



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

March 2008

I'm sure that if I were to look over the newsletters of the last decade or so I would find that the March issue always start off with the "I'm so sick of winter, aren't we done with it yet" sentiment. Creature of habit, here I am again. We've had a harsh winter this year, relatively speaking—that's enough you Winnipegites, or is it Winnipegians?—but my aging bones are less and less interested in snow and sleet. The fact that I was in the Dominican Republic for a week of golf and came back to a mind-numbing, bone-chilling, perishingly cold minus 13C/9F—I could've died—didn't add appreciably to my affection for winter!

Twenty of us went for a week of golf and sunshine to the DR and managed to play seven rounds of golf, and drain a small lake of alcohol. Boys. Two rounds were at the spectacular Punta Espada golf course, near Punta Cana, and it was truly magnificent. If the opportunity presents itself, don't miss it. I've decided that my winter/retirement home is going to be on the property - just as soon as I come up with the \$10 million, give or a take a million.

The other constant in the March newsletter, of course, is my fund raising appeal for the Sunnybrook Run for Research. Time to start hitting you up for the 2008 installment of the run. Not sure of the exact date yet, always towards the end of May, so you have a few months to see if you have any room in your 2008 donation budget. Every year you have been very generous, very encouraging, and I know this year will not be any different. The money goes to Sunnybrook and Women's College hospitals to study the issues facing women: dementia, diabetes, heart disease, breast cancer. This kind of research is very, very important—the healthier the women in our lives are, the better all around!—so it behooves me to raise as much money as I can! 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

COME MEET

Maureen Jennings, Thursday March 20, 6:30–7:30pm
Jacqueline Winspear, Sunday March 16, 3–4pm
Lindsey Davis, Tuesday April 29, 6:30–7:30pm

Please note that the **Winspear** signing is on a Sunday, and at 3pm. Mark your calendars, preorder the books now, and come meet these fine writers. 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.

your donation budget please consider this one. All donations are tax receiptable, of course. **Cheques should be made out to Sunnybrook Foundation** and we can also charge your Visa or MasterCard if that's convenient. Thank you.

Some very interesting signings coming up. See the box above for dates and times. In the January issue of the newsletter I had told you about **Maureen Jennings** and **The K Handshape** (\$22.99), the second in the Christine Morris series. No changes there. **Anne Perry** who had been scheduled for early April has cancelled. Additions to the schedule are **Jacqueline Winspear**, author of the Maisie Dobbs novels and **Lindsey Davis**, author of the Marcus Didius Falco novels. **Ms. Winspear** will be here to launch the newest Maisie Dobbs adventure, **An Incomplete Revenge** (#5) (\$27), on Sunday the 16th of March, 3–4 pm. Please note the day and time: Sunday at 3pm. There is no new Falco novel to tie in with **Ms. Davis'** visit, but last year's novel, **Saturnalia** (\$11.99) should be out in mass market by then. This is, of course, your opportunity to get some of your early, priceless, first editions singed.

And, on the topic of signings, we need you to turn out. You have to attend these singings. If only a few people turn up, then, one, we look

The Merchant of Menace,

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Hours of Business

Tuesday to Saturday
10 am to 6 pm

Sunday
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**Monday &
Statutory Holidays**
Closed

foolish and, two, the publishers send the authors elsewhere. So, use it or lose it, as the saying goes. The turnout for the **Paretsky** signing was woefully inadequate, and that was a shame. Marian and I were quite embarrassed. Ok, enough ranting.

Did you get a chance to see the recent eclipse of the moon? It was a beautifully clear night in the GTA and I spent a wonderful evening watching, freezing, and appreciating the spectacle. I hope you had an equally fine opportunity to experience the heavenly show.

And, finally, a very happy St. Patrick's Day to all of you of Irish origin. And, to all you wannabe Irish. I'm planning on celebrating in style. I've been practicing!

Marian's Picks

What a winter to decide to train for three races: a ½ marathon, an 18 miler and a full marathon. And all before the first week of May! There has been so much ice underfoot that it is very difficult to walk outside for more than 4 or 5 miles at a time. I'm hoping that we will soon be rid of the ice and snow so that I can complete some of the longer walks that are coming up in my training. And then I laugh at myself because I take this so seriously. I am one of the last to finish the race, the winner is already on the plane home before I cross the finish line, but I like to have a goal to focus on and it helps burn up the excess calories from all the taste testing of the martinis with my cottage neighbour.

Paddington is doing well, thank you. A special thank you to Selma and Ruth for Paddy's poached salmon, it's his latest favourite. He is a little stiff and, like an old man, he sleeps a lot. Reminds me of J.D. actually. Not unusual to find the pair of them, fast asleep on the couch, wasting electricity on the Golf channel, one under the blanket, the other wrapped in a towel. It's so cute. Until I kick him out, and have my Paddy to myself.

Talk about a tough time limiting my picks for this newsletter; I could go on for pages but J.D. said I have to restrain myself. So, here goes.

Finally, finally, finally... another **STUART PAWSON**. Grief Encounters (\$39.95) is the twelfth featuring that brilliant cast of characters headed by the infinitely likeable DI Charlie Priest. The blurb on the dust jacket from the Independent on Sunday says "Perfect for a long winter afternoon with the rain beating down on the windows". I agree, except I took my copy to the cottage and it was snow instead of rain. I sat by the fire, totally engrossed, and devoured the book. The team from Heckley is investigating the brutal beating death of a woman who Charlie recognizes as a nude model they used to draw when he was in art school. At the same time, Charlie suspects that pornographic images found on his boss's computer were put there by means of a Trojan Horse (he had to have that explained to him as well!). At first I thought the subplot was just thrown in to make me hate the characters involved (and I did get angry with them) but as the book progressed I was wowed by how everything tied together. I just love the way **Mr. Pawson** writes. I love Charlie's attitude and outlook on life and how he can gather his team around him and get the job done. Mad Maggie Madison and Sparky Sparkington are also wonderfully quirky characters. Alas, now I have to wait another year for the next book.

I was utterly fascinated by **MAUREEN JENNINGS'** depiction of

deaf culture in K Handshape (\$22.99), her second Detective Sergeant Christine Morris novel. Deidre, the daughter of a colleague, is found murdered and the suspect could be anyone. Deidre was deaf, a militant supporter of Deaf Culture, and had deliberately ensured that her child would be born deaf. Deidre's story had hit the media big time and generated some hate mail. Christine uses her skills as a forensic profiler to determine if the hate mail came from the killer. Some really nice detective work on Christine's part, with her colleagues offering their forensic profiling skills at their regular meetings, makes this a super read. The first in the series, Does Your Mother Know? (\$22.99), took place in the Hebrides and is also a must read. Don't forget to come and meet Maureen at her book launch here at Sleuth on **Thursday, March 20, 2008 from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.**

Garden of Evil (#6) (\$29.99 hardcover and \$22.99 trade paperback) by **DAVID HEWSON** is amazing. I seldom find myself in tears over a book but I had the hankie out for this one. I won't say too much because I don't want to give away any of the plot. To fully appreciate this one you should have read one or two earlier entries from the series. It's not that Garden is not whole or incomplete, I just think you'll enjoy the read more if you have already soaked up some of the background. Just a suggestion. Nic Costa and Gianni Peroni investigate the murder of two people who are found dead in front of an unknown Caravaggio. The suspect is rich and well connected and our investigators are having trouble finding evidence to arrest him. The earlier titles in the series are A Season for the Dead, The Villa of Mysteries, The Sacred Cut, The Lizard's Bite and The Seventh Sacrament (\$9.99 each).

I had told you in a previous newsletter how blown away I was by **ARIANA FRANKLIN's** Mistress of the Art of Death (\$13.50) and that I was eagerly anticipating the sequel. Well, it's here. First, just to whet your appetite, let me remind you of Mistress. In medieval Cambridge four children are murdered and the Catholics blame their Jewish neighbours. Because King Henry II needs the taxes he receives from the Jewish merchants he asks his cousin, the King of Sicily, to send him an expert in the art of death, so that scientific proof can be found to determine the real murderer. The Italian doctor sent to England is Adelia Aguilar, a woman. And this is problematic. In an England full of superstitions, a female doctor is not a good thing. This is a compelling mystery, full of rich, period detail. You can tell the research is extensive and you just fly through the story. Now, to the sequel, The Serpent's Tale (\$24 trade paperback). It has a different tone to it but, once again, I was whisked away to twelfth-century England, full of cold winters, drafty convents, intrigue and the historical detail that I so loved about Mistress. Rosamund Clifford, the mistress of King Henry II is poisoned and Eleanor of Aquitaine, his wife, is the prime suspect. If Eleanor is guilty, the result could be a civil war. King Henry commands Adelia (he won't let her return to Sicily) to investigate. Off she goes with Rowly Picot, whom we met in Mistress, to see what really happened to Rosamund. Equally wonderful. This woman can write.

I loved Trace Evidence (\$10.99) by **ELIZABETH BECKA** and I loved, even more, her second book, Unknown Means (\$26.95). Evelyn James is a forensic specialist in the Cleveland Medical Examiner's office who is investigating the death of a woman in a very luxurious, high security, condo building. It seems to be a casebook locked room mystery that takes on a personal bent when her colleague, Marissa, is attacked by the same murderer. The author herself is a forensic specialist with a Florida police force so she certainly knows what she is talking about. The forensic details **Ms. Becka** discusses and the twisted plot are absolutely convincing and terrific. If you love a forensic mystery you must try this new writer.

Is fact stranger than fiction? I read Meltdown (\$24.95 trade paperback) by **MARTIN BAKER** before news of the Jerome Kerviel \$7+ billion fraud broke and it's as if Kerviel had gotten his hands on the ARC. I was mesmerized by what could happen to the stock market if someone took advantage. Samuel Spendlove, is a bright young law academic from Oxford, who is hired by William Barton, the owner of a massive global media empire, to work undercover at a Paris bank. Khan, a legendary and inscrutable market trader, blocked Barton from buying a company he desperately wanted and now Barton wants revenge. Working for Khan and trading the markets is glamorous and exciting, but will Samuel also get caught in the high rolling, jet setting lifestyle? And then a colleague goes missing. A very sophisticated read.

I have always wanted to visit China (*Be really nice to me Marian, I know someone who's being posted to Beijing...--J.D.*) so when we received stock of Eye of Jade (\$28 hardcover and \$19.99 trade paperback) by **DIANE WEI LIANG** I jumped at the chance to read it. It's set in Beijing and introduces private eye, Mei Wang. The dust jacket says: "Present day, Beijing..." and "She has her own apartment. She owns a car. She has her own business with that most modern of commodities, a male secretary". I wondered why it was important to tell me about her car, but understood after reading through part of the book. The book is actually set a few years after Tiananmen Square, but I guess that's "present day" enough. As the author was explaining to me, owning a car and being a very independent woman was not as common a few years ago in China as it is today. And the story is not so much a private eye novel as it is a story about Mei Wang, her family and the Cultural Revolution. But, that's just quibbling. Beautifully written, interesting history, loved the characters, the setting... and I'm looking forward to the next one in the series. We have a few autographed copies on hand and that's what we'll ship while supply lasts.

And finally, two quick reminders. Big City Bad Blood (\$8.99) by **SEAN CHERCOVER** is now out in paperback. If you like reading private eye novels you will love this. It's set in Chicago, where I have run two marathons so I feel I know the city a little bit. **Mr. Chercover** knows the city intimately as he actually lived and worked there as a private eye. How more realistic can you get! And, last but not least, Deadly Slipper (\$10.99) by **MICHELLE WAN** has also just arrived in paperback. It's a beautifully written story set in France. Lots of local colour, beautiful descriptions of orchids and a very interesting mystery. Mara Dunn wants to know what happened to her sister who disappeared twenty-years earlier. The clues to her disappearance appear to be a series of photographs of orchids. Just a delight.

J.D.'s Picks

Rejoice. **CRAIG JOHNSON**'s third Walt Longmire novel, Kindness Goes Unpunished (\$14), has now been released in paperback. Cold Dish and Death Without Company (\$17.50 ea.) are the first two. Start at the beginning, reread the first two, savour them, appreciate them, and then carry on to the new one. Novels of this calibre you will not soon find. The fourth, Another Man's Moccasins (\$27.50), is due in hardcover this June. If you want to be one of the first to get a copy, then just ask us, and we'll call you the moment the books arrive.

Rejoice more. I've been nattering at y'all for about a year now about an Australian writer by the name of **PETER TEMPLE**. He is really, really, very, very good. Just to refresh your memory, **Temple** is the author of eight novels, four stand alones and four featuring Jack Irish,

a lawyer who doesn't practice much law anymore. Jack works, instead, doing odd jobs—investigating, debt collecting for a local businessman and woodworking, and reading to relax. (The first two are Bad Debts and Black Tide (\$21 ea.)). Two of the standalones are The Broken Shore (\$19.95), a police procedural set in a small, coastal town, with its own set of racial problems, and Iron Rose (\$21, smuggled in from the UK) featuring Mac Faraday who just wants to live the quite life of a blacksmith but his old life returns to haunt him. Really, really, good stuff.

Remember how enthusiastic and effusive reviewers and reader were about the first **GILES BLUNT** novel, Forty Words for Sorrow (\$10.99), way back in 2000? Well, expect the same kind of buzz and praise for **INGER ASH WOLFE**'s The Calling (\$32.99). **Wolfe** is the "pseudonym of a well-known North American writer", says the blurb, and that's really all that anyone is saying about **Wolfe**. At the moment; rest assured that the editors of the arts pages are working overtime to figure out who the writer is. Lots of speculation, lots of finger pointing, but, so far, nada. (For more, visit www.thestar.com/article/304278) All this gimmickry aside, this is a terrific novel. And I mean terrific. Definitely a few copies of the first edition for my collection. And, some day, I'll get them signed. The first homicide that Insp. Hazel Micallef, acting chief of the Port Dundas, Ontario, police, has had to investigate in almost three years is that of Delia Chandler, an elderly woman with terminal cancer who once had an affair with Micallef's father. Really, really very good. Make sure to get a copy, read it, and then put it away. (*I also loved this but J.D. wouldn't give me any more space. More in the next issue—Marian.*)

A delightful little novel was **L C TAYLER**'s The Herring Seller's Apprentice (\$24.95). Ethelred Tressider, the herring seller, is a crime writer with problems. His latest novel is going nowhere, a mid-life crisis is looming and he's burdened with the literary agent he probably deserves: Elsie Thirkettle, the apprentice, who claims to enjoy neither the company of writers nor literature of any sort. When Ethelred's ex-wife vanishes close to his home, the police quickly decide that she has been the victim of a local serial killer. Elsie begs to differ. On the grounds that the killer's other victims had been Sad Cows, whereas the ex was a Scheming Bitch—another species entirely—and no serious serial killer would murder one in mistake for the other. And, so Elsie begins her own investigation. Is Ethelred quite as innocent as he pretends to be? A gently mocking send-up of the classic detective story.

