

BOOKNEWS from

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A SHORT LOOK AT MARCH....

More to come mid-month

Store Hours

M-F 10 AM-7 PM Sat 10 AM-6 PM 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 MARCH 2 7:00 PM Live Event

James Rollins discusses [Trust No One](#) (Harper \$32)
A return of the book-centered religious conspiracy thriller

TUESDAY MARCH 3 7:00 PM Live Event

Deanna Raybourn discusses [A Ghastly Catastrophe](#) (Berkley \$30)
Veronica Speedwell and Stoker in their 10th Victorian romp

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4 7:00 PM Live Event

Alexandra Potter discusses [So I Met This Guy](#) (Zibby Books \$17.95)
The UK bestseller visits us with a story of two women, one con man, and a European adventure fueled by friendship, heartbreak, and having nothing left to lose. Wonderful writing and opening chase scene

THURSDAY MARCH 5 7:00 PM Live Event

Will Dean discusses [Adrift](#) (Atria \$29)
A Midwest America canal boat family suspense story
Danielle Girard discusses [Pinky Swear](#) (Atria \$28)
A young woman's surrogate disappears just days before the baby's due date, leading to a frantic search.

SWITCH TIMES TO PDT JUST FOR STREAMING

SUNDAY MARCH 8 2:00 PM Live Book Launch

Rhys Bowen and Clare Broyles discuss [Vanished in the Crowd](#) (St Martins \$28)
Molly Murphy in 1909 New York

THURSDAY MARCH 12 7:00 PM Live

Erica Ruth Neubauer discusses a series start set in Wisconsin, [Two Bodies Are Better Than One](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$16.99)
And a new Jane Wunderly 1927 mystery [Vengeance in Venice](#) (Kensington \$27)
Nick Petrie discusses [The Dark Time](#) (Putnam \$30)
A Peter Ash thriller set in Seattle with June and Lewis as backup

FRIDAY MARCH 13 7:00 PM Live

Elle Cosimano discusses [Finlay Donovan Crosses the Line](#) (St Martins \$28)
To rescue her nanny and partner-in-crime Vero

SATURDAY MARCH 14 10:00 AM LIVE Local Authors Fair

BOOKS SIGNED BY THOSE AUTHORS

Bowen, Rhys/Clare Broyles. [Vanished in the Crowd](#) (St Martins \$28). Can it be the 22nd Molly Murphy mystery? I remember the first so well. Two million visitors come to New York City to witness the Hudson-Fulton celebration in 1909, marking the 300th anniversary of Henry Hudson's discovery of the Hudson River. Parades, exhibitions, carnivals, and a marvelous display of the wonders of the latest invention—electricity—across the city make for two straight weeks of celebrations, which Molly and her family, along with their friends Sid and Gus, are excited to enjoy. But Molly is secretly dealing with financial troubles. She is too proud to ask her friends for a loan, but when they want to hire her as a detective she jumps at the chance. Sid and Gus are hosting fellow Vassar graduates to take part in one of the parades but one of the women, a brilliant scientist, never shows up. Nobody knows where she is, including her husband. Is she trying to run away from her life or is it something more sinister?

Cosimano, Elle. [Finlay Donovan Crosses the Line](#) (St Martins \$28). Life just got a whole lot harder for Finlay. Her nanny and partner-in-crime, Vero, has been extradited from Virginia to Maryland, where she's facing criminal charges for a theft she suppressed and independently published author Elle Cosimano says she didn't intend to publish the bracelet as she awaits her trial, Vero is forced to live with her overbearing mother and nosy aunt. Threatening messages keep arriving on her mother's door, demanding Vero "turn over the money ... or else." And if she doesn't figure out who really stole her former sorority's treasury funds, her next home might be a prison cell. But proving her innocence might be an impossible feat. Vero was the treasurer of her sorority when the money went missing—one of the only people who had access to the cash. And her alibi is a date who ghosted her...

Dean, Will. [Adrift](#) (Atria \$29). Will has made his name as an international star with intensely crafted studies of characters facing creeping dread, isolated, often in hostile environments and facing crimes in the locked-room plot structure. His fans include Lisa Jewell, Ruth Ware, and Janice Hallett. He's also done a series led by Tuva Moodyson, deaf reporter at the local paper, set in Sweden, a bit more traditional. And now here he sets down a pair of aspiring writers on an isolated and somewhat ruinous

canal boat with their son who's been bullied because of his small physique and the family's poverty that makes him a target of more affluent students. The father, Drew, is despite all evidence relentlessly determined to write and publish a major book. When Peggy has more success Drew becomes ever more controlling and moves their boat away from the community, further isolating them. Inevitably this spiral becomes too much for Peggy to take and catastrophe builds. This is not an original concept but in Dean's expert hands you can't look away from the building tension and inevitable blow up. What's also different is that Drew started out as a decent guy, not an abuser, which makes it harder to break from him.

