



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

January 2008

I'm glad to see the end of 2007. Oh, don't get me wrong, 2007 was fine in so many ways. We are in good health and so is the store. Paddington, bless his mighty little ticker, is still ticking along mightily. And, we're dealing well with the change in staffing—both Sara and Samantha have their *Picks*. So, just what was so bad about 2007?

Before I tell you about that, however, great news: **Sara Paretsky** will be here on the 31st of January to launch her new novel, Bleeding Kansas (\$31). (See *Sara's Picks*). Ms. Paretsky has not been to Sleuth so don't miss your chance to meet one of the pioneers of the female PI novel and to get your early V. I. Warshawski firsts signed.

Maureen Jennings, who has been here many times, returns to launch her second Christine Morris novel, K Hand Shape (\$22.95). Better known for her Inspector Murdoch series, she'll be here on the 20th of March. And, **Anne Perry** will be here in early April, the week of the 7th perhaps. Details are still to be worked out so do call or check the website. I'll post the information as soon as I get it.

The fixed shipping rates that we instituted last November for Canadian orders were a big success, so we are going to extend them for the foreseeable future: **\$6 per shipment within Ontario and Quebec and \$8 for the rest of Canada**. Now you don't really have to worry about the cost of shipping. Just order books.

So, just what was so bad about 2007? Only the dramatic rise in the value of the Canadian Dollar! Not that there was much justification for a sixty-five-cent dollar, not at all, but to deal with the CDNS being worth US\$0.80 to parity to US\$1.10 and now parity again, in a matter of a few months was, to put it mildly, hell. Prices were changing daily throughout the publishing industry, but not quickly enough for many. Canadians were frustrated at how slowly the benefit of the stronger

Come Meet	
Sara Paretsky Thursday January 31, 2008 The author of the V.I. Warshawski novels will be here to launch <u>Bleeding Kansas</u> (\$31)	Maureen Jennings Thursday, March 20, 2008 She will be here to launch the second Christine Morris novel, <u>K Hand Shape</u> (\$22.99)
From 6:30-7:30 pm. Please mark your calendars, preorder the books now, and come meet the authors. If you cannot attend but would like a signed or inscribed copy, just call us with the details and we'll make it happen. And be sure to check the website for last minute changes. Caca can happen, you know.	

dollar was being passed through to them. Our esteemed Federal Finance Minister agreed, and advised Canadians to vote with their feet and do some cross-border shopping. (You bet, I'll be voting with my feet, come the next election!)

Our customers, the intelligent and reasonable people they are, were not so concerned. They knew that as we got the benefit of the higher dollar we would pass it on. And we have. As publishers re-price their inventory, so do we, but the work involved is monumental. I've gotten very intimate with my pricing gun. 2008 should be a little easier as the publishers are reworking prices prior to publication and the new releases should reflect better the new state of affairs.

And, talk about price reductions! I can't remember the last time a hardcover was in the mid-\$20s. Last year's **Charles Todd**, False Mirror was \$30 and the new one, Pale Horse, is \$26. Sue Grafton's "S" was \$38 and "T" is \$32.50! Prices might never be this low again, and if the dollar starts to drop... so buy lots of books now.

And, then there's the weather! I know, I know, everyone talks about

The Merchant of Menace,

SLEUTH of Baker Street's bi-monthly newsletter is available by subscription at an annual fee of CDN\$35. Agree to buy at least \$100 of books in any calendar year and we'll waive the fee. Ask for a complimentary copy. All subscriptions are for a calendar year, by the way, so we'll prorate as necessary.

Postage & Handling

Ontario & Quebec: \$6*
Rest of Canada: \$8*

To the United States
\$10 per book, max. \$20*

Elsewhere
Actual postage
(*with the odd exception)

Hours of Business

Tuesday to Saturday
10 am to 6 pm

Sunday
Noon - 4pm

**Monday &
Statutory Holidays**
Closed

the weather but no one does anything about it. We have had two significant snowstorms this winter. One of them dropped 30 cm./12 inches in one day! That was fun. And more recently, we've had rain of torrential proportions and record high temperatures. Golf courses re-opened and I'm tempted to put the summer tires back on my car. Let's hope the rest of 2008 is more "normal".

Talking about tires, I'm acquiring a spare. A big thank you to all who brought us wine, cookies, fudge, chocolates over the holidays, but that's partly why. We ate and drank, ate and drank, until it was all gone, and now I've gotta shed ten pounds. Only me, not Marian. She's in good shape because she knows the meaning of self-control and she still runs and walks. Pas moi. Not yours truly. Since misery loves company, and a couple of golfing buddies are working on their own spare tires—we'll soon have a complete set—three of us have worked out a little motivation: lose ten pounds by the end of March and to the winner—loser?—first prize is a couple of rounds in Niagara Falls. Now, that's what I call a win/win. What about you? Want to join us in shedding a few? How about I talk to Marian and work out an incentive, maybe a 10% off coupon, if you shed ten pounds by the end of March? What you got to lose? Besides ten, that is. Talk to me.

Have you noticed all the recent mysteries set in Chicago? A good friend/better customer (and I do have my priorities right, eh Larry?) mentioned this recently and I nodded sagely. I had him. I told him to "put it in writing". And he did. And here it is. Thank Larry.

Larry's Picks

You wanna get Capone? Here's how you get him. He pulls a knife, you pull a gun. He sends one of yours to the hospital, you send one of his to the morgue. That's the Chicago way ...

This advice, by Sean Connery to Eliot Ness in the movie *The Untouchables*, pretty well sums up Chicago. With nicknames such as Hog Butcher for the World and Pride of the Rustbelt, it's no surprise that this city is a perfect backdrop for mystery and detective fiction, one often used by the likes of **William P. McGivern**, **Max Allan Collins**, **Arthur Maling**, **John Wessel**, **Michael Dymmo**, **Barbara D'Amato** and, of course, **Sara Paretsky** and **Stuart Kaminsky** (whose 10th Abe Lieberman novel, *The Dead Don't Lie* (\$29.95), was published in the summer).

For some reason -- is there such a thing as coincidence in mystery fiction? -- 2007 seemed to belong to first-time novelists who anchored their stories in Chicago.

The year began with a double debut: **SEAN CHERCOVER's** *Big City, Bad Blood* (\$29.95, paperback due March) and **MARCUS SAKEY's** *The Blade Itself* (\$8.99). For **Chercover's** Ray Dudgeon, a reporter-turned-private eye, a simple bodyguard job uncovers links to political corruption, the Outfit and Hollywood -- not to mention dead bodies. For **Sakey's** Danny Carter, his new life hinges on the choice he made in his old life when he knocked over pawnshops and liquor stores. Although both books suffer from first-time nervousness, they more than do what they're supposed to do: entertain.

In the summer of 2007 came **MICHAEL HARVEY's** impressive fictional debut, *The Chicago Way* (\$29.95). With echoes of **DASHIELL HAMMETT's** *The Maltese Falcon* (\$14.95) as introduction to a rape and revenge story, **Harvey**, who co-created the TV

show *Cold Case Files*, gives us a very readable tale of an ex-cop-turned-P.I. who gets sucked into a case that begins with the murder of his ex-partner.

The year ended with **MICHAEL WILEY's** *The Last Striptease* (\$27.95), winner of the PWA/SMP best first private-eye novel contest. Joe Kozmarski, another ex-cop-turned-P.I., is asked to clear a childhood friend of murder. The complications? The man who asked Kozmarski to find the killer twice betrayed him and his father years earlier. The victim's brothers follow Kozmarski everywhere. His best friend, a cop, is shot in a seemingly unrelated case. He and his wife have just separated, and his mother has dropped an 11-year-old nephew on him. A dark tale, but that's why it's set in Chicago.

Super, Larry. Thank you. Talking about Chicago debut mysteries, where is the sequel to *Safe Place for Dying* (\$33.95) by **JACK FREDRICKSON**? About time, no?

To our newbies. As I mentioned earlier, Sara and Samantha have joined us on a part-time basis and their *Picks* follow.

Sara's Picks

Maisie Dobbs fans will be excited to learn that a fifth book in the series is due to come out in February. I've had the pleasure of reading the advanced copy so I can tell you all about it.

It in 1931, Post WWI England, **JACQUELINE WINSPEAR's** *An Incomplete Revenge* (#5) (\$27) takes private inquiry agent/psychic Maisie Dobbs to Heronsdene, where she has been hired to verify the credibility of a particular landowner her client hopes to do business with. At first she thinks the trauma that seems to pervade through the town has to do with a random Zeppelin attack that occurred during the war. But she soon realizes the town is hiding something sinister. Maisie has to uncover the mystery by figuring out what an abusive landowner, a series of fires, a group of wandering gypsies, a dead family, and an air raid have in common.

Aside from the intriguing characters and the smooth writing, one of the things I love most about the "Maisie Dobbs" series is the setting. I feel like **Winspear** really brings to life the social and economic upheaval that most of Europe faced during the period between World War I and World War II in a way history textbooks don't. I think this quality provides a richness to the read that is invaluable.

The first four books in the series are *Maisie Dobbs*, *Birds of a Feather*, *Pardonable Lies* (\$17.00 each), and *Messenger of Truth* (\$17.50). If you haven't yet read the series and are interested, I would start with one of the earlier novels because there are events in Maisie's personal life that come up in *An Incomplete Revenge* that prior knowledge of may prove beneficial.

New York Times-bestselling author of *Fire Sale* (\$13.50), **SARA PARETSKY** has written a new novel, *Bleeding Kansas* (\$31). *Bleeding Kansas* is not a murder mystery nor part of a series, but I found it to be a surprisingly enjoyable read. Set in modern day Kansas, the narrative is divided into four parts that comprise a year of the Grellier family's life. In chapter one we are told it is the worst year the family has ever lived through, and then the story goes back in time and we discover why. The narrative is episodic and jumps between the perspectives of the Grellier family members (and occasionally their

neighbours) as they deal with their respective grievances over their shared losses. I found myself especially drawn to the complexity of the characters and how at times the story is kind of depressing and at times uplifting. It turned out to be one of those stories that I kept thinking about for several days after I finished reading it.

As I had anticipated, one of the perks of working in a murder mystery bookstore is getting to read all the books! Part of what this means is starting old series I haven't had a chance to read yet in an effort to become familiar with a wider variety of writers. So I thought for my next pick I'd choose an older novel. I've only just read [A Grave Talent](#) (\$8.50) by **LAURIE R. KING** and I thought that it was excellent. The novel follows newly paired Detective Al Hawkins and Inspector Kate Martinelli as they try to solve the serial killings of three young girls whose bodies are found in the California Red Woods. The writing is fast paced and suspenseful, the plot is intricate without being too complicated, and the dynamic between Hawkins and Martinelli is really great. I couldn't put it down. If you're anything like me, and haven't picked it up yet, then you must. You'll enjoy it.

Samantha's Picks

I have always looked forward to my bimonthly newsletter from Sleuth. I read about everyone's favorites, pick the ones I think sound up my alley and then venture in, usually taking home far more than I mark (something I'm sure many of you are familiar with). When J.D. and Marian asked me to work a few hours a week at the store, I was excited (kid in a candy shop comes to mind). This month they have asked me for a few *Picks*. I hope you enjoy my choices.

I love the new selection of kids' books that have popped up since Harry Potter became such a hit and one of the best new series I've read is **RICK RIORDAN's** Percy Jackson and the Olympians. The latest book in the series is [The Titan's Curse](#) (#3) (\$22.95). Percy Jackson is a 12-year-old boy, who lives in New York City with his Mother. He has never met his Father and his Mom has told him very little about him. He discovers that he is a "half-blood" and his father is a Greek God (I'm not telling which one; you'll just have to read the book). This explains why he's constantly getting kicked out of school due to all the weird things that happen around him. He's sent to Camp Half Blood to learn how to use his powers for good and is given a "Hero's Quest" to complete. In [Titan's Curse](#), we find Percy, and his friends Annabeth and Thalia rescuing the satyr Grover, who has made an important discovery of two half-bloods whose parentage is unknown, only to fall into a trap himself. In addition, the Titan Lord, Kronos, looking to regain his throne on Mount Olympus, has set up another devious trap for our heroes. It's up to Percy and his friends to once again save the day. [The Lightning Thief](#) and [The Sea of Monsters](#) (\$8.99 each) are the first two entries in the series. I highly recommend these great adventure mystery books to anyone – you don't have to be a kid to enjoy them.

In **BARBARA PARKER's** [The Perfect Fake](#) (\$10.99), we meet Tom Fairchild, a man with a less than stellar past that seems to follow him. When a Miami real estate millionaire, Stuart Barlow, offers him \$50,000 to travel to Italy and make a perfect copy of a rare Renaissance map, Tom sees a way out of his problems. Except that Barlow's daughter Allison is coming along to supervise the project. When their previous romantic relationship is rekindled, and Tom begins to realize that Allison's father wants him to create a forgery instead of a copy, things get exciting. This book has a fast pace, smooth premise, ro-

mance and an interesting twist at the end.

Cotton Malone is back in **STEVE BERRY's** new book [The Venetian Betrayal](#) (\$30). In the usual **Steve Berry** way, each chapter is a separate part of the story until he begins to pull it together (about half way). It did take me a little while to get into this one. The novel takes the reader to the time of Alexander the Great and the mystery of his death and the riddle of his burial. As usual, there is an "evil over lord" (a woman this time) Supreme Minister Irina Zovanstina, whose desire is to surpass Alexander as history's ultimate conqueror. Backed by a secret society she has amassed a catastrophic arsenal of biological weapons. Cotton and Cassiopeia Vitt must solve the riddle of Alexander, and outwit the forces allied against them. They travel to Denmark, Venice and the Pamir mountains of Central Asia to unravel the riddle that could destroy or save millions. I enjoyed this book; I like books that teach me something, although how accurate the history lesson is to be determined – this is fiction after all. The other titles featuring Cotton Malone are [The Templar Legacy](#) and [The Alexandria Link](#) (\$11.99 each).

Marian's Picks

It was only after we had sent out the November 2007 newsletter that Paddington reminded me that no mention had been made of HRH. Oops, sorry Paddo. Well, he's still around, although confined to the upstairs, and is as wonderful as always. It is a little upsetting to watch him walk around the flat, in circles, over and over, but since he doesn't go outside anymore I suspect that this is his new territory and he is constantly on the prowl for invaders. Probably couldn't see them anyway, and wouldn't know what to do with them if he caught one, but, a cat's gotta do what a cat's gotta do. He is fragile but in good spirits. I have to be constantly aware of where he is lest I step on him, he moves so stealthily. He is either underfoot or, worse, has left a present as a reminder that he's still a force to be reckoned with. What an absolute joy he is.

I don't know what is it about books set in "exotic" places that fascinates me...well, I suppose I do. (*Maybe the fact that you'll never get to many of those exotic locations, being an impoverished clerk in a bookstore—J.D.*). **PETER MAY** does exotic well. He set his first mystery series in China and his second in France. [Extraordinary People](#) (\$17.95 trade paperback), the debut novel in this second series, features Scottish exile and former forensics expert, Enzo Macleod. To win a bet with one of his friends he has to solve an old murder that the police have given up on. He uses the same idea in the sequel, [The Critic](#) (\$29.95). Here, the police have given up on the case of the wine critic who went missing four years ago only to turn up a year later, well preserved in red wine. Enzo steps up to the challenge. Along with some great detecting, a nasty killer who has no hesitation in killing again, the cast of dedicated winemakers, the *goût de terroir*...you end up wanting all the fine sounding wines for your cellar. Alas, none of them are exported to Ontario, so I guess I'll just have to go visit Gaillac, this little-known wine region of France where the story is set. I wonder if they have a marathon there. By the way, [Firemaker](#) (#1) (\$9.99), the debut of his China series, is still in print, and it's an excellent read.

I was at a Beaujolais Nouveau party sponsored by McArthur and Company, one of our major Canadian publishers, where I met a good number of their authors. While I did not meet **BILLY MUNNELLY** there, I did see his book, [Billy's Best Bottles, Wines for 2008](#)

(\$21.95), and I thought, what a great idea. Wines from the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) have been categorized, not by the country or grape, but by mood. Mood! you exclaim. Well, yes, why shouldn't your mood determine the wine you drink? If the shape of the glass can make a difference to your enjoyment of the wine, why not mood? A lot of the wines listed in the book are under \$12, and are clearly identified as such. The LCBO product code is listed along with a photograph of the bottle, and there is a brief description of the wine. The book is spiral bound and a nice size to tuck into your bag or pocket. Sold quite a lot of these over Christmas and more stock has arrived. A number of people have commented that they appreciate the light and unpretentious approach of the book.

Since I am on the topic of wine...another guide that we carried over Christmas which has gotten great reviews is The 500 Best-Value Wines in the LCBO (\$19.95) by **ROD PHILLIPS** and **VIC HAR-RADINE**. This one gives more detailed, and traditional, descriptions of the wine (...with the appealing flavours of apple, pear and citrus fruit ...) as well as the prices and LCBO product code numbers. The only problem with this guide is...well, it sold out and the distributor tells me that a reprint is "under consideration." Let's hope they get to considering real soon and get me more copies of the sucker. No doubt, it'll get reprinted, so reserve your copy now.

Reformed art thief Tom Kirk is back in **JAMES TWINING's** The Gilded Seal (\$28.95 hardcover, \$22.95 trade paperback) and what a read. Tom's friend is murdered, trying to keep concealed a secret that has been hidden for 200 years, and Tom is determined to avenge the death. In New York, Special Agent Jennifer Browne is working a forgery case that threatens to explode into a huge scandal. How do these tie together? Will Jennifer and Tom get together again? I couldn't wait to read the book and it did not disappoint. Just like the first two, Double Eagle and Black Sun (\$10.99 each), there is lots of action, secrets galore, thefts, murder, tons more action, famous paintings both original and fake, all resulting in loads of fun.

Murder 101 (\$8.99) by **MAGGIE BARBIERI** is a fun mystery set in a small college town just outside New York City, and features English professor Alison Bergeron. When Alison finds the body of one of her students in the boot of her car, the nuns don't look kindly on all the exposure. But, as you can imagine, she meets this hunky homicide detective, and the case gets solved. A very well written story and I loved Alison. She loves to eat and is constantly bumbling into trouble. Extracurricular Activities (\$27.95), the sequel, was almost as much fun as 101, (I'm not going to give away the plot), but I found the ending a little too bizarre. Not that I didn't enjoy the story, I did, poor Alison still has her problems with the nuns and the hunky detective is still solving murders. J.D. asked me if I had picked Murder 101 in an earlier newsletter, and I think I did but I can't be sure.

I did not read Stalked (\$37.95 hardcover, \$24.95 trade paperback) by **BRIAN FREEMAN** in time for the last newsletter but did get to it over Christmas. What a great story. Jonathan Stride is back in Duluth, along with his girlfriend, ex-policewoman Serena Dial, (read Immoral (\$10.99) to find out how the two met and Stripped (\$10.99) to learn why he was in Las Vegas and then returned to Duluth). Maggie Bei, his kick-ass partner we were introduced to in Immoral, is suspected of murdering her husband and the evidence looks pretty damning. So much so, that the detective handling the case is ready to put paid to the case but Jonathan and Serena are not convinced. Something is going on that Maggie is not admitting to. Besides, she is one of them so deserves a little extra effort. Gripping, edgy and wonderful, all three books.

MAUREEN ASH's second Templar Knight Bascot de Marins novel, Death of a Squire is just as good as the first, The Alehouse Murders (\$9.99 each). A young squire is found murdered in the woods just outside Lincoln and de Marins is asked by the Lady Nicolaa to solve the crime before the King of Scotland and King John meet at Lincoln Castle. But outlaws kidnap de Marins' trusted servant, the mute Gianni, and finding Gianni becomes the most important thing on de Marins' mind. Medieval England is brought wonderfully to life in these novels. The sights, the smells, the sounds...you're there. A great series for the history mystery lover; I don't think you will be disappointed. I loved Alehouse and recommended it to everyone and so it is with Squire.

I whipped through State of the Onion (\$10.99) by **JULIE HYZY** in no time flat. I picked up the book because of its title and then discovered it to be a culinary mystery which intrigued me no end, as you know of my foodie addiction. The main character is White House assistant chef Olivia Paras. What do they eat at the White House? I couldn't believe the planning that goes into even the most simple lunch and you cannot even imagine what the kitchen goes through when there is a state dinner! Olivia is the only witness who can identify a world class assassin who the Secret Service suspects has his sights on someone at the White House. Great fun, I loved Olivia, her diplomacy, her tact, her attitude, and I loved all the talk and preparation of the food. There was, however, just one little irritant. Patriotism is fine and necessary but it was a little overdone. The first time, fine, the chefs are, after all, preparing dinner for their President. But after three or four references, it was a touch too much. Though, I suppose, better the patriotism being overdone than the soufflé! That aside, I am really looking forward to the next novel.

