



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

December 2022

What weather we've been having in the centre of the universe! Here it is, the second week of December and temperatures are nudging the double-digit mark. We've had one snowfall, maybe ten centimetres and it all melted a couple of days later. No doubt, there will be consequences, we need the precipitation and we do not seem to be getting any. I know that climate warming is going to kill us all, but a mild December sure feels nice. Could still be golfing!

As we have done just about every year, we'll keep extended hours during the week before Christmas. I'll put the new hours on the website, so do check there, but essentially, we'll be open Monday the 19th to Friday the 23rd, from 10am to 5pm. December 24th, we'll open from 10 to 2 or 3, depending on how busy we are. This year we will be closed December 25th and open up again on Thursday, January 5th. It's just the way the holidays fall...Fair warning, what our schedule for 2023, and beyond, will be is under serious discussion and we'll send out a note in the very near future as to our plans post-2022.

We hope all of you have a wonderful holiday season and thank you whole heartedly for your wonderful support during 2022.

JD's Picks

VAL MCDERMID as you know is a bestselling author who has written dozens of books, sold bazillions of copies worldwide, won all sorts of awards and has a singing voice that an angel would give its eye teeth for—whatever an eye tooth might be, although it does sound valuable, especially coming from an angel—and last year she introduced us to Allie Burns in 1979 (#1) (\$23.95). This was a delightful throwback to those days before cell phones and the internet and a thousand-channel universe and our heroine is a budding journalist, working at a middling Glasgow newspaper, denied the big stories because she's a woman, and what would she know about the manly things, anyway? Val has always had a dark view of things, but this first novel was delightfully different. Certainly not a cozy, but not one of her Tony Hill adventures either. Lots of Scottish history—no, Scotland wanting to devolve was not a Brexit thing—lots of news of the day and a perfect heroine for the times. *(I also picked this title when it first came out in hardcover. It's a really good read!-Marian).*

The Merchant of Menace,

Sleuth's monthly newsletter, is available for download from 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.

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Will keep that up to date!

Here's a short blurb: It's only January, and the year 1979 has already brought blizzards, strikes, power cuts, and political unrest. For journalist Allie Burns, however, someone else's bad news is the unmistakable sound of opportunity knocking, an opportunity to get away from the "women's stories" her editors at the Scottish daily *The Clarion* keep assigning her. Striking up an alliance with budding investigative journalist Danny Sullivan, Allie begins covering international tax fraud, then a group of Scottish ultranationalists aiming to cause mayhem ahead of a referendum on breaking away from the United Kingdom. Their stories quickly get attention and create enemies for the two young up-and-comers. As they get closer to the bleeding edge of breaking news, Allie and Danny may find their lives on the line.

And, more good news, the second Allie novel, *1989 (#2)* (\$40.50), is also available!

NEIL LANCASTER is another author with a Glasgow setting for his novels featuring DS Max Craigie. *Dead Man's Grave (#1)* (\$12.99) and *The Blood Tide (#2)* (\$24.99) are two entries so far. A number of customers has recommended the first one, so when *Tide* washed up recently I thought I'd give it a go.

Here a quick blurb for *The Blood Tide* : In a remote sea loch on the west coast of Scotland, a fisherman vanishes without trace. His remains are never found. A young man jumps from a bridge in Glasgow and falls to his death in the water below. DS Max Craigie uncovers evidence that links both victims. But if he can't find out what cost them their lives, it won't be long before more bodies turn up at the morgue... Soon cracks start to appear in the investigation, and Max's past hurtles back to haunt him. When his loved ones are threatened, he faces a terrifying choice: let the only man he ever feared walk free, or watch his closest friend die...

This one was longlisted for the 2022 McIlvanney Prize for Scottish Crime Book of the year, so I wasn't the only one who thought this was an excellent read. The third in the series is *Going Back (#3)* but not sure of release dates just yet.

Casting about one evening for something to read, I chanced upon an old mass market copy of *Epitaph for a Spy* by **ERIC AMBLER** and as it had been some years since I read Ambler, I took this one home to have another spin through it. And I was quickly reminded of what a superb thriller writer he was. He is often credited as the inventor of the modern political thriller and John Le Carré once described him as 'the source on which we all draw.' Not many of his novels are still in print, a half-dozen or so, including, fortuitously, *Epitaph* (\$18) so if you want to try one or two, ask, we might have a few used copies on hand. Failing that we can order the new editions.

Here's a short blurb: Josef Vadassy, a Hungarian language teacher, decides to break his journey from Nice to Paris at the windswept coastal town of St Gatién. And there his solitary nightmare begins... Vadassy, a keen photographer, has made his first stop the village chemist, where he leaves a film to be developed. But instead of the expected picture of lizards, the film shows the locations of top-secret military installations. The pictures cannot be released. And, after a none too gentle arrest by two plainclothes policemen, neither can the man who calls himself Josef Vadassy...

This is the kind of novel I like. Cerebral enough, no pyrotechnics, run on sentences that I sometimes have to re-read to understand—Reacher would be flummoxed—a touch of history, and characters that you can care about. *Epitaph* was written in 1938, one of the author's earliest works.

Marian's Picks

The puppies have been spending a lot of time with their daddy. The three of them were going to go the cottage for a few days while I spent time with my brother, but the darned water filtering system had a hissy fit so, no water, no cottage visit. Now, to be honest, himself is not as keen on being at the cottage as I am—no pubs within walking/stumbling distance—so he probably was wishing the hissy fit to happen. The pups, again to be honest, probably like being in the city more than the cottage too, as that means daily visits to the off-leash dog park for them. Prince gets a chance to terrorize his pals with his energy and dad gets a chance to practice his social skills—boy does he need the practice—with the other moms and dads. As they huddle around, coffees steaming in the morning chill, trying to not get bowling balled by speeding masses of fur. I suspect they then spent the rest of the evening as couch potatoes eating chips—all

three love Miss Vickies even more than I do—and imbibing. Fingers crossed that only one of them is imbibing the alcoholic stuff.

I've read a fair number of books over the past month and my favourites are listed below. I can't believe how many new releases there were in November that sounded so interesting and if you are in the bookstore you will see the pile of books I want to read teetering on top of the hard drive by the cash register. And there must also be at least a half a dozen more sitting at the cottage waiting to be read. I won't get to those until the water issue is resolved but I hope that will be soon.

I know I always say that the latest **LOUISE PENNY** is the best one yet and [A World of Curiosities](#) (\$39.99) is certainly that. It is truly sensational. Lots of things that you have loved about this series are in this one: Ruth and Rosa the duck in all their glory; a glimpse of Jean-Guy Beauvoir, prior to him joining the homicide team; Reine Marie and how important she is to the story; a plot so twisted that you will never guess the end (at least I didn't); Three Pines and all of the folks who live there; difficult topics that the author is not afraid to discuss; but most importantly, Gamache, at his best...they are all here. I just loved the book, what can I say. I didn't want the book to end, so I tried to read it as slowly as I could, but I still ended up whipping through it!

Here is the plot description: It's spring and Three Pines is re-emerging after the harsh winter. But not everything buried should come alive again. Not everything lying dormant should re-emerge. But something has. As the villagers prepare for a special celebration, Armand Gamache and Jean-Guy Beauvoir find themselves increasingly worried. A young man and woman have reappeared in the Sûreté du Québec investigators' lives after many years. The two were young children when their troubled mother was murdered, leaving them damaged, shattered. Now they've arrived in the village of Three Pines. But to what end?

Gamache and Beauvoir's memories of that tragic case, the one that first brought them together, come rushing back. Did their mother's murder hurt them beyond repair? Have those terrible wounds, buried for decades, festered and are now about to erupt? As Chief Inspector Gamache works to uncover answers, his alarm grows when a letter written by a long dead stone mason is discovered. In it the man describes his terror when bricking up an attic room somewhere in the village. Every word of the 160-year-old letter is filled with dread. When the room is found, the villagers decide to open it up. As the bricks are removed, Gamache, Beauvoir and the villagers discover a world of curiosities. But the head of homicide soon realizes there's more in that room than meets the eye. There are puzzles within puzzles, and hidden messages warning of mayhem and revenge.

In the November 2022 newsletter JD picked [The Desert Star](#) (\$37) by **MICHAEL CONNELLY** as one of his picks and I must say, it was a terrific read. So, I'm picking it as well. Once again, it's both Renee Ballard and Harry Bosch and they are so good together that I didn't want to stop reading. I literally couldn't put it down. What a super, super read. And the ending. It's pure Bosch.

Here is the blurb: A year has passed since LAPD detective Renée Ballard quit the force in the face of misogyny, demoralization, and endless red tape. But after the chief of police himself tells her she can write her own ticket within the department, Ballard takes back her badge, leaving "the Late Show" to rebuild and lead the cold case unit at the elite Robbery-Homicide Division. For years, Harry Bosch has been working a case that haunts him—the murder of an entire family by a psychopath who still walks free. Ballard makes Bosch an offer: come volunteer as an investigator in her new Open-Unsolved Unit, and he can pursue his "white whale" with the resources of the LAPD behind him. First priority for Ballard is to clear the unsolved rape and murder of a sixteen-year-old girl. The decades-old case is essential to the councilman who supported re-forming the unit, and who could shutter it again—the victim was his sister. When Ballard gets a "cold hit" connecting the killing to a similar crime, proving that a serial predator has been at work in the city for years, the political pressure has never been higher. To keep momentum going, she has to pull Bosch off his own investigation, the case that is the consummation of his lifelong mission. The two must put aside old resentments and new tensions to run to ground not one but two dangerous killers who have operated with brash impunity.

We had a wonderful afternoon with **MAUREEN JENNINGS** on November 19th. She talked about her third Paradise Café mystery [Cold Snap](#) (\$24.95) which features private eye Charlotte Frayne. Not only is it a great story but I was transported to downtown Toronto of the mid 1930s. The atmosphere of the city, the Café (not sure I want to eat the pigeon pie though!), the plot and of course the characters, that Ms. Jenning paints so

well, are all front and centre. I've loved all three books in the series. The first two are Heat Wave and November Rain (\$24.95 each).