Maybe fan Stacy Willingham captures this best: "Steeped in a sense of impending dread, *Adrift* is an astute character study of one family's slow unravel as their houseboat floats further and further away from civilization. Will Dean has mastered the art of chronic unease; I was holding my breath the entire time."

Girard, Danielle. [Pinky Swear](#) (Atria \$28). Best friends since middle school, Lexi and Mara drifted apart after a tragedy derailed their senior year. But when Mara shows up on Lexi's doorstep sixteen years later fleeing an abusive husband, Lexi takes her in without question. Lexi's own marriage has been strained by her desire to have a baby, and when Mara offers to become her surrogate, their friendship feels stronger than ever. But four days before the due date, Mara disappears. Lexi is shocked but certain there must be something wrong—Mara would never willingly leave with her unborn child. Or would she?

Neubauer, Erica Ruth. [Two Bodies Are Better Than One](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$16.99). Until 1989, the wildest thing to happen in the sleepy town of Sheboygan Bay was surfers catching waves on frigid Lake Michigan. Then one summer morning, Lorraine Highsmith wakes up to find a corpse on her lawn. Detective Michaela "Mike" Zenoni is on the case immediately, eager to make a name for herself in a male-dominated precinct. And Lorraine is close behind—as the local advice columnist, she's always looking for a scoop. What they don't know is that Lorraine once had ties to the mob, and those connections could be coming back to haunt her. A recent transplant to Wisconsin, she keeps her past shrouded in mystery, and she'd like to keep it that way. Mike might be working with her to find the killer, but Lorraine knows that alliances can change on a dime. She needs to get ahead of this story... no matter who's trying to put an end to hers.

Neubauer, Erica Ruth. [Vengeance in Venice](#) (Kensington \$27). Since Erica Ruth is here March 12 with Nick Petrie we hope to get her 1927 Jane Wunderly (and Redvers!) mystery, 7th in this clever romantic series, here for her to sign as well.

The pair are in Venice for their honeymoon, a dream destination for a couple who met in the Mena House in Giza. Invited to a fancy party at Clara Morton's palazzo on the Grand Canal, where the eccentric hostess dressed as Medusa features tarot card readings, her pet cheetah, and...a corpse. It's Clara's ex, murdered in the garden. And fingers point to the tarot reader, but she isn't the only partygoer with a motive....

Petrie, Nick. [The Dark Time](#) (Putnam \$30). Katelyn Thorsen, known as KT to her friends and enemies, is an independent journalist who receives a very specific death threat. Fortunately, Peter Ash has arrived in Seattle to protect KT at the request of

his girlfriend, June Cassidy. From the moment of his arrival, he's thrown into a maelstrom of violence trying to protect KT and her daughter and discover the source of the death threat. Even after June and Peter's best friend Lewis show up to help, this challenge may prove overwhelming....

Potter, Alexandra. [So, I Met This Guy](#) (Zibby Books \$17.99). When a romantic fraudster scams Maggie, a 49-year-old gallery owner, out of her life savings, junior reporter Flick decides that exposing the love bomber may be just the career break she needs. The two unlikely allies go on a wild European chase from the glitz and glamour of Monte Carlo to the souks of Tangier—where unexpected twists, hidden secrets, and hard truths are revealed. And, as an unlikely friendship begins to blossom, they not only work to catch a con man, but, in the process, find themselves. The UK's Potter joins us at The Pen on her US tour.

Raybourn, Deanna. [A Ghastly Catastrophe](#) (Berkley \$30). Victorian iconoclasts Veronica Speedwell and her lover Stoker are practically dying for a new adventure, but when their wish is granted, they find themselves up against a secret society and a darkly seductive duo. When the corpse of an entitled young man is found entirely drained of blood in a carriage next to Highgate Cemetery, Veronica's interest is piqued. And then a second victim is found, his death made to look like a suicide—and Veronica and her intrepid beau Stoker know the hunt is on. The two men share one link: they were both members of a society so secretive that only a singular mention of it can be found anywhere. Thirsty for more clues, Veronica and Stoker hear that a young Romany boy may know more about their first victim, and the only way to the boy is through an old acquaintance of Stoker's, Lady Julia Brisbane. Lady Julia and her dashing husband, Nicholas, occasionally track down murderers and are only too happy to help. But as it becomes clear that the secret society is a dangerous sect looking to entice immortality seekers, Veronica and Stoker find themselves ensnared by a decidedly more sinister couple. Still, sinister is nothing new to our duo.