I am not quite finished The Religion (\$28.50) by **TIM WILLOCKS** but I can't wait until the next newsletter to tell you about it. What a massive book, both in the number of pages, 618 including the glossary, and in the magnitude of the story. The story is about Suleiman the Magnificent, emperor of the Ottomans, invading the Island of Malta in 1565, to eradicate the Knights of St. John the Baptist, known also as The Hospitallers. Impressive, sweeping, colourful, brutal, atmospheric, historic, and I've only read 200 pages. It seems this will be the first in a trilogy featuring Mattias Tannhauser. (*2,000 pages? Mother of God!—J.D., much anguished.*) He's described as a Rab-elaisian soldier of fortune, arms dealer, former janissary and strapping Saxon adventurer (enough to make me want to read the book just for him). But I'm reading it for the history. Yes, I am. And I am loving it.

J.D.'s Picks

BARRY MAITLAND is not being well served by his publishers. He is a terrific writer with an excellent series of nine novels featuring DCI David Brock and DS Kathy Kolla of Scotland Yard. The novels, or as many as I have read and can recall, are set in London. The last two or three were published in Australia first, a year or two later in the US, and not at all in the UK. "What's up wit' dat nonsense?" as youngsters of my personal acquaintance would say. Of the nine only three are still in print and readily available: Marx Sisters (#1) (\$9.99), No Trace (#8) (\$16.25 trade paperback) and Spider Trap (#9) (\$28.95 hardcover). In addition, we have a few copies of Chalon Heads (#4) (\$21.95 trade paperback) and Verge Practice (#7) (\$35 US hardcover). His books should all be in print and I'd sell a ton of them myself. He's far too underrated. Maybe if we all buy lots of copies of Marx Sisters, HarperCollins will reissue a few more. "In what may be

his best book yet, Maitland starkly contrasts the modern art world-view of life as art/art as life with the police attitude that life is not a game.”—*Library Journal* on No Trace. In the new novel, Spider Trap, Brock finds himself investigating twenty-year old murders, dating back to the time of the Brixton riots, in a poor area of inner South London that was home to the West Indian community, and, coincidentally, the patch that Brock worked a long time ago. Many of the characters are still around and remember Brock. The family that used to run the area, Spider’s gang, is still around but has gone legit. Or are they just a lot cleverer? A terrific read.

Many years ago **MICHAEL MCGARRITY** published Tularosa (\$9.99), a first novel starring Kevin Kerney, one time Santa Fe policeman who had retired due to injuries suffered on the job. I remember reading it and was probably somewhat unimpressed (*Idiot, that was a terrific novel.-Marian*), dropped him right then and there. In the ensuing decade Kevin has resurfaced a further ten times—he’s now a Chief on the verge of retirement—and has garnered tons of rave reviews for his daddy. I picked up Death Song (#11) (\$30) recently—not really sure why; probably the distressingly tall pile of unsold copies, maybe the bright and bold cover design, or, perhaps the weight of all those great reviews—and consumed it in one compulsive gulp. Hey, this was pretty good, maybe I owe Mr. McGarrity an apology. But just to be sure, I thought I’d read another one. At hand was Slow Kill (#9) (\$10.99) and I gulped that one just as compulsively. Perhaps the fact that the author was himself a Santa Fe deputy sheriff and lives in Santa Fe allows him to give the books, in **Tony Hillerman**’s words, a “been there done that” authenticity. So. I’ve come to some conclusions: I do owe Mr. McGarrity an apology, I’ll stock the entire series so that you may read him in the right order—probably best that way, although I didn’t and have survived to tell the tale—and I’m going to read a few more. Fun, wow.

One of my all time favourites reads, a book that I still try to put in everyone’s hands is Relative Danger (\$18) by **CHARLES BENOIT**. This was a fun, fun read. The author’s newest novel is Noble Lies (\$29.95) and *Publishers Weekly* gave it a starred review and said: “Benoit is at the top of his game... a rough and rollicking story of adventure and romance.” Not bad praise indeed. Our hero, Mark Rohr, who worked as a bouncer at a “bar”, is hired by an attractive young American to find her brother. In all likelihood the brother drowned in the tsunami disaster but, maybe not. Pictures of someone who looks like him, post-disaster, have surfaced. Why he is not in contact with his family, if he did indeed survive, is not a question that Mark really wants answered. He figures he’ll humour the young woman until she runs out of money, then he’ll be rid of her and her brother. All is not as it would appear, of course. Part of the charm of the book is the Thai culture of the noble lie—better to tell a small lie and save face then to admit that one does not know the answer and lose face—which makes a PI’s job a tad difficult. Thugs, high seas piracy, crime lords, bars and bar girls, a Thailand not seen on the official tourist brochures... all make for an exciting read that just keeps you guessing. The author is an incurable traveler and that love of travel and adventure benefits the reader immeasurably.

Poisoned Pen Press’s recent publication of **AILEEN G. BARON**’s The Torch of Tangier (#2) (\$17.95) reminded me that some years ago I had read and liked the author’s A Fly Has a Hundred Eyes (#1) (\$20) and I wondered if it was still in print. And lo and behold, Academy Chicago Publishers had recently released it in a trade paperback edition. What fun. Archeologist Lily Sampson, from Chicago, is our heroine and in the first novel, Fly, she’s on a dig in 1938 British-mandated Palestine. War is in the air and the locals are getting restless. Lily’s job, on a dig site, is proving to be dangerous enough—

thieves, grave robbers, murder of a fellow archaeologist—without getting caught and being summarily shot for gun smuggling. It was a terrific story, short and not run of the mill. Haven’t gotten to Tangier, yet, but it too looks promising. This one is set in Tangier of 1942, war is now raging, and once again, Lily is in the thick of things. The author, by the by, is a Ph.D. in archaeology who taught for many years at a university in California.

A witty, funny, sexy, dark and charming debut novel is High Season (\$26.95) by **JON LOOMIS**. Big, tough, Baltimore homicide detective Frank Coffin was starting to get panic attacks at homicide scenes, so returns home to Cape Cod to become one of Provincetown’s finest. P’town, where the biggest crimes were usually against fashion, and that he figures he can deal with, without loosing his cookies. But then a cross-dressing vacationing TV evangelist turns up dead on the beach, and that opens the floodgates to lots more bodies. P’town is a one industry town, tourism, and the powers that be are getting mighty nervous about all these killings. Seems like someone has an agenda, and time is running out. Frank is originally from P’town so knows the history of the area and the local characters, and all that comes in handy in sorting out this case. Great fun, just my cup of tea.

Way back in 2001 **GABRIEL COHEN** published the Edgar Award-nominated Red Hook, a debut novel that featured Detective Jack Leightner. Finally, some six years later, we get the sequel, Graving Dock (#2) (27.95). Unfortunately we cannot get you Red Hook; it never did go to paperback and the hardcover is long out of print. But, no biggie, start with Graving and enjoy it. In fact, I had totally forgotten what happened in Red Hook and it mattered not. Even got Marian to read it and she loved it too. Starts off with a homemade coffin, drifting along the shore in New York Harbor, containing the body of a young boy with the letters “G.I.” written on his forehead. How does one start with a more riveting opening than this? This is a terrific read. “Intricate, atmospheric, funny, and enthralling. An impressive crime novel from a powerful, promising writer.” says **George Pelecanos**, another one of my favourite writers.

DUANE SWIERCZYNSKI is an American writer who gets a great deal of attention and is much loved by his fans. I’ve been wanting to sample something of his, I want to read **every** book in the store, and finally got around to reading Duane a few days ago. Blonde (\$16.25) was released in trade paperback a couple of months ago, and how can a guy resist a blonde? Well, I wish I had tried harder. **Joe Lansdale**, author of the wonderfully, brilliantly, funny Mucho Mojo (\$21) said “Lean as a starving model, mean as a snake, and fast as a jet.” **Greg Rucka** says “Masterfully paced, wonderfully rendered...” and four major journals review the book, and all agree that it is action-packed, a page turner. Well, I just don’t get it. The story goes something like this: the blonde in question has been injected with tiny tracking devices, nanomachines, that are basically harmless as long as the “injectee” is within ten feet of another person. Be outside that distance and within ten seconds your brain explodes. With me so far? No doubt there are perfectly good reasons for developing these miniature GPS machines—always know where the bad guys are, or rescue kid-napped children—but that head-exploding thing is a bummer. So our blonde, her name’s Kelly actually, and who, incidentally, was a researcher in the lab that developed these little miracles, needs to keep someone on a ten-foot leash. She poisons this poor slob’s drink at an airport bar and tells him that if he wants the antidote he needs to stay with her. Assuming you’re still with me, the poisoned schmuck, his name is Jack actually, thinks “psycho” and leaves. But after a night of power vomiting, Jack is starting to believe that maybe he had better find Kelly and get the antidote. Which, of course, brings on the relentless government assassin, a deadly waitress, dirty cops, shady cab

drivers...blah, blah, blah. True, the novel is fast paced, but why would you want to bother? Or, perhaps, if you can suspend this level of disbelief, which I do not seem to be able to manage, you'll probably love it. To be fair, I suppose I should sample Wheelman (\$17.95) or Secret Dead Men (\$16), two earlier novels by this writer and see. And, if you are a fan, then let me know of the error of my ways.

And, last but not least...A customer had gushed over (not power gushed, mind) the Insp. Vera Stanhope mysteries by ANN CLEEVEs, so I read the newest, Hidden Depths (#3) (\$9.99) and I liked it very much. Typical English police procedural in many ways, set in Northumberland, but podgy Vera is what's going to make me read the other two. Dang, two more, Crow Trap (\$21) and Telling Tales (\$9.99), to add to my ever expanding must-read pile.

Cottage Lady's Picks

First, a martini tip - only use Loblaw's No Name sweet pickled onions! All others pale in comparison. As for the next step in our ongoing research, Marian and I are currently testing the martini olive. Results might be available by the summer newsletter. I am reluctant to make promises. Martini research cannot be hurried.

I read a pile of books this fall, first tackling L.A. Outlaws (\$31 due February) by T. JEFFERSON PARKER. As with his earlier California Girl (\$10.99), I read well into the night, polishing it off in one sitting. Parker is a fabulous storyteller. He is outstanding at character development - something not always found in police stories. The plot is compelling and fast paced. The setting is Los Angeles. The media and the public are enthralled with a celebrity thief, Allison Murietta, whose real identity is unknown. We hear her voice in the opening chapter - she loves a "good clean armed robbery". She does high profile thieving and then donates to charity Robin Hood style. No one gets hurt until young deputy, Charlie Hood, discovers ten gangsters lying dead with a half-million in missing diamonds. And so the convincing tale begins. Hood prevents the schoolteacher eyewitness, Suzanne Jones, from leaving the scene in her Corvette. Parker provides us with an intense affair between the two, media frenzy over Murietta, relentless pursuits, a nasty stone cold killer and a wicked manipulator giving direction in the background. And all the while the story alternates between Murietta and Hood. We root for the modern day Robin Hood but we know that she is doomed. We know too that Suzanne and Charlie cannot last and that the secrets surrounding their relationship will overwhelm them. We watch Charlie Hood do his police work, solve crimes and catch the criminals. But we also see the price he pays - a man torn between honour and passion. We identify with the deputy. In true Wild West style, a 'man's gotta do what a man's gotta do'. The promotional material describes Parker as a leading American crime novelist, one of only three writers to twice win the Edgar Award for Best Novel. From my read, he will win many more awards with this latest book.

Next on the list is T is for Trespass (\$32.05) by SUE GRAFTON. Like many of you, I have read all of Grafton's works from Alibi to Silence. Recently, she has not been at the top of my must read pile. Not because her books are of lesser quality but perhaps somewhat predictable. I thought I could anticipate the twists and turns of her stories. However, I read this one right away because Marian told me to. Ha! Little did I know! This is clearly Grafton's best work yet. As usual, Marian was right - her expertise extends well beyond the bounds of martini preparation. But I digress ... Although, the main

character, Kinsey, is still young and the setting is in the '80s, this is most certainly a baby boomer's mystery - with themes of identity theft, elder abuse, medical systems failure and betrayal of trust. We know from the beginning that a sociopath has stolen the identity of a private duty nurse, Solana Rojas. She has access to private clients requiring nursing, including one Gus Vronsky, an elderly neighbour of Kinsey's. The plot focuses more on a battle of wits rather than on a whodunit solving of clues and mysteries. Because part of the story telling is in the impersonator's voice, we worry that this pure evil will triumph. This one is really scary for those of us who have aging parents, or horror of horrors, are aging ourselves. Grafton brings us face to face with the vulnerabilities of aging and the danger of predators - even someone next door. And she reminds us that predators come in all sorts of disguises - perhaps middle-aged ladies wearing Softmocs. For the reader who is into routine private eye stuff, Kinsey handles her usual array of bread and butter cases - a suspicious fender bender, background checks, and deadbeat tenant evictions. As an aside and added bonus, she has a rather unusual, elderly landlord, Henry, with equally colourful siblings. They seem to grow younger, the older I get. And a plus for me, as this is an '80s setting, Grafton avoids subjecting us to the machinations of cell phones, BlackBerrys, the Internet, digital cameras and all the other high tech gewgaws.

MIKE HARRISON is an up and coming Canadian writer from Okotoks, Alberta. Ruby Tuesday (\$26.95) is his third book. Two earlier works are All Shook Up (\$19.95) and Wild Thing (\$28.95). All three feature Eddie Dancer, a Calgary private detective. At first glance, this Eddie Dancer story is all about testosterone. A just fired, middle aged, out of shape advertising executive, Paul Miller, intervenes at an ATM when a young guy, Victor Shriver, starts thumping his wife Ruby. Miller gets beaten badly but he is the one charged when Ruby won't support his version of events. Shriver insists on pushing the charge against Miller but proposes a deal - if Miller can win a three round boxing match against him, the charge will disappear. Miller's wife, Valerie, hires Eddie Dancer to somehow prevent the fight. I am a big fan of the 'Brit Ladies' so I am not often attracted to 'testosterone gone wild' private eyes. But I am quickly drawn into this tale because the writing style is tight and very crisp with flowing dialogue. Additionally, Harrison has first-rate powers of description. Most importantly, Ruby Tuesday is energetic, funny, and moving. Until Harrison came along, who knew that Canada could produce a hard-boiled private dick prowling the "mean streets of Okotoks". But what really hooked me was discovering that Dancer and I are kindred spirits - we share an addiction. He avoids checking into his Calgary office because "I knew once I got there, I'd never get away. I hadn't done the *Herald's* crossword puzzle yet." Deja vu all over again!

Hardcovers

AKUNIN, BORIS PELAGIA & THE BLACK MONK (#2) (\$39)
ALEXANDER, EDWIN THEFT OF THE MASTER (\$25.99)
(Garev Publishing International) This story is based on the chronicled accounts of Hitler's orders to transport to Germany valuable cultural artifacts. History tells us that by 1944 the Nazis had stolen more art works than anyone in history. Private Investigator Al Hershey travels through three continents to solve a murder that is tied to a stolen masterpiece, events in Estonia in 1943 and the Templars.
ANDERSON, SHERYL J KILLER RIFF (#4) (\$28.95) (St. Martin's) Glossy magazine advice columnist Molly Forrester has finally been promoted and her first assignment as a full-time feature writer should be a cinch. It's a profile of Russell Elliott, the legendary rock

manager/producer who just died of an accidental overdose. His daughter is convinced it was no accident. The first three in the series are Killer Heels, Killer Cocktail (\$9.99 each) and Killer Deal (\$8.99). **ARJOUNI, JAKOB** KISMET (\$28) (No Exit) Kayankaya and Sli-bulsky were only trying to protect their friend Romario from his protectors, men who were demanding hard cash for the service. It ended with two bodies on the floor of Romario's restaurant, their faces covered in ghostly white make-up. Kayankaya is determined to discover their identity when he realises that he himself is being pursued by a faceless but utterly ruthless criminal gang. Translated from German. I think this is the fourth in this series featuring Kayankaya, hard to be sure, but the first Happy Birthday Turk (\$18.95) is available and it is highly recommended. All about being a Turk in Germany, the prejudice and the poverty, and it doesn't matter how long you've lived there, you'll always be a Turk.

ASHFORD, LINDSAY rhys STRANGE BLOOD (#2) (\$26.50) (Thomas Dunne) Forensic psychologist Dr. Megan Rhys is called to help police investigate what is believed to be a ritual killing. But as more women die, and as the press, her boss and even her own family turn on her, Megan stakes everything on finding the killer. This second book, from this writer who lives in Wales, has been shortlisted for the Theakstons Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year. Her fellow nominees include **Val McDermid**, **Ian Rankin** and **Stephen Booth**. Quite a group. Frozen (\$29.95) is the first in the series. There is no North American paperback edition at the moment.

BALDACCI, DAVID camel clu STONE COLD (#3) (\$31.25) The third in the Camel Club.

BARBIERI, MAGGIE alison EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (#2) (\$27.95) (St. Martin's) Alison Bergeron, an English professor at a private college near Manhattan, is now off the hook for murder, (Murder 101 (\$8.99) and concentrating on best friend Max's wedding. When Alison's ex turns up dead she's dragged into another murder investigation. See *Marian's Picks*

BARKER, CLIVE MISTER B GONE (\$27.95) A special order.

BARON, AILEEN G GOLD OF THRACE (\$29.95) (Poisoned Pen) When the first member of the staff at a Turkish excavation is murdered and a mosaic floor disappears from her site overnight, archaeologist Tamar Saticoy plunges into the shady side of the antiquities trade in a quest to discover who is responsible. Then two more members of the team are killed. By the author of Fly Has a Hundred Eyes (\$20), one of *J.D.'s Picks*.

BEARD, G S LIEUTENANT FURY (\$48.50) Sequel to Mr. Midshipman Fury (\$21.95). Special orders only, given the price.

BENNETT, RONAN ZUGZWANG (\$28.95) (Bloomsbury) 1914. St. Petersburg. Celebrated psychoanalyst, Dr. Otto Spethmann, receives a visit from the police when it seems he is implicated in a murder. The doctor is mystified and worried, especially for his spirited daughter and two new patients: a society beauty plagued by nightmares and a brilliant but fragile chess master on the verge of a complete breakdown.

BENOIT, CHARLES NOBLE LIES (\$29.95) (Poisoned Pen) Great good fun. See *J.D.'s Picks*.

BERRY, STEVE malone VENETIAN BETRAYAL (#3) (\$30) (Ballantine) The first two in this action filled series, The Last Templar (\$11.99) and The Alexandria Link (\$12.99), Marian loved and this one Samantha loved. See *Samantha's Picks*.

BLAKE, VICTORIA JUMPING THE CRACKS (#4) (\$37.95 hardcover, \$24.95 trade paperback) (Orion) Private investigator Sam Falconer sets up an office in Oxford (in addition to her London office) and takes on business partner, Alan Knowles. When she's asked to guard a collection of strange museum pieces, ranging from shrunken heads to bottled witches, she quickly realizes that being back in Oxford means confronting her own demons, as well as those behind the glass cases. Sequel to Bloodless Shadow, Cutting Blades (\$10.99

each) and Skin and Blister (\$24.95 trade paperback. No sign of a mass market paperback yet) "Super reads", says Marian.

BROCKMANN, SUZANNE ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT (\$21.95) (Ballantine) It's Christmas time in Boston and FBI agent Jules Cassidy will tie the knot with the man of his dreams, Hollywood heartthrob Robin Chadwick. It's to be a small wedding, witnessed by family and close friends from the FBI, SEAL Team Sixteen and Troubleshooters Incorporated. A water leak through the kitchen ceiling, a bat colony in the attic, old family tensions, a stalker, and an ex-lover hell bent on causing trouble and, just like that, the wedding is chaos. **BUCHANAN, ANDREA** and **MIRIAM PESKOWITZ** DARING BOOK FOR GIRLS (\$29.95) (Collins, US) With the success of The Dangerous Book for Boys (\$29.95) and The Pocket Dangerous Book for Boys: Things To Do (\$19.95) we now have a book for girls that includes such things as: rules for basketball and softball; instructions on how to change a tire; putting your hair up with a pencil; knots and stitches; reading tidal charts; Queens of the Ancient World; instructions on how to build a wooden scooter; states, sisterhood, capitals, flowers and trees plus Canada (this book is published in the USA) and a ton of other stuff. Great fun.