Here is the plot summary: November rain in Toronto 1936 has turned into December's cold snap. Charlotte Frayne escapes being hit by a mud-splattered car racing round the corner at Queen and Spadina. The stranger who saves her turns out to be the man her boss, Mr. Gilmore, has helped to escape Germany and is now a refugee in need of shelter.

In a world still recovering from the War to End All Wars and the Spanish Influenza pandemic that killed fifty million people worldwide, and still in the throes of the Great Depression, Stephen Lucas is not just any refugee from the Nazi regime; he is in possession of information that could alter the course of history — but only if seen by persons in power and if acted upon. In a surprising twist of fate, Charlotte's estranged mother reappears, wanting assistance in locating the son she gave up at birth twenty years before. Despite her turbulent feelings about her mother, Charlotte agrees to investigate, having no idea that the two cases will connect in surprising ways.

Back at the Paradise Café, Christmas draws near and Charlotte's beau, Hilliard Taylor, and his partners are in disagreement about the holiday concert. With her beloved grandfather in the mix, there's no telling whether the show will end in good tidings or anarchy.

Hardbacks

ANDREWS, DONNA langslow DASHING THROUGH THE SNOWBIRDS (#32) (\$35.99) Christmas in Caerphilly is wonderful! Unless you're a Canadian whose inconsiderate boss is forcing you to spend the holiday there, far from family and friends, with only a slim chance of a white Christmas. Meg already has her hands full, trying to make the season festive for the dozen programmers who are staying with her and Michael while working on a rush project with her brother's software company. At least it's an interesting project, since the Canadian company is doing forensic genealogy and DNA analysis. When the inconsiderate boss is found murdered, there are too many suspects. Even before their Christmas in exile, his own employees had plenty of motives, and the growing number of people suing the company for faulty DNA analysis and invasion of their genetic privacy include at least one notorious murderer. Can Meg crack the case in time to keep the Yuletide bright?

ATKINSON, KATE SHRINES OF GAIETY (\$36) 1926, and in a country still recovering from the Great War, London has become the focus for a delirious new nightlife. In the clubs of Soho, peers of the realm rub shoulders with starlets, foreign dignitaries with gangsters and girls sell dances for a shilling a time. The notorious queen of this glittering world is Nellie Coker, ruthless but also ambitious to advance her six children, including the enigmatic eldest, Niven, whose character has been forged in the crucible of the Somme. But success breeds enemies, and Nellie's empire faces threats from without and within. For beneath the dazzle of Soho's gaiety, there is a dark underbelly, a world in which it is all too easy to become lost.

BELLI, KATE gotham DECEPTION BY GASLIGHT (#1) (\$35.99) As a chill sets in on New York City in the winter of 1888, a jewel thief dubbed the "Robin Hood of the Lower East Side" has been stealing from the city's wealthiest and giving to the poor. Genevieve Stewart—a young woman whose family is part of Mrs. Astor's famed 400 but who has forged a life of her own as a reporter—decides to chase the story, but gets more than she bargained for: a murder victim sprawled in a dark alley in the dangerous Five Points neighborhood.

BELLI, KATE gotham BETRAYAL ON THE BOWERY (#2) (\$36.99) New York City, summer 1889. Society girl-turned-investigative journalist Genevieve Stewart and wealthy Daniel McCaffrey have arrived at the docks to see their friends, Rupert and Esmie Milton, off on their honeymoon. But the romantic idyll comes to a screeching halt when a crazed man bursts into their stateroom screaming about demons and drops dead before their eyes. The dead man is Marcus Dalrymple, who had once asked Esmie to marry him—and inside Marcus's pocket, Daniel finds a medallion that they trace to a Lower East Side bar called Boyle's Suicide Tavern. The medallions are prizes given to anyone who spends the night there without dying.

BELLI, KATE gotham TREACHERY ON TENTH STREET (#3) (\$37.99) As a heat wave engulfs New York in the summer of 1889, the city's top models begin turning up dead, one by one, suggesting the work of a single killer. Society girl turned investigative journalist Genevieve Stewart is drawn into the case when Beatrice Holler, one of her friend Callie's fellow models, is found with her throat cut.

BETLEY, MATTHEW NEIGHBORHOOD (\$42) It was supposed to be just another ordinary night... What happens when your neighborhood harbors a secret so destructive that dangerous men are willing to kill for it? Welcome to Hidden Refuge, a normal American subdivision full of normal American suburbanites. At least that's what the citizens thought before men impersonating police officers show up on their doorsteps in the middle of the night. Once the entire community is under siege, so begins a long, dark night that will prove to be anything but ordinary. But Zack Chambers, suburban family man and programmer by trade, has his own secret. One he had dearly hoped that he'd never need to use again. The deadly ex-CIA agent and trained operative plots to take back the night, doing whatever it takes to protect his neighborhood. In the face of a small army of trained killers, he's got his wits, his babysitter, his equally lethal brother, and a ragtag group of neighbors willing to help.

BRETT, SIMON DECLUTTERING WASTE OF A LIFE (#3) (\$39.99) Declutterer Ellen Curtis has been working to bring order into the life of Cedric Waites, a recluse in his eighties who hasn't left his house or let anyone inside it since his wife died. On one of her regular visits, Ellen finds the old man dead. Sad but, given his age, perhaps not unexpected. Nothing to get worked up about . . . until the police raise the suspicion that Cedric might have been poisoned! The cause seems to be something he ate, and as Ellen cleared away the old man's food containers, she is under suspicion. As is Dodge, who works for Ellen and has unhelpfully done a runner . . . Meanwhile, a rival declutterer is out to sabotage Ellen's reputable business, her two grown-up children are back home and in crisis, and she has a potential love interest. Ellen's life has taken on a chaotic turn of its own! Can she uncover the killer and bring order back to her own life?

CAVENDISH, CATHERINE DARK OBSERVATION (\$34.95) 1941. In the dark days of war-torn London, Violet works in Churchill's subterranean top secret Cabinet War Rooms, where key decisions that will dictate Britain's conduct of the war are made. Above, the people of London go about their daily business as best they can, unaware of the life that teems beneath their feet. Night after night the bombs rain down, yet Violet has far more to fear than air raids. A mysterious man, a room only she can see, memories she can no longer trust, and a best friend who denies their shared past... Something or someone—is targeting her.

CHRISTIE, WILLIAM SMIRNOV DOUBLE AGENT (#2) (\$36.99) Alexsi Smirnoff—a Russian orphan—was trained as an agent by the Russian Secret Service and inserted into Nazi Germany, where he rose to a position in German intelligence services. As the war grinds on, trapped between two brutal dictatorships, Alexsi betrays both sides in a desperate ploy that succeeds...and fails. His false identities burned, his life at risk, Alexsi attempts to disappear in the hills—but is caught by the British. Recruited by the SIS, and by "C" himself, Alexsi is once again a double agent. Initially betrayed by a Soviet agent inside the SIS (Kim Philby), Alexsi is sent beyond the reach of the Soviets, into Italy with a new identity as a sergeant in the German army. Settled into the headquarters of Field Marshall Albert Kesselring, Alexsi finds himself at the nexus at a critical point in World War II, balancing between the various forces vying for control in the Vatican, the Italian resistance, and the brutal German Army determined to maintain control of Northern Italy. And Alexsi, finally forced to choose sides over his own survival.

CUMMING, CHARLES KITE JUDAS 62 (#2) (\$36.95) After a lifetime working with BOX 88, the transatlantic counterintelligence agency so covert that not even the CIA knows of its existence, master spy Lachlan Kite has made plenty of enemies. And now, as the director of the outfit's operations in the UK, one of those past enemies has him in their sights...

DEAVER, JEFFERY SHAW HUNTING TIME (#4) (\$39) Allison Parker is on the run with her teenage daughter, Hannah, and Colter Shaw has been hired by her eccentric boss, entrepreneur Marty Harmon, to find and protect her. Though he's an expert at tracking missing persons—even those who don't wish to be found—Shaw has met his match in Allison, who brings all her skills as a brilliant engineer designing revolutionary technology to the game of evading detection. The reason for Allison's panicked flight is soon apparent. She's being stalked by her ex-husband, Jon Merritt.

DOHERTY, KEVIN LANDSCAPE OF SHADOWS (\$37.95) The Choice: Give up the killer or ten people die. France, 1941. The small town of Dinon is under German occupation and survival is about the best citizens can hope for. When a Resistance team kills two German troopers, the stark choice for the locals is either give up the assassin or innocent citizens will go to their death.

ELLIS, KATE PETERSON SERPENT'S POINT (#26) (\$36.99) Serpent's Point in South Devon is the focus of local legends. The large house on the headland is shrouded in an ancient tale of evil, and when a woman is found strangled on the coastal path DI Wesley Peterson is called in to investigate. The woman had been house-sitting at Serpent's Point and Wesley is surprised to discover that she was conducting an investigation into unsolved missing persons cases. Could these enquires have led to her murder?

EDWARDS, MARTIN *savernake* BLACKSTONE FELL (#3) (\$34.95) Nell Fagan is a journalist on the trail of a intriguing and bizarre mystery: in 1606, a man vanished from a locked gatehouse in a remote Yorkshire village, and 300 years later, it happened again. Nell confides in the best sleuth she knows, judge's daughter Rachel Savernake. Thank goodness she did, because barely a week later Nell disappears, and Rachel is left to put together the pieces of the puzzle. Looking for answers, Rachel travels to lonely Blackstone Fell in Yorkshire, with its eerie moor and sinister tower. With help from her friend Jacob Flint—who's determined to expose a fraudulent clairvoyant— Rachel will risk her life to bring an end to the disappearances and bring the truth to light.

