



# The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

## SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

December 2021

It's that time of the year. Thank you all, ever so much for being the wonderful friends and customers and supporters that you have been this year. And the 39 that have preceded it. (I know I have mentioned this before, but we are in the fortieth (yes, 40th!) year of owing Sleuth.) The last two have certainly been unlike most, any, other years. May this second year of the Covid era be the last. Although that's likely wishful thinking.

I know that we have said this before many times, but it's truly thanks to all our wonderful friends and customers that the two of us have had the best jobs in the world. It's been a great deal of fun playing booksellers and pretty smooth sailing, all things considered. The store has done well enough to allow us to accumulate a comfortable retirement nest egg—no yachts in our future, alas, but darling Pix and that rascal Prince will get all the medical attention they may need.

It's that time of the year. May we wish you and yours the best of the holiday season, a very Merry Christmas, a very Happy Hanukkah and a very Happy Festivus for the rest of us. May 2022 bring you nothing but good health and great happiness.

As always, our December hours change slightly. For December 1 to December 19, we will maintain our usual "closed Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, open Thursday, Friday, Saturday 11 to 5 and Sunday, Noon to 4" schedule. The slight change comes Monday the 20th to Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Instead of being closed the first three days, we'll be open those four days from 11am to 5pm. Get your last minute shopping in! Friday, the 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve, we'll be open 11am to 2pm, closing a few hours earlier to give us a head start on the drive to the cottage, where all and sundry will hunker down until we re-open Thursday January 6, 2022 at 11am. With the way the holidays fall this year, it just seems to make sense to be closed until the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Now, it's likely that someone will be around outside of those revised hours, so other times can be arranged to suit your schedule. Call and we'll work something out. A note about last minute shopping: the word from our publishers and distributors is that there will very likely be shortages of the big titles due to supply chain problems, paper shortages, inclement weather, yada yada yada, so, maybe, don't leave things too late.

As before, please come masked. If you are feeling sick, please stay home. And get vaccinated. Keep safe. If you'd rather do a curbside pickup, just let us know. Be happy to accommodate you. We can't afford to lose any of you.

## *The Merchant of Menace,*

Sleuth's monthly newsletter, is available for download from [SleuthOfBakerStreet.ca](http://SleuthOfBakerStreet.ca) at no charge. If you'd like the hard copy mailed to you, it's \$50 a year for the bi-monthly edition.

### **Postage & Handling**

In a word: Actual

### **Hours of Business**

Please check the website.  
Will keep that up to date!

## *JD's Picks*

**MICHAEL ROBOTHAM** never fails to entertain. His latest novel, *When You Are Mine* (\$24.99 trade paperback, \$34.99 hardcover), a standalone novel, is a page-turning thriller featuring Philomena McCarthy, a young, ambitious police officer with the elite Metropolitan Police in London. What she battles, as if being a woman in a misogynistic, paternalistic police force wasn't battle enough, is having a father who's a mobster, at the head of his own criminal empire. You can imagine how that would go over with her colleagues and bosses, so that she keeps quiet.

When Phil responds to a domestic violence call, she finds the victim, Tempe Brown, trying to protect her abuser, a married man named Darren Goodall, a decorated Scotland Yard detective afraid of no one. As Philomena pursues the case against him, she not only encounters resistance from her police force colleagues but also becomes dangerously entangled with the victim—who is not at all whom she appears to be—much to the increasing endangerment of herself and Henry, her fiancée.

This is another unputdownable read. I loved all the female characters. I wanted all of them to be my friends. My one complaint: the title sound confusingly like another novel he published a couple of years back, *When She Was Good* (#2 in the Cyrus Haven series) (\$17.99.) But, I'll forgive him that.

The new **MICHAEL CONNELLY** Bosch and Ballard adventure, *The Dark Hours* (\$38) is also a terrific, unputdownable read. Literally. I don't think I got off the couch for much more than a few pee breaks while I finished this one off. But, as you know, all of us around here are fans, so no one wasted anytime devouring it. The blurb is a little further on, so I won't re-print it here.

The new **SUSAN HILL** novel, *Change of Circumstances* (#11) (\$42.95 hard cover and \$25 trade paperback) has just arrived. Haven't got to it yet, but it won't be long. On my TBR pile! DCS Simon Serrallier has long regarded drug ops in the Lafferton area as a waste of time. Small-time dealers are picked up outside the local secondary school, they're given a fine or a suspended and away they go. And rinse and repeat. But when the body of a young drug addict is found in neighbouring Starly, the case pulls Simon into a whole new way of running drugs. The foot soldiers? Vulnerable local kids like Brookie and Olivia, who will give Simon a bitter taste of this new landscape...

Another favourite author is the Australian **GARRY DISHER**. Imagine my pleasure when stock of *UNDER THE COLD BRIGHT LIGHTS* (\$20.95) arrived recently; a copy went straight to the top of my TBR pile. When I did crack it open, it was apparent that I had read it already. A little detective work and...the book was published in 2017 but this is its first paperback appearance. In North America, anyway. Not sure why it took four years or so for the paperback release, but be that as it may, here's your opportunity to read a cracking good novel.

Here's a short blurb: The young detectives think Alan Auhl is washed up, but that doesn't faze him. He does things his own way—and gets results. He still lives with his ex-wife, off and on, in a big house full of random boarders and hard-luck stories. And he's still a cop, even though he retired from Homicide some years ago. He works cold cases now. Like the death of John Elphick—his daughters are still convinced he was murdered; the coroner is not so sure. Or the skeleton that's just been found under a concrete slab. Or the doctor who killed two wives and a girlfriend, and left no evidence at all. Auhl will stick with these cases until justice is done. One way or another.

Since I had a copy at hand, could not resist reading it again. It was every bit a delight this time around as it must have been the first time.

## *Marian's Picks*

I just can't believe how quickly Prince is growing. Not growing up mind you; that might take a few more months yet. Every time he wakes up, it seems he's taller by an inch or two and has put on another pound. He handles stairs like a pro but jumping up onto the couch or the bed is still not entirely under control. He will want to jump on you

when you come to visit—enthusiasm, which, believe me, we’re trying to beat (just kidding!!) that out of him—and trying to take the two out for walks together...well, I feel like I’m the UN, trying to keep the warring parties talking and not eating each other. And talking about eating...anything and everything goes into his gullet: mud, grass, moss, pens, pencils and goodness help me if I leave any part of my snack on the coffee table! Compared to the very young Percy or Pixie, this thing is the devil incarnate. I think I got cheated, he can’t be a Poodle! Neither of the other two could ever be bothered about food. There could be a cheese tray right in front of them and they wouldn’t touch it. I’m getting a bit fed up telling Prince to “Leave It” and I want to think he’ll grow out of this urge to eat but I suspect that might be wishful think on my part. This little guy probably dreams about food! Of course, I get to deal with the aftermath and that usually at 3am. Last night we were out three times, and I have no idea what he ate to trigger this episode. Mr. Scallywag is now sleeping the sleep of the just, Pixie, who did go out at three to see what all the excitement was about, is snoring on the couch and me, well, I’m beat. Ah, motherhood.

The little guy is magnificent. Did I remember to tell you that?

**CHRISTOBEL KENT** has written six books featuring Sandro Cellini, a former policeman, now private investigator, set in Florence, and eleven standalone mysteries. Until now, I had not read any of them but rectified that by reading [The Viper](#) (\$21.95) which is the sixth in her Cellini series. (And the last). How did I miss this writer? I’ve asked himself to track down the first in her series, [A Time of Mourning](#), which seems to be unavailable in North America so that I can see what I have missed. (*Found it, and am in the process of smuggling in a few copies.—jd*). I’m certainly going to try one of her standalones, so I’ll read the plot summaries of her eleven novels and see if one jumps out and says “read me!!”

I know it sounds funny to say that you must read every word of a story, but that would be my suggestion for [Viper](#). If I didn’t pay attention, skimmed or skipped passages, I’d be lost. And I wish I knew Florence and its surroundings better, it would have made following the story easier. Not that reading this was a hardship; **Ms. Kent** did a great job describing the locales and the situations the characters found themselves in. I got swept up in the story and just wanted to follow along with them. Here is the blurb:

Sandro Cellini faces his demons as the sixth and final installment in the series takes him back to his very first case.

Sandro Cellini hasn’t set foot in La Vipera, a derelict farmhouse just outside Florence that was once home to a free-living commune, for forty years—until the discovery of two bodies nearby leads him back there. At the start of his career, Cellini investigated an accusation that minors were being corrupted at La Vipera, but no charges were ever brought. Now, tasked with tracking down former members of the community, he has a chance to finally discover what really went on all those years ago. But in order to learn the true nature of the commune’s mission, he must face his own traumatic memories. As he sifts through the lies, those closest to him are placed in danger. Only Cellini can unravel the final mystery of La Vipera, and so protect those he loves.

[The Dark Hours](#) (\$38) by **MICHAEL CONNELLY** is terrific. *Publishers Weekly* called it “A masterpiece”. What more needs to be said? Renee Ballard and Harry Bosch are back in their fourth outing which starts on New Year’s Eve when a possible stray bullet kills the owner of an auto shop. As you can guess, the bullet wasn’t really a stray one! Ballard and Bosch make a great team and I’ve enjoyed reading the books and how they interact with each other. If you haven’t read any of this series start with [The Late Show](#) (\$12.99). And if you are one of the few people who have not yet read any of Michael Connelly’s books yet, start with an early one in his police detective Harry Bosch series. The first is [The Black Echo](#) (\$13).

Here is the blurb for [The Dark Hours](#): There’s chaos in Hollywood at the end of the New Year’s Eve countdown. Working her graveyard shift, LAPD detective Renée Ballard waits out the traditional rain of lead as hundreds of revelers shoot their guns into the air. Only minutes after midnight, Ballard is called to a scene where a hardworking auto shop owner has been fatally hit by a bullet in the middle of a crowded street party.

Ballard quickly concludes that the deadly bullet could not have fallen from the sky and that it is linked to another unsolved murder—a case at one time worked by Detective

Harry Bosch. At the same time, Ballard hunts a fiendish pair of serial rapists, the Midnight Men, who have been terrorizing women and leaving no trace.

Determined to solve both cases, Ballard feels like she is constantly running uphill in a police department indelibly changed by the pandemic and recent social unrest. It is a department so hampered by inertia and low morale that Ballard must go outside to the one detective she can count on: Harry Bosch. But as the two inexorable detectives work together to find out where old and new cases intersect, they must constantly look over their shoulders. The brutal predators they are tracking are ready to kill to keep their secrets hidden.

A dilemma: I'm at the cottage and I've got two books which I'm champing at the bit to read. Trouble is, which one do I read first?

**MICK HERRON** is one of my favourite writers and I savour every word he writes. I particularly like his Slow Horses (Slough House) series. He has a masterful way of arranging the words that we all know, yet, we never manage as well. His new book [Dolphin Junction](#) (\$29.95) includes "...five standalone nerve-rackingly thrilling crime fiction stories [which] are complemented by four mystery stories featuring the Oxford wife-and-husband detective team of shrewd Zoë Boehm and hapless Joe Silvermann. The collection also includes a peek into the past of Jackson Lamb, irascible top agent at Slough House". Hmmmmm. Tempting.

Or should I read [Damascus Station](#) (\$36.95) by **DAVID MCCLOSKEY** first? A debut novel and a spy thriller to boot which is getting a ton of great reviews. Here is the summary: CIA case officer Sam Joseph is dispatched to Paris to recruit Syrian Palace official Mariam Haddad. The two fall into a forbidden relationship, which supercharges Haddad's recruitment and creates unspeakable danger when they enter Damascus to find the man responsible for the disappearance of an American spy.

But the cat and mouse chase for the killer soon leads to a trail of high-profile assassinations and the discovery of a dark secret at the heart of the Syrian regime, bringing the pair under the all-seeing eyes of Assad's spy catcher, Ali Hassan, and his brother Rustum, the head of the feared Republican Guard. Set against the backdrop of a Syria pulsing with fear and rebellion, [Damascus Station](#) is a gripping thriller that offers a textured portrayal of espionage, love, loyalty, and betrayal in one of the most difficult CIA assignments on the planet.

I flipped a coin and [Damascus Station](#) it is, and it is fabulous. All of the accolades that are being showered on it are deserved. It is one of the best spy stories I've read in a very long time. Action, intrigue, betrayal, great characters, heartbreaking insight into the conflicts—that's too weak a word to describe the horrors being wrought—in Syria, a terrific plot...what more could I ask for. A definite yes if you love reading spy novels.