CHILDS, LAURA scrapbook FRILL KILL (#5) (\$27.50) (Berkley) On her way home from a party at Juju Voodoo in New Orleans, scrapbooking shop owner Carmela Bertrand finds the body of a beautiful model behind a dumpster and is attacked herself. The others in the scrapbooking series are Keepsake Crimes, Photo Finished, Bound for Murder and Motif for Murder (\$9.99 each). And don't forget all her Tea Shop mysteries.

CHURCH, JAMES insp o HIDDEN MOON (#2) (\$27.95) (Thomas Dunne) Inspector O returns from a mission abroad to find his new police commander waiting at his office door. There has been a bank robbery, the first ever in Pyongyang, and the commander wants quick action. Somewhere, someone in the North Korean leadership does not want Inspector O to complete his investigation. Sequel to A Corpse in the Koryo (\$16.25). Excellent series.

COHEN, GABRIEL GRAVING DOCK (#2) (\$27.95) (Thomas Dunne) J.D. says he loved Red Hook (#1) (out of print) and see *J.D.'s Picks* for what he thinks about this one.

COHEN, NANCY J KILLER KNOTS (#9) (\$28)

COLLETT, CHRIS mariner BLOOD MONEY (#4) (\$55) (Piatkus) An expensive British import. Detective Inspector Tom Mariner is about to take a well-deserved vacation when his leave is cancelled. A six-week-old baby is kidnapped and Mariner is now lead detective on the case. He discovers that the baby's father works for a scientific research company that has long been the target of animal rights activists. A terrific series that, alas, is not readily available. Both Marian and Wendy picked Worm in the Blood (\$10.95 available), the series debut. Blood of the Innocents and Written in Blood (\$21) are available sporadically, so do enquire.

CONANT, SUSAN ALL SHOTS (#18) (\$27.50)

CONNOR, JOHN FALLING (#4) (\$37.95 hardcover, \$24.95 trade paperback) Desperately trying to shelter herself from the effects of a difficult case, DC Karen Sharpe has been working simple fraud and theft cases in West Yorkshire CID. But the brutal murder of a young pregnant woman threatens the precarious defences she has built around herself. Drafted onto the squad to deal with the victim's six-year-old child, Karen finds herself overwhelmed by the emotional fallout of the attack. The first three in this great series are Phoenix, The Playroom and A Child's Game (\$10.99 each).

CRAIG & TAPPLY THIRD STRIKE (\$28) (Scribner) J.W. Jackson, once a Boston cop but now an man-of-all-work on Martha's Vineyard, investigates the death of a striking man who apparently planted a bomb in a boat's engine room, and lawyer Brady Coyne investigates a group of men who are loading and unloading crates on

the Vineyard at midnight. The first two with Jackson and Coyne collaborating are First Light (\$16.99) and Second Sight (\$17.95).

CUSSLER, CLIVE CHASE (\$32.50)

DOBBS, MICHAEL LORDS' DAY (\$37.95 hardcover, \$24.95 trade paperback) (Headline) The Queen, her cabinet and all the most powerful people in the land are gathered in the House of Lords for the State Opening of Parliament. They do not know that they are about to endure the most terrifying day of their lives and not all will survive.

DOSS, JAMES D moon THREE SISTERS (#12) (\$28.95) (St. Martin's) Colorado rancher and tribal investigator, Charlie Moon is playing poker with his best friend, Scott Parris, Granite Creek's chief of police, when Scott's dispatcher calls him with an emergency. It seems a man was on the phone with his wife when their call was interrupted by a bloodcurdling scream and the most gruesome noises he'd ever heard. Arriving on the scene, they discover that the man's wife had been mauled beyond recognition. A bear attack is suspected but Charlie and his irascible Aunt Daisy, a Ute shaman, suspect otherwise.

DOYLE & KLINGER NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK

HOLMES vols. 1, 2 and 3 (\$47.50 ea.) Issued without the boxes.

[DOYLE] ROBERTS, BARRIE SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE AMERICAN ANGELS (\$60) A series of cryptic advertisements in a personal column leads Sherlock Holmes to a body in Regent's Park. When a Scottish lawyer is found murdered in a London hotel on the same day, Holmes senses a conspiracy connected with the Jacobites. Commissioned by the US presidential aide in London, Holmes and Watson head for Scotland, convinced a collection of golden angels hidden at the time of the American War of Independence is now sought by the conspirators who assassinated President McKinley.

[DOYLE] WATSON, JOHN H CRIMES OF DR WATSON (\$27.95) An interactive Sherlock Holmes mystery, but can't tell you much more until I get more stock. Which should be any day...

DUBOIS, BRENDAN TWILIGHT (\$28.95) (Thomas Dunne) Samuel Simpson is a young idealistic journalist from Canada. Seeking adventure, he volunteers to become a records keeper for a UN war-crimes investigation team at work in upper New York State. Months earlier, a crippling terrorist attack against the United States had resulted in its cities being emptied, its countryside set afire and its government shaken to its knees. In the aftermath of this attack, a virtual civil war broke out, until UN peacekeepers arrived to establish an uneasy peace. While Samuel and his team travel through the New York countryside, searching for evidence of an atrocious war crime, he suspects that there is a traitor on his team.

DUNDEE, WAYNE D DAY AFTER YESTERDAY (\$50)

EDWARDSON, AKE winter FROZEN TRACKS (#3) (\$32.50) (Viking) Mysterious assaults on college students in Gothenburg's parks are carried out in the dark of night, while during the day toddlers are abducted from their nursery schools and quickly returned, seemingly unharmed, before anyone even notices they are missing. Detective Chief Inspector Erik Winter tries to find the connection between these two sets of perplexing crimes. Translated from Swedish. By the author of the Sun and Shadow (\$17) and Never End (\$17.50), both wonderful.

FERGUSON, WILL SPANISH FLY (\$32) (Viking Canada) Jack McCreary is a young man growing up in the faded boomtown of Paradise Flats, amid the dust storms and broken dreams of the Great Depression. Raised by his eccentric and increasingly erratic father, Jack has learned to live by his wits. When a pair of fast-talking swindlers blow through town, Jack agrees to join them. It's a wild ride, one of jazz clubs and easy money, but when the three of them get caught up in a murder ploy, Jack begins to suspect that he is being set up as a patsy.

FERRIS, MONICA KNITTING BONES (#11) (\$28.50) (Berkley) With needlework shop owner Betsy Devonshire confined to her apartment, her store manager, Godwin, insists he can do her legwork for

her. It seems that a cheque given to Bob Germaine as a donation to the National Heart Coalition has disappeared, as has Bob.

FLUKE & LEVINE & MEIER CANDY CANE MURDER (\$21) (Kensington) Three Christmas novellas by Joanne Fluke, Laura Levine and Leslie Meier featuring their respective sleuths.

FLYNN, VINCE mitch rapp PROTECT AND DEFEND (#4) (\$29.99) (Atria) Israel launches a daring espionage operation against Iran which leaves a radioactive tomb and environmental disaster in the middle of Iran's second largest city. An outraged Iranian government publicly blames both Israel and the USA for the attack and demands retribution. Enter Mitch Rapp, America's top counter-terrorism operative. Mitch has twenty-four hours, no questions asked, to do whatever it takes to stop Hezbollah terrorist Imad Mukhtar and avert an unthinkable catastrophe.

FRANCOME, JOHN DARK HORSE (\$37.95 hard cover, \$24.94 trade paperback) (Headline) Five years have passed since former jockey Mark Presley chose to stay silent about the hit-and-run accident that left a beautiful young woman dead. But when his wife is killed in an incident with cruel echoes of that earlier tragedy, it seems that justice has come calling.

FRASER, MACDONALD REAVERS (\$34.95) 17th century Scottish mayhem, from the author of the Flashman novels.

GABALDON, DIANA LORD JOHN and the HAND OF DEVILS (#3) (\$34) (Doubleday, Canada) Three novellas featuring Lord John. The author is quick to point out that although Jamie and Claire are mentioned they do not have a prominent feature. The latest paperback in the "Outlander" series is Breath of Snow and Ashes (\$12.99).

GALLAGHER, STEPHEN KINGDOM OF BONES (\$28.95) (Areheart) Wrongfully accused of the slaughter of pauper children in the wake of the touring theatre company he manages, Tom Sayers is forced to disappear into a twilight world of music halls and traveling boxing booths. Beginning with a chance encounter in a Philadelphia pleasure park one weekend in 1903, this mystery traces Sayers' journey from England's provincial playhouses through London's Lyceum Theatre and on to the high society of the transforming American South, with many a secret to be uncovered in the dark alleyways, backstage areas and houses of ill repute that lie along the way.

GASH, JONATHAN BAD GIRL MAGDALENE (\$39.95) (Allison & Busby) Before she can look forward to a life outside a Magdalene orphanage Magda Finnan must lay to rest the ghosts of her past, and for that she must commit a murder. Illiterate and timid, planning such a crime does not come easy to her but she has made a solemn vow and is determined to see it through to the end.

GODDARD, ROBERT NAME TO A FACE (\$37.95 hardcover, \$27.95 trade paperback) (Bantam) When Tim Harding agrees to do a favour for a tax-exile friend by representing him at an auction in Penzance, he is unaware of the secrets that tie the ring he is sent to buy to three widely separated events; the loss of HMS Association with all hands off Sicily in 1707; an unsolved murder in Penzance thirty years later; and the seemingly accidental drowning of a journalist diving at the Association wreck site in 1999. Very soon he discovers that by taking on this simple task for his friend he has allowed himself to be drawn into a web of conspiracies.

GOODWIN, JASON yashim SNAKE STONE (#2) (\$29) (FSG) When a French archaeologist arrives in 1830s Istanbul determined to track down a lost Byzantine treasure, the local Greek communities are uncertain how to react; the man seems dangerously well informed. Yashim Togalu, the eunuch investigator from The Janissary Tree (\$17.50 trade paperback and one of *J.D.'s Picks* a year or so ago), is once again enlisted to investigate. But when the archaeologist's mutilated body is discovered outside the French embassy, it turns out that the only suspect is Yashim.

GRABENSTEIN, CHRIS HELL FOR THE HOLIDAYS (#2) (\$33.50) (Carroll & Graf) FBI legend Christopher Miller is up against

a group of domestic terrorists who are copying al Qaeda's tactics: operating in cells, following a fundamentalist doctrine and targeting "public amusements". They plan to target American Thanksgiving and no one in the FBI is listening to Miller because the focus has shifted to foreign terrorists.

GRAFTON, SUE T IS FOR TRESPASS (\$32.50) (Putnam) Very good. See *Cottage Lady's Picks*.

GRAVES, SARAH BOOK OF OLD HOUSES (#11) (\$24.50) (Bantam) When a mysterious book is unearthed from the foundation of Jake's 1823 fixer-upper, she immediately sends it off to local book historian Horace Robotham. After all, there must be a reason it has her name in it, written in blood. But all logic goes out the window when the book disappears and Horace turns up dead.

GRAY, JOHN MACLACHLAN NOT QUITE DEAD (\$26.95) (St. Martin's) English novelist Charles Dickens embarks on a tour of America, where he finds his views are not received as he would have wished. His growing discomfort reaches new heights of intensity when he finds himself sharing dingy lodgings, and reluctantly collaborating with Edgar Allan Poe, who has gone into hiding after faking his own death in a desperate attempt to escape the Irish mob. Fiend in Human and White Stone Day are two earlier novels which appear to be out of print at the moment.

GRIPPANDO, JAMES swytek LAST CALL (#7) (\$27.95) (Harper) Theo Knight grew up on the streets of Miami's roughest neighbourhood and lost his mother to violent crime. By the time he was a teenager he was on death row for a murder he didn't commit. Jack Swytek was the lawyer who proved him innocent. Now a successful bar owner, Theo has turned things around but he needs Jack's help again. An escaped convict from the old neighbourhood shows up at Theo's door asking for help. In return, he'll finger the man who murdered Theo's mother.

HAMILTON, LAURELL K blake BURNT OFFERINGS (#7) (\$30) A reprint in hardcover, originally published in 1998.

HAMILTON, LAURELL K gentr LICK OF FROST (#6) (\$26.99) (Ballantine) Princess, heir to the throne in the realm of faerie, one-time private investigator in the mortal world, Meredith Gentry must continue the royal bloodline before she can be crowned queen. Despite all her efforts she remains childless. Hoping to outrun the gathering shadows of court intrigue she and her bodyguards have returned to Los Angeles. But even that is not enough to escape the grasp of those with dark designs.

HANNAH, SOPHIE HURTING DISTANCE (\$34.95)

HARRIS, C WHY MERMAIDS SING (#3) (\$28.50) (NAL) Sebastian St. Cyr, Viscount Devlin, is back. Set in Regency England. Sequel to What Angels Fear and When Gods Die (\$9.99 each).

HARRIS, CHARLAINE connell ICE COLD GRAVE (#3) (\$28.50)

HARRIS, ROBERT GHOST (\$34.95) (Hutchinson) Accustomed to working with fading rock stars and minor celebrities, a ghostwriter jumps at the chance to ghost the memoirs of Britain's former prime minister, especially as it means flying to Martha's Vineyard in the middle of winter. But it doesn't take him long to realise he has made a terrible mistake.

HARRISON, MIKE RUBY TUESDAY (#3) (\$26.95) (ECW) Eddie Dancer is hired to stop two men from fighting a fight that is sure to cause damage to one of them. The first two in the series are All Shook Up (\$19.95 trade paperback) and Wild Thing (\$28.95). See *Cottage Lady's Picks*.

HARROD-EAGLES, C dynaty MEASURE OF DAYS (#30) (\$39) (Sphere, UK) 1916. England is at war and the Morland family is in the thick of it, with two men already in France and three more soon to go. The continuing story of the Morland Dynasty.

HART, ELLEN lawless MORTAL GROOVE (#15) (\$29.95) (St. Martin's) Minneapolis restaurateur and amateur sleuth Jane Lawless is celebrating the New Year with her family and friends when her

father is asked to run for governor. But secrets come out to haunt her father and the men running his campaign, especially those involving the mysterious death of a young woman who died the year the men came home from Vietnam.

HAY, ELIZABETH LATE NIGHTS ON AIR (\$32.99) (McClelland & Stewart) Winner of the 2007 Giller Prize. It's not a mystery but since we special ordered it in for a customer we brought in a couple more. Harry Boyd, a hard-bitten refugee from failure in Toronto television, has returned to a small radio station in the Canadian North. There, in Yellowknife, in the summer of 1975, he falls in love with a voice on air, though he discovers the real woman, Dido Paris, is even more than he imagined.

HAYES, JONATHAN PRECIOUS BLOOD (\$28.95)

HEARN, LIAN HEAVEN'S NET IS WIDE (#0) (\$33.50) (Riverhead) This is a prequel to the full story of Lord Otori Shigeru, the figure who has presided in both life and death over the entire series. The other three in the series are Across the Nightingale Floor (\$21), Grass For His Pillow (\$20), Brilliance of the Moon (\$20) and The Harsh Cry of the Heron (\$18.50).

HOEG, PETER QUIET GIRL (\$30)

HOLDEN, CRAIG MATALA (\$26.99) (Simon & Schuster) Although Darcy Arlen is on a very pricy tour of Europe, she is dangerously bored. When she meets an attractive drifter, Will, the two team up with Will's lover. The three are offered a job smuggling an important package to Greece. When they arrive in Matala, they learn that what they have delivered is more valuable, and the repercussions of their involvement more terrifying, than they could have imagined.

HOWLEY, BRENDAN WITNESS TREE (\$34.95)

HUMPHREYS, HELEN FROZEN THAMES (\$24.99)

ILES, GREG THIRD DEGREE (\$29.99) (Scribner) As the blurb on the dust jacket says: an unforgettable plunge into a world of sex, violence, martial betrayal, medical malpractice, and Southern intrigue... all of which takes place in the span of one furious terrifying day.

JACKSON, LEE REDEMPTION (\$28.95) (St. Martin's) A "what if" kind of story. Set sometime in a future America, where people carry I.D. cards wherever they go. Gas is expensive and the value of the dollar has dropped so far that even rural areas, like Redemption, Montana (which does not really exist according to the author), have thriving black markets, barter economies and high unemployment. Ben Trinity hitchhikes into Redemption and gets a job as a handy man at a roadside diner and once he has cleared it with Homeland Security, the top law enforcement agency in the US, he tries to settle in. But hiding in plain sight for a convict is not easy, much less for a terrorist, which the government says Ben is. Never tried, let alone convicted, due process has been suspended in the US, Ben contends that he is innocent but does he have enough strength and conviction left to prove it?

JANCE, J A ali reynolds HAND OF EVIL (#3) (\$29.99)

(Touchstone) The news-casting job that Ali Reynolds once delighted in is gone and so is her philandering husband. When Ali receives a phone call saying a friend's teenage daughter has disappeared, she offers to help. In so doing, she unknowingly begins a quest that will reveal a deadly ring of secrets, at the centre of which stand two indiscriminating killers.

JECKS, MICHAEL THE TEMPLAR, THE QUEEN AND HER

LOVER (#24) (\$37.95) (Headline) Isabella, Queen of England, is troubled by court intrigue. Her jealous husband, King Edward II, has removed all her privileges, her regal status, and even her children. When she is dispatched to France to negotiate peace with the French king, Sir Baldwin de Furnshill travels with her to ensure her safety.

KHADRA, YASMINA SIRENS OF BAGHDAD (\$24.95)

KING, DAREN SENSIBLE HARE AND THE CASE OF CAR-ROTS (\$19) (Faber & Faber, UK) A tiny kids book about Sensible

Hare who has been hired to find a missing suitcase of carrots. Some fun illustrations.

KING, LAURIE R TOUCHSTONE (\$27) (Bantam) Set eight years after World War I, an American Bureau of Investigations agent comes to Bennett Grey to help them enter a world of the rich and privileged.

LAKEMAN, THOMAS weaver CHILLWATER COVE (#2) (\$28.95) (St. Martin's) FBI Special Agent Peggy Weaver was ten years old when her best friend was abducted while they were riding their bikes. Peggy ran and escaped but Samantha didn't. Samantha was eventually found but only after something so terrible had happened that she never spoke about it, not even to Peggy. Now, twenty-five years later, pornographic photos of ten-year-old Samantha have turned up as evidence in one of Peggy's cases, a clear message from a man who never paid for what he did and Peggy knows that this time she won't run away. From the author of Shadow Catchers (\$8.99 paperback, \$35 first edition) which was a very good debut indeed, and could easily have been a *J.D.'s Pick*.

LEWIS, ROY DRAGON HEAD (#17) (\$28) (Carroll & Graf) We did not bring in any copies of the UK edition so this is the first time we have listed this title in the newsletter. A surprising offer from a Chinese businessman leaves archaeologist Arnold Landon in a quandary concerning his future in England as he is slowly drawn into the world of a corrupt, centuries-old criminal organization known as the Society of the Ghost Shadows.

LIMON, MARTIN WANDERING GHOST (#5) (\$27) (Soho) The only female MP assigned to a base in the DMZ is missing. Has she become ill, been abducted, or gone AWOL? The investigative team of George Sueno and Ernie Bascom is dispatched from the 8th Army headquarters in Seoul to help the 2nd Infantry Division locate her. A fine series, and mostly in print in trade paperback.

MCCARRY, CHARLES SECOND SIGHT (\$31) (Dutton) First published back in the early '90s, now being reprinted in hardcover and trade paperback. Great to see this fine series of American espionage novels becoming available again. Miernik Dossier and Tears of Autumn (\$17.50 ea.) are two great examples.

MCGARRITY, MICHAEL DEATH SONG (#11) (\$30) (Dutton) The bushwhacking of a deputy in Lincoln County and the brutal murder of the deputy's wife in Santa Fe bring Police Chief Kevin Kerney and his Mescalero Apache son, Sergeant Clayton Istee, back together in a double homicide investigation that is soon linked to a major drug trafficking scheme and the cold-blooded murder of two women in Albuquerque. Really very good. See *J.D.'s Picks*.

MATTURRO, CLAIRE lilly SWEETHEART DEAL (#4) (\$27.95) (Morrow) Sarasota lawyer Lilly Cleary has had her share of odd cases but when her mother is accused of murder she drops everything and returns to Bugfest, Georgia, to sort out the mess. Sequel to Skinny-Dipping, Wildcat Wine and Bone Valley (\$9.99 each).