FOWLER, CHRISTOPHER *bryant* PECULIAR LONDON (\$38.99) Thinking of a jaunt to England? Let Arthur Bryant and John May, London's oldest police detectives, show you the oddities behind the city's façades in this tongue-in-cheek travel guide. This book is nonfiction.

FREDERICKS, MARIAH *LINDBERGH* NANNY (\$36.99) When the most famous toddler in America, Charles Lindbergh, Jr., is kidnapped from his family home in New Jersey in 1932, the case makes international headlines. Already celebrated for his flight across the Atlantic, his father, Charles, Sr., is the country's golden boy, with his wealthy, lovely wife, Anne Morrow Lindbergh, by his side. But there's someone else in their household—Betty Gow, a formerly obscure young woman, now known around the world by another name: the Lindbergh Nanny. A Scottish immigrant, she loves Charlie and when Charlie disappears, she's suddenly a suspect in the eyes of both the media and the public. Betty must find the truth about what really happened that night, in order to clear her own name—and to find justice for the child she loves.

FREEMAN, BRIAN *stride* ZERO NIGHT (#11) (\$40.50) After nearly dying of a gunshot wound, Jonathan Stride has been on leave from the Duluth Police for more than a year. When his partner, Maggie Bei, gets called about a suspicious abduction involving a local lawyer, she tells Stride it's time for him to come back. Attorney Gavin Webster says he paid \$100,000 in ransom money to the men who kidnapped his wife. Now they've disappeared with the cash, and she's still missing. Gavin claims to be desperate to find her—but Stride discovers that the lawyer had plenty of motive to be the mastermind behind the crime.

GRANGER, ANN *markby* DEADLY COMPANY (#16) (\$36.99) Superintendent Alan Markby and his wife Meredith have retired for the night when they are disturbed by a visitor. It's not the first time someone has called at the Old Vicarage in search of a priest, but in this case, having just found a dead body in the churchyard, Callum Henderson needs the police. Accompanying Callum to the graveyard, Alan declares that this has all the hallmarks of a murder scene. News of the incident travels fast in the market town of Bamford, but no one seems willing to admit to knowing the dead man or how he ended up in the cemetery. While every lead points to yet more foul play, nothing can prepare Meredith and Markby for the shocking truth behind this mystery...

GREGORY, SUSANNA *chaloner* PUDDING LANE PLOT (#15) (\$34.99) The people and businesses of London are quickly recovering from the ravages of the plague, none faster than the Court of Charles II where excess, corruption and debauchery has rebounded at a frenetic pace. In Westminster, in the haphazard corridors of White Hall Palace, plans are afoot for a grandiose ball in honour of a long-dead but English-born Pope. Meanwhile, the markets and coffee houses in the city are awash with rumours of war and portents of a coming disaster, inflamed by uncensored newsheets and the wagging tongues of dissatisfied citizens. As the date of the great ball looms closer, Chaloner fears that there is a dangerously credible conspiracy against the throne, and he has very little time to prevent history from repeating itself. . .

GRIFFITHS, ELLY *kaur* BLEEDING HEART YARD (#3) (\$34.99 hardcover, \$24.99 paperback) When Cassie Fitzgerald was at school in the late 90s, she and her friends killed a fellow student. Almost twenty years later, Cassie is a happily married mother who loves her job—as a police officer. She closely guards the secret she has all but erased from her memory. One day her husband finally persuades her to go to a school reunion. Cassie catches up with her high-achieving old friends from the Manor Park School—among them two politicians, a rock star, and a famous actress. But then, shockingly, one of them, Garfield Rice, is found dead in the school bathroom, supposedly from a drug overdose. As Garfield was an eminent—and controversial—MP and the investigation is high profile, it's headed by Cassie's new boss, DI Harbinder Kaur, freshly promoted and newly arrived in London. The trouble is, Cassie can't shake the feeling that one of them has killed again. Is Cassie right, or was Garfield murdered by one of his political cronies? It's in Cassie's interest to skew the investigation so that it looks like it has nothing to do with Manor Park and she seems to be succeeding. Until someone else from the reunion is found dead in Bleeding Heart Yard...

HAYS, KATY CLOISTERS (\$37) When Ann Stilwell arrives in New York City, she expects to spend her summer working as a curatorial associate at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Instead, she finds herself assigned to The Cloisters, a gothic museum and garden renowned for its medieval art collection and its group of enigmatic researchers

studying the history of divination. Desperate to escape her painful past, Ann is happy to indulge the researchers' more outlandish theories about the history of fortune telling. But what begins as academic curiosity quickly turns into obsession when Ann discovers a hidden 15th-century deck of tarot cards that might hold the key to predicting the future. When the dangerous game of power, seduction, and ambition at The Cloisters turns deadly, Ann becomes locked in a race for answers as the line between the arcane and the modern blurs.

HIGASHINO, KEIGO *kaga* DEATH IN TOKYO (#3) (\$36.99) In the Nihonbashi district of Tokyo a man who appears to be very drunk staggers onto a bridge and collapses. The patrolman who sees this scene unfold, goes to rouse the man, only to discover that the man was not passed out, he was dead; that he was not drunk, he was stabbed in the chest. However, where he died was not where the crime was committed—the key to solving the crime is to find out where he was attacked and why he made such a super human effort to carry himself to the Nihonbashi Bridge. That same night, a young man named Yashima is injured in a car accident while attempting to flee from the police. Found on him is the wallet of the murdered man. Tokyo Police Detective Kyoichiro Kaga investigates the two cases.

JAYATISSA, AMANDA YOU'RE INVITED (\$36) When Amaya is invited to Kaavi's over-the-top wedding in Sri Lanka, she is surprised and a little hurt to hear from her former best friend after so many years of radio silence. But when Amaya learns that the groom is her very own ex-boyfriend, she is consumed by a single thought: She must stop the wedding from happening, no matter the cost. But as the week of wedding celebrations begin and rumors about Amaya's past begin to swirl, she can't help but feel like she also has a target on her back. When Kaavi goes missing and is presumed dead, all evidence points to Amaya. However, nothing is as it seems; each wedding guest has their own dark secret and agenda, and Amaya may not be the only one with a plan to keep the bride from getting her happily ever after...

KAPELKE-DALE, RACHEL INGENUÉ (\$36.99) When former piano prodigy Saskia Kreis returns home to Milwaukee after her mother's unexpected death, she expects to inherit the family estate, the Elf House. But with the discovery that her mother's will bequeathed the Elf House to a man that Saskia shares a complicated history with, she is forced to re-examine her own past—and the romantic relationship that changed the course of her life—for answers. Can she find a way to claim her heritage while keeping her secrets buried, or will the fallout from digging too deep destroy her?

KHAN, AUSMA ZEHNAT *rahman* BLACKWATER FALLS (#1) (\$36.99) Girls from immigrant communities have been disappearing for months in the Colorado town of Blackwater Falls, but the local sheriff is slow to act and the fates of the missing girls largely ignored. At last, the calls for justice become too loud to ignore when the body of a star student and refugee—the Syrian teenager Razan Elkader—is positioned deliberately in a mosque. Detective Inaya Rahman and Lieutenant Waqas Seif of the Denver Police are recruited to solve Razan's murder, and quickly uncover a link to other missing and murdered girls. But as Inaya gets closer to the truth, Seif finds ways to obstruct the investigation. Inaya may be drawn to him, but she is wary of his motives: he may be covering up the crimes of their boss, whose connections in Blackwater run deep.

LANCASTER, NEIL *craigie* BLOOD TIDE (#2) (\$34.99) In a remote sea loch on the west coast of Scotland, a fisherman vanishes without trace. His remains are never found. A young man jumps from a bridge in Glasgow and falls to his death in the water below. DS Max Craigie uncovers evidence that links both victims. But if he can't find out what cost them their lives, it won't be long before more bodies turn up at the morgue... Soon cracks start to appear in the investigation, and Max's past hurtles back to haunt him. When his loved ones are threatened, he faces a terrifying choice: let the only man he ever feared walk free, or watch his closest friend die...

LE CARRE, JOHN PRIVATE SPY THE LETTERS OF JOHN LE CARRE (\$50) The never-before-seen correspondence of John le Carré, one of the most important novelists of our generation, are collected in this beautiful volume. During his lifetime, le Carré wrote numerous letters to writers, spies, politicians, artists, actors, and public figures. This collection is a treasure trove, revealing the late author's humour, generosity, and wit—a side of him many readers have not previously seen.

LINDSAY, JEFF *riley wolfe* THREE-EDGED SWORD (#3) (\$37.99) Super thief Riley Wolfe can do it all. He is a master of disguise, can scale a wall, and can vanish into thin air (thick air, too). He uses these unique talents to rob the richest. But this time, it's the most powerful who have him in their grips. It's not just that the high-up, rogue government agent has abducted the only two people Riley loves: it's the fact that Riley has to do the man's dirty work to set them free. It's something Riley ordinarily would find a modest day's work, infiltrating a madman's Soviet missile silo in one of the world's most remote places, all to find a secret on a tiny flash drive—but he's never had to race the clock like this...

LOVESEY, PETER diamond SHOWSTOPPER (#21) (\$36.95) The cast and crew of a hit British TV show are rumored to be cursed—but are these spooky deaths coincidences or murder? It's up to Bath detective Peter Diamond to find out.

MACCARTHY/MCCARTHY, CORMAC passenger STELLA MARIS (#2) (\$36) The best-selling, Pulitzer Prize-winning author, returns with the second volume of The Passenger series: Stella Maris is an intimate portrait of grief and longing, as a young woman in a psychiatric facility seeks to understand her own existence. Sequel to The Passenger (#1) (\$41).