Just because I flipped a coin and [Dolphin Junction](#) lost didn't mean I wouldn't get to it. Where I do not generally like reading short stories, I am two stories in and can hardly wait to get back to the book.

You know I love cookbooks and I just bought [Ottolenghi Test Kitchen: Shelf Love](#) (\$29.95) by **NOOR MURAD** and **YOTAM OTTOLENGHI**. The concept for the cookbook was inspired by Covid and cooking meals without having all the ingredients available. The authors dig into the staples hiding at the back of a shelf or the bottom of the freezer and come up with some amazing recipes. Can't say that I have preserved lemons in my pantry, but if you do, there's a terrific recipe in the book that uses them!

Did you watch **STANLEY TUCCI** on CNN when his program Searching for Italy was broadcast earlier this year? I loved it. So, when JD ordered a copy of [Stanley Tucci: Taste, My Life Through Food](#) (\$37), for a customer, he ordered a couple of extra copies as well knowing that I'd surely purloin one. It's an interesting read and insight into a man who loves to eat and loves to cook.

Toronto cookbook writer and culinary instructor, **NETTIE CRONISH** has just released her latest cookbook [The Fair Trade Ingredient Cookbook](#) (\$34.95). I got a copy yesterday so have not had a chance to read it yet, but the photography is wonderful, and I am drooling over Baked Quinoa Pudding with Dried Cherries. I'll report back on that soon!! It is definitely on my must-make list!!!

## *Hardbacks*

**BALDACCI, DAVID** *pine* MERCY (#4) (\$37) For her entire life, FBI agent Atlee Pine has been searching for her twin sister, Mercy, who was abducted at the age of six and never seen again. Mercy's disappearance left behind a damaged family that later shattered beyond repair when Atlee's parents inexplicably abandoned her. Now, after a perilous investigation that nearly proved fatal, Atlee has finally discovered not only the reason behind her parents' abandonment and Mercy's kidnapping, but also the most promising breakthrough yet: proof that Mercy survived her abduction and then escaped her captors many years ago. Though Atlee is tantalizingly close to her family at last, the final leg of her long road to Mercy will be the most treacherous yet. Mercy left at least one dead body behind before fleeing her captors years before. Atlee has no idea if her sister is still alive, and if so, how she has been surviving all this time. When the truth is finally revealed, Atlee Pine will face the greatest danger yet, and it may well cost her everything.

**BELL, TED** *hawke* SEA HAWKE (#12) (\$37) After saving the kidnapped heir to the British throne, gentleman spy and MI6 legend Alex Hawke is due for some downtime. He's got a new custom built sailing yacht and a goal: to get closer to his son Alexi during an epic cruise across the seven seas. But fate and the chief of MI6, Lord David Trulove, have other plans. There's an unholy alliance of nations who are plotting to attack Western democracies. The wily intelligence leader plans to use Hawke to drive a knife into the heart of this conspiracy. From an island base off Cuba to a secret jungle lair deep in the Amazon, on the land and the seas, the master spy and his crew of incorrigibles are in for the fight of their lives—the fight for freedom.

**BIRKBY, MICHELLE** *baker st* NO ONE NOTICES THE BOYS (#2) (\$36.50) Patients are dying in the hospital ward. Surely this isn't news. But to Mrs. Hudson, ill and dizzy from medication, the deaths—one patient, then another, and all of them women!—seem sinisterly connected. Even if she's the only person who sees the connection. Mary Watson knows just how she feels, though her focus is less on sick women than on missing boys—the skinny, grubby, poor ones that nobody wanted in the first place. Sherlock Holmes isn't interested in either issue; he and Dr. Watson have more important puzzles to solve. So once again, it is left to Mary and Mrs. Hudson to help the truly vulnerable, to draw lines between the dying women and the disappearing boys, and to follow those lines to their grim conclusion.

**BRIGHTWELL, EMILY** MRS JEFFRIES MIDWINTER MURDERS (#40) (\$35) Harriet Andover had no intention of dying young like her silly siblings had. She intended to outlive them and outdo them as she always had. But Harriet discovers that the best intentions can lead to murder when she is strangled inside her mansion with a house full of holiday guests. As much as Inspector Witherspoon enjoys his job delivering justice, the last thing he wanted was a complicated murder case just a week before Christmas. He soon discovers that Harriet's own husband and grown stepchildren are not overcome with grief and neither are most of her friends. And to put the icing on the Christmas cookies, the room where Harriet's body was found was locked from the inside and she had the only key in her pocket. Mrs. Jeffries and the household have no intention of letting their inspector down and learn that Harriet's sister may have died from foul play as well. As the clues mount, this dedicated band of merry sleuths will not rest until they've delivered a stocking full of coal to a crafty killer.

**BROWN, RITA MAE** *sneakypie* CLAWS FOR ALARM (#30) (\$37) Pharamond "Fair" Haristeen is known throughout Crozet, Virginia, as a good horse vet and a better man. So when Benjamin Wagner, a new vet in town, is found dead in his unopened clinic, local police turn to Fair for help getting to the bottom of things. Fair quickly realizes Ben's clinic has been robbed of ketamine, used by doctors as a horse tranquilizer but also a popular recreational drug. Then Fair's own ketamine goes missing from the back of his truck. Was Ben killed for his supply? Or was he mixed up in something bigger? With a little aid from hungry helpers Tee Tucker the corgi and sweet puppy Pirate, as well as feline sleuths Mrs. Murphy and Pewter, justice is restored.

**COLLINS, WILKIE** WOMAN IN WHITE (\$20.99) Beautifully bound pocket-sized editions of much-loved classic titles. Bound in real cloth, printed on high quality paper, and featuring ribbon markers and gilt edges...On a moonlit London night, art teacher Walter Hartwright meets a young woman—beautiful, terrified and dressed entirely white—alone on the street. Compelled to help this piteous creature, he finds himself caught up in a world of secrets, murder and madness, with an impossible mystery to solve. The odds seem stacked against him, but a sleuthing partnership with the brilliantly clever Marian Halcombe may be just enough to outwit their formidable nemesis—the menacing Count Fosco.

**CONNELLY, MICHAEL bosch** DARK HOURS (#23) (\$38) There's chaos in Hollywood at the end of the New Year's Eve countdown. Working her graveyard shift, LAPD detective Renée Ballard waits out the traditional rain of lead as hundreds of revelers shoot their guns into the air. Only minutes after midnight, Ballard is called to a scene where a hardworking auto shop owner has been fatally hit by a bullet in the middle of a crowded street party. Ballard quickly concludes that the deadly bullet could not have fallen from the sky and that it is linked to another unsolved murder—a case at one time worked by Detective Harry Bosch. At the same time, Ballard hunts a fiendish pair of serial rapists, the Midnight Men, who have been terrorizing women and leaving no trace. Determined to solve both cases, Ballard feels like she is constantly running uphill in a police department indelibly changed by the pandemic and recent social unrest. It is a department so hampered by inertia and low morale that Ballard must go outside to the one detective she can count on: Harry Bosch. But as the two inexorable detectives work together to find out where old and new cases intersect, they must constantly look over their shoulders. The brutal predators they are tracking are ready to kill to keep their secrets hidden. Excellent, say everyone who has read this.

**CORNWELL, BERNARD sharpe** SHARPE'S ASSASSIN (#22) (\$34.99, \$24.99 trade paperback) It's been some fifteen years since the previous Sharpe adventure, but he's back! Lieutenant-Colonel Sharpe is a man with a reputation. Born in the gutter, raised a foundling, he joined the army twenty-one years ago, and it's been his home ever since. He's a loose cannon, but his unconventional methods make him a valuable weapon. So when, the dust still settling after the Battle of Waterloo, the Duke of Wellington needs a favour, he turns to Sharpe. For Wellington knows that the end of one war is only the beginning of another. Napoleon's army may be defeated, but another enemy lies waiting in the shadows—a secretive group of fanatical revolutionaries hell-bent on revenge. Sharpe is dispatched to a new battleground: the maze of Paris streets where lines blur between friend and foe. And in search of a spy, he will have to defeat a lethal assassin determined to kill his target or die trying.

**DEAVER, JEFFERY rhyme** MIDNIGHT LOCK (#15) (\$37) A woman awakes in the morning to find that someone has picked her apartment's supposedly impregnable door lock and rearranged personal items, even sitting beside her while she slept. The intrusion, the police learn, is a message to the entire city of carnage to come. Lincoln Rhyme and Amelia Sachs are brought in to investigate and soon learn that the sociopathic intruder, who calls himself "the Locksmith," can break through any lock or security system ever devised. With more victims on the horizon, Rhyme, Sachs and their stable of associates must follow the evidence to the man's lair... and discover his true mission.

**EDWARDS, MARTIN lake district** CROOKED SHORE (#8) (\$32.95) DCI Hannah Scarlett is an acknowledged expert in solving cold cases, but is struggling under the weight of bureaucracy when Ramona Smith's disappearance from Bowness more than twenty years ago crosses her desk. The prime suspect was charged but found not guilty. Now the case has come back into the public eye as the result of a shocking tragedy on the Crooked Shore, the fount of dark legends in the south of the Lake District. Tensions mount in the summer heat as a ruthless killer, who has already got away with one murder, plans further appalling crimes. Hannah finds herself racing against the clock as she strives to solve the mysteries and save innocent lives.

**ELDRIDGE, JIM museum** MURDER AT MADAME TUSSAUDS (#6) (\$34.95) London, 1896. Madame Tussauds opens to find one of its nightwatchmen decapitated and his colleague nowhere to be found. To the police, the case seems simple: one killed the other and fled, but workers at the museum aren't convinced. Although forbidden contact by his superior officer, Scotland Yard detective John Feather secretly enlists 'The Museum Detectives' Daniel Wilson and Abigail Fenton to aid the police investigation. When the body of the missing nightwatchman is discovered encased within a wax figure, the case suddenly becomes more complex. With questions over rival museums, the dead men's pasts and a series of bank raids plaguing the city, Wilson and Fenton face their most intriguing and dangerous case yet.

**FOLLETT, KEN NEVER** (\$48) A shrinking oasis in the Sahara Desert; a stolen US Army drone; an uninhabited Japanese island; and one country's secret stash of deadly chemical poisons: all these play roles in a relentlessly escalating crisis. Struggling to prevent the outbreak of world war are a young woman intelligence officer; a spy working undercover with jihadists; a brilliant Chinese spymaster; and Pauline Green, president of the United States herself, beleaguered by a populist rival for the next president election.

**FOWLER, CHRISTOPHER bryant & may** LONDON BRIDGE IS FALLING DOWN (#20) (\$38.99) When ninety-one-year-old Amelia Hoffman dies in her top-floor flat on a busy London road, it's considered an example of what has gone wrong with modern society: she slipped through the cracks in a failing system. But detectives Arthur Bryant and John May of the Peculiar Crimes Unit have their doubts. Mrs. Hoffman was once a government security expert, though no one can quite remember her. When a link emerges between the old lady and a diplomat trying to flee the country, it

seems that an impossible murder has been committed. Mrs. Hoffman wasn't the only one at risk. Bryant is convinced that other forgotten women with hidden talents are also in danger. And, curiously, they all own models of London Bridge. With the help of some of their more certifiable informants, the detectives follow the strangest of clues in an investigation that will lead them through forgotten alleyways to the city's oldest bridge in search of a desperate killer. But just when the case appears to be solved, they discover that Mrs. Hoffman was smarter than anyone imagined. There's a bigger game afoot that could have terrible consequences.

**GRANGER, ANN ross** TRUTH-SEEKER'S WIFE (#8) (\$34.99) It is Spring 1871 when Lizzie Ross accompanies her formidable Aunt Parry on a restorative trip to the south coast. Lizzie's husband, Ben, is kept busy at Scotland Yard and urges his wife to stay out of harm's way. But when Lizzie and her aunt are invited to dine with other guests at the home of wealthy landowner Sir Henry Meager, and he is found shot dead in his bed the next morning, no one feels safe. On Lizzie's last visit to the New Forest, another gruesome murder took place, and the superstitious locals now see her as a bad omen. But Lizzie suspects that Sir Henry had a number of bitter enemies, many of whom might have wanted him dead. And once Ben arrives to help with the investigation, he and Lizzie must work together to expose Sir Henry's darkest secrets and a ruthless killer intent on revenge...

