

It begins with the body of a youth dead under a tree in Larkwhistle, a village in the New Forest, a place that has special privileges. Actually it begins in France when Henry Metcalfe, working for King and Country, is killed as he's on his way to evacuation by the man supposed to help him. His cryptic last word is "Jack." And it is US Air Force Officer Jack Strafford who brings the news of Henry's killing to his sister Jill at Larkwhistle. Jack is hoping to flush out a traitor who, although the tide of war is turning in Summer, 1944, is hurtfully broadcasting in code to the Nazis. The dead youth in the little village was inspiration for a famous children's book which has also riled Larkwhistle. Sweet has a wonderful time detailing all that's going on in this little village—treason, murder, sundered alliances, and a really nice love story. I add that the type is unusually large.

* Taylor, Andrew. [A Schooling in Murder](#) (Hemlock Press \$28.99). England, May 1945 Monkshill Park School for Girls seems a world away from the violence that engulfed Europe during World War II. Yet its lonely, decaying grounds have witnessed a murder. Annabel Warnock, a teacher with a secretive past, left for the holidays and never came back. Both teachers and girls assume she simply walked out, but the truth is quite different. Her body tumbled from the Maiden's Leap, a viewpoint on the cliff top Gothic Walk, and was washed out to sea. But Annabel herself is still trapped at Monkshill, unable to move on. As she haunts the grounds and school, she discovers a hidden world – students, staff and servants are riven with deadly rivalries and dangerous tensions. And one of them is her killer...

Tremayne, Peter. [Grave of the Lawgiver](#) (Headline \$32). Wow, this is the 36th entry in the marvelous medieval Ireland mysteries featuring 7th-century super-sleuth Sister Fidelma. The year is AD 673. Fidelma accompanies Eadulf to his hometown, Seaxmund's Ham in the Kingdom of the East Angles, to be greeted with the shocking news that Eadulf's uncle, Athelnoth, the lawgiver, has been murdered and his house burnt down. And Eadulf's younger sister is missing. The locals accuse Fidelma and Eadulf of the crimes, and Fidelma's safety is threatened by the first council of the bishops and kings of the Angles and Saxons, who wish to expel all Hibernian missionaries and teachers from the kingdoms. Against this opposition, Fidelma and Eadulf must unite to solve one of their most complex mysteries yet.

Vassell, Charlotte. [Deadly Inheritance](#) (Faber \$17.99). Britain's Vassell is absolutely terrific—it was no surprise to me she won a 2025 Edgar Allan Poe Best Novel Award for DI Caius

Beauchamp's [The In Crowd](#) (\$19), the sequel to [The Other Half](#) (\$18). Excellent plotting and an ace sleuth and a razor-sharp look at the British class system. Now we have imported a third case for Caius (pronounced Keys).

Rosie wakes up at 3am already feeling the twinges of a brutal hangover—an afternoon spent day drinking with her uni pals has left her rather the worse for wear. She creeps downstairs for a glass of water—only to stumble onto a shocking, bloody scene in the kitchen. One will. It looks like a botched burglary has left both Rosie's grandmother and her attacker dead. But then Detective Inspector Caius Beauchamp gets a tip about the matriarch's last will. It turns out, this well-heeled family has a nefarious past. A family full of secrets. With his reputation on the line and powerful people pressuring him to close the case, Caius must decide what's more dangerous: the body on the floor or the skeletons in the closet?

MORE BRITISH CRIME

From US Publishers—all British mysteries

Billingham, Mark. [What the Night Brings](#) (Atlantic \$27). "*Three dead coppers, Tom, maybe four by lunchtime...*" London police detective Tom Thorne and his colleagues — including the irreverent and ever-entertaining pathologist, Phil Hendricks — race against the clock to pursue a deadly, highly focused criminal who appears to be targeting police officers, possibly as acts of terrifying revenge.

Boyd, Damien. [Blue Blood](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$16.99). I am a fan of this entire police [procedural series led by DI Nick Dixon](#) of the Avon and Somerset Police in a landscape varied and fascinating. Boyd, a lawyer, has a sound grasp of procedure, an ingenious talent for plotting crimes, a brisk way with characters, no sentimentality here, and there is a great rescued dog. Dixon's bluntness (and disregard for his diabetes) may put you off but I am a fan of policing novels such as those by Cynthia Harrod-Eagles and like the straightforward action of the investigation. You can read more about Boyd and the series on his [website](#).