MAY, PETER enzo CRITIC (#2) (\$29.95) (Poisoned Pen) Marian says: "I loved Peter May and his series set in China so when he started this new series I was intrigued and curious. Extraordinary People (\$17.95 trade paperback) introduces forensic expert Enzo Macleod. The book is set in France and I think I was meant to spend copious amounts of time there. Critic is the second book in the series and it is wonderful" See *Marian's Picks*.

MAYOR, ARCHER CHAT (#17) (\$28.99) (Grand Central) When an unidentified body is found in the peaceful town of Brattleboro, Vermont, local police and the Vermont Bureau of Investigations both appear at the scene. But before investigator Joe Gunther can begin to gather evidence of murder, a family emergency sends him to his hometown, where the lives of his mother and brother have suddenly been threatened.

MEIER, LESLIE lucy stone ST. PATRICK'S DAY MURDER (#14) (\$28) (Kensington) When Old Dan Malone, the grizzled bar-keep of the local watering hole, is found bobbing in Tinker's Cove, Maine's icy harbour, reporter Lucy Stone makes getting to know more about Old Dan a priority.

MILLS, MARK SAVAGE GARDEN (\$31) (Putnam) Adam Strickland, a somewhat aimless young scholar at Cambridge University, is called into his professor's office one afternoon and assigned a special summer project: to write a scholarly monograph about the famous Docci garden in Tuscany. Dedicated to the memory of a fifteenth-century nobleman's young wife, the garden is a mysterious world of statues, grottoes, meandering rills and classical inscriptions. But Adam comes to suspect that something sinister lies behind the garden's strange iconography. What if her memorial garden is filled with pointers to both the method and the motive of the crime?

MOFFAT, GWEN GONE FERAL (\$28) (Carroll & Graf) The boat-house, in remote Cumbria, is inherited by Sophie Daynes who cherishes it for its family associations. Her boorish husband is only interested in its cash value. And in some woods not far from the house a mysterious man is living in a caravan, and local rumour has it that he is a villain on the run. When the pleasure steamer churns up more than mud from the lake floor, the lives of all connected with the Boat-house change forever. This is the first time we have carried this title as we did not import the UK edition.

MORTIMER, JOHN rumpole ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR OF HORACE RUMPOLE (\$32) (Penguin, UK) The services of Horace Rumpole are retained when an Anti-Social Behaviour Order is served on a twelve-year-old for playing football in the street.

MOSLEY, WALTER BLONDE FAITH (#10) (\$29.99) (Little, Brown) Christmas Black has left his daughter at Easy Rawlins' house without so much as a note. It seems he fears for their lives and he has disappeared. Worst of all, Easy's longtime lover tells him that she plans to marry another man. Not a good day for him!

MOSSE, KATE SEPULCHRE (\$37.95 hardcover, \$24.95 trade paperback) (Orion) Two storylines, 1891 and 2007, set in the south of France. In 2007 Meredith Martin is researching a biography on the composer Claude Debussy. Armed with a haunting piece of piano music and a sepia photograph, she soon becomes immersed in the story of a tragic love, a missing girl, an unquiet soul and the strange events of one cataclysmic night in 1891.

MURPHY, SHIRLEY ROUSSEAU CAT DECK THE HALLS (#13) (\$19.95) (Morrow) At midnight in the deserted gardens of the shopping plaza in Molena Point, CA, a stranger lies dead beneath the village Christmas tree; the only witness to the shooting is a little child. But when the police arrive, summoned by an anonymous phone call of feline origin, both the body and the child have disappeared. Joe Gray, Dulcie and kit face their most heartbreaking case yet.

MURPHY, YANNICK SIGNED MATA HARI (\$27.99) (Little, Brown) As Mata Hari sits in her French prison cell in October of 1917, accused of being a spy for Germany, she recounts her life, telling stories as she awaits her fate.

OATES, CAROL J GRAVEDIGGER'S DAUGHTER (\$33.95)

O'BRIAN, PATRICK ROAD TO SAMARCAND (\$39.95) (Harper Collins, UK) When Derrick's missionary parents are murdered he is entrusted to his gruff Uncle Sullivan, captain of the Wanderer. Derrick befriends a fierce Mongol warrior who saves his life and helps to defeat a ruthless Chinese warlord. Given a gift of priceless jade, the group is pursued into the inhospitable mountains of Tibet where they are caught between the fierce ascetic mountain monks and a terrifying creature that stalks them through the snow. First published in 1954.

OSTERGREN, KLAS GENTLEMEN (\$30) (Macadam Cage) Beaten up, bruised and scared, a young writer hides in a Stockholm apartment, writing the story of its disappeared inhabitants: the flamboyant Morgan brothers. It all began a year earlier, when he was

rooming with Henry Morgan, a boxer, piano player, composer, bartender, and old-fashioned gentleman with a Gatsby-like capacity for turning life into a feast and absolutely no talent for keeping secrets. The two friends lead the high-life in Stockholm until the day Henry's brother Leo, a star poet, drunk, political provocateur, shows up. Leo drags them into a scandal involving illegal weapons and gangsters, and soon the three men find themselves trapped in a dangerous plot. Translated from the Swedish.

PAPERICK, JON WHO BY FIRE, WHO BY BLOOD (\$29.95) (Exile Editions) Matthew Stone, the alienated grandson of a Jewish trigger man for Murder Incorporated, discovers that his father, a dishonoured New York judge, has not only been a supporter of the extreme right wing in Israel, but has kept a secret bank account to support pro-Israeli terrorist activities.

PARETSKY, SARA BLEEDING KANSAS (\$31) (Putnam) This is the story of two families linked by their Midwestern pioneer paths and dark family secrets. Set in the Kaw River Valley, where Ms. Paretsky grew up, the two families have been entwined since the 1850s, when their ancestors settled the valley as antislavery immigrants. **Ms. Paretsky will be at Sleuth on the 31st of January, 6:30 – 7:30.** Please come meet her. See *Sara's picks*.

PARKER, ROBERT B spenser NOW AND THEN (#35) (\$31) (Putnam) Spenser is asked by a client, Dennis Doherty, to investigate his wife Jordan, whom he suspects is having an affair. Not surprisingly, Spenser catches Jordan with another man, tells Dennis what he's found and considers the case closed. But a couple of days later, all hell breaks loose and three people are dead.

PATTERSON, JAMES cross DOUBLE CROSS (#13) (\$32.50) (Little, Brown) Alex Cross rejoins the Washington, D.C. police force to confront two killers who are out to get their revenge on him.

PATTERSON, RICHARD NORTH RACE (\$30) (Henry Holt) Corey Grace, a handsome and charismatic senator from Ohio, is plunged by an act of terrorism into a fierce presidential primary battle with the favourite of the party establishment and a magnetic leader of the Christian right. A decorated Gulf War pilot, Grace insists on voting his own conscience rather than the party line. But Grace is still haunted by a tragic mistake buried deep in his past.

PATTISON, ELIOT shan PRAYER OF THE DRAGON (#5) (\$29) (Soho) Shan Tao Yun is an exiled Chinese national, a former Beijing investigator on parole from the Tibetan work camp to which he had been consigned as punishment. While there he was befriended by unlicensed Tibetan lamas with whom he has been living, since his release, in a secret monastery. Now he is summoned to a remote village to save a comatose man from summary execution for two murders. The victims' arms had been severed and taken away. Why? The others in the series are Skull Mantra (\$10.99), Water Touching Stone (\$9.99) Bone Mountain (\$18.50) and Beautiful Ghosts (\$17.25).

PEARCE, MICHAEL seymour DEAD MAN IN TANGIER (#4) (\$27) (Carroll & Graf) Pig-sticking is a dangerous sport in Tangier of 1912 and Monsieur Bossu, an important member of Tangier's foreign community, finds that out when he gets stuck himself. Seymour of Scotland Yard is called in to investigate.

PEREZ-REVERTE, ARTURO PAINTER OF BATTLES (\$26) (Random House) Andres Faulques, a world renowned war photographer, has retired to a life of solitude on the Spanish coast and spends his days painting a huge wall mural that pays homage to works of war art. One night, an unexpected visitor arrives at Faulques' door and challenges the painter to remember him. As Faulques struggles to recall the face, the man explains that he was the subject of an iconic photo taken by Faulques in a war zone years ago. When Faulques asks the stranger why he has come looking for him, the stranger answers "Because I am going to kill you."

PERRY, ANNE CHRISTMAS BEGINNING (\$20.95) (Ballantine) Superintendent Runicon of Scotland Yard is spending Christmas on

the wild and beautiful island of Anglesey off the north coast of Wales. On one of his solitary strolls, the lonely bachelor stumbles upon the lifeless body of Olivia Costain, the local vicar's younger sister. The unpopular work of discovering who among Olivia's friends, neighbours and numerous eligible suitors, is a ruthless killer falls to Runicon.

POMEROY, JULIA COLD MOON HOME (\$29) (Carroll & Graf) Abby Silvernale is forced to take a job as an amanuensis, (we had to look this up and still unsure of the correct pronunciation) to a ninety-one-year-old sculptor, when Dulcie is forced to cut back on shifts at the restaurant. When the flamboyant and needy Germaine LeClair breezes into town, Abby discovers the newcomer has a long history with the domineering old sculptor. The first is the very fine The Dark End of Town (\$18.50), one of *J.D.'s Picks* in an earlier newsletter.

RENDELL, RUTH wexford NOT IN THE FLESH (#21) (\$32.95) (Doubleday, Canada) Searching for truffles in a wood, a man and his dog unearth a human hand. The body, as Chief Inspector Wexford is informed, has lain buried for ten years, wrapped in a purple cotton sheet. Only twenty yards away from the woodland burial site, in the cellar of a disused cottage, another body is found.

RICHARDS, DAVID ADAMS LOST HIGHWAY (\$34.95) (Doubleday, Canada) For twenty years Alex Chapman believed his uncle James has destroyed his chances in life. Things do not "turn out" for Alex and he seems destined never to amount to anything more than an embittered dreamer. Until the night he runs into the simple mechanic, Burton Tucker. When Burton tells Alex that he has just sold James Chapman a winning lottery ticket worth thirteen million dollars, Alex immediately knows that his uncle must never see the money. From the winner of the 2000 Giller Prize for Mercy Among the Children (\$22).

RICKMAN, PHIL watkins FABRIC OF SIN (#9) (\$31.95) (Quercus) Garway church was built by medieval Knights Templar and after seven centuries the Welsh Border village is still shadowed by their mysteries. Renovation plans for the Master House, a few fields away, have been stalled when a specialist builder refuses to work there, insisting it's a place that doesn't want to be restored. The Bishop of Hereford directs Merrily Watkins to investigate.

RIORDAN, RICK percy TITAN'S CURSE (#3) (\$22.95) (Miramax) A super series written for young adults but equally loved by our "older" customers. Percy Jackson is a half-blood: one of his parents is human, the other a god. When his friend Grover calls him he knows he'll need his powerful demigod allies, Annabeth and Thalia, at his side along with his trusty bronze sword and he'll need a ride from his mom. Percy is a kid with unusual powers. Sequel to Lightning Thief and Sea of Monsters (\$8.99 each). Marian says: "Samantha made me read this series. It's just so delightful". See *Samantha's Picks*.

ROBB, J D CREATION IN DEATH (#25) (\$31) (Putnam) Lieutenant Eve Dallas and her partner Feeney couldn't stop a killer the media dubbed "The Groom" nine years earlier when he killed four women in fifteen days before disappearing. Well, he's back.

ROBERTS, DAVID SOMETHING WICKED (#8) (\$30) (Carroll & Graf) Journalist Verity Browne comes home from an assignment in Prague with suspected tuberculosis. The only cure is deemed to be rest and a healthy diet so her anxious fiancé, Lord Edward Corinth, arranges for her to stay at a private clinic in Henley-on-Thames. This is convenient for Edward as he can keep an eye on Verity while investigating the sadistic murder of his dentist.

ROBERTS, JOHN MADDOX spqr UNDER VESUVIUS (#11) (\$27.95) (Thomas Dunne) Decius Caecilius, and his wife Julia, are enjoying the change of scenery when they travel to Campania to judge some cases. But in a town near Vesuvius, a priest's daughter is murdered. Decius must find the killer and keep the mob away from a young boy who everyone blames but he believes to be innocent.

ROWLAND, LAURA JOH SNOW EMPRESS (#12) (\$28.95) (St. Martin's) When the eight-year-old son of Sano Ichiro and Reiko disappears, they discover that Sano's political rival, Lord Matsudaira, has kidnapped him and he's being held on the northernmost island of Japan. So Sano makes a deal: he will solve the murder of the mistress of Lord Matsumae if his son is released.

ROWSE, SHARON granville SILK TRAIN MURDER (#1) (\$30) (Carroll & Graf) A debut novel. John Lansdowne Granville, gentleman adventurer, is down on his luck. Having tried to find gold in the Klondike, but failed, he takes a job guarding the silk trains that transport silk, which lands in Vancouver's harbour, to New York. More expensive than gold, it is insured by the hour and is the target of every crook. On his second day on the job, his friend, Sam Scott, is arrested for the murder of gangster Clive Jackson and Scott is not talking, not even to Granville.

RUSSELL, S THOMAS UNDER ENEMY COLORS (\$30) A first novel, naval fiction, (does that make it navel fiction, then?) getting rave reviews and favourable comparisons to Patrick O'Brian.

SAWYER, ROBERT J ROLLBACK (\$29.95) A special order. This novel was originally released in April 2007.

SCHWEGEL, THERESA PERSON OF INTEREST (\$28.95) (St. Martins) Leslie McHugh is married to an undercover cop. When their seventeen-year-old daughter turns up at the centre of an investigation into the murder of a snitch, Leslie has had enough. She is determined to get to the truth and protect her family, no matter what the cost. Sequel to Office Down (\$9.99) and Probable Cause (\$8.99).

SCOTT, JUSTIN ben abbott MAUSOLEUM (#5) (\$29.95) (Poisoned Pen) When a gaudy half million dollar mausoleum is built in the 300 year-old village cemetery in Newbury, Connecticut, realtor Ben Abbott is not happy and neither are most of the other residents of the town. When Brian Grose's body is found in his mausoleum, 50 years ahead of schedule, Homeland Security Immigration Criminal Enforcement agents descend on Newbury hunting for Charlie Cubrero, an illegal immigrant who bought a gun after he was stiffed for \$50 by Brian Grose. Ben doesn't believe Charlie had anything to do with the murder. This is a great series full of subtle wit.

SMITH, TARA BRAY BETWIXT (\$20.99).

STAINCLIFFE, CATH kilkenn MISSING (#7) (\$39.95) Manchester PI Sal Kilkenny, back in her seventh outing. More stock due any day, so go ahead and reserve your copy today.

STOCKWIN, JULIAN KYDD: THE ADMIRAL'S DAUGHTER (#8) (\$34.95) (Hodder & Stoughton) 1803. Commander Kydd is about to discover that the most dangerous waters can be closest to home. We annotated this title in the November 2007 newsletter when we received the trade paperback at \$24.95.

STOURTON, IVO NIGHT CLIMBERS (\$28) (Simon & Schuster) When James Walker arrived at Tudor College, Cambridge, he encountered a member of the Night Climbers, a wealthy, secretive and tantalizingly eccentric circle of undergraduates who scale the college towers and gargoyles at night in pursuit of the kind of thrill-seeking danger that makes them feel truly alive. The group's ringleader embroils them in a plan that will test the limit of their friendship and link them to one another forever.

TEMPLE, PETER IRON ROSE (\$39.00 hardcover, \$21.00 expensive British import paperback) (Quercus) A regular at the local pub, Mac Farraday is living the quiet life of a country blacksmith. When his best friend is found hanging, the assumption is he has committed suicide. Mac returns to long discarded skills not only to discover why his friend died, but also to save his own life. Terrific, says Wes.

THURLO, AIMEE&DAVID agatha FALSE WITNESS (#4) (\$27.95) (St. Martin's) When an SUV crashes through the outside walls of Our Lady of Hope Monastery, the nuns are faced with an insurmountable financial challenge. When one of their previously anonymous benefactors shows up and offers the monastery a great

deal of money for what appears to be a simple task, the nuns are quick to accept. All Sister Agatha has to do is track down the benefactor's missing niece. But nothing is as simple as it seems. The first three in the series are Bad Faith, Thief in Retreat (\$9.99 each) and Prey for a Miracle (\$8.99).

TODD, CHARLES PALE HORSE (#10) (\$25.95) (Morrow) In the ruins of a Yorkshire Abbey lies the body of a man wrapped in a cloak, his face covered by a gas mask. Who is this man? Is the investigation into his death being twisted to accuse an innocent man of the murder? The search for the truth takes Insp. Rutledge to Berkshire.

TOPE, REBECCA thea COTSWOLD MYSTERY (#4) (\$39.95) (Allison & Busby) Despite the outcomes of her three previous house-sitting engagements, Thea Osborne, along with her trusty spaniel, Hepzie, is truly convinced nothing can go wrong on her next assignment. The Montgomerys have asked her to look after their house in Blockley while they take a much needed holiday. Their elderly mother, Granny Gardner, will also be in the house and although she is slightly forgetful, she shouldn't be any trouble. The arrival of Thea's daughter, Jessica, a trainee policewoman, is a welcome surprise. But the discovery of a body in the house next door is not. Thea and Jessica investigate. The first three in the series are Cotswold Killing (\$12.95), Cotswold Ordeal (\$12.95) and Death in the Cotswold (due in paperback in May 2008).

TRUMAN, MARGARET MURDER ON K STREET (\$29.15)

TWINING, JAMES tom kirk GILDED SEAL (#3) (\$28.95 hardcover, \$22.95 trade paperback) (Harper Collins, UK) The first two in the series are Double Eagle and Black Sun (\$10.99 each) and "All three brilliant" says Marian. See *Marian's Picks*.

VARGAS, FRED THIS NIGHT'S FOUL WORK (\$29.95) (Knopf, Canada) On the outskirts of Paris, two men are found with their throats cut. The killings are assumed to be drug related but Commissaire Adamsberg is convinced there is more to it. He calls in a favour from pathologist Ariane Lagarde, someone he had come up against twenty-three years ago. The trail also leads Adamsberg to a cemetery where a grave has been disturbed with no apparent reason. Could this be the work of the elderly nurse, a serial killer caught by Adamsberg two years ago and recently escaped from prison?

[VARIOUS]SLUNG, MICHELE and ROBERT HARTMAN editors MURDER FOR HALLOWEEN: TALES OF SUSPENSE (\$14.95) (Castle Books) Originally published in 1994. Includes short stories by **Ed McBain, Marcia Muller, Dorothy Cannell, Peter Lovesey** and others.

VASSANJI, M G ASSASSIN'S SONG (\$34.95) Finalist for the 2007 Giller prize. How could we not have a book with this title?

WALTERS, MINETTE CHAMELEON'S SHADOW (\$36.95 hardcover, \$22.95 trade paperback) (Macmillan) This one was annotated a newsletter or so ago, but we obviously did not sell enough then, so here is another shot at it.

WARNER, PENNY OFFICIAL NANCY DREW HANDBOOK (\$18.95) (Quirk) A small book that has all the tips a daring detective needs. Examples: how to locate a secret passageway; how to tell a good guy from a bad guy; how to manage your hair when the convertible top is down; how to tap out a Morse Code message with your high heels; and soooo much more...

WEISSBERGER, RUTH CURE FOR REMEMBERING (\$27.50) A Dr. Nora Sternberg mystery.

WILEY, MICHAEL LAST STRIPTease (\$27.95) (Thomas Dunne) This novel won the Private Eye Writers of America/St. Martin's Press Best First Private Eye Novel Contest. PI Joe Kozmarski is asked to clear the name of his childhood friend Bob Piedras of murder. In spite of all the violence in the story, Joe manages to keep you focused on the task of finding the real killer. He's got an edge to him that makes him a tough guy but he also has a soft spot that will appeal

to women readers as well. Marian read it because it was set in Chicago and she quite liked it.

WILLOCKS, TIM RELIGION (\$28.50) (FSG) Spectacular. This is the first of a planned trilogy set in 1565 and features the siege of the Island of Malta by the Muslims who are trying to overthrow the Knights of St John the Baptist. See *Marian's Picks*.

WOODS, STUART barrington SHOOT HIM IF HE RUNS (#13) (\$31) Stone Barrington.