**HAMILTON, GLEN ERIK shaw** ISLAND OF THIEVES (#6) (\$34.99) Van Shaw is hired to evaluate the safeguards for the art collection of eccentric business magnate Sebastien Rohner. Then Rohner reveals to Van the real reason he's been recruited: to prevent another professional burglar from stealing the art. Rohner wants to set a thief to catch a thief. While questioning the bizarre nature of the job, Van accepts the lucrative offer and arrives at the island estate during an international summit that Rohner is hosting. Shortly after beginning his surveillance of Rohner's highly secure gallery wing, Van stumbles across the murdered body of one of the honored guests along the rocky shore. Wary of Rohner's true intentions, Van knows the homicide detectives on the case—and perhaps Rohner as well—think he's the prime suspect and will turn his life upside down in their search for proof. Maybe Van had better find the killer himself?

**HERRON, MICK** DOLPHIN JUNCTION: STORIES (\$29.95) The brilliant author of the Slough House novels, awarded both the Gold and Steel Daggers by the Crime Writers' Association, and "the **John Le Carré** of the future" (BBC) gives you his short fiction, collected into one volume. Five standalone nerve-rackingly thrilling crime fiction stories are complemented by four mystery stories featuring the Oxford wife-and-husband detective team of shrewd Zoë Boehm and hapless Joe Silvermann. The collection also includes a peek into the past of Jackson Lamb, irascible top agent at Slough House.

**HILL, SUSAN serrailleur** CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCE (#11) (\$42.95 hard cover, \$25 trade paperback) DCS Simon Serrailleur has long regarded drugs ops in the Lafferton area as a waste of time. Small-time dealers are picked up outside the local secondary school, they're given a fine or a suspended and away they go. And rinse and repeat. But when the body of a young drug addict is found in neighbouring Starly, the case pulls Simon into a whole new way of running drugs. The foot soldiers? Vulnerable local kids like Brookie and Olivia, who will give Simon a bitter taste of this new landscape...

**JAY, GERALD mazarelle** HANGED MANS TALE (#2) (\$36) A murdered man is discovered dangling inside the tunnels of a Paris canal—the only clue, the tarot card in his pockets: the Hanged Man. When an innocent suspect is railroaded into prison for the homicide, Mazarelle sets off on the hunt for the real killer. For the charming, hot-tempered, impulsive Frenchman—now back from the provinces and leading his own homicide unit out of Paris's famed Quai des Orfevres—it's an investigation that takes him far from the comforts of Beaujolais and bouillabaisse, and plunges him into an underworld of ruthless white supremacists looking for scapegoats in Paris's growing immigrant community, corrupt cops eager to cover up a shady side business, and a conspiracy of secrets that threaten his own life.

**KLAVAN, ANDREW** WHEN CHRISTMAS COMES (\$28.95) Colorful Christmas lights dapple the family homes in the idyllic lakeside town of Sweet Haven when Jennifer Dean, a young librarian at the local elementary school, is brutally murdered. There are witnesses and her boyfriend Travis Blake confesses to the crime... but something doesn't quite add up. Blake is a third generation Army Ranger, awarded the Silver Star for his heroism in Afghanistan—how could a beloved son of this tight-knit burgh commit such a grisly deed? In steps Cameron Winter, a rugged and lonesome English professor haunted by the ghosts of his own Christmas past, whose former lover asks him to prove Blake innocent. Winter knows there are darker powers at play here than a simple domestic dispute...

**KLAVER, CHRISTIAN** classified dossier SH AND COUNT DRACULA (#1) (\$25.99) Sherlock Holmes is dead. His body lies in a solitary grave on the Sussex Downs, England. But Dr. Watson survives, and is now given permission to release tales in Sherlock's 'classified dossier', those cases that are, dear reader, unbelievable—for their subject matter is of the most outré and grotesque nature. The first case to be released: a Transylvanian nobleman called Count Dracula arrives at Baker Street seeking the help of Sherlock Holmes, for his beloved wife Mina has been kidnapped. But Dracula is a client like no other and Sherlock and Watson must confront—despite the wild, unbelievable notion—the existence of vampires. And before long, Sherlock, Watson and their new vampire allies must work together to banish a powerful enemy growing in the shadows....

**MACCLOSKEY/MCCLOSKEY, DAVID** DAMASCUS STATION (\$36.95) CIA case officer Sam Joseph is dispatched to Paris to recruit Syrian Palace official Mariam Haddad. The two fall into a forbidden relationship, which supercharges Haddad's recruitment and creates unspeakable danger when they enter Damascus to find the man responsible for the disappearance of an American spy. But the cat and mouse chase for the killer soon leads to a trail of high-profile assassinations and the discovery of a dark secret at the heart of the Syrian regime, bringing the pair under the all-seeing eyes of Assad's spy catcher, Ali Hassan, and his brother Rustom, the head of the feared Republican Guard. Set against the backdrop of a Syria pulsing with fear and rebellion, Damascus Station is a gripping thriller that offers a textured portrayal of espionage, love, loyalty, and betrayal in one of the most difficult CIA assignments on the planet.

**MACKINLAY/MCKINLAY, JENN** KILLER RESEARCH (\$35) Ms. Cole, a librarian and current candidate for town mayor, is shocked when she opens her trunk to discover a murder victim who just so happens to be a guy she dated forty years ago and the founder of the baking empire Nana's Cookies. As the town gossip mill turns, a batch of rumors begins to circulate about Ms. Cole's rebellious youth, which—along with being a murder suspect—threatens to ruin her life and her budding political career. But Ms. Cole is one tough cookie who will not go down without a fight. Has the campaign for mayor turned deadly? It is up to newlyweds Lindsey and Sully, and the rest of the craft-ernoon pals to see how the cookie crumbles and figure out who is trying to frame Ms. Cole for murder and why.

**MEYER, NICHOLAS** RETURN OF THE PHARAOH (\$34.99) In 1910, Dr. John Watson travels to Egypt with his wife Juliet. Her tuberculosis has returned and her doctor recommends a stay at a sanitarium in a dry climate. But while his wife undergoes treatment, Dr. Watson bumps into an old friend—Sherlock Holmes, in disguise and on a case. An English Duke with a penchant for Egyptology has disappeared, leading to enquiries from his wife and the Home Office. Holmes has discovered that the missing duke has indeed vanished from his lavish rooms in Cairo and that he was on the trail of a previous undiscovered and unopened tomb. And that he's only the latest Egyptologist to die or disappear under odd circumstances. With the help of Howard Carter, Holmes and Watson are on the trail of something much bigger, more important, and more sinister than an errant lord.

**PERRY, ANNE** xmas CHRISTMAS LEGACY (#19) (\$28) After leaving her position with Charlotte and Thomas Pitt to get married, Gracie thought her days as a maid were behind her. But when her good friend's daughter, Millie, turns up on her doorstep just before the holidays, frantic because things are going missing from the kitchen in the household she serves, Gracie knows she has to find out what is happening. Millie, whose mother died years before, can't risk being accused of theft and getting thrown out on the street, with no character references for a new position. So Gracie takes on Millie's job herself, claiming Millie is sick and needs a few days to recuperate. At first, it seems that all is normal in the household, even if the couple's elderly granny keeps entirely to her bedroom upstairs. But Gracie begins to realize that Granny is suffering from neglect—and rather than helping her, the husband and wife have decided she isn't dying fast enough.

**PERRY, THOMAS** whitefield LEFT-HANDED TWIN (#9) (\$34.95) Jane Whitefield helps people disappear. Fearing for their lives, fleeing dangerous situations, her clients come to her when they need to vanish completely—to assume a new identity and establish a new life somewhere they won't be found. And when people are desperate enough to need her services, they come to the old house in rural western New York where Jane was raised to begin their escape. It's there that, one spring night, Jane finds a young woman fresh from LA with a whole lot of trouble behind her. After she cheated on her boyfriend, he dragged her to the home of the offending man and made her watch as he killed him. She testified against the boyfriend, but a bribed jury acquitted him, and now he's free and trying to find and kill her. Jane agrees to help, and it soon becomes clear that outsmarting the murderous boyfriend is not beyond Jane's skills. But the boyfriend has some dangerous friends...

**REULAND, ROBERT** BROOKLYN SUPREME (\$34) No one knows better than Will Way that it's not so easy to get out of Brooklyn. Seeking escape, Will finds possi-



ble upward mobility in a relationship with Regine Pomeroy, the daughter of Brooklyn Supreme Court Judge Henry K. Pomeroy. But Regine is a troubled young woman, and one day Will is called upon by her father to fix a situation that proves beyond fixing. Two decades later, Will has returned to the borough and, like many of his peers, joined the NYPD. Now it's his job to get beat cops out of trouble—cops like Georgina Lee, an inexperienced officer who shot and killed an African American teenager after he robbed a bodega. But when it turns out the perpetrator might not have been armed, Lee's case becomes a publicity firestorm. Several men vying for higher office in Brooklyn use it to further their ambitions, and Will finds himself caught not only in the bureaucracy of the NYPD and Brooklyn politics, but also in his deeply confused conscience. As he tries to unravel so many different versions of the truth, Will's past catches up with him; his distant father and Regine Pomeroy reenter his life, and her father tries to capitalize on the case for political gain. As lines are drawn across the city, Will must make decisions he never expected he would have to make, whose outcomes will cost him dearly.

**REYNOLDS, JOHN LAWRENCE** beach BEACH BLONDE (#2) (\$29.95) After serving two years in prison for breaking the neck of the man who assaulted his sister, Arden is released on bail. He lands a job working at Tuffy's, a restaurant and bar on the beach strip, alongside his former cellmate, Slip Winegarden. Things seem to be looking good for Arden, until it all starts to unravel...When Slip is caught crossing Viktor Khernov, Tuffy's owner, Arden witnesses the madman's revenge from close quarters. Amid Arden's ongoing drama, trying to stay cool, is Josie Marshall, widow of a detective found murdered in front of their beach strip home a few years ago—a murder Josie solved on her own in Beach Strip (#1) (\$13.99). Josie thinks men can be handy sometimes, but she'd prefer they left her alone. Fat chance, especially after her relationship with Slip Winegarden becomes known. Soon she and Arden are trying to fend off Viktor Kernov and his muscled sidekick, as well as the homicide detective determined to solve Slip Winegarden's murder, all while drawn into a romance that neither of them saw coming but both appear unable to avoid.

**ROZAN, S J chin/smith** FAMILY BUSINESS (#14) (\$34.95) The death of a powerful Chinatown crime boss thrusts private eye Lydia Chin and her partner Bill Smith into a world of double-dealing, subterfuge, murder, and—because this is New York City—real estate in the latest installment is this series.

**SMITH, ALEXANDER MCCALL** botswana JOY AND LIGHT BUS COMPANY (#22) (\$34) Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni attends a course hosted by the local chamber of commerce entitled “Where Is Your Business Going?” But rather than feeling energized, he comes back in low spirits, unsure how to grow the already venerable and successful Tlokweg Road Speedy Motors. Then an old friend from school approaches him about a new business venture that could be just the ticket. When it turns out he will need to mortgage his property in order to pursue this endeavor, Mma Ramotswe and Mma Makutsi wonder what this will mean for his current business—as well as for their own. Even as she puzzles over mysteries on the domestic front, Mma Ramotswe's professional duties must take precedence. When a concerned son learns that his aging father's nurse now stands to inherit the family home, he begins to doubt her intentions and takes his case to Botswana's premier detective agency. Fortunately, Mma Ramotswe and Mma Makutsi, committed agents of justice, agree to investigate. Tricky as these matters may be, Mma Ramotswe, armed with her usual supply of tact, humor and good will, knows that the most creative solutions are often found with the support of friends and family and a cup of red bush tea. With these reliable assets, she is certain to ensure that all involved find the happiness that they deserve.

**STRALEY, JOHN cecil** SO FAR AND GOOD (#8) (\$35.95) To his chagrin, Alaskan PI Cecil Younger learns his teenage daughter has launched her own detective agency. But when her first case goes awry, she's going to need some help from an unlikely source: her father, who's currently locked up in prison.

**THOMPSON, VICTORIA counterfeit** CITY OF SHADOWS (#5) (\$35) Elizabeth Miles Bates has returned from her honeymoon with Gideon and is taking great pride in having completely forsaken her disreputable past. Then her friend, Anna Vanderslice, begs her to use her talents to save her widowed mother from an unscrupulous medium. Since the war and the flu epidemic left so many families in mourning, séances have come back into vogue as desperate families long to communicate with their loved ones. Anna's mother has been attending séances in hopes of connecting with her son, David, who died of influenza. Anna had thought it a heartbreaking but harmless activity but she's just learned that Mrs. Vanderslice is paying the medium ever-increasing sums of money in her eagerness to make contact. Since David's death has already caused Anna and her mother financial hardship, Mrs. Vanderslice's obsession is in danger of ruining them.

