



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

March 2007

Winter is hanging in way too long. Enough, already. Although winter started off mildly enough, it certainly does not wish to end the same way. The last six weeks or so have been, well, miserable. I've been fortunate enough to have gotten away a time or two this winter but I am ready for spring. And I don't even mind winter all that much.

I had never been to Mexico; so when a friend asked if I'd like to join his golfing buddies for a week of golf in Acapulco, I thought about it, long and hard, not, and accepted. This was an all-inclusive package and, although it seemed that we would neither take off nor land due to two inconvenient freezing rain storms, all went off without a hitch. The weather was glorious, 33C/91F every day and not a cloud in the sky. Every day, around noon, someone, the jefe del Estado perhaps, would turn on the giant cooling fans and the beautiful breezes would start to blow inland and, as Gary, one of the gang, would bellow, we were in paradise. I'd go again.

Every year around this time I hit you up for some money for Sunnybrook and Women's College Hospital. This year's Run for Research will take place on the 27th of May, so here I am. And every year you have been very generous, very encouraging, so you have no one to blame but yourself. Just to remind you, all the money you send me--there is no cut for Sleuth, damn it--goes to Sunnybrook and Women's College hospitals to study the issues facing women: dementia, diabetes, heart disease, breast cancer. And since, my happiness and livelihood are dependant to a not insignificant extent on women, it behooves me to do what I can to keep as many of them around, healthy and for as long as possible. Seriously, I appreciate that there are countless worthy causes and you can't possibly support them all, but if there is any room left in your donation budget please consider this one. I would be delighted and honoured to run under your sponsorship. All donations are tax receiptable, of course. **Cheques should be**

Signings

Lyn Hamilton

The Chinese Alchemist (\$30)
Thursday, April 19, 2007

Maureen Jennings

A Journeyman to Grief (\$22.99)
Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Events run from 6-7:30 pm. Please mark your calendars, preorder the books now, and come meet Lyn and Maureen. If you cannot attend but would like a signed or inscribed copy, just call us with the details and we'll make it happen. Check the website for more details.

made out to Manulife Run for Research and we can also charge your Visa or MasterCard if that's convenient. Thank you.

Lyn Hamilton will be at Sleuth on **Thursday April 19, from 6 – 7:30 pm**, to tell you all about her new novel The Chinese Alchemist (\$30), the eleventh in the Lara McClintoch archaeological mystery series. The novels feature a peripatetic antiques dealer, Lara, who travels the world seeking out the rare and beautiful for her Toronto store but ends up finding a little murder and mayhem along the way.

Although I would prefer to tell you about the launch of **MAUREEN JENNING's** forthcoming Detective Murdoch novel, A Journeyman to Grief (\$22.99), in the next issue of the newsletter, the timing of the newsletters is such that I had best mention it here. Let her tell you all about The Underground Railroad and Toronto's connection to that vile practice of slavery on **Wednesday, May 9, from 6 – 7:30 pm**. As Maureen has done in the past, there will be a special promotional card and stamp that will only be available at the launch. This time the postcard will be of a former slave, Susan Cox Green, signed by her great grandson, Al.

You know by now of my deep admiration and affection for the works of **REGINALD HILL**, and in particular, his Dalziel and Pascoe nov-

The Merchant of Menace,

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els. So, it is with some concern that I tell you that the next novel in the series, the twentieth and due this month, is entitled Death Comes for the Fat Man (in Canada, \$34.95) and Death of Dalziel (in the UK, \$54, in very limited quantity). I have not had a copy to read yet, so I do not know how literally to take the title, and if you do know, **don't tell me**, but I'm much afraid. **Colin Dexter** dispensed with Morse a few years ago, and fans were walking around London sporting black arm bands. If a similar fate awaits Dalziel, the reaction may be more like what London witnessed when **Doyle** sent Holmes over the falls at Reichenbach. I'm going to assume that the author is toying with us and that Dalziel will continue to grow older and ever fatter.

In the last little while two or three customers have mentioned that they had problems finding Sleuth's website (sleuthofbakerstreet.com) or opening the archived copies of the newsletter. Have you had similar problems? Did you even know that we had a website and that back issues of the newsletter are archived there? Please do me a favour. Take a minute and visit the website, open the January and March issues and let me know if you encounter any difficulties. E-mail me at sleuthbooks@sympatico.ca. I would really appreciate it. Thank you.

Marian's Picks

Paddington has grown very feeble over the past couple of months and I am beginning to wonder if his hearing is now going. When he lies in front of the fire at the back of the store in his "flat cat" pose (stretched out so flat that he looks like a rug) and doesn't move, my heart lurches into my throat. We've all been keeping an eye on him, taking turns going over to see if he's okay. It is a bit scary sometimes. He was the last addition to the household, some seventeen years ago, and he's going to be the very last one as well, I suspect. No more, as JD is allergic and he'd like a few years to undo the damage to his lungs that he has willingly inflicted. He's going to try to wean himself off the puffers. Funny thing about Paddington, though, let a dog into the store, and watch his hackles rise. (Do cats have hackles?). He's up, he's alert, and he's aggressive. What a guy.

Walking has been challenging lately due to the ice and snow but I have persevered. I'm off to New York City at the end of March to do a half marathon, thus the need to persevere. My marathon target for this year is also New York City (in November) but since you have to ballot to get into it, I won't know until June whether I've been accepted. If all else fails I'll go back to Chicago and see if I can improve on my finishing time from last year. Chicago is such a great city and the marathon is very well organized.

What is it about a book that makes you want to pick it up and read it? Obviously, one rejects some pretty easily, but what is the combination of factors that results in me reading this one and not that one? I wish I could figure that out. When I look through the list of books I have read over the years, I conclude that I have varied tastes. I wonder what makes me want to choose a particular title for a *Marian's Pick* over another one but I won't dwell on it, I'll just keep reading. What fun it is to be able to escape into a good mystery and let it snow and sleet. It is such a gift to be able to read so many wonderful stories, how do non-readers survive? What a great job I have.

STEVE BERRY takes a little bit of history and spins a great story around it. His Amber Room (\$10.99) gave us a potential solution to what happened to the Amber Room that was dismantled during World War II and then never found again. His Templar Legacy (\$10.99) introduces us to Cotton Malone, an operative for the US government,

who retired to open up a bookstore in Copenhagen. Things Templar are interesting to me and this was a fast read about a search for treasure lost forever when the Knights Templar were exterminated in the fourteenth century. The Alexandria Link (\$32) is another fast read featuring Malone and it's a story about the potential location of the great library of Alexandria which disappeared fifteen hundred years ago. I know it's fiction but it's interesting fiction and isn't that what reading mysteries is all about?

I was reluctant to read Find Me (\$31) by **CAROL O'CONNELL** as a couple of her later stories had disappointed me. But I'm glad I read this one. I loved Mallory, I found her a little more vulnerable in this than in earlier stories (I won't say too much because it will spoil the plot) and I loved the descriptions of Route 66, the old highway route from Chicago to Los Angeles. It made me want to travel that old route and see the USA as it was years ago. Riker and Charles Butler also travel the highway although not always with Mallory. A convoy of parents is looking for their missing children and the old highway plays a big part in the story. If it's been a while since you've read a Mallory then give this one a shot. If, somehow, you have never read one then try Mallory's Oracle (\$10.99), the first in the series with this very tough female New York City cop.

Mistress of the Art of Death by **ARIANA FRANKLIN** (Canadian ed, \$26.00 trade paperback) introduces us to a new forensic pathologist, set in the 12th century. In medieval Cambridge, four children have been murdered and the Catholic townsfolk blame their Jewish neighbours. The Cambridge Jews are put under the protection of Henry II who then calls on his cousin, the King of Sicily, whose subjects include the best medical experts in Europe. Henry asks him to send his finest "master of the art of death". His cousin sends Adelia, an expert on anatomy and the art of detection, but sending a female into a man's world in England at that time causes problems. This is a terrific story, based on an actual murder, that deals with a ton of social issues as well as being just a plain good read. The research is impeccable, the setting wonderful and the characters seem alive. I am really looking forward to reading more adventures of Adelia.

The Seventh Sacrament (\$29.95 UK hardcover and \$22.95 trade paperback) by **DAVID HEWSON** continues with Costa, Peroni and Falcone investigating the disappearance of a seven-year-old-boy fourteen years ago. The young boy's father spent time in jail for the crime and was recently released from prison but he is now on a rampage, seeking revenge. All the usual characters, Rome in all its splendour and a great mystery make this a wonderful read even if it gets off to a slow start. I've so loved reading about the city in these mysteries that I'd want to go visit. Maybe I'll run the Rome marathon. Of course, there is **DONNA LEON**'s Venice and **MAGDALEN NABB**'s Florence, two other cities that I'd love to visit. Now, both of those cities also have marathons...hmmmm. Other novels in the Costa series are Season for the Dead, Villa of Mysteries, Sacred Cut and Lizard's Bite (\$9.99 ea), all equally wonderful.

PETER MAY has started a new series featuring Enzo Macleod, a biologist teaching in Toulouse. Enzo could have pursued a career in forensics back in Scotland but left his family to start a new relationship in France. During a dinner one evening he made a bet stating he could use current day science to solve an old case involving a man who went missing ten years ago. Extraordinary People (\$29.95) is a wonderful read that captures the essence of being in France. Remember how compelling his Beijing stories were with US pathologist Margaret Campbell and Chinese policeman Li Yan? This new book will "take" you to France in the same way that his earlier series "took" you to Beijing. If you have missed his Beijing series, the first

two, Firemaker (#1) and Fourth Sacrifice (#2) (\$9.99 ea) are still in print.

Wendy's Picks

Set in Orlando, Head Games (\$31.00) by **THOMAS B. CAVANAGH**, introduces us to Mike Garrity, a retired policeman, with two ex-wives and a fifteen year-old daughter, Jennifer. He also has a brain tumor from which he expects to die in the next few months. His tumor has a name – Bob. When a former colleague turned bodyguard asks Mike to investigate the disappearance of the lead singer of a famous boy group, Mike figures he's got nothing better to do. When he learns that his daughter is a huge fan of TJ, the missing singer, he hopes that he can drop some names and impress her. Mike starts his investigation, not sure if TJ has run away or the victim of something more sinister. He discovers that some rather nasty characters are also searching for TJ and then, a headless corpse shows up. This is a very enjoyable mystery, sad and funny, with lots of twists and turns. We see another side to Orlando, not just the theme parks. Bob, the tumor, has a personality of its own and Mike is not ready to deal with it. What I loved about the book is how Garrity changes from the beginning, when he is resigned to his fate, to the end, when he is determined to change it. I can't wait for the next book to see how Mike is faring.

Heart-Shaped Box (\$29.95) by **JOE HILL** is a scary debut, more ghost/horror story than mystery even though there is a mystery. Judas Coyne is a fiftyish heavy metal star who collects macabre memorabilia. He also has a fondness for young Goth groupies, his current girlfriend Georgia being almost 30 years his junior. The latest addition to his collection is a ghost, purchased online. What he receives is an old suit, said to be inhabited by a ghost, and delivered in a heart-shaped box. Well, there really is a ghost and not a very nice one. Judas learns that the purchase was a set-up by the sister of one of his lovers, a young woman who committed suicide. The sister has sent the ghost of her stepfather to create all sorts of havoc and ultimately avenge the death. The first part of the book started off slow for me as **Hill** sets up the characters and the background but then it took off when Judas and his girlfriend Georgia take to the road, fleeing from the ghost, to find the sister and resolve the past. **Hill** also gives the reader a great deal of information into Judas' past so we know why he is the way he is, thoughtless and selfish. This is a very suspenseful, creepy book with twists and turns galore. And by the by, **Hill** is **Stephen King's** son. Apple not falling far from the tree, maybe?

The Lying Tongue (\$28.99) by **ANDREW WILSON** is a suspenseful debut. It was the cover that initially made me pick this book up, a beautiful atmospheric photo of a Venetian canal and gondola. I am intrigued by all things Venetian at the moment but this shall pass, I'm sure. Adam Woods has just graduated from university in England and has come to Venice to tutor a teenage boy in English. The job falls through but he is referred to another position as personal assistant to Gordon Crace, a reclusive author who wrote one hugely successful book and never published again. Crace wants to be left alone, never to discuss his past or his writing. Adam, wishing to write a book himself, eagerly accepts the job even though he must abide by Crace's rules to never leave the palazzo for long periods of time or to talk about his (Crace's) book. Adam makes himself indispensable to Crace, all the while looking for information into his past. Adam believes that he can write a fabulous biography of the reclusive writer and will stop at nothing to uncover the truth. I could not put this book down – the more I learned about Adam and his past, the more I was

intrigued. He is not what he seems. This is a beautifully written psychological thriller about getting what you want, no matter what the consequences nor the cost.

