



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greeting

January 2009

Glad to see the end of 2008. It was a pretty uneventful year, boring almost, not too much exciting stuff happening on the world stage, so-so weather all around, markets were pretty stable...let's hope for more exciting times in 2009. Ha! Ha!

Business was down this December. Some of that was caused by the lower prices of books, some, no doubt, by the concerns over the economy. The massive snowstorms in late December didn't help matters any. But, we're lucky to be pretty steady the whole year so one bad month is not critical. After twenty-six years of selling books, and having been through any number of major "market corrections", ups and downs are to be expected. But we've been very lucky. You have protected us from all the turmoil.

A note about the lower prices. That won't be the situation for much longer. I suspect that the spring titles will once again reflect the 80-cent dollar, so expect prices to climb. For instance, Pale Horse, **Charles Todd's** tenth Rutledge novel, published in Jan 08, was US\$24/CS\$26. Matter of Justice, #11, Jan 09, is US\$25/CS\$35. Expect this to be the case for all new US publications and, as older books are re-printed, the Canadian prices will, no doubt, reflect the new reality. But while older stock is still on hand...

Although the price of oil has plummeted in the last little bit—I'm paying about half of what I was paying last summer at the pump—Canada Post shows no sign of reducing or removing the fuel surcharge that they have imposed over the last few years. So, although we have been losing some on shipping costs, we are going to hold the line for the foreseeable future. So, no increase at the moment. But, you have to agree to order more books, and make it easier for us to eat the loss on the postage.

The significant change, however, is to our newsletter subscription policy. Printing costs and shipping costs have been rising significantly and steadily and we have not changed our cost to you for years and years. Actually this will be our first price increase this century! But the time has come. So, starting immediately, your purchases will need to be \$200 in any one calendar year to get a free subscription in the following year. Now, \$200 may be more than you wish to spend with us, we understand, so feel free to get the newsletter off the website and print it out for free. But if you would like us to mail you a printed copy in 2010 you will need to support us to the tune of \$200 per year, starting in 2009. To the many, many, many of you who support us to that amount, and more, already, thank you, thank you, nothing will change to your subscription. For the others, don't forget that we can get you ANY book, not just mysteries, so think audio books, or large print editions, biographies, or any special orders. We can help you spend \$200, no problem. Finally, another option, of course, is to buy a subscription to the newsletter. Starting with the 2010 subscription year, the cost will rise to \$50.

I didn't get to China last fall as I had hoped I would—you might remember that I mentioned that my younger brother moved to Beijing—but I am going in February. One of the things I really, really want to do there is take a ride on the Shanghai Maglev Train. Hitting speeds of around 500 kilometers/310 miles per hour, it's not the fastest train in the world, but it'll be the fastest I'll ever have been on. Some years ago Marian and I took the Eurostar from London to Paris, but its top speed was only about 300 km. and that was great fun. I'm not going to take my golf clubs with me, but there may be some golf nonetheless. Oh yeah, I'm also looking forward to seeing my nieces.

Marian is off to Florida for a marathon and a half, but I'll let her tell you all about that. And, although there are no signing planned for the near future, that can change. So, do keep an eye on the website in case we do schedule something.

The Merchant of Menace,

SLEUTH of Baker Street's bi-monthly newsletter is available by subscription at an annual fee of CDN\$50. Agree to buy at least \$200 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.

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Hours of Business

Tuesday to Saturday
10 am to 6 pm

Sunday
Noon - 4pm

**Monday &
Statutory Holidays**
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And, finally, unbeknownst to me, Marian and Cottage Lady had expanded their martini research mandate to include the whisky sour. Conscripted into doing some research was the husband of Cottage Lady, Cottage Husband from here on, to protect his identity. Cottage Husband, once he came on board, did, I think, a superb job. But you judge, his research and conclusions follow a little further on.

Marian's Picks

It has been a tough winter to train for a marathon but I'm off to Orlando to walk a half marathon and then, on the following day, a full marathon. Don't ask me why I decided to do this but I think it had something to do with the medals. By the time you get this newsletter I hope to have accomplished my goal. My longest training walk was 20 miles but the weather got so bad, snow, snow and more snow, that after slogging it out for 12 miles I had to come inside and do the remaining 8 miles on a treadmill. Insanity. But I'm going to go down with two of my girlfriends and we will have fun. At least that is what we keep telling each other.

The holiday season was busy, but not nearly busy enough at the store. Who can blame people when the weather is bad and the snow banks are high! I will be glad when everything is back to normal. I say normal, but at the end of January I am going to get a puppy. Yes, this cat lover is going to try her hand at being mom to a standard poodle. When I get him, his name is Sir Percival by the way, I'll have JD put a photo of him up on the web site. I haven't had the courage to tell Paddington about Percy yet, I'm not sure how that will go over but I suspect Paddy will rule the roost as usual, and Percy will fall into line. Wish me luck.

One of the pleasures of working at Sleuth is opening boxes of books and discovering new authors. It's like Christmas everyday. When I unpacked the box that held The Rose Labyrinth (\$29.99) by **TITANIA HARDIE**, I drooled. Gimmicky, yes, but the packaging was lovely. The book comes in a sort of clamshell box: flipping open the top lid of the box reveals the hardcover book tucked into a slot on one side and, tucked into its own slot on the other side, a sheaf of documents that are clues, riddles, and puzzles for the reader to delve into. These documents help solve the mystery. But if you are like me, you'll marvel at the designer's creativity and promptly ignore these documents to get on with reading the book. Good thing that the story turned out to be a fine read, otherwise, it'd just be a fine package, and not worth going to all that trouble. The story takes you from Elizabethan England to modern-day London, with a few tears in between.

The Messenger (\$28.99) by **JAN BURKE** is a thriller with a twist. The main character, Tyler Hawthorne, has been twenty-four for two hundred years. He made a deal with Adrian deVille, Lord Varre, to become a Messenger in exchange for his life after being mortally wounded during the Battle of Waterloo. Tyler can hear the final thoughts of the dying and, as the messenger, conveys these thoughts to their loved ones. Consequently, he spends a lot of time at a local hospice where he meets Amanda Clarke and she becomes very curious about him. I loved the way the story flowed and the way the characters were portrayed. I rooted for the good guys and booed the bad guys. I especially loved Shade, a remarkable cemetery dog who protects Tyler. Anyone who has ever had a dog, or wanted a dog, would want Shade. I really hope there will be more novels in this series. The elements of the paranormal, not totally kosher in a crime novel, brought an additional level of enjoyment and suspense to the read for

me and I loved that. From the author of the terrific Irene Kelly novels, this is another great read.

CAROL O'CONNELL's latest novel, Bone by Bone (\$27.50), is not a Mallory, but it's brilliant. Do you remember her other non-Mallory, Judas Child (out of print, except for two copies we have left of an expensive British paperback edition at \$21)? To this day I remember that novel and the killer ending! Bone By Bone is almost as good. I never did seem to know where the story was going, how each of the characters would fit into the plot, but fit in they did, and, ultimately, it was a most satisfying story. I devoured it in one day while I was at the cottage. (Cottage Lady wasn't there so I had more reading time). Basically, the story is about two brothers, Josh and Oren, who go off into the woods together one day, but only Oren returns. Sounds like the plot of a dozen other novels, but hold on to your hat. The book starts twenty years later when Oren returns from his CID job in the US Army and he is forced to investigate what happened to his brother. I say forced to, because it would have been hard for him to ignore the gifts of bones that someone has been leaving on the front porch of his father's house. When a skull is left and the teeth are a match with Josh's, then it is no longer a missing persons case but one of murder. Twist, turns, ups and downs and an ending that is classic **O'Connell**.

And what else can I say when we have a new **VAL MCDERMID**? Maybe 'wow', or maybe "what a book", or maybe 'she's done it again'. Yes, I am loving A Darker Domain (I'm reading the very expensive UK hardcover but the Canadian edition, \$22.95 trade paperback, is due in February). I am only part way through it—the danged newsletter, minding the store, getting ready for Orlando, all interfere with my reading. Don't you hate it when work interferes with reading?—but I'm loving it and just have to tell you about it. Going to whet your appetite for this one! Salvation is a wonderful thing, no? I have found **Ms. McDermid's** standalone novels to be far more engrossing than her Tony Hill series (I think Wendy would contradict me on that) and this one is no exception. Maybe it's because I never know what to expect with her non-Hill books; each one of them has been so completely different and so completely fabulous. In A Darker Domain, Detective Inspector Karen Pirie works cold cases and that's how this starts. A woman comes into the station and says she is looking for her dad, who joined scab strike-breakers during a miners strike in Fife in 1984. It's now twenty years later and she needs him. (I won't tell you why). Another cold case rears its head and, well, that's all I'm going to tell you.

And on a lighter note, I remember reading **STUART PALMER** and his Hildegard Withers mysteries ages ago and if you have never tried one, now is your chance. The Penguin Pool Murder (\$20.00 trade paperback) is the series debut and it just been reissued by Rue Morgue Press. First published in 1931, it is a hoot. Here is how the book starts: "Two little black penguins were the first to know the secret. They became vastly excited, flashing their sleek black bodies through the water, and now and then coming to the surface to shriek bloody murder in a Galapagoan squawk". Well, anyway, I think it's hilarious. A spinster schoolteacher, Miss Withers, takes her class to the aquarium to see the penguins but, instead, finds the body of, what turns out to be, a Wall Street stockbroker. With little faith in Inspector Oscar Piper of the NYPD she takes it upon herself to get involved. Oh yeah, the book is set just after the stock market crash of 1929! If you love the "classic mystery", then this example from the "Golden Era" is definitely for you.

Since JD told me he had a bit of space to fill up, I'll just draw your attention to three mysteries of a cosy nature. Hail to the Chef (\$8.99) by

JULIE HYZY is the second to feature White House Chef Ollie Paras. (The first is State of the Onion (\$10.99)). Set around Christmas time, Hail gives us glimpses into the goings on at the White House as it relates to food, meal preparation, and event planning, and the security involved because, obviously, the President lives there. There are also recipes for a complete presidential menu.