**TREMAYNE, PETER fidelma** HOUSE OF DEATH (#32) (\$34.99) Ireland. AD 672. The Feast of Beltaine is approaching and the seven senior princes of the kingdom of Muman are gathering at Cashel to discuss King Colgú's policies. Just days before the council meets, Brother Conchobhar, the keeper of the sacred sword, is found murdered.

Sister Fidelma and her brother Colgú fear that the killer had been trying to steal the sword that symbolises the King's authority to rule. And as rumours begin to spread of an attempt to overthrow Colgú, news reaches Cashel that a plague ship has landed at a nearby port, bringing the deadly pestilence to its shores. Amid fear and panic, Fidelma, Eadulf and Enda must work together to catch a killer as the death toll starts to mount...

## Paperbacks

**AEGISDOTTIR, EVA forbidden GIRLS WHO LIE (#2)** (\$21.95) When single mother Marianna disappears from her home, leaving an apologetic note on the kitchen table, everyone assumes that she's taken her own life...until her body is found on the Grábrók lava fields seven months later, clearly the victim of murder. Her neglected fifteen-year-old daughter Hekla has been placed in foster care, but is her perfect new life hiding something sinister? Fifteen years earlier, a desperate new mother lies in a maternity ward, unable to look at her own child, the start of an odd and broken relationship that leads to a shocking tragedy. Police officer Elma and her colleagues take on the case, which becomes increasingly complex, as the number of suspects grows and new light is shed on Marianna's past – and the childhood of a girl who never was like the others...

**ARCHER, WINNIE bread shop MURDER YULE REGRET (#7)** (\$11.99) A holiday costume party in the sleepy coastal town of Santa Sofia could be just the boost Ivy needs for her fledgling photography business. At the party, Ivy enters a Victorian fantasy come to life, all courtesy of the fabulous Ms. Fox. Ivy gets to play shutterbug while hanging with Scrooge, Marley, the Cratchits, and more classic Dickens characters. But what begins as the best of times turns out to be the very worst for one of the party guests—a tabloid journalist with more enemies than Ebenezer himself. When the man's body is found sprawled across the jagged rocks below the house, the fingers begin pointing at Eliza. Meanwhile, Ivy gets roped into helping prove the starlet's innocence. Her festive photos are now official evidence—and the Ghosts of Christmas Present could mean the party for Eliza is over, once and for all.

**ARLIDGE, M J helen grace TRUTH OR DARE (#10)** (\$24.99) A crimewave sweeps through the city and no-one is safe. An arson at the docks. A carjacking gone wrong. A murder in a country park. What connects all these crimes without causes, which leave no clues? Detective Inspector Helen Grace faces the rising tide of cases which threatens to drown the city. But each crime is just a piece of a puzzle which is falling into place. And when it becomes clear just how twisted and ingenious this web of crime is, D.I. Grace will realise that it may be impossible to stop it . . .

**ASPLER, TONY wine lovers NIGHTMARE IN NAPA (#4)** (\$21) Writer/detective, Ezra Brant, cannot avoid getting mixed up with murders when he travels to Napa Valley to attend the annual charity wine auction and to hook up again with his beautiful winemaker friends-with-benefits, known as C.C.

**BANVILLE, JOHN ANCIENT LIGHT** (\$22) Is there a difference between memory and invention? That is the question that haunts Alexander Cleave as he reflects on his first, and perhaps only, love—an underage affair with his best friend's mother. When his stunted acting career is suddenly, inexplicably revived with a movie role playing a man who may not be who he claims, his young leading lady—famous and fragile—unwittingly gives him the opportunity to see, with startling clarity, the gap between the things he has done and the way he recalls them. Profoundly moving, Ancient Light is written with the depth of character, clarifying lyricism, and heart-wrenching humor that mark all of Man Booker Prize-winning author John Banville's extraordinary works.

**BANVILLE, JOHN MRS OSMOND** (\$21.95) The author continues the story of Isabel Archer, the young protagonist of *Henry James's* beloved *The Portrait of a Lady* (\$17.50). Eager but naïve, in James's novel Isabel comes into a large, unforeseen inheritance and marries the charming, penniless, and—as Isabel finds out too late—cruel and deceitful Gilbert Osmond. Here Banville imagines Isabel's second chapter telling the story of a woman reawakened by grief and the knowledge that she has been grievously wronged and determined to resume her quest for freedom and independence. A masterly novel of betrayal, corruption, and moral ambiguity, Mrs. Osmond would have thrilled James himself.

**BELL, JOSEPHINE PORT OF LONDON MURDERS** (\$23.50) When the San Angelo drifts into port in the Pool of London, telephones begin to ring across the capital and an intricate series of events is set in motion. Beset by dreadful storms in the Bay of Biscay, the ship, along with the "mixed cargo" it carries, is late. Unaware of the machinations of avaricious importers, wayward captains, and unscrupulous traders, docklands residents Harry Reed and June Harvey are thrust together by a riverside accident, before being swept into the current of a dark plot developing on the harborside. First published in 1938, this early novel from one of the great Golden Age mystery writers skillfully

delivers a compelling tale of murder set against a gritty portrayal of life alongside the Thames.

**BLAEDEL, SARA family secrets THIRD SISTER (#3)** (\$12.99) Ilka Jensen's life is in chaos following the tumultuous events of Her Father's Secret. The funeral home she inherited after her estranged father's death is bankrupt. Her new business partner, Artie, lies unconscious in the hospital after a savage attack by mysterious assailants, and her father's second wife is in prison. Then, just as Ilka learns a shocking revelation about her father, two menacing strangers turn up at the funeral home—dangerous men who mean to draw her further into a world of secrets, betrayal, and murder. In order to protect herself and those around her, Ilka sets off on a twisting journey to confront the truth about the man who abandoned her as a child. But the long-buried secrets of her father's past are more tangled and perilous than Ilka could ever imagine . . .

**BLAKE, DEBORAH pet rescue DOGGONE DEADLY (#2)** (\$11.99) When the woman running the big regional dog show calls out sick, dog groomer Suz Holden is asked to take over. But it's too much for her to handle by herself—considering the president of the kennel club, Olivia Weiner, criticizes her at every turn—so she calls in her best friend, Kari Stuart, for help. A long, stressful day goes from bad to worse when a local breeder is found dead, and the murder weapon seems to incriminate Suz. While Kari knows her friend isn't guilty, the police aren't so sure, especially after a second murder points to Suz again. But trying to run a dog show and investigate a murder at the same time is like herding cats, and Kari will have to rely on the rest of the Serenity Sanctuary staff to keep things running smoothly while she—and her beloved and clever kitten, Queenie—sniff out the truth.

**BRABAZON, JAMES ALL FALL DOWN** (\$12.99) Soldier, assassin, and special agent—Max McLean works for a highly secretive unit called The Unknown: a black ops team which delivers off-the-books justice on behalf of the British Government. When a straightforward operation to kill a terrorist commander goes badly wrong, Max finds himself framed for murder. Cut off from his base and cut loose by his Government handlers, he's forced to go even deeper underground, propelled across Europe on a personal, high-stakes investigation to clear his name. Racing against time to find out who his enemy is before his enemy finds him, Max has to unravel the only clue he has to their identity: an unusual hundred-dollar bill clutched in the dead terrorist's fist. But in this brutal game of spies nothing is as it seems: as hostile powers prepare to move against the West, Max McLean must face the shocking possibility that the traitor he seeks has been with him all along.

**BRADFORD, LAURA friend PLUS ONE FOR MURDER (#1)** (\$11.99) Emma Westlake has always wanted to be in business for herself. At a loss for what to do next, she turns to an elderly friend who suggests she try to get paid for doing something she's really good at—being a paid companion. Emma thinks it's a crazy idea until requests start pouring in. Writer Brian Hill asks Emma to be his cheering section at an open mic night. He'll be reading from his latest work and wants to know someone will clap for him when he's done. When Emma balks at the notion that people wouldn't, he tells her the room will be filled with people he's invited—most of whom will likely want him dead by the time he's done reading. Assuming he's joking, she laughs. But when Brian steps up to the mic and clears his throat to speak, he promptly drops dead. Emma is one of the last people to see him alive, and so she becomes an immediate suspect. Now she'll have to cozy up to a killer to save her skin and her new business.

**BRAZIER, ELIZA JANE IF I DISAPPEAR** (\$23) Sera loves true crime podcasts. They give her a sense of control in a world where women just like her disappear daily. She's sure they are preparing her for something. So when Rachel, her favorite podcast host, goes missing, Sera knows it's time to act. Rachel has always taught her to trust her instincts. Sera follows the clues hidden in the episodes to an isolated ranch outside Rachel's small hometown to begin her search. She's convinced her investigation will make Rachel so proud. But the more Sera digs into this unfamiliar world, the more off things start to feel. Because Rachel is not the first woman to vanish from the ranch, and she won't be the last...Rachel did try to warn her.

**BRODY, FRANCES MURDER IS IN THE AIR (#12)** (\$22.99) North Yorkshire, 1930. It's the season for warm and spirited countryside celebrations. Ever since the war, pubs have been in the doldrums, and in an attempt to promote and breathe new life back into the business, brewers select a charismatic employee as local queen—to be the face of their industry. And this year's queen, wages clerk Ruth Parnaby, has invited the ever intrepid Kate Shackleton and her niece Harriet to accompany her on public engagements at a garden party thrown in her honor. But when Ruth leads children to the stables for pony rides, the drayman is missing, later found in the last place imaginable—the fermentation room, deceased. What looked to be a simple case of asphyxiation in the dangerous fermentation room is quickly clarified by the pathologist as murder—the drayman was already dead before he was taken into the room. Someone was looking to cover it up.

**BROWN, SANDRA** THICK AS THIEVES (\$12.99) Twenty years ago in the dead of night, four seemingly random individuals pulled the ultimate heist and almost walked away with half a million dollars. But by daybreak, their plan had been shot to hell. One of them was in the hospital. One was in jail. One was dead. And one got away with it. Arden Maxwell, the daughter of the man who disappeared all those years ago—presumably with the money, after murdering his accomplice—has never reconciled with her father's abandonment of her and her sister. After countless personal setbacks she decides to return to her family home near mysterious Caddo Lake, and finally get answers to the many questions that torment her. Little does she know, two of her father's co-conspirators—a war hero and a corrupt district attorney—are watching her every move.

**CALDWELL, EMMIE** craft fair STITCHED IN CRIME (#2) (\$11.99) The Craft Fair may have hit a few snags lately, but knitting enthusiast Lia Geiger is hopeful her quiet life will return to its usual patterns in no time. Her daughter has officially moved back home, and sure, the house is a little crowded with Hayley's take-home work from the alpaca farm, but that's a price Lia will happily pay. All seems well until Cori Littlefield, a new vendor with a gift for crochet, is found dead, sending shock waves through all of Crandalsburg. What begins as a tragic accident turns into a snarled spool of lies that only the combined efforts of the Ninth Street Knitters can untangle. When Lia makes a connection between Cori's death and a decades-old murder, it's up to her to weave together the clues and find the truth.

**CARLISLE, KATE** fixer upper ABSENCE OF MALLETS (#9) (\$11.99) Shannon could not be happier that her hunky thriller-writing boyfriend, Mac, has moved in, and it is a good thing they are living together because they are both busier than ever. Mac is hosting writing retreats at his now vacant lighthouse mansion, while Shannon and her crew build Homefront, a quaint Victorian village of tiny homes for veterans in need. Mac's latest guests are proving to be a handful though, and Shannon has heard some grumbling from the luminaries of Lighthouse Cove about her latest passion project. But nothing can throw a wrench in their plans except a malicious murder.

**CARR, JACK** terminal list DEVIL'S HAND (#4) (\$12.99) It's been twenty years since 9/11. Two decades since the United States was attacked on home soil and embarked on twenty years of war. The enemy has been patient, learning, and adapting. And the enemy is ready to strike again. A new president offers hope to a country weary of conflict. He's a young, popular, self-made visionary...but he's also a man with a secret. Halfway across the globe a regional superpower struggles with sanctions imposed by the Great Satan and her European allies, a country whose ancient religion spawned a group of ruthless assassins. Faced with internal dissent and extrajudicial targeted killings by the United States and Israel, the Supreme Leader puts a plan in motion to defeat the most powerful nation on earth.

**CASEY, JANE** kerrigan CUTTING PLACE (#9) (\$19.50) Everyone's heard the rumours about elite gentlemen's clubs, where the champagne flows freely, the parties are outrageous...and what goes on behind closed doors is darker than you could possibly imagine. Paige Hargreaves was a young journalist working on a story about a club for the most privileged men in London. She was on the brink of exposing a shocking scandal. Then she disappeared. DS Maeve Kerrigan must immerse herself in the club's world of wealth, luxury and ruthless behaviour to find out what happened. But Maeve is keeping secrets of her own. Will she uncover the truth? Or will time run out for Maeve first?

