



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

907 Millwood Rd., Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4G 1X2
416-483-3111 e-mail sleuth@SleuthOfBakerStreet.ca

Greetings

December 2015

Can't say that I have much to complain about winter 2015! Here it is the first week of December and we have yet to see any snow or cold temperatures; I don't think it has dipped below freezing yet. I'm sure there are golf courses that are still doing a brisk (pun intended!) business.

I might have told you that I've been spending a bit more time cooking recently. Never bothered before, but I'm quite enjoying the discovery. Soups, risottos, salads, all grist for my new mill. Most recently, Marian had ordered a copy of Vegetarian Tagines & Couscous by **GILLIE BASAN** (\$34.95) and the photograph on the back cover of the "carrot and potato tagine with peas" dish was so enticing, so lickably scrumptious that I not only stole Marian's copy of the book, but also got her to give me her beautiful, blue tagine. (*He actually stole it too!! Marian*). Haven't made the dish yet, but that's my next

Come meet

Michael Connelly

and get your autographed copy of the latest
Bosch (and Haller!) novel,
The Crossing (#20) (\$34)

Thursday, December 10, Noon - 1 pm

If you can't make it in, but would like a signed copy, be in touch.
and we'll get it done.

project, and maybe in the January issue I'll tell you how successful I was.

On the topic of cooking...have you discovered a utensil called a Veggetti? It's one of those "As seen on Television" contraptions that are so tempting to buy but usually turn out to be a whole lot less than they promised to be? Well, this one was as perfect a devise as advertised. It shreds, it dices, it slices...well no, what it does do is turn a zucchini into zucchini spaghetti—just twist!—and supper of zuke pasta is ready in minutes. Really! Delicious! Boy howdy!

The Merchant of Menace,

Sleuth's monthly newsletter, is available for download from SleuthOfBakerStreet.ca at no charge. If you'd like the hard copy mailed to you, it's \$50 a year for the bi-monthly edition. Buy \$200 worth of books in one year and we'll waive the fee for the following year. Very simple. Just like our postage & handling charges.

Postage & Handling

In a word: Actual

Hours of Business

Thursday to Saturday: 10 to 6

Sunday: Noon - 4pm

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
& Statutory Holidays: Closed

We're often here outside of business hours, so call and we just might let you in.

And, kinda on that note, another year is almost done, Christmas is just around the corner and Marian and I would like to thank y'all for another wonderful, fun filled year. Could not do it without you, and here's wishing each and every one of you the Best of the Season, Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy (fill in the blank) and nothing but happiness and the best of health for 2016 to you and yours. And that reminds me...our December hours will be expanded slightly...

JD's Picks

I have had a love/hate relationship with **JOHN CONNOLLY**'s Charlie Parker novels. Actually, it's more a love/scared thing. I love Charlie "Bird" Parker but I'm usually too scared to read his adventures with abandon. I approach them cautiously and will put them down at the first sign of gore. Only to resume, a few minutes later. So, cautiously, I picked up the latest, Song of Shadows (#13) (\$34.99) and gingerly, cracked it open, early one Sunday morning...later on that same Sunday evening, I gently closed the book and wondered where the day had gone. I just raced through it; I don't think I even got off the couch for the whole day. The story just sings along, it's not too tough a read, I loved it. Emboldened, I thought I'd go back and revisit the first in the series, Every Dead Thing (#1) (\$10.99) to remind me how Charlie's story had begun, and, oh my, a horse of a very different colour. This one is as brutal, dark and vicious as Song is not; as complicated and convoluted and crammed full of plot lines and characters, as tortuous—enough for two books at least—as Song is clean and focused. Not sure whether to suggest you start at the beginning, but I wouldn't want you to miss Song. Maybe someone should write a Charlie Parker for Dummies!

ESMAHAN AYKOL was born in Turkey and now divides her time between Berlin and Istanbul. Although she studied law, worked as a journalist and a bartender, she has now turned to writing crime novels. There are three novels in her series featuring Kati Hirschel, a young woman who owns Istanbul's only crime bookshop and—it seems to be an occupational hazard for fictions bookshop owners—gets involved regularly in cases that are really none of her business. Divorce Turkish Style (#3) (\$20.50) is her latest caper. Every day a beautiful woman lunches alone in the restaurant next door. When the woman is found dead in her apartment, Kati immediately recognizes her picture in the newspaper photo. It looks like an accident and the authorities are happy to so conclude, Kati knows, just knows, that the whole business is a lot more sinister than that. And, good thing too, as we now have another reason to visit Istanbul and Turkey. This was my introduction to this series and I rather enjoyed it. "An offbeat amateur sleuth with a distinctive narrative voice. Fans of **Amanda Cross's** Kate Fansler and **Kerry Greenwood's** Phryne Fisher will find a lot to like."—says *Publishers Weekly*. What fun, armchair travel is! By the way, the first two Kati adventures are still around and we have copies on order: Hotel Bosphorus (#1) and Baksheesh (#2) (\$19.95 each).

Another fine read was **LIAD SHOHAM**'s second novel to become available in English, Asylum City (\$19.99). The author of five very successful novels in Israel—Lineup (\$18.50) is the other released in English—Shoham lives in Tel Aviv, asylum city for a large African refugee population. Immigration of non-Jews to Israel is a very contentious issue with many hard-line factions wanting nothing to do with them. The world over, the flood of displaced persons, fleeing wars and poverty, is an insurmountably difficult issue, taxing the good will and abilities of the host countries to absorb them. Located as Tel Aviv is near the shores of Africa, it attracts more than its share of desperate immigrants. To assist them, Michal Poleg, and ardent young activist, volunteers with the city's Office of Migrant Aid. And when Michal is found dead in her apartment, her involvement with the controversial asylum seekers seems an obvious starting point in the search for answers. Great story, and another wonderful armchair voyage.

From Istanbul to Tel Aviv to Melbourne...a debut novel by a practising lawyer who lives in "the far southwest coast of Victoria." Quota (\$23.95) by **JOCK SERONG** winner of the Ned Kelly Award for Best First Crime Novel, 2015, is a cracker of a novel. Charles Jardin has just trashed his legal career in a spectacular courtroom meltdown and his fiancée has finally had enough and left him. When an old friend slings him a prosecution brief that will take him to the remote coastal town of Dauphin, Charlie reluctantly agrees that the sea air might be good for him. It's a case of murder. The victim

HOURS OF BUSINESS

DECEMBER 2015- JANUARY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6th 12-4	7th closed	8th closed	9th closed	10th 10-6	11th 10-6	12th 10-6
13th 12-4	14th closed	15th closed	16th 10-6	17th 10-6	18th 10-6	19th 10-6
20th 12-4	21st 10-6	22nd 10-6	23rd 10-6	24th 10-4	25th closed	26th 10-6
27th 12-4	28th 12-4	29th 12-4	30th 12-4	31st 12-4	1st closed	2nd 10-6

was involved in the illegal abalone trade and the even more illegal drug trade. And no one is talking. Small towns in Australia are pretty closed off places and don't take to newcomers easily; generations later you're still from away. Excellent. Terrific. More, please Mr. Jock.

Marian's Picks

I, for one, am so pleased the weather has been good up until now. No snow or ice to date (hopefully not "famous last words" and we get inundated!) so walking has been terrific and my drives to and from the cottage are uneventful. Percy and I walk about two hours a day (sometimes longer) but when it's icy underfoot I am always worried I am going to slip and fall. Percy, on the other hand, doesn't care and goes merrily on his way sniffing every blade of grass and looking out for cats. When it's especially icy underfoot I put a halter type thingy over Percy's face that prevents him from pulling as much and I don't go flying, mind you he is not happy with that but I think he appreciates the need and tolerates it. I can understand why some folks go to warmer places in the winter as it is much easier to walk without fear of falling. JD seems to be desperately combing through magazines and internet sites looking for places to golf early next year as he is already going through golf withdrawals. Poor guy. I wonder why we don't move to a location where we have decent weather all year round. Is there such a place? Can you imagine golfing all day, every day of the year JD?

So many great books have been published this year that winnowing down the harvest to three or four for my Picks each newsletter has almost become a chore. In the past two months we received new books from **MICHAEL CONNELLY** ([The Crossing](#) (\$34)) and **ROBERT CRAIS** ([The Promise](#) (\$35.95)) both of which were my Picks in the November 2015 newsletter. I thought **IAN RANKIN's** latest (see below) was also brilliant. All three are fantastic reads and dare I say the best book that each writer has written to date? Although, come to think of it, I probably say that about each book they've written. If you are looking for a book to give for a Christmas gift, or just to sit and enjoy reading yourself, you won't go wrong with any of those writers; signed copies of the Connelly and Rankin might still be around. Do not forget **LOUISE PENNY** and [The Nature of the Beast](#) (#11) (\$32.50), the latest in her Inspector Gamache series; I devour every word she writes. Or **SUE GRAFTON** with [X](#) (#x) (\$34.95). I actually read [X](#) just because it was called [X](#) and not [X is For...](#) as had been all the other Kinsey novels. Why? Couldn't come with the right criminous word starting with "X"? Actually, now that I try to think of one... Due to the success of **MICK HERRON's** [Slow Horses](#) (#1) (\$9.99) and [Dead Lions](#) (#2) (\$14.95), the two MI5 novels with the loveable bunch of screw ups, his other books have all now been published in North America by Soho Press. So if you want another excellent female private eye series, you should read his Oxford-based Zoe Boehm. Or try his latest in trade paperback, the standalone, [Nobody Walks](#) (\$14.95), featuring Tom Bettany. Tom is working at a meat processing plant in France when he gets a voicemail from an Englishwoman he doesn't know telling him that his estranged 26-year-old son is dead. But there are quite a number of folks interested in Bettany's return to the UK including incarcerated mob bosses and some high echelon people in MI5. I loved it. And as an aside...the third in the Slow Horses series is set to release in January 2016. [Real Tigers](#) (\$26.95, tentatively. Subject, no doubt, to the fluctuation of the Canadian dollar) will also knock your socks off. Too bad it's not available right now!

It's hard to make "generic" suggestions for what mysteries to buy as a gift or stocking stuffer for others because reading is so personal and everyone has different tastes, but I'll list a few suggestions below. It is best you come into the store (our hours of business are slightly different from now until December 31st to make it easier for you) and talk to us so we can make more personal suggestions. If you are in a big rush then call or email before you come in and tell us who you want to buy for, give us an idea of their tastes and we will have a selections of titles for you to choose from waiting for you.