Sadie Novak runs a company that cleans up crime scenes in the novels by **WENDY ROBERTS**, but there is a twist: Sadie has the gift of second sight and can communicate with the ghosts of the murder victims. The two in the series are The Remains of the Dead (\$9.99) and Devil May Ride (\$7.50). She combines the paranormal with fun, yet there is a serious mystery as well.

I've enjoyed **LAURA CHILDS'** tea mysteries and her new series, Eggs in Purgatory (\$7.50) promises to be just as much fun. Not much about tea in this one, but the energy level of the three women who run the local café is dizzying and you'll be needing a good, strong, cuppa. Attached to the café are a book store and a wool shop. Busy, busy women. One of the women finds a body in a truck behind the café, so all the nosy parkers make their way to the café to find out what's going on. Sounds like the food they serve is also scrumptious.

J.D.'s Picks

A classic, and a favourite, that I had forgotten about until I accidentally stumbled across a stash of them in a warehouse in Vancouver is **LIZA CODY's** Bucket Nut (\$20). Eva Wylie, our heroine, is big and she's ugly. But she's not stupid. Do not make that mistake. Say that out loud to her and you'll get a puffy kneecap. She'll crush you. She has ambitions as big as she is—Women's Heavyweight Wrestling Champion of Great Britain—but works as a night-watch-woman in a London breaker's yard with two mad, bad dogs for company. She does odd jobs to survive, and she's a survivor. Always in training, she finally gets her big break, the chance to show what she can do in the ring. She's also hoping that success in the ring will help her track down her older sister who was taken away by Child Protection Services and adopted out to another family. But, nothing is ever easy for Eva. "Bucket Nut" to her loud, insulting fans, she is a "brave and brilliant creation"—**Sara Paretsky**. Read it even if all you want is a good look into the world of professional wrestling. But, beware, you'll get emotional as you get to know this raw, tough, unsympathetic character. This winner of the Crime Writers' Association Silver Dagger Award in 1992 is on my top-twenty list. It's that good.

A fine series of Toronto-based police procedurals is **JOHN WORSLEY SIMPSON's** Harry Stark novels. The fourth in the series, A Debt of Death (\$18.50) was published recently and I finally got around to reading it. I had read, and liked a great deal, the first novel in the Stark series, Undercut (\$18), way back in 1997. I did not get to Counterpoint (2000) and Shadowmen (2002) (\$18 ea.) and when nothing more showed up, I kinda forgot about the series. So it was a pleasant surprise to see Debt released late last year, and it was nice to get re-acquainted with Stark. In this one, Stark is on medical leave, having been shot by a woman with whom he had been smitten, and he's champing at the bit to get back to the job. But the Police Service's doctor will not hear of it. The Service would rather he took his retirement, supplemented by a disability payment, and be gone. In this fourth novel, a sexual assault and murder that took place in hippie Yorkville in 1968, comes back to haunt some very, very influential people. This is a solid police procedural, with an interesting cast of

characters and the local setting, of course, makes it all that much more fun. All four novels in the series are still in print.

A recent happy discovery was **MICHAEL SIMON**. He is the author of four novels featuring Austin, Texas, Detective Dan Reles. Although he has moved up the ranks to become a Lieutenant in Homicide, and even though he has lived in Texas since the age of fifteen, he's still very much an immigrant. He's a New York Jew, and will always be. In polite Texas society, people keep their mouths shut about their racism, at least in front of the races they loath. They might call him a Christ-killer behind his back, but never to his face. The Police Department is another matter all together. Racism, there, is the least of his worries. The Last Jew Standing (\$16.50) is the fourth outing for Dan and the first that I have read. It certainly won't be the last. This is a splendid crime thriller. Dan's father, an ex-con, Mafia legbreaker who's been on the lam for the last twenty years, shows up, out of the blue, a young Russian prostitute in tow. He's "rescued" the young woman. And badly annoyed her owner, who is intent on retrieving his goods and on extracting his pound of flesh. The battle has been brought to Dan's home and Dan's home town. This is a well-written, smoothly flowing read and you'll be impressed. I was. The earlier novels are in print, I think, but you can very easily start with this one. It reads very much like a stand-alone.

About six months ago I had mentioned that those very, very clever people at Rue Morgue Press were starting to reprint **COLIN WATSON's** delightful Insp. Purbright novels. Coffin Scarcely Used (#1) was reprinted last February and now we get Bump in the Night (#2) (\$20 each). Do not miss these. And equally good news, they have started to reprint the Nigel Strangeways mysteries by **NICHOLAS BLAKE**. The first in the series, A Question of Proof (\$20), originally published in 1935 while the author was a schoolmaster himself, deals with the death of the headmaster's obnoxious nephew, found dead in a haystack on Sports Day at Studeley Hall prep school. If you do not know the name **Nicholas Blake**, you certainly will recognize his real name, Cecil Day-Lewis, the noted man of letters who went on to become England's poet laureate. And, oh yeah, his son, Daniel, is an actor or some such.

Another new writer for me, and this time for Sleuth as well, is **IRA BERKOWITZ**. Old Flame (\$14.95) is the second novel featuring Jackson Steeg, ex-NYPD. The author's first novel, Family Matters (\$31.95), published in 2006, was a Steeg novel as well, but we did not carry it. Just missed it, I guess; not a conscious decision to not carry it. Missed it because the publisher, Justin Charles is kinda small and I might not have received that catalogue. However, I can fix that. Old Flames sees our hero, Jackson Steeg sidelined since he took a bullet to the lung. In walks his ex-mother-in-law, looking for a favor. She may be his ex-mother-in-law but she's just as poisonous as ever. She was what killed Steeg's marriage to her daughter, Ginny. And still she wants a favor. The chutzpah. Although Ginny and Steeg have been divorced for some time, the dragon wants Steeg to look into the threats that Ginny and her new husband have been getting. Well, not too much later the threats become very real and Steeg gets drawn into it, as he still has a soft spot for Ginny. As much a regional novel as the **Simpson** novel above, this one is set in the rougher parts of New York: Hell's Kitchen, Alphabet City, Coney Island, Brighton Beach. Municipal politics and corruption loom large in this well done, fast moving novel. I seem to be reading a lot of police procedurals this time. Good thing there are so many good ones.

Cottage Lady's Picks

Cocktail Update (Cottage Husband) - When first approached by **Marian** and **Cottage Lady** about participating in one of their "experiments", I must admit I was a little suspicious. As the Husband of Cottage Lady, this could easily have been a ruse for some chore, possibly cutting into my valuable fishing time. Everyone who owns a cottage knows the list can be endless. They quickly reassured me it was an extension of their martini "research project" and that it was time to move on to something new – the **Whisky Sour**. Naturally, I had to be cautious. After all, there still could be a hidden agenda, like maybe a broken door hinge or leaky faucet. But being the fine fellow that I am, I agreed to take it on, with a few conditions. First, I don't make cocktails, I just drink, ah, taste them. Second, since I usually prefer my rye straight, I didn't want anything too fancy – keep the recipe simple and no floating fruit. And no artificial mixes. "No problem" Marian said. So, the deal was struck – whisky, lemon or lime, and sugar syrup. (Basically, the ratio is one to one for whisky and juice with half that for sugar syrup. Adjust to taste. Shake with ice. If you want more detail, check any bar book or the Internet – the variations are endless). One more thing, you can make a Sour with any kind of whisky. In fact, if you were stuck on a desert island and could have only one cocktail on hand, the Sour would be a good choice. For research purposes, I stuck with Canadian rye – for me, bourbon and scotch were made for other uses (and don't bother writing in and asking what I mean). Finally, almost any glass is fine but the "Official Canadian Whisky Glass" recently promoted by the L.C.B.O. does add a special feel to the whole experience.

Okay, the results. First off, unlike many cocktails, I consider the Sour to be an all-season drink. Lemon gives an edge that's great for cold days and warm fires, whereas lime is perfect for a lounge chair down by the water on a hot sunny day. For spring and fall, mix it up – more lime for smooth, more lemon for bite. As for the rye, there are dozens of choices and all will work fine because one of the advantages of the Sour is that by adjusting the sugar syrup ratio, you could probably make a satisfactory belt with turpentine. However, for more polished palates, these are the top six that I landed on (if they're not up to snuff, your budget is beyond mine). The blue ribbon goes to Gibson's (12 year) with a virtual tie to Forty Creek (Barrel Select). Actually, if you prefer the lime combo, take the Forty Creek – it's a little zippier. Next place goes to Wiser's Deluxe. I know there are those who will disagree but trust me, Wiser's edges out Crown Royal for any combination. For the price, I've always thought Crown Royal to be somewhat overrated – fancy packaging is no substitute for what's *inside* the bottle. Fifth place goes to Canadian Club – simply too sharp, although if you up the sugar and stick with lemon, it'll give you a nice jolt for those days when you get out of bed too early. Last but not least is Century Reserve (15 year), not because it's a poor rye but actually the opposite. It's so smooth that it tastes watered down in a mixed drink – best saved for those occasions that call for a straight shot. As for garnish, like I said, it's not my bag. On the other hand, if you must have something, skip the cherries suggested in the literature and go with a stock of celery or a pepperoni stick. It'll throw off your guests, they'll think you know absolutely nothing about creating cocktails and then you can be like me – drink 'em, not make 'em.

C.H.

So much for the views of Cottage Husband. Now for the important reviews (I've only been able to muster up two because of my annual

Christmas cold/flu. But the books are great)...