MARGOLIN, PHILLIP lockwood MURDER AT BLACK OAKS (#6) (\$36.99) Defense Attorney Robin Lockwood is summoned by retired District Attorney Francis Melville to meet with him at Black Oaks, the manor he owns up in the Oregon mountains. The manor has an interesting history—originally built in 1628 in England, there's a murderous legend and curse attached to the mansion. Melville, however, wants Lockwood's help in a legal matter—righting a wrongful conviction from his days as a DA. A young man, Jose Alvarez, was convicted of murdering his girlfriend only for Melville, years later when in private practice, to have a client of his admit to the murder and to framing the man Melville convicted. Unable to reveal what he knew due to attorney client confidence, Melville now wants Lockwood's help in getting that conviction overturned.

MONTILLO, ROSEANNE DELIBERATE CRUELTY: Truman Capote, the Millionaire's Wife, and the Murder of the Century (\$38.99) This book explores the darkly intertwined fates of infamous socialite Ann Woodward and literary icon Truman Capote, sweeping us to the upper echelons of Manhattan's high society—where falls from grace are all the more shocking. When Ann Woodward shot her husband, banking heir Billy Woodward, in the middle of the night in 1955, her life changed forever. Though she claimed she thought he was a prowler, few believed the woman who had risen from charismatic showgirl to popular socialite. Everyone had something to say about the scorching scandal afflicting one of the most rich and famous families of New York City, but no one was more obsessed with the tale than Truman Capote.

OBAMA, MICHELLE LIGHT WE CARRY (\$42) Former First Lady Michelle Obama, author of Becoming (\$24.99), shares practical wisdom and powerful strategies for staying hopeful and balanced in today's highly uncertain world.

ODDEN, KAREN corravan DOWN A DARK RIVER (#1) (\$35.99) London, 1878. One April morning, a small boat bearing a young woman's corpse floats down the murky waters of the Thames. When the victim is identified as Rose Albert, daughter of a prominent judge, the Scotland Yard director gives the case to Michael Corravan, one of the only Senior Inspectors remaining after a corruption scandal the previous autumn left the division in ruins. Reluctantly, Corravan abandons his ongoing case, a search for the missing wife of a shipping magnate, handing it over to his young colleague, Mr. Stiles.

ODDEN, KAREN corravan UNDER A VEILED MOON (#2) (\$38.99) September 1878. One night, as the pleasure boat the Princess Alice makes her daily trip up the Thames, she collides with the Bywell Castle, a huge iron-hulled collier. The Princess Alice shears apart, throwing all 600 passengers into the river; only 130 survive. It is the worst maritime disaster London has ever seen, and early clues point to sabotage by the Irish Republican Brotherhood, who believe violence is the path to restoring Irish Home Rule. For Scotland Yard Inspector Michael Corravan, born in Ireland and adopted by the Irish Doyle family, the case presents a challenge.

PENNY, LOUISE gamache WORLD OF CURIOSITIES (#18) (\$39.99) It's spring and Three Pines is re-emerging after the harsh winter. But not everything buried should come alive again. Not everything lying dormant should re-emerge. But something has. As the villagers prepare for a special celebration, Armand Gamache and Jean-Guy Beauvoir find themselves increasingly worried. A young man and woman have reappeared in the Sûreté du Québec investigators' lives after many years. The two were young children when their troubled mother was murdered, leaving them damaged, shattered. Now they've arrived in the village of Three Pines. But to what end?

REID, IAIN WE SPREAD (\$29.99) Penny, an artist, has lived in the same apartment for decades, surrounded by the artifacts and keepsakes of her long life. She is resigned to the mundane rituals of old age, until things start to slip. Before her longtime partner passed away years earlier, provisions were made, unbeknownst to her, for a room in a unique long-term care residence, where Penny finds herself after one too many "incidents." Initially, surrounded by peers, conversing, eating, sleeping, looking out at the beautiful woods that surround the house, all is well. She even begins to paint again. But as the days start to blur together, Penny—with a growing sense of unrest and distrust—starts to lose her grip on the passage of time and on her place in the world. Is she succumbing to the subtly destructive effects of aging, or is she an unknowing participant in something more unsettling?

SMILEY, JANE DANGEROUS BUSINESS (\$37.99) From the Pulitzer Prize-winning and best-selling author: a mystery set in 1850s Gold Rush California, as two young

prostitutes, best friends Eliza and Jean, attempt to find their way in a lawless town on the fringes of the Wild West—a bewitching combination of beauty and danger—as what will become the Civil War looms on the horizon.

SPOTSWOOD, STEPHEN pentecost SECRETS TYPED IN BLOOD (#3) (\$37)

New York City, 1947: For years, Holly Quick has made a good living off of murder, filling up the pages of pulp detective magazines with gruesome tales of revenge. Now someone is bringing her stories to life and leaving a trail of blood-soaked bodies behind. With the threat of another murder looming, and reluctant to go to the police, Holly turns to the best crime-solving duo in or out of the pulps, Willowjean “Will” Parker and her boss, famed detective Lillian Pentecost.

STECK, RYAN FIELDS OF FIRE (\$38.99) Waiting to be deployed on a critical mission, elite Marine Raider Matthew Redd stops to help a stranger and wakes up hours later to learn his team was wiped out in an ambush. Unable to remember anything, Redd can’t deny the possibility that he’s somehow responsible for the information leak that led to the massacre. He’s given a deal to avoid a charge of treason, but it means walking away from the Corps and the life he loved. As he faces his loss, Matty gets a cryptic message from his adoptive father, J. B.: “Trouble’s come knocking,, Might need your help.” He points his truck home to rural Montana, only to discover that J. B. is dead and the explanation for his death is far from satisfying. Determined to dig up the truth, Redd uncovers a dark global conspiracy with his hometown at the center and no team at his back—except one he might find among past friends, old enemies, and new allies, if he can figure out who to trust.

STRALEY, JOHN cold storage BLOWN BY THE SAME WIND (#3) (\$36.95)

Things in the sleepy fishing town of Cold Storage, Alaska, are changing. It’s the summer of 1968; the men are wearing their hair long, the Vietnam War is at its height, and multiple assassinations have gripped the country. But some things remain the same. Ellie’s bar is still the place to catch up on the town gossip, and there’s a lot to talk about, from the boys who have returned from the war (and the ones who haven’t), to the robberies that are plaguing the locals, to the new guy in town: a famous monk from Kentucky, who seems harmless enough. However, when a handful of other outsiders arrive to town and start poking around the bar and asking questions, Ellie begins to have reservations. Have they followed this mysterious monk, rumored to be the famous author Thomas Merton, to Cold Storage? And what is it that they want, particularly the inept FBI agent with the strange name: Boston Corbett? Inspired by assassination conspiracy theories, the life of Thomas Merton, and the changing tide of the ’60s...a coming-of-age story for the town of Cold Storage itself.

USAMI, RIN IDOL BURNING (\$31) A blistering novel of fame, disconnection, obsession, and disillusion by a young writer not much older than the novel’s heroine... The novel that lit the Japanese publishing world on fire shines a white-hot spotlight on fandom and “stan” culture, the money-making schemes of the pop idol industry, the seductive power of social media, and the powerful emotional void that opens when an idol falls from grace, only to become a real—and very flawed—person.

Paperbacks

ALLEN, HANIA dania gorska MURDER STONES (#4) (\$17.99) Polish-born DS Dania Gorska is called upon to investigate a seemingly straightforward case of an RTA—a car has crashed into a tree, having first hit a deer on an icy road. But a witness has come forward to say he saw someone fleeing the scene and then the autopsy reveals vicious marks on the head of the dead man. Suddenly Dania is looking at murder. The dead man, Eddie Sangster, has had an intriguing past—the youngest of three brothers, he inherited the family estate after the oldest committed suicide and the other simply disappeared. But decades on it would seem someone is out for vengeance as murder stones—carved headstones attesting to the brutal murders of both brothers—start to appear on the grounds of the estate. Clearly the key to the puzzle of the murder stones lies at Sangster Hall, where a calamitous incident in the past is now shaping the present, and it is up to Dania to discover the murderous secret of the Sangster family.

ARCHER, WINNIE bread shop BREAD OVER TROUBLED WATER (#8)

(\$11.99) Photographer Ivy Culpepper is soon to make a home with her husband-to-be in the California beach town of Santa Sofia—but the Yeast of Eden bakery remains her second home. It’s not just a place to work, but a community. And now one member of the community has been murdered . . .

BABSON, MARIAN MURDER ON A MYSTERY TOUR (\$32.99) With their fortunes dwindling, Reggie and his wife, Midge, have turned the family mansion into an English country inn. When Midge gets a call from an old classmate who arranges “mystery tours” for visiting Americans, she happily agrees to host one of these staged-

murder events. But the tour seems to be a disaster from the get-go, with lots of arguing and complaining among those involved. Then, after a massive snowstorm, a real murder takes place—and it's up to the amateur sleuths to solve the case before the killer checks them out permanently.

BARJAS, JALAL BOOKSELLER'S NOTEBOOKS (\$23.95) Set between 1947 and 2019, this novel is based on several notebooks of stories about people facing different hardships, such as losing their homes or not knowing who their families are. Their interwoven destinies reveal the value of the house, as a symbol of one's homeland, as opposed to the surrounding ruination. The central character is Ibrahim the bookseller, a cultured man, and voracious reader of novels who takes on the identity of the protagonists in novels which appeal to him. He becomes a professional thief who robs banks and the very wealthy in order to help the abject poor and impose his own form of justice like Robin Hood. But due to his isolation, loneliness, and maltreatment by a cruel world, he suffers mental illness and descends into full schizophrenia. He attempts suicide, before meeting a mysterious woman who will change his life.

BATTLES, BRETT quinn VANISHED (#15) (\$29.99) It's been nine years since Quinn last worked with Mariko. That fateful job left him with a permanent sense of guilt, and her with a life forever changed. Now, their paths have crossed again. Not in a way Quinn would have hoped for, but at least in one that might allow him to make partial amends. To accomplish this, he will have to risk his career, by ignoring the strict orders he's been given.