Here in book 15 it is Acting Detective Superintendent Nick Dixon's wedding day. Gig rowers find a body floating in Bridgwater Bay and when the victim is identified as a serving police officer, executed at point blank range with a 3D printed gun, the assistant chief constable is soon knocking on Dixon's door—wedding night or not. It is the third such killing in as many weeks, but the first two victims were drug dealers, with no apparent connection to the dead officer other than the murder weapon itself.

Bull, Jessica. [Miss Austen Investigates: A Fortune Most Fatal](#) (Union Square \$18.99). I like this story set in 1797 for the textured way Bull highlights the Austen family's relationships with the wealthy Knight family of Kent who adopted Jane's brother Neddy. Neddy's pregnant wife Elizabeth has an agenda, to find a respectable husband for Jane. But elderly, widowed Mrs. Knight has adopted a stray, a mysterious woman styling herself a foreign princess, and Jane worries what affect this will have on Neddy and the Austen's family's fortunes. The detail is evocative and a full reading of the story is rewarding in several ways. Start with [Miss Austen Investigates: The Hapless Milliner](#) (\$18.99).

Gardiner, Kelly/Sharmini Kumar. [Miss Caroline Bingley, Private Investigator](#) (Harper Via \$17.99). A cozy with some sharp edges and a bite at colonialism. Caroline Bingley, the wealthy and forceful sister of Charles Bingley, who married Lizzie's sister

Jane, is roused to action when Georgiana Darcy, the younger sister of Lizzie's husband, leaves Derbyshire for London with hardly a word of explanation. Following her trail with the help of Gordon, her remarkably versatile butler, Caroline soon finds Georgiana and learns that she took off abruptly in pursuit of Jade, her missing maid. Jade, an Indian woman whose birth name is Jayani, isn't much harder to locate than Georgiana, but the circumstances of this discovery are dire. Readers of *Pride and Prejudice* are prejudiced against Caroline, but per *PW*, "Refreshingly, Gardiner and Kumar don't sand down Caroline's less agreeable qualities, and instead use her flagrant classism and stubbornness to infuse the narrative with a welcome degree of friction. That character depth, plus a well-oiled whodunit plot, help this stand out in a crowded field." A sequel is implied.

Goodman, Alison. [The Ladies Road Guide to Utter Ruin](#) (Berkley \$19) is the sequel to our PP bestseller [The Benevolent Society of Ill-Mannered Ladies](#) (\$19). And a third book is clearly implied. Goodman shakes up Regency London with twin sisters who refuse to bow to convention. Lady Augusta Colebrook is bored by Society life and tired of being dismissed by its members as on the shelf at age 42. Gus and her twin Julia prefer action and cherish independence. When Lord Evan—a charming escaped convict who won Gus's heart in Book One—needs to hide his sister, Hester, from their vindictive brother, Gus and Julia take Hester and her lover into their home. But Lord Evan's complicated past puts them all in danger. Gus knows they must clear his name of murder if he is to survive the thieftakers who hunt him. No easy task—the fatal duel was twenty years ago and a key witness is nowhere to be found. Luckily Lady Augusta has a friend in Society leader Beau (George) Brummel and in time, to the influential Lord Alvanley. Quite soon Gus and Lord Evan go undercover at a London sex club....

Govett, SM. [Believe Me Now](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99/\$19.99). Natalie Campbell loses time. She'll wake up in different places with no memory of how she got there. The blackouts are a symptom of her PTSD, which began after she was sexually assaulted by her boss, who was found not guilty. But she found ways to cope by setting up routines and relying on her supportive husband, Ryan. Then one day, her husband is accused of committing the same crime that ruined her life. Meanwhile DI Helen Stratton is also healing from old wounds. Her older sister disappeared when she was 16, and the police didn't bother to investigate. Vowing to help other lost and vulnerable girls, she joined the force. Stratton is ready to do whatever it takes to catch the killer and bring justice to her sister. "An accomplished crime debut—a fresh take on a familiar tale, told through the perspectives of the wife Natalie and DI Stratton, a fascinating character with an authentic and compelling voice.... A must read for police procedural fans." —Jo Callaghan

Lloyd, Catherine. [Miss Morton and the Deadly Inheritance](#) (\$17.95). Social standing is everything in Regency England, and no one knows better than Miss Caroline Morton, the daughter of a disgraced earl, now gainfully employed as a lady's companion—along with a sideline in sleuthing. The dishonored Earl of Morton died without a pound sterling to pass on to his two daughters. But while immersing herself in helping Mrs. Frogerton's capricious daughter navigate the high social season, Caroline meets with a cagey lawyer, Mr. Smith, who shares life-altering news—the earl composed a second will, leaving behind an undisclosed fortune.