A friend and fellow customer of Sleuth recommended *In The Woods* (\$10.99) by **TANA FRENCH** - winner of the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar Award for Best First Novel 2008. This is an unsettling psychological study as well as a first-rate mystery. The tale centers on a Dublin murder squad detective, Rob Ryan. Twenty years earlier, Ryan was playing with two young friends in the woods near his home. The friends, Jamie and Peter, disappeared without a trace and traumatized Ryan was left unable to remember what had taken place. This shocking experience haunts him throughout his life. The second mystery emerges when a 12-year-old girl, Katy Devlin, is brutally murdered and her body dumped in an archaeological dig site near the woods where Ryan's friends vanished. Ryan and his partner, Cassie Maddox, are assigned to investigate. The detective can't help wondering whether or not the two stories have some connection. And so the plot thickens. I can see why this tale was on my friend's book club agenda. It is extremely well written and has a richly detailed sense of place combined with compellingly complex trails to follow. Ryan's partnership and friendship with Maddox provide an added romantic dimension. As the investigation progresses, Ryan's emotional state starts to unravel. This becomes the main focus of the novel as he tries to break through the amnesia, figure out what happened to him as a child and determine whether or not there are any connections to the Katy Devlin murder. **French** has created a solid and credible story about cops, police procedures, relationships, conflicts and the psychology of memory. I became quite captivated and actually polished it off in two sessions. Gripping but not a light hearted read.

In October, I attended a signing at Sleuth. And I was delighted to meet and chat with the very charming **MARK BILLINGHAM**. (In the process, I also discovered a shared obsession with Marian's very fine St. Andre's cheese.) Of course, Mark obligingly signed a copy of his latest novel, *In The Dark*. **Billingham** takes a break from his popular DI Thorne character who only makes a cameo appearance amongst a multitude of characters. This is a riveting tale and a stand-alone mystery as Billingham spins a good yarn in the world of cops and villains. As usual, he is very good at getting to the meat of things quickly. The tale is told from various points of view. It starts with 17-year-old Theo Shirley (hoping to join a gang) firing a gun into a car, thus causing a deadly crash on a dark and rainy evening in south London. The car swerves and kills an innocent bystander, an off-duty policeman, Paul Hopwood. Initially, it looks like a gang initiation has cost an innocent his life but the truth is more disturbing. The main plot follows Hopwood's pregnant girlfriend, Constable Helen Weeks, who can't accept his death and starts tracing the very secretive steps of her late lover. She is lead into the London underworld and an aging gangster planning revenge. Simultaneously, we follow the very sad life of Theo. As with his Thorne novels, **Billingham** serves up plenty of action and lots of people to follow, combined with a very realistic story. However, this time prepare yourself for an unpredictable twist that is surprising and well worth the read.

Hardbacks

BARBIERI, MAGGIE alison *QUICK STUDY (#3)* (\$27.95) (St. Martin's) College English professor Alison Bergerson is asked by a friend to help him find his nephew. Alison asks her boyfriend, NYPD Detective Bobby Crawford, for help. It seems that he pulled the boy out of the Hudson River a few days earlier. The boy's employer calls it an accident but Alison and Bobby aren't convinced. The first two in

this delightful series are Murder 101 and Extracurricular Activities (\$8.99 each).

BARDI, CARLA GOLDEN BOOK OF CHOCOLATE: OVER 300 GREAT RECIPES (\$29.99) (Barron's) This is a stunning cookbook with an enticing chocolate photograph on almost every page. Each recipe is rated by degree of difficulty, level 1, 2 or 3. Marian is studying all the level 1 recipes!

BERRY, STEVE malone CHARLEMAGNE PURSUIT (#4) (\$30.00) (Ballantine) As a child former-Justice Department agent, now rare book dealer, Cotton Malone was told his father died in a submarine accident in the North Atlantic. Now he wants the full story. As do twin sisters Dorothea Lindauer and Christl Falk, whose father also perished in the accident. The sisters know something that Malone doesn't: inspired by strange clues discovered in Charlemagne's tomb, the Nazis explored Antarctica before the Americans, as long ago as 1938. Now Malone discovers that cryptic journals penned in "the language of heaven", inscrutable conundrums posed by an ancient historian, and the ill-fated voyage of his father are all tied to a revelation of immense consequences for mankind. The other books featuring Cotton Malone are The Templar Legacy, The Alexandria Link (\$12.99 each) and The Venetian Betrayal (\$11.99).

BROWN, RITA MAE sneakypie SANTA CLAWED (#17) (\$28.00) (Bantam) Mrs. Murphy, Pewter and Tee Tucker are back in this Christmas story trying to help "Harry" Hairsteen find the killer of the corpse she found under her Christmas tree. Novella, 237 pages.

BURKE, JAN THE MESSENGER (Simon & Schuster) (\$28.99) This paranormal thriller is a complete departure from the author's usual Irene Kelly novels. Two hundred years ago Tyler Hawthorne bargained for his life. In exchange, he became a Messenger, one who hears the final thoughts of the dying and conveys those last messages to their loved ones. Since that time his life has been nomadic and, except for the companionship of a remarkable black dog called Shade, solitary. That is, until he meets Amanda Clarke, a neighbour who has become very curious about him. See *Marian's Picks*.

CARRINGTON, TORI WORKING STIFF (#4) (\$27.95) (Forge) Because business is booming, Sofie hires her formerly-layabout cousin to help in her PI business, especially when she lands her first big criminal case. An hilarious series that marries 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding' with Stephanie Plum. Not only has Marian described the series that way, but so have other reviewers. Sequel to Sofie Metropolis (\$9.99), Dirty Laundry and Foul Play (\$8.99 each).

CHURCH, JAMES insp o BAMBOO AND BLOOD (#3) (\$26.95) (Thomas Dunne) In the winter of 1997, trying to stay alive during a famine that has devastated much of North Korea, Inspector O is ordered to play host to an Israeli agent who appears in Pyongyang. When the wife of a North Korean diplomat in Pakistan dies under suspicious circumstances, O is told to investigate. Sequel to A Corpse in the Koryo and Hidden Moon (\$15.50 each).

CORNWELL, PATRICIA SCARPETTA (#16) (\$31.00) (Putnam) Leaving behind her private forensic pathology practice in Charleston, South Carolina, Kay Scarpetta is asked by the NYPD to examine an injured patient in Bellevue Hospital's psychiatric prison ward. The handcuffed and chained patient, Oscar Bane, says his injuries were sustained in the course of a murder, that he did not commit. Is Bane a criminally insane stalker who has fixated on Scarpetta?

CUSSLER, CLIVE ARCTIC DRIFT (\$31.00) (Putnam) A potential breakthrough discovery to reverse global warming. A series of unexplained deaths in British Columbia. A rash of international incidents between the US and one of its closest allies that threatens to erupt into an actual shooting war. NUMA director Dirk Pitt and his children, Dirk Jr. and Summer, have reason to believe all these events are connected.

CUTLER, JUDITH SHADOW OF THE PAST (\$41.95) (Allison & Busby) Tobias Campion, rector of Moreton St. Jude, is delighted to

welcome the widowed Lady Chase to his parish. But her son, Hugo, is missing and presumed dead. Her late husband's nephew, Sir Marcus Bramhall, wants him declared legally dead so that he can be declared heir. Set in the early 1800s.

DARWIN, EMMA SECRET ALCHEMY (\$37.95 hardcover, \$24.95 trade paperback) (Headline) Two murdered princes; a powerful queen betrayed; a nobleman riding towards his certain death. **Ms. Darwin** says: Some years ago a cousin of mine rang up: did I want a ticket for the Young Vic Theatre, to see Shakespeare's entire trilogy Henry VI, played by the Royal Shakespeare Company in a single day? It was an amazing day indeed. I knew the outline of history, but for the first time the character listed in the programme as "Lady Grey, afterwards Queen to Edward IV" intrigued me. She fitted too into the memoirs of Richard III, the folk-history of the Princes in the Tower, and Josephine Tey's classic historical detection, The Daughter of Time (\$16.00). By the time I was trundling home late that night on the bus, battle-weary and triumphant, there was a question ringing in my head: 'What would it be like to be Elizabeth Woodville?' By the time I got home, I knew I had to write a novel about her.

DAVIES, DAVID STUART hawke WITHOUT CONSCIENCE (#2) (\$26.95) (Thomas Dunne) Set in London during the Blitz, private eye Johnny Hawke crosses paths with army deserter Harryboy Jenkins. The first in the series is Forests of the Night (\$20.00).

DE SANTIS, PABLO PARIS ENIGMA (\$26.95) (Harper) During the world fair in Paris, 1889, twelve of the world's best detectives gather together to discuss the secrets of their trade as part of the fair's lineup of events. When one of them is found murdered and other grisly murders occur, the remaining members have their hands full. Translated from Spanish.

DOHERTY, PAUL ancient egypt SPY OF SOBECK (#7) (\$37.95 hardcover, \$24.95 trade paperback) (Headline) 1477 BC and Am-erotke, Chief Judge of the Hall of Two Truths, must once again face treacherous forces in Egypt. Will he be able to save Queen Hatusu, before Egypt is overrun by its menacing and dangerous underworld?

[DOYLE] PEACOCK, SHANE DEATH IN THE AIR: THE BOY SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$21.99) (Tundra) While visiting his father at work, a young Sherlock Holmes stops to watch a dangerous high-trapeze performance. But without warning the aerialist falls and lands almost at the boy's feet. Leaning over Sherlock brings his ear close and hears the man gasp: "Silence...me...". His second case is afoot; follow-up to Eye of the Crow (\$21.99 hardcover, the paperback is due in May 2009).

[DOYLE] MILLER, RUSSELL ADVENTURES OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (\$39.95) (Harvill Secker) A biography drawing on the Conan Doyle's private correspondence and that of the Richard Lancelyn Green archive, the world's most comprehensive collection of Conan Doyle material.