Rollins, James. [Trust No One](#) (Harper \$32). Sharyn Karr, an American student of magic and occult science at England's University of Exeter, is studying in the school's library when professor Julian Wright frantically entrusts her with an ancient tome. The book, a locked and encrypted journal from the Count of Saint-Germain, an 18th-century alchemist, supposedly contains the location of the Count's vast treasure, and perhaps even the secret to immortality....

NEW COZIES FOR ST PATRICK'S DAY READING

Mathews, Lisa Q. [Buried in Shamrocks: An Irish Bed & Breakfast Mystery](#) (Crippen Landru \$29.99). Kate and her daughters, Maeve and Bliz, are back in Shamrock, Massachusetts, and Kate faces a big decision: Should they move back to their hometown for good? As she contemplates the idea, all the businesses in town, including her family's B&B, the Buckley House, are busy preparing for the annual Great Shamrock Fair in hopes of luring back tourists after a murder during St. Patrick's Week. But when Kate's ex, Ian, arrives in town from Ireland to perform with his band at the festival and his new fiancée, Fallon, is found dead at the fairgrounds, any chance of a fun and peaceful family summer goes up in green smoke. [Paperback edition:](#) (\$19.99).

O'Connor, Carlene. [Murder at an Irish Session](#) (Kensington \$27) is the latest in the Irish Village Mysteries, so popular here. As

pregnant Siobhán O’Sullivan awaits bringing her new life into the world, she’s bringing new life to her village of Kilbane in County Cork, Ireland, with a music and matchmaking festival. But one matchmaker is about to find out that Cupid’s arrow can be fatal. I will check into Signed copies in March.

NEW ST PATRICK’S DAY READING

Anthony, Laura. [The Women on Platform Two](#) (\$19) is an “inspiring novel about the liberating paths blazed by Irish women” “based upon a little-known true event. On one track: In 1970s Dublin, all forms of contraception are strictly forbidden, but an intrepid group of women will risk everything to change that. It’s a thrilling story. Moving forward to 2023, another Irish woman realizes the danger to her in becoming a mother. This is not an abortion rant pro or con but rather the story of managing risk and of community.

French, Tana. [The Keeper](#) (Viking \$32). The apparent suicide of a young woman with a bright future tears apart the bucolic Irish village of Ardnakelty—as well as the painstakingly constructed new life of Chicago transplant Cal Hooper—in French’s final suspense novel featuring the ex-policeman. Still regarded as an outsider despite living in Ardnakelty for three years and being engaged to local widow Lena Dunne, Cal has little desire to dust off his detective skills. However, with Lena feeling guilty about missing any warning signs when Rachel Holohan dropped by hours before her death, and Cal’s teenage foster daughter, Trey Reddy, convinced there was foul play, he gets sucked in anyway. He’s stunned when his discreet inquiries into Rachel’s life, beyond the well-known details of her imminent engagement to wealthy Ardnakelty heir Eugene Moynihan, ignite a dangerous firestorm. Dense with detail as the November drizzle that shrouds the Irish landscape, the serpentine final 100 pages are nail-biting, and you can again enjoy Ardnakelty’s quirky cast of characters.

McKinty, Adrian. [Hang on St Christopher](#) (\$19) is set in 1992 and tells us the latest for DI Sean Duffy of Belfast. It’s terrific. But start with [The Cold, Cold Ground](#) (\$19.99) and then segue to [The Detective Up Late](#) (\$16.99), the 2023 Sean Duffy that sets up the new book.

Toibin, Colm. [The News from Dublin: Stories](#) (Scribner \$29). Among the stories in this volume, some never before published: In “The Journey to Galway,” a mother who has learned of the death of her son, a fighter pilot in World War I, travels to Galway to inform his wife and their three now fatherless children. “Sleep,” originally published in *The New Yorker*, explores the rift between two lovers as one of them cannot reckon with his grief and fear after the death of his brother. Death, again, is a central character in the title story, “The News from Dublin,” as Maurice Webster travels to Dublin to try to save his younger brother who is dying of tuberculosis. Maurice must petition the health minister for access to a new experimental drug, and this is the only hope.