Mrs. Frogerton, however, is thoroughly unimpressed with the firm's conduct and suspicious of their true motives. Her instinct proves right when the two ladies find the office ransacked, staff in turmoil, and Mr. Smith missing. The full weight of the situation doesn't sink in until Mr. Smith dies following a brutal attack on the street—discovered with an empty envelope bearing Caroline's name in his pocket. Now what?

O'Connor, Deborah. [Dear Future Me](#) (Sourcebooks \$18.99) presents "an enthralling dual-timeline mystery that links two tragedies, 20 years apart. In 2003, a teacher in the seaside English town of Saltburn, North Yorkshire, asks his sixth-form students to write letters to their future selves after 17-year-old Ben Spellman dies accidentally on a class trip to the Lake District. Twenty years later, the students receive their old letters. The same day, Miranda Breivart is found dead at the bottom of a cliff. The police believe her death is a suicide, but her close friend Audrey—whose dreams of attending Cambridge fell through and who now works as a house cleaner for some of her wealthy former classmates—suspects foul play. Realizing only she cares enough to learn the truth, Audrey launches an investigation that soon casts doubt both on Ben's long-ago death and the peaceful facade of a town she thought she knew. Early on, O'Connor writes that aspirations can be "a weight around your neck from which you can never wriggle free," and she explores that idea to its fullest, with Audrey's quest taking on a poignant, tragic quality from its first moments. Themes of moral relativism and class difference are equally well developed."

Reay, Katherine. [The English Masterpiece](#) (Harper Muse \$18.99). The art world can be ruthless as we know from Daniel Silva. Here we are in 1970's London's Tate Modern. One young woman, an art curator's assistant at a famed national gallery, is in way over her head as she races to expose the truth behind a Picasso masterpiece: Is it a forgery? Will she jeopardize her budding career and take down those around her in the process if she calls it one? What will this do to Lily's relationship with her formidable boss Diana Gilden? All Lily has ever wanted is to follow in Diana's footsteps and take the art world by storm in her own right. Yet one comment puts not only her own career at risk but also her mentor's. Unless...was she right?

Redmond, Heather. [Death and the Runaways](#) (Kensington \$27). Two years before she would conceive of *Frankenstein*, sixteen-year-old Mary Godwin becomes captivated by the grim murder of a pregnant shop girl and the disappearance of her stepbrother, involving her stepsister Jane "Claire" Clairmont and the seductive poet Percy Bysshe Shelley (eventually Mary's husband) to solve the crime...

Robotham, Michael. [The White Crow](#) (Scribner \$28.99). Our **July British Crime Pick** is, I remind you, a superb procedural set in London with a carefully and cleverly etched cast of cops and villains, great pacing, and a real surprise in the end game. I raved earlier, and do so again.

Robotham, MJ. [Mrs. Spy](#) (Bloomsbury \$28.99). Think of this a "A Thursday Murder Club for spies." Or a version of a John Le Carré story powered by a surprise MI5 operative, a single mum called Maggie Flynn, not your typical 1960s spy. She's a master of the ordinary in disguise, trained to follow rather than to lead. She's mourning her husband whose own career in espionage only surfaced after his death, a death she still doesn't fully understand.

Then a chance encounter with a Russian agent triggers both a chilling revelation and a resolve to pursue her own very personal investigation....

Toyne, Simon. [The Black Highway](#) (Morrow \$32). Here's another top notch procedural. Forensic specialist Laughton Rees is not ashamed of her checkered past—after all, her youthful indiscretions led to the birth of her daughter Gracie, the person she loves most in the world—but when Gracie's father unexpectedly turns up, Laughton is wary. Shelby Facer is a dangerous man, formerly imprisoned for his involvement in an international drug trafficking ring, and no matter what Laughton once felt for him, she doesn't want him anywhere near Gracie. But when Shelby claims that he has information about an especially difficult murder case she is working, she can't turn him down. A body with no head or hands has recently turned up in the river Thames, and the police are at a loss until Shelby identifies the man as one of a highly secretive smuggling ring—which Laughton's father, former commissioner for the Metropolitan police, was investigating before he died. Laughton throws herself into her father's old files to try to trace the connections between past and present with the aid of DCI Tannahill Khan. Start this series with [Dark Objects](#) (\$19.99) and [The Clearing](#) (\$18.99). Excellent to pick up after you finish Michael Robotham's *The White Crow*.