[Rest Ye Murdered Gentlemen](#) (\$10.49) by **VICKI DELANEY** will be a great choice for anyone who wants a "Christmas" mystery. For someone who likes to read mysteries about books, book clubs or book collecting look at **VICTORIA ABBOTT**, **ERIKA CHASE**, **EVA GATES** or **CHARLIE LOVETT**. For the food lover on your list consider **LESLIE BUDEWITZ** with her Spice Shop mysteries or **VICTORIA HAMILTON** and her Vintage Kitchen or muffin mystery series. **STEVE BURROWS**, who happens to live not too far from the Sleuth, has written two classic British police proce-

durals set in Norfolk, UK, with a Canadian policeman as his main character.

One of my all time favourite mysteries was written three years ago by **ROBERT CRAIS** (whom I mentioned earlier). Called The Suspect (\$11.99), it features an LAPD policeman and his canine partner Maggie. Both suffer from PTSD and the book will have you up all night reading it and in awe at how the two work together and bond as a team. It will leave you wanting a dog. So I am now on the lookout for similar stories and I found one written by **JAMES ROLLINS** and co-authored by **GRANT BLACKWOOD** titled Kill Switch (\$12.50). More stock is on order, but feel free to reserve a copy. The story is about former US Army Ranger Tucker Wayne and his partner, military working dog Kane. They are recruited by Sigma Force to extract a Russian pharmaceutical magnate from Siberia. Yes, it's a thriller, lots of killing and improbable situations but once I got into the book, I couldn't put it down. I do wonder if there are dogs that really have the intuition and ability to understand their human as Kane does in Kill Switch. But it doesn't matter, I loved the book, I loved Kane and I will follow them on their next adventure when War Hawk (\$34.99) is available sometime in April 2016.

My goodness, there are a ton of other writers that I could suggest, so many excellent Canadian mystery writers, so many different styles of writing and so many different settings. Just come in and we will fix you up with a great pile of reading material.

Even Dogs in the Wild (\$28.99) by **IAN RANKIN** is, in my opinion, his best book yet. How can you go wrong with Rebus, Fox, Clarke and Big Ger Cafferty all together in one story! John Rebus is now retired but Siobhan Clarke feels he can help in the investigation into the death of a high profile lawyer and the attempted murder of Cafferty. To add to this, a notorious crime family has arrived in Edinburgh, who will stop at nothing to get what they want. Malcolm Fox's job is to provide the undercover squad, investigating the bad guys, with local expertise. But both cases start to intersect and then all hell breaks loose. What a terrific read. I could not put the book down. I just loved the story, the way the characters played off each other and who couldn't love Rebus! This is one of those rare books that just flows from beginning to end. (Very much like **Michael Connelly's** The Crossing (\$34.00)). One minute you sit down to read and a few hours later you are done. Just don't start reading it until after your Christmas dinner is eaten and the dishes done.

Most of you know that I love to cook, love to read cookbooks and love to read mysteries with a cooking theme of some sort. There are a number of such books available and I am always on the lookout for more. I picked up Assault and Pepper (\$9.99) by **LESLIE BUDEWITZ** last March because it was a mystery featuring Pepper Reece, a woman who owns a spice shop in Pike's Market, Seattle. I love Pike's Market and I love spices. When I did a cooking diploma in the UK a number of years ago, my thesis and final dinner presentation were based on Indian spices. I just love cooking with different herbs and spices and while I try to grow as many herbs as I can up at my cottage I am not always successful. I am not around to water them on a regular basis and I have too many trees (no sun), and lots of hungry bugs. But between me and Cottage Lady (who is doing very well) we manage to grow pretty well everything we need. Guilty as Cinnamon (\$10.49) has just arrived so I grabbed it, read it and decided I would never use a ghost chili in my cooking. Way too dangerous, but really interesting to read about. (*Big wuss! I grew some ghost peppers in my postage-stamp size backyard and gave them to a golfing partner who uses them to make his own hot sauces. He gave me two jars and I've been liberally, albeit very carefully, dolloping them on just about everything! Woohoo!—jd*). Pepper was looking forward to working with a new up-and-coming chef but someone decided that she was too much competition so used ghost chilies to kill her. Pepper sold her ghost chilies so investigates. A well written series with all sorts of info on spices.

Publishers spend a lot of time and effort on cover art and the design of books. Not because they have nothing better to do, but because an attractive book is going to end up in a reader's hand more readily than otherwise. True, you shouldn't judge a book by its cover, but if you don't pick it up you're not going to go home with it. Well, all this to say, sorry, Mark, but the cover of your debut novel just did not cut it. A shame, because it's a fine read. I read Hard Drive (\$18.95) by **J. MARK COLLINS** because it was handed to me by a cottage neighbour and I said I'd have a look. Mark is a police officer with a local force and this is his first mystery featuring Jack Wright, a Toronto detective with the Toronto Police Service Hold-Up Squad. He writes about what he knows and he writes it well. It's evident in the dialogue, in the plot and the action and in the plain old fashioned police "legwork." Right from the get-go, it'll hook you. Don't start this one if you have other things to do because the you don't want to stop until it's over. **Mr. Collins** is a graduate of The Association For Research into Crimes Against Art so maybe we will see Jack Wright working an art mystery in the future!!

On a much lighter note I read Yarned and Dangerous (\$16.50) by **SADIE HARTWELL** and felt the need to go get some wool and knit something; well maybe crochet smething. Josie Blair left Dorset Falls twelve years ago in the hopes of making it big in New York City but now finds herself heading home to look after her great-uncle who was injured in a car accident. Uncle Eb's wife didn't survive the crash, so Josie is also tasked with selling the contents of her Aunt Cora's yarn shop. Miss Marple Knits is one of the few businesses still open in the dreary downtown. Josie can't imagine how it stayed open for so long, yet something about the cosy, resilient little shop appeals to her. I am not spoiling anything when I say that all through the book I just hoped that Josie would keep the store open and stay in Dorset Falls to continue what her Aunt Cora started. And of course there is a love interest that might get more interesting in the next book. Oh yes, there is a murder as well...one of the knitting club ladies. This is a true cosy, warm and fuzzy and feel good. Perfect.

Hardbacks

BALDACCI, DAVID robic GUILTY (#4) (\$34) Will Robie is the US government's most professional, disciplined, and lethal assassin. He infiltrates the most hostile countries in the world, defeats the enemies' advanced security measures, and eliminates threats before they ever reach our shores. But now, his skills have left him. Sent overseas on a critical assignment, he fails, unable to pull the trigger. Absent his talents, Robie is a man without a mission, and without a purpose. To recover what he has lost, Robie must confront what he has tried to forget for over twenty years: his own past.

BEARD, MARY SPQR: A HISTORY OF ANCIENT ROME (\$45) We are sorry to say that this title is re-printing so we are not sure when (or if) it will come back into stock.

BOWEN, RHYS molly murphy AWAY IN A MANGER (#15) (\$28.99) It's Christmastime in 1905 New York City, and for once, Molly Murphy Sullivan is looking forward to the approaching holidays. She has a family of her own now: she and Daniel have a baby son and 12-year-old Bridie is living with them as their ward. As Molly and the children listen to carolers in the street, they hear a lovely voice, the voice of an angel, and see a beggar girl huddled in a doorway, singing "Away in a Manger." Bridie is touched by the girl's ragged clothes and wants to help her out if they can. They give her a quarter, only to watch a bigger boy take it from her. But Molly discovers the boy is the girl's older brother, and they've come from England and are living with an aunt who mistreats them terribly. When the young boy is accused of stealing a purse, Molly intervenes on his behalf. These children are clearly not the usual city waifs. They are well-spoken and used to better things. So who are they? And what's happened to their mother? As Molly looks for a way to help the children and the answers to these questions, she gets drawn into an investigation that will take her up to the highest levels of New York society.

BURKE, JAMES LEE hackberr HOUSE OF THE RISING SUN (#4) (\$34.99) From its opening scene in revolutionary Mexico to the Battle of the Marne in 1918, and on to the bordellos and saloons of San Antonio during the reign of the Hole in the Wall Gang...an epic tale of love, loss, betrayal, vengeance, and retribution that follows Texas Ranger Hackberry Holland on his journey to reunite with his estranged son, Ishmael, a captain in the United States Army.

BYWATERS, GRANT fletcher RED STORM (#1) (\$29.99) Newly-minted private investigator William Fletcher is having trouble finding clientele. He's not the only man out of work, but his past as a former heavyweight contender with a few shady connections, not to mention the color of his skin in race-obsessed New Orleans, isn't helping lure clients to his door. Stuck without any viable alternative, he takes a case from an old criminal acquaintance, Storm. His only client assures him that the job is simple-locate his missing estranged daughter, Zella, no questions asked. But when Fletcher starts knocking on doors, he sets off a catastrophic chain of events that turns the city into a bloody battleground between two rival syndicates. Then Storm is murdered and Fletcher finds himself caught between the police and dangerous mobsters. With Zella's safety in the balance, the unlikely private detective finds himself saddled with a lot more than he bargained for.

CARTER, CHRIS EVIL MIND (\$32.99) A freak accident in rural Wyoming leads the sheriff's department to arrest a man for a possible double homicide, but further investigations suggest a much more horrifying discovery—a serial killer who has been kidnapping, torturing, and mutilating victims all over the United States for at least twenty-five years. The suspect claims he is a pawn in a huge labyrinth of lies and deception, but can he be believed? The case is immediately handed over to the FBI, but this time they're forced to ask for outside help. Ex-criminal behaviour psychologist and

lead detective with the Ultra Violent Crime Unit of the LAPD Robert Hunter is asked to run a series of interviews with the apprehended man. These interviews begin to reveal terrifying secrets that no one could have foreseen, including the real identity of a killer so elusive that no one, not even the FBI, had any idea he existed—until now.

CLARK, MARY HIGGINS & ALAFAIR BURKE *under suspi* **ALL DRESSED IN WHITE (#3)** (\$32) Five years ago Amanda Pierce was excitedly preparing to marry her college sweetheart in a lavish ceremony at The Grand Victoria Hotel in Palm Beach. Then, with their guests and families on site, Amanda disappeared. In present-day New York City, Laurie Moran, producer of a investigative television series, *Under Suspicion*, decides that this would be the perfect cold case for her series. She and her team set out to recreate the night of the disappearance at the Florida resort with Amanda's friends and family in attendance, hoping to shed new light on the mystery as the series has done in past episodes. With a jealous sister, playboy groomsman, Amanda's former fiancé now married to a bridesmaid, and rumours about the "beloved" bride herself, Laurie and her staff quickly realize everyone has a theory about why Amanda vanished into thin air. And, one thing is certain: whoever was behind Amanda's disappearance plans to keep the truth hidden "until death do they part..."