BATTLES, BRETT quinn UNKNOWN (#14) (\$29.99) A snowy night. A train making its way through the mountains of Austria. Asleep in one of the private compartments is a very important passenger, a scientist who has created something others desperately want. Precautions have been taken to ensure the man's safe passage, but even with a highly skilled bodyguard onboard, the trip does not go as planned. When the scientist vanishes, Jonathan Quinn and his team are sent in to locate him before the secrets in the man's head can be extracted. Because if that happens, the world would change forever.

BATTLES, BRETT quinn DAMAGED (#13) (\$29.99) Jonathan Quinn is the best at what he does: making bodies disappear. Within the espionage world, his reputation is impeccable. There was a time, though, when that reputation was still being built under his mentor, Durrie. A time when the very man who had taught Quinn all he knew could have derailed the young cleaner's future. Fifteen years ago, Quinn was offered a job. On the surface, a straightforward mission to stop a terrorist. But the client gave Quinn the additional task of taking on Durrie as his number two, as a last chance for the veteran agent to be rehabilitated. Durrie had been on a downward spiral, going from being a highly respected operative to an unreliable has-been. These changes threatened to destroy everything—not only in Quinn's life, but Orlando's, too. She was Durrie's girlfriend, and Quinn's best friend. Both she and Quinn were desperate to help Durrie return to the person he once was. They hoped this job would be the answer. Durrie had other plans.

BATTLES, BRETT quinn BECOMING QUINN (#0) (\$29.99) Most careers begin with an interview and a handshake. Others require a little ... something more. Meet Jake Oliver. The day will come when he's one of the best cleaners in the business, a man skilled at making bodies disappear. At the moment, however, he's a twenty-two year old rookie cop, unaware his life is about to change. In a burning barn a body is found—and the fire isn't the cause of death. The detectives working the case have a pretty good idea about what went down. But Officer Oliver thinks it's something else entirely, and pursues a truth others would prefer remain hidden—others who will go to extreme lengths to keep him quiet. Every identity has an origin. This is Quinn's. A novella.

BERENSON, ALEX POWER COUPLE (\$12.99) Rebecca and Brian Unsworth appear to have it all. A nice house in the suburbs of Washington, DC. Two well-behaved, healthy teenage children. Important government jobs—Rebecca working in counterterrorism for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Brian serving as a coder for the National Security Agency. Their lives stand to improve even more as Brian, in his off-hours, has just developed and sold a highly profitable app. However, the Unsworths' marriage isn't as perfect as it seems. After two decades together, they've drifted apart, talking little and having sex even less. Seeking to revive their strained relationship, they decide for their twentieth wedding anniversary to take their two kids, Kira and Tony, on a European getaway. They have a blast...until one night in Barcelona when Kira doesn't come home from a dance club. She's gone. Abducted. Over the course of a single weekend, the Unsworths will do everything possible to find her—as Kira herself discovers just how far she'll go to break free of the trap that's been set for her. And even as Rebecca and Brian come together for Kira, they realize their marriage is more tenuous than they realized.

BERRY, TAMARA by the book ON SPINE OF DEATH (#2) (\$12.99) Bestselling author Tess Harrow and her teenage daughter Gertrude have decided to make Winthrop their home. Their cabin is fixed up and now they're turning to the family hardware store

that Tess inherited from her late grandfather into the town's first independent bookstore. But when renovations unearth bones from a cold case and send them toppling—literally—onto Tess's head, the work comes to a grinding halt. With the whole town convinced that her grandfather was a serial killer, Tess has to call in a fellow horror author for reinforcements. Together, they'll come up with a perfect story to make all the clues fit...and solve a mystery more than thirty years in the making.

BIRKBY, MICHELLE baker st NO ONE NOTICES THE BOYS (#2) (\$25.50) 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.

BRENNAN, MICHAEL RUN I CAN'T EVEN JOG MY MEMORY (\$15) If you have ever thought of taking up running, you need this motivating and entertaining guide. The author is a former running coach, running clinic instructor, wellness educator, friend. He was one of Marian's coaches when she took up the running for the first time...just after she turned 40!!

BROOK, ALLISON haunted READ AND GONE (#2) (\$22.99) A cache of missing gems brings Carrie Singleton's larcenous dad back into her life—and only she can clear his name. A devoted dad is as precious as diamonds, but Carrie Singleton wouldn't know since her dad Jim's been on the lam most of her life. In an unusual family reunion, she finds Jim breaking into her cottage in the middle of the night. The fun really starts when he begs her to help him recover his half of a twenty-million-dollar gem heist he pulled off with the local jeweler, Benton Parr. When she refuses, Jim takes off again.

BROOKMYRE, CHRIS CUT (\$17.99) Millie Spark can kill anyone. A special effects make-up artist, her talent is to create realistic scenes of bloody violence. Then, one day, she wakes to find her lover dead in her bed. Twenty-five years later, her sentence for murder served, Millicent is ready to give up on her broken life—until she meets troubled film student and reluctant petty thief Jerry. Together, they begin to discover that all was not what it seemed on that fateful night... and someone doesn't want them to find out why.

BURTON, JEFFREY B reid FINDERS (#1) (\$22.99) Mason "Mace" Reid lives on the outskirts of Chicago and specializes in human remains detection. He trains dogs to hunt for the dead. Reid's coming off a difficult year—mourning the death of a beloved springer spaniel as well as the dissolution of his marriage. He adopts a rescue dog with a mysterious past—a golden retriever named Vira. And when Reid begins training Vira as a cadaver dog, he comes to realize just how special the newest addition to his family truly is... Suddenly, Reid and his prize pupil find themselves hurled into a taxing murder case, which will push them to their very limits. Paired with determined Chicago Police Officer Kippy Gimm, Mace must put all his trust in Vira's abilities to thwart a serial killer who has now set his sights on Mace himself.

CALDWELL, EMMIE craft fair KNITS, KNOTS, AND KNIVES (#3) (\$11.99) For once things seem to be running smoothly for knitting enthusiast Lia Geiger. Her daughter is living on her own and happy with her new job on the alpaca farm. Plus, Lia and her Ninth Street Knitters have been knitting for the Civil War re-enactment being held on the grounds next to the Crandalsburg Craft Fair. It's all fun and battle games until one of the "injured soldiers" turns out to be the very real victim of a murder, and Lia's friend and neighbor falls under deep suspicion. Suddenly, the good folks of Crandalsburg are spinning all kinds of yarns and pointing fingers at one another. Lucky for Lia, she has the combined wits of the Ninth Street Knitters to help her ply the truth from this crafty killer.

CARR, JACK terminal list IN THE BLOOD (#5) (\$12.99) A woman boards a plane in the African country of Burkina Faso having just completed a targeted assassination for the state of Israel. Two minutes later, her plane is blown out of the sky. Over 6,000 miles away, former Navy SEAL James Reece watches the names and pictures of the victims on cable news. One face triggers a distant memory of a Mossad operative attached to the CIA years earlier in Iraq—a woman with ties to the intelligence services of two nations...a woman Reece thought he would never see again. Reece enlists friends new and old across the globe to track down her killer, unaware that he may be walking into a deadly trap.

CASPARY, VERA SECRET OF ELIZABETH (\$19.99) Kate and Allan Royce are driving home from a party in Westport, Connecticut one night when they see a girl in a beautiful but muddied dress wandering in the road and stop to pick her up. She is suffering from amnesia, so they name her Elizabeth X and take her into their home while

the police try to establish her identity. They are left in peace, until first a couple claim her as their daughter and then a psychiatrist arrives to say that she has escaped from his clinic. What does seem certain is that she is the child of wealthy parents. But who really is Elizabeth X, and what has happened to her?

CORRIGAN, MAYA ANN five BAKE OFFED (#8) (\$11.99) The Maryland Mystery Fan Fest sounds like exactly the fun getaway cafe manager Val Deniston and her grandfather could use. Granddad will even compete in a dessert competition in which contestants assume the roles of cooks to famous fictional sleuths. Playing Nero Wolfe's gourmet cook Fritz is an exciting challenge for Granddad. A restaurant manager is playing Lord Peter Wimsey's valet and cook Bunter. But Granddad is steamed to learn who will be playing Sherlock Holmes's landlady, Mrs. Hudson—his nemesis Cynthia Sweet, who he believes ripped off his five-ingredient theme from his column "Codger Cook" to use in her own recipe column. Apparently, he isn't the only one who has a beef with his not-so-sweet competitor. When she's found dead in her room with the tea-kettle whistling, it's up to Val and her grandfather to sort through the festival goers to find out who was most definitely not a fan of Cynthia Sweet . . .

CROSBY, ELLEN wine country FRENCH PARADOX (#11) (\$26.99) In 1949, during her junior year abroad in Paris, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis bought several inexpensive paintings of Marie-Antoinette by a little-known 18th century female artist. She also had a romantic relationship with Virginia vineyard owner Lucie Montgomery's French grandfather—until recently, a well-kept secret. Seventy years later, Cricket Delacroix, Lucie's neighbor and Jackie's schoolfriend, is donating the now priceless paintings to a Washington, DC museum. And Lucie's grandfather is flying to Virginia for Cricket's 90th birthday party, hosted by her daughter Harriet. A washed-up journalist, Harriet is rewriting a manuscript Jackie left behind about Marie-Antoinette and her portraitist. She's also adding tell-all details about Jackie, sure to make the book a bestseller. Then on the eve of the party a world-famous landscape designer who also knew Jackie is found dead in Lucie's vineyard. Did someone make good on the death threats he'd received because of his controversial book on climate change? Or was his murder tied to Jackie, the paintings, and Lucie's beloved grandfather?

DELANY, VICKI holmes THREE BOOK PROBLEM (#7) (\$25.99) It's a crisp, early October weekend, and business is slowing down as fall descends at the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop and Emporium and adjacent Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room. Wealthy philanthropist and prominent Sherlockian David Masterson has rented Suffolk Gardens House, where he plans to entertain his friends in a traditional English country house weekend. As the chosen caterers, Jayne Watson and Gemma Doyle get to work preparing lavish meals and setting up Sherlockian books and props for entertainment. Meanwhile, police detective Ryan Ashburton has taken time away from his duties to assist in the kitchen. It quickly becomes apparent that David's guests don't like each other—or their host. Plus, some of them aren't even acquainted with the adventures of the Great Detective. Before Gemma can ponder their relationships a poisoned dart sails through the window of the library, presenting Gemma Doyle with a three-book problem.