MORE JULY HARDCOVERS

Cauley, Kashana. [The Payback](#) (Atria \$27.99). Jada Williams is good at judging people by their looks. From across the mall, she can tell not only someone's inseam and pants size, but exactly what style they need to transform their life. Too bad she's no longer using this superpower as a wardrobe designer to Hollywood stars, but for minimum wage plus commission at the Glendale mall. When Jada is fired yet again, she is forced to outrun the newly instated Debt Police who are out for blood. But Jada, like any great antihero, is not going to wait for the cops to come kick her around. Together with two other debt-burdened mall coworkers, she the three women plan a revenge heist targeting the loan company to erase their student loans forever and get back at the system that promised them everything and then tried to take it back. Here's [a link](#) to the *NY Times* review.

Day, Jamie. [The Lake Escape](#) (St Martins \$29)... comes with Signed Bookplates. Julia, Erika, and David grew up together spending summers at their idyllic Vermont lake homes for as long as they can remember. Now adults—with their own sullen teens, endless mortgages, and low-voltage sex lives—the three friends have amassed secrets over the years. This summer, David is eager to show off his newly renovated home—which now blocks his friends' cherished lake views—and his much-younger girlfriend. He also, unwittingly, brings a nanny with a hidden agenda. What could possibly go wrong?"few settings are as ripe for tension as a secluded lakeside retreat. The Lake Escape lures you in with its promise of an idyllic getaway, only to unravel into a labyrinth of betrayals, hidden motives, and chilling revelations. Day's pacing is razor-sharp, delivering twists that feel both shocking and inevitable—a balance that only the best thriller writers achieve. It's the kind of novel that keeps you up late, the stillness of the night suddenly feeling a little less serene."

Ghivhan, Jennifer. [Salt Bones](#) (Little Brown \$29) reframes the story of Persephone and Demeter as a tale of maternal struggle set on the California/Mexico border, Givhan mashes up folk

horror, whodunit, and hero's journey into a haunting, lyrical pulp. Flush with arid atmosphere and family secrets, it's as propulsive as it is emotionally substantial.

Goodman, Carol. [Writers and Liars](#) (Harper \$30). A group of mystery authors gathers on a secluded Greek island for a writers retreat, only to discover that their enigmatic host has been murdered and everyone present is a suspect. "An excellent riff on *And Then There Were None* unfolds within a setting steeped in sinister mythology.... An absolutely perfect vacation read. Fans who remember Mary Stewart fondly will be delighted." — *Booklist* Starred Review

Holsinger, Bruce. [Culpability](#) (Spiegel & Grau \$30).Ethics and technology collide when two people end up dead in this thrilling and thought-provoking drama delving into our increasing dependence on artificial intelligence. It's a big book and a big topic: I recommend you use [this link](#) to read a full page review in the *NY Times* that includes this: A family drama with a shocking twist. Bruce Holsinger tackles timely topics and the ties that bind in *Culpability* ...a who's who of hot-button issues, including AI, corporate greed, tech addiction and even a subtle subplot about the encroachment of youth sports on family life. But the topic most likely to spark appreciative group texts among book club members of a certain age has to do with a less trendy subject: teenagers. Specifically, the relationship between a father and his 17-year-old son, which Holsinger depicts in all its maddening complexity. *Culpability* always returns to Noah and Charlie.... We meet them at a tender time—a 'hinge of life,' as Noah calls it—and Holsinger does it justice."—Elisabeth Egan

"For all the story's contemporary details, *Culpability* is a 19th-century novel in the spirit of William Dean Howells—explicitly concerned with morality. That's not to say it's didactic, only that it presents deep ethical questions about fault and responsibility. It's also an irresistibly anxious book, the kind that scratches all your worries about the fragility of upper-middle-class life, the financial and legal perils that lurk behind every open-ended risk we take."—Ron Charles

Kaufman, Kathleen. [The Entirely True Story of the Fantastical Mesmerist Nora Grey](#) (Kensington \$28). "Scottish Nairna Liath's rise from a con artist's daughter to a celebrated medium reveals a chilling family legacy—and a mesmerizing destiny." —Danielle Trussoni. Fans of Grady Hendrix and Deborah Harkness will absolutely devour this historical novel blending magical realism and feminist gothic horror.