A Wicked Snow (\$9.99) by **GREGG OLSEN** is another debut that I really enjoyed. We meet Hannah Griffin, a married mother of one, crime scene investigator in Santa Louisa, CA, who is trying to forget the tragedy that took her family twenty years before in Oregon. A December fire destroyed Hannah's family and uncovered more than 20 bodies, one of them her mother's. The arson/murders were never solved and the investigation went cold. Hannah has kept her past very much a secret from those around her, except her husband, and she has never looked into the case until she receives a note from the office's receptionist, a note that her Mother called. Hannah reopens the case with the help of FBI Agent Jeff Bauer, the original investigator on the case. Hannah is an extremely flawed character, chock full of neuroses from that awful day, but determined to survive the past and uncover the secrets that have coloured her life. Terrific.

I know that Marian and JD are huge fans of **T. JEFFERSON PARKER** so when his new book Storm Runners (\$32.95) arrived, I grabbed it up. Matt Stromsoe was an Orange County detective until his life blew up in his face, literally. His wife and son were killed in a bomb blast that left him maimed, physically and emotionally, a bomb blast meant for him alone. Mike Tavarez, Matt's childhood friend and leader of La Eme (Mexican mafia), goes to prison for the crime. Matt quits his job and after recovering from his injuries, sells up, moves away and hits bottom. A former colleague finds him and offers him a job with his security firm to protect Frankie Hatfield, television weatherperson, who is being stalked. Matt discovers that the stalker is more interested in Frankie's research into rainmaking than her celebrity and that there are ties back to the man in prison who still appears to be calling the shots. Wonderful characters, fine writing; I am now also a huge fan.

Water Like a Stone (\$31.50) by **DEBORAH CROMBIE** is her latest mystery featuring Duncan Kincaid and Gemma James. The couple and their two children have headed off to Duncan's parents' home in Cheshire to spend the Christmas holidays. They expect to relax and enjoy their break but instead get involved in two mysteries. Duncan's sister finds the mummified body of an infant in the wall of an old building that she is remodeling and then Duncan's son Kit discovers another body near the canal. I don't need to say a lot about this latest **Crombie** except that it is another great read from one of my favourite writers. We, the Crombie fans, have all been waiting for this one as it was delayed for some time but it's well worth the wait. I now want to go to England and travel the canals on one of those narrowboats. Just another vacation I've put on the 'To Do' list.

Last but the very best is Mr. Clarinet (\$39.00 UK hardcover), a debut by **NICK STONE**. This book was published in the UK last year and is due out here in July in hardcover. We have an extremely limited quantity of the UK hardcover, all REPRINTS. This is one of the best mysteries that I've read in a very long time. Max Mingus is an policeman and private investigator, recently released from prison where he served time for murder. He is grieving the tragic, and very untimely, death of his wife when he is asked to take on a case in Haiti. He is offered millions of dollars to locate a young boy who has been kidnapped, the son of a wealthy Haitian businessman. The size of the reward alone should have alerted Max to the dangers ahead. But that and the fact that previous detectives failed and/or died do not stop Max from traveling to Haiti to take the case. Mr. Clarinet is an island legend, a sort of pied piper involved in the disappearance of children for many decades. Max must contend with voodoo, a drug

lord, superstition, family secrets, vengeance and the reality of Haiti itself to solve the case. This book is dark, disturbing, violent, thought-provoking, really long (over 500 pages), at times shocking, quite compelling and unputdownable. Just what I enjoy in a book! The detailed descriptions of the poverty of Haiti and the grim conditions in which the Haitian people live stayed with me long after I finished this book. Sad but fascinating. And not for the faint of heart.

J.D.'s Picks

The Reader (\$17.95), **BERNHARD SCHLINK**'s *New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times* Notable Book of the Year, was released in North America in 1998, and I remember reading it and being most impressed, and wondering when his three PI novels might also become available. It took a few years but in April 2005, Self's Punishment (\$17), the first, was released. I have now learned that the second, Self's Deception (\$17.95), is due to be released in July. And that was sufficient reason for me to revisit both of these and, poor as my memory can be, I was not misremembering how good a writer this guy is. The Reader is the story of an affair between a fifteen-year-old boy, Michael, and a thirty-year-old woman, Hanna, which lasts long enough for Michael to fall in love. Hanna is aloof, controlling, and treats him badly. Nonetheless, he's devastated when, without any word, Hanna disappears. Their story resumes a few years later, when Michael's law school class monitors closely a notorious trial. On trial is Hanna. This is Germany of the 1950s and 1960s; the collective German guilt and the relationship of post-war Germans with their parents, are questions that are much in the air.

Gerhard Self is a private investigator who as a young man served as a Nazi prosecutor. Barred from the judicial system, he becomes a private investigator after the war. The first of his three investigations, Self's Punishment (\$17), chronicles Self's search for a hacker who's tampering with the computer systems of a Rhineland chemical plant. So far, his tampering is more along the lines of pranks, accepting duplicate reservations for the tennis courts, but the potential to do serious damage is obvious. The plant manager, a childhood friend and ex-brother-in-law, has hired him to get to the bottom of this. His investigation leads to murder and, once again, the atrocities of Germany's recent past are the framework for this morally complex thriller. Well worth the time. And, oh yeah, I forgot to mention that there is co-author on this novel, **WALTER POPP**.

A Safe Place for Dying by **JACK FREDRICKSON** (\$33.95) is a fine debut novel featuring Dek Elstrom, a down-on-his-heels private investigator living and working in Chicago. (What is it with all the Chicago novels recently?) This one was brought to my attention by a good friend and customer, Harriet from Washington State, who had heard a review of it on her local NPR station. **Nancy Pearl**, the author of numerous "what to read next" guides had reviewed it glowingly, saying that she had liked it as much as *Monkeewrench* (\$9.99). Well, this was good enough for Harriet and good enough for me, so I grabbed a copy. An extortion letter arrives at an exclusive gated community. It makes no specific demands other than \$50,000 be gotten ready—chump change for an enclave where the cheapest house is worth over \$3 million. Things hot up a tad when one of the mansions explodes and in comes our Dek. He's a tad reluctant to take on the job, knowing that this is really a job for the police, but is too broke to refuse the fee. Besides, his ex still occupies one of the mansions. Fast, witty, entertaining, tailor made for **Parker** and **Crais** fans. Here's hoping there will be lots more adventures for Dek. The book is now into second printings but we still have a small quantity of firsts left.

I loved Tenderwire (\$25) by **CLAIRE KILROY**. This is a terrific first novel that is shortlisted for the Irish Novel of the Year Award. The story is about Eva Tyne, an Irish violinist living and working in New York who's still coming to grips with her vanished father and who has the chance, dangerous as it may be, to acquire what she's hoping will turn out to be a Stradivarius violin. She gathers together all her pennies, and she needs lots of them, to be able to swing the deal. "Eva Tyne, an Irish violinist living and working in New York, collapses after her solo debut and is rushed to hospital. Narrated in Eva's unforgettable voice - at once passionate and unreliable - "Tenderwire" is a novel of immense pace and skill, a guessing game and a whodunnit that surprises at every turn. Another major step forward for a remarkable new Irish voice."--*Irish Book Awards website*. This was an amazing read. Incidentally, also shortlisted for the same award is one of Wendy's recent favourites, The Book of Lost Things (\$29.99) by **JOHN CONNOLLY**. Here's hoping there is a tie for first place as I won't know who to pull for!

JOE LANSDALE is an author that I'm rather wary of and I treat with caution. I'm just not that into horror—it gives me the heebie-jeebies (sp?)—and he's one of the masters of that genre. (He's won the Bram Stoker Award many times.) Even his crime fiction, tame in comparison as it is, contains big, fat dollops of the scary, so I am cautious. Nonetheless, I sucked it up and picked up the recently published Lost Echoes (\$17.95 a Vintage paperback original) and started to read this supernatural crime thriller. He is, after all, the author of the fabulous Mucho Mojo (\$21 British mass market paperback, the US paperback is now, sadly, out of print) and I'm willing to take a few hits to find the next equally marvellous read. Success. This one is terrific. Like **T. JEFFERSON PARKER**'s equally fabulous The Fallen (\$10.99), where our hero has an unusual ability—he can tell when people lie to him because he sees colours when people speak, and lies are a particular colour—so too does Harry Wikes, the hero of Lost Echoes. He experiences horrific visions, more hindsight than foresight. It's as if the objects in a room, the couch, the walls, retain a memory of any violence that has taken place near them. Which memories Harry releases and experiences if he bumps into the objects. Needless to say, Harry is very, very careful not to bump into things. Until, his childhood crush, Kayla, asks him to help her solve her father's murder by deliberately releasing the dark secrets surrounding his death. Funny and scary, **Lansdale**'s trademark down-home, laid back style will amuse and entertain you. And just when you're getting down with it, it'll scare the pants off you.

A debut novel that I ranted and raved about a year ago, Holmes on the Range (\$15.95) by **STEVE HOCKENSMITH**, is now available in trade paperback. Here is what I had said: ... is not a Sherlockian parody or pastiche, as one might assume from the title. It is, instead, a murder investigation that takes place in 1893 Montana and our heroes are brothers Big Red and Old Red Amlingmeyer, who sign on as ranch hands at the secretive Bar VR cattle spread. The brothers' favourite pastime? Scouring *Harper's Weekly* for stories about the famous Sherlock Holmes. Big Red reads them aloud to his illiterate older brother around the campfire! When the boys come across a dead body and some funny goings on, Old Red sees the perfect opportunity to employ his Holmes-inspired deducifyin' skills. Great fun, and something that happens far too infrequently, an original.

CRAIG JOHNSON is the best. Cold Dish and Death Without Company (\$17.50 ea.) are the **finest** novels that I have read in the last couple of years. I have had a reading copy of the third, Kindness Goes Unpunished (\$30, due March 30. Reserve your first printing now) for some time now but have not wanted to read it until I had re-read the first two. I am now ready for the third. The setting, the characters, the

writing are just some of the absolutely marvelous things about these books. Cold Dish has been our best selling paperback of 2006.

And finally, Canada Reads. This is a CBC program where a group of prominent panelists champion a book each and after a series of discussions, one book is selected the winner. The hope is that CBC listeners will read the books prior to the discussions, participate in the discussion, and, ultimately, all Canadians will read the winning novel. Which this year turned out to be the stunningly beautiful Lullabies for Little Criminals (\$17.50) by **HEATHER O'NEILL**, a debut novel from this Montreal writer. I had, as it turned out, taken this book with me on my week off and was pleased to read, on my return, that it had won. The story is about a twelve-year-old girl living pretty much on her own, and often on the streets, making the mistakes that children without guidance could easily make. She's not that much younger than her father, who's woefully inadequate in his role as a parent. You'll laugh and you'll cry. Your heart will ache. You will not remain unmoved or dispassionate. But there is so much joy and hope in this bright, effervescent read that you won't want to put it down. This is a beautifully written debut novel and I would not hesitate to recommend it. Incidentally, one of the other aspirers to the winner's circle, Stanley Park (\$21) by **TIMOTHY TAYLOR**, was one of my picks in 2001 when it was first published.

And finally, this time I mean it, the 40th Anniversary Edition of The Fitzhenry and Whiteside Book of Quotations (\$11.95!!) edited by **ROBERT I. FITZHENRY** has been available recently. The author, who spent a lifetime in publishing, has gathered together some 6,500 quotations organized into some 200 categories and the result is the perfect book for the bathroom.

Ok, ok, one more, and this time, I really, really mean it, I promise. Not sure why I picked up this book, given that I refuse to read anything over 300 pages, but I had read a few reviews and was intrigued by the fact that the reviewers either loved this wordy, elegant, witty tome or hated this pretentious, self-indulgent, windy, 500 plus pages waste of trees. The copies in the store were seventh printings, so somebody was buying copies. Well, in for a penny, in for a pound, only one way to find out. The title sure is intriguing, Special Topics in Calamity Physics (\$34 reprints) by **MARISHA PESSL** and it is a debut novel. I won't even begin to try to describe the story, there is no plot, the first two hundred pages are merely a preamble, it does get a little precious after a while, but it is elegant and witty. I loved it. I did find a few firsts, a colleague generously sold me a few, and if you'd like one, please be sure to specify. They are priced at C\$45.