Lecanne's Picks

If you enjoy novels that retell well-known classics then **FRANK BEDDOR**'s The Looking Glass Wars (\$10.99) is one you may want to try. The beloved Queen of Wonderland is assassinated by her sister, Redd, and in a desperate attempt to protect the heir to the throne, the Mad Hatter sends Princess Alyss Heart magically away. Thus Alyss finds herself in Oxford, England, of 1863. No one believes Alyss' explanation of where she came from or how she must get back to Wonderland to avenge her mother's murder. Even worse, her powers of imagination are failing her and she is depressed to find that she is becoming increasingly more normal. Not good for a girl who comes from a kingdom that is filled with oddities. The Reverend Charles Dodgson, most enchanted by Alyss, has taken it upon himself to write her problems down in a novel and make a living for himself by contorting her life story! Alyss feels betrayed by the one person in our world who seemed to believe her. With Redd ruling as the new

Queen of hearts and lopping off heads left, right, and centre, the faithful are doing everything they can to get Alyss back to claim her rightful throne. They must do it before Alyss is left without imagination and they must beware a certain feline assassin who has orders to stop her return at all costs. (*Bought it, read it, loved it.—Marian*)

Changing speed yet again, **RACHEL CAINE** brings us Glass Houses (#1) (\$8.99), a lovely little modern gothic novel, the first in the Morganville Vampire series. Claire is just trying to get through school but her dorm mates are making her life hell as only the in crowd can. In a town where there is a curfew to keep the kids from being eaten, our heroine has little choice but to answer an ad for a room to rent in the Glass House. Here she meets Eve, Shane and Michael who all have their own secrets and very unique ways of dealing with the Vampire population in Morganville. Complete with diary entries from Eve, one of the inhabitants of the Glass house, this story and its sequels, The Dead Girls' Dance (#2) and Midnight Alley (#3) (\$8.99 each), are great fun for supernatural fans who like a light read.

Ah, **PHIL RICKMAN**, how grateful I am that you never let me down. Sigh. For my birthday I received a hardcover copy of The Fabric of Sin (\$31.95) and I was ever so pleased. I was just thinking how a snowy night curled up with a **Rickman** was what I needed and there it was! Yay! All my favourite Merrily Watkins mystery characters were back: the elegant Sophie in her tasteful pearls and sweater sets, Gomer Parry the craggy, bespeckled man of few words who so often saves the day in between digging out drainage, Jane the headstrong daughter who is anything but plain and anti-organized religion to the core. Of course, where would Merrily be without Lol, the awkward musician and love interest.

Merrily is in good form going about her Deliverance Consultant (formerly known as an Exorcist) duties for the Church of England when the call comes from the Bishop regarding a special assignment. A certain Prince of Wales has acquired a property with a "history". Renovation plans on the property stall when workers refuse to work there, insisting it's a place that doesn't want to be restored. A violent death causes Merrily to ignore caution and discretion in order to get to the truth about the property and whatever may have gone on there over the centuries. In order to do so Merrily risks her position as vicar of Ledwardine,

LISA APPIGNANESI's Paris Requiem (\$10.99) is a tome worthy of the images evoked by its name. Our hero, James Norton, is sent to Paris to retrieve his siblings and bring them home to Boston. James walks through the different echelons of Paris society like an explorer. Searching initially against his better judgement for the truth about the death of his brother's lover, the beautiful actress Olympe, James finds there is more afoot than a simple suicide. Illustrating the ideas of a time when all eyes should have been on the fin-de-siecle, we see a culture mired in its own prejudices. The death of a single Jewish actress leads James to the bowels of mental institutions, brothels, and Paris society until he can't deny what are many more murders. How are they all connected by sexism and anti-Semitism? His instincts tell James to grab his siblings and go home but he is too enamoured by the mystery that was Olympe and we are ensnared with him.

I am a huge **JANE AUSTEN** fan—as those who have been on the receiving end of my frequent verbal Janeite onslaughts can attest. **CARRIE BEBRIS**'s three novel series, Pride and Prescience (#1) (\$15.95), Suspense and Sensibility (#2) (\$9.99), and North by Northanger (#3) (\$8.99) captured my attention immediately. And, happily, didn't let go. As though **Austen** herself had continued the adventures of Darcy and Elizabeth, I was able to not only enjoy their heroics, but

also revisit other beloved characters from Northanger Abby and Sense and Sensibility (\$10.99 each). In the most recent entry, North by Northanger (#3), Elizabeth is in the family way, trying to fill the footsteps of Darcy's saintly mother. But not succeeding; according to Lady Catherine de Burgh, Elizabeth can do nothing right. Having all her decisions questioned, from where to place a desk in her room to which accoucher is best, is painful for Elizabeth. Worse, all work towards maintaining the Darcy traditions may be for naught, as, suspicious information arises which threatens the legitimacy of the claim to the family titles. Throw in some treachery, a scandal, a haunting or two, and we have another splendid story. Short, charming and curious. Just what I think a mystery of this style should be. Delightful.

JEFFERY DEAVER is, without a doubt, a master of the twist, so proven by his work The Coffin Dancer (\$9.99). More Twisted Collected Stories Vol. II (\$10.99) suffers a little less reader-tricking surprises than it's predecessor, Twisted (\$9.99). But, only because we are now wiser, and on the lookout for the twist from the get-go. Hardly giving the author a chance to fool us or lead us on any wild goose chases, so, **Mr. Deaver** you'll have to work harder now! But, in truth, the wide range of settings and characters keep the reader hopping. Sherlock Holmes and Lincoln Rhyme are both featured in this collection, among many others. Surely one author couldn't have come up with all of this?

Readers who enjoyed The Life of Pi (\$21) may well enjoy **INDRA SINHA**'s Animal's People (\$19.99). Our narrator, Animal, is so named because he walks on all fours and has done so since that fateful night when an American-owned chemical company had a disastrous accident that left none of the people of Khaufpur untouched. Even though Animal lives and works amongst humans, he proudly declares that he is set apart from them, as he alone can hear the voices of the animals and spirits around him. His love for Nisha brings Animal to work with the leaders of a struggle to bring justice to the people of Khaufpur. Animal's perspective of the stages of this struggle, and the suspicion the victims have towards an American doctor who comes to aid them, is eye opening. Although the stream of consciousness approach rambles a bit at times, it is poetic. Animal's open disdain for humans and their foolishness and his thirst for freedom and independence, are all a cover for his true dream of one day walking upright again. But multi-national corporations are not easy to bring to heel and betrayal may keep Animal from his dreams.

Cottage Lady's Picks

I admit to enjoying a lurid potboiler from time to time. It all started when I was nine. We lived in the country, it was the summertime, I had absolutely nothing new to read and the local library was several miles away. My parents wouldn't let me have the car, so I searched the cellar and stumbled onto several boxes of mouldy books, one of which contained novels given to my Dad by a friend. This was my introduction to **Dashiell Hammett**, **Raymond Chandler**, **Mickey Spillane** and **John D. MacDonald** and a whole slew of lesser lights. I read many of these, as well as others which were even less appropriate for a nine-year-old. This went on for some weeks before my Granny rattled me out to the Parents. The Father was yelled at harshly, a lot of natter about the evils of "Dirty Dime Novels". At any rate, the box of books disappeared forever. This incident did turn out to be a "good thing" however. From then on, Mother made sure I had access to Trixie Beldon, the Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew and eventually **Agatha Christie** and Sherlock Holmes and I was forever hooked on the "mean streets" and hard-boiled stories.

And, of course, one of the current greats of this genre is **WALTER MOSLEY**. His latest is *Blonde Faith* (#10) (\$29.99), Ezekiel (Easy) Rawlins' tenth and, apparently, final adventure. The series started in 1990 with the publication of *Devil In A Blue Dress* (\$16). As Easy is a black private detective, there is much about the great American subject of race, always schooling in black culture. The setting of this novel is the Watts area of Los Angeles, circa 1960, so there is much injustice perpetrated against the black community. And Easy's life is never 'easy'. You don't have to read any of the earlier books in the series to get the gist of this particular plot; whenever an old friend or enemy of Easy's is introduced, the author provides history and context. The tale opens with Easy having just rescued a neighbour's daughter from prostitution. He comes home to another mystery - Christmas Black has left his eight-year-old daughter, Easter Dawn, in Easy's care for who knows how long. To complicate things, Easy's closest friend, Mouse, has disappeared. Mouse's wife begs Easy to find him for he is wanted for murder and she believes the police may kill him. Given the time, place and his colour, this is a likely scenario. Overarching all of this, Easy's long time girlfriend, Bonnie, is marrying another man. The story is all about Easy trying to find one friend and save another and in the midst of it all, come to terms with the loss of his lover. Easy rages against injustice while dealing with his personal pain, drug dealers, corrupt officials, criminals of every type and a woman named Faith. This work is filled with suspense and the ending is a classic cliff hangar. Above all else, **Mosley** is a skilled storyteller. If you're into hard-boiled, try this one.

The publisher suggests that **JAMES JAUNCEY**'s *The Witness* (\$19.99) is suitable for teenage boys. And it is. However, it's also a good grown-up read. I found it to be very compelling, a great yarn and a real page-turner. The ending is a bit too tidy but the original plot and storyline make up for it. The setting is the Scottish Highlands, timed in the near future. People are fighting over who should own the land. The "One Acre Act" was passed, giving the government power to dispossess owners of land larger than a single acre. Landlords and crofters form a resistance movement resulting in the "Inverness Riots". Now, in the Highland winter, guerrilla warfare has broken out. John MacNeil is an 18 year old who witnesses a massacre and rescues the sole survivor, a little boy, Ninian, who is too frightened to talk. The story progresses as soldiers chase them through the mountains. Ninian proves to be a big problem because he has some kind of condition that makes him unpredictable and hard to handle. In spite of it all, John becomes attached to the strange young boy. He is reminded of his own little brother who died at the hands of bullies. As the tale develops, it becomes increasingly clear that Ninian's identity is a key component of the plot. John's love of music and the solace he receives from it add another dimension to the theme. **Jauncey** has succeeded in producing a thought provoking, highly suspenseful, and often poignant story. Very appealing for a wide range of readers, from adolescents to adults. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Okay folks, now for one of my cozy reads, a mystery romance called *Kilt Dead* (\$28) by **KAITLYN DUNNETT**, better known as **Kathy Lynn Emerson**, a writer of historical fiction. With dear old Barney (my Golden) cuddled at my feet, I read this last November in front of the fire. Our heroine is Liss MacCrimmon who has returned to her hometown of Moosetookalook, Maine. That says it all - this is a chick book! Nevertheless a good story. As a result of a severe leg injury, Liss' career as a Scottish dancer is over and she returns home to recuperate and think about her future. Her Aunt Margaret is off to the homeland for a much needed vacation so Liss takes over the temporary management of her aunt's Scottish Shop. The thrill of the story comes quickly as Liss becomes the prime suspect in the murder of an elderly next-door neighbour, her old grade three teacher. Liss begins

the search for the real killer. A well written mystery with a surprise ending. Oops, almost forgot, this *is* also a romance. His name is Dan Ruskin - currently renovating her childhood home and still "carrying a torch". Quaint town, quaint characters and satisfying tale. While Barney and the fire kept my feet warm, **Dunnnett** managed to sooth me inside. We will probably hear more from this character.

Appropriately, I began my read of *The Ice Princess* (\$24.95 trade paperback) by **CAMILLA LECKBERG** on one of the coldest of days in January. **Leckberg** is only thirty-four but her four novels have all been No. 1 bestsellers in her native Sweden, selling more than a million copies. I was drawn into the book instantly. Nothing has been lost in the translation. I note this point because I have at times felt let down by translated thriller/crime works. However, these translators (suspect Brits from the phrasing) have done an excellent job. Other than Swedish names and places, I felt right at home - maybe because we Canadians experience the same harsh northern environment as the Swedes. Our heroine, Erica Falck, is a writer. She returns to her hometown of Fjallbacka, a fishing village in the northern regions, to sort out her parent's affairs after their tragic deaths a month earlier in a car accident on icy roads. Intrigue erupts when her childhood friend, Alex, is found frozen in her bathtub, wrists slashed. It looks like a suicide. Erica decides to write a memoir about Alex and becomes obsessed with her friend's life - and death. At the same time, another childhood friend and police detective, Patrik Hedstrom, is investigating. The story unfolds with many suspenseful moments as Erica and Patrik work together to solve the questionable suicide. The story is filled with buried secrets of this isolated village. I found **Leckberg's** prose most compelling. **Leckberg** has it all - powerful writing, a fluid style, outstanding powers of description, solid plot, and notably well-developed characters. All characters, even the most minor, are three-dimensional with poignant, realistic and sympathetic insight into the human condition. In short, *The Ice Princess* is a masterful psychological thriller. It is with good reason that **Leckberg** has been touted the new **Agatha Christie**.

MARTINI RESEARCH UPDATE - Marian has relayed all your wonderful input and suggestions on our martini project. A special thank you for the jars of onions. However, because of winter conditions, we have no new significant findings to report (actually I have switched to B&B for the interim). But rest assured we will resume our research in the spring and will dutifully report all findings. I am especially looking forward to experimenting with an interesting suggestion - olives stuffed with feta . We'll try anything once.

Samantha's Picks

I'm not usually fond of historical stories, especially with how some of the women are portrayed, but this month I have two picks that are of that genre. My new favorite series is **SUZANNE ARRUDA**'s Jade del Cameron adventures. *Mark of the Lion* (\$17.50) is the series debut and we find Jade, an American, driving an ambulance at the front in France. It's almost the end of the Great War, but tragedy strikes. As David, her pilot fiancé, lies dying in her arms, his last request of her is to find his brother. The only problem is that David has never mentioned a brother and as far as Jade and her friends knew he was an only child. This simple request leads Jade to take a job as a travel photographer for a magazine called *The Traveler*, and by David's solicitor, a side assignment to find the missing brother. She is sent to Africa, coincidentally, where David's father was last seen. Jade has grown up on a ranch in the mid west of the USA and is well versed

with the difficult life that entails, which seems to go a long way in her African adventure. She is a sure shot, and doesn't seem to be afraid of anything. She can hold her own with the men she meets, and with the help of her good friends, Lord and Lady Dunbury, she solves the puzzle and gains a new Swahili name "Simba Jike". I'm almost finished the 2nd book Stalking Ivory (#2) (\$16.50) and the only drawback is that, because it's 1920s, there are safaris and almost everyone, including Jade, does some animal hunting. (Not my favorite; I tend to gloss over these descriptions!) These books seem to have everything: adventure, mystery, danger, wonderful descriptions of colonial Africa and even romance. I'm certainly looking forward to reading the next one in the series Serpent's Daughter (#3) (\$28.50), then I'll be waiting for the author to write the next one... I can't wait!

The next book that surprised me was The Ninth Stone (\$37.95 hardcover, \$24.95 trade paperback, due March) by **KYLIE FITZPATRICK**. It starts out a little slowly; there is a lot of background that the author needs to fill us in on. The story is about two sisters, in the 1830s, whose parents have died and who must now make the most of their lot in life. The older one, Sarah O'Reilly, is thirteen and works at a newspaper. She wants to be a newswoman and is mentored by another woman, Lily Korechnya, who writes "woman of interest" stories for the paper. As Sarah and her little sister are befriended by Lily they are thrust into the world of magic that involves jewels, murder, Indian Princes & Princesses and two long trips to India before it's all over. The book spans a period of eight years of Sarah's life, and despite all the background at the beginning of the story, it's worth the read. I enjoyed it and I'm curious to see if there will be another story with Sarah as the main character.

BEVERLY CONNOR's Dead Hunt (#5) (\$10.99) in the fifth in the Diane Fallon series. I love this series and have decided that I want to be Diane Fallon when I grow up! Diane is smart and sexy, and has a good sense of humour. A shipment of Egyptian artifacts shows up at the museum that Diane is the Director of (she's also the head of the Forensic Department attached to the museum – see, VERY smart!), and before the museum has even opened the crates, a local newspaper accuses the museum of buying stolen artifacts. Who tipped them off? And, how did that person know that they were stolen? When the seller turns up dead in his store, the pressure is on. Diane's assistant director's, Kendall's, reputation is on the line. At the same time a psychopathic killer escapes from jail and Diane is the last one to have visited her. We're taken into a story of revenge and greed, with a lot of great twists and a very satisfying conclusion, not to mention a discussion with a smug member of her Board of Directors that Diane comes out on top of. Love this character!