Kova, Elise. [Arcana Academy](#) (Del Rey \$32.99). The Indie Next Pick: "A thief and illegal practitioner of magic, an academy for wielders of said magic, a grumpy but gorgeous department head and a plan to outmaneuver his royal family...what could go wrong? A fantastical adventure!"

Lavender, [Happy Wife](#) (Bantam \$30). A "prominent lawyer goes missing on the night of his birthday party in Florida, rocking the small community of Winter Park, Florida. The townspeople are quick to suggest his younger wife is capable of murder. The setting in a community outside of Orlando, with tons of secrets, is so much fun for the summer."

Maxwell, Jessa. [Dead of Summer](#) (Atria \$27.99). Orla O'Connor hasn't been to the isolated New England enclave of Hadley Island since she graduated from high school a decade ago. As a teenager, her best friend Alice disappeared from its shores

without a trace—but with plenty of rumors. Now, Orla returns to her family's beachfront home to clean it out before her parents sell it. And connects with two guys, childhood friends. When there's another disappearance on the island all three are pulled into an eerie and twisty mystery. We read about it from the points of view of all three characters.

Mount, Thom. [Rafferty Returns](#) (Rare Birds \$28). The governor's daughter is discovered at a murder scene. A predatory Wall Street raider begins circling the studio. Their top producer slips into scandal. It's just another day at the office for Jon Rafferty. But when megastar Jimmy Mathews is found dead at the legendary Chateau Marmont mere days before the premiere of SBI's most expensive and anticipated film, Rafferty finds himself thrust into a high-stakes chase for missing witnesses. Navigating a shadowy world of rogue Vice Squad detectives, MS-13 enforcers, and an ever-growing body count, Rafferty must solve the mysteries and find killers—or risk being the next victim of a criminal conspiracy.

Gerald Petievich says of this neo-noir “At the heart of *Rafferty Returns* is a dark, insightful view of the motion picture industry whose outrageousness and insincerity could only have been properly chronicled by an insider. Thom Mount, successful motion picture producer and studio executive, speaks with authority on all the shady characters he writes about. The ultimate Hollywood insider has written a novel that is not only compelling, but unique, revealing, and worthwhile.”

Nagendra, Harini. [Into the Leopard's Den](#) (Pegasus \$27.95). The Bangalore Detective Series takes you into territory you may not be familiar with—here the mountains of Coorg, 1922. Pregnant and confined to the house by her protective mother-in-law, Kaveri Murthy has resolved to take a break from detection. But when an elderly woman is murdered at night and dies clutching a photograph of Kaveri while asking for her help—how can she refuse? Missing the assistance of her husband Ramu, who is working in Coorg, Kaveri heads there with her able assistants. Why does a ghost leopard prowl the forests at night, terrorizing the plantation workers? And who is trying to kill Colonel Boyd, the Coffee King of Coorg? She finds suspects in every coffee bush and estate. As you read this you learn a lot about Bangalore and the coffee industry, and more.

* O'Malley, Daniel. [Royal Gambit](#) (Little Brown \$30). Ok, this is British but it's a supernatural adventure so I review it here. Alexandra Dennis-Palmer-Hudson-Gilmore-Garnsey (call me “Alix”), the twelfth Lady Mondegreen, has never had any control of her life. Her ability to shatter bones with a touch made her the automatic property of the Checquy, the secret British government agency that deals with the supernatural. Her aristocratic ancestry made Alix the perfect asset for the Checquy to deploy close to the royal family. Since childhood, she has been coached to befriend Princess Louise, second in line to the throne, but the two have never been close. Now, Alix is a skilled operative who investigates unexplained phenomena for the security of the nation. Everything changes when Louise's brother, the Prince of Wales, dies abruptly and all signs point to an assassination by preternatural means. To protect Louise, the new heir apparent, Alix is assigned to be her lady-in-waiting. Thrust into the limelight overnight—both in the everyday world and in the underground world of the Checquy—Alix must juggle her responsibilities and her loyalties as she attempts to unravel

the murder, keep Louise safe, and learn how to smile graciously while eerie threats loom around every corner.

Stewart, Polly. [The Felons' Ball](#) (Harper \$30) is not an historical as the title hints but rather a contemporary drama with many twists framed in tiny hamlet Ewald, Virginia, once a major moonshine capital. But now Trey Macready and his friend Ben Marsh have gone legitimate into legal businesses. The occasion arising is Trey's annual birthday party, known as the Felons' Ball where costumes are encouraged and the Macready clan gathers. The three daughters are both rooted in Ewald but in different lives. Natalie has been having an affair with Ben for about a year, and it is she who discovers his bleeding body on his boat after the ball. And things take off from there in a chain of dark secrets and deadly consequences where protecting family is the apparent moral core.. Park morality at the door reading this well written novel.