David's Picks

If you are looking for a new mystery series with great characterization, pace, humour, and some history thrown in for good measure, **ANDREW MARTIN**'s relatively new one is probably a good bet. The Necropolis Railway (\$18.50) is the first in a series featuring railway worker Jim Stringer. This is a nicely written story and Martin pours a lot of effort into placing the reader in 1903, on the platform or in the old timber and stone stations. The sights and sounds are captured brilliantly. And in Jim Stringer he has created a likeable and honest character. We begin with Jim working in a menial job in Edwardian England until he meets railway executive Rowland Smith. Mr. Smith takes to young Jim and offers him a job in the Nine Elms Locomotive Shed, where Jim works covered in soot each step of the way, into the position of porter. Porter Jim discovers that his fellow crew is strange and secretive bunch, and they seem to resent him. Jim

quickly learns that his predecessor vanished into thin air and that business at Nine Elms is not exactly above board. Out of self-preservation, Jim begins to ask questions, conduct surveillance and keep a journal. And from there the plot thickens and finds Jim Stringer fighting for justice. There's murder, arson, romance and of course lots of old trains and train lore. This is a compact book full of mad and hardened railway men, overflowing pubs and working class dialogue.

The second installment, Blackpool Highflyer (\$18.50), is equally enjoyable. Jim has been relocated and promoted to fireman on the famous locomotive. He has his sights set on an engineer's position and life is good after the hell he endured in Necropolis Railway. His position on the Highflyer (Great Britain's fastest train) is an adrenaline rush and it's during one such rush that things go horribly wrong. While barreling along the flatlands of Fylde his train is derailed. A woman dies in the accident and leaves behind an orphan son. Jim, as we know by now, is principled, determined, and yes, a little naïve. He is determined to find out who intentionally derailed the Highflyer. The answer to Jim's question is realistic, well-plotted and socially observant.

A third Jim Stringer installment is now available. The Lost Luggage Porter (\$25) has Jim promoted to Railway Detective. I have yet to read this one, but based on **Martin**'s first two efforts I am confident that he will remain (okay I'll say it) right on **track**. (*Yuk, yuk...thanks David. And I might mention that the fourth in the series, Murder at Deviation Junction (\$24) is due this summer.*)

Hardcovers

AKUNIN, BORIS SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF ERAST FANDORIN (\$39.00) (Weidenfeld & Nicolson) Court Counsellor Fandorin faces two very different adversaries. One is a wickedly mischievous swindler and master of disguises, whose con-tricks and machinations send ripples through late nineteenth-century Moscow. The other is a brutal serial killer.

ALLEN, CONRAD MURDER ON THE CELTIC (#8) (\$29.95) (St. Martin's) Ship's detectives George Porter Dillman and Genevieve Masefield cross the ocean again and this time Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is a passenger. Will he hinder or help them as they encounter their usual array of card sharks, cat burglars, drug smugglers and crooked passengers.

ARRUDA, SUZANNE STALKING IVORY (#2) (\$30.00) (NAL) 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).

ATHERTON, NANCY AUNT DIMITY GOES WEST (#12) (\$28.50) (Viking) To recuperate from the gunshot wound to her shoulder (Aunt Dimity and the Deep Blue Sea \$10.99), Lori Shepherd and her twins travel to the beautiful mountain town of Bluebird, Colorado. But all is not well as Lori soon finds out.

AULT, SANDI WILD INDIGO (#1) (\$30.00) (Berkley) Bureau of Land Management Agent Jamaica Wild witnesses a Tanoah Pueblo man being trampled to death by a stampeding buffalo. The tribe declares the incident a suicide, the FBI concurs, and the body is hurried

to ceremony before the sun can go down on the man's spirit. But Agent Wild suspects foul play. A debut novel.

BAILEY, ROBERT E *hardin* DEAD BANG (#3) (\$27.95)

BANKS, CARLA STRANGERS (\$32.95) (Harper Collins, UK) 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.

BASS, JEFFERSON FLESH AND BONE (#2) (\$29.95) (Morrow) 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).

BEATON, M C DEATH OF A MAID (#22) (\$29.99) (Mysterious Press) 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.

BERRY, STEVE ALEXANDRIA LINK (#2) (\$32.00) (Ballantine) 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 \$10.99). 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 *Marian's Picks*.

BIDDLE, CORDELIA FRANCES CONJURER (#1) (\$29.95) (Thomas Dunne) Philadelphia 1842. Financier Lemuel Beale has disappeared, and accidental drowning is the verdict of the local police. His heiress is his only daughter, Martha Beale. Unmarried and shy, she instigates a search for her father and in so doing, develops a romantic attachment to Thomas Kelman, an assistant to Philadelphia's mayor and a man whose business is homicide investigation. The inquiry into Lemuel's disappearance uncovers connections between the city's most affluent and most destitute.

BLACK, CARA MURDER ON THE ILE SAINT-LOUIS (#7) (\$31.00) (Soho) Facing a tight deadline on a computer security contract, Aimée Leduc responds to a telephone call from a stranger that leads her to an abandoned infant in a courtyard on the Ile Saint-Louis. As days pass, no one claims the infant.

BOHJALIAN, CHRIS DOUBLE BIND (\$30.00) (Shane Areheart) When college sophomore Laurel Estabrook is attacked while riding her bicycle through rural Vermont's back roads, her life is forever changed. Formerly outgoing, she withdraws into her photography and begins work at a homeless shelter. There she meets Bobbie Crocker, a man with a history of mental illness and a box of photographs that he won't let anyone see. When he dies suddenly, Laurel discovers that he was a successful photographer before he was homeless. She becomes convinced that some of his photographs reveal a deeply hidden, dark family secret.

BORN, JAMES O FIELD OF FIRE (\$32.50) (Putnam) Since returning from Bosnia, ATF Agent Alex Duarte has been slowly re-acclimating to life in South Florida. When a gunrunner's car explodes, Duarte's life kicks into overdrive in a high-profile hunt for what appears to be a serial bomber.

BORTHWICK, J S FOILED AGAIN (#13) (\$31.00) (St. Martin's) The Drama School at Bowmouth College is staging its annual Halloween masquerade but with a twist. Instead of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, it's doing Romiette and Julio. English professor and sometime amateur sleuth Sarah Deane has been recruited to assist backstage with the complicated costume changes. By the time the production is finally staged, a member of the faculty has been badly injured

and a student has been killed. Sarah investigates.

BROWNE, ROBERT GREGORY KISS HER GOODBYE (\$29.95) (St. Martin's) In a desperate act of revenge, cult leader Alex Gunderson kidnaps the daughter of ATF Agent Jack Donovan and buries her alive. But just as Jack's team is closing in, fate intervenes in the form of a bullet and the secret of Jessie's location is lost. With only a few precious hours of oxygen left to her and with not a single clue pointing in her direction, Jessie is sure to die. A debut novel.

CAVANAGH, THOMAS B HEAD GAMES (\$31.00) (Thomas Dunne) With two ex-wives, a fifteen-year-old daughter who hates him, and a soon-to-be-fatal brain tumour nicknamed Bob, retired police detective Mike Garrity doesn't have much to live for until an old colleague offers him a chance to go out with a bang. See *Wendy's Picks*.

CHARLES, KATE SECRET SINS (\$29.95) (Poisoned Pen) Curate Callie Anson faces professional challenges when a new parishioner worries about her granddaughter, Alex, who spends too much time on the internet. Meanwhile, Detective Inspector Neville Stewart is investigating the disappearance of Trevor Norton who went jogging along the Paddington canal and did not return. Trevor and his wife Rachel were expecting the birth of their first baby within days. Then Alex goes missing.

CHILD, LINCOLN DEEP STORM (\$30.00) (Doubleday) Former naval doctor Peter Crane is urgently summoned to a remote oil platform in the North Atlantic to help diagnose a bizarre medical condition spreading through the rig. When he arrives, he is sworn to secrecy and learns the real trouble lies two miles beneath the surface on Deep Storm, a stunningly advanced science research facility that has uncovered remains of the ancient civilization: the legendary Atlantis.

CHURCHILL, JILL ACCIDENTAL FLORIST (\$29.95) (Morrow) Jane Jeffry and longtime beau Detective Mel VanDyne finally 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.

COGGINS, MARK CANDY FROM STRANGERS (#3) (\$32.50) (Bleak House) Jazz bass-playing private eye August Riordan is hired to find Caroline Stockwell who has gone missing. Caroline and her friend Monica have a racy website with a devoted and creepy fan base. **Autographed copies available.**

COHEN, NANCY J PERISH BY PEDICURE (#8) (\$31.00)

CONDE, MARYSE STORY OF THE CANNIBAL WOMAN (\$28.99) (Atria) One dark night in Cape Town, Roselie's husband goes out for a pack of cigarettes and never comes back. With no means of support, her housekeeper urges her to take advantage of the strange gifts she has always possessed and embark on the career of a clairvoyant. As Roselie builds a new life for herself she seeks the truth about her husband's murder. Translated from French.

CRAIS, ROBERT WATCHMAN (\$29.99) (Simon & Schuster) Larkin Conner Barkley, the daughter of a very rich man, wants to help the authorities in a secret federal investigation but the bad guys are out to get her. A favour owed by Joe Pike brings him into the picture and he's the only person who can protect her. This whole novel is about Joe, with a little bit of Elvis Cole thrown in. Marian says: "I wonder if I now know too much about Joe? But I couldn't help myself, I read every word. Be still my heart"

CRIDER, BILL MURDER AMONG THE OWLS (\$29.95) (Thomas Dunne) Sheriff Dan Rhodes finds the body of their neighbour Helen Harris on her kitchen floor. There is nothing to indicate that her death wasn't an accident but his wife, Ivy, asks: Why was Helen's cat outside?

CROMBIE, DEBORAH WATER LIKE A STONE (#11) (\$31.50) (Morrow) Finally and to 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. **Autographed copies while available.** See *Wendy's Picks*.

DAVIES, DAVID STUART FORESTS OF THE NIGHT (\$30.00)
DEUTERMANN, P T SPIDER MOUNTAIN (\$31.00) (St. Martin's) Summoned by a friend, ex-cop Cam Richter agrees to investigate the assault of a young woman in a remote area of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Cam has no idea how dangerous his search will become because in this part of Appalachia, matriarch Ginny Creigh and her extended family destroy those who intrude. The Creighs control the crystal meth trade and own just about everything and everyone else in their neck of the woods.

DEVOE jr, FORREST EYE OF THE ARCHANGEL (\$31.50) (Harper Collins) It is the summer of 1963 and the Consultancy's top operatives, Jack Mallory and Laura Morse, fly to Monte Carlo in search of a spy satellite. The asking price is half a billion dollars (1963 dollars don't forget) and it's supposed to be Hitler's legendary long-lost Project Archangel, a device capable of shifting the balance of the Cold War.

DICKINSON, DAVID DEATH ON THE NEVSKII PROSPEKT (#6) (\$30.95)

DIETRICH, WILLIAM NAPOLEON'S PYRAMIDS (\$29.95)
DIXON, KEITH ART OF LOSING (\$31.00) (St. Martin's) Michael Jacobs, a talented but obscure New York City filmmaker, has just watched his third film flop. With few options available, Jacobs is tempted by the prospect of easy cash when Sebby Laslo, his producer, makes a one-time offer. Laslo plans to fix a horse race and needs Jacobs as a front man. But things don't go as planned.

DORSEY, TIM HURRICANE PUNCH (#9) (\$31.50) (Morrow) 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, ARTHUR CONAN HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES/MACBETH/LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW (\$44.00) A graphic novel.

DOYLE, ARTHUR CONAN ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$54.00) A beautiful version of the Sherlock Holmes stories but not one you want to take to bed with you. It's huge.

[DOYLE]CERVANTES, MIGUEL DE SAAV GREAT HEROES/KING ARTHUR/DON QUIXOTE/THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$44.00) This is a graphic novel.

