

# BOOKNEWS from

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## Is it already September?

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.

### MONDAY SEPTEMBER 1

Closed for Labor Day

### TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 2 7:00 PM Live Event

William Kent Krueger discusses [Apostle's Cove](#) (Atria \$29)  
Cork O'Connor must discover if he once convicted an innocent man

### WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3 7:00 PM Live Event

Horrors! With Darcy Coates and Brian McAuley

Lots of Horror Reading Copies giveaways

Australian Coates discusses [How Bad Things Can Get](#)  
(Sourcebooks \$17.99)

McAuley discusses [Breathe In, Bleed Out](#) (Sourcebooks \$17.99)

### THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4 5:00 PM Virtual Event

Randy Wayne White discusses [Tomlinson's Wake](#) (Morrow \$29.99)

Doc Ford goes darker in Honduras

Signed copies available

### SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7 2:00 PM Live Event

Jack DuBrul discusses [Clive Cussler The Iron Storm](#) (Penguin \$32)

An Isaac Bell WWI intelligence & aviation adventure

### MONDAY SEPTEMBER 8 7:00 PM Live Book Launch

Jeffery Deaver and Isabella Maldonado discuss [The Grave Artist](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$28.99/\$16.99).

Sanchez and Herron #2

### WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10 7:00 PM Live Event

Lou Berney with host Meg Gardiner

Berney discusses [Crooks: A Family Portrait](#) (Morrow \$30)  
Elmore Leonard would love these generations of mostly bumbling swindlers

Our September Crime Subscription Club Pick

### THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11 7:00 PM Live Event

Beatriz Williams with co-host Whitney Clark of [azfamily.com](#)  
Williams discusses [Under the Stars](#) (Random House \$30)

Current and past events flow together for a chef and her glamorous screen star mother on a New England island

Our September Notable New Fiction Pick

### SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14 12:00 PM Virtual Event

Jeffery Archer discusses [End Game](#) (Collins \$42 Signed)

Unsigned US edition: [End Game](#) (Harper \$30)

London 2012. The final entry in the William Warwick series

### MONDAY SEPTEMBER 15 5:00 PM Virtual Event

Walter Mosley discusses [Gray Dawn: An Easy Rawlins Mystery](#) (Little Brown \$29)

Signed copies available

### MONDAY SEPTEMBER 15 7:00 PM Live Book Launch

John Scalzi discusses [The Shattering Peace](#) (Tor \$29.99)

Old Man's War Book 7

### TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 16 7:00 PM Live Book Launch

James R. Benn discusses [A Bitter Wind](#) (Soho \$28.95)

Billy Boyle #20, radio espionage and murder on a British airfield base

### WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 17 5:00 PM Virtual Event

PJ Tracy discusses [The Deepest Cut](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99)

The Monkeewrench gang is back

Signed copies available.

### THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18 7:00 PM Live Thriller Night

Giveaway Advance Reading Copies and New Thriller

Updates into 2026

Host: Don Bentley

David McCloskey discusses [The Persian](#) (Norton \$29.99)

Jack Stewart discusses [Declared Hostile](#) (Severn River \$17.99)

MP Woodward discusses [Tom Clancy Terminal Velocity](#) (Putnam \$32) and [Red Tide](#) (Naval Institute Press \$32)

### FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 19 6:00-7:30 PM Live Event

Desert Sleuths Reception

Desert Sleuths members host the launch party for the new anthology *SoWest: Danger Awaits!*

Books will be for sale and authors will be on hand to sign copies. Free to attend but please [Register](#) through Desert Sleuths through September 17

### SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20 10:30 AM Live and Virtual

Croak & Dagger Club discusses Ruth Ware's [The Death of Mrs. Westaway](#) (\$18.99)

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25 7:00 PM Live Event**

**Hardboiled Crime Club** discusses Dorothy B. Hughes, [The Fallen Sparrow](#) (\$15.95)

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26 7:00 PM Live and Virtual Event**

**SciFi Friday Club** discusses John Wiswell's [Someone You Can Build a Nest With](#) (\$20)

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27 11:00 AM Live Event**

**The Cookbook Club** discusses Alex deBoschenk's [Nights and Weekends](#) (\$35)

Bring a dish from the book to share

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28 2:00 PM Live Event**

**A pair of local authors**

**Allison Brennan** signs [Don't Say a Word](#) (Mira Books \$30)

Angelharts Investigations #2

**Shane Gericke** signs [Ocean of Bones](#) (Damnonii \$24.99)

[Paperback](#): \$12.99)

**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 30 7:00 Live Thriller Event**

**Don Bentley** discusses [Vince Flynn Denied Access](#) (Atria \$30)

The Mitch Rapp origin story

**Marc Cameron** discusses [Dead Line](#) (Kensington \$30)

US Marshall Arliss Cutter after a deadly perp in Alaska plus much of Arliss' origin story too

Possible visit by Kyle Mills

**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1 5:00 PM Virtual Event**

**JA Jance** discusses [The Girl from Devil's Lake](#) (Harper \$30)

Bisbee Sheriff Joanna Brady

Signed books available

**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1 7:00 PM Live Event**

**An authorless Witcher Book Release Party**

Fans of Andrzej Sapkowski's SciFi series come for an unsigned copy of [Crossroads of Ravens](#) (Orbit \$30) out September 30, special swag, and a discussion led by Pat King

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 2 1:00 PM Virtual US Book Launch**

**Janice Hallett** discusses [The Killer Question](#) (Atria \$30)

The British Pub Quiz scene can be deadly

Signed UK edition [The Killer Question](#) (Viper \$36) available later in October

**OUR SUBSCRIPTION CLUB PICKS FOR SEPTEMBER**

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**British Crime Club** One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Malone, Maria. [Death in the Countryside](#)

**Cozy Crimes Club** One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Chapman, Amanda. [Mrs. Christie at the Mystery Guild Library](#)

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

Berney, Lou. [Crooks: A Family Portrait](#)

**First Mystery Club** One Signed First Printing per month

Viertel, JJ. [The Glass Eel](#)

**Hardboiled/Noir Club** One Signed First Printing per month

Knight, Nolan. [The Gorgon of Los Feliz](#)

**Historical Fiction Club** One First Printing per month

Gelfuso, Hayley. [The Book of Lost Hours](#)

**Historical Fiction Paperback Club** One Unsigned paperback per month

Ewen, Pamela Binnings. [The Moon in the Mango Tree](#)

**Notable New Fiction Club** One Signed First Printing per month

Williams, Beatriz. [Under the Stars](#)

**Romance and Relationships Club** One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Meredith, Rachel. [The Girl Next Door](#)

**SIGNED BOOKS FOR SEPTEMBER**

Alexander, Tasha. [The Sisterhood](#) (St Martins \$29). Signed here in early November with Andrew Child's Jack Reacher launch for [Exit Strategy](#) (Random House \$30). Order both now to secure a Signed First Printing.

I love this, a dramatic poisoning of the Debutante of the Season at her 1907 elegant engagement party in London to a Marquess and the story of an Iceni woman in Roman Britain who one day meets up with Boudica, Queen of the Iceni tribe. Alexander tiktoks between these story lines as Lady Emily and her husband Colin Hargreaves pursue the person who killed Victoria, and investigate an earlier suicide, while Vatta struggles with who she is and will be and how far she will go following her queen. Alexander infuses these narratives with Greek, Latin,

and poetry as well as the stresses between conservatives and suffragettes in Edwardian England,

\* Archer, Jeffrey. [End Game](#) (Collins \$42). The final entry in the William Warwick series. London, 2012. The eyes of the world are on Britain as the country prepares to host the Olympic Games. But the glare of the spotlight makes London a target for some of the most dangerous people on earth. And the moment the bid is won, an international conspiracy is set in motion to unleash a devastating attack that will leave the world in chaos. One man stands between triumph and disaster: Commander William Warwick, heading up Scotland Yard's elite team. But as he pursues the shadowy organization, he sets off a deadly game of cat and

mouse which will take him from the bustling streets of London to the hidden corridors of power. Can Warwick stop the assassin?

Unsigned US edition: [End Game](#) (Harper \$30)

Armentrout, Jennifer. [The Primal of Blood and Bone](#) (Evil Eye \$31.99). 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.

\* Armitage, Richard. [The Cut](#) (Pegasus \$27.95). The author of huge hit First Mystery Pick [Geneva](#) (\$27.95 later printings, no paperback edition) discusses the conception of his second mystery, set in the village of Barton Mallet and toggling between 1994 and 2024 when a horror film is set to be filmed there. “When I was swirling the idea around in my imagination in the early stages, my dad hadn’t been very well, so I was spending a lot more time at home. And, to ease my mind, I would do quite a lot of walking in the village, and I’d walk the path I used to take on the way to school and look at how my primary school had changed. And when I walked to the cemetery with my dad, there was a man across from us laying flowers, and he came over to me and he said, “I’m so sorry you had such a hard time at school. You’ve done really well for yourself, and I’m sorry about what happened.” I didn’t remember him, and it just gave me the idea of wondering—the little traumas that happen in childhood, how do they manifest as an adult? And then I remembered the double-murder that had happened close enough for us to feel it as kids. It had an impact on our village, and so I thought, I’ll gently use some of that idea along with the story of a boy that comes back to his village to elicit a confession for a murder where the wrong person went to prison.”

Awad, Mona. [We Love You, Bunny](#) (Simon & Schuster \$30). In the cult classic novel *Bunny*, Samantha Heather Mackey, a lonely outsider student at a highly selective MFA program in New England, was first ostracized and then seduced by a clique of creepy-sweet rich girls who call themselves “Bunny.” An invitation to the Bunnies’ Smut Salon leads Samantha down a dark rabbit hole (pun intended) into the violently surreal world of their off-campus workshops where monstrous creations are conjured with deadly and wondrous consequences. When *We Love You, Bunny* opens, Sam has just published her first novel to critical acclaim. But at a New England stop on her book tour, her one-time frenemies, are so mad about the way she’s written about them that they kidnap her and force her to hear their side of the story.

Benn, James R. [A Bitter Wind](#) (Soho \$28.95). The 20<sup>th</sup> chapter in this wonderful series opens on Christmas Day 1944: After his last mission put him in the tailspin of the Battle of the Bulge, Captain Billy Boyle is in southeast England at an airbase where the big bombers fly missions but hush-hush radio espionage is conducted in Operation Corona. It begins when Billy and his love, SOE’s Diana Seaton, go for a coastal walk so he can view the white cliffs of Dover. Instead they come upon the body of an American officer tumbled down a cliff. Accidental death? Billy’s gut says not. And he proves to be right. The local constabulary is territorial about the case but Billy is able to overrule them and bring in Kaz, the Polish baron who is so often his wingman. Then there’s another death. Eventually events take Billy from the RAF Hawkinge and the top-secret Operation Corona in Kent to war-ravaged Yugoslavia in order to find the answers surrounding the deaths of the two men. “Benn is a master at mixing WWII

facts and fiction, and the action never stops. While the series is probably best appreciated when read in order, each book offers enough background to make it work as a stand-alone. In any case, don’t miss #20!”—Nancy Pearl.

If you have not yet read Benn, or if you want to start over, see Large Paperbacks below for a deluxe new edition of the first in series: [Bill Boyle](#) (\$19.95). It’s an excellent way to introduce new readers, including Teens.

Bentley, Don. [Vince Flynn Denied Access](#) (Atria \$30) completes the trilogy begun with 2010’s [American Assassin](#) (\$19.99) by taking Mitch Rapp back to his fledgling assassin days, picking up where 2012’s [Kill Shot](#) (\$19.99) ended. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Congress is questioning the CIA’s necessity. Interim CIA director Thomas Stansfield must fight for his agency’s survival while explaining why the previous candidate for his job was found murdered in a French hotel—surrounded by booze, cash, and dead men. Worst yet, a brilliantly run sting operation in Moscow has resulted in the arrest of America’s most prized Russian asset and the expulsion of his CIA handler. With the CIA’s Moscow Station now paralyzed by the catastrophic intelligence failure, Stansfield seeks help from Mitch Rapp, a newly minted assassin in the secretive Orion program. But Rapp has problems of his own: when his Swiss girlfriend Greta’s grandfather receives a box containing the head of a former Cold War comrade along with a note promising that Greta’s head will be next, Rapp finds himself on the frontlines in a showdown between the American and Russian intelligence services.

Berney, Lou. [Crooks: A Family Portrait](#) (Harper \$30). Berney shines in this enthralling epic, our **September Crime Book of the Month**, which covers more than 50 years in the lives of the Mercurio crime family. “In 1961, patriarch Buddy, a low-level member of the Chicago mafia, is 22 and living in Las Vegas. His life changes when he meets beautiful swindler Lillian Ott. The two hit it off from their first conversation, and immediately jump into a relationship and start planning a family. When Buddy is tipped off that his boss has discovered his side hustles and ordered him killed, they flee to Oklahoma. In the following years, Buddy and Lillian have five children—Jeremy, Tallulah, Ray, Alice, and Piggy—each of whom inherits some aspect of their parents’ criminal tendencies. The action then shifts to the children’s triumphs and failures, including Tallulah’s time in 1990s Moscow, where she gets involved with human traffickers; the hyper-meticulous Alice’s failed attempt to go straight as an attorney at a white-shoe law firm in New York; and favorite son Jeremy’s rise and fall in 1980s Hollywood. The tone is lighter than in Berney’s previous books, but the episodic structure and focus on character over action charms. Fans of Elmore Leonard will eat this up.”

Blake, Matthew. [A Murder in Paris](#) (Collins \$36). We snagged a few copies of this top seller in the UK, the second by Blake after his hit with [Anna O](#) (\$18.99), a book for readers of Alex Michaelides’ *The Patient*. Here we continue with a new medical-adjacent thriller, this time with memory expert Olivia Finn of London’s Charing Cross Hospital. One fraught night she gets an urgent call from the police on the scene at the Hotel Lutetia in Paris. Olivia’s aged French grandmother Josephine Benoit, is sitting there under her own portrait, in distress and claiming she committed a murder at the end of the Second World War. Is this a recovered memory or a real one? Hotel records do show that a woman did die in room Josephine cites in 1945. Could her



story be true? And why do more people now start to die? Blake delivers some surprising answers.

Unsigned US edition: [A Murder in Paris](#) (Harper \$30).

Boulley, Angeline. [Sisters in the Wind](#) (Holt \$19.99). YA Fiction “weaves together the history of stolen Native children with the contemporary dangers to vulnerable teens, this unforgettable novel is impossible to put down...and races to an explosive conclusion.”—*Booklist* Starred Review

Brennan, Allison. [Don't Say a Word](#) (Mira Books \$30). In their second investigation after [You'll Never Find Me](#) (\$9.99), the Angelharts must figure out whether a teen's death is a tragic accident...or a murder. The police ruled Elijah Martinez's death an accidental drug overdose, but the teen's grieving mother isn't convinced. With the case officially closed, Angelhart Investigations is the only one who can help her find the truth. Margo Angelhart's sure this will be an easy solve—she'll talk to Elijah's friends and employer, retrace his steps, and figure out what happened in his final hours. None of his friends believe he did drugs, and the teacher who's been vocal about the police mishandling the case turns up dead. When Margo's brother Jack, a former cop, can't get straight answers out of the police, they don't know if it's because of an active case...or a cover-up. Margo's only sure of one thing—she has to find out what really happened to Elijah.

Paperback edition: [Don't Say a Word](#) (\$18.99).

Cameron, Marc. [Dead Line](#) (Kensington \$30). Wow, while US Marshall Arliss Cutter of Alaska is working a case his past surges into the narrative in such a way that this fast and hard moving book is really an origin story for Arliss. Marc has truly hit his stride. Marc's Cutter stories appeal to a wide range of authors including William Kent Krueger, Mark Greaney, Jack Carr, Don Bentley, and CJ Box to give you an idea of his range.