I've decided that since I read so much teen fiction, I'm going to review a teen novel each newsletter. This issue's pick is City of Bones: Book One: the Mortal Instruments (\$11.50) by **CASSANDRA CLARE**. The story starts with a murder, witnessed only by sixteen-year-old Clary Fray. And, even more baffling, it was committed by three teenagers covered with strange tattoos and brandishing bizarre weapons. This is Clary's first meeting with the Shadowhunters, warriors dedicated to ridding the earth of demons. She also meets Jace, a shadowhunter who looks like an angel and acts like a jerk. Clary is pulled into their world when her mom is kidnapped by demons and it becomes clear that she has developed the "sight". This book has everything for a great adventure: murder, vampires, werewolves, faeries, true love and stuff that blows up! It says on the cover that it's for 14 and up, and they're right. I'm in the "up" category and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I've been waiting for what seems like ages for #2, and, yea, it now slated for the end of the month.

Hardcovers

AKUNIN, BORIS STATE COUNSELLOR (\$39) (Weidenfeld & Nicolson) The reactionary General Khrapov, newly appointed governor-general of Siberia and soon-to-be minister of the interior, is murdered in his official train carriage on his way from St. Petersburg to Moscow. State Counsellor Fandorin is allegedly seen fleeing the crime. Someone is intent on framing Fandorin, and he must discover who they are, and who is really responsible for the murder. Translated from Russian.

ARRUDA, SUZANNE SERPENT'S DAUGHTER (#3) (\$28.50) (Obsidian) Having left British East Africa for a holiday in Morocco, American adventuress Jade del Cameron is hoping her unconventional lifestyle as a female photojournalist in 1920 will finally win her aristocratic mother's approval. Instead, she finds herself trying to save her mom's life after she is kidnapped. Sequel to Mark of the Lion (\$17.50) and Stalking Ivory (\$16.50). See *Samantha's Picks*.

BASS, JEFFERSON DEVIL'S BONES (#3) (\$26.95) (Morrow) A woman's charred body has been found inside a burned car. Accidental death or murder followed by arson? Forensic anthropologist Bill Brockton investigates. In the meantime, Brockton is sent a mysterious package: a set of cremated remains that looks entirely unreal. With the help of a local crematorium, he investigates and discovers that a facility in another state has not been disposing of bodies properly. Sequel to Carved in Bone (#1) and Flesh and Bone (#2) (\$10.99 each).

BEATON, M C macbeth DEATH OF A GENTLE LADY (#23) (\$27.99) (Grand Central) The elderly Mrs. Gentle lives in a large seaside castle near the little Scottish town of Lochdubh. She is greatly loved by the townsfolk but Constable Hamish Macbeth suspects she is not the nice old lady everyone thinks she is. When her meddling leads to the possible closure of his beloved police station, he proposes marriage to her comely maid, Ayesha, to combat her sly machinations. He knows his superiors won't close the station of a married man. When Mrs. Gentle turns up dead, the town is shocked though Macbeth believes she made a lot of people angry.

BECKA, ELIZABETH UNKNOWN MEANS (#2) (\$26.95) (Hyperion) Evelyn James is a forensic specialist in the Cleveland Medical Examiner's office investigating the death of a woman in a luxurious, high security condominium building. "Excellent" says Marian. Sequel to Trace Evidence (\$10.99). See *Marian's Picks*.

BERENSON, ALEX GHOST WAR (#2) (\$24.95) (Putnam) In The Faithful Spy (\$13.50), winner of the 2007 Edgar Award for Best First Novel by an American Author, John Wells became the only American CIA agent ever to penetrate al-Qaeda and stop a devastating terrorist attack. Now Wells is back in Washington. His wounds have healed but his mind is far from clear. He is restless, careless with his safety and uneasy in his skin. When the CIA finds evidence of a surge in Taliban activity backed by an unknown foreign power, it takes little to convince Wells to return to Afghanistan to investigate. But what he finds there is far from what he expected.

BORN, JAMES BURN ZONE (\$25.95) (Putnam) In New Orleans to check out a mysterious Panamanian named Ortiz, who likes to trade guns illegally and marijuana by the truckload, ATF agent Alex Duarte finds himself in the middle of something much, much bigger.

BOX, C J BLUE HEAVEN (\$27.95) (St. Martin's) A twelve-year-old girl and her younger brother go on the run in the woods of North Idaho, pursued by four men they have just watched commit murder. The men know exactly who Annie and William are and where their desperate mother is waiting for news of her children's fate. Retired cops from Los Angeles, the killers easily persuade the inexperienced sheriff to let them lead the search for the missing children. The kid's saviour comes in the form of an old-school rancher teetering on the

brink of foreclosure.

BRANDRETH, GYLES OSCAR WILDE AND A DEATH OF NO IMPORTANCE (\$28 hardcover, \$16 trade paperback) Published in the UK under the title The Candlelight Murders and was a *Lecteur's Pick* a few issues ago.

BROWN, RITA MAE sneakypie PURRFECT MURDER (#16) (\$28) (Bantam) Mrs. Carla Paulson is very rich and has descended on Crozet, Virginia, with no regard for country ways. She has hired Harry's friend, architect Tazio Chapper, to build her new monster home. But Mrs. Paulson is found stabbed to death at a gala fundraiser with Tazio standing over her holding the knife. Harry, along with Mrs. Murphy and friends, investigate.

CAIN, TOM ACCIDENT MAN (\$32) (Viking, Canada) Samuel Carver will arrange a death and make it look like an accident. But then Carver is hired to carry out a job below a bridge in Paris. The date is August 31, 1997. Set up, betrayed, pursued by the very forces that hired him, he must execute his most daring feat yet. A debut novel. Superb.

CANNELL, STEPHEN J THREE SHIRT DEAL (\$27.95) (St. Martin's) A small-time crook doing life in California's notoriously brutal Corcoran State Prison for the murder of his mother now claims his confession was coerced by the police. Detective Shane Scully agrees to help with the investigation when he finds out that the original homicide detective was Brian Devine, a ruthless cop with whom Scully has a bad history. What begins as a routine review quickly turns into something more deadly.

CHOI, SUSAN PERSON OF INTEREST (\$24.95) (Viking) Prof. Lee, an Asian-born mathematician nearing retirement, would seem the last person likely to attract the attention of FBI agents. Yet, after a popular young colleague becomes the latest victim of a technology-hating psychopath nicknamed the Brain Bomber, Lee's detached response and persistent socially maladroit behaviour lead the FBI, the national news media, and even his own neighbours to suspect him.

CHRISTIE, AGATHA EARLY YEARS: THE FRIST SIX BOOKS (\$125) (Harper Collins, UK) This is a beautiful boxed set of facsimile editions of Ms. Christie's first six books: The Mysterious Affair at Styles, The Secret Adversary, The Murder on the links, The Man in the Brown Suit, Poirot Investigates and The Secret Chimneys.

CLARE, ALYS ENCHANTER'S FOREST (#10) (\$39.95) (Hodder & Stoughton) It is Midsummer 1195 and a ruthlessly ambitious man has fallen deeply in debt. But then he makes an extraordinary discovery that dramatically changes his fortunes. When his lifeless body is found in the underbrush, Josse d'Acquin, driven by his love for the Abbess Helewise, has no choice but to investigate.

CLEMENT, BLAIZE hemingway EVEN CAT SITTERS GET THE BLUES (#3) (\$26.95) (Thomas Dunne) Pet-sitter Dixie Hemingway discovers the dead body of the gatekeeper of the mansion where she is looking after an iguana. Fed up with homicide investigations, she decides to leave the body to be found by someone else. But someone sees her leaving the scene of the crime, and the bullet that killed him could have come from her gun. The first two in this series are Curiosity Killed the Cat Sitter and Duplicity Dogged the Dachshund (\$8.99 each). Marian picked these in an earlier newsletter but has not yet had a chance to read this one. (*I'm too busy looking after the store while J.D. is away golfing.--Marian*).

CORLEY, ELIZABETH fenwick INNOCENT BLOOD (#4) (\$55 hardcover, \$33 trade paper) (Allison & Busby) An expensive British import. DCI Andrew Fenwick is up against a tough case. The Choir Boy investigation, a project outside ordinary police jurisdiction, aims to expose an infamous and increasingly powerful paedophile ring. Moreover, with eleven-year-old Sam Bowyers missing, every second counts. Could something buried alongside a child's corpse twenty-five years ago, be a vital clue? The others in this excellent series are Requiem Mass, Fatal Legacy (due June 2008) and Grave Doubts (\$21

each, expensive British import paperbacks). Why doesn't someone publish this writer in North America? She's great!

CRASKE, DARREN THE EQUIVOQUE PRINCIPLE (\$60 signed, numbered) A UK edition that has been generating a great deal of buzz. This is the first in what is advertised as "the Cornelius Quaint trilogy." Dr. Marvello's Travelling Circus has come to Victorian London, and a series of savage murders involves the circus folk. Prime suspect is Promethues, the gentle giant, and it's up to Quaint to clear his name. Smuggled in from the UK, and we only have a few.

CUTLER, JUDITH KEEPER OF SECRETS (\$30) (Allison & Busby) It is spring of 1810 and young parson Tobias Campion is looking forward to taking over the small Warwickshire parish of Moreton Priory. But his first night in the village has him preventing a rich young blood from molesting a pretty young housemaid. Then he finds himself investigating the suspicious death of a poacher, the untimely demise of a local aristocrat and a mysterious attack on himself. Then the young housemaid disappears. Has he picked wisely?

DITERLIZZI, TONY SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES (\$29.99) (Simon & Schuster) This small hardcover contains all five of the Spiderwick books geared toward kids age 7 and up. (*I loved these and I told you they'd sell.--Samantha*).

DOHERTY, PAUL POISONER OF PTAH (\$30) (St. Martin's) We never did get the UK edition, but, no matter, here is the US edition. Amerotke, Chief Judge of the Halls of Two Truths, hunts for the poisoner killing the leading scribes of Ancient Egypt.

DOHERTY, PAUL TEMPLAR (#1) (\$37.95 hardcover and \$24.95 trade paperback) (Headline) It is 1097 and Hugh de Payens, his younger sister Eleanor and his close friend Godefroi of St. Omer, embark on their crusade to free the Holy Land from the Infidels. This is the first in the series telling the story of this secret organization's beginnings and the murder, mystery and intrigue which surround it.

DORSEY, TIM ATOMIC LOBSTER (#10) (\$28.95) (Morrow) A whole lotta stuff going on in Florida...Is Serge wrong that guns, drugs and strippers don't mix? What sets the Non-Confrontationalists off on a rampage? What finally brings Coleman and Lenny together? Will they succeed in building the biggest bong ever?

DRAKE, ERNEST DR. DRAGONOLOGY: THE COMPLETE BOOK OF DRAGONS (\$22) (Candlewick) This is a stunningly beautiful book (12 by 10.5 inches) that explains all about dragons. It reads like a journal, loads of illustrations, maps, diagrams and bits and pieces of other stuff such as dragon dust and wing membrane. Your basic dragon reference book! There are a number of books in this must-have reference series and we are stocking Egyptology and Wizardology (\$22 each), all similar in style, format and appeal.

EMERSON, EARL PRIMAL THREAT (\$26.50) (Ballantine) On a late August day in the foothills of the Cascades, five cyclists set off on a ride leaving the stress of their workweek behind. But another group has also entered the park. They are in cars and bent on revenge. **ESTLEMAN, LOREN D** GAS CITY (\$27.95) (Forge) Police Chief Russell has been paid to look the other way for more than two decades while mob boss Anthony Zeno ran the city's vices. But the death of Russell's wife reawakens his sense of duty, and his sudden moves to regain his lost control trigger a power struggle between him and his benefactor. Really very good.

EVANOVICH, JANET PLUM LUCKY (#2) (\$19.95) (St. Martin's) Another in-between the numbers novella (166 pp.) featuring Stephanie and dishy guy #3, Diesel. Sequel to Plum Lovin' (\$8.99).

FERRIGNO, ROBERT SINS OF THE ASSASSIN (#2) (\$28.99) (Scribner) The year is 2043. Rakkim Epps battles radical fundamentalist forces in a futuristic America, now a divided blood-soaked dystopia. Will he survive? Can America ever be unified again? The first in this planned trilogy is Prayers for the Assassin (\$9.99).

FLUKE, JOANNE CARROT CAKE MURDER (#10) (\$26.95) (Kensington) Hannah Swensen, owner of the Cookie Jar, helps inves-

tigate a murder. Gus, uncle of her business partner, Lisa, has been murdered. As you can guess, the investigation is leavened with a fabulous recipe for a carrot cake with cream cheese icing.

FORD, G M NAMELESS NIGHT (\$27.95) This is a stand alone novel, not part of any series but we've sold out. More stock on the way. From the author of the Corso and Waterman series.

FRANKLIN, ARIANA SERPENT'S TALE (#2) (\$30 Putnam hardcover, \$24 Penguin, Canada, trade paperback) Set in twelfth century England, Adelia Aguilar, mistress of the art of death, is back investigating the murder of Rosamund Clifford, the mistress of King Henry II. The first in this very smart series is Mistress in the Art of Death (\$13.50). See *Marian's Picks*.

FRAZER, MARGARET frevisse APOSTATE'S TALE

(#17) (\$30) (Berkley) Spring 1452. Sister Cecely fled from St. Frideswide's priory nine years ago with a man, but, has now returned with her illegitimate son, claiming to be penitent. Sister Frevisse has her doubts, especially when the past pursues Cecely and brings murder into their midst.

GOLDSTONE, LAWRENCE ANATOMY OF DECEPTION (\$29.95) (Doubleday, Canada) A forensic thriller set in the operating rooms, drawing rooms and back alleys of 1889 Philadelphia. Dr. Ephraim Carroll grapples with the principles of scientific process to track down a killer.

GREGORY, SUSANNA BUTCHER OF SMITHFIELD (\$34) (Sphere) In the summer of 1663 Thomas Chaloner returns to London from Spain and Portugal where he had been doing some work for the Lord Chancellor. Shortly after he arrives home, he learns that his friend, Malord, a fellow musician, has died from eating a green cucumber. When the Lord Chancellor asks him to investigate the death of a solicitor named Newburne, who was partaking of cucumbers in the presence of a man nicknamed the Butcher, Chaloner wonders how two deaths by cucumbers could be a coincidence. Sequel to A Conspiracy of Violence and Blood on the Strand (\$16 each).

GRIFFIN, NICHOLAS DIZZY CITY (\$32) (Steerforth) The year is 1916, Europe is at war, and American industrialists are getting rich. Englishman Ben Cramb deserts the trenches in northern France and stows away on an outbound transatlantic ship. When he arrives in New York City, he realizes he can reinvent himself. He soon falls under the sway of the urbane and mysterious Julius McAteer, who sees in Ben his chance to finely hone the tools of someone who can master the art of the con.

GRIFFIN, W E B castillo SHOOTERS (#4) (\$32.50) (Putnam) Still in Argentina, Delta Force officer Charley Castillo and his team are asked by the US president to try and find a DEA agent who has disappeared. Fully aware that he is in over his head dealing with the international drug trade, Castillo nevertheless starts to comply with the president's order. The first three in this series are By Order of the President (\$10.99), The Hostage (\$13.50) and The Hunters (\$13.50).