CLEEVES, ANN stanhope **MOTH CATCHER (#7)** (\$34.99 hardcover, \$22.99 trade paperback) Life seems perfect in Valley Farm, a quiet community in Northumberland. Then a shocking discovery shatters the silence. The owners of a big country house have employed a house-sitter, a young ecologist named Patrick, to look after the place while they're away. But Patrick is found dead by the side of the lane into the valley, a beautiful, lonely place to die. DI Vera Stanhope arrives on the scene, with her detectives Holly and Joe. When they look round the attic of the big house, where Patrick has a flat, she finds the body of a second man. All the two victims have in common is a fascination with catching rare and beautiful moths.

CLELAND, JANE K josie **ORNAMENTS OF DEATH (#10)** (\$29.99) Christmas lights twinkle throughout the cozy coastal town of Rocky Point, New Hampshire, and Prescott's Antiques auction venue has been transformed into a winter wonderland for Josie Prescott's annual holiday party. Josie is especially excited this year—Ian Bennington, a recently discovered distant relative, will be joining the fun. Both Ian and Josie are, it seems, descended from Arabella Churchill, a 17th century royal mistress. The party is a success and Ian is a hit. It gives Josie an unexpected thrill to have family and unexpected dread when he vanishes.

CONNELLY, MICHAEL bosch **CROSSING (#20)** (\$34) Detective Harry Bosch has retired from the LAPD, but his half-brother, defense attorney Mickey Haller, needs his help. A woman has been brutally murdered in her bed and all evidence points to Haller's client, a former gang member turned family man. Though the murder rap seems ironclad, Mickey is sure it's a setup. Bosch doesn't want anything to do with crossing the aisle to work for the defense. He feels it will undo all the good he's done in his thirty years as a homicide cop. But Mickey promises to let the chips fall where they may. If Harry proves that his client did it, under the rules of discovery, they are obliged to turn over the evidence to the prosecution. Though it goes against all his instincts, Bosch reluctantly takes the case. Superb. A *Marian's Pick* in the November 2015 newsletter.

CORNWELL, BERNARD warrior **WARRIORS OF THE STORM (#9)** (\$39.99 hardcover, \$21.99 trade paperback) The latest in the series on the making of England and the fate of his great hero, Uhtred of Bebbanburg.

COYLE, CLEO clare cosi **DEAD TO THE LAST DROP (#15)** (\$34.95) After the White House asks coffeehouse manager and master roaster Clare Cosi to consult on the coffee service for a Rose Garden Wedding, she discovers an historic pot was used as a CIA "dead drop" decades before. Now long-simmering secrets boil over, scalding Clare and the people around her.

CRAIS, ROBERT PROMISE (\$35.95) Elvis Cole and Joe Pike are joined by **Suspect** (\$11.99) heroes LAPD K-9 Officer Scott James and his German shepherd, Maggie...Loyalty, commitment, and the fight for justice have always driven Elvis Cole and Joe Pike. If they make a promise, they *keep* it. Even if it could get them killed. When Elvis Cole is secretly hired to find a grief-stricken mother, he's led to an ordinary house on a rainy night in Echo Park. Only the house isn't ordinary, and the people hiding inside are a desperate fugitive and a murderous criminal with his own dangerous secrets. As helicopters swirl overhead, Scott and Maggie track the fugitive to this same house, coming face-to-face with Mr. Rollins, a killer who leaves behind a brutally murdered body and enough explosives to destroy the neighborhood. Scott is now the only person who can identify him, but Mr. Rollins has a rule: Never leave a witness alive. For all of them, the night is only beginning. A *Marian's Pick* in the November 2015 newsletter.

DOHERTY, PAUL athelstan **HERALD OF HELL (#15)** (\$42) May, 1381. The Great Revolt draws ever nearer. The Upright Men openly roam the streets of London, waiting for the violence to begin. Their mysterious envoy, the Herald of Hell, appears at night all over the city, striking terror into the hearts of those who oppose them. But

who is he? When his chancery clerk is found hanged in a notorious Southwark brothel, the ruthless Thibault, John of Gaunt's Master of Secrets, summons Brother Athelstan to investigate. Did Amaury Whitfield really kill himself following a visit from the terrifying Herald of Hell? Athelstan is unconvinced.

ESTLEMAN, LOREN amos walk SUNDOWN SPEECH (#25) (\$28.99) Amos Walker is hired by Helen and Dante Gunner, a bohemian Ann Arbor couple, to find Jerry Marcus, a film director who has disappeared with their investment money. It's one of Walker's easiest jobs to date. In just a few short hours, Walker locates Marcus in his bedroom...murdered, his body shoved into a cupboard, a bullet through his head. This case is opened and shut quickly, but Walker can't quite let it go. When Dante is arrested for the murder Walker finds himself again in Helen's employ, this time trying to prove that Dante didn't do it.

EVANOVICH, JANET plum TRICKY TWENTY TWO (#22) (\$35) Stephanie Plum might not be the world's greatest bounty hunter, but she knows when she's being played. Ken Globovic (aka Gobbles), hailed as the Supreme Exalted Zookeeper of the animal house known as Zeta fraternity, has been arrested for beating up the dean of students at Kiltman College. Gobbles has missed his court date and gone into hiding. People have seen him on campus, but no one will talk. Things just aren't adding up, and Stephanie can't shake the feeling that something funny is going on at the college, and it's not just Zeta fraternity pranks.

FINCH, CHARLES lenox HOME BY NIGHTFALL (#9) (\$29.99) Charles Lenox, as a partner in a now-thriving detective agency, has two cases on the go: London of 1876 is abuzz with the enigmatic disappearance of a famous foreign pianist and a series of small thefts at his brother's house. Lenox realizes that something very strange and serious indeed may be happening, more than just local mischief. Soon, he's racing to solve two cases at once, one in London and one in the country, before either turns deadly.

FRANCIS, FELIX FRONT RUNNER (\$32) Jefferson Hinkley is back. Operating as an undercover investigator for the British Horseracing Authority, Jeff is approached by the multiple-champion jockey, Dave Swinton, to discuss the delicate matter of his losing races on purpose. Little does Jeff realise that his visit to Swinton's house will result in a brutal attempt on his life. Shortly after Jeff narrowly escapes a certain and grisly death, the charred body Dave Swinton is found in his burnt out car at a deserted beauty spot in Oxfordshire. The police seem think it's a suicide but Jeff is not so sure. He starts to investigate those races that Swinton could have intentionally lost, but soon discovers instead that there are those who would prevent him from doing so, at any cost.

FRIEDMAN, DANIEL byron RIOT MOST UNCOUTH (\$28.99) The year is 1807, and Byron is living large as a student at Trinity College in Cambridge, England. He has successfully skirted the college's rule against keeping dogs in the dorm by rooming with a rather large bear named "the Professor." When a young woman is found murdered in a local boarding house, Byron can't pass up the opportunity to prove his immeasurable genius by solving the case. In a time where there are no police investigators, only expensive private eyes, it's up to Byron to bring her killer to justice while finding time for his normal pursuits of excessive drinking, bedding married women, and generally causing trouble wherever he goes.

GRIFFITHS, ELLY magic men ZIG ZAG GIRL (#1) (\$35) Brighton, 1950. The body of a girl is found cut into three pieces. Detective Inspector Edgar Stephens is convinced the killer is mimicking a famous magic trick—the Zig Zag Girl. The inventor of the trick, Max Mephisto, is an old war friend of Edgar's. They served together in a shadowy unit called the Magic Men, a special ops troop that used stage tricks to confound the enemy. But Max is reluctant to leave his world to help Edgar investigate, but advises him to identify the victim quickly, it takes a special sidekick to do the Zig Zag Girl. Those words come back to haunt Max when the dead girl turns out to be Ethel, one of his best assistants to date. He's soon at Edgar's side, hunting for Ethel's killer. Another death, another magic trick. See *Vanessa's Picks* in the November 2015 newsletter.

HALL, PARNELL hastings FOOL FOR A CLIENT (#20) (\$30.95) Stanley's boss, Richard, is in court fighting for his life, prime suspect in his girlfriend's murder, and Stanley's trying to dig up some evidence to prove his innocence. It won't be easy as every fact tends to point to Richard's guilt: DNA evidence proves he is the man who had sex with the victim just before she died, eyewitnesses put him at the scene of the crime, and his fingerprints are on the murder weapon. In desperation, Richard resorts to a series of courtroom tactics so outrageous they would make Perry Mason blush. Before the case is over, everyone in the courtroom will be convinced that not only does Richard Rosenberg have a fool for a client, but the client has a fool for a lawyer.

HAWKEN SAM THE NIGHT CHARTER (\$31.50) Exactly one year ago, Camaro Espinoza killed five bad men in New York City and fled town. Now she's keeping a low profile in Miami, running night charter catch-and-release fishing trips off the coast. It's a simple life for a former combat medic. But it wasn't easy to come by. Camaro

plans to do everything she can to hold onto it. Trouble comes knocking in the form of Parker Story, a man in over his head with all the wrong people. Parker wants to book Camaro's boat to run a small errand off the coast of Cuba. Camaro knows she shouldn't get involved. But Parker's got a teenaged daughter named Lauren, and Parker's associates have threatened to harm her if the mission doesn't go off without a hitch. Camaro has never met the girl. Barely seen her picture. But that doesn't mean she can ignore her plight.

HOLSINGER, BRUCE INVENTION OF FIRE (\$33.99) London, 1386. A mass murder has taken place within the city walls. Sixteen corpses have been dumped where they are sure to be found, bearing wounds like none seen before. John Gower, middling poet and expert trader in secrets, is summoned to investigate the killings even as the ruthless mayor of London seeks to thwart an open inquiry for reasons unknown. Gower learns that the men have fallen victim to *handgonnes*, new and terrifying weapons that threaten to change the future of war. From the author of The Burnable Book (\$21).

JANCE, J A beaumont DANCE OF THE BONES (#22) (\$33.50) Prospector Amos Warren and Big Bad John Lassiter, his young protégé, were as close as father and son until a violent argument tore them apart. The next day, Amos disappeared, never to be seen again. Years later, his bones were found in the desert. All signs pointed to John Lassiter, and Detective Brandon Walker made the arrest in the case. Now, more than four decades later, the retired Walker is called back to look into the killing. Lassiter's daughter, Amanda Wasser, wants Brandon to find Amos's "real" killer and clear her father's name. Brandon calls in J. P. Beaumont for assistance.