EATON, J C sophie GRILLED 4 MURDER (#10) (\$27.99) Sun City West is abuzz with the news that the Food Network is sponsoring a local barbecue cook-off and that Phee's friends from the pinochle club are in the finals. But the mood soon darkens when the county planning committee announces a plan to situate a new garbage transfer station on the town's edge. With tempers flaring and rumors of corruption swirling, it comes as little surprise when the committee's chair, who happens to be a finalist in the cook-off, is found murdered. When Phee's friends are named as the most likely suspects, she knows the accusation stinks to high heaven. . .

EDWARDS, A M PSYCHOPATH (\$21.95) Jez is adulterous husband to Maxine, devoted father to Jamie, promiscuous lover, university professor, pro-vice-chancellor for research – and a serial killer aiming to get to the top by any means necessary. His passion for murder parallels his love of music, and he matches each kill with its own special theme song to enhance the experience as he works towards assembling his very own top forty greatest hits. When the vice-chancellor of lowly ranked Francis Drake University begins to sexually pester Jez's mistress Bella, it accelerates his plans for domination. But will he get there?

ERIKSSON, KJELL lindell DEATHWATCH BEETLE (#9) (\$23.99) Four years have passed since Cecilia Karlsson disappeared from the island of Gräsö in Roslagen. When Ann Lindell receives a tip that she has been seen alive she cannot help getting involved, even though she is no longer with the police. The black sheep of the island, Nils Lindberg, has never forgotten Cecilia Karlsson, with whom he was in love as a teenager. And he carries a secret. He may not be completely sober all the time, but he has no doubt of what he saw out on the bay just before Cecilia disappeared. Cecilia's parents are desperate, not knowing what happened to their daughter. Yet their silent house contains many things that have been left unsaid. While Ann struggles to put the jigsaw puzzle together, she is trying to establish herself in her new life together with her lover

Edvard who, like herself, is marked by life. At the same time, someone is hiding in a cottage in a remote part of the island. Someone who is looking for revenge...

FAYE, LYNDSEY OBSERVATIONS BY GASLIGHT: Stories from the World of Sherlock Holmes (\$24.95) Both new and previously published short stories and novellas narrated by those who knew the Great Detective... Beloved adventuress Irene Adler teams up with her former adversary in a near-deadly inquiry into a room full of eerily stopped grandfather clocks. Learn of the case that cemented the lasting friendship between Holmes and Inspector Lestrade, and of the tragic crime which haunted the Yarder into joining the police force. And witness Stanley Hopkins' first meeting with the remote logician he idolizes, who will one day become his devoted mentor. From familiar faces like landlady Mrs. Hudson to minor characters like Lomax the sub-librarian... a masterful portrait of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson as you have never seen them before.

FIELDING, JOY HOUSEKEEPER (\$24) A woman hires a housekeeper to care for her aging parents—only to watch as she takes over their lives...

FLETCHER, JESSICA MURDER SHE WROTE: KILLER ON THE COURT

(\$11.99) Jessica is delighted when her nephew Grady invites her to spend a few days with his family in an oceanside New York bungalow. She packs her bags and heads down to the city, ready to spend some quality time with Grady; his wife, Donna; and their young son, Frank. But the morning after Jessica's arrival, Donna finds her boss dead on a tennis court, and Jessica's dreams of a relaxing visit are quashed. Everyone in the small beachside community is a suspect, and the local authorities—headed by an old colleague of Cabot Cove sheriff Mort Metzger—have asked that no one leave town. Will Jessica be able to find a killer and salvage the rest of her trip?

FOLLETT, KEN JACKDAWS (\$24) D-Day is approaching. Felicity "Flick" Clariet knows that the Germans' ability to thwart the Allied attack depends upon their lines of communications, and in the days before the invasion no target is of greater strategic importance than the largest telephone exchange in Europe. But when Flick and her Resistance-leader husband try a direct, head-on assault that goes horribly wrong, her world turns upside down. Her group destroyed, her husband missing, her superiors unsure of her, her own confidence badly shaken, she has one last chance at the target, but the challenge, once daunting, is now near impossible. The new plan requires an all-woman team, none of them professionals, to be assembled and trained within days. Code-named the Jackdaws, they will attempt to infiltrate the exchange under the noses of the Germans—but the Germans are waiting for them now and have plans of their own. There are secrets Flick does not know—secrets within the German ranks, secrets among her hastily recruited team, secrets among those she trusts the most. And as the hours tick down to the point of no return, most daunting of all, there are secrets within herself... I thought this book was one of the best books he wrote. I couldn't put it down, says Marian.

FOLLETT, KEN century trilogy EDGE OF ETERNITY (#3) (\$33) In Fall of Giants (#1) (\$29) and Winter of the World (#20) (\$26.50), we follow the fortunes of five international families—American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh—as they made their way through the twentieth century. Now they come to one of the most tumultuous eras of all: the 1960s through the 1980s, from civil rights, assassinations, mass political movements, and Vietnam to the Berlin Wall, the Cuban Missile Crisis, presidential impeachment, revolution—and rock and roll.

GARDNER, LISA ONE STEP TOO FAR (\$12.99) Timothy O'Day knew the woods. Yet he disappeared on the first night of a bachelor party camping trip without a trace, breaking his parents' hearts, driving the other groomsmen mad with guilt, and leaving behind a pile of clues that won't add up. Frankie Elkin doesn't know the woods, but she does know how to find people. When Timothy's father organizes one last search, she heads to the mountains of Wyoming to join the rescue team, only to find that someone out there is willing to do anything to stop them. Soon, they're running out of time and up against the worst man and nature have to offer, discovering the evil that awaits those who go one step too far...

GRAY, ALEX lorimer RIVERMAN (#4) (\$19.99) When the dead body of a man is fished out of Glasgow's River Clyde the morning after an office celebration, it looks like a case of accidental death. An anonymous telephone call and a forensic toxicology test, however, give DCI Lorimer reason to think otherwise. Probing deeper into the life and business of the deceased accountant, Duncan Forbes, a seemingly upright member of the community, Lorimer find only yet more unanswered questions. And when the firm's human resources manager is found dead in her riverside flat these questions become only more complex -- not to mention more disturbing. And Lorimer is having to cope not only with deceptions devised to hide the facts, but also with suspicions from those far closer to home . . .

GRAY, ALEX lorimer PITCH BLACK (#5) (\$19.99) When Chief Inspector Lorimer returns from his holiday on the island of Mull, he feels a welcome sense of calm. But it doesn't last long. Kelvin FC's new star midfielder is found brutally stabbed to death in

his own home and, with his wife apprehended trying to leave the country, a seemingly straightforward new case begins. But the grisly murder of a referee after a Kelvin match throws light on some dark secrets at the ground. As lies emerge and tensions build, Lorimer knows there's a serial killer on the loose—a one that's only beginning to show his true colours.

GREANEY, MARK gray man SIERRA SIX (#11) (\$12.99) Before he was the Gray Man, Court Gentry was Sierra Six, the junior member of a CIA action team. In their first mission they took out a terrorist leader, at a terrible price. Years have passed. The Gray Man is on a simple mission when he sees a ghost: the long-dead terrorist, but he's remarkably energetic for a dead man. A decade of time hasn't changed the Gray Man. He isn't one to leave a job unfinished or a blood debt unpaid.

GRIFFITHS, ELLY kaur BLEEDING HEART YARD (#3) (\$24.99 paperback, \$34.99 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

GUTERSON, DAVID FINAL CASE (\$23) A girl dies one late, rainy night a few feet from the back door of her home. The girl, Abeba, was born in Ethiopia. Her adoptive parents, Delvin and Betsy Harvey—conservative, white fundamentalist Christians—are charged with her murder. Royal, a Seattle criminal attorney in the last days of his long career, takes Betsy Harvey's case. An octogenarian without a driver's license, he leans on his son—the novel's narrator—as he prepares for trial. So begins this examination of justice and injustice—and familial love, the author's first courtroom drama since Snow Falling on Cedars (\$24).

HIGGS, STEVE culinary BEDFORDSHIRE CLANGER CALAMITY (#4) (\$22.50) In the small Bedfordshire town of Biggleswade, retired detective Albert, and former police dog, Rex, are enjoying a peaceful break from the murder and mayhem of the last week. Until the waitress serving him is arrested for murder, and he discovers she killed the café's owner three days ago. But Albert saw her eyes when the police came for her—she is innocent! With evidence stacked against her, no alibi, and both motive and opportunity, she will carry the blame unless someone can prove otherwise. Left holding her dog when the police took her away, Albert does what he does best . . . he snoops. There is something very odd going on, that's for sure, but as he starts to investigate, the woman's checkered past comes to life. Is she guilty after all?

HIGGS, STEVE culinary DEATH OF A YORKSHIRE PUDDING (#5) (\$22.50) After the drama in Biggleswade, our crime-busting duo head to York for the annual Yorkshire pudding competition and a well-earned rest . . . well fat chance of that because they interrupt a violent robbery before they can even get to the venue. When Albert realises he's stumbled across something much bigger than a random mugging, he decides, for once, to leave the crime-solving to the locals. Fate, however, laughs at his plans, thrusting him and faithful canine companion, Rex Harrison, into the thick of things just as the first body is found.

HIGGS, STEVE culinary CUMBERLAND'S AUSAGE SHOCKER (#6) (\$22.50) As they battle to reveal the truth, it's clear someone is working to cover it up and if they don't figure this out in time, someone might not live to see another day. In their most deadly adventure yet, can retired detective Albert and Rex, his former police dog, sniff out the clues?