[DOYLE] KEANE, DAVID HEADLESS MUMMY (#4) (\$19.99) A cute kids book featuring Joe Sherlock.

[DOYLE] MCCAY, BILL RAVEN LEAGUE: BUFFALO BILL WANTED! (\$13.50) A kids book.

DUGONI, ROBERT DAMAGE CONTROL (\$32.99) (Warner) A rising star at her prestigious Seattle law firm, Dana Hill knows all about stress. She pours herself into her work and her family until a frightening medical diagnosis forces her to reassess her role as a lawyer, mother and wife to a man she no longer trusts. Then her life is rocked even further by the shocking and brutal murder of her twin.

EVANOVICH, JANET PLUM LOVE (\$19.95) (St. Martin's) 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.

FAIRSTEIN, LINDA BAD BLOOD (\$32 hardcover, \$19.95 trade paperback) (Scribner) 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

FLUKE, JOANNE KEY LIME PIE MURDER (\$28.00) (Kensington) Hannah Swensen, owner of The Cookie Jar, investigates the murder of a fellow baking contest judge at the Tri-County Fair. As usual, there are a number of interesting recipes (twelve originals), and according to Marian, even one with soda crackers as a secret in-

gredient. For lovers of the lighter style of mystery. "Light and entertaining, a fast-read cosy mystery", says Marian.

FORBES, COLIN SAVAGE GORGE (\$34.99) (Simon & Schuster, UK, reprints) Tweed and Paula take over the brutal murder case of two attractive women from the plodding Chief Inspector Reebeck. A vital clue leads them to a remote and beautiful county, an area controlled by the human but dangerous "Pit Bull".

FRANCIS, PATRY LIAR'S DIARY (\$31.00) Wendy has the last copy of this we have in stock at the moment so we can't annotate it.

FRANKLIN, ARIANA MISTRESS OF THE ART OF DEATH (#1) (\$35.00) (Putnam) We smuggled in a few editions of the US hardcover, the Canadian edition is a \$26.00 trade paperback. The UK edition is still not out. Set in medieval Cambridge, four children have been murdered and the Catholic townfolk blame their Jewish neighbours. A novel of forensic detection set in the twelfth century. "Excellent, I loved the details" says Marian. See *Marian's Picks*.

FRAZER, MARGARET TRAITOR'S TALE (#16) (\$31.00) (Berkley) 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.

FREY, STEPHEN SUCCESSOR (\$32.00) (Ballantine) Make-or-break decisions involving millions of dollars are all in a day's work for Christian Gillette, chairman of Everest Capital, New York's most renowned private equity firm. When Jesse Wood, the first African-American president of the US summons him to a top secret meeting, you don't refuse. It seems that the president of Cuba is dead and the communist regime has kept the dictator's demise a secret while it races to fill the power vacuum. Meanwhile, the US is poised to support a cabal of Cuban professionals plotting a coup. Wood wants Gillette to meet with the conspirators and size up the chances for a successful capitalist revolution.

GARDNER, LISA HIDE (#2) (\$30.00) (Bantam) In an underground chamber of an abandoned Massachusetts mental hospital, the gruesome discovery of six mummified corpses resurrects the worst nightmare for Bobby Dodge: the return of a killer he thought dead and buried. Dodge teams up with his former lover, partner and friend D.D. Warren from the Boston P.D..

GREGORY, JILL BOOK OF NAMES (\$24.95) (St. Martin's) Within each generation there are thirty-six righteous souls, the Hidden Ones, by whose merits alone the world continues to exist. Legend holds that if all thirty-six Hidden Ones were eliminated, the world would meet its end. Now someone wants them dead. When a childhood tragedy comes back to haunt Professor David Shepherd, he finds himself in possession of the Book of Names. His involvement quickly turns personal when his step-daughter's name is discovered to be one of the endangered.

GREGORY, SUSANNA BLOOD ON THE STRAND (#2) (\$34.00) (Sphere, UK) Intelligence agent Thomas Chaloner soon realizes that the murders of a wealthy merchant and an apparent vagrant are connected. He finds himself embroiled in the investigations of these deaths and suspects both have links to the powerful and secretive Company of Barber-Surgeons and their Anatomical Theatre where corpses are dissected, in Public Anatomies, for the good of science. Set in Restoration London, the first in the series is A Conspiracy of Violence (\$16.00 trade paperback).

GRIMES, MARTHA DUST (#21) (\$32.50) (Viking) 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 (*ask Wendy about her photographs from Rye when she and Marian visited there a few years ago*) 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 WHEN DARKNESS FALLS (#6) (\$29.95) (Harper Collins) 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.

HAINES, CAROLYN FEVER MOON (\$29.95) (St. Martin's) In New Iberia, Louisiana, during World War II, Deputy Raymond Thibodeaux discovers Adele Hebert covered in blood and hovering over the brutally eviscerated body of Henri Bastion, a wealthy plantation owner. Adele claims to be the loup-garou, a legendary Cajun shape-shifter that traditionally takes the shape of a wolf, and panic ensues. In order to restore order, Thibodeaux must prove Adele is not a murderer nor a monster.

HARPER, KAREN HOODED HAWKE (#9) (\$29.95) (Thomas Dunne) Queen Elizabeth I and her court depart London for a summer progress replete with great manor houses, rural receptions, games and sport. By royal command, the young Francis Drake joins the entourage. A ship's captain in his pre-glory days, he is desperate for Her Majesty's approval and she for his. But assassins abound. The first in this series is the Poyson Garden (\$10.99).

HELEY, VERONICA MURDER BY COMMITTEE (#6) (\$38.95) (Severn House) Ellie Quicke visits a powerful but unpleasant business tycoon whose dog had died in an accident. The tycoon believes he was the intended target. Poor Ellie already has more than enough to cope with. Aunt Drusilla's health is failing, her bullying daughter Diana is in financial crisis and her architect cousin, Roy, is mixed up in one of the tycoon's shadier deals. Also available in trade paperback at \$19.95.

HEWSON, DAVID SEVENTH SACRAMENT (#5) (\$29.95) (Macmillan) 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. See *Marian's Picks*. Also available in trade paperback at \$22.95.

HILL, JOE HEART SHAPED BOX (\$29.95) (Morrow) That internet is a strange and wonderful thing. For a thousand dollars Judas Coyne buys a dead man's suit said to be haunted by the dead man. But what UPS delivers is not just a suit in a heart-shaped box but a real ghost. Suddenly the suit's previous owner is everywhere: behind the bedroom door, seated in Jude's restored Mustang, standing outside his window...waiting...with a gleaming razor blade on a chain dangling from one bony hand. See *Wendy's Picks*.

HOLLAND, THOMAS ONE DROP OF BLOOD (\$33.00) (Simon & Schuster) As director of the Department of the Army's Central Identification Laboratory, Kel McKelvey has made his career solving some of the US's most complex identification cases, especially the US war dead from battlefields old and new around the world. After fifteen years, he is fast approaching emotional meltdown but is now handed his most difficult case: the recovery of Jimmie Carl Trimble, a soldier from Arkansas who died a hero's death during the Vietnam War. When a rare DNA sequence turns up at both the Army and the FBI labs, it points to the unthinkable: a link between Trimble and a forty-year-old unsolved racial killing in the Arkansas delta. Partnered with volatile FBI Special Agent Michael Levine, Kel must peel back decades of silence to reveal a complex web of stolen identity, betrayal, patriotism, collusion and lies.

HOLLON, FRANK TURNER BLOOD AND CIRCUMSTANCE (\$30.00) (MacAdam/Cage) A slim volume at 170 pages. Joel Stabler takes the life of his beloved brother Danny in what appears to be a mercy killing. When Joel's lawyers assign a psychologist to determine his sanity at the time of the shooting, the full story of the brothers'

past and long family history of mental illness begins to unfold.

HURLEY, GRAHAM ONE UNDER (#7) (\$37.95 hardcover, \$24.95 trade paperback due soon) (Orion) A body is torn apart under the wheels of the first morning train to leave Portsmouth for London and 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).

ISAACS, SUSAN PAST PERFECT (\$29.99) (Scribner) Fifteen years ago, Katie Schottland was in the CIA and loved her job. Yet just as she was sensing she was in line for a promotion, she was escorted off the premises and no one would tell her why she was expelled from the Agency. Now, Lisa Golding, a former Agency colleague, calls her and asks for her help on a matter of national importance. In return Lisa will tell Katie why she was fired from the CIA. But Lisa goes missing.

JANCE, J A WEB OF EVIL (#2) (\$32.99) (Touchstone) 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. This is also available in trade paperback at \$19.99. The first in this series is Edge of Evil (\$10.99).

JORDAN, R T REMAINS TO BE SCENE (\$28.00) (Kensington) 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 and Polly gets the part. It's now up to Polly, her son Tim and their sassy maid Placenta to find the killer.

KELLERMAN, JESSE TROUBLE (\$31.00) (Putnam) 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.

KENT, ALEXANDER HEART OF OAK (#4) (\$36.95) (Heinemann) It's February 1818 and Adam Bolitho longs for marriage and a safe personal harbour. He knows he is lucky to be offered H.M.S. Onward, a new 38-gun frigate whose first mission is not war but diplomacy.

KNOPF, CHRIS TWO TIME (#2) (\$29.95)

LANDAY, WILLIAM STRANGLER (\$30.00) (Delacorte) 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 in their fight for survival.

LANGLEY-HAWTHORNE, CLARE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN (\$28.50) (Viking) Ursula Marlow is not your average Edwardian heirless. An Oxford graduate, active in the battle for woman's suffrage, she is holding out against her father in his plans to see her married to one of her many suitors. When a fellow suffragette and friend is accused of murder, Ursula feels compelled to come to her aid. The first in a new series.

LARSSON, ASA BLOOD SPILT (\$28.00) (Delacorte) 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 (\$15.00 trade paperback),

won Sweden's award for Best First Mystery.

LAWRENCE, CAROLINE SIRENS OF SURRENTUM (#11) (\$18.95) Ancient Rome for the younger set.

LESCROART, JOHN T SUSPECT (#2) (\$33.50) (Dutton) 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).

MCGRORY, BRIAN STRANGLED (#4) (\$29.99) (Atria) Jack Flynn is the lead reporter at the Boston Record and he finds himself in the middle of a case that everyone thought had closed over forty years ago. Eleven women were strangled and eventually Albert DeSalvo was convicted. DeSalvo was stabbed to death in jail eight years after his incarceration. Boston, present day: a series of murders has occurred in which all the victims are female and all have been strangled. But Flynn is receiving letters from the killer and he is now trying to determine if DeSalvo really was the Boston Strangler.

MCINTOSH, PAT MERCHANT'S MARK (#3) (\$32.50) (Carroll & Graf) Scotland in the 1490s. Gil Cunningham and his old acquaintance, Glasgow merchant Augie Morison, had been expecting a delivery of books from the Low Countries but found a gruesome substitute. At the inquest the next morning, Morison is accused of murder and imprisoned. Gil investigates. Sequel to Harper's Quine (\$18.50 trade paperback, due soon) and Nicholas Feast (\$31.50).

MCINTYRE, HOPE HOW TO MARRY A GHOST (\$32.99) (Mysterious) Londoner Lee Bartholomew is a loner who prefers to live vicariously through other people. Content with her job as a ghost-writer, she is always eager to coax secrets and scandals from showbiz personalities and sports greats. And ghostwriting former rock star Shotgun Marriott's autobiography could be the plum job of her career, if he reveals what really happened the night a groupie was found dead in his bedroom. In New York City for the wedding of her mother to a wealthy American, Lee also plans an interview with Shotgun.

MCNAB, ANDY RECOIL (\$45.95) (Bantam UK, reprint) Recuperating in Switzerland after a job that cost him the life of a dear friend, ex-special forces soldier Nick Stone has only one thing on his mind: the girl who left his bed that morning without saying goodbye. Her trail leads him to Africa and the deep end of a very dirty Congo war, where it isn't long before the past comes knocking at this door.

MORRIS, BOB BERMUDA SCHWARTZ (\$29.95) (St. Martin's) 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 seventy-fifth 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. The first two are Bahamarama and Jamaica Me Dead (\$9.99 each).

MURPHY, SHIRLEY ROUSSEAU CAT PAY THE DEVIL (#12) (\$31.50) (Morrow) Two of their closest friends are kidnapped so felines Joe Grey and Dulcie, with the help of Kit, investigate.