Here it's propulsive but slows to some intense family moments as well. It beings when Cutter and his US Marshal Partner Lola Teariki are at frozen Cheney Lake, finally nearing their prey. He's Butch Pritchard, a killer-for-hire as ruthless as the Anchorage wind, and wanted for the murder of a 25-year-old pregnant woman in Missouri. A cruel hit orchestrated by the victim's husband, Royce Decker, a former member of the St. Louis Metro PD and on the run too. As quickly as Butch is in the Marshals' sight he disappears, abandoning a bear of a partner who's terrified for his life. But it isn't Butch or Royce he's afraid of. If it isn't those two outlaws, then who? And why? Right now, the creep in custody has gone silent and Arliss and Lola soon realize there's more to this manhunt than imagined, and more people at risk.

Cañas, Isabel. [The Possession of Alba Diaz](#) (Penguin \$29) is another gorgeous and gory tale of possession in a Gothic *tour de force*. In 1765, plague sweeps through Zacatecas. Alba flees with her wealthy merchant parents and fiancé, Carlos, to his family's isolated mining village Mina San Gabriel for refuge. But safety proves fleeting as other dangers soon bare their teeth: Alba begins suffering from strange hallucinations, sleepwalking, and violent convulsions. She senses something cold lurking beneath her skin. Something angry. Carlos's cousin Elías is newly arrived from Spain, hoping to make a quick fortune off the family's silver mine. Alba, as his cousin's betrothed, is none of his business. But when Alba attempts to kill him during one of her mysterious episodes, Elías recognizes the signs of demonic possession

and sets out to help her. In the fight for her life, Alba and Elías become entangled with the occult, the Church, long-kept secrets, and each other.... We are fans of Cañas' groundbreaking work combining suspense with themes like colonialism, romance, and possession in various forms: [The Hacienda](#) (\$17), her first, and [The Vampires of El Norte](#) (\$19).

Carter, Ally. [The Blonde Who Came in from the Cold](#) (Harper \$24.99). Yay, Ally has agreed to sign this for us. “Two former covert agents wake up handcuffed in a shed, then start a globe-trotting trip down memory lane as they escape and try to figure out who's behind it all and what they want. This fast-paced, bantery rivals-to-lovers, second-chance adventure works as a sequel and companion to [The Blonde Identity](#) (\$17.99) which we recommend highly as a series start for Carter's heady cocktail of danger, spies, and lively romance.” It's fast, funny, and a welcome addition to the spy genre.

Child, Lee. [Reacher: The Stories Behind the Stories](#) (Penzler \$26.95) presents a collection of illuminating and intriguing essays in which Child reflects on his inspirations behind each of the Jack Reacher books written before his brother Andrew—signing the new Reacher here in November—took over the series in 2019. The collection also includes “A Better Place,” an exclusive new short story and the first Reacher appearance entirely written by Lee Child since that date.

Chizmar, Richard/WH Chizmar. [Widow's Point: The Complete Haunting](#) (Gallery Books \$29). Signed here October 3. “*Widow's Point* makes *The Blair Witch Project* seem like a mere stroll through the woods. Readers will find it as difficult to escape this harrowing tale as the characters within it.” —Linwood Barclay. Stephen King adds his praise to this ghost story, our **October Notable New Fiction Pick**: “Creepy as hell and totally original. Once I started reading, I couldn't put it down. The perfect scary story for a dark and stormy night...as long as the lights don't go out.”

Longtime residents of Harper's Cove believe that something is wrong with the Widow's Point Lighthouse. Some say it's cursed. Others claim it's haunted. Originally built in 1838, three workers were killed during the lighthouse's construction, including one who mysteriously plunged to his death from the catwalk. That tragic accident was never explained, and it was just the beginning of the terror. In the decades that followed, nearly two dozen additional deaths occurred in or around the lighthouse including cold-blooded murder, suicide, unexplained accidents and disappearances, the slaughter of an entire family, and the inexplicable death of a Hollywood starlet who was filming a movie on the grounds. The lighthouse was finally shuttered tight in 1988 and a security fence was erected around the property. No one has been inside since. Until now. Told across two harrowing incidents from 2017 and 2025, those who enter the Widow's Point Lighthouse searching for supernatural proof and the next big thing find themselves cut off from the outside world.

\* Cleeves, Ann. [The Killing Stones](#) (St Martins \$29). Jimmy Perez, longtime cop in the books on and of TV's *Shetlands*, moves south, a bit closer to mainland Scotland, to the Orkney isles. Unless you know this beautiful region well it's best to rely on the map in the book or pull up one on your phone as mastering the local geography will enhance your reading of this story.

Jimmy has now after several years relocated from

Lerwick and, overcoming his grief at the murder of his former partner Fran, though he'll never forget her, is now the father of a son, James, with Willow Reeve who is actually his boss in policing the islands, and shares time with Cassie, Fran's daughter, with her biological father who remains in Shetland. Willow is heavily pregnant with the couple's new child and the Christmas holidays, and winter weather, complicate the investigation of the murder of Archie Stout of Westray, Jimmy's long time, somewhat combustible, friend. Westray is the scene of an important Neolithic archaeology site and Archie has been killed with one of its two story stones, important for their Neolithic script overwritten with Viking runes—kind of like miniature Rosetta Stones. Jimmy has an obvious conflict of interest and is indeed so close to the case he has trouble remaining objective, so he and Willow negotiate who is investigating what. A large cast of family and suspects and two further murders pull you through to the surprising conclusion of their investigation. Recommended to fans of Vera and Matthew Venn by Cleaves too, not to mention say Louise Penny or Ellie Griffiths or Alice Feeney.

Signed UK edition [Killing Stones](#) (\$44).

Coates, Darcy. [How Bad Things Can Get](#) (Sourcebooks \$17.99). It was supposed to be the party of the century: miles of idyllic white sand beaches, lush jungle foliage...and a dark legend nobody dreamed might be all too true. When an online influencer and several hundred of his most loyal fans land on Prosperity Island, the plan is simple: five days of elaborate games, drinking, and suntanned fun. The only survivor of an infamous cult, Ruth wants nothing more than to keep her head down and not draw attention to herself. She's spent decades outrunning her blood-soaked childhood, and her identity is a closely held secret. But then the true history of the island is revealed...along with its sinister connection to Ruth's past.... Coates joins us from Australia in a horror double-bill with Brian McAuley on September 3.

Deaver, Jeffery/Isabella Maldonado. [The Grave Artist](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$28.99). Deaver and Maldonado's second novel featuring Department of Homeland Security agents Carmen Sanchez and Jake Heron after [Fatal Intrusion](#) (\$28.99 or \$16.99 Signed) begins with a chilling murder of a groom at his wedding reception in Long Beach, California. And he's not the first of a bridal party to have been killed. So do we have a Serial at work? Each victim was rendered unconscious after their nuptials, then drowned. Either the same killer or a copycat is now active which catches the attention of the DHS. Interwoven with Sanchez and Heron's investigation are chapters from the perspective of the murderer—an arrogant psychopath who believes he's optimized serial killing

Du Brul, Jack. [Clive Cussler The Iron Storm](#) (Penguin \$32). An Isaac Bell adventure finds the Van Dorn agent landing with a gold shipment in Liverpool, England, only to have to thwart thieves. Then he's in the trenches of WWI at the request of the President on a special mission. As an official observer, Bell is supposed to avoid action, but after battling in the trenches, he finds himself flying beside a group of Allied aviators, unwilling to let them fight alone, even when they are faced with capture. Bell and his compatriots are imprisoned in a medieval castle—one that's withstood the test of time and countless assaults by conventional weapons in its history. Escape lies tantalizingly close...but only with the help of the latest in battlefield technology. But then evil forces willing to take the fighting to the streets of the US emerge.... I like this series for its actual as well as imagined

history and here, a little tribute to Clive's interest in old flying machines.

Fracassi, Philip. [The Autumn Springs Retirement Home Massacre](#) (Tor \$28.99). Signed here October 9 but out end of September.

Rose is in her late 70s, living out her golden years at the Autumn Springs Retirement Home. When one of her friends dies alone in her apartment, Rose isn't too concerned. Accidents happen, especially at this age! Then another resident drops dead. And another. With bodies stacking up, Rose can't help but wonder: are these accidents? Old age? Or something far more sinister? "Fracassi blends the true-life horror of aging and society's scorn for the elderly with an original slasher premise and reimagined *Final Girl*. The question isn't who will die at the Autumn Springs Retirement Home—but who will survive? Diabolically delightful." —Tananarive Due

Gelfuso, Hayley. [The Book of Lost Hours](#) (Atria \$29.99). For fans of *The Ministry of Time* and *The Midnight Library*, an exceptionally imaginative debut that also reminds me of Natasha Pulley's *The Watchmaker of Filigree Street* with its bending of time using timekeepers as instruments.

Gelfuso imagines a "soaring library filled with books containing the memories of those have passed and accessed only by specially made watches once passed from father to son—but mostly now in government hands." This is where eleven-year-old Lisavet Levy finds herself trapped in 1938, waiting for her watchmaker father to return for her. When he doesn't, she grows up among the books and specters, able to see the world only by sifting through the memories of those who came before her. As she realizes that government agents are entering the time space to destroy books and maintain their preferred version of history, she sets about saving these scraps in her own volume of memories. Until the appearance of an American spy named Ernest Duquesne in 1949. Then in 1965, teen Amelia Duquesne is mourning the disappearance of her uncle Ernest when an enigmatic CIA agent approaches her to enlist her help in tracking down a book of memories her uncle had once sought. But when Amelia visits the time space for the first time, she realizes that the past—and the truth—might not be as linear as she'd like to believe. And it's dangerous.

You have to read the book to be swept into the story. I like this comment that the book "embraces time, memory, and history, encased in a heart-pounding, cold-war spy thriller, wound tight around a sweeping story of love, family, and fate. *The Book of Lost Hours* performs actual magic—time itself stops as it draws you in." I add that if you follow what is happening at the National Archives and the Library of Congress you will see that Gelfuso has not written speculative fiction for this our **September Historical Fiction Club Pick**.

Gericke, Shane. [Ocean of Bones](#) (Damnonii \$24.95/\$12.95). During the Cold War, an oil rig disaster sent derrick operator Remy "Knockout" Broussard to the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico. Normally he'd have rested there for eternity, but the oil gods recently discovered that the rough-and-tough roustabout sacrificed his own life to save his fellow workers. They decide to make amends by reuniting Knockout with his grieving family and choose two wisecracking treasure hunters for the job.

\* Hallett, Janice. [The Killer Question](#) (Viper \$44) continues to stretch the limits of the epistolary mystery in this playful tale of

murder at a weekly trivia night. The Case Is Altered is a struggling pub on a British back road that relies on its quiz crowd to keep the lights on. When a new team shows up and trounces the regulars, accusations of cheating escalate until somebody's found dead in a nearby river. This being a Hallett novel, much of the story comes together through trivia categories, WhatsApp messages, police interviews, and emails. The focus is on Dominic Eastwood, nephew of The Case Is Altered's owners, who is pitching a true crime documentary to Netflix about an earlier tragedy at the pub. Those familiar with Hallett's brand of puzzle-solving will have a ball piecing together the meticulously placed clues. I love the way Hallett has incorporated a pub name into the story in the manner of Martha Grimes.

Unsigned US edition: [Killer Question](#) (Atria \$30)

Harris, Joanne. [Vianne](#) (Orion UK \$35). Harris's long-awaited prequel to her deliciously successful novel [Chocolat](#) (\$17)—do not miss the movie with Juliette Binoche and Johnny Depp, Alfred Molina and Judy Dench—and is a feast of the senses full of intrigue, magic, love and, of course, chocolate. You, like me, will rejoice in this prequel—a heady mix of cooking, chocolate-making, sorcery, and suspense. Harris' writing is vivid and filled with insights as we see Vianne struggling to create her own recipe of self. And you will tour Marseilles, once considered seedy, and now the second largest city in France with the longest seafront promenade, an ancient harbor from which you can sail out to Chateau d'If and relive *The Count of Monte Cristo*, a fabulous blue and white *train touristique* to ride, and the must-see stunning Basilique Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde, a Romanesque-Byzantine church with a towering spire that perches high above the city. Marseilles is ancient: Steven Saylor set one of his marvelous Roman mysteries there featuring the salaried Scapegoat, an official city official.

Unsigned US edition: [Vianne](#) (Pegasus \$28.95).

\* Herron, Mick. [Clown Town](#) (Baskerville UK \$44). Slow horse River Cartwright is waiting to be passed fit for work. With time to kill, and with his grandfather—a legendary former spy—long dead, River investigates the secrets of the old man's library, and a mysteriously missing book. Regent's Park's First Desk, Diana Taverner, doesn't appreciate threats. So when those involved in a covert operation during the height of the Troubles threaten to expose the ugly side of state security, Taverner turns blackmail into opportunity. Over at Slough House, the repository for failed spies, Catherine Standish just wants everyone to play nice. But as far as Jackson Lamb is concerned, the slow horses should all be at their desks. When Taverner starts plotting mischief people get hurt, and Lamb has no plans to send in the clowns. On the other hand, if the clowns ignore his instructions and fool around, any harm that befalls them is hardly his fault. But they're his clowns so when Taverner starts plotting mischief people get hurt, and Lamb has no plans to send in the clowns. On the other hand, if the clowns ignore his instructions and fool around, any harm that befalls them is hardly his fault.

Heughan, Sam. [The Cocktail Diaries](#) (Quadrille UK \$42) includes chapters on Sam's Top 10 all-time favorites, 'Simple and Timeless' recipes for those easy crowd-pleasers, 'Complex and Conversational' for something a bit more sophisticated, and a final section, 'Made by Friends', featuring imaginative recipes created by international bartenders for Sam and his brand Sassenach Spirits – a tailor made tour of the world's best

cocktails Sam's expertise and enthusiasm shine through, as he regales tales of tasting cocktails – from the historic Boulevardier in Paris and a Bramble in New Orleans to a Papaya Margarita in the back of a van in the Oaxaca mountains – and delights in sharing his favourite adventures (and drinks!).

Jance, JA. [The Girl from Devil's Lake](#) (Harper \$30). Sheriff Joanna Brady is looking forward to the holidays with her busy family, and to celebrating her daughter Jenny's graduation from the police academy. But she is pulled away when a body is discovered beneath a flooded bridge in the Arizona desert. A young boy has been murdered, and the details of the crime scene tell Joanna two things: This was not the killer's first murder. And it's only a matter of time before he kills again. As Joanna digs deeper into the case, she begins to understand this murder is just one piece of a much, much bigger puzzle. She uncovers unlikely connections between cases of mysterious deaths and missing persons and faces saving the Arizona town of Bisbee from a predator.

Jónasson, Ragnar. [The Mysterious Case of the Missing Crime Writer](#) (Joseph UK \$46) takes inspiration from Agatha Christie's still-unexplained 11-day disappearance in 1926. Set mainly in 2012, the action picks up where [Death at the Sanatorium](#) (\$19) left off, with young Reykjavik detective Helgi Reykdal planning a quiet future with his new girlfriend, Anita, after escaping his volatile relationship with the abusive, alcoholic Bergthora. But one winter evening, bestselling crime author Elín S. Jónsdóttir goes missing. Given Helgi's fondness for 1930s and '40s mystery fiction, his boss asks him to investigate. There are no clues to her disappearance and her fame will propel a leak to the press. As Helgi interviews the people closest to her—a publisher, an accountant, a retired judge—he realizes that Elín's life wasn't what it seemed. In fact, her past is even stranger than the fiction she wrote. Meanwhile, a vindictive Bergthora starts stalking Anita. Ragnar is a fan of the Golden Age of detective fiction but I don't believe those authors would engage the passive Helgi as a sleuth.