OLDER IRISH STORIES FOR MARCH (some Cozies here)

Banville, John. [Snow](#) (\$18.99). This one-off by Banville (who abandoned his crime alias Benjamin Black) is a terrific Irish country house murder, classic in form. Detective Inspector St. John Strafford has been summoned to County Wexford to investigate a murder. A parish priest has been found dead in Ballyglass House, the family seat of the aristocratic, secretive Osborne family. The year is 1957 and the Catholic Church rules Ireland with

an iron fist. Strafford—flinty, visibly Protestant and determined to identify the murderer—faces obstruction at every turn....

[The Drowned](#) (\$18.99) is about a woman’s sudden disappearance in a small coastal town in Ireland, where nothing is as it seems.

Berry, Flynn. [Northern Spy](#) (\$18). This emotionally rich espionage story set in present-day Ireland looks at a country divided, the invisibility of motherhood, and the bonds of family that can supersede all else. It is the story of two sisters, one a paramedic and one a BBC news service employee. When one sister is apparently part of an IRA attack, the other refuses to believe it and sets out to prove her sister’s innocence. This is a superb look at Belfast as well as difficult ethics and actions. The gripping follow-up is called [Trust Her](#) (\$18). Read them as a pair.

Bowen, Rhys/Clare Broyles. [Silent As the Grave](#) (\$19). Molly Murphy mystery steps into the world of early filmmaking and Thomas Edison’s power grab. [Molly’s earlier investigations](#) are worth plumbing as well. Start with the first, [Murphy’s Law](#) (\$12) which also highlights the immigrant experience. And see Signed Books above for the new Molly.

Brannigan, Ellie. [Murder at an Irish Castle](#) (\$22.99). Rayne McGrath who hits her 30th birthday thinking her bridal wear designer business on Rodeo Drive and her engagement promise a secure future, one she’ll love. And then boom, it all goes bust. Bust just in time for her to be pressured into flying to Ireland where her Uncle Nevin’s will comes as a new surprise. He’s left her the run-down family castle and worse, if she can’t turn its finances around the whole village will go under too. And wait—maybe Uncle Nevin was murdered. It’s not the set up that’s wildly original, it’s the solutions to the various vexing problems including his death that make this a standout.

Bruen, Ken. [Galway’s Edge](#) (\$16.95). Former Garda, now PI, Jack Taylor is hired by a special envoy from the Vatican to dissuade Galway clergyman Kevin Whelan from joining a vigilante organization. Edge is a local group whose nominal mission is to administer justice when the law fails. In reality, its members use that aim as a smokescreen for all manner of shady dealings. Jack agrees to warn Whelan, but soon after they meet, the priest is found dead. Then two other Edge members are killed, suggesting that someone—possibly a powerful financier named Benson—is trying to hijack Edge for his own purposes. While Jack pursues Benson, a number of other matters demand his attention. Jack’s last case is [Galway Confidential](#) (\$16.95). My favorite remains the first: [The Guards](#) (\$16.99).

Deibel, Jennifer. [The Irish Matchmaker](#) (Baker \$16.99). As daughter of a well-known matchmaker, Catriona Daly is no stranger to the business of love—and sees it as her ticket away from the sleepy village that only comes alive during the annual matchmaking festival. Enter Lord Osborne’s son, Andrew, and shy cattle farmer Donal Bunratty is in desperate need of a wife after loss left him to handle the farm and raise his daughter on his own. Both of them eye the matchmaker’s daughter....

Fanning, Kieran. [Irish Fairy Tales, Myths, and Legends](#) (\$17.99). This UK import presents a collection of much loved Irish fairy tales, myths and legends, bound into a beautiful new edition. Enjoy the rich mythical history of Ireland from the arrival of the Tuatha De Danann on the island and their great battles with the Fomorians right up to the modern day fairytales of Irish storytell-

ing. Including the Ulster Cycle, and the Fenian Cycle, the book features heroes such as Cuchulainn and Fionn Mac Cumhaill, and many traditional favorites such as The Children of Lir.

French, Tana. [In the Woods](#) (\$19) is the first in the Dublin Squad mysteries for international bestseller French, a 2007 First Mystery Subscription Club Pick and Edgar Award winner. Her new book out March 31 is [The Keeper](#) (Viking \$32) set in the remote Irish village of Ardnakelty.