[DOYLE] GARDNER, JOHN MORIARTY (#3) (\$32.50) (Harcourt) It is the turn of the last century and, having survived the struggle with Sherlock Holmes at the Reichenbach Falls, Professor James Moriarty is planning to establish crime syndicates in the major cities of the US. But suddenly he is called back to London, where his vast criminal society has been overrun by a rival concern led by the shadowy Sir Jack Idell, Idle Jack. Moriarty fights back against the unruly crime families and the forces of law and order. The first two novels in this series, Return of Moriarty and Revenge of Moriarty were published in the mid-1970s but are now out of print. There is, allegedly, a fourth volume in this series coming, although with the author having died in 2007, that might be suspect. And finally, just to really confuse matters, it is my recollection that Return of Moriarty was also published in the US as just Moriarty. So, not to confuse and the two.

ERSKINE, BARBARA WARRIOR'S PRINCESS (\$34.95) (Harper Collins, UK) Jess, a teacher in London, is attacked by someone she fears knows her well. She flees to her sister's house on the

Welsh border to recuperate but is disturbed by the cries of a mysterious child. Two thousand years before, the valley below the house was the scene of a great battle. Caratacus, king of the British tribes, is captured, along with his wife and daughter, the princess Eigon, and taken to Rome. Jess is inexorably drawn to investigate Eigon's story, and so travels to Rome to continue her research. And this is what **Ms. Erskine** does so well; she weaves together the present with the past and we learn about Roman and Celtic history in such a pleasurable way. The trade paperback of this book, which we mentioned in the November newsletter, now appears to have gone out of print.

EVANOVICH, JANET PLUM SPOOKY (\$30.95) (St. Martin's) A between-the-numbers novel with Stephanie Plum, Diesel and monkeys. Don't ask. The book has just arrived and Marian hasn't had a chance to read it yet.

FERGUSON, NIALL ASCENT OF MONEY (\$33.00)

FERRIS, MONICA THAIDIE (#12) (\$27.50) (Berkley) When one of Betsy Devonshire's regular customers returns from Thailand, she is eager to show off her souvenirs: dazzling silk panels and floss. But after she delivers a small stone Buddha to an antiques shop in St. Paul's her apartment is broken into, the antiques dealer is murdered and the Buddha statue is stolen.

FOWLER, CHRISTOPHER bryan VICTORIA VANISHES (#6) (\$28.00) Marian's newest favorite UK writer. See her *Picks* in the November 2008 newsletter.

FREEMAN, BRIAN stride WATCHER (#4) (\$37.95 hardcover, \$24.95 trade paperback) (Headline) To be published in the US as *In the Dark*. Thirty years ago the sister of Lieutenant Jonathan Stride's wife was beaten to death; the culprit never found. When Trish Verdure begins a book about the decades-old murder, someone is desperate to keep their dirty secrets hidden. The first three in this wonderful series are *Immoral*, *Stripped* and *Stalked* (\$10.99 each).

FULMER, DAVID LOST RIVER (\$33.95) (HMH) Autumn, 1913. and Valentin St. Cyr returns to Storyville. When a man is found dead in a local brothel, the madam asks him to investigate.

GALE, IAIN JACK STEEL (#2) (\$28.95) Currently out of stock. The first in the series is *Man Of Honour* (\$15.95).

GARDNER, JOHN suzie NO HUMAN ENEMY (#5) (\$27.95) (Thomas Dunne) In June 1944, Hitler unleashes his most vicious weapons of the war, the V-1 flying bomb, on the southern coast of England. One of these weapons lands on a convent killing three nuns. Suzie Mountford and her boss and secret lover, Tommy Livermore, are sent to investigate. When it's discovered that one of the dead is not what she seems to be, they find themselves in the middle of a complex, sinister plot.

GRIPPANDO, JAMES swyteck BORN TO RUN (#8) (\$31.99) (Harper) Miami criminal lawyer Jack Swyteck guards his own family secrets closely, after his father's two terms as Florida's governor made some personal rifts public. Now his father, Harry, has been asked to be Vice President of the US when his friend, the former VP, goes hunting for alligators and winds up dead. Harry asks Jack to be his lawyer. But the job turns lethal and Jack finds himself at the heart of a complicated cover-up that spans nearly fifty years.

HAMILTON, LAURELL K blake BLUE MOON (#8) (\$28.50) This is a hardcover edition of an Anita Blake novel originally published in the late 90s.

HARDIE, TITANIA ROSE LABYRINTH (\$29.99) (Atria) The jacket reads: A single sheet of parchment and a silver key. A secret passed down through generations. A mystery waiting to be unlocked. Marian says: I picked up this book because it looked so intriguing. In fact it is one of the most beautifully packaged books that I have ever held. It's a hardcover book inside a clamshell box (of sorts), but also included in the box are pages of a riddle that you can decipher if you want to. I just read the book and left the pages in the slipcase. The

mystery spans several centuries and the story is just wonderful. See *Marian's Picks*.

HARROD-EAGLES, C dynasty FOREIGN FIELD (#31)

(\$34.00) The latest in the Morland Dynasty series.

HAUTMAN, PETE FULL HOUSE (\$21.50) (Putnam) Ten short stories about poker by such writers as **Bill Fitzhugh**, **Pete Hautman**, **Gary Phillips** and others.

HEANEY, WILLIAM MEMOIRS OF A MASTER FORGER

(\$24.95) This is a sophisticated horror-fantasy written by either a first-timer of uncommon ability or an experienced hand using a pseudonym. The narrative is split between a 1980s Derby teacher-training college and present-day London. While a student, narrator Heaney penned a tome about how to summon demons, which was used by a fellow student with unforeseen consequences: all the girls Heaney had loved met terrible fates. He's lived with the guilt and the haunting presence of demons ever since, and atones for his sins by forging first editions of rare books and donating the proceeds to charity. He's also a charming closet alcoholic, and when he finds himself falling in love against his will he is forced to confront his demons, both literal and metaphoric. The novel is an ultimately uplifting feat of storytelling which grips the reader to the very last page.—*The Guardian*.

JANCE, J A ali reynolds CRUEL INTENT (#4) (\$29.99)

(Touchstone) On a dating site bored housewives can find romance with married men looking for sex without strings. But a vengeful computer hacker is playing games with people's lives and deaths. Ex-television journalist Ali Reynolds lands in the middle of a murder investigation when her contractor is accused of murdering his wife. How is all this related?

JECKS, MICHAEL KING OF THIEVES (#25) (\$27.95)

(Headline) In 1325 Sir Baldwin de Furnhill and his friend, Simon Puttock, are sent to France to guard the King's son in his journey to the French King, Charles IV. They are unaware that King Edward's wife Isabella has grown so disaffected that she has begun to plot her revenge. To protect the future of the English crown they must uncover a guilty secret from the beginning of the century.

JENKINS, REBECCA DUKE'S AGENT (\$41.00) This was a special order of a book published in the 1990s.

JUNGSTEDT, MARI knutas INNER CIRCLE (#3) (\$28.95) (St. Martin's) An international group of young archaeology students is working on a dig on the island of Gotland, uncovering a Viking fortification dating back over a millennium. When one of the students is found naked, bled out and hanging from a tree, Inspector Anders Knutas and his team work feverishly to catch the killer. Before long, however, there are more victims, all of whom have been killed and mutilated the same way. The first two in the series are *Unseen* (\$21) and *Unspoken* (\$24, due March 09), both expensive British imports. Translated from Swedish.

KOONTZ, DEAN YOUR HEART BELONGS TO ME (\$32.00)

(Bantam) At age thirty-four, internet entrepreneur Ryan Perry seemed to have it all. But then he is diagnosed with incurable cardiomyopathy. A year after receiving a heart transplant, strange things begin to happen. He is now being stalked by a mysterious woman who is the spitting image of the heart donor.

LEWIS, SIMON BAD TRAFFIC (\$28.99) (Scribner) Inspector Jian is a tough Chinese cop who thinks he's seen it all. But his search for his missing daughter takes him to the meanest streets he's ever faced: in rural England. Migrant worker Ding Ming is distressed. His gang master is making demands, he owes a lot of money to the snakeheads, and no one will tell him where his wife has been taken. Maybe England isn't the Gold Mountain he was promised. Two desperate men are pitted against a ruthless band of human traffickers.

MCDERMID, VAL DARKER DOMAIN (\$57.00) (Harper Collins, UK) An expensive British import. The Canadian edition is scheduled for release in February at \$22.99 in trade paperback. A wealthy heir-

ess and son are kidnapped in Fife but a botched payoff leaves her dead and the child missing. Twenty-five years later a possible clue is discovered by a journalist in Tuscany. Cold-case expert Detective Inspector Karen Pirie doesn't hold much hope of unraveling the infamous enigma. She's already investigating a case from the same year about a miner who disappeared. See *Marian's Picks*.

MAY, PETER enzo BLACKLIGHT BLUE (#3) (\$32.99)

(Poisoned Pen) Enzo MacLeod, a Scot who is teaching forensics at Cahors in southwest France, has used his expertise to solve two murders described in a book on cold cases. The third case is far from his mind as he has just been diagnosed with a terminal illness. To add to his troubles, he has become the target of someone who wants to destroy his credit, his relationships, and get him arrested for murder. Could it be because he was looking into the murder of a rent boy in a Paris apartment sixteen years ago? The first two in this wonderful series are Extraordinary People and The Critic, due soon (\$20 each).

MONROE, ALY MAZE OF CADIZ (\$37.95) (John Murray) It's 1944, and as the war draws to an end, Peter Cotton is sent to Cadiz, Spain, by British Intelligence to arrest a rogue spy. But it turns out he has died, and in very unusual circumstances. In a hotbed of scandal and murder, Peter must navigate through a labyrinth of international conspiracies, shifting political allegiances and a mysterious local expatriate community to discover the truth.

MORRELL, DAVID SPY WHO CAME FOR CHRISTMAS

(\$19.50) A special order.

MORRIS, BOB zack DEADLY SILVER SEA (#4) (\$27.95) (St. Martin's) A Caribbean Cruise goes horribly wrong for Zack Chasteen and his eight-month pregnant wife, Barbara. An hour out of Miami, gunmen take control of the ship, kill most of the officers and sequester the passengers. No one knows why.