MYERS, TAMAR HELL HATH NO CURRY (#15) (\$27.50) (NAL) 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.

NONAMI, ASA HUNTER (\$34.95) (Kodansha) When Takako Otomichi chooses the career of detective, her family disapproves and her male colleagues fail to take her seriously, especially hard-bitten old gumshoe Sergeant Tamotsu Takizawa, her reluctant partner on the hunt for a mysterious murderer whose grisly trademark is to rip out

the throat of his victims. Set in Tokyo and translated from Japanese. Originally published in 1996.

O'CONNELL, CAROL FIND ME (#9) (\$31.00) Mallory follows Route 66 looking for a serial killer. See *Marian's Picks*.

PARKER, BARBARA PERFECT FAKE (\$32.50) (Dutton) When millionaire Miami real estate developer Stuart Barlowe offers him \$50,000 to travel to Italy to make a perfect copy of a rare Renaissance map, Tom Fairchild sees it as a way to solve his problems. Barlowe's daughter, Allison, a map expert herself, is being sent with him to supervise the project. Tom soon suspects that Barlowe wants a forgery and not a duplicate.

PARKER, ROBERT B HIGH PROFILE (#6) (\$31.00) (Putnam) When the body of controversial talk-show host Walton Weeks is discovered hanging from a tree on the outskirts of Paradise, police chief Jesse Stone finds himself at the centre of a highly public case.

PARKER, T. JEFFERSON STORM RUNNERS (\$32.95) (Morrow) When his wife and son were killed in an explosion meant for him, Matt Stromsoe gave up the last job that held any meaning for him, his job on the police force, and proceeded to hit rock bottom. A former colleague offers him a job at his private security firm and his first assignment is to protect local TV personality Frankie Hatfield from a stalker. This man can write. See *Wendy's Picks*.

PASTOR, BEN WATER THIEF (\$31.00) (Thomas Dunne) In 304 CE, Aelius Spartianus, officer and historian, is writing the biographies of past Roman rulers, including Hadrian, who has been dead for nearly 175 years. Aelius's particular charge is to investigate the unsolved mystery into the drowning death in the Nile of Hadrian's favourite, young Antinous. His duty turns twofold when he is also charged with finding the grave of Antinous which is supposed to conceal proof of a conspiracy against Rome.

PATTERSON, JAMES STEP ON A CRACK (\$35.00) (Little, Brown) The most powerful people in the world gather in New York City for the funeral of a beloved former first lady when they are taken hostage. Detective Michael Bennett faces the devastating death of his wife and the worry of how to raise their ten children while trying to gain the release of the thirty-four hostages.

PATTERSON, RICHARD NORTH EXILE (\$32.00) (Henry Holt) David Wolfe is a successful San Francisco lawyer about to get married and be primed for a run for Congress. But when the phone rings and he hears the voice of Hana Arif, the Palestinian woman with whom he had a secret affair in law school, he begins a completely unexpected journey. The next day, the Prime Minister of Israel is assassinated by a suicide bomber while visiting San Francisco. Soon, Hana herself is accused of being the mastermind behind the murder. Now David faces an agonizing choice: will he, a Jew, represent Hana, who may well be guilty, or will he turn away the one woman he can never forget?

PEARCE, MICHAEL DEAD MAN IN ATHENS (\$32.50) (Carroll & Graf) Athens, 1912, and the country is on the brink of war. Seymour, of Scotland Yard, is sent to bring some stability to the area as the exiled former sultan of Salonica is worried that someone wants to poison him.

PESSL, MARISHA SPECIAL TOPICS IN CALAMITY PHYSICS (\$34 reprints) (Viking) This is a slightly bizarre novel and that's probably why it's one of *J.D.'s Picks*.

PETERS, CHRISTOPHER FABRIC OF NIGHT (\$29.95) (Doubleday) Translated from German. On vacation in Istanbul, sculptor Albin Kranz sees the murder of Miller, an American gem dealer, at the hotel across the way. But like some desperately misunderstood character in a Hitchcock film, Albin can't persuade anyone to take him seriously.

POLLERO, RHONDA KNOCK OFF (\$25.95) (Kensington) West Palm Beach paralegal Finley Anderson Tanner (FAT) loves to shop

for deeply discounted designer goods but her boss has her investigating the death of a client. The sexy private eye, Liam McGarrity, also working the case, is a hunk, according to FAT, and makes up for her lack of time to go shopping. AKA **Kelsey Roberts**. "Loved the book and loved the fashion tidbits"—*Marian*.

REES, MATT BEYNON COLLABORATOR OF BETHLEHEM (\$29.95) (Soho) For decades, Omar Yusef has taught history to Muslim and Christian children of Bethlehem. Then George Saba, a favourite former pupil and a Christian, is arrested by the Palestinian authorities. He is charged with collaborating with the Israelis in the killing of a Palestinian guerrilla. The dead man's wife, also a former student, is found murdered next. George faces imminent execution. But Omar cannot believe that George is guilty. Since no one is willing to risk standing up to the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade gunmen, who hold the real power in Bethlehem, it falls to Omar to investigate.

REISS, R SCOTT BLACK MONDAY (\$29.99) (Simon & Schuster) When the first planes go down, authorities blame terrorism. All flights are grounded. When cars, ships and factories stop running, it becomes clear that the common link is oil. Somehow a microbe, genetically engineered to destroy petroleum, has infected the world supply. Dr. Gregory Gillette, an epidemiologist with the Center for Disease Control, is a disease hunter specializing in microbes that attack human beings. When the Pentagon taps him to be part of the Rapid Response Team, he quickly discovers that his expertise is ignored. The leader of the task force is an old nemesis who sidelines Gillette. He returns to Washington, D.C., where he watches as food becomes scarce, neighbour fights neighbour and the government collapses. The capital faces anarchy and Gillette has a choice: stay with his family or disobey orders and find the microbes' antidote through clues that may not even be real.

ROBB, J D INNOCENT IN DEATH (#24) (\$32.50) (Putnam) The death of history teacher Craig Foster devastated his young wife who sent him off that morning with a lovingly packed lunch. But the lunch was tainted with deadly ricin. Lieutenant Eve Dallas investigates.

ROBERTS, DAVID QUALITY OF MERCY (\$30.95) (Carroll & Graf) 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, GILLIAN ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL (\$29.95) (Ballantine) Amanda Pepper reluctantly agrees to help her friend Sasha investigate the death of her stepmother.

SAKEY, MARCUS BLADE ITSELF (\$28.95) (St. Martin's) 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 head when Evan gets out of jail. How far will Danny go to protect everything he loves? A debut novel.

SALTER, ANNA TRUTH CATCHER (\$30.00) (Pegasus) Forensic psychologist Breeze Copens has a gift. She not only hears the truth, she also sees it. So she knows when sex offender Daryl Collins, a born-again but remorseless con jailed in Seattle for armed robbery, is lying. What she doesn't know is the identity of the little girl in the blue dress who appears suddenly in her line of vision during her interview with Daryl. And Daryl isn't telling.

SCHWEGEL, THERESA PROBABLE CAUSE (\$31.95) (St. Martin's) 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.

SHANNON, JOHN DARK STREETS (#9) (\$30) (Pegasus) PI Jack Liffey heads to L.A.'s glitzy, exotic Koreatown, where a young

film student, Soon-Lin Kim, has gone missing. She had been tangling with a giant Korean conglomerate intent upon evicting a handful of elderly ladies from their homes in downtown L.A., women whom the same conglomerate had forcibly recruited into prostitution during World War II. The first Liffey is Concrete River (\$19).

SHARFEDDIN, HEATHER MINERAL SPIRITS (\$27.95) (Bridge Works) When ten-year-old Gray Dausman discovers a skeleton on the banks of Montana's Clark Fork River, it launches him and Mineral County's new sheriff, Kip Edelson, on a search for the victim's identity and killer. He receives a tip that the victim's name is Chris and he embarks on an investigation of county residents with similar names. He uncovers not only that Gray has a missing mother sharing that name but also a drug ring involving several members of the community. He is forced to kill one of them in a shoot-out, sparking desperate behaviour from the man's wife and her brother.

SKIBBINS, DAVID STAR (#3) (\$29.95) (Thomas Dunne) Warren Ritter has to help his daughter, Fran, with whom he has only recently become reacquainted. Fran's husband, Owen, has taken their five-month-old son and refuses to give him back. If she challenges him, he'll lie about her suitability as a mother. Owen is a policeman and she is afraid he'll get away with it. When Owen is found dead, Fran becomes the prime suspect. The first two in the series are Eight of Swords (\$9.99) and High Priestess (\$8.99).

SPIEGELMAN, PETER RED CAT (#3) (\$29.95) (Knopf) Private investigator John March has always been the black sheep of his staid merchant-banking family and his latest client throws him for a loop. His smug older brother, David, is desperate and scared: a woman he met on the internet and then for several sexual encounters, is stalking him. The first two in the series are Black Maps (\$16.00 trade paperback) and Death's Little Helpers (\$18.95 trade paperback).

STABENOW, DANA DEEPER SLEEP (#15) (\$29.95) (St. Martin's) 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.

STEWART, SEAN CATHY'S BOOK: IF FOUND CALL 650-266-8233 (\$21.50) (Running Press) An unusual book in a really neat little binder with a ton of little pieces of paper to sort through to try and solve the clues. This will take some time but looks like a great way to spend a quiet afternoon.

STONE, DAVID ECHELON VENDETTA (\$32.50) (Putnam) Micah Dalton is a "cleaner", a CIA fixer sent in to mop up the mess when an agent or situation goes bad. But when his close friend and mentor Porter Naumann turns up dead in an idyllic Tuscan hill town, victim of an apparent suicide, Dalton's curiosity gets the better of him. The search for answers takes Dalton from the fog-shrouded mazes of Venice to the beautiful Big Sky country of the American west. **David Stone** is an alias.

STONE, NICK MR. CLARINET (\$39.00) (Michael Joseph, reprints) Miami private eye Max Mingus found it hard to refuse the \$10 million to locate billionaire's son Charlie Carver, missing for over three years. He disappeared on the island of Haiti. Rave reviews. See *Wendy's Picks*.

SUNDSTRAND, DAVID SHADOW OF THE RAVEN (\$31.00) (Thomas Dunne) Francisco Flynn is an officer in Land Management in the Mojave Desert, and he loves it. But coming across his third corpse in six months is getting to be a bit much although this latest one looks like murder. When bikers ride into town looking for a missing comrade, Frank is certain the dead man is the one they are seeking. A debut novel with a rave review from Tony Hillerman.

TODD, CHARLES FALSE MIRROR (#9) (\$29.95) (Morrow) 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.

VAN PATTEN, VINCE PICASSO FLOP (\$29.99) (Mysterious Press) Just out of prison after ten years, professional poker player Jimmy Spain visits his wealthy former cell-mate and listens to an offer he can't refuse. The rich man wants the ex-con to mentor his only daughter in the game of poker. In return, he'll set Jimmy up and pay all his buy-ins on the poker tour. Soon Jimmy and Kat enter a World Poker Tour in Las Vegas but a player is found dead and Kat becomes the main suspect.

VARIOUS/JAKUBOWSKI, MAXIM BEST BRITISH MYSTERIES VOL IV (\$36.95) (Allison & Busby) Includes stories from John Harvey, Lee Child, Amy Myers, Ken Bruen, Barbara Cleverly and a ton of other great British writers.

WALDMAN, AYELET CRADLE ROBBERS (#6) (\$35.00)

WHITELAW, STELLA TURN AND DIE (\$36.95) (Severn House) Latching's enterprising PI Jordon Lacey is hired by Holly Broughton who has been acquitted of trying to murder her husband. Holly wants Jordon to find out who tried to frame her and why.

WILSON, ANDREW LYING TONGUE (\$28.99) (Atria) Fresh from finishing university in England, Adam Woods arrives in Venice to become the personal assistant to Gordon Crace, a famous expatriate novelist who makes his home in a dank and crumbling palazzo, surrounded by fabulous works of art, piles of unanswered letters and memories of his former literary glory. As Adam comes to learn more about the scandal that brought Crace to Venice years ago, he realizes he has stumbled upon the story that could launch his own literary career. See *Wendy's Picks*.