GRIMES, MARTHA andi olive DAKOTA (#2) (\$25.95) (Viking) Amnesiac Andi Oliver gets herself hired at Klavan's, a massive Dakota pig farming facility that specializes in the dark art of modern livestock management. As Andi begins to discover the truth about Klavin's, and its sister facility, Big Sun, a stranger out of her past, who has been stalking her for more than a year, appears at her door demanding information of which she has no memory. The first in the series is Biting the Moon, which seems to be out of print.

GRISHAM, JOHN APPEAL (\$30) In a crowded courtroom in Mississippi, a jury returns a shocking verdict against a chemical company accused of dumping toxic waste into a small town's water supply. The chemical company, owned by billionaire Carl Trudeau, appeals. Through an intricate web of conspiracy and deceit, Trudeau's political operatives recruit a young, unsuspecting candidate to finance, manipulate, market and mold him into a potential Supreme Court justice. Their Supreme court justice, who might just overturn

the original verdict.

HALL, JAMES W HELL'S BAY (\$27.95) (St. Martin's) Thorn is leading a fishing expedition into the isolated lakes and mangrove swamps of Hell's Bay when the son and granddaughter of really, really rich matriarch Abigail Bates, who recently drowned, claims Thorn as a long-lost relative and asks him to solve her murder. Little do they know that the killer is already on their trail.

HALL, PATRICIA BY DEATH DIVIDED (\$55) (Allison & Busby) An expensive British import and special order only. Laura Ackroyd, the journalist girlfriend of DCI Michael Thackeray, becomes involved in the plight of Julie Holden and her daughter Anna when she writes an article about domestic violence. On another front, Thackeray and his team must tread a careful path if they are to avoid Bradford's Muslim community while investigating the disappearance of the cousin of policeman Mohammed Sharif.

HARROD-EAGLES, CYNTHIA GAME OVER (#11) (\$34.95) (Severn House) When ex-BBC correspondent Ed Stonax is murdered, the last thing Detective Inspector Bill Slider needs complicating his life is the reappearance of an old enemy issuing death threats. Trevor Bates, aka The Needle, is on the loose and trying to kill him.

HAWKINS, ALIS TESTAMENT (\$24.95) (Macmillan) "I love a novel with two story lines" says Marian. It is 1385 and master mason Simon of Kineton is building his opus magnum: a great college to rival any in England. But the Bishop of Salster, hostile to free education, is determined to sabotage Simon's project. Six hundred years later, Damia Miller has been employed to promote penniless Kineton and Dacre College. She realizes that a grotesque wall-painting, uncovered during renovations, may hold the key to the ancient college's survival. Marshalling the student body, she is determined to unlock the painting's mysteries. In medieval Salster, Simon is struggling to accept his imperfect son, while struggling to finish his masterpiece. But just as he is coming to terms with the child, a tragedy occurs whose implications will resound until the present day. A debut novel.

HERKERT, GABRIELLA CATNAPPED (\$45) (Thomson Large Print). This is a large print edition. Legal investigator Sara Townley has to locate a cat who has been left millions of dollars in an inheritance. Marian loved this book and picked it when it originally came out in paperback at \$9.99. Although we do not stock large print editions, more and more titles are appearing in this format and we'd be happy to special order them for you. Just ask.

HEWSON, DAVID costa GARDEN OF EVIL (#6) (\$29.99 hardcover, \$22.99 trade paperback) Nic Costa, Gianni Peroni and Leo Falcone are back. Wonderful Rome, a wonderfully written mystery, a fabulous read, and a fabulous series. See *Marian's Picks*.

HIGGINS, JACK KILLING GROUND (\$25.95) (Putnam) Intelligence operative Sean Dillon stops a man at Heathrow Airport. He is Caspar Rashid, born and bred in England, but, with family ties to a Bedouin tribe fiercely wedded to the old ways. As Rashid has, regrettably, just found out; his thirteen-year-old daughter has been kidnapped by his father and taken to Iraq to be married to a man known as the Hammer of God, one of the Mideast's most feared terrorists. Dillon has had his own run-ins with that clan so he sees a chance to settle some old scores by helping Rashid.

HILL, REGINALD A CURE FOR ALL DISEASES (#21) (\$54) Stop press. The British edition of the new Dalziel and Pascoe has just arrived. We have only a few, as the Canadian edition will be out in about six months, and these are firsts so, get your order in soon.

HURLEY, GRAHAM faraday PRICE OF DARKNESS (#8) (\$37.95 hardcover, \$24.95 trade paperback) (Orion) DC Paul Winter goes undercover in an attempt to infiltrate the inner circle of Portsmouth's premier drug baron. A property developer is shot dead with clinical efficiency, and a visiting government minister is assassinated by two motorcyclists while his car is stuck in rush hour traffic. DI Farady is beginning to make progress on these two cases when he's

pulled from the assassination case and exiled to an out-of-town incident room with a reduced investigative team. He slowly becomes aware of a web of circumstantial evidence with profound implications for all three investigations.

IGGULDEN, CONN LORDS OF THE BOW (\$29.95) (Harper Collins, UK) Temujin of the Wolves has become Genghis Khan, a man who must unite the most fractious, warlike tribes on earth. He intends to forge a new nation out of the wild plains of Mongolia. Sequel to Wolf of the Plains (\$10.99), with Genghis Khan as a young boy.

ISAAK, DAVID SHOCK AND AWE (\$24.95) (Macmillan) Carla Smukowski is an ex-special forces operative, struggling to come to terms with her brother's murder at the hands of Islamic militants. She's hitting the bottle and losing control. After hospitalizing a pair of thugs, she wakes up in jail to find that a stranger has posted her bail. He makes her an offer that will change her life: his billionaire employer wants Carla to work with another ex-soldier, Brad Hammond (in fact an undercover FBI agent), to lead a ragtag mob of American militants in hijacking a nuclear shipment and turning it into a devastating weapon.

KERTESZ, IMRE DETECTIVE STORY (\$23) (Knopf) A tiny little hardcover at just over 100 pages. Antonio Martens, in prison, was a torturer for the secret police of a recently defunct dictatorship. He requests writing materials and begins to recount his involvement in the surveillance, torture, and assassination of a prominent father and son whose principled, but passive, opposition to the regime left them vulnerable to the secret police. Translated from the Hungarian.

KING, STEPHEN DUMA KEY (\$32) (Scribner) A terrible construction site accident takes Edgar Freemantle's right arm and scrambles his memory and his mind, leaving him with little but rage as he begins his life of rehabilitation. His marriage ends and his psychologist suggests a "geographic cure", a new life somewhere else doing something he always wanted to do. He rents a house on Duma Key in Florida and starts to paint. As this is a **Stephen King** novel, you might well imagine that many of his paintings have a power that cannot be controlled. A big book at over 600 pages.

LAMBdin, DEWEY adam lewri TROUBLED WATERS (#14) (\$28.95) (St. Martin's) Spring of 1800 and Captain Alan Lawrie is back in England fitting out his new frigate. But a Jamaica court has tried him in absentia, and sentenced him to hang for the theft of a dozen slaves to man his old ship. A crime, or was it liberation, as his London Barrister argues? The vengeful slave owner has come to London to seek Lawrie's end. Meanwhile, his wife, Caroline, is receiving anonymous letters portraying Lawrie as a faithless rakehell and serving up the most florid lies.

LARSSON, ASA martinsson SAVAGE ALTAR (#1) (\$40 hardcover, \$21 trade paper) aka Sun Storm. This is the UK hardcover, smuggled in as a special order for a customer. We can also get you a copy, all you have to do is ask. Quietly. There are two trade paperback editions available: as Sun Storm (\$14, US title) and as Savage Alter (\$21, UK). Complicated business, this, but all you have to know is that is a terrific story. Set in Sweden, the first of four, and winner of their best first crime novel award. Could have easily been a *J.D.'s Pick*, but for lack of space.

LAVENDER, WILL OBEDIENCE (\$26) (Shaye Areheart) The students of Winchester University's Logic and Reasoning 204 class are given an unusual assignment by their professor: find a hypothetical missing girl named Polly. If, after being given a series of clues and details, the class has not found her before the end of term in six weeks, she will be murdered. At first the students are intrigued, but as they delve deeper into the exercise they begin to wonder if the game is real. A debut novel that's getting some great reviews.

LIANG, DIANE WEI EYE OF JADE (#1) (\$28 hardcover, \$19.99 trade paperback) (Simon & Schuster) Marian says: On the surface this appears to be another female private eye novel, just set in

Beijing. But I was pleasantly surprised to discover that it was a whole lot more than that. Mei Wang is hired to find the eye of jade, believed to be a Han Dynasty piece looted from a museum during the Cultural Revolution. What we learn as she searches, however, is more about the labour camps set up by the government where Mei's father was sent—as were the author's parents—the tensions that still exist between old Communist China and the China of the 1990s, when this story is set, China's political history, its culture... reasons enough to read Eye of Jade. A terrific read. See *Marian's Picks*.

MCDERMID, VAL BENEATH THE BLEEDING (\$34.95 hardcover, \$22.95 trade paperback) We had stock of the UK edition of this book last August, so make sure you don't order a second copy. This is the Canadian edition. When Robbie Bishop, star midfielder for the Bradfield Vics, is poisoned by a rare and deadly toxin, profiler Dr. Tony Hill and his colleague DCI Carol Jordan have their work cut out for them as they try to track the killer. The others in this series are The Mermaids Singing, The Wire in the Blood, The Last Temptation (\$10.99 each) and The Torment of Others (\$9.99).

MCNAB, ANDY CROSSFIRE (\$48.50) Special orders only.

MCNAMARA, MARY OSCAR SEASON (\$28) (Simon & Schuster) It's Oscar season in Hollywood and, at the Pinnacle Hotel, PR director Juliette Greyson and the hotel staff are ready for anything. But it's almost impossible to know what is real and what is staged. Even when it comes to murder. Who is lying and who is merely acting? When does murder start becoming really good publicity?

MARTINEZ, MICHELE NOTORIOUS (\$25.95) (Morrow) About to take a controversial rap star to trial, prosecutor Melanie Vargas receives an important piece of information from his lawyer. In full confidence, on the steps of New York City's federal courthouse, he tells her that his client may have ties to a wanted fugitive. Moments later, a powerful car bomb blows the man to pieces, with Melanie only steps away. Determined to find the killer, Melanie enters a dangerous world of subterfuge and double-crosses, going as far as Las Vegas to discover the truth. The first three in the series are Most Wanted (\$9.99), The Finishing School (\$10.99) and Cover-up (\$10.99).

MOSLEY, WALTER DIABLERIE (\$25.95) (Bloomsbury, US) A 180 pp. novella. Ben Dibbuk doesn't understand why his wife is having him investigated or why a woman he doesn't know accuses him of stalking her. Why is paranoia and suspicion surrounding him?

MYERS, TAMAR pa. dutch AS THE WORLD CHURNS (#16) (\$26.50) (Obsidian) Mennonite innkeeper Magdalena Yoder is emcee at the first annual Hernia Holstein Competition. Not only is she excited about that but her inn and her barn are booked solid. When someone clobbers Doc Shafor, the contest's originator, Magdalena also ends up in hospital when she faints at his bedside. Her husband, Dr. Gabriel Rosen, agrees to emcee the event in her place. But when Magdalena recovers she finds both Gabriel and her foster daughter Alison are missing.

NEWMAN, SHARAN SHANGHAI TUNNEL (\$27.95) (Forge) Emily Stratton grew up in China with her missionary parents. In many ways she is more Chinese than Western. When her parents are violently murdered, she seeks solace in marriage to Horace Stratton, a shrewd entrepreneur from Portland, Oregon. She soon discovers that while Horace projects a mask of civility to the outside world, he is a cruel man with abhorrent and vile appetites. When Horace dies, Emily fights for her son's inheritance. It seems that Horace's business partners will stop at nothing to make sure Emily and her son disappear. Set in the mid 1860s.

PARKER, ROBERT B stone STRANGER IN PARADISE (#7) (\$25.95) (Putnam) The last time Jesse Stone, police chief of Paradise, Massachusetts, saw Wilson "Crow" Cromartie, the Apache hit man was racing away in a speedboat after executing one of the most lucrative and deadly heists in the town's history. Ten years later, Crow is back looking for Amber Francisco. Her father wants her found and

her mother killed.

PARKER, T JEFFERSON L. A. OUTLAWS (\$25.95) (Dutton) Cottage Lady picked this in the January newsletter and Marian wanted to pick it in this newsletter. See *Marian's Picks*. A current day Jesse James steals from the rich or the big and donates to the poor.

PATTERSON, JAMES womens 7TH HEAVEN (#7) (\$32.50) (Little, Brown) Michael Champion, the teenage son of a recent governor, has disappeared under mysterious circumstances. He was born with an incurable heart defect and grew up under the watchful eye of an adoring Californian public. The pressure on detective Lindsay Boxer to find Michael is overwhelming. When she finally does get a lead, it's devastating. While working on the Champion case, Lindsay and her partner, Rich Conklin, also try to catch whoever is setting fire to some of San Francisco's most beautiful homes, leaving their owners to perish in the flames. She enlists her friends in the Woman's Murder Club to help her find the arsonist.

PAWSON, STUART GRIEF ENCOUNTERS (#12) (\$39.95) (Allison & Busby) "Brilliant, as good a British police procedural as you can get" say Marian. See *Marian's Picks*.

PRESTON, DOUGLAS BLASPHEMY (\$28.95) Sorry we've sold out so can't annotate this, but more copies are on their way.

READ, CORNELIA CRAZY SCHOOL (\$27.99) (Grand Central) Madeline Dare signs on as a teacher at a boarding school for disturbed teenagers. What she discovers is that the students and teachers alike must submit to the school founder's bizarre therapeutic regimen. When Maddie questions his methods, she finds most of the teachers turn on her. Cut off from the outside world, Maddie must join forces with a small band of the school's most violently rebellious students.

REES, MATT BEYNON GRAVE IN GAZA (\$29) (Soho) After his former boss was killed by a bomb, Omar Yussef becomes the principal of the UN school near Bethlehem. Now he travels with his new boss, a Swede named Magnus Wallender, to inspect UN schools in the Gaza Strip. Upon arriving they learn that a UN teacher has been arrested and the authorities are accusing him of collaborating with the CIA. While Yussef and his colleagues are attempting to secure the teacher's freedom, Wallender is kidnapped by Saladin Brigades, the most powerful gunmen in the Gaza Strip. When a different UN official is killed, the UN withdraws its foreign staff from Gaza leaving Yussef alone to try and save the two men. The first in the series, The Collaborator of Bethlehem (\$15.95 trade paperback), was called "An astonishing first novel" by the New York Times Book Review and was a *J.D.'s Pick* a year ago.

RICHARDS, LINDA L DEATH WAS THE OTHER WOMAN (\$26.95) (Thomas Dunne) During prohibition there are two ways of making a living in Los Angeles: join the criminals or join the good guys. Kitty Pangborn has chosen to fight crime and becomes secretary to Dexter J. Theroux, a hard-drinking, tough-talking private eye. But after Dex takes an assignment from Rita Hepplewaite, the mistress of one of L.A.'s shadiest and richest businessmen, Kitty isn't sure what side of the law she is on. By the author of Mad Money which was nominated for an Ellis for Best First Novel but is now out of print. We have two copies of Next-Ex and Calculated Loss (\$8.50 each) available, which feature stockbroker Madeline Carter, but once we sell these that's it, everything seems to be out of print.