MORTIMER, JOHN IN OTHER WORDS (Memoir) (\$26.00) (Penguin, UK) A tiny book of verse, anecdotes and memories based on John Mortimer's one-man charity show, Mortimer's Miscellany.

O'CONNELL, CAROL BONE BY BONE (\$27.50) (Putnam) In the northern California town of Coventry, two teenage brothers go into the woods one day, but only one comes back. No one knows what happened to the younger boy, Josh, until twenty years later, when the older brother, Oren, now an ex-investigator for the Army CID, returns to Coventry for the first time in many years. On his first morning back, he finds a jaw bone lying in front of the door. His father tells him that his brother Josh has been coming, back bone by bone. A stand alone thriller. See *Marian's Picks*.

O'SHAUGHNESSY, PERRI SHOW NO FEAR (#13) (\$28.99) Nina Reilly.

OWEN, CHARLIE BRAVO JUBILEE (#3) (\$37.95) (Headline) The local police call Handstead New Town, a suburb of Manchester, Horse's Arse. The police are ruthless, the criminals unrepentant, the violence constant. It's 1977 and while the rest of England celebrates the Queen's Silver Jubilee, Handstead celebrates in its own way.

PALANGO, PAUL DISPERSING THE FOG (\$32.95) (Key Porter) Non-fiction. This is a report compiled from an investigation into the politics and justice system of Canada, focusing primarily on the relationship between the Government of Canada (since the 1980s) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. For more than 35 years the RCMP has found itself mired in a seemingly unending litany of organizational, legal and political controversies, the kinds of scandals that would have ruined many other similar sized companies. The RCMP was founded in 1874 and has evolved into a police force of 16,000 officers and 10,000 civilians.

PATTERSON, JAMES cross CROSS COUNTRY (#14) (\$30.99) (Little, Brown) Detective Alex Cross is called to the worst murder scene he has ever encountered. As he and his girlfriend, Detective Brianna Stone, dig deeper into the case, they become entangled in the

deadly African underworld of Washington, D.C. When the elusive killer's trail turns up in Africa, Alex knows he must follow, alone. **REAVES, SAM** MEAN TOWN BLUES (\$27.50) (Pegasus) A veteran of the war in Iraq, where he suffered extreme injury, Tommy McLain heads to Chicago where he has a friend he can count on.

What he doesn't count on is Lisa DiPietro, a beautiful young woman who fears she is being stalked. Tommy decides to scare the creep off but his gun does more than settle a score. Tommy is going to need all his infantry and combat training to fend off the mob war that ensues. **RIGGS, CYNTHIA** SHOOTING STAR (#7) (\$26.95) A Martha's Vineyard mystery which was originally published in 2007, but back in stock for a special order. A few more copies left ...

ROBERTS, JOHN MADDOX spqr ORACLE OF THE DEAD (#12) (\$27.95) (Thomas Dunne) Decius Caecilius Metellus thinks he is merely visiting one of the local attractions in southern Italy when he takes a party to visit the Oracle of the Dead, a pre-Roman cult site located at the end of a tunnel dug beneath a temple of Apollo. He quickly learns that there is a bitter rivalry between the priests of Apollo and those of Hecate, who guard the oracle. When all the priests of Apollo are killed, the countryside looks ready to explode.

ROWLING, J K & HUWS TALES OF BEEDLE THE BARD (\$14.50) A tiny book translated from the original runes by Hermione Granger. A collection of stories for young wizards and witches.

SMILEY, PATRICIA tucker COOL CACHE (#4) (\$26.50)

SMITH, FRANK paget BREAKING POINT (#6) (\$37.95)

(Severn) DCI Neil Paget investigates the disappearance of budding journalist Mark Newman. He was last seen talking to Mickey Doyle in the local pub, and it seems that Mickey is also missing. When Mark turns up in the bottom of a quarry, Paget is convinced that Mark must have stumbled on a story of great significance and danger.

STONE, NICK max mingus KING OF SWORDS (#2) (\$31.99) (Harper) This is the American edition; we did stock the UK edition

back in August of 2007 so don't order this twice. When Detective Max Mingus and his partner, Joe Liston, are called to the scene of a death at Miami's Primate Park, it looks like another, if slightly bizarre, investigation. That is, until two things turn up: the victim's family, slaughtered, and a partly digested tarot card, the King of Swords, in the dead man's stomach. Prequel to Mr. Clarinet (\$17.95).

TODD, CHARLES MATTER OF JUSTICE (#11) (\$34.99)

(Morrow) At the turn of the previous century, two soldiers chance upon an opportunity that will change their lives forever. To do this, they have to do the unthinkable and then put their past behind them. Twenty years later, a successful London businessman is found savagely and bizarrely murdered in a medieval tithe barn on his estate in Somerset. Called upon to investigate, Scotland Yard inspector Ian Rutledge soon discover the victim was universally despised.

TREASURE, JOE MALE GAZE (\$24.95) A special order.

WILSON, JOHN MORGAN SPIDER SEASON (#8) (\$27.95)

(St. Martin's) Journalist Benjamin Justice, Pulitzer Prize winner, lost everything when it was discovered that he fabricated sources for the winning series of articles he wrote. Now, many years later, he is writing his memoirs. But they bring out more than the truth, and when a series of death threats, then attacks, threaten the people closest to him, Justice investigates.

Paperbacks

ADAMS, WILL ALEXANDER CIPHER (\$9.99) Debut novel. It's 318 BC in the deserts of Libya, and Alexander the Great is buried as only a God should be, placed in a golden Sarcophagus in a catacomb of chambers, each packed with diamonds, rubies and gold. This was

how he should have remained. Fast-forward to 2007 and underwater archaeologist Daniel Knox has been on the trail of Alexander's Gold ever since he can remember. When a tomb is uncovered on the construction site of a new hotel, Daniel believes he has found the clue to what he has been working towards for years. But the discovery has alerted two of the most dangerous men in the world, and Daniel is now a marked man.

ALLIN, LOU AND ON THE SURFACE DIE (#1) (\$15.95) A new series featuring RCMP Holly Martin, set on Vancouver Island.

ALLINGHAM, MARGERY FLOWERS FOR THE JUDGE (\$20) Albert Campion, 1936.

ANDREWS, DONNA langslow MURDER HATCHED (\$16.95)

Contains the first two Meg Langslow novels, Peacocks and Puffins.

ARCHER, JEFFREY PRISONER OF BIRTH (\$11.99) Danny Cartwright is arrested and charged with the murder of his best friend and sentenced to twenty-two years in the highest security prison in the UK. Four of the prosecution witnesses included a barrister, a popular actor, an aristocrat, and the youngest partner in an established firm's history. Who is going to believe Danny when he says he didn't do it? However, the four have underestimated Danny's determination to seek revenge and his girlfriend's relentless quest to pursue justice, which ends up with all four fighting for their lives.

ARDAI, CHARLES FIFTY-TO-ONE (\$9.99) A novel told in fifty chapters, each chapter named after one of the first 50 books in the Hard Case Crime series. Includes a full-colour insert containing images of the all 50 HCC covers.

ARMSTRONG, LORI G SNOW BLIND (\$8.95) (#4) The frigid winter months are mighty slow in the PI biz for Julie Collins and her partner, Kevin Wells — until the duo is hired by a young woman to investigate problems at her grandfather's assisted living facility, where they encounter lax security, unqualified healthcare personnel and a shady senior volunteer organization.

ARRUDA, SUZANNE SERPENT'S DAUGHTER (#3) (\$15.50) Having left British East Africa for a holiday in Morocco, American adventuress Jade del Cameron is hoping her unconventional lifestyle as a female photojournalist in 1920 will finally win her aristocratic mother's approval. Instead, she finds herself trying to save her mom's life after she is kidnapped. Sequel to Mark of the Lion (\$17.50) and Stalking Ivory (\$16.50).

BAKER, DEB dolls DING DONG DEAD (#4) (\$7.50)

BARNARD, ROBERT GRAVEYARD POSITION (\$21.00) The US edition. The Cantelos of Leeds, England, are a dysfunctional family. Believing her son to be in danger, Clarissa, a skilled clairvoyant, had sent him to Italy. When she dies, he returns to claim his inheritance but his long-lost relatives don't believe he is who he says he is.

BARNES, JONATHAN SOMNAMBULIST (\$16.95) The extraordinary tale of Edward Moon, stage conjurer and detective, his silent associate The Somnambulist, the Sleeper, and a devilish plan to bring the British Empire crashing down. Be warned, this book has no literary merit whatsoever.

BATEMAN, COLIN starkey DRIVING BIG DAVIE (#7) (\$16.95) Dan Starkey, journalist of ill-repute, is off to Florida for the marriage of his old friend Davie Kincaid. With visions of sun and sex, Dan is in for a rude awakening which involves a massive deception, mayhem, violence, robbery, Al Capone's gold and a very severe case of sunburn. Terrific says J.D.

BELL, TED ASSASSIN (#2) (\$11.99) Intelligence operative Lord Alexander Hawke, along with former NYPD cop and Navy SEAL Stokely Jones, is called upon by the US government to launch a search for an assassin killing US diplomats around the globe. This "new" James Bond type is introduced in Hawke (\$11.99).

BERKOWITZ, IRA OLD FLAME (\$14.95) Jackson Steeg isn't an NYPD cop anymore, not since the bullet he took to the lung. But his retirement is looking anything but relaxing.

BERNHARDT, WILLIAM pulask STRIP SEARCH (#2) (\$9.99) Las Vegas police behaviourist Susan Pulaski taps 26-year-old Darcy O'Bannon, whose autistic savant skills are perfect for unraveling the twisted thoughts of a savage serial killer and peering into a neurological mystery that stretches back hundreds of years. Sequel to Dark Eye (\$9.99). By the author of the Ben Kinkaid novels.

BERRY, STEVE malone VENETIAN BETRAYAL (#3) (\$11.99) The first two in this action filled series are The Last Templar (\$11.99) and The Alexandria Link (\$12.99). Marian loves them.