Unsigned US edition: [The Mysterious Case of the Missing Crime Writer](#) (St Martins \$29)

Krueger, William Kent. [Apostle's Cove](#) (Atria \$29). This is the 21st investigation for Minnesota's Cork O'Connor and it's arresting for two reasons: One, we go back in time for much of the novel when Cork was relatively new in office, wearing the badge that his late father once wore. And Cork's wife Jo and all their children were still alive, all living together in Aurora. Plus Henry Meloux was younger. Two, Kent has not created a character like Aphrodite McGill before. I am still reeling!!

It begins in the present, a few nights before Halloween when Cork, now a PI, is dreading his upcoming 60th birthday and feeling gloomy. The more so when he gets a call from his son, Stephen, an intern with an Innocence Project-style organization that seeks to overturn wrongful convictions. Stephen believes that the first major investigation Cork oversaw as sheriff of Tamarack County that resulted in putting an Ojibwe man named Axel Boshey into prison for a brutal murder, ended in error. Stephen is convinced that Axel was and is innocent. The first half of the book recounts that case, detailing the murder of Chastity Boshey at the Timber Lodge and Resort and the events that led to the confession and conviction of her husband Axel, a man with a history of heavy problems including drinking. The second half sees Cork



compelled to act now. Yet not only is the case long closed but Axel refuses to help in any effort to clear himself. Then comes a new murder that seems linked to Chastity's death. To investigate both Cork has to spend time in Aurora but mostly on the Iron Lake Ojibwe Reservation nearby.

Lewis, Brittany. [Blood Moon](#) (Page Street \$198.95). This new Romantasy comes with a Signed Bookplate while supply lasts.

McAuley, Brian. [Breathe In, Bleed Out](#) (Sourcebooks \$17.99). Horror at a remote healing retreat. Hannah has been running from her demons ever since she emerged from a harrowing wilderness trip without her fiancé. No one knows exactly what happened the day Ben died, and Hannah would like to keep it that way... even if his ghost still haunts her with vivid waking nightmares. So when her friend group gets an exclusive invitation to a restorative spiritual retreat in Joshua Tree, Hannah reluctantly agrees in search of a fresh start. Despite her skepticism of the strange Guru Pax and his belief in the supernatural world, Hannah soon finds healing through all the yoga, sound baths, and hot springs offered at the tech-free haven. But this peaceful journey of self-discovery turns blood-soaked when mysterious killer starts picking off retreat attendees in increasingly gruesome ways.

McCloskey, David. [The Persian](#) (Norton \$29.99). **We are able to host David and offer his book to you two weeks early, so ask for yours to be dated on September 18.** "As with all McCloskey books it builds to high drama and twists with characters you care about. There is much here on love and loyalty as well as deep cover operations. It's deep and satisfying in a slightly different way to his first three but keeps the McCloskey traits of great tradecraft and headlong dash to the end. It proves he is a great spy writer."

Former agent McCloskey is alone writing about Iran at the moment, and he does it brilliantly. Here Kamran Esfahani, a dentist living out a dreary existence in Stockholm, agrees to spy for the Mossad after he's recruited by Arik Glitzman, the chief of a clandestine unit tasked with running targeted assassinations and sabotage inside Iran. At Glitzman's direction, Kam returns to his native Tehran and opens a dental practice there, using it as a cover for the Israeli intelligence agency. Kam proves to be a skillful asset, quietly earning money helping Glitzman smuggle weapons, run surveillance, and conduct kidnappings. But when Kam tries to recruit an Iranian widow seeking to avenge the death of her husband at the hands of the Mossad, the operation goes terribly wrong, landing him in prison under the watchful eye of a sadistic officer whom he knows only as the "General." And now, after enduring three years of torture in captivity, Kamran Esfahani sits in an interrogation room across from the General, preparing to write his final confession. Kam knows it is too late to save himself. But he has managed to keep one secret—only one—and he just might be able to save that.

\* Meyer, Nicholas. [Sherlock Holmes and the Real Thing](#) (Penzler \$26.95). If Meyer's sterling seventh Holmes pastiche is, as he suggests in the Acknowledgments, his last, he ends on a high note, serving up his best revamp of the Conan Doyle canon in years. Lady Glendenning, owner of many London properties, is referred to Baker Street by Scotland Yard after her usually reliable tenant, portrait artist Rupert Milestone, vanishes with three months of unpaid rent to his name. When Holmes and Watson accompany Lady Glendenning to Rupert's residence, the

sleuths spot several oddities, including "a kiln with no potting wheel or ceramics, an unfinished Venetian cityscape... an oddly situated portrait of the artist as a young man," and blood. Their suspicions of foul play are validated when a male corpse is found nearby, gruesomely concealed inside a snowman, and three other dead bodies promptly turn up. Meyer avoids some of the pitfalls of his previous Holmes outings, firmly rooting the plot in Holmes's investigative acumen instead of his physical derring-do, and he packs the action with devilish surprises. Baker Street regulars will be thrilled.

This book is being signed by Meyer for us in New York and will thus arrive in early October.

Mosley, Walter. [Gray Dawn: An Easy Rawlins Mystery](#) (Little Brown \$29). L.A. private eye Ezekiel "Easy" Rawlins gets entangled in a knot of interconnected murders in the solid latest installment of Mosley's long-running series. When Santangelo Burris asks Easy to locate his aunt, Lutisha James, the empathetic detective feels compelled to say yes even though it's been more than a year since his last case. Easy's inquiries lead him to a grim Bel-Air crime scene, where he discovers three bodies and a terrified nine-year-old survivor. While Lutisha, a live-in domestic worker, is not among the victims, she's undeniably connected to the murders. The subsequent search lures Easy into multiple skirmishes and shoot-outs before he unexpectedly stumbles on yet another homicide. After being arrested at that scene and taken to county jail, Easy agrees to assist an inmate trying to find his missing father. Upon his release, Easy tracks down Lutisha, only to discover that she's a swindler with a far more complicated past than he anticipated. Mosley's intricate plot feels a little more contrived than usual, but his stirring prose and vivid evocation of 1970s L.A. carry the day, and Easy himself is as charming as ever

Ramage, Eliana. [To the Moon and Back](#) (Avid Reader Press \$30). A debut heralding one young woman's relentless quest to become the first Cherokee astronaut that will irrevocably alter the fates of the people she loves most. **It publishes next week and will be Signed here November 6 alongside Vanessa Lillie's new novel. It is our November Notable New Fiction Club Pick.**

Steph Harper is on the run. When she was five, her mother fled an abusive husband—with Steph and her younger sister in tow—to Cherokee Nation, where she hoped they might finally belong. In response, Steph sets her sights as far away from Oklahoma as she can get, vowing that she will let nothing get in the way of pursuing the rigorous physical and academic training she knows she will need to be accepted by NASA, and ultimately, to go to the moon. Spanning three decades and several continents, we follow her turbulent journey, along with the multifaceted and intertwined lives of the three women closest to her.

Roach, Mary. [Replaceable You: Adventures in Human Anatomy](#) (Norton \$28.99) presents "a lively survey of the state of the art in the field of regenerative medicine—a collection of disciplines that, in the aggregate, function as the equivalent of a human auto body shop. Each chapter focuses on a discrete body part or system, such as hair follicles and the rectum. With Roach as an inquisitive, intelligent guide, readers learn about mundane topics, like the evolution of the technology for joint replacements, alongside exotic research into editing pig genes to reduce the probability that their organs will be rejected when implanted in humans, and more. That problem, as Roach explains

in her chapter on hair replacement, is what drives the search for ‘stealth’ cells—a line of iPS [induced pluripotent stem] cells that are able to dodge the human immune system, making immunosuppression unnecessary,’ something she calls the ‘Holy Grail of regenerative medicine.’ In describing efforts like these, Roach isn’t afraid to step out from behind her computer and observe cutting-edge research and practice up close.

Roy, Arundhati. [Mother Mary Comes to the River](#) (Scribner \$30). A memoir by Roy “that traces the complex relationship with her mother, Mary Roy, a fierce and formidable force who shaped Arundhati’s life both as a woman and a writer.”

Ryan, Hank Phillippi. [All This Could Be Yours](#) (St Martins \$29). Debut author sensation Tessa Calloway is on a whirlwind book tour for her instant bestseller, *All This Could Be Yours*. Booked into a different city every night, Tessa receives standing ovations from adoring fans while her husband Henry and their two children cheer her on back home from their brand-new dream house. But there’s a chilling problem with Tessa’s triumphant book tour—she soon discovers she is being stalked by someone in every crowd asking personal questions. Is someone obsessed not only with sabotaging her career, but also with destroying her perfect family back home? Secrets have a way of coming out.... Spoiler, Henry really is a good guy. Virtual event October 6 4:00 PM PDT.

Ryan, Patrick. [Buckeye](#) (Random House \$30). As the US reconstructs in the postwar boom, a secret grows in Bonhomie, Ohio—but nothing stays buried forever in a small town. Against the backdrop of some of the most transformative decades in modern America, the consequences of a long-ago encounter ripple through the next generation

Scalzi, John. [The Shattering Peace](#) (Tor \$29.99). Old Man’s War Book 7 is “Classic Scalzi space opera at its wisecracking, politically pointed, and, somehow, fiercely optimistic finest.”—*Kirkus* Starred Review. For a decade, peace has reigned in interstellar space. A tripartite agreement between the Colonial Union, the Earth, and the alien Conclave has kept the forces of war at bay, even when some would have preferred to return to the fighting and struggle of former times. For now, more sensible heads have prevailed – and have even championed unity. But now, there is a new force that threatens the hard-maintained peace: The Consu, the most advanced intelligent species humans have ever met, are on the cusp of a species-defining civil war. This war is between Consu factions... but nothing the Consu ever do is just about them. The Colonial Union, the Earth and the Conclave have been unwillingly dragged into the conflict, in the most surprising of ways. Gretchen Trujillo is a mid-level diplomat, working in an unimportant part of the Colonial Union bureaucracy. But when she is called to take part in a secret mission involving representatives from every powerful faction in space, what she finds there has the chance to redefine the destinies of humans and aliens alike... or destroy them forever.

\* Stokes Chapman, Susan. [The Twelve Days of Christmas](#) (Harvill UK \$39). The air glitters with hope as the snowy village of Merrywake celebrates the Christmas season after the tumult of the Napoleonic Wars. As the Viscount’s famous Twelfth Night Ball draws closer, many of the villagers have a story to tell – we meet a lovelorn vicar and kindly maid reunited after a misunderstanding, three sisters vying for the hand of a dastardly duke,

two servants hiding a dangerous secret and a soldier making his way home, unsure of the welcome he might receive. As their tales braid together, we see life and love in the village from below stairs to high society. Reimagining each of the traditional carol’s gifts, and written in tribute to Jane Austen and Georgette Heyer, here is a collection of festive tales filled with seasonal cheer and heart-warming characters. Will the challenges and mysteries that the Viscount’s guests encounter be resolved by the night of the ball?

\* Thorogood, Robert. [Murder on the Marlow Belle](#) (Poisoned Pen \$32.99 or \$16.99). Our copies each come with Signed bookplates from this British author, a Marlow Murder Club Sticker, and 3 tarot cards while supply lasts.

Judith Potts and her two no-nonsense friends have found their stride solving near-impossible murder investigations in their picturesque town of Marlow, Buckinghamshire. Despite the trio’s success, local law enforcement demands the silver-haired ladies stay far from their latest case: Oliver Beresford who set sail for a party on *The Marlow Belle* and was later found shot dead on the shores of the River Thames. Unable to ignore the bitch of a case, Judith infiltrates Oliver’s beloved Marlow Amateur Dramatic Society (MADS), whose committee was aboard the ill-fated cruise. Now among dangerous rivalries, hushed secrets, and whispered affairs, it is clear Oliver’s final act left the MADS ready to bring down the final curtain. With a cast of seasoned performers and motives veiled behind every monologue, Judith must deploy her brilliant sleuthing.

Tracy, PJ. [The Deepest Cut](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99). Minneapolis homicide detectives Leo Magozzi and Gino Rolseth arrest a sadistic pair of killers for the murder of several women with the help of Monkeewrench, their eccentric, cyber-sleuth friends and partners. One of the killers dies in custody and the other, Wolfgang Mauer, is sent to a maximum security mental hospital in a rural corner of Minnesota. There, Mauer plots his escape—and worse!

Viertel, JJ. [The Glass Eel](#) (Mysterious Press \$26.95). Love introducing dazzling new voices to you and here is one from not one but two authors, father and son, writing a debut that is our **September First Mystery Club Pick**. You fans of Tess Gerritsen, Paul Doiron, and Michael Koryta/Scott Carson will find this gem lands you in yet another Maine landscape, Caterpillar Island off the central coast; into another surprising plot that could only happen in Maine; into a cast of colorful locals that seem to sprout there; and be written with understated humor that makes the prose sing. Besides, who knew that a thriving blackmarket for elvers, two-inch long baby eels that can sell for \$2000 per pound and up on the international black market, was a thing?

We begin at 4:15 one April morning when cancer survivor Jeanette King, surviving on her own now picking crab meat, is brought awake by the thrumming of a boat engine where none should be. She motors out to it only to discover it’s her ex’s lobster boat, no one aboard, but somehow it holds a large tank of elvers. A sort of ne’er do well called Joe arrives on a dinghy, waves her off and motors the big boat away after thrusting an old tackle box at her. He apparently thinks she’s working with Simon, the ex. Back home Jeanette discovers the box holds a big stash of cash....and just like that we are drawn into the story of high risk and a criminal ring.



Actress Emma Thompson sums this novel up: “It’s part *The Overstory*, and then also a bit *Mare of Eastwick*, with a wondrous female lead. It is so absorbing to feel oneself there [on the Maine Coast] and surrounded by these very gritty people. I liked them so much. The Viertels write about [the natural world]—the tiny changes—the exquisite complexity and beauty of it all—all mashed over and tragically corrupted by man’s greed and ignorance. The battle between nature and human greed is beautifully and horribly well realized. The book is great. It’ll make a helluva film, too!”

White, Randy Wayne. [Tomlinson’s Wake](#) (Morrow \$29.99). When his friend Tomlinson’s boat washes up empty on a reef off Honduras’s Mosquito Coast after a hurricane, Doc Ford heads there to find him. And he does, only to have Tomlinson tell him an incredible story: that he died during the storm, but was brought back to life by a one-armed 12-year-old who may be the last descendant of an ancient Mayan king, a boy many people do not want around lest he inspire a revolution. Tomlinson needs to hide the child, and he needs Ford’s help. Ford, revealing more than ever his skills in black ops, encounters a slew of shady characters — criminals and traffickers; an archaeologist sex addict; a menace known locally as Iron Baby — as he tries to get a handle on the situation. Then an earthquake hits, sending everything into disarray, and Ford realizes things are not as they appear: “One look, and I knew that this trap... had been set up by a boy who actually believed he was the hereditary King of the Maya.”—*NY Times*

Williams, Beatriz. [Under the Stars](#) (Random House \$30). Our **September Notable New Fiction Pick** takes us to New England. Audrey Fisher has struggled all her life to emerge from the shadow of her famous mother by forging a career as a world-class chef. Meredith Fisher’s glamorous screen persona disguises the trauma of the tragic accident that haunts her dreams. Neither woman wants to return to the New England island they left behind and its complicated emotional ties, but Meredith has one last chance to sober up and salvage her big comeback, and where else but discreet, moneyed Winthrop Island can a famous actress spend the summer without the intrusion of other people? Until Audrey discovers an old wooden chest among the belongings of her estranged bartender father, Mike Kennedy, and the astonishing contents draw the women deep into Winthrop’s past and its many secrets...attracting the interest of their handsome neighbor, Sedge Peabody. How did a trove of paintings from one of America’s greatest artists wind up in the cellar of the Mohegan Inn? And who is the mysterious woman portrayed on every canvas? It ties into a stormy November night in 1846....

Winslow, Don. [The Final Score](#) (Harper \$30). **This volume of six stories has been postponed to winter and will be Signed then.** We refunded ticket holders but we are keeping the preorders but will not be charging them to you until the actual publication and event.