HIGH, KATE CAT AND THE CORPSE IN THE OLD BARN (#1) (\$17.99) Clarice Beech has two passions in life: animal rescue and Detective Inspector Rick Beech. She is devoted to the first but she and Rick have been separated for the past six months - life without him is hard. Clarice shares her other love, for contemporary ceramics, with the charming Lady Vita Fayrepoint. When Vita's adopted three-legged ginger cat Walter disappears from Weatherby Hall Clarice is called in to find him. Walter, snug in an old barn, is quite well. But his discovery ends with Clarice in hospital, and Rose Miller, late of the Old Vicarage in the morgue. There is nothing natural about Rose's death . . . Putting their differences aside, Clarice and Rick are drawn together to try to understand the murder that has shaken the rural Lincolnshire community.

HILLERMAN, TONY chee GHOSTWAY (\$21.99) Old Joseph Joe sees it all. Two strangers spill blood at the Shiprock Wash-O-Mat. One dies. The other drives off into the dry lands of the Big Reservation, but not before he shows the old Navajo a photo of the man he seeks. This is all Tribal Policeman Jim Chee needs to set him off on an odyssey that moves from a trapped ghost in an Indian hogan to the seedy underbelly of L.A. to an ancient healing ceremony where death is the cure, and into the dark heart of murder and revenge. Published 1985.

HILLERMAN, TONY chee SKINWALKERS (\$25.50) Three shotgun blasts rip through the side of Officer Jim Chee's trailer as the Navajo Tribal Policeman sleeps. He survives, but the inexplicable attack has raised disturbing questions about a lawman once beyond reproach. Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn wonders why Chee was a target and what connection the assault has to a series of gruesome murders that has been plaguing the reservation. But the investigation is leading them both into a nightmare of ritual, witchcraft, and blood . . . and into the dark and mystical domain of evil beings of Navajo legend, the "skinwalkers." Published 1986.

HOLLIS, LEE maya sandra MURDER ON THE CLASS TRIP (#3) (\$11.99) Drafted as chaperones, Maya Kendrick and PTA president Sandra Wallage are accompanying the SoPo High seniors to the nation's capital—much to the embarrassment of Maya's daughter Vanessa and Sandra's son Ryan. Now both moms are about to find out which is harder—shepherding unruly high schoolers or solving a murder. The last sight they expected to see on this trip is a female intern who works for Sandra's soon-to-be-ex-husband, Senator Stephen Wallage, in a fatally compromising position. Desperate to avoid scandal, Stephen begs Maya and Sandra to solve the case. But their FBI counterparts—tough-as-nails agents Markey and Rhodes—are far less enthusiastic about the meddling of two “amateurs.”

HOROWITZ, ANTHONY hawthorne TWIST OF A KNIFE (#4) (\$24.99) Reluctant author, Anthony Horowitz, has had enough. He tells ex-detective Daniel Hawthorne that after three books he's splitting and their deal is over. The truth is that Anthony has other things on his mind: a play. His new play, a thriller called Mindgame, is, alas, panned by the critics. In particular, Sunday Times critic Margaret Throsby gives it a savage review, focusing particularly on the writing. The next day, Throsby is stabbed in the heart with an ornamental dagger which turns out to belong to Anthony and has his fingerprints all over it. Anthony is arrested by an old enemy . . . Detective Inspector Cara Grunshaw. She still carries a grudge from her failure to solve the case described in the second Hawthorne adventure and is out for revenge. Thrown into prison and fearing for both his personal future and his writing career, Anthony is the prime suspect in Throsby's murder and when a second theatre critic is found to have died in mysterious circumstances, the net closes in. Ever more desperate, he realizes that only one man can help him. But will Hawthorne take the call?

JENNINGS, MAUREEN paradise COLD SNAP (#3) (\$24.95) November's rain in Toronto 1936 has turned into December's cold snap. Charlotte Frayne escapes being hit by a mud-splattered car racing round the corner at Queen and Spadina. The stranger who saves her turns out to be the man her boss, Mr. Gilmore, has helped to escape Germany and is now a refugee in need of shelter. In a world still recovering from the War to End All Wars and the Spanish Influenza pandemic that killed fifty million people worldwide, and still in the throes of the Great Depression, Stephen Lucas is not just any refugee from the Nazi regime; he is in possession of information that could alter the course of history—but only if seen by persons in power and if acted upon. In a surprising twist of fate, Charlotte's estranged mother reappears, wanting assistance in locating the son she gave up at birth twenty years before. Despite her turbulent feelings about her mother, Charlotte agrees to investigate, having no idea that the two cases will connect in surprising ways.

KARUNATILAKA, SHEHAN SEVEN MOONS OF MAALI ALMEIDA (\$24.95) Colombo, 1990. Maali Almeida—war photographer, gambler, and closet queen—has woken up dead in what seems like a celestial visa office. His dismembered body is sinking in the serene Beira Lake and he has no idea who killed him. In a country where scores are settled by death squads, suicide bombers, and hired goons, the list of suspects is depressingly long, as the ghouls and ghosts with grudges who cluster round can attest. But even in the afterlife, time is running out for Maali. He has seven moons to contact the man and woman he loves most and lead them to the photos that will rock Sri Lanka.

KHAN, VASEEM wadis LOST MAN OF BOMBAY (#3) (\$26.99) Bombay, 1950. When the body of a white man is found frozen in the Himalayan foothills near Dehra Dun, he is christened the Ice Man by the national media. Who is he? How long has he been there? Why was he killed? As Inspector Persis Wadia and Metropolitan Police criminalist Archie Blackfinch investigate the case in Bombay, they uncover a trail left behind by the enigmatic Ice Man—a trail leading directly into the dark heart of conspiracy. Meanwhile, two new murders grip the city. Is there a serial killer on the loose, targeting Europeans?

KINGSOLVER, BARBARA DEMON COPPERHEAD (\$26.99) Demon Copperhead is set in the mountains of southern Appalachia. It's the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. In a plot that never pauses for breath, relayed in his own unsparing voice, he braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities. A David Copperfield for a new age.

LANCASTER, NEIL craigie BLOOD TIDE (#2) (\$24.99) In a remote sea loch on the west coast of Scotland, a fisherman vanishes without trace. His remains are never found. A young man jumps from a bridge in Glasgow and falls to his death in the water below. DS Max Craigie uncovers evidence that links both victims. But if he can't find out what cost them their lives, it won't be long before more bodies turn up at the morgue...Soon cracks start to appear in the investigation, and Max's past hurtles back

to haunt him. When his loved ones are threatened, he faces a terrifying choice: let the only man he ever feared walk free, or watch his closest friend die...

LAWRENCE, SUE GREEN LADY (\$24.95) 1567, Scotland: no place for a woman. Mary, Queen of Scots, is forced to abdicate in favor of her infant son. She can rely only on the loyalty of her ladies-in-waiting, chiefly Marie Seton. Meanwhile the political turmoil in the country is mirrored behind the walls of beautiful Fyvie Castle. Lilius's marriage to Marie's nephew, the ruthlessly ambitious Alexander Seton, goes awry after the birth of yet another daughter. He blames her—and contemplates drastic action. To what lengths will a man go to secure a son and heir?

MACKINTOSH, CLARE LAST PARTY (\$24.99) Tucked into the mountains of North Wales, the village of Cwm Coed is bordered by a shimmering lake on one side and an army of pine trees on the other. But the tranquility is shattered when homegrown celebrity Rhys Lloyd returns to develop a luxury resort on the shore opposite the village. Old resentments begin to rise to the surface, and new tensions emerge between the locals and the outsiders. Still, when the resort throws open its doors for a New Year's Eve party, with champagne flowing through the night, none of the villagers can resist the invitation. The next morning, a body is found floating in the lake—and it's Rhys. Ffion Morgan is summoned to investigate, but with her deep ties to the village she dreads what she might find out about her neighbors, friends, and family. And what about her own link to the victim?

MACCLEAVE/MCCLEAVE, SIMON andlesey DARK TIDE (#1) (\$19.99) Three years ago, DCI Laura Hart was the top Hostage and Crisis Negotiator for the Greater Manchester Police. Then her husband was kidnapped. Despite her best efforts to reason with the criminals, he was brutally murdered. Now living on the Isle of Anglesey in Wales, Laura is slowly healing. Then she gets a call: armed drug dealers have seized a tourist boat—and her ten-year-old son Jake is on board. There's no other negotiator available, and the police need her to step up. With the life of a loved one yet again on the line and memories of the last time she failed still searingly fresh, Laura is living her worst nightmare. Can she lay to rest the ghosts of her past in time to save her son?

MACOMBER, ROBERT N wake POINT OF HONOR (#2) (\$29.95) This series of naval fiction follows the life and career of Peter Wake in the U.S. Navy during the tumultuous years from 1863 to 1901. The year is 1864. Peter Wake, U.S.N., assisted by his indomitable Irish bosun, Sean Rork, is at the helm of the schooner St. James, Wake's remarkable ability to make things happen continues as he searches for army deserters in the Dry Tortugas, discovers an old nemesis during a standoff with the French Navy on the coast of Mexico, starts a drunken tavern riot in Key West, and confronts incompetent Federal army officers during an invasion of upper Florida.

MACPHERSON/MCPHERSON, CATRIONA dandy MIRROR DANCE (#15) (\$19.99) Something sinister is afoot in the streets of Dundee, when a puppeteer is found murdered behind his striped Punch and Judy stand, as children sit cross-legged drinking ginger beer. At once, Dandy Gilver's seemingly-innocuous investigation into plagiarism takes a darker turn. The gruesome death seems to be inextricably bound to the gloomy offices of Doig's Publishers, its secrets hidden in the real stories behind their girls' magazines The Rosie Cheek and The Freckle. On meeting a mysterious professor from St Andrews, Dandy and her faithful colleague Alex Osbourne are flung into the worlds of academia, the theatre and publishing. Nothing is quite as it seems, and behind the cheerful facades of puppets and comic books, is a troubled history has begun to repeat itself.