BLACK, INGRID CIRCLE OF THE DEAD (#4) (\$10.99) Saxon, former FBI agent turned crime writer. Set in Dublin. Sequel to Dead, Dark Eye and Judas Heart (\$10.99 ea.)

BLACKTHORN, JOHN ICHE GUEVARA (\$17.99)

BLAKE, VICTORIA JUMPING THE CRACKS (#4) (\$14.95) 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 (\$12.99). "Super reads", says Marian.

BLISS, MIRANDA cooking DYING FOR DINNER (#4) (\$7.50)

BOLANO, ROBERTO 2666: THREEVOLUME PAPERBACK EDITION (\$33.00) A lovely boxed set.

BOSE, RANA FOURTH CANVAS (\$20.95)

BOX, C J BLUE HEAVEN (\$9.99) A twelve-year-old girl and her younger brother go on the run in the woods of North Idaho, pursued by four men they have just watched commit murder. The men know exactly who Annie and William are and where their desperate mother is waiting for news of her children's fate. Retired cops from LA, the killers easily persuade the inexperienced sheriff to let them lead the search for the missing children. The kids' saviour comes in the form of an old-school rancher teetering on the brink of foreclosure.

BURCELL, ROBIN FACE OF A KILLER (\$8.99) From the author of the SFPD Homicide Insp. Kate Gillespie series, Every Moves She Makes (op) and three others, comes the debut of a new series featuring FBI agent and forensic artist Sydney Fitzpatrick. Two decades after the murder of her father, Agent Fitzpatrick confronts his killer face to face. But the inmate who's scheduled to be executed for the crime is not what she expected. She wants the truth.

CAST, KRISTIN UNTAMED: A HOUSE OF NIGHT NOVEL (\$9.95)

CHILDS, LAURA cackleberry EGGS IN PURGATORY (#1) (\$7.50) A new series featuring three women who own a café, with a wool nook and book shop attached. Marian is dying to know how they run all three businesses without batting an eye lid The café is always full because the locals are curious to find out gossip about the murders. See *Marian's Picks*.

COLEMAN, REED FARREL moe WALKING THE PERFECT SQUARE (#1) and REDEMPTION STREET (#2) (\$17.50 each) The first two, of four, Moe Prager novels. This guy is really very good.

CONNOR, JOHN karen sharpe FALLING (#4) (\$10.99) 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).

CORNWELL, BERNARD AZINCOURT (\$21.95) The hardcover (\$29.95) might well be into reprints and likely now sold out, but if you must have one, call us and we'll see what we can do.

CORNWELL, PATRICIA FROM POTTERS FIELD (#6),

CAUSE OF DEATH #7 (\$10.99each) and UNNATURAL EXPOSURE (#8) \$13.50). Three more reissues from the mid to late '90s.

CRICHTON, MICHAEL TIMELINE (\$10.99) and ANDROMEDA STRAIN (\$11.50) Back in stock.

DALMEIDA, SARAH musketeeer DYING BY THE SWORD (#5) (\$8.99)

DARWIN, EMMA SECRET ALCHEMY (\$24.95 trade paperback, \$37.95 hardcover. See the hardcover section for an annotation.) By the author of Mathematics of Love (\$14.95).

DE SA, ANTHONY BARNACLE LOVE (\$18.95) A short story collection, 2008 Giller Finalist. Special order for my sister.

DODD, D O HOSTAGE TAKER (\$18.50)

DOHERTY, PAUL ancient egypt SPY OF SOBECK (#7) (\$24.95, \$37.95 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

[DOYLE]CAMBELL & PREPOLEC GASLIGHT GRIMOIRE: FANTASTIC TALES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$16.95) Eliminating the impossible just got a whole lot harder! Eleven all-new stories from Watson's fabled tin dispatch box. Holmes, master of deductive reasoning, confronts the irrational, the unexpected and the fantastic in the weird worlds of the Gaslight Grimoire.

[DOYLE]CARRAHER, PHILIP J SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE DEAD RABBITS SOCIETY (\$26.95) Written by Dr. John Watson in 1908, this story sheds light on those missing years during which Holmes was presumed dead.

[DOYLE]HALL, JOHN SHERLOCK HOLMES AT THE RAFFLES HOTEL (\$25) Watson is worried that Holmes, without a challenging case, would soon be but a shadow of his former self. A chance meeting took Holmes and Watson to Singapore for a well-deserved rest—a rest that was soon to be interrupted by murder...

[DOYLE]THOMAS, DONALD EXECUTION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$16.50) A collection of five stories. Condemned to a dank cell in the depths of London's infamous Newgate prison, Holmes, the world's greatest detective, awaits execution.

DWYER, LIAM D MUSKOKA BOUND AND BETRAYED (#5) (\$14.95) Sequel to Murder in Muskoka, Gold & Greed, Muskoka Cross & Double Cross and Muskoka Death and Diamonds (\$14.95 each, trade paperback). Co-written with **Brad Hammond**.

EDWARDS, MARTIN WATERLOO SUNSET (\$10.95)

EMERSON, KATHY, LYNN FACE DOWN AMONG THE WINCHESTER GEESE (#3) (\$25) It is spring of 1563 and Lady Susanna Appleton wants only to tend to the medicinal herbs in the garden of her London townhouse. But the appearance of a mysterious veiled woman disrupts her plans. First published in 1999.

ENGEL, HOWARD MAN WHO FORGOT HOW TO READ (\$16.50) **Howard Engel's** "memoirs". Not that this is the worst fate that could have befallen **Howard**, but the stroke that he suffered left him unable to read, although he could still write. A difficult situation for a writer, wouldn't you say? How he dealt with his trauma is recounted in this slim book, and he is an inspiration to us all.

ESTLEMAN, LOREN AMERICAN DETECTIVE (#19) (\$9.99) Darius Fuller, former pitching great for the Detroit Tigers and a buddy of Amos Walker, asks him to break up the engagement between his daughter, who will inherit a \$2 million trust fund at the age of twenty-five, and Hilary Bairn. When Amos goes to Bairn's apartment he finds that Fuller's daughter dead and Bairn missing.

EVANOVICH, JANET PLUM LUCKY (\$8.99) Stephanie and her men! In these between-the-numbers novels it's Diesel, a man who appears and disappears at whim. This time he's looking for a little man in green pants who has lost a giant bag of money. Trouble is, Granny Mazur found the bag of money and has high-tailed it to Atlantic City and the slot machines. The first between-the-numbers is Plum Lovin' (\$8.99).

FARRIS, JOHN BABY MOLL (\$8.99)

FORREST, CHRISTOPHER GENESIS CODE (\$8.99) Nobel Prize winning geneticist Joshua Ambergris has made an astounding

find: he has discovered a coded text hidden in human DNA. Before he can change the course of history by announcing his incredible discovery, he is murdered. Who planted this code eons ago? Can it be decoded? Ambergris's assistants Christian Madison and Grace Nguyen must follow the serpentine trail to uncover a global conspiracy of silence, secrecy, and murder that spans the breadth of human history. A shadowy group known only as the Order, guards the ancient secret enciphered in the mythologies and architecture of Earth's oldest civilization and encoded into the very fabric of human DNA.

FRANCOME, JOHN DARK HORSE (\$10.99) 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.

FREEMAN, BRIAN stride WATCHER (#4) (\$24.95 trade paperback, \$37.95 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

FUCHS, MICHAEL S PANDORAS SISTERS (\$16.99)

GABALDON, DIANA lord john LORD JOHN (#3) HAND OF DEVILS (\$16.95) 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).

GIBSON, WILLIAM SPOOK COUNTRY (\$16.50)

GIUTTARI, MICHELE FLORENTINE DEATH (#1) (\$24) and DEATH IN TUSCANY (#2) (\$33). (Expensive British paperbacks, Imported from the UK, so stock is a little iffy, but go ahead and order them and we'll get 'em.) Finally translated from the Italian into English, the first two novels in the Chief Superintendent Ferrara series. The author, a longtime policeman, has been the head of the Squadra Mobile (flying squad) in Florence and was involved in the Florence Monster investigation—see **Douglas Preston's** (non-fictional, \$28.99) or **Magdalen Nabb's** (fictional, \$21) accounts, The Monster of Florence. From the late 1960s into the 1990s, 16 courting couples were murdered, usually in cars. Although an individual was convicted, **Giuttari** uncovered that the murders were the work of a group. Although two more men are now in prison, the whole story may never be known.

GLEESON, JOHN COAST GROWERS (\$15.95) When the muck-raking publisher of the *Coast Chronicle*, Albert Sloan is found hanging in an apple grove, the Mounties waste no time ruling his death a suicide. Not good enough for the widow, and, thus, BC reporter Pat Ross is drawn into an investigation of Sloan's last days.

GRAVES, SARAH BOOK OF OLD HOUSES (#11) (\$8.99) 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.

GRIPPANDO, JAMES LAST CALL (#7) (\$8.99) 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.

GRISHAM, JOHN APPEAL (\$11.99) In a crowded courtroom in Mississippi, a jury returns a shocking verdict against a chemical company accused of dumping toxic waste into a small town's water supply. The chemical company, owned by billionaire Carl Trudeau, appeals. Through an intricate web of conspiracy and deceit, Trudeau's political operatives recruit a young, unsuspecting candidate to finance, manipulate, market and mold him into a potential Supreme Court justice. Their Supreme Court justice, who might just overturn

the original verdict.

GRANT, TRACY BENEATH A SILENT MOON (\$14.95) Reissue. First published in 2003. At the time, this is what we had to say: The second in the wonderful series that Marian enjoys so much. She picked Daughter of the Game (out of print), the first in the series, in an earlier newsletter and is delighted that this novel is now in. London 1817 and Melanie and Charles Fraser have traded the moment-to-moment dangers of the war-ravaged Continent for the glittering world of the British. An assassination and a trail of clues lead the two to discover some nasty facts about Charles' family history and about close friends. "Thank goodness for the family tree provided with the story" say Marian, "or I never would have figured out who's who and who slept with whom, nudge nudge wink wink."