YOUNG, ROBYN BRETHREN (\$34.00) (Dutton) When Will Campbell joins the Order of the Knights Templar, he is thrown into a world of intrigue. Charged with recovering a heretical book stolen from the Order's vaults, Will ends up fighting for his life. Hidden within the book's pages are the covert plans of an organization known as the Anima Templi, the Soul of the Temple, and men are ready to kill for its secrets.

Paperbacks

AARON, RELENTLESS PUSH (\$8.99) Set in Harlem's underworld, this is the story of Reginald "Push" Jackson, who never meant to do anyone any harm. Indeed, was most loyal. But, this is Harlem.

ABRAHAMS, PETER END OF STORY (\$10.99) Aspiring author Ivy Seidel accepts a part-time position teaching writing to a group of convicted criminals hoping the experience will add depth and darkness to her own work. In the work of one of the inmates, she finds a talent greater than hers and a dangerous new purpose...

AIRD, CATHERINE A MOST CONTAGIOUS GAME (\$18.50) The author's only stand-alone novel, all the others featured Insp. C.D. Sloan, was first published in 1967 and has been long out of print. Available again from those really clever people at Rue Morgue Press.

AKUNIN, BORIS pelagia PELAGIA AND THE WHITE BULLDOG (#1) (\$12.95) Sister Pelagia, bespectacled, freckled, woefully clumsy but very resourceful, is summoned by the Bishop of Zavolzhs to investigate the poisoning of a bulldog. The dog belonged to a cantankerous old widow who has taken to her bed, while many of the potential beneficiaries of her will are waiting to see whether or not she will recover. The beginning of a new series recently translated from Russian.

ALBERT, SUSAN W CHINA BAYLES BOOK OF DAYS (\$17.50) 365 celebrations of the mystery, myth, and magic of herbs from the world of Pecan Springs. A page for each day. Recipes, anecdotes, herbs to help and heal.

ALBERT, SUSAN W *beatrix* TALE OF CUCKOO BROW WOOD (#3) (\$9.99) Beatrix Potter helps her resident rat, Rosabelle, get rid of unwanted rat families from Hill Top Farm. Three village children end up in trouble and they are counting on help from the fairies of Cuckoo Brow Wood. The first two in the series are The Tale of Hill Top Farm and The Tale of Holly How (\$9.99 each).

ALLINGHAM, MARGERY FASHION IN THE SHROUDS, MYSTERY MILE, SWEET DANGER, TCOT LATE PIG, TIGER IN THE SMOKE, and TRAITOR'S PURSE (\$19.95 each, trade paperback)

ANDREWS, RUSSELL MIDAS (\$10.99) Wall Street big shots and Hollywood starlets congregate and have fun in the Hamptons every summer. When a chic restaurant gets blown up and a small plane crashes into the harbour, local East End cop Justin Westwood is drawn into the maelstrom.

ANSCOMBE, RODERICK INTERVIEW ROOM (\$8.99) Working in a maximum security prison for the criminally insane, psychiatrist Paul Lucas has become an expert in detecting lies. He is working on an outpatient basis with Craig Cavanaugh, the scion of a wealthy family, poised, knowing and articulate. Craig is a Harvard man whose obsessive crush on a teaching assistant led him to stalk her and landed him in Paul's care.

ATHERTON, NANCY AUNT DIMITY AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA (#11) (\$10.99) Lori Shepherd and the five-year-old twins flee to the safety of Sir Percy Pelham's home when Lori's husband, high-profile attorney Bill, receives chilling death threats. But Lori soon finds herself getting supernatural help from Aunt Dimity when she suspects the locals are making a fortune from illegal smuggling.

AUSTEN, JANE PERSUASION and PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (\$10.99 trade paperback) In case nothing else appeals...

BAILEY, ROBERT E hardin DYING EMBERS (#2) (\$16.95) Private eye Art Hardin is hired to locate a wealthy industrialist's old flame but shortly after he does, she is murdered and his client is charged with the murder. More work for our hero. Sequel to Private Heat (#1) (\$16.95).

BAKER, VIRGINIA JACK KNIFE (\$10.99) A novel of Jack the Ripper. London, 1888, and Insp. Jonas Robb is witness to the gruesome work of Jack. But what about those two strangers who have arrived in London, seemingly with no past? He doesn't yet realize that they do have a past—it just happens to be in the future. They've been sent back in pursuit of a 21st century madman intent on changing history. A little bit of science fiction with your mysteries.

BARNARD, ROBERT CRY FROM THE DARK (\$21.00) From 1930s Australia to contemporary London, Bettina Whitelaw faces a flood of memories as she works on her memoirs. But why has someone broken into her house and gone through her desk? What does she have that they want to steal?

BERNHARDT, WILLIAM kincai CAPITOL MURDER (#14) (\$10.99) In the heart of the nation's capital, defense attorney Ben Kincaid takes on his most shocking, headline-making case yet. It's a case that pits Kincaid and his freewheeling partner, Christina McCall, against the corrupt machinery of Washington politics.

BERRY, STEVE malone TEMPLAR LEGACY (#1) (\$10.99) Cotton Malone, onetime top operative for the US Justice Department, is enjoying his retirement as an antiquarian book dealer in Copenhagen. His former supervisor, Stephanie Nelle, far from home on a mission that is not related to national security, has a series of clues related to a centuries-old puzzle. When she is attacked, Cotton comes to her rescue and becomes involved in the hunt for the lost Templar treasures. See *Marian's Picks*.

BIGGINS, JOHN SAILOR OF AUSTRIA (#1) (\$21.95), EMPEROR'S COLOURED COAT (#2) (\$22.95) and TWO HEADED EAGLE (#3) (\$21.95). The second and third novels in this fine series featuring Lieutenant Otto Prohasa, War Hero of the Habsburg Empire, have finally been published in their US editions, so now you can read the first three.

BISHOP, CLAUDIA hemlock GROUND TO A HALT (#13) (\$9.99) A Hemlock Falls mystery. The Quilliam sisters deal with everything from fallen soufflés to fallen bodies, all in a day's work... Includes a recipe for The Best-Ever Pound Cake.

BLACK, CARA MURDER IN MONTMARTRE (#6) (\$16.00) Aimée Leduc's childhood friend, Laure, is now a policewoman. When her partner sets up a meeting in Montmartre with an informer, she reluctantly accompanies him as backup. He is shot to death on an icy rooftop and Laure, who suffered a concussion, is accused of his murder. She lapses into a coma and is unable to defend herself against the charges. Aimée resolves to clear her friend.

BLAUNER, PETER SLIPPING INTO DARKNESS (\$10.99) Twenty years ago, Detective Francis Loughlin solved his first huge case, sending then seventeen-year-old Julian Vega to jail. A much more recent murder has links to that long-ago case and all fingers point to Julian, who is now out of prison. But DNA tests on the latest victim show the blood under her fingernails not to be that of Julian but of the victim from the murder twenty years ago. That body is exhumed and then all hell breaks loose.

BORN, JAMES O ESCAPE CLAUSE (#3) (\$10.99) Bill Tasker is sent to investigate the murder of an inmate at Manatee Correctional Facility. His boss thought he was doing Bill a favour by giving him an easy job, but it didn't turn out that way. Sequel to Walking Money (\$9.99) and Shock Wave (\$10.99).

BRADY, JOHN felix kimmel POACHERS ROAD (#1) (\$10.99) The first in a new series featuring Austrian Inspektor Felix Kimmel. Two bodies are found in the woods and the day after, the family that called the Gendarmerie dies in a house fire. Now there is both a murder and an arson investigation.

BRIGGS, PATRICIA MOON CALLED (\$10.99) Shapeshifters and werewolves.

BRITTON, ANDREW AMERICAN (\$9.99) The goal? Total annihilation of the US. The perpetrator? Former US soldier Jason March, former protégé of Ryan Kealey. The foiler? CIA agent Ryan Kealey.

BURKE, RICHARD REDEMPTION (\$10.99) Matthew Daniels, a prison governor, is convinced that his wife's abduction is related to his job. Unable to talk to anyone, he resorts to the only help he can find, Monk, an ex-prisoner who appears to have gone straight since his release, but has underworld contacts Matthew can only guess at. His first book, Frozen (\$10.99), was very well received.

BUTCHER, JIM PROVEN GUILTY (#8) (\$10.99) A novel of the Dresden Files, featuring Harry Dresden, the only wizard in Chicago's phone book. Have you been watching the TV adaptations?

CARLOTTO, MASSIMO MASTER OF KNOTS (#2) (\$10.99) When Helena Giraldi is abducted, her husband approaches Alligator, a former blues singer and ex-con, and his friends, Max and Rossini, for help. Helena and Mariano lead a secret double life involving Italy's S & M scene. Sequel to Colombian Mule (\$10.99).

CECIL, HENRY HUNT THE SLIPPER and NO FEAR OR FAVOUR (\$21 trade paperback). Managed to track down a few copies of each of these two classics.

CHESTERTON, G K EVERLASTING MAN (\$27) Christianity, theology. A special order. Need a copy?

CHILDS, LAURA BLOOD ORANGE BREWING (#7) (\$9.99) Theodosia Browning of the Indigo Tea Shop is only too happy to serve tea and tasty treats from the shop at a fundraiser for the Heritage Society of Charleston. When Duke Wilkes falls face-first onto the floor with a jagged piece of metal protruding from his neck, Theo

is too busy with business to get involved in the murder investigation. But when the widow Wilkes begs her to help, she can't refuse. The recipe for Killer Blood Orange Scones looks very good, by the way. **CLARK, CAROL HIGGINS** HITCHED (\$9.99) *New York Times* bestselling author blends mystery, mayhem and marriage in the latest caper in her popular Regan Reilly series.

CLEEVES, ANN RAVEN BLACK (\$9.99) On Shetland Island trudging home through the snow, Fran Hunter discovers the body of her teenage neighbour. Magnus Tait, loner, becomes the locals' prime suspect but Detective Jimmy Perez, from the mainland, casts a wider net. In this remote community, is a killer living in their midst?

CLEMENT, BLAIZE CURIOSITY KILLED THE CAT SITTER (\$8.99) A debut novel that both Marian and Wendy liked.

CLEVERLY, BARBARA BEE'S KISS (#5) (\$16) The US trade paperback edition. It is 1926 and Joe Sandilands is back from India enjoying post-war London.

COLLINS, MAX ALLAN PINK PANTHER (\$9.99) We told you about Pink Panther's Just Desserts (\$9.99) by **Marc Cerasini** in the January newsletter. What we did not mention was that he had also written Pink Panther Gets Lucky (\$9.99) and now you have three Pink Panther novels to gorge on.

CONANT & CONANT-PARK STEAMED (#1) (\$9.99) Food connoisseur Chloe Carter's first date of the week is murdered. Her second date is with a chef who becomes the prime suspect. The restaurant scene and foody bits fill this first in a proposed new series.

CONNOR, BEVERLY fallon DEAD PAST (#4) (\$10.99) Forensic anthropologist Diane Fallon realizes that Juliet Price, who witnessed a brutal act of violence, is not the only one who saw the TV show featuring the case. Someone else has emerged from the shadows to continue the killing that began eighteen years ago...

CONWAY, SIMON RAGE (\$10.99) Jonah Said is not a model soldier, that's why the British Army has shipped him to the lawless strip of desert sandwiched between Iraq and Kuwait. It's 2003 and Jonah has been sent as an official observer, impartial, unarmed and safely out of harm's way. Big mistake.

COOK, BRUCE PHILIPPINE FEVER (\$19.95) After your main suspect is murdered, how do you find a cargo container full of terrorist weapons when it goes missing in the smuggling capital of the world? ATF agent Sam Haine plunges into Manila's cauldron of industrial espionage, sex-slavery, and CIA covert ops. Father of **Troy Cook**, author of 47 Rules of Highly Effective Bank Robbers (\$19.95)

CORNWELL, BERNARD viking LORDS OF THE NORTH (#3) (\$10.99) The year is 878 and Wessex is free of the Vikings. This story of Uhtred shows him as a man without lands and country, a terrific heroic figure. The first two are Last Kingdom and Pale Horseman (\$10.99 each).

COULTER, CATHERINE POINT BLANK (\$10.99) FBI agents Sherlock and Savich face the most explosive case of their careers, pitting them against an unstable villain—with a very long memory...