RIORDAN, RICK navarre REBEL ISLAND (#7) (\$30) (Bantam) Tres Navarre had given up the private eye life and he and his wife, Maia, had come to Rebel Island to celebrate their honeymoon. But no sooner had they arrived than a corpse shows up. Tres flashes back on the memory of a grim childhood summer on the island that changed everything. When a second corpse turns up, it's clear to Tres that the past is not dead and buried, but stalking Rebel Island with unfinished business of its own.

ROBB, J D STRANGERS IN DEATH (#26) (\$25.95) (Putnam)

It's 2060 and Lieutenant Eve Dallas is investigating the death of a prominent businessman. He was found tied to his bed and strangled with cords of black velvet.

ROBBINS, DAVID L BETRAYAL GAME (\$28) (Bantam) The wild CIA plots, the treacherous double crosses, the near-miraculous escapes, are already legendary, but, it seems that Fidel Castro is finally going to get it. With a massive US backed invasion of the island looming, a trap has been set that not even Castro can escape.

SAKEY, MARCUS AT THE CITY'S EDGE (\$27.95) (St. Martin's) Jason Palmer loved being a soldier but returned from Iraq with an "other than honourable" discharge. Elena Cruz is the first woman cop to make Chicago's prestigious Gang Intelligence Unit. When Jason's brother is gunned down in front of his son, Jason and Elena are stalked by brutal men with a shadowy agenda. They unravel a conspiracy stretching from the darkest alleys of the ghetto to the manicured lawns of the city's power brokers. His first novel, The Blade Itself (\$8.99) has garnered rave reviews.

SCHLINK, BERNHARD HOMECOMING (\$26) A child of World War II, Peter Debauer grew up with his mother and scant memories of his father. Now an adult, Peter embarks on a search for the truth surrounding his mother's unwavering, but shaky, history and the possibility of finding his missing father after all these years. The search takes him across Europe to America and back. By the author of the excellent trilogy featuring PI Gerhard Self.

SCOTTOLINE, LISA LADY KILLER (\$27.95) (Harper) Trish Gambone, an old high school rival of Mary DiNunzio, shows up in Mary's office asking for help. She is terrified of her live-in boyfriend, who's an abusive, gun-toting drug dealer for the South Philadelphia mob. Mary remembers the guy from high school where, unbeknownst to Trish, Mary had a major crush on him.

SERANELLA, BARBARA Lyon DEADMAN'S SWITCH (#1) (\$29.95) Published about a year ago, but not one that we stocked. Asleep at the switch, I guess, not dead. The beginning of a new series featuring Charlotte Lyon, but, with Ms. Seranella's death...

SMITH, APRIL ana grey JUDAS HORSE (#2) (\$25.95) (Knopf) Maverick FBI Agent Ana Grey, back after a shooting incident left her emotionally vulnerable, is going undercover as an animal lover to try and penetrate a group called Free Animals Now. It seems their leader has a different agenda and they have just murdered a fellow agent.

SMITH, SUSAN ARNOULT TIMER GAME (\$27.95) (St. Martin's) Grace Descanso was going to be a brilliant pediatric heart surgeon but something almost destroyed her when she was in Guatemala. She quit medicine and nearly killed herself with drink, but, five years later, she's sworn off alcohol and is practicing as a doctor. She is using her science background as a crime-scene tech in San Diego, going to AA meetings, scraping by, and living to be a mom to her daughter, Katie. But everything falls apart again when, in the middle of processing a crime scene, Grace shoots a madman after he's killed two of her colleagues. He had called her by name, and, in a bizarre sort of warning, spoke about someone he called "the Spikeman". A day later, her daughter is kidnapped.

STABENOW, DANA PREPARED FOR RAGE (\$27.95) (St. Martin's) NASA is preparing to launch the space shuttle with a high-paying visitor on board as a guest, and the FBI and the Coast Guard are doing everything they can to help the launch go off without a hitch. But one man, with a personal grudge and the commitment of many zealous men behind him, is determined to strike back at the most visible target he can find.

STAINCLIFFE, CATH MISSING (#7) (\$39.95) (Allison & Busby) Sal Kilkenny is back, searching for a number of missing people, which seems to be the flavour of the month in Manchester. This is a great private eye series with Towers of Silence (#5) and Bitter Blue (#6) (\$12.95 each) still available in paperback.

STEER, DUGALD A WIZARDODOLOGY: THE BOOK OF THE SE-

CRETS OF (\$22) See comments under Ernest Drake above.

STUCKART, DIANE da vinci QUEEN'S GAMBIT (#1) (\$28.50) (Berkley) On a royal whim, Ludovico Sforza, Duke of Milan, orders a living chess game to be enacted by members of his own court. Leonardo da Vinci conjures up the spectacle in a single night, but his latest success turns bitter when one of the "pieces", the duke's ambassador to France, is murdered. Da Vinci is the only man Sforza trusts to conduct the murder investigation, so, with his scrupulous eye for detail and his young assistant Dino gathering information unnoticed, da Vinci uncovers a vile nest of secrets.

SUSSMAN, PAUL LAST SECRET OF THE TEMPLE (\$25.50) (Atlantic Monthly) First published in the UK in 2004. In 70 AD, as the Romans sacked and destroyed the holy temple in Jerusalem, a young Jewish boy was hidden away and chosen as the guardian of a great secret. For seventy generations this secret remained safe-guarded. But in present day Israel, a Jewish radical threatens to reveal this hidden truth and use it to rip apart the Middle East.

TALLIS, FRANK liebermann FATAL LIES (#3) (\$39) An expensive British import. Vienna, 1903. In St. Florian's military school a young cadet is found dead, his body lacerated with razor wounds. Inspector Oskar Rheinhardt, baffled by the details surrounding the case, turns to his friend, psychiatrist and disciple of Freud, Doctor Max Liebermann, for help. The first two in this excellent series are *Death in Vienna* (aka *Mortal Mischief* in the UK) (\$16 trade paperback) and *Vienna Blood* (\$21.95 trade paperback).

TYLER, L C HERRING SELLER'S APPRENTICE (\$24.95) (Macmillan, not 1st editions) Ethelred Tressider is a crime writer with problems. His latest novel is going nowhere, a mid-life crisis is looming and he's burdened by the literary agent he probably deserves. But things get even worse when his ex-wife disappears and the police suspect she is the victim of a serial killer. This is a funny mystery filled with eccentric characters. See *J.D.'s Picks*.

URE, LOUISE FAULT TREE (\$27.95) (St. Martin's) Eight years ago, Arizona auto mechanic Cadence Moran was blinded in a horrific car accident. When she is almost run down by a speeding car on the way home from work, she thinks she is the victim of road rage. But it turns out the killer of Cadence's elderly neighbour thinks she saw his getaway car, not realizing that she is blind.

WEISBERG, JOSEPH ORDINARY SPY (\$26.95) (Bloomsbury, US) This novel has received fabulous reviews in the New York Times and the Globe and Mail but Marian found it difficult to read and gave up. "A lot of the text is blacked out and it was just hard to follow", she says. There's a term for that...

WESLEY, VALERIE WILSON OF BLOOD AND SORROW (#8) (\$28) (Ballantine) Life was going well for private investigator Tamara Hayle until Lilah Love, an old acquaintance, begs her to find her missing child. Then Basil Dupre, Tamara's outlaw ex-lover, comes back into her life, and her son, Jamal, witnesses a brutal murder and becomes the prime suspect.

WOLFE, INGER ASH THE CALLING (\$32.99) A terrific novel. All the hoopla about the author's identity is a little distracting, and a lot silly, but this is an excellent read. "...held me from the first page and never let me go. I absolutely loved Hazel Micallef."—*Kate Atkinson*. If it's good enough for the fabulous *Kate Atkinson*, then you gotta read it. This is exactly what a crime novel should be. Both of us read it and adored it, and would just like to be able to thank the author for a wonderful read. See *J.D.'s Picks* for more.

WOODS, STUART rick barron BEVERLY HILLS DEAD (#2) (\$31) (Putnam) The characters from *The Prince of Beverly Hills* (\$10.99) are back. Set in 1940s Hollywood, Rick Barron, a former Beverly Hills police officer, has risen to the position of Head of Production at Centurion Studios. The Red Scare is a sign of things to come and with it comes deception, murder, and dirty dealings that even the picture-perfect veneer of Hollywood can't hide.

Paperbacks

AARON, RELENTLESS TRIPLE THREAT (\$8.99)

ABBOTT, MEGAN SONG IS YOU (\$16) On October 7, 1949, Hollywood starlet Jean Spangler disappeared and was never seen again. The only clues left behind is a purse with a broken strap found in a nearby park, a cryptic note, and rumours about mobster boy-friends and ill-fated romances with movie stars. Drawing on this true-life missing persons case, Ms. Abbott has created the character of Gil "Hop" Hopkins, a smooth talking Hollywood publicist, who is drawn into the unsolved mystery by a friend of Jean, who blames Hop for concealing details from the police the night she disappeared.

ACEVEDO, MARIO X RATED BLOODSUCKERS (\$10.99) From the author of *Nymphos of Rokey Flats* (\$16.50) and *Undead Kama Sutra* (\$14.95). If you like your fiction paranormal and erotic...

AKUNIN, BORIS SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS (#5) (\$16.50) Court Counsellor Fandorin is facing 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.

ALEXANDER, TASHA ashton POISONED SEASON (#2) (\$16.50) London's social season is in full swing and the Victorian aristocracy can't stop whispering about a certain gentleman who claims to be the direct descendant of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. The cat burglar on the loose who is stealing anything related to Marie Antoinette is also cause for much drawing room and ballroom gossip. When the owner of one of the pilfered treasures is found murdered, the mysterious thief switches obsessions to Lady Emily Ashton. Sequel to *And Only to Deceive* (\$17.50 trade paperback). "I loved them both," says Marian, "especially all the stuff about Greek and Roman Antiquities at the British Museum".

ALLINGHAM, MARGERY albert CHINA GOVERNESS and **HIDE MY EYES** (\$21.95 ea.) Albert Campion reissues.

ALVTEGEN, KARIN SHAME (\$21) When a tragic car accident throws two strangers together, they have no idea how their lives will be transformed. Violent family secrets at the centre of both of their lives threaten to surface, and slowly they are forced to confront the shame they have carried with them. Translated from Swedish. Others by this author are *Missing* and *Betrayal* (\$10.99 each). Terrific.

ANDREWS, RUSSELL HADES (\$9.50)

ANTHONY, MICHAEL DAVID BECKET FACTOR (\$18) The US edition, first published in the early 90s in the UK. Excellent.

ATHERTON, NANCY AUNT DIMITY GOES WEST (#12) (\$10.99) 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.

ATKINSON, KATE BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM (\$15.50) This is not a mystery but due to the tremendous success of *Case Histories* (\$19.95) and *One Good Turn* (\$21) we got in some copies of her first novel, winner of the 1995 Whitbread Book of the Year award. Ruby Lennox begins narrating her own life at the moment of her conception and from there takes the reader on a whirlwind tour of the twentieth century as seen through the eyes of a girl determined to learn more about her family and the secrets it keeps. *Case Histories* is not to be missed, it's that good.

ATWELL, SARAH THROUGH A GLASS, DEADLY (\$6.99) Glassblower Emmeline Doxwell has made a home for herself among the artists of Tucson's Warehouse District. Between teaching her craft and selling her wares, she solves the occasional murder. Marian has a copy of this but hasn't reported back yet. A series debut.

AULT, SANDI WILD INDIGO (\$9.99) 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.

BAANTJER, ALBERT CORNELIS DEKOK AND THE SOMBER NUDE (#2) (\$15.50) and DEKOK AND MURDER BY INSTALLMENT (#22) (\$17) Two more reissues.

BAKER, DEB DOLLY DEPARTED (\$6.99) Doll restoration artist Gretchen Birch answers an invitation to a party at an unfamiliar dollhouse shop and finds the owner, Charlie Maize, dead on the floor covered with miniature room boxes. One of the room boxes is the set for a murder, complete with a tiny axe with a bloody blade and red splatters on the walls. The others in the series are Dolled Up For Murder and Goodbye, Dolly (\$9.99 each).

BAKER, MARTIN MELTDOWN (\$22.95) A great read set in the financial markets of France. See *Marian's Picks*.

BENOIT, MICHEL THIRTEENTH APOSTLE (\$17.95) When his friend Andrei is mysteriously killed on a train on his way back from Rome, Father Nil, a Benedictine who teaches the Gospel of St. John to novices, decides to investigate. The dead priest possessed proof of a thirteenth apostle and an epistle stating that Jesus was nothing more than an inspired prophet, not the Son of God, two things that would spell great danger to the Church. Father Nil then discovers a previously unpublished account of the origins of Christianity. It tells of the Nazoreans, a community excluded from the official Church of Peter and Paul, which appears to have thrived until the 7th century, playing an important role in the birth of Islam.

BERENSON, ALEX FAITHFUL SPY (\$13.50) John Wells is the only American CIA agent ever to penetrate al Qaeda. Since before 9/11, Wells has been hiding in the mountains of Pakistan, biding his time, and building his cover. Now on the orders of Omar Khadri, the malicious mastermind plotting more al Qaeda strikes on America, Wells is coming home. Neither Khadri nor Jennifer Exley, Wells' superior at Langley, know quite what to expect. Wells has become a Muslim and he finds the US decadent and shallow. Yet he hates al Qaeda and the way it uses Islam to justify its murderous assaults on innocents. But the agency freezes Wells out and he must somehow find a way to stop Khadri, with or without the government's consent.

BIDULKA, ANTHONY quant SUNDOWNER UBUNTU (#5) (\$21.95) A mother hires Russell Quant to find her son, Matthew. Through good old fashioned detective work, Russell trails Matthew to Africa and finds much more than he was looking for. Full of vivid descriptions and interesting characters, you can almost feel yourself there. Sequel to Amuse Bouche (\$9.95), Flight of Aquavit (\$9.95), Tapas on the Ramblas (\$21.95) and Stain of the Berry (\$21.95).

BLACK, BENJAMIN quirke CHRISTINE FALLS (#1) (\$15.50) *The Globe and Mail* gave this novel a great review. AKA **John Banville**, which might have a lot to do with the positive reviews. One night after having a few drinks too many at a party, Quirke, a surly pathologist living in 1950s Dublin, returns to his office at the morgue to find his brother-in-law, a doctor at the same facility, tampering with the records of a young woman's death. The next morning, Quirke begins looking into the woman's history. He discovers a plot that spans two continents, implicates the Catholic Church, and may involve members of his own family. Beautiful prose, a delight to read, but, just a tad too long. Amazing how many different ways there are to combine 26 letters. Could easily have been a *J.D.'s Pick*.

BLECHTA, RICK A CASE OF YOU (\$15.95 *Rendez Vous*) This just in, so we have not had a chance to read it yet. A street person sings at an open mike night at the club where Andy Curran, drummer in a jazz trio, plays. She wows everyone and then disappears. Andy sets out to discover where she went and who she is.

BRENCHLEY, CHAZ SHELTER (\$17) Rowan Coffey is nineteen when he leaves university to come home after the cruel, casual murder of a friend. Rowan had no alibi, and, exhausted after weeks of being under suspicion, he's looking forward to what is warm, familiar and safe. But he doesn't find it. Originally published in 1999.

BRIGGS, PATRICIA IRON KISSED (#3) (\$10.99) Mechanic Mercy Thompson can shift her shape to a coyote, but she will not shift her loyalty. When her former boss and mentor is arrested for murder and left to rot behind bars by his own kind (werewolves), it's up to Mercy to clear his name, whether he wants her to or not.