McDermid, Val. [Still Life](#) (\$17). This gloriously plotted and paced police procedural featuring Glasgow's Karen Pirie begins with a body found near Edinburgh in the Firth of Forth but segues to Ireland for some great action that includes a historic disappearance, art forgery, and secret identities—that seems to orbit around a painting copyist who can mimic anyone from Holbein to Hockney. Meanwhile, a traffic crash leads to the discovery of a skeleton in a suburban garage. The whole is marvelous but the scenes where Pirie runs her basically undercover investigation in Ireland are the highlight.

McTiernan, Dervla. [The Ruin](#) (\$16). This first for Detective Cormac Reilly is a bestseller here at The Pen. When Aisling Conroy's boyfriend Jack is found in the freezing black waters of the river Corrib in Ireland, the police tell her it was suicide. She throws herself into work, trying to forget—but Jack's sister Maude reappears in Ireland after years abroad, determined to prove Jack was murdered. Meanwhile, Detective Cormac Reilly, who was recently transferred to Galway from his squad in Dublin, is assigned to dig into a cold case from twenty years ago—the seeming overdose of Jack and Maude's drug and alcohol addled mother. This unsettling small-town noir draws us deep into the dark heart of Ireland, where corruption, desperation, and crime run rife.... Interesting to read alongside Ken Bruen's Galway crime series.

Meier, Leslie. [Irish Coffee Murder](#) (\$8.99). A trio of coffee-themed murders celebrates the wearing of the green. The novellas include step dancing and a ghost story. Try her [Irish Parade Murder](#) (\$8.99) too.

Neville, Stuart. [The Ghosts of Belfast](#) (\$18.95). John Connolly calls this first of Neville's Belfast Novels, winner of the *LA Times* Book Prize, "One of the best Irish novels, in any genre, of recent times." Northern Ireland's Troubles may be over, but peace has not erased the crimes of the past. Gerry Fegan, a former paramilitary contract killer, is haunted by the ghosts of the twelve people he slaughtered. Every night, at the point of losing his mind, he drowns their screams in drink. But it's not enough. In order to appease the ghosts, Fegan is going to have to kill the men who gave him orders. From the greedy politicians to the corrupt security forces, the street thugs to the complacent bystanders who let it happen, all are called to account. But when Fegan's vendetta threatens to derail a hard-won truce and destabilize the government, old comrades and enemies alike want him dead.

Don't overlook [The House of Ashes](#) (\$16.99) and [The Traveller and Other Stories](#) (\$16.95), a darkly compelling collection of Northern Irish Noir which concludes with his long-awaited novella, "The Traveller," the companion piece to *The Ghosts of Belfast*.

O'Connor, Carlene. [Murder in an Irish Garden](#) (\$17.95). Everything's coming up roses for Garda Siobhán and the rest of O'Sullivan family in quaint Kilbane, County Cork, Ireland. While

Siobhán studies for her Detective Sergeant exams, her brother, Eoin, prepares for the grand opening of his new restaurant, The O'Sullivan Six, and concocts a plan to enter Kilbane's Top Garden Contest to boost business. But trouble brews when Eoin hires a mercurial landscape designer known for her killer designs. His new partner's unflattering reputation and questionable practices nearly eclipse her talents—and plunge the prestigious competition into chaos. A lush and intricate winning garden emerges from the controversy—as does a body.

What better cozy read for March than the Irish Village Mysteries that began with [Murder in an Irish Village](#) (\$17.95), but order all of [this cheerful cozy series](#) in paperback.

O'Rawe, Richard. [Northern Heist](#) (\$17.99). "O'Rawe channels both Elmore Leonard and Guy Ritchie in this heist thriller full of sharp twists and gritty dialogue, emerging with a style all his own. His reimagining of the real-life bank heist feels so authentic readers will hope he has a strong alibi. Ken Bruen fans won't want to miss this one." —*PW* Starred Review

Taylor, Patrick. [A Dublin Student Doctor](#) (\$18.99). Doctor Fingal O'Reilly, the quarrelsome general practitioner of the small village of Ballybucklebo, wasn't always the man he is today. Taylor turns back the clock to give us a portrait of the young Fingal—and show us the pivotal events that shaped the man he would become. [Use this link](#) to browse the dozens of novels Taylor writes about Ireland. If you were a Maeve Binchy reader, try Taylor.

Tremayne, Peter. [Death of a Heretic](#) (Headline UK \$25 SIGNED), a Sister Fidelma medieval Ireland mystery, a richly imagined and researched mystery series. And new last fall, [The Grave of the Lawgiver](#) (Severn \$29.99).