CRAIS, ROBERT TWO MINUTE RULE (\$10.99) Mixed reviews on this non Elvis Cole novel. We are introduced to Max Hollman, just released from prison for bank robbery. The sad part of the story is that Max's son, a cop, was gunned down the night before his release along with three other cops. When the hit is exposed as a revenge killing and the question of police corruption is raised, Max must find the killer and clear his son's name. Marian said she liked the book, but felt it read like a movie script. Fast and furious.

CROMBIE, DEBORAH DREAMING OF THE BONES (#5) (\$10.99) A re-issue.

CUMMING, CHARLES SPANISH GAME (\$10.99) Abandoned by MI6 after a disastrous operation against the CIA, Alec Milius has slowly rebuilt his life in Madrid. When a prominent politician disappears in suspicious circumstances, he can't resist tracking him down. But the rules have changed in the past six years, and Alec is now

working outside the boundaries of any official agency.

DICKENS, CHARLES BLEAK HOUSE (\$16.95) Just in case...

DOHERTY, PAUL roman QUEEN OF THE NIGHT (#4)

(\$10.99) The fourth in his Ancient Rome series. The normally cosseted world of Rome's rich and powerful is rocked by a series of violent abductions, as children of the elite are kidnapped for ransom.

DONACHIE, DAVID HANGING MATTER (#3) (\$23.95) The third of four novels in the Privateersman series featuring the Ludlow brothers set in the late 1700s, the Age of Fighting Sail. All four are now available and the first one is Devil's Own Luck (\$22.95).

[DOYLE]HALE, KELLY FACTION PARADOX ERASING SHERLOCK (\$22.95) She thought she was there to observe and document the methods of the twenty-five year old Sherlock Holmes before he gained notoriety...

[DOYLE]TOUGHILL, THOMAS OSCAR SLATER THE IMMORTAL CASE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (\$25.95)

Another famous miscarriage of justice, investigated by Doyle. Fresh from his success in exonerating George Edalji, the creator of Sherlock Holmes devotes his skills to freeing Oscar Slater.

DREWE, ROBERT GRACE (\$20) Twenty-nine-year-old Grace has, for much of the past three years, been hiding from an erotomaniac. Besieged, she flees from her inner-city life as a film reviewer to the remoteness of the Kimberley and lies low. "Grace is like a flare of hope in an empty sea."—*The Guardian*.

DU MAURIER, DAPHNE HOUSE ON THE STRAND and REBECCA (\$18.50 ea.) Two classics, reissued.

DUBOIS, BRENDAN FINAL WINTER (\$10.99) It only takes one traitor to bring America to the brink of annihilation. And what if the traitor is a public servant? (*We'd have a TV show called 24.*)

DUDLEY, KAREN PTARMAGGEDON (#4) (\$13.99) Robyn Devara investigates the murder of ornithologist, Selena Barry. Robyn doesn't remember meeting Selena but she left Robyn her field notes.

DUGONI, ROBERT JURY MASTER (\$10.99) In a courtroom, defense attorney David Sloane is a master manipulator.

DURHAM, LAURA TO LOVE AND TO PERISH (#3) (\$9.99) The third Annabelle Archer novel. She's a wedding planner and a modern-day Nancy Drew.

EICHLER, SELMA MURDER CAN DEPRESS YOUR DACHSHUND (#14) (\$9.99) Zaftig Manhattan PI Desiree Shapiro ends up investigating the death of a young man—a saint, ask anyone—whose dog, a dachshund, is practically suicidal since his dad's demise.

ELLIS, KATE DEVIL'S PRIEST (\$24) 1539 and King Henry VIII is completing his ruthless destruction of England's monasteries. Abbess Lady Katherine Bulkeley investigates the disturbing incidents taking place in Liverpool. Not a Wesley Peterson novel, of course. "Very enjoyable read" says Marian. "Interesting historical notes".

ERIKSSON, KJELL PRINCESS OF BURUNDI (#1) (\$15.95) Winner of the Swedish Crime Academy Award for Best Crime Novel. Translated from Swedish. Despite being on maternity leave, Inspector Ann Lindell is determined to find the killer of John Johnson, a respectable family man who was a local expert on tropical fish.

ERSKINE, BARBARA KINGDOM OF SHADOWS (\$21 expensive British import) First published in 1998 and out of print in North America, this is the UK mass market paperback edition.

ESTLEMAN, LOREN macklin LITTLE BLACK DRESS (#5) (\$8.99) Peter Macklin was a hit man for a long time, but has taken steps to distance himself from his past. With some difficulty. He has moved away from Detroit and married the gorgeous, intelligent Laurie. While visiting with his new mother-in-law, he learns that mom-in-law's boyfriend is Benjamin Grinnell, the spotter for a gang of armed robbers who failed to spot a shotgun-toting shop owner in their latest heist. The shop owner ended up being mist and Macklin's mom-in-law is now in harm's way.

EUBANKS, STEVE redball HOT LAPS (#1) (\$9.99) Robert

"Redball" Redding was once a legend on the stockcar circuit but gave it up for a career as a prosecuting attorney. He's back in the 180 mph world of gas fumes, adrenaline and treacherous curves as his newest client has a connection to that world.

EVANS, LIZ CUE THE EASTER BUNNY (#6) (\$10.99) Everyone at Vetch's Investigations is busy with clients, except for Grace Smith. Things have become so desperate for her, she has taken a job with the Tourist Board and dresses as the Easter Bunny to promote the seaside town of Seatoun. But, as usual, Grace gets into trouble. Hilarious. One of *Wendy's Picks* a year or so ago.

FAIRSTEIN, LINDA BAD BLOOD (\$19.95 trade paperback, \$37.99 hardcover) See the Hardcover section for an annotation.

FAIRSTEIN, LINDA DEATH DANCE (\$12.99) Assistant DA Alex Cooper, along with NYPD's Mike Chapman and Mercer Wallace, investigate the disappearance of a world famous dancer who suddenly vanished backstage at Lincoln Center's Metropolitan Opera House, during a performance.

FANTE, JOHN ASK THE DUST (\$16.95) A special order.

FLUKE, JOANNE swensen CHERRY CHEESECAKE MURDER (#8) (\$9.99) A movie company rents Main Street for a movie shoot and The Cookie Jar becomes snack central. When the director demonstrates a suicide scene with a prop gun, it turns out the prop was real. Hannah investigates. "Lots of fun and some great cookie recipes (as well as a wonderful mini cherry cheesecake recipe)", says Marian.

FORBES, COLIN MAIN CHANCE (\$10.99) Bella Main, regal owner of Main Chance, the world's largest private bank, is being made an offer that she cannot refuse. She calls Tweed for help.

FORBES, COLIN SAVAGE GORGE (\$22 trade paperback, \$34.99 hardcover) See the Hardcover section for an annotation.

FOWLER, CHRISTOPHER TEN SECOND STAIRCASE (#4) (\$8.99) Arthur Bryant and John May, of London's Peculiar Crimes Unit, are relying on the eyewitness account of a twelve-year-old boy who said the killer was a cape-clad highwayman riding a black stallion. The first three in this excellent series are Full Dark House (\$10.99), Water Room (\$9.99) and Seventy-Seven Clocks (\$10.99).

FRANKLIN, ARIANA MISTRESS OF THE ART OF DEATH (#1) (\$26 trade paperback, \$35 hardcover) See the Hardcover section for an annotation. See *Marian's Picks*.

GERARD, CINDY TO THE EDGE (\$9.99) A special order.

GRAY, CLIO GUARDIANS OF THE KEY (#1) (\$10.99) Lucca, City State for hundreds of years, keeper of secrets and relics, possessor of the Holy Face of Christ, has Napoleon's army at its gate, the emperor having declared himself King of All Italy. How, a continent away, Mabel Flinchhurst, a suicidal pilgrim, and missing-persons finder Whilbert Stroop are linked to the story of Lucca is the stuff of this book.

GREENE, GRAHAM THIRD MAN (\$17) A special order but we can get one for you as well.

GREGORY, SUSANNA chalonier CONSPIRACY OF VIOLENCE (#1) (\$16.00) The first in a new series featuring Thomas Chaloner, who has just returned to England from ten years abroad where he worked as a government spy. Set in London, 1662.

GREIMAN, LOIS UNSCREWED (\$8.99) Cocktail-waitress-turned-psychologist Christina McMullen's third adventure. "Dangerously funny stuff"—*Janet Evanovich*.

GRIMES, MARTHA jury OLD WINE SHADES (#20) (Viking) (\$13.50) Over three successive nights at the Old Wine Shades, Harry Johnson tells Richard Jury the story of his good friend whose wife, son, and dog disappeared. And then the dog came back.

HADDAM, JANE HARDSCRABBLE ROAD (\$8.99) A member of a legal advocacy group approaches retired FBI agent Gregor Demarkian to help locate a homeless man accused of selling drugs.

HAMILTON, LYN ORKNEY SCROLL (#10) (\$10.99) Toronto antiques dealer Lara McClintoch finds her reputation tarnished when

one of her clients buys a rare Mackintosh writing cabinet on her word, only to discover that it's a fake. When Lara finds that the dealer who sold it to her client has been murdered and her client accused of the murder, she senses something is not right. While investigating, she finds two invoices for the cabinet so she follows the paperwork to the Orkney Islands off the coast of Scotland where she uncovers a centuries-old Viking saga. **Lyn Hamilton will be at Sleuth on Thursday April 19, 2007 to autograph her new novel The Chinese Alchemist (\$30), the eleventh in the Lara McClintoch series.**

HARRIS, THOMAS BLACK SUNDAY (\$10.99) A reissue.

HAWKE, RICHARD SPEAK OF THE DEVIL (#1) (\$10.99) The author looks suspiciously like **Tim Cockey** who writes the Hitchcock Sewell, Baltimore undertaker, series. Maybe 'cause he is. As Fritz Malone is watching the Thanksgiving parade in New York City, a gunman starts firing into the crowd and then flees through the park with Fritz in pursuit. Delivered to the office of the current commissioner Fritz is talked into being the outside man hired to track down the killer. Rather uneven, I thought. (I liked it.—*Marian*.)

HAWKINS, JAMES DEADLY SIN (#8) (\$11.99) Bliss is on duty protecting the Queen, his aging friend Daphne Lovelace is needing help with the family from hell which has moved in next door, and he's getting flack from Trina Button in far-off Canada...

HELEY, VERONICA MURDER BY COMMITTEE (\$19.95 trade paperback, \$38.95 hardcover) See the Hardcover section.

HEWSON, DAVID costa LIZARDS BITE (#4) (\$9.99) Things are looking up for Nic Costa and Gianni Peroni as their exile in Venice is nearly at an end. When they are ordered to investigate an apparently open-and-shut case in a glass foundry, they take on a lot more than expected. Although this is number four in the series, *Marian* strongly suggests you read the non-series book, Lucifer's Contract (\$21), first. One of *Marian's Picks* a year or so ago.

HEWSON, DAVID costa SEVENTH SACRAMENT (#5) (\$22.95) See hardcover for an annotation. See *Marian's Picks*.

HEYER, GEORGETTE WHY SHOOT A BUTLER?, FOOT- STEPS IN THE DARK, PENHALLOW, and UNFINISHED CLUE (\$21.95 ea.) Having reissued the Insp. Hannasyde and Insp. Hemingway novels, here are the remaining crime novels...

HOCKENSMITH, STEVE HOLMES ON THE RANGE (\$15.95) Montana, 1893, and Big Red and Old Red are hired on as ranch hands at the secretive Bar VR cattle ranch. Not a Sherlockian pastiche, rather Holmes-inspired deducifyin'. Excellent. One of *J.D.'s Picks* a year or so ago and again now.

HUGHART, BARRY BRIDGE OF BIRDS (\$9.99) Science fiction, ancient China that never was... a special order.

HUNT, ARLENE BLACK SHEEP (\$10.99) Rookie detectives John Quigley and Sarah Kenny of Quick Investigations are called in to investigate the deaths of two people, one found in the Wicklow Mountains, the other in a Dublin canal. Any connections? By the author of False Intentions (\$10.99) and Vicious Circle (\$14.95).

IGGULDEN, CONN EMPEROR: FIELD OF SWORDS (#3) (\$9.99) Caesar leaves Rome for the foothills of the Alps and, with an army made in his own image, he begins a charge through Gaul, across the English Channel and to the wilds of tribal Britain. Sequel to The Gates of Rome and The Death of Kings (\$10.99 each).