MARK, DAVID macavoy PAST LIFE (#9) (\$26.99) The clairvoyant is found with her tongue crudely carved out, a shard of blue crystal buried deep within her mangled ribcage. The crime scene plunges DS Aector McAvoy back twelve years, to a case from when he was starting out. An investigation that proved a turning point in his life—but one he's tried desperately to forget. To catch the killer, he must face his past. Face the terrible thing he did. But doing so also means facing the truth about his beloved wife Roisin, and the dark secrets she's keeping have the power to destroy them both completely.

MORGAN-BENTLEY, ROBIN GUEST HOUSE (\$24.99) Jamie and Victoria are expecting their first baby. With a few weeks to go, they head off for a final weekend break in a remote part of the North Pennines. The small and peaceful guesthouse is the ideal location to unwind together before becoming parents. Upon arrival, they are greeted by Barry and Fiona, the older couple who run the guesthouse. They cook them dinner and show them to their room before retreating to bed themselves. The next morning, Jamie and Victoria wake to find the house deserted. Barry and Fiona are nowhere to be seen. All the doors are locked. Both their mobile phones and car keys have disappeared. Even though it's a few weeks early, Victoria knows the contractions are starting. The baby is coming, and there's no way out.

OWENS, DELIA WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING (\$24) For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately

suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens.

QUEEN, ELLERY SPANISH CAPE MYSTERY (\$21.95) The Godfrey family is vacationing among the picturesque rocky cliffs of the North Atlantic seaboard, expecting peace, quiet, and, perhaps, a bit of golf or tennis. But one dusky evening in an isolated spot on the grounds of Spanish Cape, Rosa and her uncle David get into an argument about her secretive romance with one of their guests, the roguish John Marco, a handsome cad with a yellow roadster and no visible source of income. That's when a towering one-eyed man with a .38 revolver emerges from the twilight. When renowned sleuth Ellery Queen arrives the next day from New York City, looking forward to a summer getaway on the coast, he realizes his trip will be no walk on the beach.

RICKSTAD, ERIC I AM NOT WHO YOU THINK I AM (\$23.99) Wayland Maynard is just eight years old when he sees his father kill himself, finds a note that reads I am not who you think I am, and is left reeling with grief and shock. Who was his father if not the loving man Wayland knew? Terrified, Wayland keeps the note a secret, but his reasons for being afraid are just beginning. Eight years later, Wayland makes a shocking discovery and becomes certain the note is the key to unlocking a past his mother and others in his town want to keep buried. With the help of two friends, Wayland searches for the truth. Together they uncover strange messages scribbled in his father's old books, a sinister history behind the town's most powerful family, and a bizarre tragedy possibly linked to Wayland's birth. Each revelation raises more questions and deepens Wayland's suspicions of everyone around him. Soon, he'll regret he ever found the note, trusted his friends, or believed in such a thing as the truth.

RINEHART, MARY ROBERTS ALBUM (\$21.95) Even in the early 1930s, Crescent Place is a neighborhood out of the past. The five Victorian mansions and the remote patch of pasture placed between them have the air of the 1890s. In these houses are a husband and wife who fight constantly, and another couple who hasn't spoken to each other in two decades. There is a widow in permanent mourning and a daughter whom the newspapers call psychotic. And there is a bedridden old woman who is about to be killed with an ax. When her murder shatters the well-mannered quiet of the cul-de-sac, the tabloids delight in trumpeting Crescent Place's peculiarities. But as the search for the killer intensifies, it becomes clear that the area's strangest secrets have yet to be revealed.

RYAN, STEVE GHOSTS THAT HAUNT ME: Memories of a Homicide Detective. (\$22.99) Retired detective Steve Ryan worked in Toronto's homicide squad for over a decade. For Ryan, the stories of Toronto's most infamous crimes were more than just a headline read over morning coffee—they were his everyday life. After investigating over one hundred homicides, Ryan can never forget the tragedies and the victims, even after his retirement from the police force. Here he reflects on six of the many cases that greatly impacted him—seven people whose lives were senselessly taken—and that he still thinks about nearly every day. While the stories are hard to tell for Ryan, they were harder to live through. Yet somewhere between the crimes and the heartache is a glimmer of hope that good eventually does prevail and that healing can come after grief.

SCOTTOLINE, LISA WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BENNETTS (\$12.99) Your family has been attacked, never again to be the same. Now you have to choose between law...and justice. Sometimes justice is a one-man show.

SLOCUMB, BRENDAN VIOLIN CONSPIRACY (\$23) Growing up Black in rural North Carolina, Ray McMillian's life is already mapped out. But Ray has a gift and a dream—he's determined to become a world-class professional violinist, and nothing will stand in his way. Not his mother, who wants him to stop making such a racket; not the fact that he can't afford a violin suitable to his talents; not even the racism inherent in the world of classical music. When he discovers that his beat-up, family fiddle is actually a priceless Stradivarius, all his dreams suddenly seem within reach, and together, Ray and his violin take the world by storm. But on the eve of the renowned and cut-throat Tchaikovsky Competition—the Olympics of classical music—the violin is stolen, a ransom note for five million dollars left in its place. Without it, Ray feels like he's lost a piece of himself. As the competition approaches, Ray must not only reclaim his precious violin, but prove to himself—and the world—that no matter the outcome, there has always been a truly great musician within him.

SWANSON, PETER EIGHT PERFECT MURDERS (\$12.99) A series of unsolved murders with one thing in common: each of the deaths bears an eerie resemblance to the crimes depicted in classic mystery novels. The deaths lead FBI Agent Gwen Mulvey to mystery bookshop Old Devils. Owner Malcolm Kershaw had once posted online an article titled 'My Eight Favourite Murders,' and there seems to be a deadly link between the deaths and his list—which includes **Agatha Christie's** The ABC Murders,

Patricia Highsmith's Strangers on a Train and Donna Tartt's The Secret History. Can the killer be stopped before all eight of these perfect murders have been re-enacted?

TEY, JOSEPHINE grant FRANCHISE AFFAIR (#3) (\$19.99) Marion Sharpe and her mother seem an unlikely duo to be found on the wrong side of the law. Quiet and ordinary, they have led a peaceful and unremarkable life at their country home, The Franchise. Unremarkable that is, until the police turn up with a demure young woman on their doorstep. Not only does Betty Kane accuse them of kidnap and abuse, she can back up her claim with a detailed description of the attic room in which she was kept, right down to the crack in its round window. But there's something about Betty Kane's story that doesn't quite add up. Inspector Alan Grant of Scotland Yard is stumped. It takes Robert Blair, solicitor turned amateur detective, to solve the mystery that lies at the heart of The Franchise Affair.

TEY, JOSEPHINE grant TO LOVE AND BE WISE (#4) (\$19.99) It was rumoured that Hollywood stars would go down on their knees for the privilege of being photographed by the good-looking, brilliantly talented and ultra-fashionable portrait photographer Leslie Searle. But what was such a gifted creature doing in such an English village backwater of Salcott St Mary? And why—and how—did he disappear? If a crime had been committed, was it murder... fraud... or simply some macabre practical joke?

TIMON, MARA CITY OF SPIES (\$21.95) Lisbon, 1943: When her cover is blown, SOE agent Elisabeth de Mornay flees Paris. Pursued by the Gestapo, she makes her way to neutral Lisbon, where Europe's elite rub shoulders with diplomats, businessmen, smugglers, and spies. There she receives new orders—and a new identity. Posing as wealthy French widow Solange Verin, Elisabeth must infiltrate a German espionage ring targeting Allied ships, before more British servicemen are killed. But, the closer Elisabeth comes to discovering the truth, the greater the risk grows. With a German officer watching her every step, it will take all of Elisabeth's resourcefulness and determination to complete her mission. But in a city where no one is who they claim to be, who can she trust?

VIDICH, PAUL MATCHMAKER (\$22.95) Anne Simpson, an American who works as a translator at the Joint Operations Refugee Committee, thinks she is in a normal marriage with a charming East German. But then her husband disappears, and the CIA and Western German intelligence arrive at her door. It turns out she has been married to a spy, and now he has disappeared, and is presumably dead. The CIA are desperate to find the high level East German counterintelligence officer, the Matchmaker, because of his close ties to the KGB. They believe he can establish the truth about a high-ranking Soviet defector. They need Anne because she's the only person who has seen his face—from a photograph that her husband mistakenly left out in his office—and she is the CIA's best chance to identify him before the Matchmaker escapes to Moscow. Time is running out as the Berlin Wall falls and chaos engulfs East Germany. But what if Anne's husband is not dead? And what if Anne has her own motives for finding the Matchmaker to deliver a different type of justice?

WHITE, NICOLA swan FAMISHED HEART (#1) (\$23.95) The Macnamara sisters hadn't been seen for months before anyone noticed. It was Father Timoney who finally broke down the door, who saw what had become of them. Berenice was sitting in her armchair, surrounded by religious tracts. Rosaleen had crawled under her own bed, her face frozen in terror. Both had starved themselves to death. Francesca Macnamara returns to Dublin after decades in the US, to find her family in ruins. Meanwhile, Detectives Vincent Swan and Gina Considine are convinced that there is more to the deaths than suicide. Because what little evidence there is, shows that someone was watching the sisters die...

WOODS, STUART barrington SAFE HOUSE (#61) (\$12.99) Stone Barrington is looking forward to some quiet time in New York City, until he is asked to transport precious, top-secret cargo across the Atlantic. Taking on the challenge, Stone flies off unaware of what—or who—he is bringing with him. But his plans to lie low are quickly spoiled when a dangerous dispatcher tracks down Stone and his tantalizing mystery guest, intent on payback—and silencing anyone who poses a threat. From the English countryside to the balmy beaches of Key West, Stone is on an international mission to hide and protect those closest to him.