"Intriguing, full of action, vampires and werewolves, a good plot and a main character who knows her mind. Lots of fun," says Marian. (Samantha agrees). The first two in the series are Moon Called and Blood Bound (\$10.99 each).

BROWN, RITA MAE sneakypie PUSS N CAHOOTS (#15) (\$8.99) The newly re-married "Harry" and Fair Haristeen head to Shelbyville, Kentucky, site of the famous saddlebred horse show. Soon after they arrive, events turn mysterious and murderous. On the case, as usual, is Mrs. Murphy and her four-legged friends.

BRUEN, KEN jack taylor PRIEST (#5) (\$15.50) Ireland may no longer turns to the church for solace but the decapitation of a priest in a Galway confessional horrifies even the most jaded citizen. Jack Taylor, devastated by the recent trauma of personal loss, is offered a fresh start with a new job. An eerie mix of exorcism, a predatory stalker, and unlikely attraction conspires to lure him into a murderous web of dark conspiracies.

BUTCHER, JIM WHITE NIGHT (#9) (\$10.99) Someone is targeting Chicago's magic practitioners, members of the supernatural underclass who don't possess enough power to become full fledged wizards. Harry Dresden sets out to find the killer, but his investigation turns up evidence to the one suspect he can't possible believe guilty: his half brother, Thomas.

CARTER, MAUREEN BABY LOVE, DEAD OLD, HARD TIME, and WORKING GIRLS (\$21 each). These were special orders for a customer who was so enthusiastic about them that I want to read them myself. I think I have an open slot in 2010...

CHERCOVER, SEAN BIG CITY BAD BLOOD (\$8.99) Chicago private eye Ray Dudgeon's latest assignment is to be the bodyguard for a Hollywood location manager and ends up dealing with high-level political corruption, sexual blackmail, and murder. Well written, great story, a definite must read for all lovers of the private eye novel. See *Marian's Picks*. We're all waiting for the sequel, Trigger City (\$27.95 due June), impatiently.

CHILDS, LAURA DRAGONWELL DEAD (\$7.99) Each spring, Charleston's upper crust opens their sprawling gardens to the public for the Spring Plantation Ramble and Theodosia Browning is there to feature her Dragonwell Sweet Tea. But the festivities come to a halt when commodities broker Mark Congdon wins a bid for a rare monkey-face orchid, and promptly dies.

CHRISTIE, AGATHA ORDEAL BY INNOCENCE (\$9.99), DESTINATION UNKNOWN (\$9.99), MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR AT STYLES (\$12.95) and CROOKED HOUSE (\$9.99). Reissues.

CLARK, CAROL HIGGINS LACED (\$9.50) PI Regan Reilly and her husband, Jack, head of the Major Case Squad in NYC, have just gotten married and are off to Ireland for their honeymoon. But it's hardly relaxing: a ghost, a fire, a thief...excitement galore.

CLARK, MARY HIGGINS I HEARD THAT SONG BEFORE (\$10.99) Kay Lansing, who marries into a wealthy family, looks into the disappearance of a young woman many years earlier and the death of her husband's former wife and child. Her husband, a sleepwalker, has been under suspicion for many years.

CLAYTON, VICTORIA MOONSHINE (\$10.99) Wow, at over 900 pages, that'll sure keep you busy on a snowy afternoon. In a moment of temporary derangement, Bobbie Pickford Norton begins an

affair with a married Member of Parliament and scandal follows, inevitably. Bobbie escapes to a job as housekeeper in an eccentric household in a decaying castle in Galway. She becomes friends with the absent owner's sister and as her heart begins to mend she seizes the opportunity to begin the restoration of the family spirit and the house. But the equilibrium is upset when the owner returns. He objects to the interference in the household economy, her influence over his family, and to the admirers she unwillingly attracts.

COHEN, GABRIEL BOOMBOX (\$19) Over the course of a summer, friendships are pushed to the limit when a teenager buys a big sound system to impress his friends from the projects and blasts gangster rap into the backyard gardens. Set in Brooklyn's Boerum Hill. By the author of the fabulous Det. Jack Leightner novels, Red Hook (out of print, alas) and Graving Dock (\$27.95).

COLES, MANNING DRINK TO YESTERDAY (#1) and TOAST TO TOMORROW (#2) (aka Pray Silence in the UK) (\$18 each trade paperback) Originally published in 1940 and 1941 and are somewhat based on the war experience of **Cyril Henry Coles**, who, along with the **Adelaide Oak Manning**, wrote as **Manning Coles**. Coles lied about his age and joined the British army during World War I. He was transferred to intelligence when his aptitude for conversational German was noted and he became the youngest member of Britain's Foreign Intelligence Office.

CONNANT-PARK, JESSICA & CONANT, SUSAN SIMMER DOWN (\$7.99) Gourmet Girl Chloe Carter's dream boyfriend, Josh Driscoll, is prepping for the opening of Simmer, Boston's soon-to-be hottest new restaurant. But at a fund-raiser featuring samples of Josh's cuisine, a trendy club owner is found bludgeoned to death by Josh's state-of-the-art food processor. The first in the series is Steamed (\$9.99). Processed to death?

CONNOR, BEVERLY DEAD HUNT (#5) (\$10.99) A terrific series: One Grave Too Many, Dead Guilty, Dead Secret and Dead Past (\$10.99 each) are the first four. See *Samatha's Picks*.

CORLEY, ELIZABETH fenwick INNOCENT BLOOD (#4) (\$33 trade paper, \$55 hardcover) See the hardcover section.

CRAIS, ROBERT elvis cole WATCHMAN (#11) (\$10.99) Larkin Conner Barkley, 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"

CULLEN, ROBERT DISPATCH FROM A COLD COUNTRY (#3) (\$18) The third in this excellent series featuring American journalist Colin Burke. A longtime Moscow hand, he's always on the brink of the big story, only to find that he's being manipulated and barely escapes with his life. First published in the UK the early 1990s.

CUSSLER, CLIVE SAHARA (\$9.99) and DEEP SIX (\$12) Reissues of two older Dirk Pitt titles.

CUTLER, JUDITH CHINESE TAKEOUT (\$10.95) It's morning service in a quiet village church and Josie Welford, wealthy widow of one of England's most wanted criminals and now licensee of the White Hart gastro-pub, is day dreaming during the sermon. Suddenly the peace is shattered when a filthy Chinese youth flings himself into the church and demands sanctuary. Should the Church accede to the request for protection that no longer has legal standing? Or should Tang be handed over to the authorities? Tang's gang-masters would rather have him dead than able to betray them. The first in this series is The Food Detective (\$11.95).

DAHEIM, MARY ALPINE SCANDAL (#19) (\$8.99) Have you ever noticed that this series of novels featuring Washington State journalist, Emma Lord, is, like Sue Grafton's Kinsey Milhone series, being published in alpha order? So this one is the Sth in the series.

DALY, ELIZABETH NOTHING CAN RESCUE ME (#6) (\$18) In mid 1943, and up to his elbows in war work, Henry Gamadge, is longing for a quiet weekend. But when a half-forgotten classmate requests assistance, he can't refuse. The problem is his classmate's Aunt Florence. She has moved her extensive household of hangers-on to the family mansion in upstate New York. But menace seems to have followed them, in the form of threatening messages inserted into the manuscript of Florence's painfully bad novel in progress.

DAVIDSON, MARY JANICE UNDEAD AND UNEMPLOYED (\$10.99)

DEECK, WILLIAM MURDER AT 3 CENTS A DAY (\$40) This is a reference book devoted to lending-library publishers that flourished from the mid 1930s into the 1960s. It contains a full listing of mystery and detective fiction published under such imprints as Phoenix Press, Hillman-Curl, Mystery House and others publishers with jacket blurbs, setting and leading characters for each title. Plus a bunch of other stuff.

DENNISON, HANNAH A VICKY HILL EXCLUSIVE (\$6.99) Set in the sleepy English town of Gipping-Plym, ambitious but bumbling investigative journalist Vicky Hill will do anything for a front-page story. A tip leads her to what might be the scoop of a lifetime. There is a bizarre connection between three grisly chicken corpses and the unusual death of Sir Hugh Trewallyn. Suddenly, it seems that this quiet market town harbours more than its fair share of secrets.

DOUGLAS, CAROLE NELSON DANCING WITH WERE-WOLVES: DELILAH STREET (\$9.99)

[DOYLE]GUY, PATRICIA & KATHERINE KARLSON LADIES THE WOMEN IN THE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$18) The women who visit 221B are more than storefront mannequins of their era. An examination of the women of the Victorian era, told in the context of the Sherlockian stories.

DUGONI, ROBERT DAMAGE CONTROL (\$9.50) 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.

ELLIS, KATE peterson SHINING SKULL (#11) (\$10.95) Little Marcus Fallbrook was kidnapped in 1976 and when he did not return, his family assumed the worst. Then, thirty years later, teenage singing star Leah Wakefield disappears and DI Wesley Peterson has reason to suspect that the same kidnapper is responsible. Archaeologist Neil Watson's gruesome task of exhuming the dead from a local churchyard yields a mystery of its own when a coffin is found to contain one corpse too many, a corpse that may be linked to a strange religious sect dating back to Regency times.

FLANAGAN, RICHARD UNKNOWN TERRORIST (\$17.50) What would you do if you turned on the TV and saw you were the most wanted terrorist in the US? Gina Davies is about to find out. After a night spent with an attractive stranger, she becomes the prime suspect in the investigation of an attempted terrorist attack

[FLEMING]GRISWOLD, JOHN IAN FLEMING'S JAMES BOND: ANNOTATIONS AND CHRONOLOGIES (\$45) Analyses of Fleming's Bond novels, annotations, glossaries of applicable terminology, and references with detailed chronologies, and more.

[FLEMING]SELLERS, ROBERT BATTLE FOR BOND.THE: THE GENESIS OF CINEMA'S GREATEST HERO (\$60) Kevin McClory's 40-year legal battle over the rights to the screen version of James Bond. This book unravels that untold story, the most controversial part of the James Bond legend. A tale of bitter recriminations, betrayal, multi-million dollar lawsuits and even death.

FLUKE, JOANNE swensen KEY LIME PIE MURDER (#9) (\$9.99) 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 ingredient. For lovers of the lighter style of mystery. "Light and entertaining, a fast-read cozy mystery", says Marian.

FRANKLIN, ARIANA SERPENT'S TALE (#2) (\$24 trade paperback) Wow, wow, wow, can this woman write. Henry II's mistress has been poisoned so he summons Adelia Aquitaine, mistress of the art of death, to investigate. Mistress of the Art of Death (\$13.50) has just been released. Both fabo. See *Marian's Picks*.

GILMAN, LAURA ANNE STAYING DEAD (\$8.50)

GREGORY & TINTORI BOOK OF NAMES (\$8.99) 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. "Not bad" says Marian, "it was a fast paced book with an interesting plot".

GROSS, ANDREW BLUE ZONE (\$10.99) His solo debut. A novel of the Witness Protection Program. Kate Rabb's perfect existence is irrevocably changed when her beloved father gets into trouble with the law. The whole family has to be placed under protection.

GUTTRIDGE, PETER NO LAUGHING MATTER (#1) (\$14.50) Set at the Just For Laughs Festival in Montreal, the first in the journalist Nick Madrid series. Originally published in 1997.

HALL, JAMES W MAGIC CITY (#9) (\$8.99) Based on real events. A simple black and white photograph taken during the 1964 Cassius Clay-Sonny Liston fight on Miami Beach may hold the key to a horrific, politically motivated crime. When the photo suddenly appears forty-two years later on display at a trendy Miami gallery opening, it is burned in as act of arson that sets off a modern-day murder spree. What the killer doesn't know is that there is one remaining copy of the photograph. When it falls into Thorn's hands, he and everyone he loves becomes the target of trained killers.

HAMMESFAHR, PETRA SINNER (\$18) Translated from German, this novel stayed at the top of the German best seller list for fifteen months. Cora Bender killed a man on a sunny summer afternoon by the lake in full view of her family and friends. Why? What could have caused this quiet, loveable young mother to stab a stranger in the throat, again and again, until she was pulled off his body? For the local police it was an open and shut case. Cora confessed. But Police Commissioner Rudolf Grovian refused to close the file and started his own maverick investigation.

HARRIS, CHARLAINE teagard BONE TO PICK (#1) (\$10.99) A reissue of the first Aurora Teagarden mystery. After the funeral of a fellow disbanded crime discussion group member, Aurora learns that Jane, the deceased, has named her as heir to a rather substantial estate. When she finds a skull in a window seat Aurora concludes that Jane purposely left her a murder to solve. The next two in the series, Real Murders (#2) (\$10.99) and Three Bedrooms, One Corpse (#3) (\$7.99), have also been reprinted. More to follow.

HARVEY, JOHN grayson GONE TO GROUND (#1) (\$11.99) Police detectives Will Grayson and Helen Walker believe, at first glance, that the death of Stephen Bryan, a gay academic, was the result of an ill-judged sexual encounter gone wrong. But as they look deeper into Bryan's life and death, their initial assumptions change. Is he another victim of a spate of homophobic attacks which are plaguing the East Midlands? Or could the murder be connected to a biography he was writing on the life and mysterious death of fifties screen legend Stella Leonard? Debut.

HAUS, ILLONA BLUE MERCY (#1) (\$25) Ravaged by guilt, Detective Kay Delaney is reeling from an attack that resulted in her part-

ner's death. Her only consolation is that serial killer Bernard Eales, who shot her partner, sits in Maryland's State Penitentiary awaiting what seems to be a sure conviction. But when the prosecutor's star witness turns up dead, and the body bears the same gruesome marks found on Eales's victims, Kay wonders whether the right man is about to stand trial.

HAYES, SAM BLOOD TIES (\$10.99) January 1992. A baby girl is left alone for a moment outside a shop, but it's long enough for her to be taken. Thirteen years later, solicitor Robert Knight is delighted his stepdaughter has won a place at a prestigious London school for the gifted. The only puzzle is his wife Erin's reaction. Why is she so reluctant to let Ruby go?

HENRY, SUE REFUGE (\$6.99) Maxie McNabb is ready to head up to Alaska with her dachshund, Stretch, when she gets a call from Karen Bailey asking for help in packing up her home. Maxie leaves Stretch behind and flies off to Hawaii to help. When she gets there Maxie suspects that Karen is hiding something.

HESS, JOAN malloy DEATH BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON (\$4.99) A reissue of this 1992 Claire Malloy mystery. Bookseller and amateur sleuth Claire Malloy is reluctant to go to the Malloy family reunion but she feels her daughter, Caron, should visit her deceased father's relatives. When the wheelchair-bound matriarch, Miss Justicia, is found dead, Claire doesn't believe it was a "tragic accident".

HEWSON, DAVID costa GARDEN OF EVIL (#6) (\$29.99 hardcover, \$22.95 trade paper) See the hardcover section.

HILL, REGINALD dalziel DEATH COMES FOR THE FAT MAN (#20) (\$11.99) Caught in the blast of a huge explosion, Detective Superintendent Andy Dalziel lies in a hospital bed, on life support, while Chief Inspector Peter Pascoe searches for those responsible. Terrific. Terrific. Terrific.

HIMES, CHESTER ALL SHOT UP (#4) (\$17) Gravedigger Jones and Coffin Ed Johnson. Classics of the field.

HIRAHARA, NAOMI SUMMER OF THE BIG BACHI (#1) (\$8.99) For fifty years a secret was kept. And now *bachi*--the spirit of retribution--is knocking on the door. What really happened when the bomb fell on Hiroshima in August 1945?