**CHAPMAN, JULIA** dales DATE WITH MALICE (#2) (\$19.99) When Mrs Shepherd arrives at the Dales Detective Agency on a December morning, quite convinced that someone is trying to kill her, Samson O'Brien dismisses her fears as the ramblings of a confused elderly lady. But after a series of disturbing incidents at Fellside Court retirement home, he begins to wonder if there is something to her claims after all. With Christmas around the corner, Samson is thrown into a complex investigation. One that will require him to regain the trust of the Dales community he turned his back on so long ago. Faced with no choice, he enlists the help of a local—the tempestuous Delilah Metcalfe. Against the backdrop of a Yorkshire winter, Samson and Delilah must work together once again if they are to uncover the malevolence threatening the elderly residents of Bruncliffe. Could the danger be perilously close to home?

**CHOW, JENNIFER J** sassy MIMI LEE CRACKS THE CODE (#3) (\$22) Mimi Lee just found an extra perk to being a pet groomer at Hollywoof (other than cuddling animals all day long, that is). Pixie St. James, one of Mimi's clients and the investor behind Hollywoof, has offered her and her boyfriend, Josh, a getaway at her vacation home, nestled on beautiful Catalina Island. With the island just outside of Los Angeles but still far enough from the hustle and bustle, Mimi, Josh, and their cat Marshmallow (who, of course, wouldn't be caught dead in a dingy pet hotel) are excited for their relaxing stay. That is, until Pixie's last renter, Davis D. Argo, turns up dead. Mimi and Josh's romantic getaway immediately turns into an enormous buzzkill, especially when Pixie asks Mimi for help. The police suspect Pixie, and Mimi knows a thing or two

about wrongful allegations. Mimi figures it couldn't hurt to snoop a little since she's already there, and soon discovers that a valuable item is missing. Except Pixie isn't the only one in the neighborhood who has been robbed. There is something strange happening on the island, and Mimi won't stop until she finds out what it is.

**CLEEVES, ANN two rivers LONG CALL (#1)** (\$24.99) In North Devon, where two rivers converge and run into the sea, Detective Matthew Venn stands outside the church as his estranged father's funeral takes place. On the day Matthew left the strict evangelical community he grew up in, he lost his family too. Now, as he turns and walks away again, he receives a call from one of his team. A body has been found on the beach nearby: a man with a tattoo of an albatross on his neck, stabbed to death. The case calls Matthew back to the people and places of his past, as deadly secrets hidden at their hearts are revealed, and his new life is forced into a collision course with the world he thought he'd left behind. The second in the series is Heron's Cry (#2) (\$25.99).

**CLEEVES, ANN shetland RED BONES (#3)** (\$25) When a young archaeologist discovers a set of human remains, the locals are intrigued. Is it an ancient find—or a more contemporary mystery? Then an elderly woman fatally is shot and detective Jimmy Perez is called in. A claustrophobic mists swirl around the Shetland Islands, and Inspector Perez finds himself totally in the dark. A few copies of the US edition while the Canadian one is being re-printed...

**COLLINS, KATE goddess BIG TROUBLE IN LITTLE GREEKTOWN (#3)** (\$11.99) Athena has invited Case Donnelly, recently relocated from Pittsburgh and awaiting his PI license, to accompany her to a Save Our Dunes fundraiser and art festival. And her date proves helpful when the body of a disgraced photographer turns up during a nature walk. The crime—and the photos taken by the dead man—raise a lot of questions about local politics, environmental battles, and the victim's womanizing ways. As Athena's endearing Greek-American family strives to solve a mystery of their own (uncovering the identity of Athena's anonymous blog), she and Case try to find the tangled roots of this murder and make sure there's no sanctuary for a killer...

**COOKMAN, LESLEY sarjeant MURDER ON THE EDGE (#21)** (\$17.99) Colin Hardcastle has arranged for two men to meet and discuss the sale of a house. But when Nick Nash—the owner of the property—doesn't show, Colin cannot begin to imagine the events he has set in motion. Perplexed, Colin tells his friends in Steeple Martin, piquing the interest of Libby Sarjeant—and the Reverend Patti Pearson, who finds Nash's name strangely familiar... Despite her burgeoning reputation as a super-sleuth, Libby is somewhat loath to investigate what seems to be a tragic accident. But when two of Patti's parishioners ask for her help, Libby very quickly finds herself caught up in the mystery. Then Nash's body is found, and things take a darker turn. As the case unravels, biting deeper into the local community, Nash's shocking past is unearthed and it's up to Libby and her friend Fran Wolfe to help solve the case before it's too late...

**CORNWELL, PATRICIA scarpetta AUTOPSY (#25)** (\$24.99) Forensic pathologist Kay Scarpetta has come almost full circle, returning to Virginia as the chief medical examiner, the state where she launched her storied career. Finding herself the new girl in town once again after being away for many years, she's inherited not only an overbearing secretary, but also a legacy of neglect and potential corruption. Just weeks on the job, she's called to a scene by railroad tracks where a woman's body has been shockingly displayed, her throat cut down to the spine, and as Scarpetta begins to follow the trail, it leads unnervingly close to her own historic neighborhood. And that's only the beginning...

**COSTELLO, LIZA ESTATE** (\$24.99) Beth Sheehan thought planning a future with her boyfriend Jason would be the answer to her problems. Now in her twenties, her wild ways have left her increasingly lonely, and Jason signals the promise of stability she's never had. When an opportunity arises that will help them secure their dream home, he convinces Beth to grab it. It will only be a few months before he can join her to house-sit, rent-free, in a remote new build out of town. But something desperate lurks at the heart of the estate. Strange things are happening and, as Beth's drinking worsens, new friends turn out to be prospective enemies. In a place where secrets abound, the most chilling one of all is about to be revealed...

**DAKIN, EMMA book tour PERILS IN YORKSHIRE (#3)** (\$25.50) Chocolate should not be associated with sudden death. Claire is only guiding readers to the sites of mystery books; she isn't responsible for the body in the chocolate factory. She doesn't want to discover murder in the city of York or any part of Yorkshire where she takes her curious tourists.

**DAY, MADDIE cozy capers MURDER AT THE LOBSTAH SHACK (#3)** (\$11.99) From clam chowdahs to oysters on the half-shell, Tulia Peters' Lobstah Shack offers locals and tourists in Westham, Massachusetts, some of Cape Cod's most amazing cuisine. But when the body of Annette DiCicero is discovered in the kitchen's walk-in freezer—with a custom-made claw-handled lobster pick lodged in her neck—spoiled appetites are the least of Tulia's worries. After a heated public argument with Annette, Tulia is a person of interest in the police's homicide investigation. To clear Tulia's

name, Mac and the Cozy Capers Book Group snoop into Annette's personal life. Between her temperamental husband, his shady business partner, and two women tied to Annette's past life as "Miss New Bedford", there are now several suspects and multiple motives. And they're getting crabby about Mac intruding on their affairs...

**DELANY, VICKI holmes** CURIOUS INCIDENT (#6) (\$22.99) "I am not a Consulting Detective," Gemma Doyle reluctantly tells 10-year-old Lauren Tierney, when the little girl comes to the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop and Emporium to beg Gemma to find her missing cat, Snowball. Gemma might not be able to follow the clues to find the cat, but her dog Violet follows her nose to locate the missing kitten in a neighbor's garden shed. Gemma and Violet proudly return Snowball to her grateful owner, and Gemma basks in praise for a job well done. But a few days later Lauren is back with ten dollars in hand, wanting to once again hire a consulting detective, and this time for a far bigger job: Her mother has been accused of murdering her garden club rival.

**DISHER, GARRY** UNDER THE COLD BRIGHT LIGHTS (\$20.95) The young detectives think Alan Auhl is washed up, but that doesn't faze him. He does things his own way—and gets results. He still lives with his ex-wife, off and on, in a big house full of random boarders and hard-luck stories. And he's still a cop, even though he retired from Homicide some years ago. He works cold cases now. Like the death of John Elphick—his daughters are still convinced he was murdered; the coroner is not so sure. Or the skeleton that's just been found under a concrete slab. Or the doctor who killed two wives and a girlfriend, and left no evidence at all. Auhl will stick with these cases until justice is done. One way or another.

**DIXON, HELENA underhay** MURDER AT THE WEDDING (#7) (\$19.99) 1934. Kitty Underhay steps out of the battered Rolls Royce and onto the gravelled driveway of Thurscomb Castle in deepest Yorkshire. She's honoured to be a bridesmaid at her cousin Lucy's wedding to the reluctant Lord Rupert Woodcomb, but as family and friends gather for welcome drinks, Kitty dodges intrusive questions about her own marital status by taking a stroll about the castle grounds. As she passes through the manicured gardens, a fatal shot rings out...The valet, Evans, is dead. And Kitty can't help but notice how rattled the man standing next to him seems. Could Rupert's best man, The Right Honourable Alexander 'Sandy' Galsworthy, believe the speeding bullet was meant for him?

**DOVALPAGE, TERESA havana** QUEEN OF BONES (#2) (\$20.95) Juan, a Cuban construction worker who has settled in Albuquerque, returns to Havana for the first time since fleeing Cuba by raft twenty years ago. He is traveling with his American wife, Sharon, and hopes to reconnect with Victor, his best friend from college—and, unbeknownst to Sharon, he also hopes to discover what has become of two ex-girlfriends, Elsa and Rosita. Juan is surprised to learn that Victor has become Victoria and runs a popular drag show at the local hot spot Café Arabia. Elsa has married a wealthy foreigner, and Rosita, still single, works at the Havana cemetery. When one of these women turns up dead, it will cost Padrino, a Santería priest and former detective on the Havana police force, more than he expects to untangle the group's lies and hunt down the killer.

**DUNFORD, CAROLINE staplef ord** HOPE TO SURVIVE (#2) (\$17.99) It is 1939—war has been declared and spymaster Fitzroy wastes no time in preparing his goddaughter, Hope, for a secret mission. As Euphemia Martins' daughter, Hope has the potential to be one of British Intelligence's greatest agents, but when she is ousted from an all-male think tank and relegated to the typing pool, even she starts to doubt herself. Meanwhile, Hope's rebellious friend, Bernie, announces her engagement to a man Hope does not trust; Harvey, Hope's only asset, has vanished; and, most awful of all, Hope fears that her father is dying. Then comes Dunkirk and the threat of invasion intensifies. To her surprise, Hope is sent to a secret base, where she joins a group of auxiliary units that are expected to fight to the death should invasion occur. Fearing for her life, she must confront Nazi sympathizers among the country's elite secret service before she can learn who to trust...

**ELDRIDGE, JIM hotel** MURDER AT THE RITZ (#1) (\$16.95) August 1940. On the streets of London, locals watch with growing concern as German fighter planes plague the city's skyline. But inside the famous Ritz Hotel, the cream of society continues to enjoy all the glamour and comfort that money can buy during wartime—until an anonymous man is discovered with his throat slashed open. Detective Chief Inspector Coburg is called in to investigate, no stranger himself to the haunts of the upper echelons of society, ably assisted by his trusty colleague, Sergeant Lampson. Yet they soon face a number of obstacles. With the crime committed in rooms in use by an exiled king and his retinue, there are those who fear diplomatic repercussions and would rather the case be forgotten. With mounting pressure from various Intelligence agencies, rival political factions and gang warfare brewing either side of the Thames, Coburg and Lampson must untangle a web of deception if they are to solve the case—and survive.

**ELLIS, J R yorkshire** MURDER AT ST ANNE'S (#7) (\$22.95) In the chilly depths of a Yorkshire winter, a well-liked rector is found bludgeoned to death in her own church.

With no sign of a murder weapon, local superstition quickly pins the blame on the ghost of a medieval monk believed to haunt the building... Well accustomed to unusual murder investigations, DCI Jim Oldroyd takes on the case, along with his assistant, Sergeant Andy Carter, but they are hampered at every turn by the deepening snow and the threat of the supernatural. Even as possible motives and opportunities begin to reveal themselves, Oldroyd struggles to find a better suspect than the hooded phantom. Has Oldroyd really found himself in the midst of a Gothic ghost story or is there a very real killer at large? Spectre or otherwise, it soon becomes apparent that the murderer is not yet finished. And, for Oldroyd, it's about to become personal...