HAGBERG, DAVID DANCE WITH THE DRAGON (\$9.99) A Kirk MacGarvey novel. The third?

HARRISON, KIM OUTLAW DEMON WAILS (\$8.99)

HARROD-EAGLES, C dynaty MEASURE OF DAYS (#30) (\$10.99) 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.

HECHTMAN, BETTY DEAD MEN DONT CROCHET (#2) (\$7.50) Sequel to Hooked on Murder (\$7.50).

HEWSON, DAVID costa DANTE'S NUMBERS (#7) (\$19.95) The death mask of the poet Dante is to be exhibited at the premiere of a controversial film, *Inferno*, based on his epic work. But at the grand unveiling this priceless artifact is replaced by a macabre death mask of the film's star, Allen Prime. Minutes later the leading actress, Maggie Flavier, is threatened before her attacker is shot. Nic Costa and his team follow the movie to its next showing in San Francisco, to safeguard the remaining items in the exhibit and to recover the stolen death mask. The others in this exciting series are Season for the Dead, Villa of Mysteries, Sacred Cut, Lizard's Bite, Seventh Sacrament and The Garden of Evil (\$9.99 each).

HOLT, HAZEL MRS MALLORY AND A TIME TO DIE (#18) (\$7.50) Yes, it's a new novel.

HOOPER, KAY BLOOD DREAMS (\$10.99)

HOSSEINI, KHALED THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS (\$20) By the author of The Kite Runner (\$21).

HUNTER, STEPHEN bob swag 47TH SAMURAI (#4) (\$12.99) Bob Lee Swagger and Philip Yano are bound together by a single moment at Iwo Jima, 1945, when their fathers, two brave fighters on opposite sides, met in bloody battle for the island. Only Earl Swagger survived. More than sixty years later, Yano comes to America to honour the legacy of his heroic father by recovering the sword he used in the battle. His search leads him to Crazy Horse, Idaho, where Bob Lee, ex-marine and Vietnam veteran, pledges to help him. Bob Lee finds the sword and delivers it to Yano in Tokyo. On inspection, they discover that it is not a standard WWII blade, but a legendary shinshinto katana, an artifact of the nation, priceless and worth killing for.

HYZY, JULIE white house HAIL TO THE CHEF (#2) (\$8.99) The second in the White House culinary series, sequel to State of the Onion (\$10.99). See *Marian's Picks*.

IRONSIDE, ELIZABETH GOOD DEATH (\$20) A story of vengeance, violence, and death set in a French country house during the last weeks of World War II. Theo de Cazalle returns home after fighting with the Free French against the Vichy regime to find his wife denounced as a collaborator, the lover of an SS officer. The same officer was found naked, his throat cut, in front of the de Cazalle's house. But de Cazalle is a civilized man, as well as a soldier, and he decides to seek the truth about the death of the German, and the humiliation of his wife. By the author of Death in the Garden (\$20) and A Very Private Enterprise (\$17).

JAMES, P D dalgliesh PRIVATE PATIENT (#14) large print (\$30) The latest Commander Adam Dalgliesh novel in large print.

JANCE, J A ali reynolds HAND OF EVIL (#3) (\$9.99) 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.

JONES, TERRY WHO MURDERED CHAUCER, A MEDEVIL MYSTERY (\$21.95) Terry Jones, acclaimed medievalist and former member of Monty Python, investigates the mystery surrounding the death of Geoffrey Chaucer. Beautifully illustrated.

KERR, PHILIP QUIET FLAME (#5) (\$24, British trade paperback) Part five of the trilogy. In Munich 1949, Bernie Gunther is asked by a woman to prove that her husband, who ran one of the concentration camps, is dead. But nothing is what it seems and Bernie ends up on the run, facing enemies on every side. The first three in this fabulous series are available in an omnibus edition, Berlin Noir (\$25 trade paperback). The fourth, One From the Other (#4) is due this February in its North American paperback edition (\$15.50) although there may be a copy of the UK trade paperback kicking around (\$24). This is a terrific series of novels.

KNIGHT, BERNARD MANOR OF DEATH (#12) (\$10.99) April 1196. When an unidentified body is discovered in the harbour town of Axmouth, twenty miles from Exeter, Sir John de Wolfe, the county coroner, is summoned to investigate. The manner of the young man's death is a matter of some dispute. But, as Sir John soon discovers, it was no accident. The victim did not drown, as the manor reeve alleges, but was strangled to death.

LEATHER, STEPHEN PRIVATE DANCER (\$17.95) Bangkok 1996. "The best book regarding the relationships with bar girls that you can ever read. This should be compulsory reading for all first-timers to Thailand."—*Pattaya Mail*.

LEATHER, STEPHEN shepherd DEAD MEN (#5) (\$10.99) Former SAS Trooper turned undercover cop Dan "Spider" Shepherd knows there are no easy solutions in the war against terrorism. But when a killer starts to target pardoned IRA terrorists, Shepherd puts his own life on the line to protect his former enemies.

LEGAULT, STEPHEN CARDINAL DIVIDE (\$23.50) Cole Blackwater, once a political superstar within Ottawa's environmental movement, now head of a nearly defunct conservation strategy consulting firm, badly needs a paying client. When he is approached by Peggy McSorlie, head of the Eastern Slopes Conservation Group, who needs his help to stop a mining project planned for Alberta's magnificent Cardinal Divide, he jumps at the chance. Maybe he should have thought about it! When people start dying...

LITTELL, ROBERT DEBRIEFING (\$15.50) Long out of print. When Oleg Kulakov defects from Russia, handcuffed to a sealed diplomatic pouch, it's Stone's job to find out if he's innocent.

LYNCH, SCOTT RED SEAS UNDER RED SKIES (#2) (\$8.99) Sequel to Lies of Locke Lamora (\$12.99)

MCCOY, KEN HAMMERHEAD (\$10.95)

MCGARRITY, MICHAEL DEATH SONG (#11) (\$8.99) 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. One of *J.D.'s Picks* a year ago.

MCCAFFREY, ANNE DRAGON HARPER (\$9.99) A special order.

MCCAFFREY, TODD J DRAGONS FIRE (\$10.99) A special order.

MANKELL, HENNING KENNEDY'S BRAIN (\$19.95) When archaeologist Louise Cantor's son, Henrik, is found dead in his flat, she refuses to believe it was suicide. While looking through his bundles of papers, she discovers he was obsessed with the conspiracy theory that John F. Kennedy's brain disappeared prior to the autopsy,

along with vital evidence regarding the bullet. The only lead is a letter and a photograph from Henrik's girlfriend in Mozambique. Louise's quest to unravel the mystery of her son's death takes her to Africa.

MERCIER, PASCAL NIGHT TRAIN TO LISBON (\$17.50) First published in Germany in 2004, this novel has now been translated into more than a dozen languages and has sold million of copies.

MUNNELLY, BILLY BILLY'S BEST BOTTLES WINES FOR 2009 (\$19.95) We were surprised at how well this sold for us in 2008, so here is the 2009 edition. Over 300 wines listed, simple and fun descriptions. There is also a section titled 'wine school'.

NASAW, JONATHAN pender WHEN SHE WAS BAD (#4) (\$9.99) Lily DeVries and Ulysses Maxwell have quite a few things in common. Both were horribly abused as children, both diagnosed with multiple personality disorders and both incarcerated in the same Oregon mental institution. These two hot lovers are also cold-blooded killers. After their escape from the mental institution E.L. Pender and Dr. Irene Cogan are the only two who can stop them. The others in the series are The Girls He Adored (\$9.99), Fear Itself (\$11.99) and Twenty-seven Bones (\$10.99).

PALMER, STUART THE PENGUIN POOL MURDERS (#1) and THE PUZZLE OF THE PEPEPR TREE (#4) (\$20.00 ea.) Two early Hildegard Withers mysteries, first published in 1931 and 1933, from those increasingly clever people at Rue Morgue Press. Holy serendipitous, Batman. The stock market has crashed and a Wall Street broker is found floating in the penguins' pool at the aquarium! See *Marian's Picks*.

PATTERSON, JAMES womens 6TH TARGET (\$9.50) A burst of gunfire leaves several people dead and one woman fighting for her life. That victim is a member of the Woman's Murder Club, four friends who join forces on their toughest cases. Detective Lindsay Boxer pursues one lead after another to capture the man who tried to kill her friend, but the clues don't make any sense.

PATTISON, ELIOT shan PRAYER OF THE DRAGON (#5) (\$18) 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, Water Touching Stone (\$10.99 each) Bone Mountain (\$18.50) and Beautiful Ghosts (\$16.95).

PICKENS, CATHY HUSH MY MOUTH (#4) (\$8.99) Avery Andrews has a new case; he's been hired by Fran French, from Atlanta, to look for her friend Neanna. Neanna had been looking for information on the unsolved murder of her aunt Wenda, whose body, twenty years earlier, had been found, posed on a memorial bench in the cemetery, her packed luggage at her feet. When Neanna is found in her car, dead from a shot to the head, the police want to call it suicide. Fran wants Avery to prove it wasn't suicide. Sequel to Southern Fried, Done Her Wrong (\$9.99 each) and Hog Wild (\$8.99)

RAYNE, SARAH DEATH CHAMBER (\$9.99) Georgina Grey's family has had a long history with Calvary Gaol—her great-grandfather worked there as a prison doctor in the 1930s—and the past is encroaching on her. Someone is going to great lengths to ensure the past remains buried.

ROBERTS, JOHN MADDOX spqr UNDER VESUVIUS (#11) (\$16.95) 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.

ROBERTS, WENDY sadie DEVIL MAY RIDE (#2) (\$7.50) A crime scene cleaner-upper who can talk to ghosts. The first in the se-

ries is Remains of the Dead (\$9.99). "I liked them both" says Marian. See *Marian's Picks*.