HOCKENSMITH, STEVE ON THE WRONG TRACK (#2) (\$15.95) Cowboys Gustav "Old Red" Amilingmeyer and his brother, Otto "Big Red", sign on to protect the luxurious Pacific Express as it travels to San Francisco. On board the train is a baggage car full of deadly secrets and a vicious killer. Old Red wants to try his hand at "detectifying" just like his hero Sherlock. Sequel to Holmes on the Range (#1) (\$15.95) which was very good.

HOLME, TIMOTHY peroni NEAPOLITAN STREAK (#1) (\$18) First published in 1980. Great to see this reissued. Set in Verona of the 1980s, land of the Montagues and Capulets, Romeo and Juliet.

HOLMS, JOYCE fizz/buchanan MISSING LINK (#7) (\$11.95) Fizz Fitzgerald is now working as a lawyer and is shocked when Mrs. Sullivan, an elderly lady, approaches her and wants Fizz to prove her guilty of murder. Fizz thinks that her story is too good to be true but is determined to get to the bottom of it. As usual, she turns to Tam Buchanan for help. Tam has left the firm to set up his own practice and is more than reluctant to get involved but we all know that Fizz gets her way. Poor Tam. A puzzling mystery -- why is Mrs. Sullivan so eager to be guilty of murder? Was the person in prison wrongfully convicted? Who was the victim really -- a generous upper class lady or a tart (Mrs. Sullivan's description)? The wonderfully humorous duo of Fizz and Buchanan are on the case. And, good news, a small US publishing house, Bloody Brits Press, has reissued the first two Fizz and Buchanan mystery, Payment Deferred (\$16.95) and Foreign Body (\$17), and also available are Hot Potato (#7) and Hidden Depths (#8) (\$11.95 each.)

HOWARD, LINDA KILL AND TELL (\$11.99)

HUNT, ARLENE MISSING PRESUMED DEAD (\$10.99) In 1980

everyone presumed that Katie Jones, a beautiful, blond toddler, who vanished playing at the water's edge, was dead. In 2006, Katie Jones arrives on a Dublin doorstep and shoots the man who opens the door. Then she shoots herself. John Quigley and Sarah Kenny of QuicK Investigations are soon involved in the case. As they delve deeper into the murky world surrounding Katie Jones, they are unaware that somebody from Sarah's past is watching and waiting to strike when they least expect it.

HURLEY, GRAHAM faraday PRICE OF DARKNESS (#8) (\$37.95 hardcover, \$24.95 trade paper) See the hardcover section.

HUSTON, CHARLIE joe pitt HALF THE BLOOD OF BROOKLYN (#3) (\$15.95) The third in the Joe Pitt, vampire PI, series, sequel to Already Dead (\$15.50) and No Dominion (\$16.95).

ILES, GREG FOOTPRINTS OF GOD (\$12.99) Originally published in 2003. Appointed by the US President as ethicist to Project Trinity, a project to develop a super computer that surpasses the power of the human mind, Dr. David Tennant finds out that the genius who runs the project was responsible for the murder of his friend and fellow scientist and that his own life is in danger. Unable to reach the president and afraid to trust his colleagues, he turns to Rachel Weiss, the psychiatrist probing the nightmares that have plagued him during his work at Trinity. When assassins strike, the two doctors flee for their lives. Pursued across the globe by ruthless NSA operatives, David and Rachel struggle to piece together the truth.

JACKSON, STEVE JUDAS (\$10.99)

JECKS, MICHAEL DISPENSATION OF DEATH (#23) (\$10.99) When the Queen's lady-in-waiting is slaughtered and a man's body, hideously mutilated, is discovered behind the throne in the Great Hall at Thorney Island, Edward II demands to be avenged. Sir Baldwin de Furnhill is appointed to track down the killer. With the help of his friend, Simon Puttock, the two soon discover that the murderer could be among the most influential men in the land.

JENNINGS, MAUREEN morris K HANDSHAPE (#2) (\$22.99) Despite the fact that Detective Sergeant Christine Moore of the Ontario Provincial Police and her colleague, forensic psychiatrist Dr. Leo Forgach, never see eye-to-eye, he calls her for help when his daughter, Deidre, disappears. Unlike the first in the series Does Your Mother Know? (\$22.99 trade paperback) which was set in the Hebrides, K Handshape is set in Orillia. See *Marian's Picks*.

JOSEPHS, RUDY BIG APPLE TAKEDOWN (\$10.99)

JUNGSTEDT, MARI UNSEEN (\$21) What looks like a crime committed by a jealous husband keeps the local police on the Island of Gotland on their toes. Then a second victim is found. Realizing that a serial killer is terrorizing locals and tourists alike, Inspector Anders Knutas has to face additional pressure from the media and local politicians who are worried about bad publicity for the island. A debut mystery translated from Swedish.

KAPLAN, JANICE LOOKS TO DIE FOR (#1) (\$16) As the wife of a prominent Beverly Hills plastic surgeon, a dedicated mother of three, and an absolutely fabulous decorator to the stars, Lacy Fields is stunned when the police barge into her house and haul her husband away in handcuffs. Outraged that he is accused of murdering a wannabe actress, Lacy discovers her talent for hunting heirlooms can also help her chase a clever killer.

KENT, ALEXANDER MIDSHIPMAN BOLITHO (#1) (\$21.95) A reissue of the first Richard Bolitho novel.

KERNICK, SIMON SEVERED (\$11.99) When former soldier Dan Tyler wakes up in a strange room on a bed covered with blood, with a corpse beside him, he has no idea how he got there. He had just met Leah and now she is dead. As he staggers from the bed the phone rings and a voice tells him to press play on the DVD player. It shows a film of Tyler killing Leah. Terrific writer, terrific stories. Read him. His earlier books include The Business of Dying, Good Day To Die, The Murder Exchange, Crime Trade, and Relentless (\$11.99 each).

KIRINO, NATSUO GROTESQUE (\$16.50) Tokyo prostitutes Yuriko and Kazue have been brutally murdered, their deaths leaving a wake of unanswered questions about who they were, who the murderer is, and how their lives came to end. The story goes back to their time at a prestigious girls' high school, where a strict social hierarchy decided their fate, and follows them through the years as they struggle against rigid societal conventions. Translated from Japanese. Out (\$18.95), her first book to be translated was splendid.

KLEIN, MATTHEW CON ED (\$9.50) Kip Largo, just out of prison, is trying to keep his nose clean and not get into further trouble with the law. But, his son owes ton of money to the mob and the blonde's scheme looks pretty enticing. She tells him she has a slap-happy billionaire husband and a big score in her head. All Kip has to do is what he does best: lie, cheat, fake, steal, and, as she says, watch the money and the girl fall into his lap. Could it really be that easy?

KOESTLER, ARTHUR DARKNESS AT NOON (\$16.95)

LAKIN, RITA GETTING OLD IS TO DIE FOR (\$8.99) Gladly Gold returns from her sunny Florida retirement to New York City with her sister Evvie. Her fellow detectives, Sophie, Bella and Ida, follow her there and go undercover as bag ladies to try and catch a criminal. Gladly's boyfriend, Jack, is also in New York. He's going to re-open a 47 year-old cold case: the murder of Gladly's husband. The others in the series are Getting Old is Murder (\$9.99), Getting Old is the Best Revenge (\$9.99) and Getting Old is Criminal (\$8.99).

LAMBdin, DEWEY KINGS TRADE (#13) (\$19.95) After a bout of Yellow Fever decimated the crew of Captain Alan Lewrie's HMS Proteus in 1797, he absconded with a dozen slaves from a costal Jamaican plantation to help man his frigate. But now, two years later, Lewrie is in danger, as slave stealing is a hanging offense.

LANGLEY, HAWTHORNE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN (\$16.50) Ursula Marlow is not your average Edwardian heiress. 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 SAVAGE ALTAR (#1) aka SUN STORM (\$21) Winner of Sweden's Best First Crime Novel Award. Translated from Swedish. Stockholm attorney Rebekka Martinsson is heading home to Kiruna, the town she left in disgrace years before. Her friend Sanna, whose brother had been horribly murdered, needs her support

LATOUR, JOSE COMRADES IN MIAMI (\$22.99) Victoria Valiente, the head of Cuban Intelligence's Miami Desk is tired of all the sacrifices that she has made in the forty-five years of Castro's rule. She wants out. But that's not easily done

LEACOCK, STEPHEN LEACOCKS MYSTERIES (\$25) This is a collection of the mystery and detective stories, and sketches written by Stephen Leacock.

LENHARD, ELIZABETH CHICKS WITH STICKS IT'S A PURL THING (\$9.99) A special order.

LESCROART, JOHN T hardy 13TH JUROR (#4) (\$10.99) Jennifer Witt tried to make everything perfect for her husband, but perfect never seemed to be good enough. Now, Dr. Witt has been shot dead, along with the couple's seven-year-old son, and Jennifer says she didn't do it. No one believes her except Dismas Hardy.

LIANG, DIANE WEI EYE OF JADE (#1) (\$28 hardcover, \$19.99 trade paperback) See the hardcover section. See *Marian's Picks*.

LITTELL, ROBERT OCTOBER CIRCLE (\$16.50) Reissue, first published in 1975. Excellent.

LUTZ, LISA SPELLMAN FILES (#1) (\$16) Part Nancy Drew, part Dirty Harry. Twenty-eight-year-old Izzy Spellman walks an indistinguishable line between Spellman family member and as a licensed investigator with the family firm, Spellman Investigations. Duties include: completing assignments from the bosses, aka Mom and Dad; appeasing her chronically perfect lawyer brother (often un-

der duress); setting an example for her fourteen-year-old sister, Rae, (who's become addicted to "recreational surveillance"); and tracking down her uncle (who randomly disappears on benders dubbed "Lost Weekends"). But when Izzy's parents hire Rae to follow her, for the purposes of ascertaining the identity of her new boyfriend, Izzy snaps and decides that the only way she will ever be normal is if she gets out of the family business. A debut novel.

LYONS, C J LEFELINES (\$7.99) July 1st, transition day, the most dangerous day of the year. The day staff at Pittsburgh's Angels of Mercy Medical Center brace themselves for the arrival of the cocky, untested new interns. It's also the first day for LA transplant Lydia Fiore, the new ER attending physician. Not a good day to lose a patient, especially not the chief of surgery's son. Now, to save her career, Lydia must discover the truth behind her patient's death, even if it leads her into unfamiliar and risky territory. A paperback original and a debut novel.

MACBRIDE, SUSAN kendricks TOO PRETTY TO DIE (#5) (\$9.99)

MCDERMID, VAL tony hill BENEATH THE BLEEDING (#5) (\$34.95 hardcover, \$22.95 trade paper) See the hardcover section.

MCDOWALL, IAIN KILLING FOR ENGLAND (#4) (\$21)

Chief Inspector Jacobson isn't convinced that Darren McGee, a young black man fished out of the River Crow, was murdered. But when Darren's cousin, top-notch investigative journalist Paul Shaw, claims otherwise and is subsequently murdered, Jacobson reconsiders. A fine series.

MCDOWALL, IAIN STUDY IN DEATH (#1) (\$21) This is the first in the series to feature DS Ian Kerr and DCI Jacobson of Crowby CID. They investigate the murder of Dr. Roger Harvey, a high-flyer who pursued his career and women with equal passion.

MCDOWALL, IAIN CUT HER DEAD (#5) (\$11.95) Four bright, young twenty-somethings fight their perpetual apathy with an interesting hobby: they kidnap young women and bury them alive and call it "art". Except now they have moved their creative base of operations to Crowby. And unless DCI Jacobson and DS Kerr can crack the case in time, the four may soon graduate to murder.

MCEWAN, IAN ATONEMENT (\$11.99) On the hottest day of the summer of 1935, thirteen-year-old Briony Tallis will commit a crime that she will spend the rest of her life trying to atone for.

MCGILLOWAY, BRIAN BORDERLANDS (\$9.99 due in April, \$14.99 trade paperback, but not sure if we'll get any more stock!) A terrific read, but you might have to wait until the mass market edition is available. Set on the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland, Garda Inspector Benedict Devlin heads the investigation into the murder of a local teenager. On the surface this is an Irish police procedural but it's more than that. See *Marian's Picks*.

MCGRORY, BRIAN STRANGLED (#4) (\$9.99) In 1964, sex offender Albert DeSalvo confessed to killing eleven women in an horrific two-year spree and The Boston Strangler case was closed. Boston Record reporter Jack Flynn is covering a story and it looks like the wrong man took the fall for the Boston Strangler, all those years ago. When Jack receives letters from the killer himself, everything he's ever believed will be turned upside down.

MCINTYRE, HOPE HOW TO MARRY A GHOST (#2) (\$8.99) Londoner Lee Bartholomew travels to New York to attend her mother's wedding to a rich American. While there she plans to visit Long Island to interview former rock star Shotgun Marriott, whose memoirs she hopes to ghost write. But another story rears its head when the body of a man in a wedding dress washes ashore; Shotgun's estranged son. Sequel to How to Seduce a Ghost (\$9.99).

MACK, CAROL K FIELD GUIDE TO DEMONS: FAIRIES, FALLEN ANGELS, AND OTHER SUBVERSIVE SPIRITS (\$21.95) A special order.

MARKARIS, PETROS LATE NIGHT NEWS (#2) (\$21) and

ZONE DEFENCE (#3) (\$24). The first novel in this series, Deadline in Athens (#1) (\$17.95) has been around for a couple of years, and, now, the next two installments... first published in the mid 1990s in Greek. The stories feature Costas Haritos, a chief inspector with the Athens homicide squad. "An intelligent, warm-hearted European thriller"--*The Times*. "Richly plotted, spankingly (is this a word?) paced and socially observant noir..."--*The Independent*. Deadline was one of *J.D.'s Picks* a couple of years ago.

MARTIN, NANCY CRAZY LITTLE THING CALLED DEATH (\$6.99) Nora Blackbird has made the society pages yet again. The impoverished Philadelphia heiress has agreed to marry Mick Abruzzo, son of New Jersey's most notorious mobster. Now Nora has to help him survive the Blackbird curse: Every time a Blackbird sister marries, the groom is bound to die. When ex-Hollywood starlet Penny Devine disappears, her family is very eager to have her declared dead. When it's revealed that Nora has inherited Penny's extensive couture wardrobe, eyebrows are raised.

MICHAELS, FERN HIDE AND SEEK (#7) (\$9.99)

MONTERO, MAYRA DANCING TO ALMENDRA (\$15.50) Havana, 1957. On the same day that the Mafia capo Umberto Anastasia is assassinated in a barber's chair in New York City, a hippopotamus escapes from the zoo and is shot by his pursuers. Assigned to cover the zoo story, Joaquin Porrata, a young Cuban journalist, finds himself embroiled in the mysterious connections between the hippo's and the Mafioso's deaths.

MOONEY, CHRIS MISSING (\$9.50) Darby McCormack was in high school when she first encountered the killer: someone who murdered a woman in the woods where Darby and her friends were partying. His race to silence the witnesses was violent but somehow Darby survived. Twenty-five years later, Darby is a crime-scene investigator with the Boston Police Department and a chilling case has her uncovering strange leads to missing women, past and present.

MOORE, CHRISTOPHER YOU SUCK (\$14.95) Waking up after a fantastic night unlike anything he has ever experienced, C. Thomas Flood discovers that his girlfriend, Jody, is a vampire. And now he's one too. But word has it that the vampire who initially nibbled on Jody wasn't supposed to be recruiting. Even worse, Tommy's erstwhile turkey-bowling friends are out to get him, at the urging of a blue-dyed Las Vegas call girl named blue. Other books by this witty and wacky author include: Island of the Sequenced Love Nun and The Lust Lizard of Melancholy Cove (\$17.50 each).