**FELLOWES, JESSICA mitford** MITFORD TRIAL (#4) (\$24.99) It's lady's maid Louisa Cannon's wedding day, but the fantasy is shattered shortly after when she is approached by a secretive man asking her to spy on Diana Mitford—who is having an affair with the infamous Oswald Mosley—and her sister Unity. Thus as summer 1933 dawns, Louisa finds herself accompanying the Mitfords on a glitzy cruise, full of the starriest members of Society. But the waters run red when a man is found attacked. Back in London, the case is taken by lawyer Tom Mitford, and Louisa finds herself caught between worlds: of a love lost, a family divided, and a country caught in conflict.

**FERRARS, E X virginia freer** LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT (#1) (\$22.50) Mrs. Arliss was witty. Mrs. Arliss was delightful. But mostly, Mrs. Arliss was rich. And now, Mrs. Arliss is dead, and her friends and relations—gathered to shed a tear, knock back a post-funeral sherry, and determine what loot they have inherited—are horrified to discover that things are not exactly as they might have wished. Only two people seem to have cared more for Mrs. Arliss than for her house and her bank account and her exquisite collection of 18th-century miniatures. One is her girlish secretary, the very model of a flustered ingénue. The other is Virginia Freer, who had in many ways been a second Arliss daughter. They should be free to mourn, but Virginia has a problem. The miniatures? They're missing. And all clues point to Virginia's ex-husband, Felix, who is charming, and affectionate, and a double-dipped scoundrel. Published 1978.

**FLOWER, AMANDA matchmaker** MARRIAGE CAN BE MISCHIEF (#3) (\$11.99) Millie is happy that her childhood friend, Uriah Schrock, has returned to Harvest after decades away. He was sweet on Millie in their school days, but she only had eyes for her future husband. Now, there's a new spark between them, so Millie is concerned when Uriah doesn't show up at the Harvest concert series—or for his job as the Village square's groundskeeper. Perhaps Millie has been involved in too many murder investigations, but she has a sinking feeling. And when she and her best friend, Lois, find Uriah with the police, it seems she's right...

**FLOWER, AMANDA bookshop** VERSE AND VENGEANCE (#4) (\$22.99) A bicycle race is not Charming Books proprietor Violet Waverly's idea of a pleasant pastime. But police chief David Rainwater wheelie wants them to enter the Tour de Cascade as a couple, so she reluctantly consents. The Tour de Cascade is the brainchild of Violet's Grandma Daisy. The race is a fundraiser to build the Cascade Springs Underground Railroad Museum. But not everyone in this Niagara Region village supports the race. As if the bike race weren't tiring enough, pesky private investigator Joel Redding is snooping around Charming Books. It takes all of Violet's and Grandma Daisy's ingenuity to keep Redding from discovering the shop's magical essence—which communicates with Violet through books. When Redding perishes in an accident during the race, David discovers that the brake line of the private eye's bike was cut. Worse, Violet tops his list of suspects. As Emerson the tuxedo cat and resident crow Faulkner look on, Charming Books steers Violet to the works of Walt Whitman to solve the crime. But no other names ring a bell as culprits, and as David's investigation picks up speed, Violet will have to get in gear to clear her name.

**GODDARD, ROBERT** FINE ART OF INVISIBLE DETECTION (\$16.99) Umiko Wada has recently had quite enough excitement in her life. With her husband recently murdered and a mother who seems to want her married again before his body is cold, she just wants to keep her head down. As a secretary to a private detective, her life is pleasingly uncomplicated, filled with coffee runs, diary management and paperwork. That is, until her boss takes on a new case. A case which turns out to be dangerous enough to get him killed. A case which means Wada will have to leave Japan for the first time and travel to London. Following the only lead she has, Wada quickly realises that being a detective isn't as easy as the television makes out. And that there's a reason why secrets stay buried for a long time. Because people want them to stay secret. And they're prepared to do very bad things to keep them that way...

**GRESHAM, WILLIAM LINDSAY** NIGHTMARE ALLEY movie tie-in ed. (\$23.95) The novel begins with an extraordinary description of a carnival-show geek—alcoholic and abject and the object of the voyeuristic crowd's gleeful disgust and derision—going about his work at a county fair. Young Stan Carlisle is working as a carny, and he wonders how a man could fall so low. There's no way in hell, he vows, that anything like that will ever happen to him. And since Stan is clever and ambitious and not without a

useful streak of ruthlessness, soon enough he's going places. Onstage he plays the mentalist with a cute assistant (before long his harried wife), then he graduates to full-blown spiritualist, catering to the needs of the rich and gullible in their well-upholstered homes. It looks like the world is Stan's for the taking. At least for now.

**GRIPPANDO, JAMES swytek** TWENTY (#17) (\$21) It is the message every parent of a school-age child fears: "Active Shooter on Campus." Jack Swytek is at his office when he receives the emergency text from Riverside Day School. Both his daughter, Righley, and his wife, FBI agent Andie Henning, are in danger. Andie is in the school's rec center when she hears the fire alarms, then loud popping noises and screams coming from the hallway. A trained law-enforcement officer, Andie knows she's supposed to stay locked down inside the room. But Righley is in her kindergarten classroom and Andie must get her to safety. The tragedy prompts mass hysteria—and dangerous speculation. The police haven't identified the shooter, but they find a handgun on the school grounds registered to a parent, a Muslim man named Amir Khoury. Andie is shocked—Amir is married to her friend, Lilly, a WASP whose bloodline goes back to the American Revolution. Anti-Muslim fervor explodes to levels unseen since 9/11. Terrified for her son's life, Lilly asks Jack to step in.

**GUERRIER, SIMON** FURTHER ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES – THE GREAT WAR (\$19.95) December 1917. An important visitor arrives at a field hospital not far from the front, who makes sharp deductions about the way the ward is run based on small details that he sees. Sherlock Holmes is apparently only present for a tour, but asks searching questions about a young officer who apparently died in the hospital, but whose records have mysteriously vanished. As Holmes digs deeper, details emerge pertaining to a cover-up that stretches from the trenches to the top of the War Office, and conspiracy on both the British and enemy fronts.

**HAMMER, CHRIS scarsden** SILVER (#2) (\$28) Journalist Martin Scarsden returns to Port Silver to make a fresh start with his partner Mandy. But he arrives to find his childhood friend murdered—and Mandy is the prime suspect. Desperate to clear her name, Martin goes searching for the truth. The media descends on the coastal town, compelled by a story that has it all: sex, drugs, celebrity, and religion. Martin is chasing the biggest scoop of his career, and the most personal. As Martin draws closer to a killer, the secrets of his traumatic childhood come to the surface, and he must decide what is more important—the story or his family...

**HAMMER, CHRIS scarsden** TRUST (#3) (\$28) On a bright sunny day in Port Silver, ex-journalist Martin Scarsden misses a call from his girlfriend Mandy. Checking his voicemail later, all he hears is her terrified scream before the phone cuts off. Back at the house, he finds a policeman unconscious on the floor, and Mandy gone. So starts a riveting tale of intrigue and danger, as Martin probes the hidden past of the woman he loves. But can he trust her, once her shocking secrets are finally revealed?

**HANNAH, MARI daniels** MURDER WALL (#1) (\$19.99) Eleven months after discovering a brutal double murder in a sleepy Northumbrian town, Detective Chief Inspector Kate Daniels is still haunted by her failure to solve the case. Then the brutal killing of a man on Newcastle's Quayside gives Daniels another chance to get it right, and her first case as Senior Investigating Officer. When Daniels recognises the corpse, but fails to disclose the fact, her personal life swerves dangerously into her professional life. But much worse, she is now being watched. As Daniels steps closer to finding a killer, a killer is only a breath away from claiming his next victim...

**HILL, SUSAN serrailer** CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCE (#11) (\$25 trade paperback, \$42.95 hard cover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

**HILLERMAN, ANNE STARGAZER (#6)** (\$12.99) What begins as a typical day for Officer Bernadette Manuelito—serving a bench warrant, dealing with a herd of cattle obstructing traffic, and stumbling across a crime scene—takes an unexpected twist when she's called to help find an old friend. Years ago, Bernie and Maya were roommates, but time and Maya's struggles with addiction drove them apart. Now Maya's brother asks Bernie to find out what happened to his sister. Tracing Maya's whereabouts, Bernie learns that her old friend had confessed to the murder of her estranged husband, a prominent astronomer. But the details don't align. Suspicious, Bernie takes a closer look at the case only to find that nothing is as it seems. Uncovering new information about the astronomer's work leads Bernie to a remote spot on the Navajo Nation and a calculating killer.

**HOLLIS, LEE maya sandra** MURDER AT THE BAKE SALE (#2) (\$11.99) While private investigator Maya Kendrick is still mentoring her new partner, PTA president Sandra Wallage, in the detective game, the two women don't need incredible powers of deduction to know their marriages are on the rocks. With Maya's ex-cop husband in prison and Sandra's senator spouse separated from her, both find themselves investigating the dating scene. Until Diego Sanchez turns up dead. The flirtatious high school Spanish teacher who had eyes for Maya was poisoned by cookies from a bake sale fundraiser for a Portland High school class trip to Spain...



**HOROWITZ, ANTHONY** **magpie** MOONFLOWER MURDERS (#2) (\$18.99) Retired publisher Susan Ryeland is living the good life, running a small hotel on a Greek island with her boyfriend, Andreas. It should be everything she's always wanted. But she's exhausted with the responsibilities of making everything work on an island where nothing ever does, and truth be told, she's beginning to miss London. Then the Trehearnes come to stay, and the strange and mysterious story they tell—about a murder that took place the day their daughter Cecily got married at Farlingaye Hall, a picturesque inn on the Suffolk coast—fascinates Susan and piques her editor's instincts. Because, one of her former writers, the late Alan Conway's third book was based on that very crime. Cecily, who had read Conway's mystery, believed the book proved that the man convicted of Parris's murder was innocent. When the Trehearnes reveal that Cecily is now missing, Susan knows that she must return to England to find out what really happened.

**JEFFERIES, DINAH** **daughters** DAUGHTERS OF WAR (#1) (\$24.99) Deep in the river valley of the Dordogne, in an old stone cottage on the edge of a beautiful village, three sisters long for the end of the war. Hélène, the eldest, is trying her hardest to steer her family to safety, even as the Nazi occupation becomes more threatening. Elise, the rebel, is determined to help the Resistance, whatever the cost. And Florence, the dreamer, just yearns for a world where France is free. Then, one dark night, the Allies come knocking for help. And Hélène knows that she cannot sit on the sidelines any longer. But secrets from their own mysterious past threaten to unravel everything they hold most dear...

**KENNEDY, MARGARET** FEAST (\$19.50) Cornwall, Midsummer 1947. Pendzack Manor Hotel is buried in the rubble of a collapsed cliff. Seven guests have perished, but is it murder, and what brought this strange assembly together for a moonlit feast before this Act of God—or Man? Over the week before the landslide, we meet the hotel guests in all their eccentric glory: and as friendships form and romances blossom, sins are revealed, and the cliff cracks widen...Published 1950.

**KEPLER, LARS linna** LAZARUS (#7) (\$22) Sometimes the past won't stay buried. All across Europe, the most ruthless criminals are suffering gruesome deaths. At first, it seems coincidental that their underworld affiliations are finally catching up to them. But when two of the victims are found to have disturbing connections to Detective Joonas Linna, it becomes clear that there's a single killer at work. Still, police are reluctant to launch an investigation. If a mysterious vigilante is making their jobs easier, why stand in his way? Joonas, however, is convinced this is no would-be hero. These deaths serve a much darker purpose. Desperate for help, Joonas turns to Saga Bauer.

**KIRINO, NATSUO** GODDESS CHRONICLE (\$19.50) On an island in the shape of a teardrop live two sisters. One is admired far and wide, the other lives in her shadow. One is the Oracle, the other is destined for the Underworld. But what will happen when she returns to the island? Based on the Japanese myth of Izanami and Izanagi, a fantastical tour de force about ferocious love and bitter revenge.

**LARSSON, ASA martinsson** SECOND DEADLY SIN (#5) (\$28) At the end of a deadly bear hunt across the wilderness of Northern Sweden, the successful hunters are shaken by a grisly discovery. Across in Kurravaara, a woman is murdered with frenzied brutality: crude abuse scrawled above her bloodied bed, her young grandson nowhere to be found. Only Rebecka Martinsson sees a connection. Dropped from the case thanks to a jealous rival, she now stands alone against a killer who brings death to young and old, spawned by a horrifying crime that festers after one hundred years on ice.