Woodward, MP. [Tom Clancy Terminal Velocity](#) (Putnam \$32). A string of savage murders in the United States seems unrelated until the FBI makes a shocking discovery: a decade ago, all of the murder victims were involved in a raid to eliminate the Umayyad Revolutionary Council, a vicious terror group that—were it not for John Clark and the Campus—would have perpetrated the most devastating attack against critical American infrastructure

in history. Now it appears they’re back, with a next-generation leader hell-bent on revenge. Mary Pat Foley, Director of National Intelligence, greenlights an op for the Campus to cut the head off the snake. Clark taps ex-Delta commando Bartosz “Midas” Jankowski to lead a kill team deep into the mountains to snuff out the charismatic terror leader. But when the hunters become the hunted, it’s up to Jack Ryan Jr. to avert disaster.

Woodward also bring out [Red Tide](#) (Naval Institute Press \$32). America’s Navy is stretched to the breaking point. China’s combat fleet grows. And both countries compete for access to advanced semiconductor chips produced only in Taiwan. Rear Admiral Will Cole, outgoing operations officer (N3) of the Pacific Fleet, knows this is a recipe for disaster. But after decades at sea, he is ready to pass the torch to the next generation of “fighting Coles”: his eldest, Henry, a Navy lieutenant who flies F-18s; his middle son Jaime, a merchant marine officer; and his daughter Lu back home. When the new Cold War turns hot, however, Cole is ordered to do the impossible: destroy the Chinese fleet and retake Taiwan—before it’s too late.

## CLASSICS

Publishers are reissuing a lot of classics and bestsellers in all genres, in part because new printing techniques make it possible to do “Collector’s Editions” at higher prices. In part because of landmark dates or anniversaries like this 250<sup>th</sup> birthday year of Jane Austen. And in part just to make more money. Here are a few for September:

\* Austen, Jane. [Mansfield Park: \(Penguin Classics Deluxe\); Northanger Abbey: \(Penguin Classics Deluxe\); Pride and Prejudice: \(Penguin Classics Deluxe\)](#) (Penguin \$18 each). We will do some kind of Austen conversation event in December to honor her December 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.

\* Brand, Christianna. [Tour De Force](#) (Poisoned Pen Press \$15.99). Another Brand reissue from the British Library Crime Classics joins other titles and gets this rave review from *Kirkus*: “Inspector Cockrill’s last novel-length case, first published in 1955, takes him on a package tour to San Juan el Pirata, a Mediterranean island paradise of sun, sand, and murder. Cockie’s companions include irresistible Louli Barker, who clings helplessly to him as their airplane begins its descent; Cecil Prout, of the fashion house Christophe et Cie; Leo Rodd, forced out of his career as a concert pianist by the loss of his right arm; Helen Rodd, the wealthy wife who continues to support him; spinster Edith Trapp, whose wardrobe Mr. Cecil openly admires; introverted Vanda Lane, who enjoys gaining power over other people; and Odyssey Tours guide Fernando Gomez. Soon after their arrival, Vanda is stabbed to death in her hotel room as everyone else lounges on the beach, their alibis attested by the watchful Cockie himself, though they can’t extend the same courtesy to him. The investigation reveals that every one of the vacationers is harboring some dark secret ranging from adultery to masquerade to embezzlement. Fending off his own arrest, Cockie eventually figures out which of those secrets is most toxic en route to half a dozen false climaxes and a remarkably well-timed unmasking. Along the way, Brand (1907-88) distributes puzzle pieces as dexterously as a Las Vegas dealer and wisely springs her biggest and most jaw-dropping surprise halfway through in order to give dazed readers plenty of time to accommodate themselves to its messy implications.”

Hemingway, Ernest. [A Farewell to Arms](#) (Penguin \$30) with an Introduction by Abraham Verghese. Written when Hemingway was 30, his frank portrayal of the love between Lieutenant Henry and Catherine Barkley, caught in the inexorable sweep of war, glows with an intensity unrivaled in modern literature, while his description of the German attack on Caporetto—of lines of fired men marching in the rain, hungry, weary, and demoralized—is brilliant.

Lee, Harper. [To Kill a Mockingbird Collector's Edition](#) (Harper \$32).

Stagge, Jonathan. [The Scarlet Circle](#) (Penzler \$15.95). This American Mystery Classic begins when, on vacation with his daughter on the New England coast, Dr. Hugh Westlake, is enjoying the sun, the sea, and the fishing. It being September, the inn where they're staying is almost empty, except for a few other guests. But the peace is shattered when a woman's body is found strangled on the beach, with a red circle drawn around a mole on her face. The morbid scene becomes more so when she's identified as the governess of a family staying at the inn. Hugh gets drafted by local law enforcement to help with the investigation.

Hardcover edition: [The Scarlet Circle](#) (Penzler \$25.95)

Yokomizo, Seishi. [Murder at the Black Cat Cafe](#) (Steerforth Press \$17.95) is the latest installment in the Kosuke Kindaichi mysteries—the classic series that made Seishi Yokomizo Japan's greatest and best-loved crime writer of all time. This edition also includes a bonus story, 'The Well Wheel Creaks'.

In post-war Tokyo, still recovering from the devastating wartime bombing raids, a patrolling policeman passing The Black Cat Café makes a gruesome discovery: the body of a woman, lying in a hastily dug hole, with a dead black cat by her side. The woman's face is disfigured beyond recognition, and the café's black cat seems alive and well, so where did the two corpses come from, and why were they buried in the café's garden? As the legendary scruffy sleuth Kosuke Kindaichi investigates, he realizes the café's enigmatic madam, Oshima, has a past shrouded in secrecy, and what exactly is her relationship with the owner, Itoshima?

## COZIES

As the price of paper rises and so does books in sync, publishers like Crooked Lane are publishing in hardcover and paperback at the same time to give you a choice. I can easily remember when hardcovers cost \$19.99. Unfortunately we do not get better pricing from publishers either.

Abbott, JB. [Picking Up the Pieces](#) (Crooked Lane \$19.99). After her mother's passing, Katie Chambers returns to Cedar Bay, a serene enclave nestled in the southwest corner of Washington State's Whidbey Island to support her newly widowed father, Jim Chambers. Stepping into her mother's footsteps, Katie takes on the role of graphic designer at Cedar Bay Puzzles. With the help of her father, she resurrects her mom's cherished initiative, the South Island Jigsaw crew, a group of puzzle enthusiasts who gather weekly at the library to test and tackle the latest Cedar Bay Puzzles creations. But when a member of their club is murdered and Jim is the last person to see her alive....

Barrett, Lorna. [A Perilous Plot](#) (Penguin \$30). Everything was going great for Tricia Miles, right up until her estranged mother, Sheila, arrives on her front step with an urn she says contains

the remains of Tricia's father. Shocked and saddened, Tricia and her sister, Angelica's efforts for clarity are dashed when Sheila disappears the very next day, leaving without a word. Then the funeral parlor where they take the remains says they are kitty litter and inside is hidden a stolen Rolex. Is dad really dead and could their apparently broke parents be in hiding somewhere around Booktown?

Chapman, Amanda. [Mrs. Christie at the Mystery Guild Library](#) (Berkley \$29). Book conservator Tory Van Dyne and a woman claiming to be Agatha Christie on holiday from the Great Beyond join forces to catch a killer in this spirited debut, our **September Cozy Crimes Pick**. At the end of her shift at Manhattan's Mystery Guild Library, timid Tori Van Dyne is greeted by a posh elderly woman who asks for a cocktail and introduces herself as Mrs. Max Mallowan. Before a shocked Tori can ask many questions, her cousin, actor Nic Van Dyne, drops by to lament that a dog she's watching is seriously ill. With some skillful questions, the visitor determines that the dog was inadvertently poisoned by a crushed jewelry bead. Then Nic's agent turns up dead, and the apparent Mrs. Christie steers Tori, Nic, and the policeman assigned to the case toward a solution with the acuity of Miss Marple. Chapman has a blast with her contemporary New York setting, resettling British mystery tropes among Manhattan's rare books community, theatrical circles, and eccentric Upper East Siders. Uncovering a killer, it turns out, can be just as fun in the Big Apple as it is in St. Mary Mead. The concept reminds me of Carolyn G. Hart's series about a woman who returns to earth as an angel helping solve crimes.

Dutra, Carmela. [A Murder Most Fowl](#) (Crooked Lane \$19.99). When their late aunt Dolly passes away, twins Beth and Seth Lloyd inherit a chicken themed food truck. Despite the challenges, the siblings rise to the occasion, even going as far as signing up their truck Kluckin' Good to compete on a top cooking show and ruffle a few feathers for some good publicity. But the competition goes from heated to lethal when a contestant is found dead....

Falco, Michael. [Murder in an Italian Piazza](#) (Kensington \$27). Having been to Positano in May I can vouch for how well Falco captures the Amalfi coast although lead character widow Bria Bartolucci's B&B, while unlucky in its guests, somehow escapes the avalanche of tourists swarming the area. This time it's an opera diva with a petty past and high-maintenance demands whose swan song unleashes a family drama worthy of Puccini. This lively series has charming characters and an immersive setting. You can order up [the whole series](#) but note there are no paperback editions (as of yet).

Meier, Leslie. [A Matter of Pedigree](#) (Kensington \$27). The author of the Lucy Stone Maine-based cozies starts a new series. In an upscale Rhode Island enclave, a newly wealthy empty-nester-turned-sleuth and her spoiled and nosy dog, Brittany spaniel Poopsie, solve a baffling murder. Note that Carole Capobianco puts on Jimmy Choos to go gumshoeing.

Coming up for the Scary Season: [Halloween Night Murder](#) (Kensington \$27), a trio of tales by Meier, Lee Hollis, and Liz Ireland.

\* Thorogood, Robert. [Murder on the Marlow Belle](#) (Sourcebooks \$18.99) comes with Signed bookplates, a sticker, and tarot cards while supply lasts. And you can catch *The Marlow Murder Club* series on PBS.

Verity Beresford is worried about her husband. Oliver didn't come home last night, so of course Verity goes straight to Judith Potts, the village's resident amateur sleuth, for help. Oliver, founder of the Marlow Amateur Dramatic Society, had rented *The Marlow Belle*, a private pleasure cruiser, to host an exclusive party for the society, but no one remembers seeing him disembark. Then Oliver's body washes up on the Thames with two bullet holes in him, signaling it's time for the Marlow Murder Club to leap into action.

This 4<sup>th</sup> in series also comes in hardcover: [Murder on the Marlow Belle](#) (Sourcebooks \$32.99).

Warner, Penny. [Murder at Blackwood Inn](#) (Crooked Lane \$19.99). A series debut with ghosts and murder. Ghostwriter Carissa Blackwood is having the worst year of her life. After leaving her cheating husband, she finally takes up the offer to help her two eccentric aunts manage the Blackwood Bed 'n' Breakfast Inn in Pelican Point, California—a house they only recently inherited from their deceased father, Bram Blackwood. The old man dabbled in the occult, and his daughters haven't fallen far from the family tree. But it's Hazel's poison garden that really concerns Carissa. When one of the townspeople dies from a poison that could have only come from Aunt Hazel's garden, the town is quick to point fingers. It doesn't help that one of Aunt Runa's charms is found at the scene of the crime.

“With an appealing protagonist in ghostwriter Carissa Blackwood, a super hunky handyman, and sly hints of the paranormal that include a mystery ginger cat, *Murder at Blackwood Inn* is a thoroughly delightful read.”—Ellen Byron

Also in hardcover: [Murder at Blackwood Inn](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99)

\* Whittle, KJ. [Seven Reasons to Murder Your Dinner Guests](#) (Sourcebooks \$17.99). In this debut, seven strangers meet at a London restaurant after receiving anonymous dinner invitations. The guests—including a Welsh cop, an IT expert, a fashion influencer, and an editor—are puzzled when the wait staff provide no information about the host or the purpose of their gathering. After *haute cuisine* and amicable conversation, the evening ends with each diner receiving a sealed envelope. Lingerie CEO Janet opens hers and reads that she will die at her current age of 44; everyone else's cards hold similar predictions with different ages. The group brushes it off as a baffling prank or reality TV experiment, but a few weeks later, two of them die at the ages specified in their messages, leading the survivors to suspect that someone's out to get them. “Whittle smoothly toggles between the perspectives of each guest, maintaining consistent suspense as the years pass and more of them turn up dead. Though the setup is pure formula, crafty twists and voicey narration culminate in an impressive payoff.”

Woolcott, Alexander. [Two Gentlemen and a Lady](#) (Steerforth \$17.95). What a delight. Dorothy Parker Meets *Lady and the Tramp* in three charming dog stories set in 1920s Jazz Age New York—back in print for the first time in decades and featuring illustrations by America's first female editorial cartoonist whose career in comics began before she had the right to vote. This is a Classic although I like it in Cozies.

Meet Nicholas, a gregarious Airedale Terrier whose arrival in a moneyed Long Island home unleashes complete and total chaos throughout the neighborhood. Verdun Belle, the lady of the title, is a silky-eared spaniel whose loyalty—and litter of

puppies—rallies an entire American regiment fighting on the Western Front during World War I. Then there's Egon, a very large German Shepherd, accustomed to summering on the Côte d'Azur, and to managing the diaries and daily activities of his human charges, whether they want him to or not. Ranging in tone from urbane irony to poignant sweetness, these are stories to make you smile at the antics of dogs, and guffaw at the even sillier antics of the people who love them. Like me.

## A SEPTEMBER RICH IN BRITISH CRIME

There are so many books that I highlight them here to make the Hardcover List more coherent. This is not a time when British authors are touring the US but a few titles are Signed.

Please check **Signed Books** (Jeffery Archer, Richard Armitage, Ann Cleeves, Janice Hallett, Mick Herron, Susan Stokes-Chapman and a Sherlock Holmes by American Nicholas Meyer plus an historical by American Tasha Alexander), **Cozies** (Thorogood and Whittle), and **Large Paperbacks** for additional British Mystery titles.

\* Anderson, Jack. [The Return of Moriarty](#) (Crooked Lane \$30). Upon escaping from Reichenbach Falls, his empire in ruins, criminal mastermind James Moriarty takes the identity of wealthy inventor Hugo Strahm and embarks on a dark pilgrimage to the cliffside manor of Schloss Alber in Bavaria. When medical student Clara Mendel returns there, she finds her childhood home on the verge of ruin. A deadly feud over a priceless heirloom has thrown the Alber family into chaos while its walls play host to an unusual cast of characters—the obstinate Lord Alber, his strange and beleaguered children, their cantankerous butler, and of course, their mysterious new guest, “Hugo Strahm.” When one of them is poisoned at dinner, it's the first act in a spiraling criminal conspiracy, in which any and all of them are suspects. Working with the sharp and inquisitive Clara, the former crime lord attempts to solve the mystery whilst trying to keep his true identity concealed. Yet despite taking on the role of detective, Moriarty does not share Sherlock Holmes's methods, nor his interest in justice.

[Paperback edition](#) (\$19.95).

\* Edwards, Mark. [The Wasp Trap](#) (Atria \$29). In a double-locked-room mystery, the first timeline, introduced in the novel's prologue, takes place in July 1999. A group of recent college graduates are gathered at a country estate outside London by a charismatic psychology professor to work around the clock on a dating website meant to achieve maximum dotcom-era profits. In truth, they also work at developing a test to identify psychopaths (their mentor's first interest). The estate is well outfitted with “fruit-colored iMacs” and age-appropriate entertainment. For a few months, in these pleasant confines, the group becomes very close. Now “the affluent couple” hosts their old friends for a lavish dinner party in their high-security Notting Hill townhouse. But immediately the evening shifts from awkward to nightmarish, part home invasion and part sinister game. The group is commanded to reveal a secret from the storied summer of '99. Each dinner guest denies knowing what information is sought, but each, of course, does harbor secrets. “The key to *The Wasp Trap*'s deliciously frightening uncertainty lies in the pain and horror of not knowing whom, in a closed environment, one can trust in a thriller blending terror and nostalgia for youth's simpler times...even if psychopaths walked among them.”