JACKSON, LISA DEEP FREEZE (\$10.99)

JAMES, P D BLACK TOWER (#5) (\$18.50) and TASTE FOR DEATH (#7) (\$18). Two more trade paperback reissues of Dalgliesh novels as well as the movie tie-in edition of THE CHILDREN OF MEN (\$21).

JANCE, J A ali reynolds WEB OF EVIL (#2) (\$19.99 trade paperback, \$32.99 hardcover) See the Hardcover section for an annotation.

JOHNSTON, LINDA O MEOW IS FOR MURDER (#4) (\$9.99) If Kendra will help her boyfriend Jeff's ex-wife with the stalker, she,

in turn, will take her claws out of Jeff for good. Deal or no deal?

JOYCE, BRENDA MASQUERADE (\$8.99) Historical romance.

KAMINSKY, STUART fonesca DENIAL (#4) (\$8.99) Lew Fonesca is working on two cases that are somehow tied together. The first involves an elderly woman who swears she witnessed a murder in her old-age home. Nobody believes her. The other case has Lew looking for the hit-and-run driver who killed a fourteen-year-old boy.

KELLOGG, MARNE PERFECT (#3) (\$16.95) Queen Elizabeth asks Kick Keswick to get her jewels back. To some, Kick is an expert in jewels and antiquities but, to others, she is known as the world's finest jewel thief. Sequel to Brilliant and Priceless (\$9.99 each).

KENT, ALEXANDER FOR MY COUNTRY'S FREEDOM (\$21.95) Another Richard Bolitho reissue.

KERR, PHILIP HITLER'S PEACE (\$18.50) What if, in the dying days of WW2, the canny Hitler had realized that he could not possibly win the war and had put out feelers for peace? From the author of the wonderful Berlin Noir Trilogy (\$25).

KILROY, CLAIRE TENDERWIRE (\$25) The story of a reckless young violinist, Eva Tyne, and her obsessive quest for a rare violin of dubious provenance. "Terrific" say Helen H. a customer of long, long standing. One of *J.D.'s Picks*.

KLING, CHRISTINE BITTER END (#3) (\$8.99) Since kindergarten, Seychelle and her best friend Molly had been as close as sisters. But when Molly met slick and older entrepreneur, Nick Pontus, she quit school, married Nick and never spoke to Seychelle again. Now Nick is dead; a sniper picked him off the helm of his yacht, and Molly is asking Seychelle for help. The first two in the series are Surface Tension and Cross Currents (\$10.99 each). Another series that Wendy enjoys.

KNIGHT, ALANNA STUART SAPPHIRE (\$12.95) August, 1811. The latest mistress of George, The Prince of Wales, has been murdered in the royal bedchamber, and—more worryingly for the Prince—the historic jewel, the Stuart Sapphire, has gone missing. Gotta keep the scandal hush hush so the plan is to dispose of the body in secret.

KNIGHT, ALANNA mcquinn ORKNEY MURDER (#3) (\$12.95) Insp. Faro's daughter, Rose McQuinn, is a Lady Investigator, and she has appeared in four novels. This one, the third, has only recently become available in paperback so you can now read the entire series in the correct order. Start with Inspector's Daughter (\$10.95). Set in Victorian Scotland.

KOONTZ, DEAN FOREVER ODD (#2) (\$10.99) Odd Thomas lives between two worlds in the small desert town of Pico Mundo. He has the gift of communicating with the dead. A childhood friend of Odd's has disappeared and the worst is feared. But as Odd applies his unique talents to the task of finding his missing friend, he discovers an enemy of exceptional cunning and spirals into a vortex of terror.

KORYTA, MICHAEL perry SORROW'S ANTHEM (#2) (\$8.99) This was listed in the Jan 2007 issue but at an incorrect price.

KUHLKEN, KEN LOUD ADIOS (\$20) San Diego PI Tom Hickey's first adventure, originally published in the early 1990s, has now been reissued by Poison Pen Press. Winner of the St. Martins'/Private Eye Writers of America Best First Novel award.

LANSDALE, JOE R LOST ECHOES (\$17.95) "Take a man who hears nightmares in sounds, add murder by way of **Raymond Chandler** and **Stephen King**, stir together with the humane eye and graceful language of a poet, and you'll have Lost Echoes. **Joe R. Lansdale** is one of the most original writers working in fiction today; he must be read."—*Robert Crais*. See *J.D.'s Picks*.

LATOUR, JOSE OUTCAST (\$22.99) A reissue. Nominated for a number of awards, Outcast was the first novel from this fine Cuban writer to be available in English. Read it, if for no other reason than to get a good look at what life is like in Cuba. A fine read.

LE CARRE, JOHN LITTLE DRUMMER GIRL (\$19.00) Reissue

in trade paperback format with an intro. by the author.

LIPPMAN, LAURA monaghan NO GOOD DEEDS (#9) (\$10.99)

Tess Monaghan is involved in an investigation that will make her question her loyalties and threaten those she holds most dear. She finds out just how far the authorities will go to get what they want.

LISS, DAVID ETHICAL ASSASSIN (\$17.95) In a sweltering trailer in rural Florida, a couple to whom Lem Altick was trying to sell encyclopedias, is shot dead before his eyes. The self-styled ethical assassin, Melford Kean, hadn't planned on a witness. Also available are A Conspiracy of Paper, The Coffee Trader (\$22.95 each), and A Spectacle of Corruption (\$21).

LYNDS, GAYLE LAST SPYMASTER (\$8.99) Jay Tice was the chief of the entire Clandestine Services and a legend throughout the world of international intelligence. But, secretly, he was also a traitor. He was being kept in a maximum security prison but one day his cell is found empty. Elaine Cunningham is a CIA hunter operatives who specializes in finding people. Young, gifted, and a maverick, she is assigned to track down Tice.

MACBRIDE, STUART logan DYING LIGHT (#2) (\$10.99) Due to a screw-up on a previous job, DS Logan McRae has been reassigned to DI Steel, who everyone knows is jinxed and is waiting to fall with the other rejects in the "Screw-up Squad". Logan's not going to take it lying down. But the murder of a prostitute and the arson deaths of six people are just the tip of the iceberg. Sequel to Cold Granite (\$10.99).

MARTINEZ, MICHELE vargas FINISHING SCHOOL (#2) (\$10.99) Teamed with Dan O'Reilly, a hard-to-resist FBI agent, federal prosecutor Melanie Vargas goes undercover to find the killer of two teenagers. The first in the series is Most Wanted (\$9.99).

MASTERS, PRISCILLA piercy WINGS OVER THE WATCHER (#8) (\$12.95) Detective Inspector Joanna Piercy is dedicated to her profession but, since her miscarriage and her separation from her partner, she has just not been as interested. When a woman is reported missing by her husband, she just assumes the woman is involved in extra-marital activity. But the woman is found strangled and Joanna has to snap out of her lethargy.

MCBRIDE, SUSAN kendricks NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEB (#4) (\$9.99) Renegade rich girl Andy Kendricks can't believe her straight arrow boyfriend is a murderin' fool. Yet, he was seen leaving with the hottie who was found stone-cold dead in the trunk of his car.

MCCARTHY, TOM REMAINDER (\$17.95) "A stunningly strange book about the rarest of fictional subjects: happiness."—*Jonathan Lethem*.

MCINTYRE, HOPE HOW TO SEDUCE A GHOST (#1) (\$9.99) Ghostwriter Lee Bartholomew lives alone in Notting Hill, London, and loves it. Although her boyfriend, Tommy, has been asking her for years to marry him, she wants her space. Landing a fabulous ghostwriting job for a soap opera star, Lee is over the moon with excitement, especially after meeting the star's good-looking manager, Buzz. Leaping before she looks, she jeopardizes her relationship with Tommy and gets into something very dangerous.

MCMANUS, PATRICK F tully BLIGHT WAY (#1) (\$17.99) Bo Tully, sheriff of Blight County, Idaho, has lost twenty pounds on the Atkins diet and has been thinking about asking out Jan Whittle, his grade-school sweetheart. But the discovery of a dead body puts that thought on hold.

MCNAB, CLAIRE kylie DINGO DILEMMA (#4) (\$19) PI Kylie Kendall thought LA was far enough away from the meddling affairs of her family Down Under but, apparently, not so.

MICHAELS, BARBARA GREY BEGINNING (\$10.99)

MICHAELS, BARBARA GREYGALLOWS (\$10.99)

MICHAELS, BARBARA HERE I STAY (\$10.99)

MICHAELS, BARBARA WIZARD'S DAUGHTER (\$10.99)

MILLAR, CORMAC GROUND (\$10.99) King's College, Dub-

lin, an ancient and thoroughly mediocre institution, is in crisis so alumni Seamus Joyce is hired as a consultant. He doesn't realize what he is in for.

MILLER, SUSAN DETACHMENT FAULT (\$9.99) Featuring Dr. Frankie MacFarlane, Geologist. Both Carla, Frankie's brother's girlfriend, and one of Frankie's students were wearing the same rare alexandrite ring. One disappeared, the other was murdered. When a fellow prof. is murdered, Frankie realizes these crimes are connected.

MOSLEY, WALTER WAVE (\$10.50) Errol Porter is awakened by a prank phone caller claiming to be his father. But his dad has been dead for years. Late one night, curious and a little unnerved, Errol sneaks into the graveyard where his father is buried. The man he finds there will change his life. Soon he's on the run from mad scientists and homeland security death squads and befriended by creatures that are the stuff of nightmares.

NABB, MAGDALEN MONSTER OF FLORENCE (\$21 expensive British mass market edition) A Marshal Guarnaccia novel. First published in 1996, now smuggled in from the UK at great expense.

O'CONNELL, CATHERINE WELL BRED AND DEAD (\$17.50) **Frank McCourt** author of Angela's Ashes (\$21) advises you to give yourself a treat and settle down with this book. The author is, he continues, quite simply, a hell of a storyteller, a master of plot, and a tart observer of the social scene.

OLSON, GREGG WICKED SNOW (\$9.99) See *Wendy's Picks*.

PALMER, STUART NIPPED IN THE BUD (\$18.50) A Hildegard Withers mystery, first published in 1951. When pretty little Ina Kell arrived in Manhattan full of foolish dreams about making it big in show business, she had no idea how quickly she'd be in the headlines. Another Rue Morgue Press selection.

PARKER, ROBERT B SEA CHANGE (#5) (\$13.50) A woman's partially decomposed body washes ashore in Paradise, Massachusetts, and police chief Jesse Stone has a devil of a time identifying the woman and finding the killer.

PATTERSON, JAMES & HOWARD ROUGHAN HONEY-MOON (\$10.99) Why is the FBI so interested in Nora Sinclair? Mysterious things keep happening to people around her, especially men.

PAWEL, REBECCA SUMMER SNOW (#4) (\$16.00) Influence is exerted to have Carlos Tejada Alonso y Leon transferred back to Granada, Spain when it is suspected his Aunt Rosalia has been murdered and his father is the prime suspect. Set in 1945. The other three in the series are Death of a Nationalist (\$17.95), Law of Return (\$17.95), and The Watcher in the Pine (\$17.50). An excellent series.

PERDUE, LEWIS PERFECT KILLER (\$9.99) For over seventy years, Project Enduring Valor, (it's a US publication so the wrong spelling!), has been experimenting with a drug that could turn ordinary soldiers into ruthlessly efficient killers. Now, the project is ready to be implemented on a massive scale despite devastating side effects. Neurosurgeon Brad Stone has to stop it.

PERRY, ANNE DARK ASSASSIN (#15) (\$10.99) Thames River superintendent William Monk is on a patrol boat by Waterloo bridge when he sees a couple engaged in an intense discussion. Minutes later the two tumble to their death. It turns out the young woman's father had recently died, suicide, say the police, but according to a friend, the family thought it was murder. Now Monk feels compelled to investigate the three deaths.

PICOULT, JODI PACT (\$17.50) Two devastated families, an unthinkable act and the children they never really knew.

PRONZINI, BILL WASTELAND OF STRANGERS (\$21 expensive British import) A great read from the author of the Nameless series, smuggled in from the UK.

RAYMOND, DEREK NIGHTMARE IN THE STREET (\$20) The typed script of this book was found after the author's death in 1994 and is published here for the first time in English. Kleber, a plain-clothes policeman in Paris, a twenty-two year veteran, has many ene-