WRIGHT, ED DAMNATION FALLS (#1) (\$37.95 hardcover, \$24.95 trade paperback) (Orion) With his big-city journalism career in ruins, Randall Wilkes returns to his home town of Pilgrim's Rest, Tennessee, to ghost write the autobiography of his boyhood friend and former governor, Sonny McMahan. There he finds Sonny's mom Faye, addled with age, imagining her dead husband is alive and worrying that her son might be in danger. Randall finds Faye hideously murdered, hanged by the neck from a bridge over Damns Falls. Within days, another person connected to the McMahan clan is killed. And the bones of a third, long buried murder victim, a young woman, have emerged from the earth.

XIAOLONG, QIU RED MANDARIN DRESS (#5) (\$28.95) (St. Martin's) A serial killer is stalking Shanghai and with the newspapers screaming for an arrest Party officials are eager to resolve the murders quickly. Despite being officially on leave, Chief Inspector Chen Cao finds himself in the midst of the investigation. The first four in the series are Death of a Red Heroine (\$18), A Loyal Character Dancer (\$17), When Red is Black (\$16.95) and A Case of Two Cities (\$16.25).

YORK, ALISSA EFFIGY (\$32.95)

Paperbacks

ADAM, PAUL RAINALDI QUARTET (\$17) Originally published under the title Sleeper in the UK. Two aging luthiers—makers and repairers of violins—are in a quartet with the local priest and the chief of police and enjoy nothing more than their grandkids and making music. Did the murder of one of the luthiers have anything to do with the “Messiah's Sister”, a priceless, centuries-old violin?

ADAMS, ALINA bex levy SKATE CRIME (#5) (\$9.99) Rebecca “Bex” Levy and the world of figure skating...

AIRD, CATHERINE RELIGIOUS BODY (\$18) The first Insp. C.D. Sloan mystery, originally published in 1966. Terrific. See *J.D.'s Picks*. Also available is Most Contagious Game (\$18), the only non-Sloan. More to come.

ALLIN, LOU MEMORIES ARE MURDER (#5) (\$15.95) Northern realtor, Belle Palmer in her latest adventure. We've sold out of these and have more on order, so sorry, but can't annotate at this time.

ALLINGHAM, MARGERY albert DEATH OF A GHOST (#6) (\$17) Another re-issue.

ALT, MADELYN HEX MARKS THE SPOT (#3) (\$9.99) Maffie O'neill's third adventure, sequel to Trouble With Magic and Charmed Death (\$9.99 ea.) A series that Marian has enjoyed a great deal.

ANDERS, DONNA SKETCHING EVIL (\$9.50) Where do you go when nowhere is safe? ... a new novel of a woman facing a menacing danger she cannot escape no matter where she runs...

APODACA, JENNIFER EXTREMELY HOT (\$17.50) A special order.

ARCHER, JEFFREY CAT 'O NINE TALES (\$11.99) This is a collection of short stories, some of which were inspired by the two years he spent in prison.

ARMSTRONG, LORI G SHALLOW GRAVE (\$9.99) Nominated for the 2006 Shamus Awards, in the best paperback original category.

Surveillance on an insurance fraud case in Bear Butte County unfolds tragically for PI Julie Collins and her partner, Kevin Wells.

ARRUDA, SUZANNE STALKING IVORY (#2) (\$16.50) Having endured the horrors of the Great War and survived the social minefields of East Africa's British colonial community, American adventuress Jade del Cameron goes on a photography assignment into the northern territory of Mount Marsabit. Jade and her friends, Beverly and Avery, hope to capture the area's colossal elephants on film. But instead they discover the mutilated remains of four elephants and one man. The authorities suspect Abyssinian poachers and raiders in search of ivory and slaves. But Jade has her own suspicions. The first in the series is Mark of the Lion (\$18.00 trade paperback).

ASH, MAUREEN templar DEATH OF A SQUIRE (#2) (\$9.99) The follow up to one of Marian's favourites of last year, Alehouse Murders (\$9.99)... and also a *Marian's Pick*.

BAANTJER, A C DEKOK AND MURDER ON BLOOD MOUNTAIN (\$17) In Insp. DeKok's line of work, death is commonplace. But encountering figures from the dead—ghosts—certainly is not. Translated from the Dutch.

BAILEY, D F GOOD LIE (\$19.95) A day on the water, kayaking with a friend across Mount Channel off Vancouver Island. A moment of panic when the pair are swamped by a yacht passing by too closely. And a fateful decision made by Paul in a desperate attempt to save them both.

BAKER, DEB yooper MURDER PASSES THE BUCK (#1) and MURDER GRINS AND BEARS IT (#2) (\$15 ea.) From the author of the Dolls series, Dolled Up for Murder and Goodbye Dolly (\$9.99 each), a series of novels set in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, UP for short and thus “yoopers” for its inhabitants, featuring 66-year-old Gertie Johnson. People die on the opening day of hunting season, deer and bear, and it's up to Gertie to protect the innocent and apprehend the guilty.

BANKS, CARLA STRANGERS (\$10.99) It's Roisin Massey's first time in Saudi Arabia and she has a lot to learn. From behind the veil, Riyadh seems a hostile and forbidding place, for all its exotic beauty and opulence. Suddenly she's dependent on the man she married only 48 hours ago after a three-month relationship. Roisin is about to discover that Joe has not told her everything about his time in the Desert Kingdom. AKA **Danuta Reah**.

BARBIERI, MAGGIE alison MURDER 101 (#1) (\$8.99) One of *Marian's Picks* in an earlier newsletter. Here's what she said: What a pleasant surprise. It's a light, witty, fun read. I laughed out loud in spots. I loved the main character, Alison Bergeron, an English professor at a Catholic college in the Bronx, who cries at the slightest provocation, gets sick to her stomach equally easily. The police duo—good cop, bad cop—were entertaining, the plot was only okay but so what? It was fun, fun, fun. I loved the one-liners, the nuns (did I mention the nuns?), the tension between Alison and the good cop, and I want the second one NOW. See *Marian's Picks* again.

BARNARD, ROBERT SKELETON IN THE GRASS (\$17) First published in the UK in 1987 now re-issued in a US trade paperback.

BARON, AILEEN G sampson FLY HAS A HUNDRED EYES (#1) (\$20) Set at an archeological dig in Palestine of the late 1930s. Very well done. See *J.D.'s Picks*.

BARON, AILEEN G sampson TORCH OF TANGIER (#2) (\$17.95) The second novel, set a few years later in Tangiers.

BARRON, STEPHANIE JANE AND THE BARQUE OF FRAILTY (#9) (\$9.99) Having just completed *Sense and Sensibility*, Jane Austen heads to Sloane St. for a month long visit with her brother and his wife. And is thrust into another case of murder.

BASS, JEFFERSON FLESH AND BONE (#2) (\$10.99) Dr. Bill Brockton, the founder of the world-famous Body Farm, has re-created a Chattanooga death scene at the Farm but a killer tampers with it in a

shocking way: placing another corpse at the setting, confusing authorities and putting Brockton's career and life in jeopardy. The first in the series is Carved in Bone (\$10.99).

BATEMAN, COLIN PREDICT A RIOT (\$16.95) The rest of the title follows as 'Murder, Extortion & Carrot Cake. (With great graphics on the dust jacket). Superintendent James 'Marsh' Mallow, of the Belfast CID, is nearing the end of his career, but he's not handing in his badge until he's nailed notorious politician and racketeer Pink Harrison. Trouble is, take Harrison down, and trouble of the full-scale rioting kind is likely to flare up. (*You probably know this writer as Colin Bateman, now he's just Bateman—JD*)

BEALL, WILL L A REX (\$16.50) A tough and gritty police procedural set in South Central L.A.'s 77th Division, where the author is still a policeman. Ben Halloran, a rookie cop, is assigned to ride with Miguel Marquez, one of the last of the old school, an officer whose principled mix of fearlessness and brutality has earned him the awe and respect of every gang banger in the division. Ben and Marquez plunge fast and deep into the city's burgeoning gang war. A debut novel.

BEARDEN, MILTON BLACK TULIP A Novel of War in Afghanistan (\$16.95) Set in the treacherous mountains of Afghanistan and the equally hazardous headquarters of the CIA Operations Directorate in Washington. Based on real events.

BEATON, M C macbeth DEATH OF A MAID (#22) (\$8.50) Hamish Macbeth wins the cleaning services of Mrs. Gillespie in a church raffle but is worried that she will more likely snoop than clean. When she is found dead under suspicious circumstances, he wonders where else she was snooping, and investigates.

BECKA, ELIZABETH TRACE EVIDENCE (#1) (\$10.99) A debut novel featuring forensic trace expert Evelyn James. Set in Cleveland, the victims have their feet set in cement and are then drowned. The story is dark, but a good, fast read, with interesting forensic bits and a good plot line. Was this both a *Wendy Pick* and a *Marian's Pick* in an earlier newsletter? I think so.

BENN, JAMES R BILLY BOYLE (#1) (\$14.50) A World War II Mystery. Billy Boyle, newly made Detective with the Boston police department when war breaks out, is looking for a safe job, away from the fighting. His Uncle Ike, a general, can probably help. Uncle Ike, of course, turns out to be Dwight D. Eisenhower and he wants Billy to be his personal investigator! Lots of period colour.

BENNETT, RONAN CATASTROPHIST (\$14.95) "What people will love about this book is what they love about Greene and le Carre." says Thomas Keneally.

BENOIT, CHARLES OUT OF ORDER (\$17.95) Following on the heels of the delightfully witty Relative Danger (\$19.95 trade paperback) we are now introduced to Jason Talley of Corning, New York. He leads an orderly life, processing loans, which gets turned upside down when two of his friends die. The police call it murder/suicide. But is it? Jason travels to India to see if he can fulfill a wish for his late friend. The story is not as witty as Relative Danger, which is a touch disappointing, but, on the bright side, this is a great way to "see" India. See *J.D.'s Picks*.

BERNHARDT, WILLIAM CAPITOL THREAT (#15) (\$10.99)

BERRY, STEVE malone ALEXANDRIA LINK (#2) (\$11.99) Cotton Malone retired from the high-risk world of elite operatives for the U.S. State Department to lead the quiet life of a rare-book dealer in Copenhagen (The Templar Legacy (\$11.99)). He receives an email that says he has 72 hours to give the bad guys what they want or his son will be killed. What Cotton has is the means to find the lost Library of Alexandria. See *Samantha's Picks*.

BISHOP, CLAUDIA hemlock CAROL FOR A CORPSE (#15) (\$9.99) A Special Holiday Hemlock Falls Mystery. Includes recipes and ornament tips. Should have been in the November newsletter, but, there is always next year.

BLACK, INGRID JUDAS HEART (#3) (\$10.99) Former FBI agent Saxon is living in Dublin and her expertise comes in handy when the Dublin murder squad is investigating the murder of an aspiring actress. Saxon is in town searching for an old friend. Why are the two investigations heading in the same, disturbing, direction?

BLAIR, MICHAEL Joe shoe DELLS (#2) (\$12.99) . Former cop, now chauffeur and bodyguard, Joe Schumacher is home for a few days when the body of a man is found in the ravine behind Joe's family home. This is the same man that some years ago was the principal suspect in a series of rapes in the same ravine. Coincidence? The sequel to Hard Winter Rain (\$11.99).

BLAKE, VICTORIA JUMPING THE CRACKS (#4) (\$24.95 trade paperback, \$29.95 hardcover.) See the Hardcover section.

BLISS, MIRANDA DEAD MEN DON'T GET THE MUNCHIES (#3) (\$9.99) A bar-food cooking class turns into another investigation for Annie and Eve when one of the students is murdered and Eve is the principal suspect.

BLUNT, GILES BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS (#4) (\$10.99) For years, detective John Cardinal's wife, Catherine, has battled severe depression. When she takes her own life, people are saddened but not surprised. Except for Cardinal. Sequel to Forty Words For Sorrow, Delicate Storm and Blackfly Season (\$10.99 each). A terrific series. Start at the beginning and read them all.

BONANSINGA, JAY SHATTERED (\$9.99) FBI profiler Ulysses Grove is this close to trapping a serial killer...but the killer is planning a gruesome surprise that will come far too close to home.

BOND, MICHAEL M PAMPLEMOUSSE AND THE MILITANT MIDWIVES (#16) (\$11.95) Summoned to the headquarters of Le Guide, France's oldest and best loved gastronomic bible, Monsieur Pamplemousse is informed that a serious threat has been made to national security. It seems that a wicked plot is underway to inject poison into the French food chain. Monsieur Pamplemousse and his beloved bloodhound, Pommies Frites, are on the case.

BRANDRETH, GYLES OSCAR WILDE AND A DEATH OF NO IMPORTANCE (\$16) Oscar Wilde is investigating the death of a young male prostitute and artist's model, a man of no importance. Little wonder that he solves the case; he has another writer, **Arthur Conan Doyle**, around to help. Although, truth be told, Wilde could have managed very well on his own. The first problem was proving that there actually was a murder—the body and all evidence has very inconveniently disappeared, leaving Oscar the only witness and questioning his own sanity. He coyly collects clues amidst the backdrop of Victorian England, dodging scandal, and downing copious amounts of champagne along the way. A completely charming and clever read. The story is narrated by Wilde's own Watson, Robert Sherard, some fifty years later. Expect more adventures—a sequel has been announced for mid-2008—and do note that the book was first published in the UK under the title Oscar Wilde and the Candlelight Murders.

BRAUN, LILIAN JACKSON CAT WHO HAD 60 WHISKERS (#29) (\$10.99) The conversion of the late Nathan Ledfield's mansion into a charitable museum is going along swimmingly until there is a mysterious death from a bee sting that leaves everyone but Koko in a state of confusion.

BROOKMYRE, CHRISTOPHER ATTACK OF THE UNSINKABLE RUBBER DUCKS (\$24) Jack Parlabane did not believe in ghosts until he found himself dead, with an exclusive yet to file. From his position on high, he relates the events leading up to his demise.

BROWN, FREDRIC DEAD RINGER, FABULOUS CLIPJOINT, MURDER CAN BE FUN, and SCREAMING MIMI (\$17 each) Re-issues of four classic novels in trade paperback format. About time that **Fredric Brown** is back in print.

BROWN, SANDRA PLAY DIRTY (\$19.99) After five years in a federal prison for cheating, Griff Burkett is a free man but he can never return to his life as a quarterback for the Cowboys. Foster

Speakman and his wife Laura are successful and wealthy but they have never been able to have a child. It's said that money can't buy everything but it can buy a disgraced football player fresh out of prospects. The job Griff agrees to do for the Speakmans demands secrecy, but he soon finds himself once again in the spotlight of suspicion.

BRUEN, KEN AMERICAN SKIN (\$15.95) "Readers clamoring for the darkest noir will find it in the ultra-violent American Skin. This Tarantino-esque tale is inhabited by some of the most souless and depraved characters to be found in mainstream literature."—*USA Today*. His American novel.

BUCHAN, JOHN hannay THIRTY NINE STEPS (#1) (\$10.99) Another edition of this classic.

BURLEY, W J WYCLIFFE AND THE PEA GREEN BOAT (#6) and WYCLIFFE AND THE DUNES MYSTERY (#19) (\$10.99 each). Two more reissues, first published in 1975 and 1993.

CAINE, LESLIE FATAL FENG SHUI (#5) (\$9.99) Another Domestic Bliss mystery featuring decorators Gilbert and Sullivan.

CAMERON, BILL LOST DOG (\$15.50) Not to be confused with the Canadian journalist, CBC anchor, author of Cat's Crossing (\$21), although you could be forgiven for confusing the two. An unwitting player in a bizarre chain of events, Peter McKrall—out of work, struggling with his kleptomaniac—has no idea of the danger he's fallen into as he steps out on a frosty winter morning in search of his niece's stuffed dog...and into the crosshairs of a killer obsessed with implicating Peter in murder.

CAMERON, STELLA COLD DAY IN HELL (\$9.50) Another one that should have been in the November newsletter...bullets are flying and goodwill towards men is in short supply.

CAMILLERI, ANDREA SHAPE OF WATER (#1), TERRA COTTA DOG (#2), and SNACK THIEF (#3) (\$16 ea.) The first three in the series are now available in lovely trade paperback editions.

CARTER, SAMMI PEPPERMINT TWISTED (#3) (\$9.99) No visit to Paradise, Colorado, is complete without a stop at Divinity candy shop for a little taste of heaven. Even if Abby Shaw, the owner, has had to give up sweet making for sleuthing. Includes candy recipes.

CHAN, CASSANDRA YOUNG WIDOW (#1) (\$9.99) Scotland Yard detective Jack Gibbons doesn't mind having his charismatic, well connected, very well off friend Phillip Bethancourt along with him on his more interesting investigations. The latest case involves the poisoning of Geoffrey Berowne where the prime suspect is the victim's much younger third wife Annette. While Jack becomes enamoured by Annette, Phillip tries to keep him on the straight and narrow. A debut novel.

CHAN, CASSANDRA VILLAGE AFFAIRS (#2) (\$8.99) Another investigation for Scotland Yard Det. Sgt. Jack Gibbons and his man-about-town Phillip Bethancourt. Phillip just happens to be in the small Cotswold town where there's been a death and he loves to indulge his passion for a good mystery by aiding Jack's investigations.

CHANDRA, VIKRAM SACRED GAMES (\$19.95) This is a long book at 900 pages, with its table of contents and its glossary extra. Inspector Sartaj, one of the few Sikhs on the Mumbai police force, is finding his career prospects are on the slide. When he gets a tip-off as to the hiding place of Ganesh Gaitonde, the most wanted criminal in India, he's determined that he'll be the one to collect the prize.

CHILDERS, ERSKINE RIDDLE OF THE SANDS (\$10.99) Another edition of this classic. A beautiful edition.

CHRISTIE, AGATHA POIROT COMPLETE ARIADNE OLIVER (\$29.95 each vol.) Vol. 1 contains Cards on the Table, Mrs. McGinty's Dead and Dead Man's Folly and two short stories The Case of the Discontented Soldier and The Case of the Rich Woman. Vol. 2 contains Third Girl, Hallowe'en Party, Pale Horse and Elephants Can Remember.

CHURCHILL, JILL jeffry ACCIDENTAL FLORIST (#16) (\$10.99) Jane Jeffry and longtime beau Detective Mel VanDyne fi-

nally decide to get married and Mel's overbearing mother wants to take charge of the arrangements. When Mel convinces Jane and her friend Shelley to take a woman's safety class, they learn a lot but the class is cut short when a dead body is discovered.

CLANCY, TOM SPLINTER CELL FALLOUT (\$13.50) not sure who it's actually written by...

CLARK, MARY HIGGINS & CAROL HIGGINS SANTA CRUISE (\$10.99) A lighthearted suspense novel set on a Caribbean Christmas cruise sailing from Miami into murderous waters.

CLASON, CLYDE B DRAGON'S CAVE (\$16.95) Prof. Westborough investigates an impossible crime in this Golden Age classic. He has to find the key to two locked room mysteries as well as solve a complicated cipher to catch a clever killer. First published in 1940.

CLEEVES, ANN HIDDEN DEPTHS (\$9.99) No. 3 featuring Vera Stanhope. Hey, these are really good. Shame that the first one in the series, Crow Trap, is not readily available, but I'm working on it.

CLEMENT, BLAIZE hemingway DUPLICITY DOGGED THE DASCHUND (#2) (\$8.99) Pet sitter Dixie Hemingway is on the case again when one of her charges, Mame the Dachshund, finds a dead body. Marian says: "I really enjoyed this book as well as the first in the series, Curiosity Killed the Cat Sitter (\$8.99), as had Wendy. Actually, Wendy suggested I give it a go. There were two parts in the second book that I had to skip over, dealing with cruelty to the animals, but otherwise the story was great".

COHEN, NANCY J PERISH BY PEDICURE (#8) (\$9.99) Beauty shows are not usually known for cold-blooded murder, but cold-blooded murder is exactly what it is when Luxor Products company director Christine Parks is found dead in her hotel room—face down in a foot bath.

COLLEY, BARBARA SCRUB A DUB DEAD (#6) (\$9.99) New Orleans, Garden District mansion, death, Charlotte La Rue...

COLLINS, KATE flower shop ROSE FROM THE DEAD (#6) (\$9.99) Why did I, Abby Knight, agree to attend a convention of funeral directors? I was desperate to drum up more business for my flower shop, Bloomers. What I got instead was murder...

CONANT, SUSAN GAITS OF HEAVEN (#17) (\$9.99) It wasn't the golden Aussie huskapoo's fault that he wasn't housebroken, it was his owners'. They, Ted and Eumie, a New Age couple, didn't believe in obedience training, collars or leashes. Holly Winter has been enlisted to do it for them. When Eumie dies from an 'accidental' overdose, her daughter, and Holly, suspect it is murder.