**LATHAM, MARTIN** BOOKSELLER'S TALE (\$21.99) This is the story of our love affair with books, whether we arrange them on our shelves, inhale their smell, scrawl in their margins or just curl up with them in bed. Taking us on a journey through comfort reads, street book stalls, mythical libraries, itinerant pedlars, radical pamphleteers, extraordinary bookshop customers and fanatical collectors, this Canterbury bookseller uncovers the curious history of our book obsession—and his own. Part cultural history, part literary love letter and part reluctant memoir, this is the tale of one bookseller and many, many books.

**LINDSAY, JEFF riley wolfe** FOOL ME TWICE (#2) (\$12.99) Stealing a Faberge egg. Surviving a double cross. And pulling off the most incredible robbery ever, for the world's most demanding—and dangerous—collector. This will be the challenge of thief extraordinaire Riley Wolfe's life. Held prisoner by a top-dog international arms dealer, and a top-notch art collector, Riley has to steal an artwork. Small problem—it's a fresco, "The Liberation of St. Peter." Slightly larger problem—it's in the Vatican. And, it's a literal wall. Riley has no choice: agree or die. But when his captor turns him loose, he finds even more dangerous criminals waiting to ensnare him, threatening his life and the life of the woman he loves. The threat is clear. Riley knows they both have only one way out.

**LOMBARD, NAP** MURDER'S A SWINE (\$22.50) In the blackout conditions of a wintry London night, amateur sleuth Agnes Kinghof and a young air-raid warden have stumbled upon a corpse stowed in the walls of their street's bomb shelter. As the police

begin their investigation, the night is interrupted once again when Agnes' upstairs neighbour, Mrs. Sibley is terrorised by the sight of a grisly pig's head at her fourth-floor window. With the discovery of more sinister threats mysteriously signed "Pig-sticker," Agnes and her husband, Andrew—unable to resist a good mystery—begin their investigation to deduce the identity of a villain living amongst them in their block of flats. A witty and light-hearted mystery full of intriguing period detail, this rare gem of Golden Age crime returns to print for the first time since its publication in 1943.

**LOVEGROVE, JAMES holmes** SH AND THE BEAST OF THE STAPLETONS

**(#7)** (\$21.95) 1894. The monstrous Hound of the Baskervilles has been dead for five years, along with its no less monstrous owner, the naturalist Jack Stapleton. Sir Henry Baskerville is living contentedly at Baskerville Hall with his new wife Audrey and their three-year-old son Harry. Until, that is, Audrey's lifeless body is found on the moors, drained of blood. It would appear some fiendish creature is once more at large on Dartmoor and has, like its predecessor, targeted the unfortunate Baskerville family. Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson are summoned to Sir Henry's aid, and our heroes must face a marauding beast that is the very stuff of nightmares. It seems that Stapleton may not have perished in the Great Grimpen Mire after all, as Holmes believed, and is hell-bent on revenge...

**MACGARRITY/MCGARRITY, MICHAEL kerney** HEAD WOUNDS (#14)

(\$22.95) Given a chance to salvage his law enforcement career, Dona Ana County Sheriff's Detective Clayton Isteo catches a bizarre late-night double homicide at a Las Cruces hotel. Both victims, a man and a woman, have been scalped with their throats cut. The murders show all the signs of a signature hit, but national and state crime databases reveal no similar profiles. Digging into the victims' backgrounds, Clayton discovers that six months prior the couple had walked out of a nearby casino with \$200,000 of a high-stakes gambler's money. He also learns the crime had been hushed up by an undercover federal DEA agent, who resurfaces and recruits Clayton for a dangerous mission to seize the Mexican drug lord responsible for the killings. Thrust into the nightmare world of borderland drug wars and corrupt cops, Clayton duels with a cunning assassin poised to kill him and his family in a ferocious climax to the Kevin Kerney series that is sure to stun.

**MACKEVETT/MCKEVETT, G A granny** MURDER AT MABEL'S MOTEL (#3)

(\$21.95) As quirky as McGill's residents can be, they usually welcome society's oddballs and outcasts into the community with open arms. But the three members of the Lone White Wolf Pack are a different story. Townsfolk aren't feeling the least bit neighborly toward the gang widely believed to have orchestrated several hate crimes in the area. When the group's leader Billy Ray Sonner is found dead in an abandoned motel, most assume it was the result of an accidental overdose. An unfortunate yet predictable end for a man who lived the way Billy did. Only Stella and the sheriff have witnessed the crime scene in person, and suspect something more disturbing happened in that ramshackle room...

**MACLEAN, S G seeker** HOUSE OF LAMENTATIONS (#5) (\$17.99) Summer, 1658, and the Republic may finally be safe: the combined Stuart and Spanish forces have been heavily defeated by the English and French armies on the coast of Flanders, and the King's cause appears finished. Yet one final, desperate throw of the dice is planned. And who can stop them if not Captain Damian Seeker? The final book in this acclaimed and award-winning series of historical thrillers. Will Seeker's legacy endure?

**MACPHERSON/MCPHERSON, CATRIONA dandy** TURNING TIDE (#14)

(\$14.99) It's a breezy Scottish summer of 1936 and aristocratic sleuth Dandy Silver, along with trusted colleague Alec Osborne, has been called to solve the strange case of the Cramond Ferrywoman, on the Firth of the Forth. From their cheerless digs in a local stately home, Dandy and Alec track Vesper Kemp, the ferrywoman, to a tiny tidal island. She seems to have lost her mind, roaming the beaches in rags, ranting about snakes and mercury. What is even more troubling, is that Vesper claims she murdered Peter Haslett, a young man who fell into the river, trying to row past ones of its four water mills, and drowned. A group of worried Cramond residents—the minister, the innkeeper, and the lady of the big house—are determined that Vesper is innocent. But with four local millers themselves remaining oddly tight-lipped and with all the suspicious strangers who lurk about the village, Dandy and Alec have their work cut out for them. And the closer they get to the answers they seek, the stronger the sense that great danger lies beneath the surface of these murky waters.

**MACRAE, MOLLY bookshop** HEATHER AND HOMICIDE (#4) (\$22.95) True crime writer Heather Kilbride arrives in the seacoast town of Invergaill, Scotland, to research a recent murder for her new book. But if that's true, why does she seem more interested in William Clark, a shadowy lawyer with no connection to the murder? Her nosy questions arouse the suspicions of Constable Hobbs, the members of a local writers' group, and Janet Marsh and her crew of amateur sleuths at Yon Bonnie Books. Heather's unconventional research methods prove deadly when Janet discovers her lifeless body. Except the "body" turns out to be a dummy dressed-up to look like Heather.

Meanwhile, Heather is sitting at a safe distance observing Janet's reactions. Then Heather is found dead—again—sprawled at the base of an ancient standing stone; and this time it's for real. Clutched in her hand is a valuable miniature book last seen at Yon Bonnie Books, and now the police want to know how Heather, the miniature book, and Janet are all connected. But Janet and her group of sleuths have two questions of their own: Who else is interested in knowing that connection—and is that person a cold-blooded killer?

**MACY, MEG teddy bear** BEAR A WEE GRUDGE (#5) (\$21.95) It's springtime in Silver Hollow, Michigan, and Sasha is looking forward to the village's inaugural Highland Fling weekend. Plans are underway for a Kilted 5K, athletic competitions, dancing, live music, and even a Hurl-the-Haggis contest. Meanwhile, Sasha's staff is busy crafting custom teddy bears in kilts for the Silver Bear Shop's vendor booth. But trouble's brewing behind the scenes, as the obnoxious Teddy Hartman, former owner of a rival teddy bear company, sows seeds of discord about town, targeting Sasha's family and their business. Things go from plaid to worse when—just a week before the festival kicks-off—the disgruntled gossip is found murdered with an ax buried in his back. Sasha's dad is arrested, since he's a champion ax-thrower. But she doesn't give a dram what it looks like—Sasha knows that despite the old business rivalry with Hartman, her father is innocent. So with a spot of help from her friends, Sasha must bag the real killer before her first Fling also becomes her last.

**MAITLAND, BARRY PROMISED LAND (#13)** (\$32.95) Newly promoted Detective Chief Inspector Kathy Kolla investigates a series of brutal murders on Hampstead Heath. Under intense pressure to find answers, she arrests the unlikely figure of Charles Pettigrew, a failing London publisher who lives alone on the edge of the Heath. Pettigrew's lawyer calls on recently retired David Brock for advice, and soon, unable to resist the pull of investigation, the old colleagues, Brock and Kolla, are at loggerheads. At the heart of the gripping mystery of the Hampstead murders lies a manuscript of an unknown novel by one of the greatest literary figures of the 20th century. Brock believes that its story will unlock the puzzle, but how?

**MARQUES, PATRICIA COLOURS OF DEATH** (\$24.99) In the Gare do Oriente, a body sits, slumped, in a stationary train. A high-profile man appears to have died by throwing himself repeatedly against the glass. But according to witnesses, he may not have done this of his own accord. It's Lisbon 2021. A small percentage of the population are diagnosed as Gifted. Along with the power comes stigma and suspicion. In a prejudiced city, Gifted Inspector Isabel Reis is hiding her own secrets while putting her life on the line to stop an ingenious killer. A violent and mysterious crime. Suspected Gifted involvement. A city baying for blood. And a killer who has only just begun...

**MORRIS, WANDA M ALL HER LITTLE SECRETS** (\$23.99) Ellice Littlejohn seemingly has it all: an Ivy League law degree, a well-paying job as a corporate attorney in midtown Atlanta, great friends, and a "for fun" relationship with a rich, charming executive, who just happens to be her white boss. But everything changes one cold January morning when Ellice arrives in the executive suite and finds him dead with a gunshot to his head. And then she walks away like nothing has happened. Why? Ellice has been keeping a cache of dark secrets, including a small-town past and a kid brother who's spent time on the other side of the law. She can't be thrust into the spotlight—again. But instead of grieving this tragedy, people are gossiping, the police are getting suspicious, and Ellice, the company's lone black attorney, is promoted to replace her boss. While the opportunity is a dream-come-true, Ellice just can't shake the feeling that something is off. When she uncovers shady dealings inside the company, Ellice is trapped in an impossible ethical and moral dilemma. Suddenly, Ellice's past and present lives collide as she launches into a pulse-pounding race to protect the brother she tried to save years ago and stop a conspiracy far more sinister than she could have ever imagined...

**OLIVER, KATIE PRIDE PREJUDICE AND PERIL** (\$11.99) Phaedra Brighton is actively content with her life of lecturing college students, gossiping with her best friends, and dreaming of Mr. Darcy. As a young, respected (if somewhat peculiar) English professor, her expertise lies in all things Jane Austen—but she knows that the closest she'll ever get to being a real-life Elizabeth Bennet is in her dreams. When *Who Wants to Marry Mr. Darcy*, a new reality TV show, starts filming at her best friend Charlene's estate, Phaedra is intrigued. And when the producer asks her to lend her Austenian knowledge as a consultant on the show, she's over the moon. But on the first day of filming, when Charlene's new husband is found electrocuted and Charlene herself is accused of the crime, Phaedra comes crashing back to reality. With murder on the syllabus and her best friend in dire straits, there's no Mr. Darcy around to help Phaedra—she'll have to get to the bottom of this mystery herself.

**RENDON, MARCIE blackbear** GIRL GONE MISSING (#2) (\$22.95) Cash is off to a local college with the help of Wheaton, who wants her to take hold of her life and aspire to better things. At Moorhead State she sees that people talk a lot but mostly about nothing, not like the men in the fields she's known all her life, who hold the rich topsoil

in their hands, talk fertilizer and weather and prices on the Grain Exchange. In between classes and hauling beets, drinking beer and shooting pool, she begins to dream of the Cities and blonde Scandinavian girls calling for help. Sequel to Murder on the Red River (#1) (\$22.95).

**REYNOLDS, ROD BLACK REED BAY** (\$21.95) When a young woman makes a distressing middle-of-the-night call to 911, apparently running for her life in a quiet, exclusive beachside neighbourhood, miles from her home, everything suggests a domestic incident. Except no one has seen her since, and something doesn't sit right with the officers at Hampstead County PD. With multiple suspects and witnesses throwing up startling inconsistencies, and interference from the top threatening the integrity of the investigation, lead detective Casey Wray is thrust into an increasingly puzzling case that looks like it's going to have only one ending. And then the first body appears...

**ROBOTHAM, MICHAEL WHEN YOU ARE MINE** (\$24.99) Philomena McCarthy is a young, ambitious police officer with the elite Metropolitan Police in London. When she responds to a domestic violence call, she finds the victim, Tempe Brown, trying to protect her abuser, a married man named Darren Goodall, a decorated Scotland Yard detective afraid of no one. As Philomena pursues the case against him, she not only encounters resistance from her police force colleagues but also becomes dangerously entangled with the victim—who is not at all whom she appears to be—much to the increasing endangerment of herself and Henry, her fiancée. Complicating matters is Philomena's estranged father Edward McCarthy, a powerful man who has built a criminal empire along with his brothers. Philomena has long tried to pursue her career as a police officer without her father's involvement, but as she falls under suspicion of stalking and harassing Goodall, her father becomes involved. As the situation escalates, Tempe's sinister maneuvers further entangle Philomena in a web of secrets, corruption, and murder, putting Philomena's impending marriage, career, and very survival in jeopardy...