LAHLUM, HANS OLAV k2 CATALYST KILLING (#3) (\$34.99 hardcover, \$25.99 trade paperback) Inspector Kolbjørn Kristiansen, known as K2, witnesses a young woman desperately trying to board a train only to have the doors close before her face. The next time he sees her, she is dead. As K2 investigates, with the help of his precocious young assistant Patricia, he discovers that the story behind Marie Morgenstjerne's murder really began two years ago, when a group of politically active young people set out on a walking tour in the mountains. There, one night, the party's charismatic leader, and Marie's boyfriend, Falko Reinhardt vanished without a trace. But were the relationships between this group of friends and comrades all they appeared to be? What did Marie see, that made her run for her life that day? And could both mysteries be linked to Falko's research into a cell of Norwegian Nazis he suspected may still be active?

MACDERMID/MCDERMID, VAL FORENSICS: WHAT BUGS, BURNS, PRINTS, DNA AND MORE TELL US ABOUT CRIME (\$35.95) In the course of researching her bestselling novels the author has become familiar with every branch of forensics, and now she uncovers the history of this science, real-world murders and the people who must solve them. Dead men, and women, do talk but you need a smart listener. They can tell us all about themselves: where they came from, how they lived, how they died, and, of course, who killed them. Forensic scientists can unlock the mysteries of the past and help serve justice using the messages left by the corpse.

MACDERMID/MCDERMID, VAL tony hill SPLINTER THE SILENCE (#9) (\$34.99 hardcover, \$22.99 trade paperback) Is it violence if it's virtual? The outspoken women targeted by the increasingly cruel Internet trolls and bullies would probably say so. For some of them, the torrents of bile and vicious threats prove too much. They begin to silence themselves in a series of high-profile suicides. Or do they? Tony Hill isn't convinced. But he's the only one. Former cop Carol Jordan is too busy messing up her life to care. Until she gets an unexpected second chance. Now it's game on, and the stakes have never been higher.

MAITLAND, BARRY belltree CRUCIFIXION CREEK (#1) (\$29.99) The first of a trilogy of police procedurals set in Australia, featuring policeman Harry Belltree. A meth-addicted biker shoots a woman during a police siege. An elderly couple commit suicide on the terrace of their favorite café. An unidentified white male is stabbed to death in the street. For Sydney homicide detective Harry Belltree, not long out of the military and a grueling tour of Afghanistan, these three deaths appear to be just another day at the office. Until, that is, he identifies the stabbing victim as his own brother-in-law Greg, and journalist Kelly Pool suggests there's a link between the three incidents. It seems Greg and the old couple had ties to the same man, a corrupt money man with a murky past and friends in both high places and low. Harry Belltree can't get officially involved in Greg's murder, but he's not going to leave it in the hands of others. That's when he goes off-grid to investigate the links between these deaths. That's when things start to get dangerous... More action-packed than the author's London-based series featuring D.C.I. David Brock and D.S. Kathy Kolla of Scotland Yard...

MANZINI, ANTONIO schiavon BLACK RUN (#1) (\$31.99) The first in a series set in the Italian Alps...After getting into serious trouble with the wrong people, Deputy Police Chief Rocco Schiavone is exiled to Aosta, a small, touristy alpine town far from his beloved Rome. The sophisticated yet crotchety Roman despises mountains, snow, and the provincial locals as much as he disdains his superiors and their petty rules. But

he loves solving crimes. When a mangled body is discovered on a slope above Champoluc, Rocco immediately faces his first challenge—identifying the victim, a complex procedure complicated by his ignorance of the customs, dialect, and history of his new home. Proud and undaunted, Rocco makes his way among the ski runs, mountain huts, and aerial tramways, meeting instructors, alpine guides, the enigmatic folk of Aosta, and a few beautiful locals eager to give him a warm welcome. It won't be easy, this mountain life, especially with a corpse or two in the mix. But then there's nothing that makes Rocco feel more at home than an investigation.

MAY, PETER HEBRIDES (\$26.99) The author of the Fin McLeod novels and photographer David Wilson present a photographic record of the countless locations around the Hebridean archipelago that so inspired the McLeod trilogy. From the tiny southern island of Barra to the largest and most northern island of Lewis, travel the storm-whipped North Atlantic scenery and get a better, deeper, appreciation of the novels.

MINA, DENISE morrow BLOOD, SALT, WATER (#5) (\$33.99 hardcover, \$22.99 trade paperback) A wealthy businesswoman disappears from her Glasgow home without a trace, leaving her husband and children panicked but strangely resistant to questioning. Tracing the woman's cell phone, detective Alex Morrow discovers a call made from an unlikely location. A sleepy seaside community where everyone knows everyone, Helensburgh is the last place you'd go looking for violence. But Morrow's investigation uncovers increasingly disturbing clues: fierce family battles that go back generations, a suspicious insurance firm, and finally, a dead body in a nearby lake. And when a connection to someone close to Morrow surfaces, the case gets more wrenchingly personal than she could have imagined.

NESBO, JO blood on snow MIDNIGHT SUN (#2) (\$27.95) Jon is on the run. He has betrayed Oslo's biggest crime lord: The Fisherman. Fleeing to an isolated corner of Norway, to a mountain town so far north that the sun never sets, Jon hopes to find sanctuary amongst a local religious sect. Hiding out in a shepherd's cabin in the wilderness, all that stands between him and his fate are Lea, a bereaved mother, and her son, Knut. But while Lea provides him with a rifle and Knut brings essential supplies, the midnight sun is slowly driving Jon to insanity.

And then he discovers that The Fisherman's men are getting closer.

PATTERSON, JAMES cross CROSS JUSTICE (#23) (\$35) Alex Cross left his hometown, and some awful family tragedies, for a better life with Nana Mama in Washington, DC. He hasn't looked back. Now his cousin Stefan has been accused of a horrible, unthinkable murder, and Cross drives south with Bree, Nana Mama, Jannie, and Ali to Starksville, North Carolina, for the first time in thirty-five years. Back home, he discovers a once proud community down on its luck, and local residents who don't welcome him with open arms. As Cross steps into his family home, the horrors of his childhood flood back and he learns that they're not really over. He brings all his skill to finding out the truth about his cousin's case. But truth is hard to come by in a town where no one feels safe to speak.

PERRY, ANNE xmas CHRISTMAS ESCAPE (#13) (\$24) It wouldn't be Christmas without a holiday mystery from the author of the Pitt and Monk novels...this time we are transported to the Mediterranean island of Stromboli for an unconventional Yuletide adventure and an unforgettable volcanic encounter.

SANDERS, BEN AMERICAN BLOOD (\$28.99) After a botched undercover operation, ex-NYPD officer Marshall Grade is living in witness protection in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Marshall's instructions are to keep a low profile: the mob wants him dead, and a contract killer known as the Dallas Man has been hired to track him down. Racked with guilt over wrongs committed during his undercover work, and seeking atonement, Marshall investigates the disappearance of a local woman named Alyce Ray. Members of a drug ring seem to hold clues to Ray's whereabouts, but hunting traffickers is no quiet task. Word of Marshall's efforts spreads, and soon the worst elements of his former life, including the Dallas Man, are coming for him.

SCHOFIELD, DOUGLAS TIME OF DEPARTURE (\$29.99) Florida state prosecutor Claire Talbot is as tough as they come, and not everyone loves her for it. Newly promoted Felony Division Chief, Claire has about as many jealous detractors as she does supporters. Some colleagues are openly skeptical about her youth, her abilities, and even her gender. When a highway project construction crew unearths two skeletons in a common grave, Claire reopens an investigation into a string of abductions that took place before she was born. While researching the file, she meets retired cop Marc Hastings, who once worked on the case. He maneuvers his way into the investigation—and into Claire's life. Marc has an uncanny familiarity with Claire's habits, and she begins to realize that not all is as it seems.

TREMAYNE, PETER SECOND DEATH (#26) (\$32.99) Ireland, AD 671. The Great Fair of Bealtain is almost upon the fortress of Cashel, and a line of painted wagons carries entertainers to mark the occasion. But preparations take a deathly turn when one of the carriages is set alight, and two corpses are found, lying poisoned, within. As

Sister Fidelma and her companion, Eadulf, investigate, they are quickly plunged into the menacing marshlands of Osraige—where the bloody origin of the Abbey of Cainnech is wreaking his revenge. What is the symbolism of the Golden Stone, and who are the mysterious members of the Fellowship of the Raven? Fidelma and Eadulf must face untold mortal danger before they can untangle the evil that strikes at the very heart of the kingdom.

TUIL, KARINE AGE OF REINVENTION (\$34.99) Elite Manhattan criminal defense attorney Sam Tahar seems to have it all: fame, fortune, good looks, an enviable marriage to a prominent socialite, and two wonderful children. But his life is a house of cards; everything that he has achieved stems from a single lie he told in a moment of weakness. Because Sam Tahar isn't who he pretends to be.

WOLF, DICK ULTIMATUM (\$34.99) When hacker Merritt Verlyn releases sensitive documents from the NYPD Intelligence Division to WikiLeaks, some of New York City's deadliest criminals suddenly gain access to some pretty sensitive data. Like, Detective Jeremy Fisk's unlisted home address. Within hours, three deadly assailants arrive at his Sutton Place apartment looking for blood. Authorities quickly identify and arrest Verlyn, but the damage is done.

Paperbacks

ADLER, REBECCA texas HERE TODAY, GONE TAMALE (#1) (\$10.49) Josie Callahan scoops up her Chihuahua, Lenny, and slinks back to Broken Boot, Texas, to hide out and lick her wounds. Maybe working as head waitress at Milagro, her aunt and uncle's Tex-Mex restaurant, isn't exactly living the dream, but it is a fresh start.

And business is booming as tourists pour into Broken Boot for its famous Wild West Festival. But when a local jewelry designer is found strangled outside Milagro after a tamale-making party, Josie's reporter instincts kick in. As suspects pile up and alibis crack faster than taco shells, Josie needs to wrap up this case tighter than her tía's tortillas, before another victim calls for the check.

ALLINGHAM/RIPLEY, MIKE champion MR CAMPION'S FOX (\$25) The Danish Ambassador has requested Albert Campion's help on 'a delicate family matter.' He's very concerned about his eighteen-year-old daughter, who has formed an attachment to a most unsuitable young man. Recruiting his unemployed actor son, Rupert, to keep an eye on Frank Tate, the young man in question, Mr. Campion notes some decidedly odd behaviour on the part of the up-and-coming photographer. Before he can act on the matter, however, both the Ambassador's daughter and her beau disappear without trace. Then a body is discovered in a lagoon.