\* Follett, Ken. [Circle of Days](#) (Grand Central \$40). Follett goes deep into British history in a big novel exploring Stonehenge. Seft, a talented flint miner, walks the Great Plain in the high summer heat, to witness the rituals that signal the start of a new year. He is there to trade his stone at the Midsummer Fair, and to find Neen, the girl he loves. Her family lives in prosperity and offers Seft an escape from his brutish father and brothers within their herder community. Joia, Neen's sister, is a priestess with a vision and an unmatched ability to lead. As a child, she watches the Midsummer ceremony, enthralled, and dreams of a miraculous new monument, raised from the biggest stones in the world. But trouble is brewing among the hills and woodlands of the Great Plain. Joia's vision of a great stone circle, assembled by the divided tribes of the Plain, will inspire Seft and become their life's work. But as drought ravages the earth, mistrust grows between the herders, farmers and woodlanders—and an act of savage violence leads to open warfare....

\* Francis, Felix. [Dark Horse](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99). I mentioned in August that the return of Sid Halley as a PI in a case that zigzags between Ireland and England with a spirited young woman jockey trying to secure a career and avoid criminal charges is a story that Dick Francis could well have written.

\* Galbraith, Robert. [The Hallmarked Man](#) (Little Brown \$40). The 8<sup>th</sup> for Cormorant Strike and Robin Ellacott begins when a dismembered corpse is discovered in the vault of a silver shop. The police initially believe it to be that of a convicted armed robber—but not everyone agrees with that theory. One of them is Decima Mullins, who calls on the help of private detective Cormoran Strike as she's certain the body in the silver vault was that of the father of her newborn baby who suddenly and mysteriously disappeared. The more Strike and his business partner Robin delve into the case, the more labyrinthine it gets. The silver shop is no ordinary one: it's located beside Freemasons' Hall and specializes in Masonic silverware. And in addition to the armed robber and Decima's boyfriend, it becomes clear that there are other missing men who could fit the profile of the body in the vault.

I remind you that Galbraith is JK Rowling and the series has been made into TV.

\* George, Elizabeth. [A Slowly Dying Cause](#) (Viking \$32). A middle-aged metalworker, Michael Lobb, has been stabbed again and again and has decidedly shuffled off his mortal coil. First on the scene is Geoffrey Henshaw, whose backstory is a touch scandalous, having fallen in love with a high school student and been relieved of his teaching job for his troubles; now, pining for her, he's working the Cornwall countryside for a mining company that wants to buy the Lobb property, a perfect site for a lithium processing center. That's one person with motive. Another is Michael's brother Sebastian, who owns a 40% stake in the property and is eager to sell, even as Michael resisted. Then there's Michael's young wife, who just happens to have taken out an insurance policy on her husband not long before his untidy demise. But of course there's more for Detective Sergeant Barbara Havers and Detective Inspector Thomas Lynley to plumb as they investigate. Trademark George.

\* Herron, Mick. US edition: [Clown Town](#) (Soho \$29.95). "Herron's preternatural talents for satire and spycraft are on full display in his latest Slow Horses. The crimes of a murderous

informant who worked with British intelligence in Northern Ireland during the Troubles move a trio of former spies to seek recompense by blackmailing Diana Taverner, First Desk at the Regent's Park headquarters of MI5. Rather than swatting the trio aside, Diana seizes the opportunity to shift blame for their findings onto some of her many rivals. Meanwhile, River Cartwright, grandson of late Service veteran David Cartwright, hears from the man curating his grandfather's library that a book has gone missing. Still recovering from a near-fatal poisoning, River learns that the phantom volume is a repository of state secrets. As those plotlines converge, Jackson Lamb, head of Slough House's ragtag group of MI5 rejects, gets roped into Diana's scheme. With his trademark balance of complex plotting and bone-dry laughs, Herron steers the narrative toward a jaw-dropping ending that leaves at least one key player dead and promises big changes for the future of the series. Overflowing with gritty action and mordant humor, this is as good as espionage novels get.

\* Jones, Dan. [Lion Hearts](#) (Penguin \$30). 1350. The Essex Dogs have scattered. In Winchelsea, Loveday struggles to keep his tavern afloat in the aftermath of the Black Death. Nowadays, the only battles he fights are the ones within his own mind. In Windsor, Romford thrives as a squire at King Edward III's court, his days as an archer fading into memory. But when an unpaid debt threatens everything he's built, Romford must call upon the lessons he learned all those years ago: Be cunning. Be ruthless. Be quick. With England still reeling from the Death and a new threat from Spain on the rise, the kingdom's future has never been more uncertain. Each man had reasons for leaving the Essex Dogs behind—but clearly the fighting is not over in this the third and final book in the Essex Dogs trilogy by historian Jones.

\* Kelly, Julia. [A Dark and Deadly Journey](#) (St Martins \$28). Not really British mystery but a WWII spy story taking British agents to Lisbon. See Hardcover below.

\* Lloyd, Catherine. [Miss Morton and the Missing Heir](#) (Kensington \$27). Once again Regency England's penniless Miss Caroline Morton, once a Society lady and now a lady's companion, is drawn into an investigation when the possible lost heir to the Morton earldom Thomas is found. He, his mother, and her widowed daughter Mary descend on the home of Caroline's employer Mrs. Frogerton. The revelation that Mary's husband is very much alive and released from debtor's prison ends with Mary dead and her mother wounded. A manhunt for the husband ensues but Caroline and Mrs. Frogerton suspect there's more to all this....

\* Mackintosh, Clare. [Other People's Houses](#) (Sourcebooks \$27.99) is IMHO the best of Mackintosh's plots: multifaceted in narrators, twisty with a truly surprise ending, and she pillories both the affluent who live on the exclusive, high end, "safe" enclave The Hill, and one desperate housewife living at the bottom whose efforts to belong are comic, pitiable, and in their way deeply sad. And they matter because Allie is the ex-wife of DS Leo Brady and mother of his beloved young son Harris. She's also the enemy of DC Ffion Morgan, Leo's investigative partner and lover who by now has partially overcome her terror of commitment but is as headstrong as ever as a cop. Leo is based out of Britain's Cheshire, Ffion over the border in Wales, but they overlap. Mackintosh's excellent story avoids clichés associated with this scene of the crime(s) structure. Recommended.

\* Malone, Maria. [Death in the Countryside](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99). Despite the cover this debut is not a cozy, it's very British traditional and deeply rooted in Yorkshire with some appeal to fans of James Herriot's work, and is our **September British Crime Club Pick**. I like picking debuts for our Subscription Clubs, new voices for you. There is also a [paperback edition](#) (\$19.99). For both the cover art features a dog which is, in fact, a bonus to this village policing procedural "chock-full of eccentric townsfolk, plot twists and red herrings, plus an intrepid police dog named Wilson. And, like with the town's rival bakeries, there are plenty of tasty morsels to keep you flipping pages into the wee hours of the morning."

Sergeant Ali Wren and her Springer spaniel, PD Wilson, are settling into Heft, her hometown in North Yorkshire. The place somehow seems busier than Harrogate, the much bigger city where she was stationed before, perhaps because people keep calling on her for matters unrelated to police work. One of the problems is a rivalry between Evelyn Hooley, whose bakery is a staple in Heft, and the owners of Rise, a new patisserie just across the street. On a rare day off, Ali and PD Wilson hike to the Black Stone, where young Tom Masters went missing years before. On her Ali runs into Brian Bright, who reports his wife Melody missing. Oddly, Brian has pictures of his late first wife all over his house, making Ali wonder about the state of his current marriage. Even though she thinks that Melody may have just up and left, Ali agrees to investigate. As the bakeshop rivalry progresses toward minor mischief, Melody's sister claims to know nothing of her whereabouts while Ali's husband Nick, a location manager for a popular TV cop show, reports that Brian is a reliable supplier of cars to the film industry. Then Melody is found dead at a beach house....

\* Martin, Madeline. [The Secret Book Society](#) (Hanover Square \$30). Libraries are something of a theme this month. Here in 1885 London the widowed, reclusive, and rich Lady Duxbury (whose three husbands have died untimely deaths and sparked rumors of murder), sends out three secret invitations to three Society women to attend afternoon tea at her mansion...to form a secret book club and browse her library. The guests she knows have been subjugated, one dangerously abused, by husband or father. Perhaps this sanctuary will inspire them to recast their lives. Sisterhood is powerful, as are forbidden books, but missteps could cost and for one wife, leads to an asylum. Then rescue. Yet the message is that daring is rewarded. Recommended to fans of Sarah Penner and Fiona Davis.

Paperback [The Secret Book Society](#) (\$18.99) is in stock now.

\* Osman, Richard. [The Impossible Fortune](#) (Viking \$30). *The Thursday Murder Club* (on Netflix now with an incredible cast) is back. Former spy Elizabeth hasn't been herself since her husband Stephen's death, which explains the two-year gap since the group's last outing. She gradually re-engages with the world as her best friend, Joyce, prepares for her daughter's wedding. About time, too, Joyce would probably say—Joanna has a successful career, but did she have to wait till her 40s to give Joyce that most coveted of relations, a son-in-law? And then what happens but that son-in-law's best man, Nick, approaches Elizabeth at the reception and tells her someone tried to kill him that morning. The next day, Nick's office is tossed, and he disappears. He's in the security business, the owner of a remote

storage facility where people can keep anything they choose in absolute privacy and safety. He and his partner, Holly, were once paid by a client in Bitcoin that's now worth 150 million pounds, and they each know half the code that would unlock it. They had just decided to sell it and had asked a few people for advice. All of these folks are now suspects in Nick's attempted murder. Or is it actual murder? "There are parts to play, satisfying red herrings and a well-constructed answer to the puzzle of what happened to Nick and why."

**Come to our Authorless Event Party on Saturday October 4 at 10:00 am where we will discuss the series, the movie, and offer swag and a 10% discount to those buying the book from The Pen. If you can't wait and buy it when it goes on sale September 30 you can bring your receipt with you and we'll refund \$3. If you read ahead you must avoid spoilers for those who haven't yet done so. We will also show part of our virtual launch with host Mark Billingham of the first book in series, *The Thursday Murder Club*.**

\* \* Penrose, Andrea. [Murder at Somerset House](#) (Kensington \$27). Yet another Regency England mystery series highlights scientific and life-changing inventions of the time. Lord Wrexford and his wife Charlotte are startled one calm night when they learn Wrexford's brother-in-law has been accused of murdering a fellow member of the Royal Society inside its headquarters in the magnificent Somerset House. What at first seems simple morphs into a collision of science, money and politics when a new technical innovation threatens to ignite a crisis in London's financial world. As ever Penrose has done a deep dive into the research necessary to her plot so you get to learn as you read to solve the mystery. Their last case? [Murder at King's Crossing](#) (\$17.95).

\* Ripley, Mike. [Buried Above Ground](#) (Severn House \$29.99). *PW* awards this a Star. "The publishing world gets a savage skewering in this intricate meta-mystery. For years, Roland Wilkes edited Duncan Torrens's police procedurals for British publisher Boothby & Briggs. Then the vast conglomerate Pabulator acquired the firm, Roland was laid off, and he settled down as a librarian in the "satellite branch of a cash-strapped county library." Nearly 20 years later, Roland is visited by crime fiction blogger Jacon Archer, who's been retained by Pabulator to track down the pseudonymous Torrens. No one at the company knows the author's real name or contact information, and they need him to sign off on e-book and audiobook editions of his Inspector Seeley series. Jason enlists Roland to help track down Torrens, but after they set out to find the elusive author, the reasons for their quest start to look sinister; then somebody dies. Ripley gleefully rotates between a chorus of five narrators— Robb, Roland, Duncan, Jacon, and a pair of Pabulator employees— each distinct and none reliable. Their sometimes-contradictory accounts culminate in an ingenious denouement that will make readers want to flip back to the first page and start over again."

\* Von Reiswitz, Stephanie. [Murder Most Puzzling The Perilous Puzzle](#) (Chronicle Books \$18.95) is a lavishly illustrated book that invites you to solve a series of murder-mystery-themed puzzles set on an English country estate. Interactive, riddled with fiendish logical exercises, and filled with eccentric characters. Lay copies away as gifts.

## NEW IN HARDCOVER

Please note that many hardcovers also come in simultaneous trade paperbacks, a nod to increasing pricing and also to the Barnes and Noble decision to cut way back on hardcovers to stock less expensive paperbacks

Aoyama, Michiko. [The Healing Hippo of Hinode Park](#) (Hanover Square \$21.99). This time out for Aoyama it's not a uniquely qualified librarian (see Our September Large Paperback Picks) but a healing hippo standing in the children's playground in Hinode Park. Five of the neighboring apartment residents find their lives changed by Kabahiko.

Blake, Matthew. [Murder in Paris](#) (Harper \$30). See Signed Books.

Brown, Dan. [Secret of Secrets](#) (Knopf \$38). Let me say up front that no matter how much fun a new adventure with symbologist Robert Langton as he travels to Prague to attend a lecture on human consciousness given by his new lover, Katherine, only to be pulled into a deadly conspiracy may be, this is an outrageous price to pay for an ordinary hardcover. **Please buy a heavily discounted copy and apply the savings to a work getting much less play by publicity machines. For example \$22.80 at Barnes & Noble, 40% off is the price. We can't do that, we'd not even cover the cost of shelving them. We truly appreciate your support—take the savings and buy a book we recommend herein.**

Castle, Jaime/Rhett C. Bruno. [Cold As Hell Collector's Edition](#) (Blackstone \$39.95). *The Witcher* meets *The Dresden Files* in a weird Western series: Winner of the Gold Medal Readers' Favorite Award for Westerns, Finalist for the Foreword Indies Award for Fantasy, and Longlisted for the Reading the West Book Award. This hardcover collector's edition also includes the Audible #1 novella, *Dead Acre*.

In the West, there are worse things to fear than bandits and outlaws .... Demons. Monsters. Witches. James Crowley's sacred duty as a Black Badge is to hunt them down and send them packing, banish them from the mortal realm for good. He didn't choose this life. No. He didn't choose life at all. Shot dead in a gunfight many years ago, now he's stuck in purgatory, serving the whims of the White Throne to avoid falling to Hell. Not quite undead, though not alive either, the best he can hope for is to work off his penance and fade away. This time, the White Throne has sent him to investigate a strange bank robbery in Lonely Hill. An outlaw with the ability to conjure ice has frozen and shattered open the bank vault and is now on a spree, robbing the region for all it's worth. In his quest to track down the ice-wielder and suss out which demon is behind granting a mortal such power, Crowley finds himself face-to-face with hellish beasts, shapeshifters, and, worse ... temptation. But the truth behind the attacks is worse than he ever imagined....

Chaon, Dan. [One of Us](#) (Holt \$28.99). "Only in Dan Chaon's hands does a rollicking tale of a traveling sideshow carnival, serial killer, and psychic orphaned twins become a complex, soaring elegy for an America that never was and never will be." —Paul Tremblay

It's 1915 and the world is transforming, but for thirteen-year-old Bolt and Eleanor—twins so close they can literally read each other's minds—life is falling apart. When their mother dies, they are forced to leave home under the care of a vicious con man

who claims to be their long-lost uncle Charlie, the only kin they have left. During a late-night poker game, when one of his rages ends in murder, they decide to flee. Salvation arrives in the form of Mr. Jengling, founder of the Emporium of Wonders and father to its many members. He adopts Bolt and Eleanor, who travel by train across the vast, sometimes brutal American frontier with their new family, watching as the exhibitions spark amazement wherever they go. When Uncle Charlie picks up their trail, the twins find themselves facing a peril as strange as it is terrifying, one which will forever alter the trajectory of their lives.

Christie, Agatha. [Murder on the Orient Express Deluxe Collector Edition](#) (Harper \$35). Another instance of bringing classics forward in new editions. So many authors draw upon this Christie plot that if you have not read it, or need a refresher, or want to give a gift, go for it.