MORRIS, R N petrovich VENGEFUL LONGING (#2) (\$26 trade paperback) Detective Porfiry Petrovich, from Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment, is back. See Gentle Axe (\$10.99) below. In the hot summer of St. Petersburg in the late 1860s, a doctor's wife and son die suddenly and in excruciating pain. The doctor is arrested, suspected of poisoning. The most obvious solution is usually the correct one but when further murders occur, and a pattern emerges, Petrovich is forced to reassess his assumptions.

MORRIS, R N petrovich GENTLE AXE (#1) (\$10.99) St. Petersburg, Russia, 1866. An elderly woman comes across the body of a peasant hanging from a tree by a rope around his neck, a bloody axe tucked into his belt. Nearby, packed neatly into a suitcase, is the body of a dwarf, his skull split in two. Police investigator Porfiry Petrovich suspects that the truth of the matter is more complex than the crime scene suggests. Why do so many roads lead to the same house of prostitution and the same ring of pornographers? Why do so many powerful interests seem intent on blocking his efforts?

NADEL, BARBARA PASSION FOR KILLING (#9) (\$10.99) A serial killer is stalking the streets of Istanbul and Inspector Mehmet Suleyman is assigned to the case. Things get a little bizarre when the Turkish Secret Service tells him he'll be killed if he tells anyone about his findings. Meanwhile, a young carpet dealer, about to sell a carpet belonging to Lawrence of Arabia, is found shot to death. Inspector

Cetin Ikmen investigates this case. Are the two cases related?

OATLEY, KEITH CASE OF EMILY V (\$22) The US trade paperback edition.

O'BRIEN, FLANN THIRD POLICEMAN (\$17.95) First published in 1967. "A murder thriller, a hilarious comic satire about an archetypal village police force, a surrealist vision of eternity, the story of a tender, brief, unrequited love affair between a man and his bicycle and a chilling fable of guilt."

O'CONNELL, CAROL mallory JUDAS CHILD (\$21) Imported from the UK as the US edition is out of print.

O'DONNELL, PATRICK oxnard ORTEGA NIGHT (#1) (\$18) and MCCOLLUM'S RUN (#2) (\$18). In the first novel, originally published in 2000, newly retired Phil Oxnard's fear of boredom sparks his interest in investigating the death of George Moss, a neighbour killed in a presumed car accident. His investigation takes him from his home in San Juan Capistrano to Las Vegas. In the second book, originally published in 2003, Phil and his wife are treated to a complimentary two-week stay at Pole Pine Lodge in the Sierras. Soon after their arrival, Phil learns of a young man who dropped out of sight several months earlier and was last heard from while in the vicinity of the Lodge.

OSAWA, ARIMASA SHINJUKU SHARK (\$16.95) In the seedy Shinjuku district of Tokyo, Detective Samejima silently stalks his prey. To the yakuza gangsters he is the "shark" for his relentless pursuit of justice at all costs. To his superiors, he is a thorn not to be pulled and no one will be his partner. But there is a serial killer on the streets and he's hunting police officers. Samejima is torn between keeping his maverick ways or working with headquarters. You can now see for yourself why this series is so popular in Japan.

PARKER, ROBERT B. HIGH PROFILE (\$9.99) A controversial talk-show host is found dead in a public park with three bullets in his chest. Then the body of his assistant is found in a dumpster. As a media circus descends on Paradise, Jesse Stone feels the heat.

PARKER, T JEFFERSON STORM RUNNERS (\$10.99) 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;

PATTERSON, JAMES womens 6TH TARGET (\$17.25) A burst of gunfire leaves several people dead and one woman fighting for her life. That victim is a member of the Woman's Murder Club, four friends who join forces on their toughest cases. Detective Lindsay Boxer pursues one lead after another to capture the man who tried to kill her friend, but the clues don't make any sense.

PHILLIPS, CHRISTI ROSSETTI LETTER (\$16) In 1618 Venice: a beautiful young courtesan, Alessandra Rossetti, writes a secret letter to the Venetian Council warning of a Spanish plot to overthrow the Republic, thereby endangering both herself and her lover. Today: Ph.D. candidate Claire Donovan races to locate the documents that will finally reveal the motives of this woman who history forgot. Alessandra's secret past comes to life with all the sensuality, political treachery, and violence of seventeenth-century Venice as the two storylines weave together.

PICOULT, JODI NINETEEN MINUTES (\$17.50) A lot can happen in nineteen minutes... From the author of the wonderful, highly

recommended Plain Truth (\$22).

POLLERO, RHONDA KNOCK OFF (#1) (\$9.99)

QUIGLEY, SHEILA EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE (\$11.99) Det. Insp. Lorraine Hunt and her partner DS Luke Daniels have a brutal murder case in front of them: a young woman—murdered, her heart cut out, and replaced with a single white rose—has been found. Is this related to the attack on DS Daniel's daughter?

RAYMOND, DEREK STATE OF DENMARK (\$18) A number of this writer's books are being reissued in the US and UK. Let us know if you are looking for any.

REES, MATT BEYNON COLLABORATOR OF BETHLEHEM (\$15.95) The New York Times called it an astonishing first novel. The hero of this novel is Omar Yussef, a Muslim who teaches history at the school in the refugee camp. Bethlehem has become a very dangerous and lawless place. The Intifada has left his town in the hands of armed gangs who rule by might and are not above extorting money and confiscating property to continue the fight against the enemy. That they are making the lives of their brothers and sisters much more difficult and dangerous by engaging a vastly superior army is of little consequence. The fight must go on. When a local fighter is killed by sniper fire it seems that there must be an Israeli collaborator in their midst and a convenient collaborator is found. That he is Christian is a bonus. The accused is a much-loved student and friend of Omar's and the penalty for collaborating with the enemy is a kangaroo court trial and summary execution. Omar, distressed that this has happened, races against time and makes very dangerous enemies to save his friend. Fearing all the while that this is futile. Excellent. One of *J.D.'s Picks* a year or so ago. The sequel, Grave In Gaza (\$29) has now been published. Let's hope there are many, many more to come.

REICHS, KATHY BONES TO ASHES (#10) (\$19.99) Tempe's childhood friend, the exotic Evangeline, disappeared, haunting Tempe for the rest of her life. So much so that when a child's skeleton is found in New Brunswick, Tempe immediately thinks of her. And for Tempe, the solving of her friend's disappearance begins anew. Of course, there is much in this story for loyal Reichs fans. It moves along at a solid pace, has many good teaching moments with lots of forensic work and explanations, computer wizardry, even ventures into handwriting analysis. In short, an entertaining, nostalgic read. So Said *Cottage Lady* a couple of newsletters ago.

RICKARDS, JOHN rourke BURIAL GROUND (#4) (\$10.99)

The note said: People are dead. You have to find the crosses. Find them or more people could die. The short note was enough to send ex-FBI agent Alex Rourke to an isolated valley in the American mid-west. And now he and a dozen other men and women are trapped in a bar due to a ferocious storm, and the night is about to turn deadly. A modern day And Then There Were None.

RIZER, FRAN HEY DIDDLE DIDDLE. THE CORPSE AND THE FIDDLE (\$6.99) Mortuary cosmetologist Callie Parrish is thrilled to take off with her best friend, Jane, for a bluegrass festival on Surcie Island. Little Fiddlin' Fred might be tiny in stature, but he's huge in the bluegrass world. When his dead body tumbles out of a bass case onstage, the festival erupts in chaos. And when Jane disappears, Callie has no choice but to get involved. The first in the series is A Tisket, a Tasket, a Fancy Stolen Casket (\$9.99).

ROBINSON, PETER CLOSE TO HOME (#13) (\$10.99) aka Summer That Never Was. The Canadian edition is out of print at the moment, so we have a copy or two of the US edition.

RYMAN, GEOFF 253 (\$17.95)

SAINTCROW, LILITH SAINT CITY SINNERS (\$8.50)

SANSOM, IAN DELEGATE'S CHOICE (#3) (\$17.95) Crime-solving, Jewish, mobile librarian Israel Armstrong is attending the annual mobile library convention, the Mobile Meet, in London. But

shortly after he arrives, the mobile library is stolen. Who would want to steal a thirty-year-old rust bucket of a van? The first two in the series are The Case of the Missing Books (\$16.50) and Mr. Dixon Disappears (\$17.95). Delightful.

SANTANGELO, ELENA HANG MY HEAD AND CRY (\$20) Pat Montella is a woman with one foot in the present and the other in history; she can "see" into the past. She has given up city life and moved into Miss Maggie Shelby's Civil War-era estate, which Miss Maggie plans to bequeath to Pat someday. Pat believes her visions of the past are behind her but one night those visions return with a recurring dream of Reconstruction-era Virginia through the eyes of a ten-year-old son of a slave. Sequel to By Blood Possessed (\$8.50).

SANTLOFER, JONATHAN nate ANATOMY OF FEAR (#1) (\$10.99) From the author of the three novels featuring ex-NYPD cop, art historian, Kate McKinnon., a new series.

SAUMS, MARY thistle twigg THISTLE AND TWIGG (#1) (\$8.99) Jane Thistle is a widow who has just settled in Tullulah, Alabama, after a long and happy life traveling the world with her career military officer husband. Her new best friend is Phoebe Twigg, also a widow, who has lived in Tullulah all her life. The two become fast friends when they stumble across a dead body while on a walk in the woods. Someone seems to be threatening Jane's neighbour, a local recluse: a firebomb explodes in Phoebe's kitchen, and unexplainable objects turn up at the strangest times in Jane's house.

SCARROW, SIMON GENERALS (#2) (\$10.99) Napoleon is in Egypt but heads home to France to bring some order to the political unrest there. Arthur Wellesley (the future Duke of Wellington) is in India leading the British armies against a series of powerful warlords in a campaign that will result in the creation of the Raj. He returns to England a hardened veteran and more determined than ever to end France's domination of Europe. Sequel to Young Bloods (\$10.99).

SCOTT, JUSTIN ben abbott MCMANSION (#4) (\$18) Another delightful entry in the trials and tribulations of Newbury, Connecticut, real estate broker Ben Abbott. He got his start in the real estate biz after having served three years in jail for insider trading.

SCOTTOLINE, LISA DADDY'S GIRL (\$10.99)

SEE, LISA FLOWER NET (#1) (\$16.95) Chinese police detective Liu Hulan and her lover, American attorney David Stark, in the first of three adventures. Now reissued.

SIMS, ELIZABETH byrd DAMN STRAIGHT (#2) (\$17)

SMITH, WILBUR QUEST (\$24.95) With his trusted Meren, Taita, the Pharaoh's renowned magus, is charged with defeating Eos, Goddess of the Lie, and her disciples. Everywhere dreadful omens predict Egypt's downfall. Racing throughout Africa, Taita and his new friends fight for the survival of their way of life. One friend though, is closest to the warlock's heart. Could it be his beloved Queen Lostris has returned?

SPIEGELMAN, PETER RED CAT (#3) (\$14.95) PI 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. Sequel to Black Maps (\$16) and Death's Little Helpers (\$18.95).

SPINDLER, ERICA COPYCAT (\$9.50)

STACEY, LYNDON MURDER IN MIND (\$11.99) Sophie Bradford was pretty, blonde, and an accomplished flirt. When she is found dead on a lonely West Country road, her boyfriend Jamie Mullin is the prime suspect. Jamie protests his innocence but soon spirals into a breakdown fuelled by frustration, self-pity, and drink so it is left to his friend, Matt Shepherd, to fight his corner.

STANLEY, J B supper club CARBS AND CADAVERS (#1) (\$15.95), FIT TO DIE (#2) (\$15.50) and CHILI CON CORPSES (#3) (\$16.95) A short quote at the front of book #3: My doctor told

me to stop having intimate dinners for four. Unless there are three other people.--*Orson Welles*. The members of a supper club solve mysteries while enjoying food and drink. Recipes included.

STONE, ERIC ray sharp GRAVE IMPORTS (#2) (\$18)

TEMPLE, PETER IRON ROSE (\$21) Excellent. When Mac Faraday's best friend is found hanging, the assumption is that he has died at his own hand. But Mac is not convinced. His friend would not do that. Exceptional. Read everything this guy has written. He is that good. Smuggled in from the UK. And then there's...

TEMPLE, PETER BROKEN SHORE (\$19.95) Excellent. Police procedural set in present day Australia. One of *J. D. & Picks* about a year ago. Exceptional stuff. See *J. D. 's Picks*.

VARGAS, FRED adamsberg WASH THIS BLOOD CLEAN FROM MY HAND (#3) (\$19.95) Three wounds in a perfectly straight line was the bloody signature that marked victims from

every corner of France who had been murdered at regular intervals over the course of thirty years. Commissaire Jean-Baptiste Adamsberg, the chief of police in Paris's 7th Arrondissement, is very familiar with the case. Though others were framed and convicted for these crimes, including his own brother, the Commissaire knows the true identity of the killer, and knows that the murderer died in 1987. All the more disturbing is Adamsberg's discovery of a fresh murder with exactly the same profile. Translated from the French.

VARGAS, FRED adamsberg SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR (#2) (\$10.99) The second Commissaire Adamsberg investigation. Wolves are roaming the French countryside and killing sheep. Is this the work of wolves or werewolves? The locals need someone to blame and suspicion falls on Massart, a local. By the author of the terrific Have Mercy on us All (#1) (\$19.95).

[VARIOUS]JAKUBOWSKI, MAXIM BEST BRITISH MYSTERIES VOL IV (\$19.95)

WAITES, MARTYN donovan WHITE RIOT (#3) (\$9.99)

WAN, MICHELLE DEADLY SLIPPER (\$10.99) Nearly twenty years have passed since Mara Dunn's sister Bedie, an orchid enthusiast, disappeared while on a hiking holiday in southwestern France. Mara remains determined to find out what happened, but her only real clue is a sequence of wild orchids, including a mysterious, previously unknown Lady Slipper, captured on a roll of film found in Bedie's long-lost camera. With the help of Julian Wood, a reclusive English botanist, Mara begins her search and stumbles into a decades' worth of local secrets and into danger. "Absolutely beautiful" says Marian. See *Marian's Picks*.

WARD, J LOVER ETERNAL (\$10.99)

WEBER, DAVID OFF ARMAGEDDON REEF (#1) (\$9.99)

WENTWORTH, PATRICIA PILGRIMS REST, GIRL IN THE CELLAR, ANNA WHERE ARE YOU, LONESOME ROAD and TRAVELLER RETURNS (\$10.99 each). All Reissue.

WHITE, MICHAEL EQUINOX (\$21)

WHITE, RANDY WAYNE HUNTER'S MOON (\$9.99) When Doc Ford saves a controversial former president of the US from assassination, his troubles are just beginning. President Wilson's wife, Kay, was killed in a plane crash that Wilson is sure was no accident. Islamists demands Wilson's head when he confronts them publicly. But this president won't run, he wants revenge. He needs Doc Ford to spring him loose, keep him alive for two weeks and then get him home before the Secret Service realizes he's missing.

WHITE, STEPHEN DRY ICE (\$9.99) Psychopathic killer Michael McClelland has escaped from the Colorado State Mental Hospital with one thing on his mind: to exact revenge against those responsible for his confinement, especially psychologist Alan Gregory.

WILSON, ROBERT medway BLOOD IS DIRT (#3) (\$17) and DARKENING STAIN (#4) (\$16.95) American editions of these books. It seems the UK editions are out of print.