AHNEM, STEFAN VICTIM WITHOUT A FACE (\$19.95) Criminal investigator Fabian Risk has left Stockholm with his wife, Sonja, and their two children to start fresh in his hometown of Helsingborg. He has planned a six-week vacation before he starts a new job at the Homicide Department. But after only a few hours in their new home, he is asked to investigate a brutal murder. The body of Jörgen Pålsson, one of Risk's former classmates, has been found with both hands missing. Soon the bodies of more old classmates are found, and Risk finds himself in a race against time: Can they find the murderer before the entire class is killed?

ARCHER, JEFFREY clifton MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD (#5) (\$11.99) Nothing but challenges for the Cliftons... Harry Clifton's New York publisher has elected him the new president of English PEN. Now Harry's on a mission to free a fellow author who's imprisoned in Siberia, even if doing so puts Harry's own life, and life's work, in danger. Meanwhile, his wife Emma, chairman of Barrington Shipping, is facing the repercussions of an IRA bombing on the *Buckingham*. Some board members feel she should resign. Others will stop at nothing to ensure the Clifton family's fall from grace. In London, Harry and Emma's son, Sebastian, is quickly making a name for himself at Farthing's Bank. He's also just proposed to a beautiful young American, Samantha. But the despicable Adrian Sloane, is only interested in one thing: Sebastian's ruin. And so it goes.

AYKOL, ESMAHAN DIVORCE TURKISH STYLE (\$20.50) Kati owns Istanbul's only mystery book store and, as usual, gets involved in a case that is none of her business. Every day, a beautiful woman lunches alone in the restaurant next to the bookstore. When the woman is found dead in her apartment, Kati immediately recognizes the stranger from the restaurant in images in the newspaper photos. Although the police believe it was an accident, Kati suspects something more sinister has happened. Delightful. Witty. See *JD's Picks*.

BASS, JEFFERSON body farm BREAKING POINT (#9) (\$12.50) Dr. Bill Brockton, founder of the University of Tennessee's macabre Body Farm, has enjoyed

professional acclaim and personal contentment in the years since he once came close to losing his wife and son at the hands of a serial killer. The pioneering research done at the Body Farm, and Brockton's forensic expertise, have earned him respect, renown, and high-profile cases. But a storm is about to hit Brockton with cataclysmic force. Will the legendary Dr. Bill Brockton be pushed beyond his breaking point?

BLACKWELL, JULIET *reno* GIVE UP THE GHOST (#6) (\$10.49) San Francisco millionaire Andrew Flynt wants to sell his Victorian mansion, but ghostly music, the squeaking of a long-disappeared weathervane, and an angry ghost keep running off potential buyers. After a famous psychic is called in, she informs the Flynts that their multi-million-dollar renovations to “update” the home have left its resident ghost extremely agitated. So contractor Mel Turner is engaged to track down and replace some of the original features of the house. But when the beautiful psychic is found stabbed, it appears someone had a very human motive for murder. Now Mel must use her ghost whispering gift to uncover the secrets of the haunted house on the hill, and her sleuthing skills to catch a killer.

BOND, MICHAEL *M PAMPLEMOUSSE AND THE TANGLED WEB (#18)* (\$18.99) Monsieur Pamplemousse and his trusty dog, Pommies Frites are called into Le Guide's offices early one morning and presented with a string of Leclercq's plaintive conundrums - all relating to his mobster uncle-in-law. These include a letter about a juicy steak turned brisket, a dead restaurant owner and a giant truffle delivered by post. With all these seemingly random problems at hand, Pamplemousse attempts to unravel each but it quickly proves impossible as they overlap and tangle at every turn, usually making him look the fool.

BRIGGS, J C *dickens* MURDER OF PATIENCE BROOKE (#1) (\$17.95) November 1849. Charles Dickens, the famous author, turns detective. He and Superintendent Jones of Bow Street must find the man who cut the throat of Patience Brooke, assistant matron at Dickens's Home for Fallen Women, a man who sings as he kills. Their search takes them into the filthy slums of Victorian London where the fog hides grim secrets. When a little girl is found dead and another girl disappears from the home, Dickens is forced to face deeply buried secrets from his own past.

BRIGGS, J C *dickens* DEATH AT HUNGERFORD STAIRS (#2) (\$19.95) London, November 1849. When a boy is found drowned in the River Thames at Hungerford Stairs, novelist Charles Dickens and Superintendent Jones of Bow Street are mystified to discover the child is not the missing youngster for whom they have been searching. But when two more boys are brutally murdered, the trail leads them on a hunt for a serial killer in a complicated case that tests their wits, but can they solve the clues and rescue another child before the murderer strikes again?

BUDEWITZ, LESLIE *spice* GUILTY AS CINNAMON (#2) (\$10.49) Springtime in Seattle's Pike Place Market means tasty foods and wide-eyed tourists, and Pepper's Spice Shop is ready for the crowds. With flavorful combinations and a fresh approach, Pepper's sure to win over the public. Even better, she's working with several local restaurants as their chief herb and spice supplier. Business is cooking, until one of Pepper's potential clients, a young chef named Tamara Langston, is found dead, her life extinguished by the dangerously hot ghost chili, a spice Pepper carries in her shop. Now stuck in the middle of a heated police investigation, Pepper must use all her senses to find out who wanted to keep Tamara's new café from opening—before someone else gets burned. See Marian's Picks.

CANADEO, ANNE *maggie* MURDER IN MOHAIR (#8) (\$20) A cold-hearted murder in Plum Harbor leads the knitters to investigate a new psychic who may be far more dangerous than she seems.

CASS, LAURIE *bookmobile* POUNCING ON MURDER (#4) (\$10.49) Springtime in Chilson, Michigan, means it's librarian Minnie Hamilton's favorite time of year: maple syrup season! But her excitement fades when her favorite syrup provider, Henry Gill, dies in a sugaring accident. It's tough news to swallow, even if the old man wasn't as sweet as his product. On the bookmobile rounds with her trusty rescue cat Eddie, Minnie meets Adam, the old man's friend, who was with him when he died. Adam is convinced Henry's death wasn't an accident, and fears that his own life is in danger. With the police overworked, it's up to Minnie and Eddie to tap all their resources for clues before Adam ends up in a sticky situation.

CHILDS, LAURA *cackleberry* SCORCHED EGGS (#6) (\$10.49) Getting her hair coloured at Root 66, Suzanne is stunned to witness the County Services office next door suddenly go up in flames. Sadly, the fire claims the life of longtime civil service worker, and friend to the Cackleberry Club, Hannah Venable. When it's discovered that an accelerant was used to fan the flames, Suzanne, Petra, and Toni vow to smoke out the culprit.

COLLINS, J MARK *Hard Drive* (\$18.95) The author is a police officer with a local force and he has written his first mystery featuring Jack Wright, a Toronto detective with the Toronto Police Service Hold-Up Squad. See *Marian's Picks* for more.

COPPERMAN, E J *haunted* GHOST IN THE WIND (#7) (\$10.49) Guesthouse

owner, single mother, and reluctant ghost whisperer Alison Kerby is about to sit down to movie night with her family and friends when she's struck speechless. Floating before her is the ghost of her musical idol, 1960s English rock star Vance McTiernan. He's in desperate need of help from Alison and her resident ghostly gumshoe, Paul Harrison. Reports claim that four months ago, Vance's daughter died from a drug overdose. Vance, however, thinks she was murdered.

CORRIS, PETER cliff hardy DUNBAR CASE (\$17.95) A famous 19th-century shipwreck, a search for lost documents, a two million dollar heist, a Newcastle criminal family tearing itself apart, an undercover cop playing both sides against the middle, and an alluring but fiercely ambitious female journalist give Cliff Hardy all the trouble he can handle. What started as an almost academic exercise, tracing lost documents to do with the 1857 wreck of the SS Dunbar, explodes into a here-and-now power struggle between criminals, police, lovers, and unseen forces.

CORRIS, PETER cliff hardy MAN IN THE SHADOWS (#11) (\$18.95) Gareth Greenway wasn't all he seemed, but Cliff Hardy was used to that. What he wasn't used to was the shadowy world Greenway leads him into: neurosurgeons, mental patients, AIDS sufferers, all negotiating a landscape of dreams and delusions. A short novel and six stories.

CUMMING, CHARLES HIDDEN MAN (\$22) Mark and Benjamin Keen haven't seen their father, Christopher, for more than twenty years. He has only just begun to shed light on his life as a master spy when he is murdered in cold blood by an unidentified assassin. Was his death connected to his MI6 past? Had Christopher uncovered a dangerous conspiracy involving his eldest son? And what were his links to Moscow, Afghanistan and the Russian mafia in London? To discover the truth and avenge their father's death the brothers are drawn into the legacy of his life as a spy. An inheritance can be deadly. First published in 2003.

DAMHAUG, TORKIL MEDUSA (\$15.99) A young woman vanishes from a forest near Oslo. Days later her body is found, seemingly mauled and maimed by a bear. When another woman is reported missing and then found dead with the same scratches and bites, police find the link between them is local doctor, Axel Glenne. Forensics reveal the women were murdered and a net of suspicion tightens around Axel, who is convinced his twin brother Brede is responsible. But no one has seen him for years and if Axel is to prove his innocence, he needs to find Brede. And fast. But there isn't a single photograph of the brothers together and neither Axel's wife nor his children has ever met a man called Brede.

DAVIS, KRISTA paws&claws MURDER MOST HOWL (#3) (\$10.49) Holly Miller is delighted her grandmother has finally left the Sugar Maple Inn to take a well-deserved vacation. It means Holly's in charge, but running the inn might be more challenging than she realized. Wagtail, Virginia is throwing a weekend-long murder mystery game to draw in tourists during the slow season, the inn has a full house, and a blizzard is on the way. So is murder.

DAVIS, LINDSEY flavia DEADLY ELECTION (#3) (\$15.99) In the blazing July heat of imperial Rome, Flavia Albia inspects a decomposing corpse. It has been discovered in lots to be auctioned by her family business, so she's determined to identify the dead man and learn how he met his gruesome end. The investigation will give her a chance to work with the magistrate, Manlius Faustus, the friend she sadly knows to be the last chaste man in Rome. But he's got other concerns than her anonymous corpse.

DEAVER, JEFFERY SKIN COLLECTOR (#11) (\$11.99) The killer's methods are terrifying. He stalks the basements and underground passageways of New York City. He tattoos his victims' flesh with cryptic messages, using a tattoo gun loaded with poison, resulting in an agonizing, painful death. When a connection is made to the Bone Collector, the serial killer who terrorized New York more than a decade ago, Lincoln Rhyme and Amelia Sachs are immediately drawn into the case. The first in the series is The Bone Collector (\$11.99).