Dunham, Lacey N. [The Belles](#) (Atria \$28). Dark Academia. Keeping secrets carries consequences in Dunham's moody 1951-set debut. Now that her grandmother is dead, only Deena Williams knows what skullduggery it took to secure her attendance at Bellerton, a prestigious all-female college in Virginia. Deena—a working-class orphan hiding her origins—fears she'll have trouble fitting in among her privileged peers. Then she lands a room in South Hall dormitory alongside fellow freshman Ada May Delacourt, an influential descendant of Bellerton's founder. Deena, Ada May, and the four other freshman in South Hall swiftly form an exclusive clique dubbed the Belles. As they begin flouting the school's strict rules, the thrill of forbidden pranks and sneak-outs strengthens the group's bond. Soon, though, cracks begin to show in Deena's fake backstory—but rather than coming clean, she doubles down, determined to remain a Belle no matter the cost.

Fredericks, Mariah. [The Girl in the Green Dress](#) (St Martins \$29) brilliantly evokes 1920s New York City in this riveting standalone inspired by the unsolved murder of gambler and womanizer Joseph Elwell. "Morris Markey is a budding young journalist striving for professional glory. A story falls into his lap one night when he hears a woman screaming at an apartment across the street and hastens over to find Elwell with a bullet in his head. Before police arrive, Markey quizzes Elwell's distraught housekeeper and pokes around the residence. He recognizes Elwell from seeing him out the night before, accompanied by a beautiful young woman in a dress the color of dollar bills. Determined to find that woman, Markey winds up getting help from Zelda Fitzgerald, who was among the last people who saw Elwell alive—and whose social connections open doors to some of Manhattan's wealthiest power brokers. When a second man is killed in a similar fashion to Elwell, the tension mounts, and Markey's pool of suspects widens. Fredericks brings the period to life beautifully, and the often-caricatured Zelda never feels less than three-dimensional. Add in an enthralling investigation and a complex, fame-hungry lead, and it's undeniable: Fredericks has struck gold."—*P.W.*

Goodman, Carol. [Writers and Liars](#) (Morrow \$30). Greek mythology enhances this intriguing thriller about a group of writers stranded on a Greek island during a prestigious writers retreat. Maia Gold was once on track to become a brilliant novelist. Fifteen years ago, she received a boost when she finished her novel at an exclusive writers' retreat on Eris, owned



by billionaire Argos Alexander. Her novel was a success, but betrayals she experienced there caused her to sour on being a full-time writer. Now Maia runs a low-budget museum, and she claims she's been working on a manuscript for years. She wants to ignore the fancy invitation from Argos summoning her and "a select group of artists" but she's stuck in a dead end. Arrived, she reunites with just about all the first retreat attendees including the unbearable Olivia Knox, with her 25 Detective Moreau novels, and Bill Collins, who used to write cozy mysteries and is now the Eris chef. Argos isn't around but has left a challenge: whoever writes the most suspenseful mystery in the next few days will receive a fortune and guaranteed success. The next day, Argos is the first dead body found, communication is cut off, and the writers discover a very dangerous plot.

Paperback edition: [Writers and Liars](#) (\$18.99).

Grunbaum, Mara/Dan Kainen. [Birds: A Photoclear Book](#) (Workman Publishing \$27). Of all the hardcovers out this month this spectacular volume using Photoclear technology to bring a variety of birds to life within its pages is my highest recommendation. It's nonfiction but I put it here to give it extra attention. Like us, birds move through the world figuring out how to thrive, each differently. Once we pay close attention, as here, we can learn from them. All this at a spectacular price.

There are other volumes from the world of Photoclear: Dinosaur, Polar, Ocean, Safari, Jungle, even Bugs. I plan to order them all.

Harris, Joanne. [Vianne](#) (Pegasus \$28.95). See Signed Books. Spend time in Marseilles which is rarely a focal point of fiction and buy yourself chocolate to go with this prequel to *Chocolat*.

Hilderbrand, Elin. [The Academy](#) (Little Brown \$30). I can't improve upon this typically snarky review from *Kirkus*:

"Rumors of Hilderbrand's retirement were greatly exaggerated, it turns out, since not only has she not gone out to pasture, she's started over in high school, with her daughter Shelby Cunningham as co-author. As their delicious new book opens, it's Move-In Day at Tiffin Academy, and Head of School Audre Robinson is warmly welcoming the returning and new students to the New England campus, the latter group including a rare midstream addition to the junior class. Brainiac Charley Hicks is transferring from public school in Maryland to a spot that opened up when one of the school's most beloved students died by suicide the preceding year.... Cinnamon Peters' mysterious suicide hangs over the book in an odd way, especially since the note she left for her closest male friend is not to be opened for another year—and isn't.... A boarding-school fantasia, with Hilderbrand's signature upgrades to the cuisine and decor. Sign us up for next term."

Hirsch, Alex. [The Book of Bill Limited Edition](#) (Disney \$40)

Ishida, Syou. [We'll Prescribe You Another Cat](#) (Penguin \$29). The Kokoro Clinic is open for business— but only those who really need it can find it. The follow-up to [We'll Prescribe You a Cat](#) (\$25) follows a new group of souls who find solace in a charming group of cats. The book cover art alone is priceless. This is an excellent gift book for feline fanciers. Or both as a set.

Jaworowski, Ken. [What About the Bodies](#) (Grove \$28). In Jaworowski's intense if occasionally far-fetched sophomore novel, three vividly drawn strivers vie for fulfillment in down-and-out Locksburg, Pennsylvania. Carla Loudon has mortgaged

her home to finance her restaurant, which she eagerly staffs with her son, Billy, and one other underpaid employee. Carla would do anything for Billy—and she may have to, after he buries the body of his former classmate, Doreen Shippen, in the backyard. Meanwhile, autistic adult Reed sets out to make good on a promise he made to his mother on her deathbed before his brother has him institutionalized. Along the way, he meets resistance from a bullying police officer and the Locksburg rumor mill, which blames him for his mom's death. Finally, singer-songwriter Liz receives a promising call from a Nashville power player just as her boyfriend drags her into debt to a violent ex-con. Her only way out is an elaborate drug deal that will either save or tarnish her artistic ambitions. As Jaworowski's desperate, three-dimensional characters cross paths and teeter on the edge of destruction, the author raises powerful questions about poverty, fate, and the ties that bind. Though a few plot contrivances hold it back, this is a remarkably accomplished neo-noir.

Kelly, Julia. [A Dark and Deadly Journey](#) (St Martins \$28). Not really British but a WWII spy story good for reading alongside the new James R. Benn Billy Boyle. After being sidelined for a pesky gunshot wound, typist-turned-field agent Evelyne Redfern is ready for her next assignment with Britain's secretive Special Investigations Unit. When a British Intelligence informant in Portugal mysteriously disappears just after hinting that he has vital information about German plans that could tip the balance of World War Two, Evelyne and her dashing irksome partner, David Poole, are sent headed to Lisbon to find him. Once they land, Evelyne and David aren't even able to leave the airport, before she discovers one of their fellow aeroplane passengers murdered and uncovers a diary with a clear link between the victim and their missing informant. With their mission in jeopardy before it can truly begin, Evelyne and David fight to keep their cover intact as they descend deeper into the shadows that surround Lisbon's glittering collection of wealthy expats and dangerous spies.

Leonard, Elmore. [Picket Line: The Lost Novella](#) (Harper \$24.99) "is the never-before-published, prescient story of a budding agricultural strike in Texas, the racial tension brewing in the fields, and what happens when brutality from 'the man' goes unchecked." Chino and Paco Rojas seem well-mannered, at least for Chicanos, to the white cops that pull them over for littering on the long drive from California to Trinity, Texas. So well-mannered, in fact, that Captain Frank McKellan lets them off with a warning and recommends them a job at Stanzik Farms, the largest independent melon grower in the area. But Chino and Paco didn't drive all this way for work. Instead, Chino is looking for a mysterious man, Vincent Mora, whose new Valley Agricultural Workers Association is causing a scene striking against the farm owners. Stanzik's fields and Mora's union bring together an unruly cast in a long-ago era.

McEwan, Ian. [What We Can Know](#) (Knopf \$30). McEwan's first narrator, Thomas Metcalfe, is one of a vanishing breed, a humanities professor, who on a spring day in 2119, takes a ferry to a mountain hold, the Bodleian Snowdonia Library. The world has been remade by climate change, the subject of a course he teaches, "The Politics and Literature of the Inundation." Nuclear war has irradiated the planet, while "markets and communities became cellular and self-reliant, as in early medieval times." Nonetheless, the archipelago that is now Britain has managed

to scrape up a little funding for the professor, who is on the trail of a poem, "A Corona for Vivien," by the eminent poet Francis Blundy. Thanks to the resurrected internet, courtesy of Nigerian scientists, the professor has access to every bit of recorded human knowledge; already overwhelmed by data, scholars "have robbed the past of its privacy." A big concept and "McEwan's great theme is revealed in his book's title: How do we know what we think we know?"

Mejia Mindy. [The Whisper Place](#) (Grove \$27). Ex-cop Max Summerlin and psychic Jonah Kendrick, after cracking a handful of cases together, have established Celina Investigations in Iowa City with hopes of maintaining a steady client stream. One afternoon, Charlie Ashlock walks through the door. Charlie's girlfriend, Kate, has vanished, and he claims to be respecting her wishes by not seeking help from the police. Confused by Charlie's actions but enticed by the massive sum he offers up front, Max agrees to look into the matter. It's a particularly challenging assignment for Jonah—whose psychic gifts are draining and unreliable in the best of circumstances—because Charlie doesn't even know Kate's last name. Interspliced with the main investigation are chapters from the perspective of a woman on the run from a danger that Max and Jonah might be walking right into. "Mejia continues to sketch Max and Jonah's friendship with attunement to the sarcastic, beer-drinking rhythms of male bonding, and her plotting is as twisty as ever."

Miller, Madeline. [The Song of Achilles Deluxe Edition](#) (Harper \$35).

Nightingale, Max. [Murder in Tinseltown: A Hollywood Era Choose Your Own-story Mystery](#) (Pegasus \$27.95). This is really fun and a chance to see how you can easily go wrong depending on each assumption you make as an investigator. Canadian Nightingale has a strong sense of humor and his use of graphics to prompt which page the prompts push you to choose add to the fun. I especially like the prompt for the cop to ditch investigating on his own and call in his superior. Wrong! This would be fun for a Teen as well as an adult reader.

Orner, Peter. [The Gossip Columnist's Daughter](#) (Little Brown \$29) is the fusion of a true unsolved murder of the daughter of real Chicago royalty Irv and Essee Kupcinec, and a fictional story of a contemporary writer's epic and comic quest to solve it. Chicagoans will recognize city landmarks and many other real people.

In the fiction, Jed Rosenthal hasn't published a book in fourteen years, the mother of his child left him in a "trial separation" that has stretched on indefinitely, and he struggles to navigate the daily sorrows of their co-parenting arrangement. But the implosion of Jed's family is simply a footnote in the larger history of the Rosenthal family's decline. Just days after the JFK assassination, Karyn "Cookie" Kupcinec was found dead in her Hollywood apartment. The press reported that the 22-year-old was strangled, yet unanswered questions linger to this day. Cookie's parents Essee and Irv had been close friends with Jed's grandparents, but in the aftermath of her death, their friendship abruptly and inexplicably ended. Decades later, Jed pores over family stories, newspaper archives, old photos, and crime scene notes, believing that if he can divine the truth of Cookie's death—whether it was suicide, murder, or part of a larger conspiracy—it might shed light on a mystery closer to home.

Pegau, Cathy. [A Murderous Business](#) (St Martins \$28). Canadian Pegau draws upon the era of Sinclair Lewis and the Muckrakers to start a series set in 1912 where Margot Baxter Harriman, brought up in her father's B&H Food company inherits when he dies and faces opposition and derision. When she comes upon the body of her father's former assistant Giana she's faced with a police inquiry. And she does have something to hide: a note from Giana saying she and Margot's father were in a "situation" facing the company. Many in the industry were ignoring the 1906 Pure Food & Drugs Act. Needing help, Margot hires a woman investigator, Loretta Mancini, who elects to go undercover in the factory to suss out any tampering. And maybe a killer.... So, murder, blackmail, and lesbian love in an era when what you ate could kill you...and thus we arrive at hot button issues of today. Recommended.

Pellegrino, Charles. [The Ghosts of Hiroshima](#) (Blackstone \$29.99). Deeply researched by Pellegrino, a paleontologist and the author of 12 books who imagines a scenario where three bombs were sent to Japan but only two were dropped.

No one recognized the flashes of bright light that filled the sky. Survivors described colors so new that they couldn't be named. The blast wave that followed seemed to strike with no sound at all. In that silence came the dawn of atomic death for two hundred thousand souls in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On August 6, 1945, twenty-nine-year-old naval engineer Tsutomu Yamaguchi was on the last day of a business trip and looking forward to returning home to his wife and their infant son when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. He survived the atomic blast and got on a train to Nagasaki, only to be bombed and live through the nuclear devastation of that city. Jacob Beser, a Manhattan Project engineer, looked down from Hiroshima's atomic strike plane and saw the entire ground boiling.... Go from there. In theory James Cameron has signed up to make a movie of the story.

Penny, Louise. [Still Life Deluxe Edition](#) (St Martins \$35). The debut of Armand Gamache and the village of Three Pines. Most people missed this when it published but we had it in from the UK for our First Mystery Club! There are no Signed copies of October's [The Black Wolf](#) (\$30) but we will hold an **Authorless Event Party with swag and a drawing for some Signed Bookplates. Date to come.**

Rankin, Zoe. [The Vanishing Place](#) (Berkley \$30). Rankin debuts with a triumphant thriller set in rural New Zealand. At the outset, a blood-stained child named Anya enters a grocery store in the village of Koraha and starts pulling items from the shelves and devouring them. When Constable Lewis Weston arrives, he's stunned at her resemblance to an old friend named Effie, who disappeared from New Zealand two decades earlier before resurfacing as a police officer in Scotland. Effie is rattled by the possibility that she and Anya might be related; when she learns that the girl is the only witness to a murder, she returns to New Zealand. Doing so drums up memories of her lonely childhood with controlling parents who isolated the family deep in the bush. Chapters detailing Effie's murder investigation and Anya's origins alternate with flashbacks to 2001, when Effie's mother died in childbirth and her father fled their home. Rankin expertly manages the parallel timelines, drawing out key questions about Effie's past as the narrative toggles back and forth, and her prose is often ruggedly beautiful ("The barbed silence moved through

her, as if the blades of silver fern traced her skin”). This is a must-read for fans of Jane Harper.

Richter, Morgan. [The Understudy](#) (Knopf \$28). A crime novel featuring an opera singer’s battle of wits with her understudy?. The opera singer is Kit — Katerina on the stage — a coloratura soprano who, after an unstable childhood and years of toil, is about to take on her first starring role, in a production based on the campy 1968 film “Barbarella.” Then Yolanda, the understudy, walks in, her sultry charm instantly at odds with Kit’s controlled cool. Yolanda wants what Kit has — all of it — and her sense of decorum is utterly nonexistent. As Kit tells us: “The first time my understudy tried to kill me was on the day we met.” The game is on, escalating from a poisoned drink to subway platform shoves. But then someone else in the company dies, and Richter’s plot pivots to something even darker as Kit learns what is really driving Yolanda’s behavior. There are several stage, film, and book examples of sabotaging ambitious understudies—I like the pop culture hook here.

Rio, M L. [Hot Wax](#) (Simon & Schuster \$29). The daughter of a mysterious rock icon flees her present to untangle the tragedies in her past. We meet Suzanne on two sides of a 30-year divide. In 1989, she’s a precocious 10-year-old living with her mother in Baltimore; her father is on the road pursuing fame and fortune with his band, Gil and the Kills. In the second narrative, Suzanne is 41, trapped in a boring suburban life with a man named Rob. When she learns that her long-estranged father has died and left her his car and some memorabilia down in Florida, she’s once again more than ready to hit the road. Before long, she is part of a throuple with an itinerant pair who hunt and resell vintage clothing... Its “A bit of a hellride, but metal band-loving readers (hopefully not an oxymoron) may enjoy the scenery.”