**ROSENFELT, DAVID DOGTRIPPING: 25 RESCUES, 11 VOLUNTEERS, AND 3 RVs** (\$13.50) When the author of the Andy Carpenter mystery series, and his family moved from Southern California to Maine, he thought he had prepared for everything. They had mapped the route, brought three GPSs for backup, as well as refrigerators full of food, and stoves and microwaves in which to cook it. But traveling with twenty-five dogs turned out to be a bigger ordeal than he had anticipated, despite the RVs, the extra kibble, volunteers (including a few readers), and camping equipment. The author recounts the adventure of moving his animal companions across the United States with humor and warmth, and tells the tale of how he and his wife became passionate foster parents for rescue dogs, culminating in the creation of the Tara Foundation and successfully placing several thousand dogs with loving families.

**ROSS, BARBARA darrowfield JANE DARROWFIELD, PROFESSIONAL BUSY-BODY (#1)** (\$10.99) After Jane helps a friend with a sticky personal problem, word starts to spread around her bridge club—and then around all of West Cambridge, Massachusetts—that she's the go-to girl for situations that need discreet fixing. Soon she has her first paid assignment—the director of a 55-and-over condo community needs her to de-escalate hostilities among the residents. As Jane discovers after moving in for her undercover assignment, the mature set can be as immature as any high schoolers, and war is breaking out between cliques. It seems she might make some progress—until one of the aging “popular kids” is bludgeoned to death with a golf club. And though the automatic sprinklers have washed away much of the evidence, Jane's on course to find out whodunit . . .

**ROWLEY, EMMA YOU CAN TRUST ME** (\$17.99) Olivia is the domestic goddess who has won millions of followers by sharing her picture-perfect life online. And now she's releasing her tell-all autobiography. For professional ghostwriter Nicky it's the biggest job of her career. But as she delves deeper into Olivia's life, cracks begin to appear in the glamorous façade. From the strained relationship with her handsome husband, to murky details of a tragic family death in her childhood, the truth belies Olivia's perfect public image. But why is Olivia so desperate to leave an old tragedy well alone? And how far will she go to keep Nicky from the truth?

**SEYMOUR, GERALD CROCODILE HUNTER** (\$24.99) In the office at MI5 where he works, they call Jonas Merrick 'the eternal flame'. It isn't a compliment. It's because he never goes out. He never goes undercover, never does surveillance, never goes with the teams that kick down the doors or seize the suspects off the street. He commutes in to work and sits at his desk and then he goes home. But Jonas has qualities the hot-shots fail to notice: a steely concentration, a ruthless ability to focus and find the enemy hiding in plain sight. Hearing of a British Jihadi returning from Syria with murderous plans, Jonas sends out for a telling photograph: a crocodile, almost submerged, just its eyes above water as it waits for unsuspecting prey to drink at the riverbank. Coming ashore near Dover, Cameron Jilkes is a young man from a broken home and a failed education, trained in the harshest theatre of war, driven to rage by loss and pain. And this time, 'the eternal flame' must go out—to hunt the crocodile himself...

**SIGURDARDOTTIR, YRSA huldar GALLOWS ROCK (#4)** (\$17.99) On a jagged, bleak lava field just outside Reykjavik stands the Gallows Rock. Once a place of execution, it is now a tourist attraction. Until this morning, when a man was found hanging from it...The nail embedded in his chest proves it wasn't suicide. But when the police go to his flat, a further puzzle awaits: a four-year-old boy has been left there. He doesn't seem to have any link with the victim, his parents cannot be found, and his drawings show he witnessed something terrible. As detective Huldar hunts the killer, and child psychologist Freyja looks for the boy's parents, the mystery unfolds: a story of violence, entitlement, and revenge.

**SHARP, ZOE BLOOD WHISPERER** (\$30) Kelly Jacks had a lover's bond with evidence. The driest, most antiseptic crime scene would spread open for her, yielding its secrets. And then it all went bad. Framed for an ugly murder, Kelly knew the evidence would clear her . . . and then it didn't. After years in prison, Kelly now works cleaning up the crime scenes she used to investigate. And once again, she wakes up next to a dead body and clutching a weapon. Remembering nothing. And certain of two things: Evidence doesn't love her anymore, and someone really wants her behind bars. A standalone from the author of the Charlie Fox series.

**SHARP, ZOE blake & byron LAST TIME SHE DIED (#1)** (\$26) The sun is shining as the Fitzroy family gather to mourn the death of their beloved husband and stepfather. No one but Byron sees the young woman with the white-blonde hair hiding in the shadows. She watches them for a moment, then she is gone. While the family is at the funeral, the woman breaks into their home. She waits for them to come home, for the police to be called. When she is arrested, she smiles calmly at the outraged people around her and says she has every right to be there. She is Blake Claremont, the late Mr Fitzroy's daughter. But Blake vanished ten years ago. She is presumed dead. Detective John Byron is currently on leave, but he has been asked by his old force to take a quiet look into Fitzroy's death.

**SIGURDARDOTTIR, YRSA huldar DOLL (#5)** (\$24.99) It was meant to be a quiet family fishing trip, a chance for mother and daughter to talk. But it changes the course of their lives forever. They catch nothing except a broken doll that gets tangled in the net. After years in the ocean, the doll a terrifying sight and the mother's first instinct is to throw it back, but she relents when her daughter pleads to keep it. This simple act of kindness proves fatal. That evening, the mother posts a picture of the doll on social media. By the morning, she is dead and the doll has disappeared. Several years later and Detective Huldar is in his least favourite place—on a boat in rough waters, searching for possible human remains. However, identifying the skeleton they find on the seabed proves harder than initially thought, and Huldar must draw on psychologist Freyja's experience to help him. As the mystery of the unidentified body deepens, Huldar is also drawn into an investigation of a homeless drug addict's murder, and Freyja investigates a suspected case of child abuse at a foster care home. What swiftly becomes clear is that the cases are linked through a single, missing, vulnerable witness: the young girl who wanted the doll all those years ago.

**SMITH, FIONA VEITCH CRYSTAL CRYPT** (\$28) Reporter sleuth Poppy Denby is asked to investigate the mysterious death of an up-and-coming female scientist in an Oxford laboratory known as the Crystal Crypt. The official verdict is that Dr June Leighton died in a tragic accident, but Dr Leighton's lab assistant believes it was murder. However, when Poppy discovers that the colleague has spent time in a mental institution and has an unresolved murder in her own past, Poppy wonders if she is being misled. But then, another female academic is attacked, and Poppy herself becomes a target.

**STABENOW, DANA CAMPBELL SPOILS OF THE DEAD (#5)** (\$21.95) Newenham is an ice-bound bush town with a six-bed jail, a busted ATM and a saloon that does double-duty as a courtroom. It's a wide-enough patch to warrant a state police presence, though, and Trooper Liam Campbell is it. Campbell has been exiled from Anchorage to Newenham in disgrace, busted down from sergeant to trooper in the aftermath of a mistake that cost a family of five their lives, to spend some time in the wilderness. Campbell didn't expect the job to be simple and it hasn't. From the (literally) cutthroat business of commercial fishing, to the paranoid misanthropy of the back-country prospector, to drug dealers, serial killers, and caches of forgotten war gold, he has had his hands full. Now he has a dead archaeologist, murdered at their own dig site, who claimed to be on the verge of a momentous discovery. Fans of the icy frontier, of mystery tinged with a frisson of romance, of laconic lawmen with good intentions, of tai chi and small aircraft piloting take note: Liam Campbell is for you.

**STOCKWIN, JULIAN kydd BALKAN GLORY (#23)** (\$17.99) Captain Sir Thomas Kydd finds his glorious return to England cut short when the Admiralty summons him to lead a squadron of frigates into these waters to cause havoc and distress to the enemy. Kydd is dubbed 'The Sea Devil' by Bonaparte who personally appoints one of his favorites, Dubourdieu, along with a fleet that greatly outweighs the British, to rid him of this menace. At the same time, Nicholas Renzi is sent to Austria on a secret mission

to sound out the devious arch-statesman, Count Metternich. His meeting reveals a deadly plan by Bonaparte that threatens the whole balance of power in Europe. The only thing that can stop it is a decisive move at sea and for this he must somehow cross the Alps to the Adriatic to contact Kydd directly. A climactic sea battle where the stakes could not be higher is inevitable. Kydd faces Dubourdieu with impossible odds stacked against him. Can he shatter Bonaparte's dreams of breaking out of Europe and marching to the gates of India and Asia?

**THOMPSON, VICTORIA counterfeit** CITY OF SCHEMES (#4) (\$11.99) The Great War is over, and Elizabeth and Gideon are busily planning their wedding and welcoming home old friends now discharged from the army. One of them, Captain Logan Carstens, the son and heir of a wealthy family, seems less than happy to be home and with good reason. While Logan was in France, he fell in love with a beautiful French woman named Noelle. He desperately wanted to propose, but he was already engaged and felt bound to honor his commitment. When Logan receives a letter supposedly from Noelle begging for money to help her flee the terrible conditions in France and come to America, Elizabeth is suspicious. There is no way to verify the letter is actually from Noelle, and she fears that a con man or woman might be trying to take advantage of Logan in his vulnerable state. But that is not all Elizabeth has to worry about. Vicious thug Oscar Thornton has gotten wind of her wedding announcement and realizes the woman who conned him is still alive and well. Gideon and Elizabeth have to figure out a way to help their friend while making sure their worst enemy does not destroy their future...

**VANDIVER, ABBY L** MIDNIGHT HOUR: A CHILLING ANTHOLOGY OF CRIME FICTION FROM 20 AUTHORS OF COLOR (\$22.99) From a simple robbery gone horribly wrong to a grisly murder in a secret love dungeon, this stellar collection of crime fiction short stories showcases some of today's finest voices of color. Includes **Jennifer Chow's** Midnight Escapade (After years of silence, two women decide to meet up in a unique escape room but get trapped in a deadly game from which there may be no escape.), **Tracy Clark's** Lucky Thirteen (A gun. A last meal. And only one survivor. Sometimes the stars align—but only for the lucky one—as predator and prey come face-to-face one fateful New Year's Eve.), **H. C. Chan's** Murderers' Feast (Techpreneur John Manley left a trail of duped investors and damaged women in his wake. What happens when two hundred of his closest enemies gather for a five-day gourmet retreat?), **Christopher Chambers' In the Matter of Mabel and Bobby Jefferson** (It's almost midnight, it's snowing, and a bored call center worker catches a customer inquiry that smells of murder. Is he a knight rescuing the intended victim or someone else's pawn?) and others, such as **Richie Narvaez, Frankie Bailey, E. A. Aymar, Faye Snowden, Tina Kashian...**

**WOODMAN, RICHARD drinkwater** UNDER FALSE COLOURS (#10) (\$29.95) Acting for the Admiralty's Secret Department, Captain Nathaniel Drinkwater advertises his cargo of Russian military stores, thus embarking on a scheme to flout Napoleon's Continental System and antagonize the French Emperor's new ally, Czar Alexander.

**WOODS, STUART teddy fay** JACKPOT (#5) (\$12.99) When Peter Barrington and Ben Bachetti come under threat while working at a film festival abroad, Teddy Fay is lured to the glittering city of Macau to resolve the problem. He'll soon come to find that world of posh casinos, luxurious developments, and boundless wealth has a dark underbelly of crime and political intrigue . . . and that the biggest players behind the scenes may be far closer to home than anticipated. With international deals and private vendettas at stake, the villains behind the plot aren't about to let Teddy stand in their way. What they don't know is that this seemingly harmless film producer has more than a few tricks up his sleeve.

**YOKOMIZO, SEISHI kindaich** VILLAGE OF EIGHT GRAVES (#3) (\$19.95) Nestled deep in the mist-shrouded mountains, The Village of Eight Graves takes its name from a bloody legend: in the Sixteenth Century eight samurais, who had taken refuge there along with a secret treasure, were murdered by the inhabitants, bringing a terrible curse down upon their village. Centuries later a mysterious young man named Tatsuya arrives in town, bringing a spate of deadly poisonings in his wake. The inimitably scruffy and brilliant Kosuke Kindaichi investigates.