DISILVERIO, LAURA read READAHOLICS AND THE POIROT PUZZLE (#2) (\$10.49) Amy-Faye Johnson's book club, the Readaholics, is engrossed in *Murder on the Orient Express*, and Poirot's surprising resolution is stirring up debate. Is the solution remotely realistic? Is justice served by Poirot's decision? Well, the book is fiction after all... Then, just as Amy-Faye is planning the grand opening of her brother Derek's pub,

his hot-headed partner is murdered. To keep Derek from being railroaded as a suspect, Amy-Faye and the Readaholics take a page from Poirot and investigate. The first in the series is Readaholics and the Fashion Fiasco (\$9.99).

DOYLE/MARCUM, DAVID MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES 1881 - 1889, 1890 - 1895 and 1896 - 1929 (\$80 each) This three-volume collection brings together over sixty of the world's leading Sherlock Holmes authors. All the stories are traditional Sherlock Holmes pastiches and the authors are donating all the royalties from the collection to preservation projects at Doyle's former home, Undershaw. Special orders.

DOYLE/SIMMONS, DAN THE FIFTH HEART (\$21.49) In 1893, Sherlock Holmes and Henry James come to America together to solve the mystery of the 1885 death of Clover Adams, wife of the esteemed historian Henry Adams—member of the Adams family that has given the United States two Presidents. Clover's suicide appears to be more than it at first seemed; the suspected foul play may involve matters of national importance.

DURBRIDGE, FRANCIS temple SEND FOR PAUL TEMPLE (#1) (\$16.99) In the dead of night, a watchman is brutally attacked and with his dying breath cries out, "The Green Finger!" It is the latest in a series of robberies to take place that have left Scotland Yard mystified, and with no other choice but to call upon the expertise of Detective Paul Temple. Aided by the beautiful journalist Louise Harvey — affectionately known as Steve — the duo discover that this is not the first victim to warn of the dangerous and elusive "Green Finger"... who or what is it? The pair must work together to solve the deepening mystery.

EDWARDS, MARTIN SILENT NIGHTS (\$19.50) Edited by... Over the years, many distinguished mystery writers have given one or more of their stories a Yuletide setting. The most memorable Christmas mysteries blend a lively storyline with an atmospheric evocation of the season. Getting the mixture right is much harder than it looks. This book introduces of readers to some of the finest Christmas detective stories of the past.

ENTWISTLE, VAUGHN ANGEL OF HIGHGATE (\$16.95) It is October 1859, and notorious philanderer Lord Geoffrey Thraxton cares for nothing except his own amusement. After humiliating an odious literary critic and surviving the resulting duel, he boasts of his contempt for mortality, and insults the attending physician. It is a mistake he will come to regret. When Thraxton becomes obsessed with a mysterious woman who appears to him one fog-shrouded night in Highgate Cemetery, he unwittingly provides the doctor with the perfect means to punish a man with no fear of death.

ERICKSON, ALEX bookstore DEATH BY TEA (#2) (\$8.99) Mystery lovers have descended on Pine Hills for this year's book club competition, to be held at Krissy Hancock's bookstore café. But the killer in their midst seems determined to outwit all the armchair sleuths and send Krissy to the remainder bin forever. Just before two dueling book clubs are set to square off at Death by Coffee, one of the competitors turns up dead, bludgeoned with the silver teapot that was to serve as the prize. Suspicion immediately falls on Krissy, who was seen skulking around town in dark clothes on the night of the murder. The first in the series is Death by Coffee (\$8.99).

FARJEON, J JEFFERSON THIRTEEN GUESTS (\$19.50) On a fine autumn weekend, Lord Aveling hosts a hunting party at his country house, Bragley Court. Among the guests is the unlucky thirteenth, John Foss, injured at the local train station and brought to the house to recuperate—but John is nursing a secret of his own. Soon events take a sinister turn when a painting is mutilated, a dog stabbed—the cad—and a man strangled. Death strikes more than one of the house guests, and the police are called. Detective Inspector Kendall's skills are tested to the utmost as he tries to uncover the hidden past of everyone at Bragley Court. This country-house mystery is a forgotten classic of 1930s crime fiction by one of the most undeservedly neglected of golden age detective novelists.

FLUKE, JOANNE VENGEANCE IS MINE (\$8.99) As a family clinic administrator, Michele Layton has seen her share of suffering. But never anything like this. Not here in St. Cloud, Minnesota. A local activist has been found murdered, his body frozen like a statue and placed in a Winter Carnival ice sculpture display. Next a vicious hate crime puts a man in the ICU. And locked away in the Holy Rest mental ward, a deranged man of the cloth prays for more sinners to be punished and waits for a sign from above. These seemingly random acts lead police chief Steve Radke to Michele, who could be the next pawn in a madman's chess game of life and death, good versus evil.

FRASER, ANTONIA shore COOL REPENTANCE (#4), OXFORD BLOOD (#5), YOUR ROYAL HOSTAGE (#6) and POLITICAL DEATH (#8) (\$15.99 each) A few more Jemima Shore titles have now been reprinted.

GERRITSEN, TESS rizzoli ICE COLD (#8) (\$12.99) Out on a spur-of-the-moment ski trip in Wyoming, a group of medical professionals get stalled on a snow-choked mountain road; they're stranded with no help in sight.

As night falls, the group seeks refuge from the blizzard in the remote village of Kingdom Come, where twelve eerily identical houses stand dark and abandoned. Something terrible has happened in Kingdom Come: Meals sit untouched on tables, cars are still parked in garages. The town's previous residents seem to have vanished into thin air, but footprints in the snow betray the presence of someone who still lurks in the cold darkness, someone who is watching. Days later, Boston homicide detective Jane Rizzoli receives the grim news that Maura's charred body has been found in a mountain ravine. Shocked and grieving, Jane is determined to learn what happened to her friend.

GIAMBANCO, VALENTINA GIFT OF DARKNESS (\$14.99) In Seattle's upscale Blueridge neighbourhood, James Sinclair, his wife Anne, and their two small boys are

found brutally murdered in their home. Their bodies are carefully laid out and the words "thirteen days" are scratched into a door frame. At the same time, a card with the words "thirteen days" written on it is delivered to the office of powerful lawyer Nathan Quinn, a partner at Sinclair's law firm. From the evidence found at the scene, rookie homicide detective Alice Madison and her seasoned partner Detective Sergeant Brown determine that the prime suspect is John Cameron, a fugitive long wanted for another infamous crime. But only Cameron's attorney knows his whereabouts and he is none other than Nathan Quinn.

GLICKMAN, SUSAN SAFE AS HOUSES (\$20) Liz Ryerson believes that Hillcrest Village, her Toronto neighbourhood, is quaint and quiet, but stumbling over a corpse while walking her dog dissolves that illusion for good. When she realizes that she actually knew the dead man, she becomes obsessed with solving the crime. The more instability is revealed in her life, the more she needs to find out who killed James Scott and why. Retired Classics professor Maxime Bertrand is delighted to play Watson to her Holmes.

GREGORY, SUSANNA chaloner CHEAPSIDE CORPSE (#10) (\$15.99) London in the spring of 1665 is a city under siege. From the plague, from the Dutch fleet preparing to invade, from a banking crisis that threatens to bankrupt the nation. Amid the tension, Thomas Chaloner is ordered to investigate the murder of Dick Wheler, one of the few goldsmith-bankers to have survived the losses that have driven others to bankruptcy or worse. Chaloner's foray into the world of the financiers who live in and around Cheapside quickly convinces him that they are just as great a threat as the Dutch, but their power and greed thwart him at every turn. Meanwhile, the plague continues to spread across the city, and the body count from the disease and from the fever of avarice starts to rise alarmingly.

GUEZ, JEREMIE EYES FULL OF EMPTY (\$21.95) The son of an Algerian immigrant, Idir is a disappointment to his doctor father. Torn between his wealthy school friends and his neighbourhood pals, who range from petty thieves to professional criminals, Idir operates easily between worlds, and yet is at home nowhere. Without much effort, Idir becomes one of the Parisian upper crust's most sought-out private investigator, thanks to his understanding of the needs of his privileged clients. Things change when Oscar Crumley, a wealthy media scion that Idir knew at university, reappears in Idir's life, hiring him to find his missing younger half-brother, Thibaut. Idir assumes it is an open and shut case. But when Idir discovers that Thibaut was hiding his homosexuality from his conservative family, his disappearance takes on sinister connotations.

HARTWELL, SADIE yarn YARNED AND DANGEROUS (#1) (\$16.95) Josie Blair left Dorset Falls, Connecticut, twelve years ago in hopes of making it big in New York City. But things didn't work out so well and she finds herself heading back to her hometown. Her great-uncle was injured in a car accident, and newly unemployed Josie is the only person available to take care of him. Uncle Eb's wife didn't survive the crash, so Josie is also tasked with selling the contents of her Aunt Cora's yarn shop, Miss Marple Knits. It is one of the few businesses still open in the dreary downtown. Josie can't imagine how it stayed open for so long, yet something about the cozy, resilient little shop appeals to her. But when one of the town's most persnickety knitters turns up dead in a pile of cashmere yarn, Josie realizes there's something truly twisted lurking beneath the town's decaying façade. "This is a lovely "cosy" read, full of beautiful wool and a shop that you hope stays open after all the bad things that happen....", says Marian. See *Marian's Picks*.

HERRON, MICK NOBODY WALKS (\$15.95) Tom Bettany is working at a meat processing plant in France when he gets a message telling him that his estranged 26-year-old son is dead—Liam Bettany fell from his London balcony, where he was smoking pot. Now for the first time since he cut all ties years ago, Bettany returns home to London to find out the truth about his son's death. Maybe it's the guilt he feels about losing touch with Liam that's gnawing at him, or maybe he's actually put his finger on a labyrinthine plot, but either way he'll get to the bottom of the tragedy, no matter whose feathers he has to ruffle. But more than a few people are interested to hear Bettany is back in town, from incarcerated mob bosses to those in the highest echelons of MI5. He might have thought he'd left it all behind when he first skipped town, but nobody ever really walks away. "Absolutely terrific", says Marian.

HEWSON, DAVID vos WRONG GIRL (#2) (\$13.99) Amsterdam is bursting at the seams with everyone out for the Sinterklaas parade and the police are out in force, struggling to manage the crowds on one of the busiest days of the year. Brigadier Pieter Vos is on duty with his young assistant, Laura Bakker, when the first grenade hits. As Sinterklaas prepares to address the crowds a terrorist outrage grips the heart of the city. In the chaos a young girl wearing a pink jacket is kidnapped. But the abducted child isn't the daughter of an Amsterdam aristocrat as the terrorists first thought. She's the daughter of an impoverished Georgian prostitute, friendless and trapped in the web of vice that is Amsterdam's Red Light District. As the security forces and the police clash

over the ensuing investigation the perpetrator's horrifying demands become clear. What is the life of one immigrant child worth in the greater political game emerging around them?