Robb, J D. [Framed in Death](#) (St Martins \$30). Manhattan is filled with galleries and deep-pocketed collectors who can make an artist’s career with a wave of a hand. But one man toils in obscurity, his brilliance unrecognized while lesser talents bask in the glory he believes should be his. Come tomorrow, he vows, the city will be buzzing about his work. Indeed, before dawn, Lt. Eve Dallas is speeding toward the home of the two gallery owners whose doorway has been turned into a horrifying crime scene overnight. Join her as she cracks crime in this 61st entry in the Homicide cop Eve Dallas series.

Schlessner, Thomas. [Mona’s Eyes](#) (Europa \$30). A young girl, threatened with blindness, explores great paintings with her grandfather—a journey where art becomes an existential lesson about beauty, loss, and wonder. The France-based author’s U.S. debut, centering on a girl and her grandfather who have 52 Wednesdays to commit great works of art to memory before the girl loses her sight, has been translated into 38 languages, including Braille.

Smirnoff, Karin. [The Girl with Ice in Her Veins](#) (Knopf \$29). Sweden’s far north is growing colder; even in springtime, the town of Gasskas is buried under a relentless snow. As temperatures drop, tensions rise between a global corporation shamelessly exploiting the area’s natural resources and wary locals who have scores to settle. A bomb blasts apart a crucial bridge. Soon after, a young journalist is found murdered. Meanwhile, Lisbeth Salander is at home in Stockholm, looking to fill the void her last lover left behind. When she discovers that fellow hacker Plague

has been kidnapped and taken up north, and finds her niece, Svala, on her doorstep, she has no choice but to return to Gasskas—with Mikael Blomkvist at her side. Blomkvist takes the helm at Gasskas’s newspaper, and Lisbeth tries to locate Plague. But then Svala goes missing, and Lisbeth’s worst fears come to haunt her... The Salander series keeps chilling....

Smith, Alexander McCall. [In the Time of Five Pumpkins](#) (Knopf \$28) is the 26<sup>th</sup> entry for the always delightful No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency series. Mma Ramotswe can sense the rain long before it comes. It’s been a long, dry summer, but the first downpour of the season tends to bring with it new growth. In this case, it also brings a new client, who suspects his wife of having an affair. Meanwhile, Mr. J.L.B.’s Matekoni has struck up a new friendship with a man named Mr. Mogorosi, a prominent figure in the motor trade business. Could Mr. Mogorosi have ulterior motives for his attentions? When the two go on a fishing trip in waters teeming with dangerous crocodiles, she begins to worry for Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni’s safety. And though Mma Ramotswe has never quite perfected Mma Potokwane’s delicious fruit cake recipe, she can always rely on her old friend for a steaming cup of red bush tea, some wise counsel, and a generous slice of cake. As welcome storms roll in to the little city of Gaborone, the pumpkins in Mma Potokwane’s garden flourish, as do her keen insights. These will prove invaluable to Mma Ramotswe as she navigates perilous waters.

Sussman, Sam. [The Boy from the North Country](#) (Penguin \$29). The narrator of this debut novel comes home to care for his dying mother, and learns some stunning secrets about his identity. It turns out that his mom had a romance with Bob Dylan decades ago and his curious resemblance to the singer, often pointed out by strangers, may not be coincidental.

## A SEASON OF STRONG NONFICTION

Boggs, Nicholas. [Baldwin: A Love Story](#) (Farrar Strauss \$36). A much heralded new biography of writer James Baldwin drawing on new archival material and research into how his relationships shaped his work.

Bradford, Richard. [The Durrells: The Story of a Family](#) (Bloomsbury \$32). I read Lawrence Durrell’s *The Alexandria Quartet* decades ago, admiring its structure. We watched *The Durrells* on TV. Now here is a debunking study I’m going to skip. As one critic writes, “This book’s thesis is that Gerald’s invention of the perfect paradise on Corfu was a complete fiction and that, for all of their cosmopolitan travels, the family was both apolitical and self-obsessed. Alongside Lawrence’s dabbings in British intelligence in Egypt and later Argentina, there always seems to be a scotch to be started or a marriage to be ended. No wonder, perhaps, that Gerald found animals more pleasant than people. They didn’t write books about you, nor count the bottles....No animal, snail, or bug, however, crawling from beneath a slimy rock, can match the repugnance of the family as depicted by Bradford.” Read at your own risk.

Brown, Brene. [Strong Ground](#) (Random House \$32) makes an urgent call to reimagine the essentials of courageous leadership. In a time when uncertainty runs deep and bluster, hubris, and even cruelty are increasingly framed as acceptable leadership, Brown delivers practical, actionable insights that illuminate the mindsets and skill sets essential to reclaiming focus and driving growth through connection, discipline, and accountability.



\* Campbell, James. [The Making of Winnie The Pooh](#) (Random House \$29.95) is published to celebrate the centenary of the first publication of the Winnie-the-Pooh stories. Campbell brings to life Winnie's two remarkable creators—writer A. A. Milne and illustrator E. H. Shepard—whose collaboration resulted in timeless, charming stories of childhood innocence, beloved characters, and a world where there is always some honey left in the pot. This expertly researched and charmingly presented volume explores their lives and work, from the first draft sketches to the final illustrations everyone knows and loves and on to the characters' later incarnations at Disney for new generations. Illustrated with excerpts from original manuscripts and drawings, previously unseen draft illustrations, photographs, documents, ephemera, and more.

Giesecke, Annette. [Classical Mythology of the Constellations](#) (Black Dog \$30) is a stargazer's guide to the wondrous stories of the gods, heroes, and monsters that populate the night sky. For you Madeline Miller or Rick Riordan or Edith Hamilton etc readers go further with this retelling of the classic myths and timeless tales all stunningly illustrated that underlie the 88 named constellations in the night sky—gods and heroes from Andromeda to Orion to Ursa Major. A great gift, and excellent for Young Readers too. Pair it with a telescope.

Gilbert, Elizabeth. [All the Way to the River](#) (Penguin \$35). "This book—its stories, prayers, poems, journal entries, photos, and drawings—is my very best effort to tell the truth about what happened between me and Rayya Elias—our friendship, our romance, our beauty, rage, and pain. It tells the story of Rayya's addiction, her relapse, and her death. It also tells the story of my own addiction and my eventual surrender into recovery," writes Gilbert. "Readers of my earlier work may remember that I reached nearly this same level of peace and tranquility back when I was in India, in the middle of my *Eat Pray Love* travels, after months of disciplined prayer, meditation, and retreat." The difference this time, she says, is that she has the support she needs not to "drive my life off a cliff all over again."

Gorey, Edward/Gregory Hischak. [E Is for Edward: A Centennial Celebration](#) (Workman \$60). For more than seven decades, Edward Gorey's work has delighted fans of all ages and inspired artists across multiple disciplines. His collection of self-authored books, which comprises more than 100 volumes including *The Gashlycrumb Tinies* and *The Doubtful Guest*, remains a profoundly radical and uncompromised body of work. Viewed either separately or in their entirety, these works represent one of the most unique voices in American arts and letters. *E Is for Edward* celebrates Edward Gorey as author, illustrator, humorist, playwright, printmaker, fabric artist, and stage designer, showcasing the vast array of material he created between 1953 and his death in 2000. Curated by Gregory Hischak, Director of The Edward Gorey House, the book is organized by major themes and topics that characterize Gorey's work including hapless children, mutant menageries, the murder mystery, the ballet, sartorial elegance, stylized decor, and the many recurring motifs and latent symbolism that underlie these subjects. In addition, Hischak offers a look into the pages of the dozens of rarely-viewed notebooks kept by Gorey throughout his lifetime. This is a wonderful gift idea for fans of Masterpiece Mystery.

\* Greenblatt, Stephen. [Dark Renaissance](#) (Norton \$31.99). Elizabethan England was a dull backwater of cultural mediocrity until a humble shoemaker's son from Canterbury burst onto the London scene with his play "Tamburlaine," single-handedly revolutionizing the theater and jump-starting the English Renaissance. So argues Greenblatt, a leading historian of the period, in this retelling of the brief, brilliant and enduringly enigmatic life of the playwright Christopher Marlowe. I add that enduring questions about his authorship(s) and plays, his spying for Sir Francis Walsingham, and his death, supposedly over the Reckoning (bill) at a tavern in Deptford will forever go answered.

Harris, Kamala. [107 Days](#) (Simon Schuster \$30). Our signed copies are gone but for those interested in her take on her necessarily brief election campaign, this is your book.

Lepore, Jill. [We The People](#) (Liveright (\$39.99)). The U.S. Constitution is among the oldest constitutions in the world but also one of the most difficult to amend. Jill Lepore, Harvard professor of history and law, explains why. With the Constitution under daily threat, Lepore's outstanding book makes for urgent reading.

Maher, Paul. [Willie Nelson on Willie Nelson](#) (Chicago Review Press \$19.99). Willie Nelson's words can be found everywhere: TV, radio, movies, and on the many musical recordings he is responsible for over a decades-long career. Nelson, the last surviving member of the Highwaymen, has outlasted most of his generation of outlaw country musicians. And he is still releasing albums—and featuring on tracks with current superstars such as Beyoncé. Willie is an American institution. Here is "a collection of interviews that illuminates him not only as a musician but also as an actor, writer, political and animal-rights activist, drug advocate, and environmentalist."

McConaughey, Matthew. [Poems & Prayers](#) (Crown \$29) presents "a faith-filled, and often hilarious collection of personal poetry and prayers about navigating the rodeo of life and chasing down the original dream, belief."

\* McDonald-Rothwell, Gabrielle. [Phyllis Latour: The Last of the Special Operations Executives and Secret Agents](#) (Pen & Sword Military \$39.95) tells the extraordinary true story of Phyllis 'Pippa' Latour, the last surviving Special Operations Executive (SOE) agent from the Second World War. Excellent reading for those riveted to the novels of Susan Elia MacNeal or Cara Black's WWII thrillers, or.... James Bond was fiction, Pippa was the real deal.

Pond, Mimi. [Do Admit: The Mitford Sisters and Me](#) (Drawn and Quarterly \$29.95). is "a dazzling, acrobatic swirl of graphic invention. It mingles the fascinating story of the famous, fabulous sisters with scenes from the author's glamour-starved childhood in 1950s San Diego. Pond's dry humor fits seamlessly with that of her eccentric British characters, but she is at her empathetic best portraying the heartbreaking losses and turns of fortune they endure. Her love for them shines forth from every page." — Maurice Vellekoop. Love the cover, it will make you want to dive inside.

Orleans, Susan. Orlean. [Joyride](#) (Avid Reader \$30 Signed) is a memoir that offers a master class in nonfiction writing and an indelible portrait of a bygone era of magazine journalism in this excellent personal history. See Signed Books for more.

Richie, Lionel. [Truly](#) (Harper \$36) recalls his childhood in Tuskegee, Alabama, where he grew up on its university campus during the heyday of the Civil Rights movement, raucous adventures as a member of The Commodores, coming-of-age in late 1960s Harlem, culture shock playing gigs on the French Riviera, the big break of being signed to Motown, his meteoric solo career that included an Olympics performance witnessed by two billion around the globe, all the way through to writing and recording “We Are the World” and his current multi-generational fame as a judge on American Idol. Even with its turbulence, loss, and near-calamity, it shows why he had become a cultural icon.

Roach, Mary. [Replaceable You: Adventures in Human Anatomy](#) (Norton \$28.99 Signed ) presents a lively survey of the state of the art in the field of regenerative medicine—a collection of disciplines that, in the aggregate, function as the equivalent of a human auto body shop. See Signed Books for more.

Roche, Renaud. [Lucas Wars](#) (23<sup>rd</sup> Street \$29.99) is a great read for anyone who wants a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of one the biggest films of all time. The messy personal, creative, and business tensions that shy young filmmaker George Lucas battled to complete the first Star Wars movie get wrangled by Hopman (*Girl Rebels*) and storyboard artist Roche into a similarly rousing quest narrative. *PW* calls it “pop culture history of the first order” and praises “Roche’s fluid, expressive art.”

Roy, Arundhati. [Mother Mary Comes to the River](#) (Scribner \$30 Signed). A memoir by Roy about her relationship with her mother.

## NEW PAPERBACK ANTHOLOGIES

Copenhagen, John. [Crime Ink: Iconic: An Anthology of Crime](#) (Bywater \$23.95) contains stories by and about queer icons—James Baldwin, Oscar Wilde, Candy Darling, Radclyffe Hall, Babadook, Megan Rapinoe, Laverne Cox, Dolly Parton, Vita Sackville-West, and many more—these tales span the rich spectrum of crime fiction, from cozy mysteries and whodunits to noir, psychological thrillers, and police procedurals.

Grisham, John/Otto Penzler. [Mysterious Bookshop Presents the Best Mystery Stories of 2025](#) (Penzler \$17.95). There’s something for everyone in this celebrated anthology, now in its fifth year and which draws from sources as disparate as Black Cat Weekly, Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, and Conjunctions. Plus, it’s all capped off with an additional “bonus story” from an earlier era.

King, Stephen. [You Like it Darker: Stories](#) (\$20). *You like it darker? Fine, so do I,*” writes Stephen King in the afterword to this new collection of twelve stories that delve into the darker part of life—both metaphorical and literal.

## OUR SEPTEMBER LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Aoyama, Michiko. [What You Are Looking for Is in the Library](#) (\$18.99). This charmer is one of my favorite books, fun and uplifting and surprising. One by one souls in difficult straits come to the library where the enigmatic Tokyo librarian recommends that perfect book that contains one unexpected feature that gives the borrower the motivation needed to change their life. As a former librarian myself I love this “paean to the magic of libraries, friendship, and community, perfect for anyone who has ever found themselves at an impasse in their life and in need of a little inspiration.”

Box, CJ. [Battle Mountain](#) (\$19). The 25<sup>th</sup> Joe Pickett is a revenge driven high action thriller. We open on Nate Romanowski stalking Alex Soledad, the man who killed Nate’s wife, up a frozen creek to an isolated cabin. There’s a firefight but Soledad isn’t among the bodies. Nate is so shaken he drops off the grid with his two falcons to reset. Fellow falconer Geronimo Jones tracks him down and enlists in hunting down Soledad and Dallas Cates whom we’ve also learned to hate for the damages he’s inflicted. Elk season arrives and two hunting guides head to a primo spot in the Sierra Madre range, only to encounter an armed group. It doesn’t end well. Joe Pickett then gets a call from the Governor asking for help in finding his missing son-in-law in the Sierras.... For help Joe enlists the help of a local, a rookie game warden named Susan Kany (new character!). So two groups on the hunt – will their journeys merge?

Carr, Jack. [Red Sky Mourning](#) (\$20). A Chinese submarine has gone rogue and is navigating towards the continental United States, putting its nuclear missiles within striking distance of the West Coast. A rising Silicon Valley tech mogul with unknown allegiances is at the forefront of a revolution in quantum computing and Artificial Intelligence. A politician controlled by a foreign power is a breath away from the Oval Office. Three seemingly disconnected events are on a collision course to ignite a power grab unlike anything the world has ever seen. The country’s only hope is a quantum computer that has gone dark....

Crouch, Blake. [Famous](#) (Random House \$19). Meet Lance. 38 years old. Works a meaningless job. Still lives above his parents’ garage. By all accounts, a world-class loser. Save for one glaring exception: he has a million-dollar face. Lance has been mistaken 87 times for the Oscar-winning movie star James Jansen, and for the last ten years, he’s saved his money and studied Jansen’s films, his moves, his idiosyncrasies—even the way he speaks. Now, after an unceremonious termination from his job, Lance has decided that the time has come to go after his dream of truly becoming Jansen. And here we have the basis for the upcoming A24 film *Famous*, starring Zac Efron.