ROSS, ANN MISS JULIA STRIKES BACK (\$14.00)

ROZAN, S J ABSENT FRIENDS (\$8.99) The secrets of a group of childhood friends unravel in this mystery. Not one of her series but garnering rave reviews nonetheless.

RUCKA, GREG kodiak PATRIOT ACTS (#5) (\$8.99) Body-guard-turned-fugitive Atticus Kodiak goes underground to protect the woman he loves and the country he may have to betray to defend.

RUSSE, SAVANNAH DARK NIGHTS DARK DREAMS (#1) (\$7.50)

RYAN, ROBERT EMPIRE OF SAND (\$10.99) 1915: As the First World War rages in Europe, a talented young intelligence officer named Thomas Edward Lawrence is in Cairo running a network of spies across the Levant. He is convinced that an Arab revolt is the only way to remove the Ottoman presence and leave a free and self-governed Arabia. But alarming reports reach him of British hostages taken in Persia, a kidnapping orchestrated by infamous German agent Wilhelm Wassmuss. The War Office in London also hears of the news and British assassin Captain Harold Quinn is dispatched to Cairo with very clear instructions. It is Lawrence's expertise and cultural understanding that led him to become one of the most pivotal and respected figures in the Arab revolt of WWI.

SATTERTHWAIT, WALTER FLOWER IN THE DESERT (#3) and ACCUSTOMED TO THE DARK (#5) (\$12.95 ea.) The Joshua Croft novels are being reprinted. What joy! Two more, Wall of Glass (#1) and At Ease With the Dead (#2) (also \$12.95 ea.) should be here soon. This is a terrific series, set in Santa Fe and featuring PI Joshua Croft, and you should take this chance to read them.

SCARROW, SIMON CENTURION (#8) (\$10.99) Between the great powers of Rome and her old foe Parthia lies the desert kingdom of Palmyra. Parthia plans to gain control of Palmyra so that it can launch an invasion of the Roman provinces. The Second Illyrian cohort, with Prefect Marco and Centurion Cato in charge, prepare to defend Palmyra.

SCHATZING, FRANK DEATH AND THE DEVIL (\$17.25) In the year 1260, under the supervision of architect Gerhard Morart, the most ambitious ecclesiastical building in all of Christendom, the great cathedral, is rising above the merchant city of Cologne, Germany. But there is a bitter struggle going on between the ruling merchant families and the Archbishop to control the immense wealth of this prosperous commercial centre, a struggle that quickly becomes deadly. Morart is the first of many victims, pushed to his death from the cathedral scaffolding by a huge man with long hair, all clad in black. But hiding in the branches of the archbishop's apple orchard is a witness: a red-haired petty thief called Jacob the Fox, street-smart, cunning and yet naive in the way of the political world. Out of his depth, he soon finds himself engaged in a desperate battle with some very powerful forces.

SHANNON, JOHN CRACKED EARTH (#2) (\$16.50) Jack Liffey, LA private eye.

SHAW, CATHERINE RIDDLE OF THE RIVER (\$24) Set in 1898. Vanessa Weatherburn goes undercover to find out the identity of a woman found floating in the River Cam and also the identity of the murderer. She is helped in these endeavours by the cream of Cambridge's academic community. Sequel to The Three Body Problem (\$10.95), Flowers Stained With Moonlight (\$10.95) and The Library Paradox (looks to be out of print). No sign of when the Canadian edition might become available.

SHOLES, LYNN LAST SECRET (\$18.50) The second of four Cotton Stone mysteries.

SIMON, MICHAEL LAST JEW STANDING (#4) (\$16.50) Lieutenant Dan Reles has a new house, a wife, and a son, and a great career as head of Austin Homicide, but it's funny how your past catches up with you. When Dan's deadbeat father Ben Reles, a Mafia leg-

breaker who's spent the last twenty years on the run, shows up on Dan's doorstep with an escaped prostitute in tow, trouble is sure to follow. Others in the series are Dirty Sally (\$10.99), Body Scissors (\$17.50) and Little Faith (\$16.50). See *JD's Picks*.

SIMPSON, JOHN WORSLEY DEBT OF DEATH (#4) (\$18.50) The fourth Harry Stark novel. Harry is a curmudgeonly Toronto Homicide Detective, who claims to have a perfect solution record and who prefers to act as a lone wolf, but is not above getting a little help from his friends. Undercut, Counterpoint and Shadowmen (\$18.00 each) are the first three. See *JD's Picks*.

SMITH, ALEXANDER scotland WORLD ACCORDING TO BERTIE (#4) (\$21) Sequel to 44 Scotland Street, Espresso Tales and Love Over Scotland (\$21 ea.)

SMITH, L J NIGHT WORLD (#2) (\$11.50) A collection of three vampire stories for young adults: Dark Angel, The Chosen and Soulmate. Night World (#1) contained Secret Vampire, Daughters of Darkness and Spellbinder. "Great" says Marian.

ST MARTIN'S PRESS WILL SHORTZ PRESENTS SUPER SMART SUDOKU (\$5.99) You've got to be good for these ones.

STANTON, MARY beaufort DEFENDING ANGELS (#1) (\$8.99) A series debut novel, featuring Savannah lawyer Brianna Winston Beaufort. Under the name **Claudia Bishop**, she has written some twenty novels in the Hemlock and the Mackenzie Farm series.

STARR, JASON FOLLOWER (\$9.99) In New York City, Katie Porter is becoming more and more disillusioned. No matter how wide a net she casts, she can't seem to find a guy who understands her. But Peter sees her at the gym. He sees her at the coffee shop she stops at on her way to work. In fact, he sees her almost everywhere as he quietly follows her. He's got the proposal worked out, he's even got the ring and their happy home already bought. After all, he's had enough time to plan everything to perfection, he grew up in the same small town. Surely, after all these years, he won't let anything stand in his way. Creepy.

STEVENSON, WILLIAM SPYMISTRESS SECRET LIFE OF VERA ATKINS (\$19.99) The biography "the greatest female secret agent of WWII." Non fiction, obviously.

STONE, NICK max mingus MR CLARINET (#1) (\$17.95) Set in Haiti where Miami-based private investigator Max Mingus is looking for the missing son of billionaire Allan Carver. Trouble is, the five-year-old son, Charlie, was abducted three years ago and Max has heard what happened to all the other PIs sent to Haiti on the same job. With nothing to lose and all that money, Max agrees. Dark, tough, compelling.

THEORIN, JOHAN ECHOES FROM THE DEAD (#1) (\$14.00) A novel that Cottage Lady had Picked in the Sept. 08 issue, but which only arrived in early December. Set on the holiday resort island of Oland, just off the east coast of Southern Sweden. Lots of Nordic gloom. The story spans some twenty-years, starting around the end of WW2. Very good.

THURLO, AIMEE&DAVID agath FALSE WITNESS (#4) (\$8.99) 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 rutledge PALE HORSE (#10) (\$17.99) 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.

TODD, CHARLES MATTER OF JUSTICE (#11) (\$ 24.99 trade

paperback, \$34.99 hardcover). See the hardcover section for an annotation.

TOPE, REBECCA thea COTSWOLD MYSTERY (#4) \$10.95) 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, Cotswold Ordeal, and Death in the Cotswold (currently not available in Canada but stock of the UK edition (\$21) is due soon).

VACHSS, ANDREW burke TERMINAL (#17) (\$15.95) Terminally ill, an ex-con needs major cash to gamble on a cure that's available only in Switzerland. The one card he has to play is access to evidence that three rich men tortured, raped and murdered a thirteen-year-old girl thirty years ago. But such a complicated extortion scheme needs the hand of a specialist crew, so Burke is offered a piece of the action. If he and his family can pull this off, Burke gets what he lives for: money and revenge.

[VARIOUS]GREENE, GRAHAM & HUGH SPY'S BEDSIDE BOOK (\$23.95) First published in 1957. This classic anthology, with a new introduction by the former head of MI5, Stella Rimington, includes stories by some of the great writers on spying and many practitioners, including **Ian Fleming**, **John Buchan** and others.

[VARIOUS]STABENOW, DANA, ed. UNUSUAL SUSPECTS stories of mystery and fantasy (\$15.50)

VIETS, ELAINE MURDER WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS (\$7.50) A mystery shopper novel.

WELLS, MELINDA della KILLER MOUSSE (#1) (\$10.99) On her first live TV cooking show, the previous host of the show dies from poison in the chocolate mousse. Doesn't look good when you own a cooking school.

WILLIAMS, CHARLES RIVER GIRL (\$19.95) First published in 1951 as The Catfish Triangle, this book shares some similarities with **Cain's** The Postman Always Rings Twice (\$14.95). Down in swamp country a deputy sheriff meets and falls in love with a young lass, but her husband stands in the way...for a time.

WILLIAMS, CHARLES NOTHING IN HER WAY (\$19.95) Welcome to the roller-coaster world of professional con-men—and the one wild beauty who can out-swindle and outwit them all. Utterly beautiful, smart as a whip, here is the most fascinating confidence woman in modern suspense fiction. Her name is Cathy Dunbar—all soft and warm and ready for the taking, until one by one her men find out who is really being taken...

WINSPEAR, JACQUELINE acti INCOMPLETE REVENGE (#5) (\$15.50) This 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 realises the town is hiding something sinister.

WISHART, DAVID marcus ILLEGALLY DEAD (#12) (\$10.99) When Marcus Corvinus receives a letter from his adopted daughter with the intriguing P.S. "Oh, by the way, please could you come down here as soon as possible? Clarus thinks there's been a murder" he rushes on over. Lucius Hostilius has died from poisoning, true, but he was very sick, so was it murder or suicide?

WOODS, STUART ed eagle SANTA FE DEAD (#3) (\$10.99) An Ed Egel story, sequel to Santa Fe Rules (\$10.99) and Short Straw (\$13.50).