CONNELLY, MICHAEL bosch OVERLOOK (#12) (\$9.50) It's a very different Bosch in this novel, but policing, too, has changed. Since 9/11 many of those niceties, like due process and innocent until proven guilty, have been sorely tested, and shoot first and ask questions later could well be the new mantra. A supply of cesium has been stolen, enough to poison the water supply or make an airport hot for 300 years. The bad guys are probably Osama's henchmen, so all the agencies, the FBI, Homeland Security, LAPD etc etc, want in, and so what if a few liberties are trampled on. All probably necessary, I suppose, but still kinda sad that things have come to this. And my usual criticism of novels being too long does not apply here. This one is just the right length. (*Way too short!*—Marian) The story had been first published in serialized form in the NY Times Sunday Magazine, although the story was expanded and somewhat reworked for this edition. Last Coyote (#4) (\$9.50) has recently been re-issued.

CONNOR, JOHN karen sharpe FALLING (#4) (\$24.95 trade paperback, \$37.95 hardcover) See the Hardcover section.

CONRAD, JOSEPH SHADOW LINE (\$12)

COOK, BOB PAPER CHASE (\$18) Another delightful caper from the author of Disorderly Elements (\$18). They are the last four, old spies, well past their sell-by dates, suffering all the indignities of old age. The latest indignity, however, is the Director telling them that

they are not to even consider writing their memoirs. Not how these old boys see it. Both are delights.

CORK, VENA GREEN EYE (#3) (\$10.99) Danny Thorn, enrolled at Billings College Cambridge, is worried about getting a date for the May Ball. But with a rapist running loose, the academics in a battle over departmental closures, and a case of jealousy about to rear its ugly head, Danny has his hands full.

CORLEY, ELIZABETH fenwick REQUIEM MASS (#1) (\$21 expensive British import) Finally reprinted in the UK. More stock on the way, but do not hesitate to reserve your copy.

CRAWFORD, ISIS CATERED VALENTINES DAY (#4) (\$9.99) Bernie and Libby, owners of A Taste of Heaven, have plans to partner up with the Just Chocolate store for a taste-tempting Valentine's Day fundraiser featuring pairings of exotic chocolates, food and wine.

When the body of Ted Gorman, one of the owners of Just Chocolate, is found in someone else's grave, things get interesting. Ted was supposed to have died in a fiery crash weeks earlier, leaving his body nearly unrecognizable.

CRICHTON, MICHAEL NEXT (\$12.99)

CROMBIE, DEBORAH WATER LIKE A STONE (#11) (\$10.99) Finally in paperback. Rave reviews! When Scotland Yard superintendent Duncan Kincaid takes Gemma, Kit and Toby for a holiday visit to his family in Cheshire, he soon realizes that the lovely market town of his childhood holds dark and deadly secrets.

CUSSLER, CLIVE TREASURE OF KHAN (\$13.50) When Dirk Pitt is nearly killed rescuing an oil survey team from a freak wave on Russia's Lake Baikal, it appears a simple act of nature. But it isn't and all trails lead to Mongolia, and a mysterious mogul who is conducting covert deals for supplying oil to the Chinese. The Mongolian harbours a dream of restoring the conquests of his ancestors and holds a dark secret about Genghis Khan.

DEAVER, JEFFERY dance SLEEPING DOLL (#1) (\$19.99) When Special Agent Kathryn Dance, a brilliant interrogator and kinesics expert with the California Bureau of Investigation, is sent to question Daniel "Son of Manson" Pell, she feels trepidation and intrigue. Pell is serving a life sentence for the murders of a wealthy family in Carmel years earlier but when he escapes from custody and a trail of dead and injured is left behind, Dance is put in charge of his recapture. The first in a planned new series.

DEAVER, JEFFERY W stories MORE TWISTED COLLECTED STORIES VOL II (\$10.99) Sixteen more tales, including an all-new Lincoln Rhyme.

DEMILLE, NELSON WILD FIRE (\$11.99) The Custer Hill Club is a men's club set in a luxurious Adirondack hunting lodge whose members include some of America's most powerful business leaders, military men, and government officials. One fall weekend, the club's executive board gathers to finalize a retaliation plan for what happened on 9/11. That same weekend, a member of the Federal Anti-Terrorist Task Force is found dead. It's up to detective John Corey and his wife, FBI Agent Kate Mayfield, to unravel a terrifying plot that starts with the Custer Hill Club and ends with American cities locked in the crosshairs of a nuclear device.

DEVERELL, WILLIAM HIGH CRIMES (\$19.95) A merry band of Newfoundland smugglers, a multi-million dollar cargo of pot, undercover cops, double dealing, murder...loosely drawn from one of the author's most celebrated cases. First published in 1981.

DEXTER, COLIN LAST BUS TO WOODSTOCK (#1) (\$16.99) new edition of the first Insp. Morse novel.

DIBDIN, MICHAEL TRYST (\$14) Now that the UK edition is no longer available, we give you the US edition.

DICKINSON, DAVID GOODNIGHT SWEET PRINCE (#1) (\$17), DEATH AND THE JUBILEE (#2) (\$17), DEATH OF AN OLD MASTER (#3) (\$21), DEATH OF A CHANCELLOR (#4) (\$21), DEATH CALLED TO THE BAR (#5) (\$17) and DEATH ON THE

NEVSKII PROSPEKT (#6) (\$21) Bit by bit this entire series has become available in paperback. Some smuggled in from the UK, some from the US. England, late 1800s, and featuring Lord Francis Powercourt. On order, and due in February, is Death on the Holy Mountain (#8) (\$57 expensive British import). Feel free to reserve a copy now. **DICKINSON, PETER OLD ENGLISH PEEP SHOW** (\$17). Originally published in 1969 in the UK as Pride of Heroes and winner of the CWA Gold Dagger Award for the best crime novel of the year. An Insp. Jimmy Pibble novel. Terrific.

DIETRICH, WILLIAM NAPOLEON'S PYRAMIDS (\$10.99) What mystical secrets lie beneath the Great Pyramids? Who built the Great Pyramids...and why? Napoleon is on his way to conquer Egypt and Ethan Gage is with him.

DOBBS, MICHAEL FIRST LADY (\$10.99) The human drama and scandal in the corridors of power. Ginny, wronged by her philandering husband, decides that she needs to take revenge. And her revenge is going to become the wife of the Prime Minister.

DOBBS, MICHAEL LORD'S DAY (\$24.95 trade paperback, \$37.95 hardcover.) See the Hardcover section for an annotation.

DOHERTY, PAUL templar TEMPLAR (#1) (\$24.95) The trade paperback is here, the hardcover is due in about a month. 1097 and the Infidels have seized Jerusalem, and an outraged Pope Urban II has called for the Kingdom of Western Europe to march east and reclaim the Holy Land in the name of Christendom. The response is overwhelming: thousands flock to join up, eager to undertake the greatest pilgrimage of all.

DONOVAN, FELICIA BLACK WIDOW AGENCY (\$14.95) Strong, sexy, smart, and stealthy—the ladies at the Black Widow Agency aim to bring justice to wronged women like themselves using a lethal blend of computer forensics, surveillance technology and women's intuition.

DORSEY, TIM HURRICANE PUNCH (#9) (\$10.99) There seem to be more than hurricanes bearing down on the Florida peninsula. Serge thinks there is a serial killer on the loose but Agent Mahoney, just released from a mental hospital, thinks it's Serge.

[DOYLE]SARJEANT & BRADLEY MS HOLMES OF BAKER STREET (\$45) The classic

ECCLES, MARJORIE SUNSET TOUCH (\$18) Murder by fire leads Detective Gil Mayo back to a wartime story.

EDWARDS, RUTH DUDLEY CORRIDORS OF DEATH (#1) and SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY MURDERS (#2) (\$17.95) The first two Robert Amiss titles, long out of print, are now available in US trade paperback editions.

ELLISON, J T ALL THE PRETTY GIRLS (\$8.50) The Southern Strangler is slaughtering his way through the Southwest, leaving a gruesome memento at each crime scene—the previous victim's hand. Nashville Homicide Lieutenant Taylor Jackson and her lover, FBI profiler Dr. John Baldwin, find themselves in a joint investigation.

EMERSON, C J OBJECTS OF DESIRE (\$11.95) A new life in Wales has not turned out to be the rural fantasy that social worker Jess imagined when she left London. As she takes on a new case, she learns that the body of a young boy is found in the woods. Her worst nightmare becomes reality as she realizes he was a child she was supposed to protect.

EMERSON, EARL FIRETRAP (\$10.99) Captain Trey Brown is a black man in the Seattle fire department and very much a loner. When the Z-Club goes up in flames, killing more than a dozen people, all of them black, the city's African-American community demands to know if these people died because of their skin colour. Jamie Estevez, the beautiful, ambitious reporter who becomes Trey's partner in the investigation, tries to bring the lone-wolf fireman back into the world. **EVANOVICH, JANET PLUM LOVE** (\$8.99) Yes, it's a fast read, only 164 pages, but it has all the characters you love and it's a ton of fun. The publisher is calling it "A Stephanie Plum Between-the-

Numbers Novel". "It's short and sweet but what a hoot" says Marian. **EVANS, JIMMIE RUTH** BRING YOUR OWN POISON (#4) (\$9.99) With two wives dead under suspicious circumstances, no one is thrilled to see Travis Blakely getting hitched again. But to poison him as he's proposing a toast? That seems harsh.

FAIRBANKS, NANCY TURKEY FLAMBE (#10) (\$9.99) Carolyn Blue's New York launch of her first cookbook has gone up in smoke—literally. Recipes included.

FAIRSTEIN, LINDA BAD BLOOD (\$12.99) Halfway during a major trial, an explosion rips through New York City's water tunnel #3 and Assistant District Attorney Alexandra Cooper is quickly drawn into the tragedy.

FALCONER, DUNCAN PROTECTOR (\$10.99) Disillusioned after serving in Iraq, Bernie Mallory left the Royal Marines. Now he is working in private security, watching the backs of journalists and civilians in war zones around the world.

FOLLETT, KEN PILLARS OF THE EARTH (\$22) Trade paperback reissue of the classic novel about the building of Salisbury Cathedral. Prequel to World Without End (\$42).

FOLSOM, ALLAN MACHIAVELLI COVENANT (\$11.99) Former LAPD Detective Nicholas Marten, investigating the murder of his girlfriend, meets US President Harris, on the run from a murderous cabal. Together they uncover one of the most secretive and powerful groups known to the world.

FRANCOME, JOHN FREE FALL (\$10.99) Jockey Pat Vincent had ambitions to win big races and become a wealthy sporting hero. But when he realizes his career isn't going anywhere, he devises a scam to help fulfill his dreams. The problem is, if he's found out, he will be 'warned-off' for life.

FRANCOME, JOHN DARK HORSE (\$24.95 trade paperback, \$37.95 hardcover.) See the Hardcover section for an annotation.

FRAYN, MICHAEL HEADLONG (\$17) A special order.

FRAZER, MARGARET frevisse TRAITOR'S TALE (#16) (\$10.99) July 1450. Rebellious factions, determined to unseat King Henry from the throne, have been staging uprisings throughout England. Into the midst of the unrest in London, Dame Frevisse of St. Frideswide's nunnery has come to her cousin's side. Lady Alice, the widowed duchess of Suffolk, needs Frevisse's support in burying her husband as the late duke was so hated that even being in the presence of his corpse is unsafe.

FREELING, NICOLAS GUN BEFORE BUTTER (#3) (\$18) The third Piet Van der Walk.

FRENCH, TANA ryan IN THE WOODS (#1) (\$10.99) Twenty years ago, three best friends were playing in the woods during their summer holidays when something happened; only one came back. Rob Ryan, the one who came back, is now a detective on the Dublin police force. He's changed his name and no one knows about his past. Even he has no memory of what happened that day. Then a little girl's body is found at the site of the old tragedy and Rob is drawn back into the mystery. For him and his DI partner Cassie, every lead comes with its own sinister undercurrents.

FROST, JEANIENE HALFWAY TO THE GRAVE (\$9.99) Half-vampire Catherine Crawfield is going after the undead with a vengeance, hoping that one of these deadbeats is her father. He's got some 'splainin to do. "Loved it" says Marian.

FYFIELD, FRANCES ART OF DROWNING (\$10.99) When her lover proves to be a liar and a thief, Rachel Doe begins to reassess her life. While taking some art classes, she meets Ivy Wiseman and her parents and becomes quite attached to them. During the summer, she learns of the death of Ivy's first child and the disappearance of Ivy's husband and the second, surviving, child. Rachel is determined to help Ivy in her search for the two.

GABALDON, DIANA outlander BREATH OF SNOW AND ASHES (#6) (\$12.99) It is 1772, the eve of the American Revolution and the Governor of the Colony sends an envoy to Jamie Fraser asking him to help unite the people and keep the country safe for the King. But Jamie's wife, daughter and son-in-law are time travelers so he knows the outcome will be Independence. He also knows that in 1776 a small article in a newspaper reports the destruction of his house and the death by fire of him and his family.

GALENORN, YASMINE d'artigo DARKLING (#3) (\$10.99) Three sisters ridding the Otherworld of evil—one monster at a time.

GASH, JONATHAN burtonall BLOOD DANCING (#5) (\$11.95) A young prostitute on Manchester's tough streets is viciously attacked and Dr. Clare Burtonall is placed in the position of deciding whether or not to terminate her life support.

GLAZER, MELISSA MURDEROUS GLAZE (#1) (\$9.99) In Maple Ridge, VT, Carolyn Emerson plans to ease into her golden years running her paint-your-own-pottery studio, Fire at Will. But when a pesky dead body shows up in her shop, Carolyn's name may be mud... a fun debut.

GLYNN, JONNY SEVEN DAYS OF PETER CRUMB (\$14.95)

GODDARD, ROBERT NAME TO A FACE (\$27.95 trade paperback, \$37.95 hardcover.) See the Hardcover section.

GOLDBERG, LEE MR. MONK AND THE TWO ASSISTANTS (\$9.99) Novelization of the TV series.

GRABENSTEIN, CHRIS HELL FOR THE HOLIDAYS (\$18.00 trade paperback, \$33.50 hardcover.) See the Hardcover section.

GRAFTON, SUE E IS FOR EVIDENCE (\$10.99) and H IS FOR HOMICIDE (\$9.99) Two re-issues, just in time for the release of T is for Trespass (\$32.50). See *Cottage Lady's Picks*

GRAVES, SARAH TRAP DOOR (#10) (\$9.99) Summer is slowly coming to Eastport and Jake has a new project: building a dock at her lakeside cottage. When Jake and her friend Ellie are on their way to start building Jake's new dock they run into Jemmy Wechsler, an old friend of Jake's. There is a hit out on him and the man on his tail is the East Coast's most feared professional and he lives in Eastport.

GREEN, SIMON nightside HELL TO PAY (#7) (\$9.99) A special order. Fiction, fantasy.

GREGORIO, MICHAEL DAYS OF ATONEMENT (#2) (\$26)

GRIFFIN, W E B castillo HUNTERS (#3) (\$13.50) Charley Castillo returns and picks up right where The Hunter (\$13.50) left off.

Two brutal murders and millions of missing dollars in the growing UN/Iraq oil-for-food scandal have led Castillo and his team to an estancia in Uruguay, where the man they seek is murdered right before their eyes. Sequel to By Order of the President (\$10.99).

GRIMES, MARTHA jury DUST (#21) (\$13.50) An old friend pulls Richard Jury into the investigation of a wealthy bachelor's murder. Melrose Plant helps with the investigation in a small town called Rye (*I've been there—Marian*) as Jury does his best to stay out of the way of the case's inspecting officer, the beautiful and forbidding Lu Aguilar.

GRIPPANDO, JAMES swytech WHEN DARKNESS FALLS (#6) (\$10.99) Miami criminal lawyer Jack Swytech is called to defend a homeless man named Falcon. Where does Falcon get the \$10G bail money in cash? Then the body of a murdered woman is found in the boot of the abandoned car in which he is living. Panicked and on the run, Falcon takes Jack's best friend, Theo, hostage.

GRISHAM, JOHN INNOCENT MAN (\$11.99) This is the true story of how the justice system really works in America. In 1982, a twenty-one-year-old cocktail waitress in Ada, Oklahoma, was raped and murdered. Five years later the police arrested and charged former major league baseball player Ron Williamson and his friend Dennis Fritz. Fritz was sentenced to life in prison and Williamson to Death Row. But did they really kill her? This book reads like a novel

but is a work of non-fiction.

HADDON, MARK CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME (\$10.99) Now in mass market. Fifteen-year-old Christopher Boone is autistic and a keen mathematician. Routine, ritual, and order shelter him from a world where he has no understanding of human emotion. When his neighbour's dog is found impaled on a garden fork, and he is initially blamed for the killing, he decides to track down the real killer and turns to his favourite fictional character, the impeccably logical Sherlock Holmes, for inspiration. A debut novel. Excellent. Delightful.

HAIBLUM, ISIDORE MURDER IN GOTHAM (\$9.99) The sequel to New York Confidential (\$9.99) featuring the uncle and nephew team of Weiss & Weiss, Private Investigators. Junior may be learning his trade from his uncle, a New York PI with a colourful career that dates back decades, but why do his current cases keep harkening back to his uncle's cases of New York of the 1940s?

HALLETT, MICHELLE BUTLER DOUBLE BLIND (\$19.95)

HAMILTON, LAURELL K MISTRAL'S KISS (#5) (\$10.99) Princess Meredith Genty has been commanded to produce an heir...

HAMILTON, LYN CHINESE ALCHEMIST (#11) (\$10.99) Antiques dealer Lara McClintoch is asked by a friend to purchase a silver box from the eighth century T'ang dynasty at a New York auction. Etched with an alchemical formula for immortality, the extremely rare box may sell for a ton of money. But the box is pulled from the auction at the last minute and when it comes up for sale in China a few months later, Lara is once more sent to bid on it. But the box is stolen, the thief is murdered and Lara lands herself in the middle of another mystery. Lara's story is beautifully interwoven with a love story from the eighth century when the box was created.

HARPER, KAREN HOODED HAWKE (#9) (\$8.99) Queen Elizabeth I and her continuing adventures as amateur sleuth.

HARPER, TOM LOST TEMPLE (\$11.99) For three thousand years, the world's most dangerous treasure has been lost. Now the code that reveals its hiding place is about to be broken. From the author of the Demetrios Askiates novels Mosaic of Shadows and Knights of the Cross (\$11.99 each).

HARRIS, C S WHEN GODS DIE (#2) (\$9.99) The second in the Sebastian St. Cyr series, set in England of the 1800s. Marian quite liked the first one, What Angels Fear (\$9.99).

HARRIS, CHARLAINE REAL MURDERS (#2) (\$10.99) A re-issue of the second novel featuring Southern librarian Aurora Teagarden. The first, Bone To Pick (\$10.99) is going to be re-issued in February 2008.

HARRISON, KIM FOR A FEW DEMONS MORE (\$10.99)

HARROD-EAGLES, C BURNING ROSES (#29) (\$10.99) The Morland family has already suffered loss and hardship in the first months of the First World War, but what new dangers lie ahead?

HART, ELLEN lawless NIGHT VISION (#14) (\$17.25) Joanna Kasimir, an old friend of Jane Lawless, calls on her help and that of former homicide detective A.J. Nolan, when a former lover starts stalking her again, after he is released from prison.

HART, MATTHEW IRISH GAME (\$22) A special order.

HASLAM, CHRIS EL SID (\$18) Seven tons of missing Spanish gold and the three ne'er do wells who are keen to liberate the treasure and live happily ever after. Britain's answer to **Carl Hiaasen**.

HENDERSON, JACK CIRCUMFERENCE OF DARKNESS (\$9.99) A debut thriller that delivers a gripping tale of Big Brother gone mad amid a world in peril.

HEWSON, DAVID costa SEVENTH SACRAMENT (#5) (\$9.99)

The whole gang is back in Rome where Nic Costa has to solve a cold case: the disappearance of a young boy fourteen years ago.

"Brilliant" says Marian. One of *Marian's Picks* a year or so ago.

HIAASEN, CARL NATURE GIRL (\$16.25) Ever fantasized about

tracking down one of these telemarketing creeps and turning the tables on them—phoning their house every night at dinner and see how they like it? **Carl Hiaasen** obviously has, as that's what he does in this novel. His heroine, the lovely Honey Santana, is going to teach Boyd Shreave, the telemarketer in our story, a lesson. Great fun.