\* Hawkins, Paula. [The Blue Hour](#) (\$18.99). A tiny, lonely island off the coast of Scotland is the refuge of a woman artist in a bad marriage she can’t seem to break. Her will inexplicably left her work to the estate of a Glasgow gallerist, a former lover she’d fallen out with. To sort it out the estate’s museum director visits Eris, only accessible by causeway when the tide allows, and encounters other people in Vanessa’s messy life. In fact everyone’s life in this story is messy keeping you in suspense whether anything for anyone will end well.

\* Kelly, Julia. [Betrayal at Blackthorn Park](#) (\$19). In series start [A Traitor in Whitehall](#) (\$18), Evelyne Redfern went from typing to sleuthing when one of her workmates was murdered. Reluctantly teamed up with the attractive David Poole, she solved the crime, protected government secrets, and was recruited as an agent for an unofficial but vital intelligence group. Now, fresh out of training, Evelyne is sent, with David as her handler, to infiltrate Blackthorn Park, a secret government installation in a Sussex manor house developing clandestine weapons, to try to figure out why some materials have gone missing. Then the chief engineer turns up dead in her office.... Recommended to fans of Susan Elia MacNeal and Jacqueline Winspear.

Korelitz, Jean Hanff. [The Sequel](#) (\$18.99). “The meta fictional humor of this sequel to [The Plot](#) (\$18.99) works on every level — as a straightforward thriller, as a satire of the literary industrial complex, and as a knowing wink to the secret strivings and longings of artists everywhere

McKinlay, Jenn. [A Merry Little Murder Plot](#) (\$19). During the most wonderful time of the year, famous author Helen Monroe arrives in Briar Creek to be the writer in residence, but her “bah humbug” attitude excludes her from the many holiday celebrations the town residents enjoy. To try to spread some Christmas cheer, library director Lindsey Norris invites the new writer in town to join her crafternoon club. Murder ensues....

Penny, Louise. [The Grey Wolf](#) (\$19) is the 19<sup>th</sup> case for Quebec’s Chief Inspector Armand Gamache, Head of Homicide and resident of the tiny village of Three Pines. It begins with a phone call he refuses the answer. Then a missing coat, an intruder alarm, a note for Gamache reading “this might interest you”, a puzzling scrap of paper with a mysterious list—and then a murder. All propel Gamache toward a terrible realization. Something much more sinister than any one murder or any one case is fast approaching. Armand Gamache and his team, Jean-Guy Beauvoir, his son-in-law and second in command, and Inspector Isabelle Lacoste can only trust each other, as old friends begin to act like enemies, and long-time enemies appear to be friends. Determined to track down the threat before it becomes a reality, their pursuit takes them across Québec and across borders.... To be continued in Gamache #20 [The Black Wolf](#) (St Martins \$30), on sale October 28. There are no signed copies available.

Reichs, Kathy. [Fire and Bones](#) (\$17.99). Temperance Brennan brings her forensic expertise, dogged detection skills, and wry sense of humor to Washington, DC to investigate a harrowing fire scene. Secrets of the past such as Tempe always digs up converge with an arson investigation. “The twists and turns in the case come fast and furious, but Tempe handles each with her trademark aplomb.”—Lisa Scottoline. Reichs signs the sequel [Evil Bones](#) (Scribner \$28) for us in November:

Scott, J. Todd. [Scar the Sky](#) (Crooked Lane \$19.99). As I watched the crackling lightning display during a monsoon recently it didn’t occur to me to wonder what would happen to a person struck by lightning. J. Todd, now retired and writing full time, gives the answer: “Everything changed for Andi Ellis when she was struck by lightning and her heart stopped. Andi was resuscitated, but she was never the same—electronics strangely malfunction in her presence: clocks can’t keep time; batteries swiftly die. And while many lightning strike victims are left with temporary ‘lightning tree’ markings, on her they are permanent scars.” The scars are the surprise. And a bigger one is how “Scott brings the chills in this inventive serial killer thriller.... Scott’s wild plot offers surprises even for veteran suspense fans. Readers of Lincoln Child and Douglas Preston should check this out.” Bonus: much of the action takes place in Arizona in a fictionalized version of Snowflake.

Williams, Beatriz/Lauren Willig/Karen White. [The Author’s Guide to Murder](#) (\$19.99). There’s been a sensational murder at historic Castle Kinloch, a gothic fantasy of grey granite on a remote island in the Highlands of Scotland. Literary superstar Brett Saffron Presley has been found dead—under bizarre circumstances—in the castle tower’s book-lined study. Years

ago, Presley purchased the castle as a showpiece for his brand and to lure paying guests with a taste for writerly glamour. Now it seems, the castle has done him in...or, possibly, one of the castle’s guests has. Detective Chief Inspector Euan McIntosh, a local with no love for literary Americans, finds himself with the unenviable task of extracting statements from three American novelists, all women. Why did the authors really come to Castle Kinloch? And what really happened the night of the great Kinloch ceilidh, when Brett Saffron Presley skipped the folk dancing for one with death in the castle’s library?

Wrobel, Stephanie. [The Hitchcock Hotel](#) (\$19) introduces Hitchcock aficionado Alfred Smettle, owner of a bed-and-breakfast (complete with a crow-filled aviary) in New Hampshire’s White Mountains. To celebrate the first anniversary of the hotel’s grand opening, Alfred invites five friends from his university film club for a four-day stay. Few members of the group have remained close in the 16 years since they graduated, but each has their own private reason for accepting Alfred’s invitation. The group’s mild interest in reuniting turns to unease as the weekend wears on and buried secrets from their university days rise to the surface, calling into question why, exactly, Alfred has summoned them. Eventually, somebody dies. “This locked-room mystery contains masterful pacing, with suspense built around the identity of the victim and then the discovery of the killer.

## MORE LARGE PAPERBACKS

Alexander, Tasha. [Death By Misadventure](#) (\$18). In the winter of 1906, Lady Emily and husband Colin are invited to the opulent home of Baroness Ursula von Duchtel in the Bavarian alps. Outside is a mountainous winter wonderland with a view of Mad King Ludwig’s fairy tale castle. Inside, the villa hosts a magnificent but eclectic art collection—as well as an equally eclectic collection of fellow guests. And the baroness’ accident-prone son-in-law. But is he? Answers may be found in events of 40 years earlier when Ludwig still reigned.

Benn, James R. [Billy Boyle \(Deluxe Edition\)](#) (Soho \$19.95). This first investigation for a shirt-tail relative of General Eisenhower who moves from the Boston PD into Army Intelligence showcases the Danish court and its exile into Britain in the early days of WWII.

Bohlen, Teague. [Escaping Denver](#) (Blackstone \$18.99. An original novel based on the podcast created by Mike Howorun and Brady Roberts. For internet sleuths, nothing beats a firsthand account—especially when it’s your own. Desperate for tangible evidence of a shadow government, monstrous creatures, and a laboratory complex built deep beneath the Denver International Airport, Jessica wrangles a gaggle of like-minded armchair adventurers to break into the facility, seeking not only validation but vindication too. Using the Escaping Denver podcast as a loose guide, this ragtag team discovers that it’s not breaking in that’s hard—it’s getting out.

Chizmar, Richard. [Memorials](#) (\$20). A group of college students encountering supernatural terror while on 1983 a road trip through backwoods Appalachia—an unforgettable, chilling novel that is “scary and hard to put down. You might be advised not to read it at night.”—Stephen King. Your copy can be signed October 3 when Richard and son WH present their new chiller [Widow’s Point: The Complete Haunting](#) (Gallery Books \$29).



Chouinard, Michelle. [A Tour to Die For](#) (\$18). The chief value here is the tour around San Francisco which, today, is less and less recognizable as the new Gold Rush of AI and new billionaires reshape it.

The chill of a San Francisco summer can be deadly. No one knows this better than Capri Sanzio, who makes her living giving serial killer tours of the city. Capri has been interested in the topic since she was a kid, when she discovered she's the granddaughter of serial killer William 'Overkill Bill' Sanzio. She's always believed in his innocence, though she's never taken the leap to fully dive into the case. But now an Overkill Bill copycat has struck in San Francisco. And Capri's former mother-in-law, Sylvia, just cut off Capri's daughter's tuition payments. Needing cash, Capri wonders if this is the time to exonerate her grandfather.

Deaver, Jeffery/Isabella Maldonado. [The Grave Artist](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$16.99). See Signed Books for the hardcover. The first in this series is [Fatal Intrusion](#) (\$28.99/\$16.99).

Dicker, Joel. [The Alaska Sanders Affair](#) (\$19.99). Eleven years after the 1999 murder of aspiring actress Alaska Sanders in New Hampshire, acclaimed young novelist Marcus Goldman spearheads a new investigation into what had been an open-and-shut case. After a long-missing teenage girl's body was exhumed from the garden of his close friend and distinguished mentor Harry Quebert, he proved the man's innocence. Writing about that case had cured his writer's block. Now, teaming up with his tormented friend Perry Gahalowood, the cop who oversaw the Sanders investigation, he quickly determines that the two troublesome young men convicted of Alaska's lakeside killing didn't do it and sets out to find the guilty party—all the while collecting material for his next opus.

Ewen, Pamela Binnings. [The Moon in the Mango Tree](#) (Blackstone \$17.99). Our **September Historical Fiction Paperback Subscription Club Pick** casts you back into the 1920s and for those admiring of Anna and the King of Siam, a look at that country then. This story is based upon the author's grandmother's life and imagines what Barbara Bond, who has trained for years to sing grand opera, struggles to choose when her beloved husband Harvey Perkins accepts an assignment as medical missionary in Siam and then physician to the royal court. Will Barbara accept the role of the good wife or choose her art first? She leaves Harvey, flees to Paris and then Rome where she can finally sing on stage. Will Harvey love her still, and her children? How can she make the choice if make it she must?

Farber, Katy. [The Board](#) (Blackstone \$18.99) chronicles one mother's attempt to uncover the dark secrets that pervade her small, New England town. Has she uncovered a criminal enterprise run by members of the school board? Or is it all in her head? Good for fans of Liane Moriarty.

\* Gleason, Colleen. [Lady Darling Inquires After a Killer](#) (Heber \$18.99). Lady Darling is a woman "of a certain age." Fifty, to be specific—which, in the eyes of London society, makes her uninteresting, eccentric, and a little intimidating. She's a widow. An empty-nester (all of her children very successfully married-off). She's titled, influential...and very, very rich. Then someone turns up dead at a dinner party, and Lady Darling is on the scene. What's a smart, responsible, capable woman to do? Find the killer, of course!

Haig, Matt. [The Life Impossible](#) (\$19). Grace, a widow, finds herself trapped in an almost Groundhog Day-like existence, weighed down by sadness and regret. When she unexpectedly inherits a home in Ibiza from someone she barely knew, her life takes a turn that transforms her in ways she could never have imagined. "In a world that seems to be getting more unstable by the moment, the author's insistence on the power of connection to change lives comes through loud and clear." —*Kirkus*

Jónasson, Ragnar. [Death at the Sanatorium](#) (\$19) is a fair-play whodunit worthy of Agatha Christie, whose work Ragnar translates into Icelandic. There are several time periods in the narrative. In 2012 Reykjavik, 30-something Helgi Reykadi is finishing his criminology dissertation on an unsolved homicide in a tuberculosis sanatorium turned research facility. Flashbacks fill in details about Helgi's subject: in 1983, someone tortured and murdered Ysra, a nurse at the facility, and a few days later the institution's director suffered a suspicious fall from the balcony. Police arrested the building's janitor on a false tip from nurse Tinna—who threw the janitor under the bus to distract from her own suspicious behavior—then let him go. After that, the case went cold. In 2012, Tinna turns up dead, so Helgi tracks down her and Ysra's old coworkers in hopes of solving both murders.

Jurczyk, Eva. [6: 40 to Montreal](#) (Sourcebooks \$17.99). A broken-down train, a brutal snowstorm, a dead body, and no way out. Canadian Jurczyk writes her riff on *Murder on the Orient Express*.

King, Stephen. [The Long Walk](#) (\$19). This and other Kings are being republished with contemporary covers. You can find many of his paperbacks [here](#).

Patchett, Ann. [The Patron Saint of Liars](#) (\$12) is a small format edition of Patchett's first novel about a pregnant unwed teen who arrives at St. Elizabeth's, a home for unwed mothers in Habit, Kentucky. This is another example of publishers at work reissuing earlier work but on an affordable rather than a high end price scale.

Tietjen, Katie. [Murder in Miniature](#) (Crooked Lane \$19.99). Inspired by the real-life mother of forensic science, Frances Glessner Lee, this is the sequel to [Death in the Details](#) (\$22.99) with sleuth penniless Vermont WWII widow Maple Bishop. By now Maple has a thriving doll house business and a career as consultant to the local sheriff's office. When the body of an aspiring firefighter—who was close childhood friends with sheriff's deputy Kenny, Maple's confidante—is discovered in the charred remains of a burned cabin, Maple is called in to help determine whether the fire was an accident or a case of murder by arson. Realizing there's more to the crime than meets the eye, she sets out to unearth the discrepancies from the scene by re-creating the cabin in miniature. Note: This is based on the Smithsonian's collection of intricately detailed miniature rooms created by Lee to train homicide investigators.

#### A FEW SMALL PAPERBACKS

Bentley, Don. [Capture Or Kill](#) (\$10.99) Mitch Rapp #23. Azad Ashani tries to thwart an Iranian plot that could trigger a catastrophic conflict in the Middle East while CIA Director Irene Kennedy races to confirm Osama bin Laden's location.

Flower, Amanda. [Natural Barn Killer](#) (\$8.99) Farm to Table #5. When her dog unearths a decades-old skeleton during

Thanksgiving festivities, Shiloh Bellamy's peaceful farm gathering unravels into a cold case investigation that threatens her late grandmother's legacy and forces her to confront buried secrets the town wants left alone.

Horst, Jorn Lier. [The Katharina Code](#) (\$10.99). Katharina went missing twenty-four years ago. Each year on the anniversary of her disappearance, Chief Inspector William Wisting rereads her files, searching for the answer he could never find; the code he could never solve. And he visits Katharina's husband, Martin Haugen, the brokenhearted man he could never help. Until now when another woman is missing under similar circumstances. But so is Katharina's husband. Wisting has to find him, but is he rescuing a dear old friend or playing a deadly game with a killer?

McMahon, Jennifer. [My Darling Girl](#) (\$10.99). Alison has never been a fan of Christmas. But with it right around the corner and her husband busily decorating their cozy Vermont home, she has no choice but to face it. Then she gets the call. Mavis, Alison's estranged mother, has been diagnosed with cancer and has only weeks to live. Alison agrees to take Mavis in...and soon begins to suspect demonic possession is haunting her family.

Patterson, James/Brian Sitts. [Holmes, Marple & Poe](#) (\$10.99). In New York City, three intriguing, smart, and stylish private investigators open Holmes, Marple & Poe Investigations. Who are these detectives with famous names and mysterious, untraceable pasts? The agency's daring methodology and headline-making solves attract the attention of NYPD Detective Helene Grey. Her solo investigation into her three unknowable competitors rivals the best mysteries of classic crimes authors.

Slaughter, Karin. [This is Why We Lied](#) (\$10.99) Will Trent #12. While on their honeymoon at McAlpine Lodge, GBI investigator Will Trent and medical examiner Sara Linton must solve a murder when the Lodge's manager is found dead, and investigating the McAlpine family and other guests, they realize everyone here is lying—lying about their past, lying to their family, lying to themselves.

Unger, Lisa. [In the Blood](#) (\$10.99) Reissue. A master manipulator and compulsive liar, Lana Granger, with her trust fund almost depleted, takes a job babysitting a troubled boy named Luke, who threatens to reveal the truth about her involvement in the disappearance of her closest friend.