Sweeney, Chris. [The Feather Detective](#) (Avid Reader Press \$30). Here's the true story of the world's first forensic ornithologist, Roxie Laybourn, whose achievements included breaking barriers for women in science, solving murders, investigating deadly plane crashes... all this with a microscope and some fragments of feather.

Tully, Liza. [The World's Greatest Detective and Her Just Okay Assistant](#) (Penguin \$30). The 20-something fact checker Olivia Blunt leaps at becoming the personal assistant to a New York City famous private detective but she's just a secretary. Then she earns her sleuthing wings working an apparent suicide case on the shore of Vermont's Lake Champlain that turns murkier and more entangled than she expects. “This is a classic wealthy-family whodunit centered on a funny and smart pair of women who are opposites in just about every way. Readers will love spending time with this investigatory duo.”—*Library Journal*

MORE JULY LARGE PAPERBACKS

Ashibe, Taku. [Murder in the House of Ōmari](#) (Pushkin \$16.95). Combining the classic *honkaku* mystery and Golden Age crime writing with the trappings of historical fiction, it's easy to see why *Murder in the House of Ōmari* is an award-winning sensation in Japan! Set in Semba (modern-day Osaka), this gripping murder mystery twists and turns with dark secrets, red herrings, and the turbulent history of Japan in the early 20th century. I'll be returning to Osaka in October and look forward to reading this story that begins in 1906 when the young heir to the Omari family business climbs to the top of a Panorama and vanishes. In 1914, a fight between two mysterious figures on a bridge tragically ends with one falling to their death. In 1943, as war rages on, the once illustrious family has fallen. Both potential heirs have been drafted into war, and a string of strange and violent happenings has beset the house of Ōmari.

Bryant, Elise. [The Game is Afoot](#) (Penguin \$19). After rage quitting her job, Mavis finally has time to get all the rest she's been putting off. Or she should have the time. Hypothetically. Except she's taken on a new role: Supermom. Her hours are filled with chauffeuring her daughter, Pearl, around to her extracurricular activities, somehow ending up class mom, and... investigating *another* mystery? When Coach Cole, the director of the kids' soccer program, drops dead on a sunny Saturday morning, no one suspects foul play. However.... Mavis is determined to find out, even if it takes her into the dark,

dangerous underbelly of gentle parents and MLM girlbosses. Plus, it's an easy distraction from everything else going on. Meet Mavis first in a sparkling debut, [It's Elementary](#) (\$19).

Copeland, Johanna. [Our Kind of Game](#) (\$18.99). A 2024 hardcover debut reveals that Stella Parker's life may look perfect from the outside, but Copeland deftly reveals the hollowness of suburban privilege even as Stella faces how far she might have to go to save her family.

Coulter, Catherine. [Flashpoint](#) (\$18.99). A year has passed since Elizabeth Palmer was nearly killed with hundreds more in the attempted bombing of St. Paul's in London, believed to be a terrorist act until the police discovered it was a cover for something even more sinister. For Elizabeth, life is finally back to normal. She's optimistic, her painting is getting accolades, when suddenly her world changes in a flash. With three new attempts on her life, and her connection to the terrorist attack, MI-5 gets involved to find out who is trying to kill her and why. Desperate for answers, Elizabeth flies to Washington, D.C., to seek out Savich and Sherlock and is assigned Special Agent Rome Foxe for protection. And then....

Dawson, Delilah S. [It Will Only Hurt for a Moment](#) (\$18). Sarah Carpenter is starting over. She's on the run—leaving behind her unsupportive, narcissistic ex-boyfriend and alcoholic, abusive mother—and headed for a new beginning at Tranquil Falls, a secluded artists' colony on the grounds of a closed hotel. There, with no cell signal or internet to distract her, she hopes to rediscover her love for pottery and put the broken pieces of her life back together. But when Sarah uncovers the body of a young woman while digging a hole for a pit kiln, things start to fall apart... The Bram Stoker Award nominated Dawson has written novels with our longtime friend Kevin Hearne.