HIGASHINO, KEIGO NAOKO (\$19.95)

HILL, REGINALD dalziel CLUBBABLE WOMAN (#1) (\$16.95) The US edition in trade paperback and with an introduction by the author. The best.

HILLERMAN, TONY leaphorn SHAPE SHIFTER (\$12.99) With Jim Chee and Bernie Manuelito just back from their honeymoon, retired Navajo Tribal policeman Joe Leaphorn is pretty much on his own solving an old case. The original case involved a priceless, one-of-a-kind Navajo rug supposedly destroyed in a fire. Suddenly, what looks like the same rug turns up in a magazine spread. And the man who brings the photo to the attention of Leaphorn has gone missing.

HOEG, PETER SMILLA'S SENSE OF SNOW (\$21) A reissue.

HOGAN, CHUCK KILLING MOON (\$17.50) Donald Maddox, a man with no law enforcement background, indeed a man with no background at all, returns to his hometown after fifteen years to find himself employed as an auxiliary patrolman on a local police force known to inspire more fear than trust in its citizenry. When a brutal murder shatters the isolation of this forgotten place, triggering the arrival of state homicide detectives and a town-wide manhunt, both the local police and Maddox appear to have something to hide.

HUNT, STEPHEN COURT OF THE AIR (\$17.95) When street-wise Molly Templar witnesses a murder at the brothel she has been apprenticed to, her first instinct is to run to the poorhouse where she grew up. But she finds all the orphans there murdered and she realizes that whoever did it was looking for her. Oliver Brooks is framed for the murder of his only relative and is forced to flee for his life. The two find themselves battling a grave threat to civilization, an ancient power thought to have been quelled millennia ago.

HURLEY, GRAHAM faraday ONE UNDER (#7) (\$10.99) To leave Portsmouth for London, Detective Inspector Joe Faraday must try to unravel the most gruesome of crime scenes. The earlier books in this great series are Turnstone, The Take, Angel's Passing, Deadlight, Cut To Black, and Blood and Honey (\$10.99 each).

HYZY, JULIE STATE OF THE ONION (\$10.99) A new culinary series set in the White House. See *Marian's Picks*.

IRONSIDE, ELIZABETH VERY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE (\$17)

Dull and fussily fastidious civil servant Hugo Frencham is found furiously stabbed to death with antique ritual daggers. And, he dies having amassed a fortune in priceless collection of Tibetan artifacts and a bulging bank account. Neither becoming of the British diplomatic corps.

ISLEIB, ROBERTA PREACHING TO THE CORPSE (#2) (\$9.99)

It's Christmas in postcard-perfect Guilford, Connecticut, but the season is anything but peaceful. When a church member dies under suspicious circumstances, the minister starts looking for a higher power... psychologist/advice columnist Dr. Rebecca Buttermann.

JACKSON, JOSHILYN GODS IN ALABAMA (\$8.50) When Arlene Fleet goes off to college she promises God that she'll stop fornicating and lying, and never, ever go back to her hometown in Alabama. All God has to do is make sure the body is never found. Ten years later, God has broken the deal.

JANCE, J A ali reynolds WEB OF EVIL (#2) (\$10.99) Ali Reynolds's cheating husband is in a hurry for a divorce and the TV station that fired her for being over forty will face her in court as well. So Ali returns to LA. As she passes the site of a horrifying accident, she thanks goodness it's no longer her job to report the news but she finds out the victim was her husband who had been bound in the boot of the car. Sequel to Edge of Evil (\$10.99).

JANCE, J A ali reynolds HAND OF EVIL (#3) (\$19.99 trade paperback, \$29.99 hardcover.) See the Hardcover section.

JARDINE, QUINTIN blackstone FOR THE DEATH OF ME (#9) (\$10.99) It's summertime in Monaco and international film star Oz Blackstone is hit up by a struggling author to buy the movie rights to his novel for \$50,000 and a shocking trap is laid. Blackmail and murder are lurking in the shadow.

JAUNCEY, JAMES WITNESS (\$19.99)

JONES, MERRY zoe hayes RIVER KILLINGS (#2) (\$8.99) On summer vacation from her job as an art therapist, Zoe Hayes and her best friend, Susan Cummings, take a sculling class for fun. One evening, while her adopted six-year-old daughter, Molly, waits with Susan's children, Zoe and Susan flip their boat and find themselves in deep water with a whole bunch of floating bodies. The first in the series is The Nanny Murders (\$9.99).

JORDAN, R T pepper REMAINS TO BE SCENE (#1) (\$9.99) Polly Pepper is a living Hollywood legend complete with her own star on the Walk of Fame. But that was thirty years ago. Now she is being offered a chance to audition in a teen musical competing against her arch rival, Sedra Stone, for the part of the grandmother. Sedra gets the part and Polly is incensed. But soon Sedra is dead after falling from the diving platform into an empty pool so Polly gets the part. It's now up to Polly, her son Tim and their sassy maid Placenta to find the killer.

KAMINSKY, STUART fonesca ALWAYS SAY GOODBYE (#5) (\$16.25) The latest Lew Fonesca novel in trade paperback.

KAMINSKY, STUART DEATH OF A DISSIDENT (#1) and BLACK KNIGHT IN RED SQUARE (#2) (\$18 ea) The first two Rostnikov novels, now back in print in elegant trade paperback.

KAPLAN, JANICE LOOKS TO DIE FOR (#1) (\$16) Lacy Fields has a killer instinct for tracking down priceless antique furniture. Will those same skills help her uncover the murderer of the young wannabe actress? The one that the police have arrested her plastic-surgeon husband for?

KAVA, ALEX ONE FALSE MOVE (\$8.99)

KAVA, ALEX maggie odell NECESSARY EVIL (#5) (\$9.50) Someone is killing priests in a cold, calculated manner and FBI special agent Maggie O'Dell may have figured out a link: an internet game that's popular among victims of abuse by Catholic priests.

KELLERMAN, JESSE TROUBLE (\$10.99) Young, idealistic and overworked, Jonah Stem is living the lonely life of a medical student in New York City when he accidentally stumbles across a murder in progress. Without thinking, Jonah rushes to intervene and inadvertently kills the woman's attacker. Thrust into the media spotlight, crushed by guilt, Jonah learns that heroism isn't all it's cracked up to be. Sunstroke (\$10.99) is the first book he wrote.

KELLERMAN, JONATHAN & FAY CAPITAL CRIMES

(\$12.99) Novellas with appearances by LAPD lieutenant Pete Decker and psychologist Dr. Alex Delaware.

KELMAN, JUDITH FIRST STONE (\$10.99) Cardiac surgeon and upstairs neighbour, Dr. Malik, has certainly made an impression on Emma Colten. But she's afraid to say anything as Malik is also her husband's boss. But is Malik dangerous?

KENT, ALEXANDER DARKENING SEA (#20) (\$19) First published in 1993, this is the US trade paperback edition of the twentieth Bolitho.

KING, LAURIE R russell MOOR (#4) (\$16.25) The mass market editions of the first four Mary Russell are now out of print and are being replaced by elegant trade paperbacks.

KINGSBURY, KATE pennyfoot SLAY BELLS (#14) (\$9.99) and SHROUDS OF HOLLY (\$16.50) The two most recent entries in the Pennyfoot Hotel series. Both with Christmas themes.

KINGSOLVER, BARBARA BEAN TREES (\$10.99) A special order.

KOONTZ, DEAN BROTHER ODD (\$10.99) Trouble has a way of finding Brother Odd at St. Bartholomew's Abbey in the wild peaks of California's High Sierra. Odd Thomas (\$11.99) and Forever Odd (\$10.99) are the first two.

LAKEMAN, THOMAS weaver SHADOW CATCHERS (#1) (\$8.99) FBI Special Agent Mike Yeager was suspended when his latest case, a child kidnapping, ended tragically. He can't forgive himself so he runs away to the mountains of Nevada in an attempt to forget. In the small town of San Cristobal, a child was killed accidentally, so it seemed, before Mike arrived. The day after he arrives an adult is murdered and soon another child disappears. Mike is the best person to investigate. A debut novel.

LAMB, JOHN CRAFTY TEDDY (#3) (\$9.99) The third adventure for retired San Francisco cop Brad Lyon, who was hoping to settle into retirement in Virginia's mountain country where he and his wife collect and create teddy bears. But even here, stuff happens... Sequel to The Mournful Teddy and False Hearted Teddy (\$9.99 each).

LANDAY, WILLIAM STRANGLER (\$9.99) It's 1963 and the Boston Strangler is on the loose. For the three Daley brothers, sons of a Boston cop, crime is the family business. They are simply on different sides of the law but are forced to take sides to survive.

LARSSON, ASA BLOOD SPILT (\$13.50) A female priest has been found hanging in her church in northern Sweden and lawyer Rebecka Martinsson investigates as police and parishioners try to pick up the pieces. Not long ago, Rebecka had to kill three men in order to stop an eerily similar murder spree, one that also involved a priest. Her first book translated, Sun Storm (\$13.50 trade paperback), won Sweden's award for Best First Mystery.

LEATHER, STEPHEN shepherd HOT BLOOD (#4) (\$24.95 trade paperback, \$10.99 mass market) Undercover cop Dan "Spider" Shepherd's continuing adventures.

LEIGH, LORA DANGEROUS GAMES (\$8.99) A special order. When this hot, hard-bodied Navy SEAL plays around, he means business...oh spare me!

LEON, DONNA FATAL REMEDIES (#8) (\$9.50) And then there were three...still only available in the expensive British import editions are Friends in High Places (#9), Sea of Trouble (#10), and Wilful Behaviour (#11) (\$21 each).

LESCROART, JOHN T wyatt SUSPECT (#2) (\$13.50) Gina Roake, a partner in Dismas Hardy's firm, is eager to defend Stuart Gorman who is accused of murdering his wife. It seems that his innocence should be easy to prove but the more she looks into the case, the more complicated it becomes. She calls in Wyatt Hunt to investigate and more and more it looks like Gorman is guilty. The first one is Hunt Club (\$13.50).

LITTELL, ROBERT VICIOUS CIRCLE (\$16.50) The story takes place in the near future where the global community, united under the leadership of a visionary female president of the US, brokers a major compromise between Israel and the Palestinian Authority in the hopes of snuffing out the flames of global terrorism. But then, Isaac Apfulbaun, a well-known fundamentalist Rabbi, is taken hostage by Dr. al-Saath, a legendary Palestinian terrorist, who demands the release of scores of Palestinian political prisoners in exchange for his hostage. Vicious circle, indeed.

LOVESEY, PETER BERTIE AND THE CRIME OF PASSION (#3) (\$18) Sequel to Bertie and the Seven Bodies (\$18). Bertie, the future King Edward VII, exercising his beloved sleuthing skills.

LUDLUM, ROBERT BANCROFT STRATEGY (\$11.99) Todd Belknap, a legendary field agent for Consular Operations with a reputation as a cowboy, is cut loose from the agency after an operation goes wrong. At the same time Jared Rinehart, his best friend and

fellow agent, is kidnapped in Lebanon by a militia group with a vicious reputation. When the government refuses to either rescue Rinehart or negotiate for his release, Belknap decides to take matters into his own hands.

LUTZ, JOHN IN FOR THE KILL (\$9.99) Another Frank Quinn investigation. A madman is stalking women in the city and when the last names of the victims spell out “Quinn”, our detective has to be on his toes.

MACALISTER, KATIE HOLY SMOKES (\$10.99) Paranormal romance. “Hold on a second here...there may be romance but there is also a ton of action, an interesting plot and a wacky demon who takes the form of a huge black Newfoundland dog. Dragons take on human form and our human heroine is a Guardian.” says Marian.

MACBRIDE, STUART logan BROKEN SKIN (#3) (\$10.99) There’s a rapist prowling Aberdeen’s cold granite streets. But while DS Logan McRae’s girlfriend is out acting as bait, he’s dealing with the blood drenched body of an unidentified male, dumped outside the emergency room. A terrific series. Sequel to Cold Granite, and Dying Light (\$10.99 each).

MCCAMMON, ROBERT QUEEN OF BEDLAM (#2) (\$18.99) A solid, well described book, coming in at just under 650 pages, but well worth each one. It has everything! A main character with a grudge against the corrupt governor of the orphanage he grew up in, a clandestine group known as the Herrald Agency, a headstrong love interest who’s nothing but bad luck to those around her, a conspiracy to take over the world through a secret university, and, of course “The Masker”, a serial killer that has kept the inhabitants of New York rushing home before curfew in fear of being the next victim. A ton of plots and ideas swirling around in this novel but the author keeps them all straight and weaves them into an excellent read. One of *LeeAnne’s Picks* recently.

MCCARRY, CHARLES MIERNIK DOSSIER (\$17.50) Classic US espionage writing. About time he was available in paperback.

MACDONALD, ROSS BARBAROUS COAST and DOOMSTERS (\$15.50 each) Two more re-issues.

MC GEE, JAMES RESURRECTIONIST (#2) (\$15.95) A new term at London’s anatomy schools stokes demand for fresh corpses and the city’s “resurrection men” vie for control of the market. Their rivalry takes an ugly turn when a grave robber is murdered and his body displayed as a warning to other gangs. Bow Street Runner Matthew Hawkwood is on their trail. Sequel to Ratcatcher (\$10.99).

MACKEN, JOHN reuben DIRTY LITTLE LIES (#1) (\$11.99) Reuben Maitland runs the UK’s most elite crime squad, working only on the highest-profile cases, tracking down the most vicious criminals. But now they are in danger. A killer is using their own techniques against them. Reuben must find the killer before his team is eradicated. A debut novel. We still have a couple of the UK first editions left at \$34.95 or \$40.00 for a **signed copy**.

MCKINTY, ADRIAN forsythe BLOOMSDAY DEAD (#3) (\$9.99) Lying low in South America, Michael has been running security for the Miraflores Hilton in Lima. His colourful life comes to a crashing halt when two Columbian hit men show up and force him to take a call from Bridget Callaghan in Ireland. Michael and Bridget used to be lovers and Michael killed Bridget’s fiance but now she needs him to help find her daughter. After arriving back in Ireland, in the span of a single day, he penetrates the heart of an IRA network, is kidnapped, escapes, then worms his way into a criminal underground in search of the missing girl. Dead I Well May Be (\$9.50) and The Dead Yard (\$9.99) are the first two in the series.

MCNAB, ANDY CROSSFIRE (\$29.95) Sold out, more on the way.

MAJZELS, ROBERT APIKOROS SLEUTH (\$19.95)

MAJZELS, ROBERT HUMBUGS DIET (\$18.95) At the Keter Gardens, an upscale retirement home on the banks of the Hudson

River, state-funded charity cases are taking up far too many rooms that could be leased out at far higher rates and residents are not freeing up those rooms quickly enough. But would they resort to defenestration? (*Big word!*—Marian) Ex-cop and current resident, Rotus Mazal, investigates.

MALCOLM, JOHN BACK ROOM IN SOMERS TOWN (#1) (\$17) Finally back in print. The first Tim Simpson novel. Tim has been hired by a London merchant bank to buy art—as an investment—for its obscenely wealthy clients.

MANN, JESSICA MYSTERY WRITER (\$11.95)

MARKLUND, LIZA PRIME TIME (\$21) More on the way. Translated from the Swedish.

MARSTON, EDWARD railway RAILWAY VIADUCT (#3) (\$12.95) 1852. Whilst painting the magnificent Sankey Viaduct, someone witnesses the body of a man plummeting from a speeding train into the murky canal below. After the body is recovered, it is discovered the victim had been killed by a knife through the heart. Inspector Robert Colbeck and his assistant Sergeant Victor Leeming have trouble identifying the man and can find no witnesses to the murder. They travel to France to search for answers. Sequel to The Railway Detective and Excursion Train (\$12.95 each).

MARTINEZ, MICHELE vargas COVER UP (#3) (\$10.99) Television reporter Suzanne Shepard was a ruthless celebrity scandalmonger with a roster of high-profile enemies. But which one left her mutilated, lifeless body in the dark recesses of New York’s Central Park? Federal prosecutor Melanie Vargas needs to find out.

MASSEY, SUJATA GIRL IN A BOX (#9) (\$16.50) Japanese-American sleuth Rei Shimura takes a job working undercover at a Tokyo department store. It’s a tricky and risky assignment but it gives Rei a chance to indulge in her shopping impulses. When her cover is blown, she is in big trouble.

MAY, PETER enzo EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE (#1) (\$17.95) A new series featuring Enzo Macleod, a biologist teaching in Toulouse. Wonderful, says Marian. See *Marian’s Picks*.

MEIER, LESLIE lucy stone BAKE SALE MURDER (#13) (\$9.99) When Mimi doesn’t show up for her shift at The Hat and Mitten Fund bake sale, Lucy Stone goes looking and finds Mimi face down on her kitchen floor with a knife in her back.

MELTON, MARLISS NEXT TO DIE (\$9.99) The man who killed Penny’s father, and got away with it, now has Penny in his sights. Her only salvation is the drunken playboy next door—Navy SEAL Joe Montgomery. From the author of Time to Run and In the Dark (\$9.50 ea.)

MEYER, STEPHENIE TWILIGHT (#1) (\$10.99) A young adult series that Marian has taken a fancy to. One of *Marian’s Picks* in the November 2007 newsletter. New Moon (\$20.99) and Eclipse (\$21.99 ea.) follow. Vampires, werewolves, Native American folklore... Terrific stuff.

MICHAELS, KASEY BOWLED OVER (#6) (\$17.50) The hunky hero of mystery author Maggie Kelly’s novels, Alexandre Blake, has miraculously come to life and is talking of sweeping her straight down the aisle! Good thing someone dies. I’m confused.

MONING, KAREN MARIE DARKFEVER (#1) (\$9.99) A special order.

MORETON, CASEY HIT AND RUN (\$9.50) Allan Adler knows his son Steven, a junior at Harvard, did not commit the murder he is accused of. Using blackmail as leverage, he hopes to clear his son. Twenty years ago, he was the chauffeur for a Pentagon official named Getty Fairfield and had been privy to Fairfield’s affair with a sexy Russian spy. Now Fairfield is the president’s choice for chief justice of the US Supreme Court.

MORGAN, KAYE liza kelly MURDER BY NUMBERS (#2) (\$9.99) From the author of Death by Sudoku (\$9.99) and, as you

would suspect, this one contains a number of sudoku puzzles. Hollywood, inflated egos, starlets, murder...

MORRIS, BOB BERMUDA SCHWARTZ (\$8.99) Knock-about palm-tree farmer Zack Chasteen and his inscrutable Taino associate, Boggy, have been dragged to Bermuda by his lady love, Barbara Pickering, to help her throw a 75th birthday party for her aunt. While there Zack drops by the bank to check on his money, a couple of million dollars earned in recent exploits, but discovers it is missing and the bankers can't seem to explain where it is or who might have it. Sequel to Bahamarama and Jamaica Me Dead (\$9.99 each).

MORTIMER, JOHN rumpole RUMPOLE AND THE PENGE BUNGALOW MURDERS (\$16) A slightly cheaper edition.

MOSSE, KATE SEPULCHRE (\$24.95 trade paperback, \$37.95 hardcover.) See the Hardcover section for an annotation.

MOWLL, JOSHUA OPERATION RED JERICHO (\$11.50)

Joshua's elderly aunt dies leaving him a vault full of documents and an 80-year-old mystery. So, as requested, Joshua's off to Shanghai of the 20s. Young adult.

MURPHY, SHIRLEY ROUSSEAU CAT PAY THE DEVIL (#12) (\$9.99) Two of their closest friends are kidnapped so felines Joe Grey and Dulcie, with the help of Kit, investigate.

MYERS, TAMAR pa dutch HELL HATH NO CURRY (#15) (\$9.99) Three days before he is to marry Priscilla Livingood, eligible bachelor Cornelius Weaver suffers a massive heart attack, in another woman's bed. It seems that the philandering Cornelius had promised to wed no fewer than five women. Mennonite innkeeper Magdalena Yoder investigates. Includes curry recipes.

NABB, MAGDALEN DEATH OF AN ENGLISHMAN (#1) and DEATH OF A DUTCHMAN (#2) (\$14.50ea) The first two Marshal Guarnaccia novels now available.

NICHOL, JAMES W MIDNIGHT CAB (\$10.99) Originally produced as 35 radio episodes, we now have the novelised version of this drama. Nineteen year old Walker Devereaux is in Toronto to discover why he was abandoned when he was three.