HIGGINS, JACK dillon RAIN ON THE DEAD (#21) (\$12.99) On a dark summer night, two Chechen mercenaries emerge from the waters off Nantucket to kill a high-value target, the former President of the United States. Unfortunately for them, the president has guests that night, including black ops specialist Sean Dillon and his colleague, Afghan war hero Captain Sara Gideon. The Chechens do not survive the night, but Dillon is curious about how they even got on the island. What he discovers sends a chill through his bones—a name from Dillon's distant past. If this man is working with the terrorists now, the assassination attempt is only the beginning and next time, the results may be much, much different.

HILL, SUSAN serrailer SOUL OF DISCRETION (#8) (\$16.99) The cathedral town of Lafferton seems idyllic, but in many ways it is just like any other place. As part of the same rapidly changing world, it shares the same hopes and fears, and the same kinds of crime, as any number of towns up and down the land. When one day DC Simon Serrailer is called in by Lafferton's new Chief Constable, Kieron Bright, he is met by four plainclothes officers. He is asked to take the lead role in a complex, potentially dangerous undercover operation.

HILLERMAN, ANNE ROCK WITH WINGS (#2) (\$12.50) Doing a good deed for a relative offers the perfect opportunity for Sergeant Jim Chee and his wife, Officer Bernie Manuelito, to get away from the daily grind of police work. But two cases will call them back from their vacation and separate them, one near Shiprock, and the other at iconic Monument Valley. Chee follows a series of seemingly random, cryptic clues that lead to a missing woman and Bernie has her hands full managing the fallout from a drug bust gone wrong. Under the guidance of retired Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn, Bernie and Chee will navigate unexpected obstacles as they confront these challenges. The first in the series is Spider Woman's Daughter (\$12.50).

HIMES, CHESTER grave digger CRAZY KILL (#3) (\$17) One early morning, Reverend Short is watching from his bedroom window as the A&P across the street is robbed. As he tries to see the thief get away, the opium-addicted preacher leans too far and falls out, but he is unscathed, thanks to an enormous bread basket outside the bakery downstairs. As the crowd gathers to see what happened, a shocking discovery is made: There is another body in the bread basket, and Valentine Haines is dead, really dead. It's up to Grave Digger Jones and Coffin Ed Johnson to find out who murdered Val. First published in 1959.

HOLT, JONATHAN carnivia THE ABSOLUTION (#3) (\$21.99) From the author of The Abomination (#1) (\$16.99) and The Abduction (#2) (\$22.99), the conclusion to the Carnivia Trilogy. This time around Venetian police captain Kat Tapo and U.S. Army intelligence analyst Holly Boland investigate the case of the man found lying half in and half out of the sea with his throat cut open and his tongue torn out by the roots on Lido beach. On his face is a curious antique mask. The mask is a piece of Masonic paraphernalia known as a "hoodwink," and the dead man turns out to be a senior partner in a small Catholic bank, currently engaged in negotiations with one of Italy's richest men. But Kat soon discovers that money isn't the only motive for murder.

HORLER, SYDNEY TRAITOR (\$19.50) August 1918. On his way to the Western Front, Captain Alan Clinton spends a night in Paris with a young Frenchwoman, Marie Roget. Seduced by Marie's charms, Clinton discloses British military secrets, with disastrous consequences. Seventeen years later. The central European state of Ronstadt is ruled by the ruthless dictator Kuhnreich, and Europe is inching towards another war. Clinton's son Bobby travels to Europe as the political situation grows tenser, and seems dangerously close to repeating the sins of his father, leaving only his girlfriend to prove his innocence in a race against time.

HURWITZ, GREGG DON'T LOOK BACK (\$11.99) Eve Hardaway, newly single mother of one, is on a trip she's long dreamed of, a rafting and hiking tour through the jungles and mountains in southern Mexico. But a major storm wipes out all communication with the outside world, and the tour group is trapped in the jungle with a dangerous predator. With her only resource her determination to live, Eve must fight a dangerous foe and survive against incredible odds to make it back home alive.

HUSOM, CHRISTINE snow glow shop ICED PRINCESS (#2) (\$10.49) On her first day on the job, rich socialite Molly seems to be in her own little world, and her reluctant employer Cami worries that her new employee may flake out. The problem turns out to be far worse than that when Cami discovers Molly dead in the back of the shop, after drinking a poisoned cup of coffee. Soon there is an avalanche of suspects as Cami starts shoveling through the clues—including a shattered snow globe of Marilyn Monroe. Now Cami will have to venture out of her safety zone before the pathological poisoner stirs up more trouble. The first in the series is Snow Way Out (\$9.99).

JAMES, PETER grace YOU ARE DEAD (#11) (\$11.99) It seems that Brighton has its first serial killer in over eighty years. Young women from Brighton are going

missing and bodies from the past are surfacing. The connection is what Roy Grace and his team have to figure out before any more young women go missing.

JIMENEZ BARCA, ANTONIO UNPAID DEBTS (\$23.50) Pablo Esteban is returning as usual from his poorly paid job in a shabby office in Madrid when he runs into Trendy, a friend from his teenage years. Shortly after, Trendy is murdered on the street and Pablo will be forced to collaborate with the police during the criminal investigation and to revisit the places and people of his past.

JOHNSTON, TIM DESCENT (\$24) The Rocky Mountains have cast their spell over the Courtlands, a young family from the plains taking a last summer vacation before their daughter begins college. For eighteen-year-old Caitlin, the mountains loom as the ultimate test of her runner's heart, while her parents hope that so much beauty, so much grandeur, will somehow repair a damaged marriage. But when Caitlin and her younger brother, Sean, go out for an early morning run and only Sean returns, the mountains become as terrifying as they are majestic, as suddenly this family find themselves living the kind of nightmare they've only read about in headlines.

KATZENBACH, JOHN TRAVELER (\$21.95) First read this about twenty-five years ago and my recollection is that it was a pretty good thriller, but not planning on re-reading it. From the author of the Dead Student (\$35.95).

LEMAITRE, PIERRE camille IRENE (#2) and CAMILLE (#3) (\$14.99 each). Along with Alex (#1) (\$14.99) the Police Commandant Camille Verhoeven trilogy. Tough, intense, compelling.

MACDERMID/MCDERMID, VAL tony hill SPLINTER THE SILENCE (#9) (\$22.99 trade paperback, \$34.99 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

MELANDER, JAKOB winkler SCREAM OF THE BUTTERFLY (#2) (\$19.95) The mayor of Copenhagen is found murdered in his luxury apartment. Detective Lars Winkler is put on this sensitive case, which is further complicated by the fact that the victim's mother is the leader of the country's most radical political party and the current minister of finance. Lars notices the minister and her husband are strangely untouched by their son's death. When he begins to dig into the mayor's past, he slowly uncovers the dark story of a young, idealistic man who had only one wish: to free himself of his family and live his own life. The first in the series is The House that Jack Built (\$19.95).

MINA, DENISE BLOOD, SALT, WATER (\$22.99 trade paperback, \$33.99 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

MRAZEK, ROBERT vaughan BONE HUNTERS (#2) (\$12.99) One of the greatest archaeological finds of all time, Peking Man, the 780,000-year-old remains of our earliest known human ancestor, disappeared during World War II from a cargo ship bound for America. Now the Chinese government is fighting to keep a new religion from taking hold, a faith based on the belief that Peking Man is God. And they dispatch ruthless operatives to find and destroy the world's most priceless fossil. But the U.S. government has its own team on the hunt: Professor Barnaby Finchem, his brilliant protégé, Lexy Vaughan, and pilot Steve Macaulay. The first in the series is Valhalla (\$11.99).

MUIR, FRANK gilchrist LIFE FOR A LIFE (#4) (\$17.95) When a young woman's half-frozen body is found on Fife's Coastal Path, buried in snow and with the remnants of a rope manacle around her wrist, DCI Gilchrist takes the case. But Gilchrist's investigation uncovers a bloody trail of shootings and executions that lead him to the heart of a human trafficking war. Links to Scotland's foremost criminal family, the Home Office, and a ruthless killer intent on expanding his territory pull Gilchrist deeper into this murderous web until he comes face-to-face with the most dangerous man he has ever met. Excellent series.

MULLER&PRONZINI quincanno BODY SNATCHERS AFFAIR (#3) (\$18.50) Two missing bodies take Carpenter and Quincannon from the heights above San Francisco Bay to the depths of Chinatown's opium dens. For John Quincannon, this is a first: searching a Chinatown opium den for his client's husband, missing as a tong war brews over the stolen corpse of gang leader Bing Ah Kee. Meanwhile, his partner, Sabina Carpenter, searches for the corpse of a millionaire, stolen from a sealed family crypt and being held for ransom. With the threat of a tong war hanging over the city (a conflict perhaps being spurred on by corrupt officials), Carpenter and Quincannon have no time to lose in solving their cases. Is there a connection between the two body snatchers? Or is simple greed the answer? And why is the enigmatic Englishman who calls himself Sherlock Holmes watching so carefully from the shadows?

NORMAN, ANDREAS INTO A RAGING BLAZE (\$14.99) In September 2011, things are going well for Carina Dymek. The intelligent, determined young woman has expertly carried out her duties as EU Coordinator for the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A promotion is likely any day now. But, when a nervous-looking man who only identifies himself as "Jean" approaches her during a lunch break and presses a USB drive on her, Carina is shocked and disturbed by the contents. And that's when her ca-

reer takes a nosedive.

PAGE, KATHERINE HALL fait SMALL PLATES: SHORT FICTION (\$9.99)

The author's first collection of short fiction.

PATTERSON & ELLIS INVISIBLE (\$11.99) Everyone thinks Emmy Dockery is crazy. Obsessed with finding the link between hundreds of unsolved cases, Emmy has taken leave from her job as an FBI researcher. Now all she has are the newspaper clippings that wallpaper her bedroom, and her recurring nightmares of an all-consuming fire. Not even Emmy's ex-boyfriend, field agent Harrison "Books" Bookman, will believe her that hundreds of kidnappings, rapes, and murders are all connected. That is, until Emmy finds a piece of evidence he can't afford to ignore.

PATTERSON, JAMES cross MERRY CHRISTMAS ALEX CROSS (#19)

(\$19.49) It's Christmas Eve and Detective Alex Cross has been called out to catch someone who's robbing his church's poor box. That mission behind him, Alex returns home to celebrate with Bree, Nana, and his children. The tree decorating is barely underway before his phone rings again, a horrific hostage situation is quickly spiraling out of control. Away from his own family on the most precious of days, Alex risks everything to save another family, and he may not make it back alive.