Escobar, Mario. [A Bookseller in Madrid](#) (Harper \$18.99) offers “a real look into the Spanish Civil War and 1930s Europe and resonates today. For as long as she can remember, Barbara Spiel has always found solace in books. Born in Germany and having come of age in a tumultuous era, she flees her home country as the Nazis rise to power in the early 1930s. Her destination? Madrid. There she's determined to realize her long-held dream of opening a bookshop and creating a safe haven for young idealists and independent thinkers. When the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War puts Barbara and everyone around her in peril—including the Spanish Socialist parliamentarian she's fallen deeply in love with—the terror and hatred seem all too familiar. It's like Germany all over again, only with its own cast of extremist characters. Hounded simultaneously by Stalinist checas, Francoist Facists, and the German Gestapo, Barbara fights to keep her bookstore the safe haven that she's always imagined it would be. But with war brewing both inside Spain and outside its borders throughout the entirety of Europe—and beyond—Barbara isn't sure who exactly she can trust, or if people really are who they claim to be.

* Fountain, Nev. [Lies and Dolls: The Kit Pelham Mysteries](#) (Titan \$17.99) is a follow up to [The Fan Who Knew Too Much](#) (\$17.99), both set in the world of cult sci-fi fandom, this novel sees the return of neurodiverse sleuth Kit Pelham as she investigates the destruction of rare vintage action figures and an actual murder at a rare toy museum. It begins when Kit and her best friend Binfire head to a stately home in Lincolnshire

to view five ultra-rare Vixens from the Void action figures – the main exhibit at the opening of a new toy museum – they come across more than just nerds and toy-collectors. The figures are stolen from their glass case and, just as Kit and Binfire begin to get their heads around this mystery, they start to reappear, broken into pieces, left for their distraught owners to discover. And that's when the real killings start. This is a British setting but I mention it here.

Goodman, Carol. [Writers and Liars](#) (Harper \$18.99). A group of mystery authors gathers on a secluded Greek island for a writers retreat, only to discover that their enigmatic host has been murdered and everyone present is a suspect. “An excellent riff on *And Then There Were None* unfolds within a setting steeped in sinister mythology.... An absolutely perfect vacation read. Fans who remember Mary Stewart fondly will be delighted.” — *Booklist* Starred Review. For the hardcover see above.

Hoag, Tami. [Bad Liar](#) (\$19). A murder victim dumped at the dead end of a lonely country road, face and hands obliterated by a shotgun blast, is not the way sheriff's detective Nick Fourcade wants to start his week. His only lead takes him to the family of a hometown hero suddenly gone missing. Hoag paints a wrenching story of blighted hopes, parental anguish, and women finding power in a Louisiana swamp small town. I found myself wishing that one of the murders, uncovered by bad luck, would go unsolved given the character of the victim.

Holdich, Jennifer. [Julie Tudor is Not a Psychopath](#) (Sourcebooks \$17.99). Julie Tudor is 49 and has it all: a fantastic job (well-maintained spreadsheets are the lynchpin of an efficient office), a beautiful house (some may wonder how she got the money for it, but nothing has been proved) and the man of her dreams. Julie Tudor is not a stalker. Sean is 25 and the love of Julie's life. The only problem is, he thinks he's in love with someone else. And Julie Tudor is definitely not a serial killer. Then again, Julie has found herself in a similar situation before. Cute packaging but do not be deceived into thinking this is a cozy.

Jones, Stephen Graham. [Killer on the Road/The Babysitter Lies](#) (Saga Press \$19.99). For horror fans, a double treat.

Kliwer, Marcus. [We Used to Live Here](#) (\$18.99). More horror. As a young, queer couple who flip houses, Charlie and Eve can't believe the killer deal they've just gotten on an old house in a picturesque neighborhood. As they're working in the house one day, there's a knock on the door. A man stands there with his family, claiming to have lived there years before and asking if it would be alright if he showed his kids around. People pleaser to a fault, Eve lets them in. And so begins a debut making a splash in the surging horror genre.

Laurain, Antoine. [French Windows; The President's Hat The Red Notebook](#) (Steerforth Press \$16.95 each). A trio of reissues by this notable French author. *French Windows* is a mystery: Nathalia Guitry was a successful photographer—until the day she caught a murder on camera. Traumatized and unable to work, she begins attending therapy, where Doctor Faber suggests a way out of her creative block: she must write stories about the people she sees in the building opposite, floor by floor. Starting on the ground floor, with the actor-turned-YouTube life coach, and going all the way to the 5th floor via a cartoonist and an ex-trader, Nathalia creates vivid accounts of her Parisian neighbors' lives. But are her tales real or imaginary? Dr Faber becomes

increasingly uncertain as their sessions play out, but he has his own quirks and foibles to deal with, from his habit of collecting keys—and interest in finding out what they unlock—to his passion for smoking.