NONAMI, ASA NOW YOU'RE ONE OF US (\$15.95) All families have their quirks and eccentricities. But Noriki, recently married to the son of the family, is discovering a few special things that are making her particularly uneasy. Is she just imagining things? Think Rebecca (\$18.50) or Rosemary's Baby (\$10.99).

NOORT, SASKIA DINNER CLUB (\$18) Someone is poisoning the smug world of the dinner club members and picking them off, one by one. Translated from the Dutch. This novel topped the Dutch best seller-list.

O'DONNELL, PATRICK oxnard OF DOGGEREL AND THE DEAN (#3) (\$19) PI Phil Oxnard's third investigation deals with a rash of campus robberies.

O'DONNELL, PETER MODESTY BLAISE: DEATH TRAP (\$24.95) A graphic novel.

OLSON, KAREN DEAD OF THE DAY (#3) (\$9.99) A writer to keep your eye on and one that Marian has liked a great deal. Sacred Cows (#1) (\$8.99) and Secondhand Smoke (#2) (\$29.99) are the earlier adventures of police reporter Annie Seymour. "I really enjoyed reading Sacred Cows and Dead of the Day. I don't remember why I didn't read the 2nd novel but I didn't." says Marian.

PALMER, MICHAEL FIFTH VIAL (\$11.99) If you've ever wondered who ends with the blood samples you routinely give and what else they are used for, get this book for some answers.

PARKER, BARBARA PERFECT FAKE (\$10.99) Good fun says Samantha. See *Samantha's Picks*.

PARSONS, JULIE HOURLASS (\$9.99) Beyond high iron gates fastened with a length of chain lies stark, beautiful Trawbawn. Inhabited by the frail and mysterious Lydia Beauchamp, her existence is interrupted when a stranger arrives who becomes her contact with the

outside world. When Lydia sets him a challenge, he accepts. He must travel to Dublin to find her estranged daughter.

PATTERSON, JAMES MAXIMUM RIDE (#2) SCHOOLS OUT FOREVER (\$10.99) A young adult book.

PEACE, DAVID TOKYO YEAR ZERO (\$26) A terrific read. Part of a proposed trilogy. If you want a look at what life was like for the residents of Tokyo in the years after the end of WWII... as **James Ellroy** did for LA and as **David Peace** did earlier on for Yorkshire of the late '70s and early '80s. Terrific.

PEARS, IAIN argyll GIOTTO'S HAND (#5), DEATH AND RESTORATION (#6), and IMMACULATE DECEPTION (#7) (\$15.95 ea.) Three reissues in attractive trade paperback editions.

PICKENS, CATHY HOG WILD (#3) (\$8.99) Lawyer Avery Andrews has returned to her home town where the most exciting bit of news is that of a runaway pig. Her new office is still in disorder when Maggy Avinger arrives, clutching a copy of her dead husband's letter to his lawyer. He's made arrangements for an enormous stone angel to be erected at his grave and for the angel's plaque to read that Maggy murdered him. His doctor says her husband died of lung cancer. Avery investigates. The first two in the series are Southern Fried and Done Gone Wrong (\$9.99 each).

PIESMAN, MARISSA PERSONAL EFFECTS (#2) (\$18) Reissue. Sequel to Unorthodox Practices (\$18) The first two Nina Fischman stories are now available, so get started.

POLIQUIN, DANIEL SECRET BETWEEN US (\$22.95)

PORTER, ANNA HIDDEN AGENDA (\$10.99) Reissue. First published in 1985.

POWERS, TIM THREE DAYS TO NEVER (\$10.99) When twelve-year-old Daphne Marrity takes a video labeled Pee-wee's Big Adventure from her grandmother's house, neither she nor her college professor father, Frank, has any idea that the theft has drawn the attention of both the Israeli Secret Service and an ancient European cabal of occultists, or that within hours they'll be visited by her long-lost grandfather, who is also desperate to get the tape back.

PRESTON, DOUGLAS TYRANNOSAUR CANYON (\$10.99) Cutting-edge science and high adventure: missing moon rocks, fire bolts that hit the earth eons ago, a dark agency with a deadly mission....

PUZO & WINEGARDNER, MARK GODFATHERS REVENGE (\$13.50) This is the conclusion of the Godfather saga conceived by Mario Puzo. The Corleone family moves into national politics in a big way. The Corleone saga started, of course, with **Mario Puzo's** The Godfather (\$10.99).

RADLEY, SHEILA CHIEF INSPECTOR'S DAUGHTER (#2) sequel to Death in the Morning (#1) (\$18 each). The first two Insp. Quantrill novels first published in 1978 and 1980.

RAYBOURN, DEANNA SILENT IN THE GRAVE (#1) (\$8.50) Set in upper-class Victorian England, Lady Julia Grey believes her husband's death was due to a long standing illness and she is quite upset when dark and dashing handsome private inquiry agent Nicholas Brisbane suggests that Sir Edward was murdered. The book evokes images of very posh houses and high society and Marian quite enjoyed reading it. In fact it was one of her *Picks*.

RAYNE, SARAH SPIDER LIGHT (\$9.99) Spider light, the time just around dusk, was not the time to be near the Latchkill Asylum. And memories of that time and place are vaguely disturbing for Antonia Weston.

RENDELL, RUTH WATER'S LOVELY (\$10.99) Nine years after her stepfather was found dead in the bathroom, Heather and her sister still live in the same house, the two of them on the main floor, their mother and aunt upstairs. But Ms. Rendell has a way of intertwining lives as private as these, where secrets hang in the air, with other worlds and other lives.

RICE, CHRISTOPHER LIGHT BEFORE DAY (\$9.50)

RICHARDS, EMILIE BEWARE FALSE PROFITS (#3) (\$9.99)

The third in the Aggie Sloan-Wilcox and her minister husband series. They were praying for a relaxing weekend until a member of their Emerald Spring church vanished...

RICKMAN, PHIL watkins REMAINS OF AN ALTAR (#8)

(\$11.95) Merrily Watkins, parish priest, single mom and Deliverance Consultant to the Diocese of Hereford, heads for the Malvern Hills to investigate an alleged paranormal dimension to a spate of road accidents in the village of Wychehill.

RIPLEY, MIKE ANGELS SHARE (#15) (\$11.95) Angel is slowly adjusting to the pressures of working as a PI. It's just getting to work *every day* that he still has not come to grips with.

ROBERTS, DAVID corinth QUALITY OF MERCY (#7) (\$18)

When the Nazis seize Austria in March 1938, Verity Brown, the New Gazette's correspondent in Vienna, is one of the first to be deported as a well-know anti-Facist. She and Lord Edward Corinth investigate two murders, one of which takes place at Broadlands, Lord Louis Mountbatten's country house.

ROBERTS, WENDY REMAINS OF THE DEAD (#1) (\$9.99)

Sadie Novak owns a crime scene cleanup company, and there's not much sexier than that! On top of that, she can see and talk to the ghosts of the victims. Surely, she can use this skill to help solve crimes. "And she does...not a bad read. I'd read more," says Marian.

ROSE, MICHAEL delaney BURMA EFFECT (#2) (\$10.99) In the second Frank Delaney thriller, sequel to Mazovia Legacy (\$10.99), the Montreal-based investigative journalist and sometime spy is assigned by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service to locate one of their agents who has gone missing in Bangkok. "A first-rate thriller"—*Edmonton Journal* said of the first one.

ROZAN, S J IN THIS RAIN (\$13.50 Three years ago, a child's death blew open a vortex of corruption inside Manhattan's lucrative construction industry. And it sent one innocent man to jail. Joe Cole, a former city investigator, now lives in isolation, cut off from the world. A woman's murder and a teenager's rooftop freefall rip open old wounds but Joe, along with investigator Ann Montgomery, delve into the cover-ups and secret relationships that allow the powerful to hide their crimes.

RYAN, P B BUCKET OF ASHES (#6) (\$10.99) Boston governess Nell Sweeney's past is about to catch up with her. 1870.

RYAN, ROBERT DYING DAY (\$14.95) It's 1948 London, and Laura McGill is waiting on a street corner in Piccadilly with a colt .32 in her handbag. She is desperate to find out what happened to her sister Diana and she'll kidnap her target from the Home Office if he won't give her more information. Both Laura and Diana were Special Operation Executive spies during WWII. One night in 1944, Diana was flown into occupied France and has never returned. Marian has taken a copy of this to read but has not yet reported back. Inspired by true events. "I can now report. It is a great read, lots of atmosphere especially about how frustrating it must have been for people trying to find family members after the end of the war. I loved the story".

SAINTCROW, LILITH TO HELL AND BACK (#5) (\$8.50) A special order.

SAKEY, MARCUS BLADE ITSELF (\$8.99) Years ago, Danny Carter and his best friend, Evan, earned their reputations by knocking over pawnshops and liquor stores on the south side of Chicago. Then a gun blast changes everything. Danny avoids prison and builds a new world for himself. Evan, who does time without giving up Danny, decides he's entitled to some of what Danny has. Things come to a head when Evan gets out of jail. How far will Danny go to protect everything he loves? A debut novel.

SANDFORD, JOHN davenport SHADOW PREY (#2) (\$10.99) A reissue of the second Lucas Davenport novel, with a new introduction by the author.

SANSOM, C J hardlake DISSOLUTION (#1) and DARK FIRE

(#2) (\$13.99 each). Handsome trade paperback editions of the first two novels in this excellent, excellent series. Featuring hunch-backed lawyer Matthew Shardlake and set during the time of Henry VIII and dissolution of the monasteries. One of Marian's favourites. The third entry in the series is Sovereign (\$9.99) and the fourth Revelation (\$34.95 and \$17.99) is due in April.

SCHAFFER, DYLAN I RIGHT THE WRONGS (\$19.95) Despite his recent success in the courtroom, Gordon Seegerman is intent on sticking to his low-end practice, handling misdemeanors for the Santa Rita, California, public defender's office. His priority is his Manilow cover band, which is on the verge of hitting it big. But when the cops bust the state's leading high school quarterback for dognapping and possession of marijuana, and then the dog's owner's wife ends up dead, Gordon finds himself back in the wrong sort of spotlight. Sequel to (Misdemeanor Man (\$19.95 trade pb)).

SCHWEGEL, THERESA PROBABLE CAUSE (\$8.99) As part of an initiation, Chicago police officer Ray Weiss is asked to break into a jewelry store by his senior partner and steal a few pieces. Of course, it all goes wrong.

SEYMOUR, GERALD WALKING DEAD (\$11.99). On a bright spring morning two men's paths will cross. One is a terrorist/freedom fighter and the other a policeman. Both will have had cause to question the roads they've chosen. Win or lose, neither will be the same again... And two recent reissues: Heart of Danger (\$18) and, Kingfisher (\$16).

SIMENON, GEORGES INSPECTOR CADAVER (\$14.50) and

MAIGRET AND THE MAN ON THE BOULEVARD (\$15) Two reissues.

SMITH, ALEXANDER MCCALL LOVE OVER SCOTLAND (#3) Sequel to 44 Scotland Street and Espresso Tales (\$21 each.)

SMITH, MARK HASKELL MOIST, SALTY (\$17.50 each) and DELICIOUS (\$15.50). Told you how much fun these three are in the last newsletter.

SMITH, MARTIN CRUZ arkady RED SQUARE (#3) (\$18) First published in 1995, now reissued in trade paperback.

SOUTHIN, GWENDOLYN IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH (\$18) The second Margaret Spencer mystery, sequel to Death in a Family Way (\$24).

SPILLANE, MICKEY DEAD STREET (\$8.99) The final crime novel from the king of pulp fiction, Mike Hammer's daddy. Featuring NYPD cop Jack Stang. Not sure what "Prepared for Publication by Max Allan Collins" means exactly, but that's what it says...

SPRING, MICHELLE NIGHT LAWYER (\$10.99) Three years ago, after the violent death of her father and the abandonment by her married lover, Eleanor Porter fell apart. But with determination and courage, and with the newfound discipline of karate, she shed some pounds, reshaped her appearance, bought herself a modest home and now has herself a job as "night lawyer" for the London tabloid, Chronicle. Eleanor has to protect her employer from lawsuits. But one by one, problems emerge and she finds herself being stalked.

SPURRIER, SIMON CONTRACT (\$16.95) Michael Point is a conservative sort of guy, thoughtful, methodical and well spoken. He also happens to kill people for a living. But it's nothing personal, it's a living. He does it for the money. But he must be loosing his touch. His hits are coming back to life and trying to kill him. What gives?

STABENOW, DANA shugak DEEPER SLEEP (#15) (\$8.99) Kate Shugak, a private investigator, has been working on a case for the Anchorage District Attorney involving the murder of a young woman by her husband, Louis Deem. Both Kate and her on-again, off-again lover, state trooper Jim Chopin, who arrested Deem, are convinced that he is guilty and are devastated when the jury returns a verdict of not guilty. A few weeks later, a shooting leaves two people dead in an apparent robbery. But this time Kate and Jim have an eye witness and

they are not going to let Deem get away again.

STAINCLIFFE, CATH kilkenn BITTER BLUE (#6) (\$12.99)

Manchester PI Sal Kilkenny is busy with client work as well as trying to determine why her daughter Maddie is kicking up a fuss about going to school. One client is receiving progressively threatening poison pen letters, while another wants Sal to investigate whether there are any unsavoury neighbours or criminal activity in the fashionable West Didsbury area of Manchester where they want to buy a house. Still in print is Towers of Silence (#5) (\$12.95).

STONE, ERIC LIVING ROOM OF THE DEAD and GRAVE IMPORTS (\$18 ea.) The first two in the Ray Sharp Series. Set in the decadent expat life in Hong Kong and Macau at the time of the hand-over to Chinese rule.

STRANGE, MARC joie gundy SUCKER PUNCH (#1) (\$11.99) Big trouble is headed Joe Gundy's way. He's security for the Lord Douglas, a downtown Vancouver hotel, and a young neo-hippie who has just inherited half a billion dollars is planning to give it all away... from Joe's hotel.

SUTER, MARTIN DEAL WITH THE DEVIL (\$24.95)

SWEENEY, LEANN PUSHING UP BLUEBONNETS (\$9.99)

Adoption PI Abby Rose has dedicated her life to helping folks reunite with lost relatives. But when you start shaking family trees, you never know what kind of strange fruit might drop on your head...

SWIERCZYNSKI, DUANE BLONDE (\$16.25) For some time customers have been extolling the virtues of this writer. I finally got around to reading this one. A very interesting book. See *J.D.'s Picks*.

SYRIE, JAMES LOST MEMOIRS OF JANE AUSTEN (\$16.50) A special order for our Jane Austen fan.

TAYLOR, ANDREW dougal OUR FATHERS LIES (#3) (\$14.95)

The third in the terrific William Dougal series, sequel to Caroline Miniscule (#1) and Waiting for the End of the World (#2) (\$14.95 each). Reissues.

TAYLOR, TIMOTHY STORY HOUSE (\$21) A special order. By the author of Stanley Park (\$21), a novel that was *J.D.'s Pick* many, many years ago.

TEMPLE, PETER IRON ROSE (\$21 paperback, \$39 hardcover)

See the Hardcover section for an annotation. This guy is really, really good. Be sure to read Bad Debts (\$21) and Broken Shore (\$32 hardcover, \$20 trade paperback due February).

TESH, JANE CASE OF IMAGINATION (\$17.95) "Beauty pageant tomfoolery and psychic shenanigans add comic zest to Tesh's cozy debut."—*Publishers' Weekly*.

THEIS, LEONA ART OF SALVAGE (\$19.95) A special order.

TODD, CHARLES rutledge FALSE MIRROR (#9) (\$9.99)

Scotland Yard Inspector Ian Rutledge is off to Hampton Regis, a small harbour town on the southern coast of England, to investigate an attempted murder. The prime suspect is a man who served with Rutledge during World War I but who left the Front under a cloud.

TUROW, SCOTT LIMITATIONS (\$9.99) Fifty-nine and a judge on the Court of Appeals in Kindle County, life has gone well for George Mason. When a disturbing rape case is brought before him, he begins to question the very nature of the law and his role within it.

TWINING, JAMES tom kirk GILDED SEAL (#3) (\$22.95 trade paperback, \$28.95 hardcover) See the Hardcover section for an annotation. See *Marian's Picks*.

[VARIOUS]ASHLEY, MIKE MAMMOTH BOOK OF DICKENSIAN WHODUNNITS (\$15.95) Twenty original stories from the world of Charles Dickens. Stories by **Barnard, Bonner, Marston, Michael Pearce, Charles Todd, Marilyn Todd**, and others.

[VARIOUS]GORMAN WOLF WOMAN BAY AND 9 MORE

(\$22.50) Ten of the finest crime and mystery novellas of the year.

[VARIOUS]OBEJAS, ACHY HAVANA NOIR (\$18) A collection of new stories set in Havana. Another in this fine series of stores set in particular cities.

[VARIOUS]PENZLER, OTTO BLACK LIZARD BIG BOOK OF PULPS (\$30) The Best Crime Stories from the Pulps During Their Golden Age—The '20s, '30s, and '40s.

VARIOUS/PENZLER, OTTO 50 GREATEST MYSTERIES OF ALL TIME (\$20) Arguably.

VIDA, VENDELA LET THE NORTHERN LIGHTS ERASE YOUR NAME (\$16.50)

VIETS, ELAINE shopper ACCESSORY TO MURDER (#3)

(\$9.99) The third Josie Marcus, Mystery Shopper extraordinaire, adventure, sequel to Dying in Style and High Heels are Murder (\$9.99 each).

WALKER, ROBERT W ransom CITY OF THE ABSENT (#3)

(\$10.99) Insp. Alastair Ransom is determined to solve the murder of his friend, Pinkerton agent, Nell Hartigan. Chicago of the 1890s has been rocked by the public assassination of its popular mayor. Sequel to City for Ransom and Shadows in the White City (\$9.99 each).

WALKER, SUE DEAD POOL (\$10.99) Was the drowning of her beloved father-in-law an accident, a suicide, or something much more sinister? Kirstin Rutherford is determined to find out. Set in Edinburgh.

WALL, KATHRYN R IN FOR A PENNY (#1) and AND NOT A PENNY MORE (#2) (\$17 ea.) The first two novels in the Bay Tanner Financial Consultant series are now back in print.

WALLACE, EDGAR FEATHERED SERPENT (\$15.50) "It is impossible not to be thrilled by Edgar Wallace" says the jacket blurb. First published in 1932. Who is behind the crimes of *The Feathered Serpent*? 160 films were made based on **Wallace's** 175 novels.

Makes you wonder what was wrong with the other 15.

WIGNALL, KEVIN WHO IS CONRAD HIRST? (\$16) Knowing the answer could get you killed. Only four people know that Conrad Hirst is a hitman for a German crime boss. If Conrad wants to get out of the business, all he's got to do is eliminate those four.

WINCHESTER, SIMON PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN

(\$14.95) Non fiction and a special order.

WOMACK, STEVEN BY BLOOD WRITTEN (\$10.99) Michael Schiftman has devoted his life to writing his literate and multi-layered novels. But literate doesn't sell. So he decides to create the boldest, coldest of serial killers. He'll get inside the murderer's head the way no writer has ever done. But to do this he'll have to discover what it feels like to actually kill someone. Five books later, he is a best-selling author, rich, and a celebrity. The only problem is: he can't stop killing.

WOODS, STUART ed eagle SHORT STRAW (#2) (\$13.50) The second Ed Eagle adventure, sequel to Santa Fe Rules (\$10.99).

WRIGHT, ED DAMNATION FALLS (#1) (\$24.95 trade paperback, \$37.95 hardcover) See the Hardcover section for an annotation.

YAN, GELING UNINVITED (\$19)

YANCEY, RICHARD ruzak HIGHLY EFFECTIVE DETECTIVE (#1) (\$8.99) After his ailing mother dies, Teddy Ruzak quits his job as a night watchman to fulfill his childhood dream of being a detective. He hangs up his shingle and hires his favourite waitress from the local diner to be his girl Friday. His first case is bringing to justice the thoughtless driver who mowed down six baby geese. Not the most exciting case until it quickly evolves into an investigation of a vicious murder.

YOUNG, SYLVESTER SLEEPING DOGS LIE (\$24) In the wake of the Twin Tower attacks, IRA fugitive Danny Maguire and his friend Robbie Walker leave New York after Danny kills a leading Irish republican. They eventually find themselves in small-town Georgia. However, a few months after their arrival, Danny disappears and Robbie is captured by the FBI. Robbie has a choice to make: freedom, money and a future with his son in return for the capture of his best friend.

ZIEGESAR, CECILY VON GOSSIP GIRL (\$12.75) Yep, a book based on the TV series.