PEGAU, CATHY brody MURDER ON THE LAST FRONTIER (#1) (\$16.95)

There's many who feel the Alaska Territory is no place for a woman on her own. But Charlotte Brody, suffragette and journalist, has never let public opinion dictate her life choices. She's come to the frontier town of Cordova, where her brother Michael practices medicine, for the same reason many come to Alaska, to start over. Cordova is gradually getting civilized, but the town is still rougher than Charlotte imagined. And when a local prostitute, one of the working girls her brother has been treating, is found brutally murdered, Charlotte learns firsthand how rough the frontier can be. Although the town may not consider the murder of a prostitute worthy of investigation, Charlotte's feminist beliefs motivate her to seek justice for the woman. And there's something else, the woman was hiding a secret, one that reminds Charlotte of her own painful past. As Charlotte searches for answers, she soon finds her own life in danger from a cold-blooded killer desperate to keep dark secrets from seeing the light of day.

PERRY, ANNE xmas CHRISTMAS HOPE AND NEW YORK CHRISTMAS

(\$21) Two Christmas stories in this omnibus edition, first published in 2012 and 2014 respectively.

PURSER, ANN meade SUSPICION AT SEVEN (#14) (\$10.49) After a woman is

discovered in the Mill House Hotel, strangled with a silver necklace beside a bag filled with faux gems, jeweler Donald Black seems like the obvious suspect. But Lois Meade knows Donald's wife and can't believe her husband is a killer. Plus, Donald has an airtight alibi. Nevertheless, Donald is no angel. He's running a pyramid scheme, and Lois's mother is getting sucked in. Could the murder have anything to do with his unscrupulous business? As Inspector Cowgill and Lois hope the bling may shine a light on the killer, the discovery of a second body in the hotel may prove the key to solving the murder, if they can catch the culprit before someone else checks out.

PYNE, DANIEL FIFTY MICE (\$20) Jay Johnson is a thirtysomething guy with a job in telephone sales, a regular pickup basketball game, and a devoted girlfriend he seems ready to marry. Then he's abducted, tranquilized, and interrogated, and his entire life history is obliterated. He is now officially in witness protection. What did he see? What terrible crime, or criminal, is he keeping secret? It must be something awfully big. Unfortunately, Jay has no clue what it is and he's convinced that the government has made a colossal mistake. But how does he make it back to his wonderful, empty, unexamined life?

RANKIN, IAN DARK ROAD a play (\$15.99) It's been 25 years since Alfred Chalmers was convicted of the gruesome murder of four young women in Edinburgh. Isobel McArthur, Scotland's first Chief Constable, was the woman responsible for putting him behind bars, but the case has haunted her ever since. Now, with her retirement approaching, McArthur decides the time has come for answers. To uncover the truth, she revisits the case and interviews Chalmers for the first time in decades. But her decision rips opens old wounds and McArthur is soon caught up in a web of corruption, psychological mind-games and deceit that threatens not only her own life, but those of her fellow officers and even her own daughter. The first stage play from this bestselling crime writer, co-written by the Royal Lyceum's Artistic Director Mark Thomson.

READING, MARIO TEMPLAR INHERITANCE (\$15.99) May 2013: A bomb goes off near a roadside café in As Sulaymaniyah, Iraq. Veteran photojournalist John Hart and his 27-year-old Kurdish Christian translator, Nalan Abuna, are caught up in the explosion—an explosion which is the beginning. The origin of this story is... May 1198: John Hart's ancestor, Johannes von Hartelius, discovers that The Copper Scroll, the most prized possession of the Knight's Templars, has been stolen and is about to be used to help raise an army for a Fourth Crusade. The missing scroll might just be buried in a hollow mountain, known as Solomon's Prison, in Iran, and John Hart sets out to retrieve it, echoing Hartelius' epic battle, almost 1,000 years earlier.

RICKMAN, PHIL NIGHT AFTER NIGHT (\$15.99) Liam Defford doesn't believe in ghosts. As the head of a production company, however, he does believe in high-impact TV. On the lookout for his next idea, he hires journalist Grayle Underhill to research the history of Knap Hall, a Tudor farmhouse turned luxury hotel, abandoned by its owners at the height of its success. The staff has been paid to keep quiet about what happened there, but the stories seep through. They're not conducive to a quick sale, but Defford isn't interested in keeping Knap Hall for more than a few months. Just long enough to make a reality TV show that will run nightly. A house isolated by its rural situation and its dark reputation; six people, known to the nation but strangers to one another, locked inside; but this time Big Brother is not in control.

SCHERM, REBECCA UNBECOMING (\$21) On the grubby outskirts of Paris, Grace restores bric-a-brac, mends teapots, and resets gems. She calls herself Julie, says she's from California, and slips back to a rented room at night. In truth, home is Garland, Tennessee, where two young men have just been paroled. Both were jailed for a crime that Grace planned. The heist went bad, but not before she was on a plane to Prague, contraband in her bag. As Grace's web of deception unravels, she begins a cat-and-mouse game.

SERONG, JOCK QUOTA (\$23.95) Travel deep into the underbelly of small town Australia...A small town fisherman is murdered. Disgraced city lawyer Charlie Jardim is sent to coerce a troubled witness into testifying. The victim was involved in the illegal abalone trade and the even more illegal drug trade. And witnesses aren't talking. As Charlie delves deeper he realizes the rules of the city courtroom mean nothing amidst small town secrets and loyalties. See *JD's Picks*.

SHAW, WILLIAM breen and tozer THE KINGS OF LONDON (#2) (\$17.99) London, November 1968. Detective Sergeant Breen has a death threat in his inbox and a mutilated body on his hands. The dead man was the wayward son of a rising politician and everywhere Breen turns to investigate, he finds himself obstructed and increasingly alienated. Breen begins to see that the abuse of power is at every level of society. And when his actions endanger those at the top, he becomes their target. Out in the cold, banished from a corrupt and fracturing system, Breen is finally forced to fight fire with fire. Sequel to She's Leaving Home (#1) (\$17).

SHOHAM, LIAD ASYLUM CITY (\$19.99) Tel Aviv is home to a large refugee population. Many immigrants walk its streets, desperately yearning for a new life. To assist them, Michal Poleg, an ardent young activist, volunteers with the city's Office of Migrant Aid. But as badly as these immigrants would like to stay, there are more than a few locals who want them to leave. And when Michal is found dead in her apartment, her involvement with the controversial asylum seekers seems an obvious starting point in the search for answers. Officer Anat Nachmias is assigned to Michal's case and the deeper she delves into Michal's activism, the more she is convinced that the working theory is wrong, especially when she doesn't believe a word of the young African man who soon confesses to the crime. What she does believe is that Michal, a petite, opinionated woman, got herself involved in something much bigger, and far more dangerous, than she could handle. See *JD's Picks*.

SIMENON, GEORGES MAIGRET (\$14) A new translation of this novel which sees the inspector brought out of his peaceful retirement, book nineteen in the new Penguin Maigret series. Maigret's peaceful retirement in the countryside is disrupted when a relative unwittingly embroils himself in a crime he did not commit and the inspector returns to Police Headquarters in Paris once again. By the way, Penguin is publishing the entire series of Maigret novels in new translations. That'll keep you reading for a while.

TREMEL, JOYCE brew TO BREW OR NOT TO BREW (#1) (\$10.49) An all-new mystery series set in a Pittsburgh craft brew pub...The Allegheny Brew House is a dream come true for Maxine "Max" O'Hara, who went all the way to Germany for her brewmaster certification, and is now preparing to open her own craft brew pub in a newly revitalized section of Pittsburgh. But before she can start pouring stouts and lagers to thirsty throngs, there's trouble on tap. Suspicious acts of sabotage culminate in Max finding her assistant brewmaster and chef Kurt Schmidt strangled in one of the vats. Between rescuing a stray gray tabby she names Hops and considering a handsome ex-hockey player as her new chef, Max doesn't have a lot of time to solve a murder. But with a homicide detective for a dad, she comes to criminal investigation naturally. And if someone is desperate enough to kill to stop her from opening, Max needs to act fast, before her brand-new brew biz totally tanks.

TURSTEN, HELENE BEIGE MAN (#7) (\$15.95) Göteborg, Sweden: The high-speed chase of a stolen BMW takes a chilling turn when the two police officers involved witness a gruesome hit-and-run. When they finally recover the abandoned vehicle, search dogs are unable to trace the thieves, but they do uncover an entirely different horror: the half-naked corpse of a young girl in a nearby root cellar. As Detective Inspector Irene Huss and her colleagues struggle to put the pieces together, they discover the man whose car was stolen, a retired police officer, is none other than the victim in

the hit-and-run. Could it be a strange coincidence? Or is something larger at play? Meanwhile, the hunt for the girl's killer leads Irene into the dark world of sex trafficking. An international criminal has arrived in Göteborg, and he'll stop at nothing to expand his sinister operation.

TYLER, L C grey CRUEL NECESSITY (#1) (\$15.99) It is 1657 and the unloved English Republic is eight years old. Though Cromwell's joyless grip on power appears immovable, many still look to Charles Stuart's dissolute and threadbare court-in-exile, and some are prepared to risk their lives plotting a restoration. When the bloody corpse of a Royalist spy is discovered on the dung heap of a small Essex village, John Grey, a young lawyer with no clients, finds himself alone in believing that the murdered man deserves justice. Grey is drawn into a vortex of plot and counter-plot and into the all-encompassing web of intrigue spun by Cromwell's own spy-master, John Thurloe.

WARD, SARAH IN BITTER CHILL (\$16.99) Bampton, Derbyshire, January 1978. Two girls go missing: Rachel Jones returns, Sophie Jenkins is never found. Thirty years later, Sophie Jenkins's mother commits suicide. Rachel Jones has tried to put the past behind her and move on with her life. But news of the suicide re-opens old wounds and Rachel realises that the only way she can have a future is to finally discover what really happened all those years ago.

WOODS, STUART barrington HOT PURSUIT (#33) (\$12.99) It's not often that Stone Barrington finds a woman as accustomed to the jet-set lifestyle as he, so he's pleasantly surprised when he meets a gorgeous pilot who's soon moving to New York, and available for closer acquaintance. Their travels together lead them from Wichita to Europe, but trailing them is some unwanted baggage: his new lady love's unstable, criminal ex-boyfriend. And while Stone is fending off his newest adversary, trouble is brewing on the international stage. Several enemy operatives are at large, and only a co-ordinated intelligence effort will have any chance of stopping their deadly plot. But the clock is ticking and time has nearly run out.