Moore, Taylor. [Cold Trail: A Garrett Kohl Novel](#) (\$18.99). Ex-CIA officer Moore does a gripping blend of the Western with a kind of spy vibe set in Texas. DEA Special Agent Garrett Kohl must find out what's truly tainted in the energy industry and uncover a deep-rooted plot in order to protect his new business, beloved Kohl Ranch, and family. Plus he has a terrific voice and I always learn a lot, including geography. Perfect for fans of C. J. Box. "Taylor Moore gives his readers an insider's glimpse into a world of covert operations that few novelists can match."—Nelson DeMille. Moore "brings his insider knowledge of the intelligence community and tradecraft to the genre...not to be missed."—Jack Carr

Moriarty, Liane. [Here One Moment](#) (\$19). "Australian author Liane Moriarty takes readers on a wild ride as passengers to Sydney deal with love, heartbreak, and careers, all while contemplating whether fate and destiny are real—and whether the outcome can be changed. It's a captivating book that keeps you reading till the end to find out what happens to the passengers and just who Cherry really is."—Jeanine Herbst, news anchor, NPR

Nishizawa, Yasuhiko. [The Man Who Died Seven Times](#) (Pushkin \$17.95). Hisataro, a young member of the wealthy Fuchigami family, has a mysterious ability. Every now and then, against his will, he falls into a time-loop in which he is obliged to re-live the same day a total of 9 times "What could be worse than spending New Year's with your dysfunctional family? Getting stuck in a nine-day time-loop. Oh, and your grandfather who is planning to announce the sole benefactor of the family inheritance dies each day." A subversively cozy Japanese crime novel with an ingenious *Groundhog Day* twist: a teenager's time-loop race to solve—and possibly prevent—his grandfather's murder!

* Nix, DJ. [The Shakespeare Secret](#) (Crooked Lane \$19.99). A feminist recasting of the idea that Shakespeare did not write Shakespeare. Here he is a woman—three women, in fact, who hire a footloose actor as the face of their writing. When they become suspects in a plot to kill Queen Elizabeth, their secret identity is suddenly at risk—along with the queen's life—in this imaginative novel.

Noteboom, Lex. [The Man with a Thousand Faces](#) (Union Square \$18.99). Michelle is about to go on vacation with her husband, Daniel, and their children, when they learn that Daniel's twin brother has tragically died. They must return to Dan's homeland of Kazichia to attend the funeral. Once there, Daniel is pressured into staying—his late brother was the nation's president, and now Daniel is his successor. Michelle wants to get back to Amsterdam as soon as possible, but that proves to be no easy task. As Russian intelligence and the CIA meddle in the conflict, and Michelle does everything she can to get her family home safely, Daniel battles the elusive rebel known as the Man with a Thousand Faces.

Robb, JD. [Bonded in Death](#) (\$19). NYPD Lt. Eve Dallas has trouble finding out who Giovanni Rossi really was, why he was killed, and how. And now her family is being threatened. Her husband's majordomo, Summerset, alongside Giovanni, were two of the 12 undercover agents way back in the Urban Wars

resistance of the 2020s. Now one of the remaining agents is attempting to kill the rest. All this plus keenly relevant insights into the past of Eve and her tycoon husband's majordomo, the heroic Summerset.

Strohmeyer, Sarah. [A Mother Always Knows](#) (Harper \$18.99). Stella O'Neill is just your average millennial, working at a public library and worrying about making rent. No one would suspect she's been living under an assumed name or that she was raised in a Vermont commune of "diviners" where, and as a ten-year-old, she witnessed her mother's brutal murder—a crime that has gone unsolved for years. But her quiet, anonymous existence is upended when a true-crime obsessive posts her current name and location on the internet. Now, Stella has to get out of Boston before her mother's killer can find her and finish the job he started all those years ago. Fed up with living in fear, she heads to the off-the-grid retreat of her childhood to confront her mother's unhinged guru who controlled their lives for so long—the infamous Radcliffe MacBeath. Relying on her mother's beloved rose quartz pendulum, Stella digs in.

Wallace, Auralee. [In the Company of Witches](#) (Penguin \$19) now in trade paperback with exclusive bonus content! When a guest dies in the B&B she helps her aunts run, a young witch must rely on some good old-fashioned investigating to clear her aunt's name in this magical and charming cozy mystery.