



# The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

## SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

January 2018

It's a balmy -1C this morning and a little bit of snow has fallen overnight and more is forecast for the day. Later on this week it's going up to 7C! What a change that will be from the deep freeze we've been through this last week, the first week of January 2018. It's been perishing cold; in fact, it was the coldest Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> in Toronto ever. -23C. On the other side of the world, Sydney, Australia, has been sweltering in temperature topping 47C, the hottest weather they've had in 80 years. The roads are melting, literally! Surely, there must be a place on our blue planet that is a sunny 72F every day. (I'm sorry, a sunny 22C just does not have the same inviting ring to it.) And talking about our lovely blue planet, did you see the stunning picture of Earth and the Moon taken by NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft from some 5 million km away? Worth a search.

Nonetheless, no matter the weather, darling Ms. Pixie and I were at the off-leash park every morning around 8am and she'd fly around the park chasing and being chased by whichever of her furry friends was around. And I do mean, fly. Although she's a little roly-poly, a little chubbilicious, she gets into her all-paw drive and boy she can motor. I'm standing there doing my best Michelin Man impression with my heaviest winter running tights under my jeans and three or four tops under my very warm winter coat. To be honest, it can actually be rather pleasant despite the bone-chilling conditions; the warm sun on your face, the arctic winds at your back and chatting away like—I was going to say like washerwomen but having had to listen to some of the other dads blather on about this and that, I owe washerwomen the world over an apology—what, magpies. All we're missing is the Xerox machine or a water cooler. To be sure, the latter would be rather handy. I usually lug a big plastic bottle of water for the puppies.

An hour or so, and it's time to go warm up. She's not nearly done, but I am. It's another ten-minute walk back to my apartment, a ten-minute walk which usually takes twenty minutes as every snow bank has to be examined, every smell has to be catalogued, every puppy greeted. I so enjoy having her to myself.

And, no doubt, you heard of the death of Sue Grafton. It official, the alphabet now ends at 'Y.' A is for Alibi was released in early 1982, a few months before we bought Sleuth, and for the last 35 years, our lives have progressed in sync. Detective fiction's second Golden Age coincided pretty much with the Kinsey Milhone era and, somehow, it won't be the same without her. Thank you for the great reads. RIP.

And, just read that Ray Thomas, a founding member of British rock group The Moody Blues, has died at 76. Thomas founded The Moody Blues in 1964 with fellow musicians Mike Pinder and Denny Laine. Back in the day, when the Beatles were as important to life as was oxygen, The Moody Blues were defining progressive rock and their

1967 album "Days of Future Passed" is one of the very few recordings from back then, that I can still enjoy. Oh, well. Time marches on. RIP.

### JD's Picks

I have long been a fan of **LARRY WATSON**. His Montana 1948 (\$20.95) and Let Him Go (\$23.50) are superb reads. His novel, American Boy (\$21.95) was re-printed a few months back and I read it recently. This is the kind of novel I so enjoy. The writing is clean, clear and spare. It's not bloated, not a word is superfluous. I would heartily recommend it too. The story: Matthew Garth's father died when Matt was a young boy, leaving him to be raised, or watched over as he raised himself, by a withdrawn, hard-working waitress mother. But Matt has a second family, the Dunbars, parents of his best friend, Johnny. Rex Dunbar is Willow Fall's most prominent physician, and his passion for medicine fascinates Matt and Johnny, high-school seniors. Dunbar often allows them to follow along as he carries out his practice, always offering instructions about medicine's basics. It is Thanksgiving 1962. Kennedy is president but all that is Willow Falls is evocative of Eisenhower and *Father Knows Best*. The Dunbars, with Matt, are celebrating when word comes that young Louisa Lindahl has been shot by her boyfriend and has gone missing. The boys are sent to help search. Dr. Dunbar prepares his clinic. Louisa is discovered by other searchers, and when the boys return, Dr. Dunbar has completed surgery. The boys are curious about the nature of a gunshot wound, and as Dunbar lifts the sheet from the unconscious woman to explain his abdominal surgery, Matt catches a glimpse of her breasts. Matt is captivated, and with that, a vivid story of sexual tension, family loyalty and betrayal unfolds.

I had not read anything by **LAURA DISILVERIO** but The Reckoning Stone (\$22.95) caught my eye: Nobody believed that Pastor Matt had raped her. The tight-knit religious community punished her when she spoke out, expected fifteen-year-old Mercy to repent for making false allegations. Instead, she ran. And somebody—her father?—beat Pastor Matt into a coma and left his wife for dead. Twenty-three years later, Iris has put a life together, transformed herself from runaway teen Mercy Asher to sought-after jewelry designer Iris Dashwood. But now Pastor Matt has awoken from his long coma, a medical miracle if there ever was one, and Iris is sliding back, losing ground to the painful memories she's barely kept at bay. Iris has no choice but to return to Lone Pine, Colorado, and confront the man who tore her life apart and recover the truth from a community that protects its own. Let whoever is without sin cast the first stone...

It was a customer's recommendation that had made me pick up Reckoning and the fact that it had won the 2016 Colorado Book Award for

Mystery and that *Library Journal* had given it a starred review, calling it “Outstanding,” well, that only made me give it the first paragraph test. It is outstanding, indeed.

And finally, **GAVIN LYALL** (1932-2003) was an English author who wrote fifteen novels of espionage between 1961 and 1999. He was a RAF pilot and his first novel, *The Wrong Side Of The Sky*, published in 1961 with its “real sense of dodgy landing fields and for-hire pilots, was an immediate success. PG Wodehouse, no less, proclaimed it “Terrific: when better novels of suspense are written, lead me to them.” Over the years we sold a lot of Gavin Lyall! So, it was with a great deal of pleasure that I saw in the catalogues that some of his early books were going to be reprinted. Along with *Wrong Side of the Sky* (1961), *Shooting Script* (1966) and *Judas Country* (1975) (\$20 each) have been released. I re-read *Judas* recently and it is every bit as much fun as it must have been the first time around.

Lyall was one of many very popular British thriller writers in post-war Britain: **Ian Fleming**, **Hammond Innes**, **Jack Higgins**, **Desmond Bagley**, **Len Deighton**, **Alistair Maclean**, **Frederick Forsyth**, **John Le Carre**, to mention only a few of the leading lights. A new book, *Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang* (\$32.99) by **MIKE RIPLEY** is an entertaining survey of the field.

## Marian's Picks

Here we go into 2018. I do hope it will be a good one for all of us. It certainly is starting off as quite a chilly one, with lots of snow, which Pixie absolutely adores. She is a joy to watch as she bounds through snow banks and sticks her head into every mound of snow she sees. It's great at the cottage as the snow is usually fluffy and clean, but she comes back one big ball of ice and snow. And I get to follow her around with a mop as she slowly melts and drips all over the place. But I don't mind. Watching her play in the snow, she's like a kid, gives me such an overwhelming feeling of joy.

I didn't get a lot of chance to read much over the holidays as it was so busy with family, friends, eating, drinking, cleaning, cooking and then doing it all over again, but I did discover some new writers. At least they are new to me.

*Once A Pilgrim* by **JAMES DEEGAN** (\$32.99 hardcover, \$21.99 trade paperback), which is due out later in January 2018, introduces John Carr, who has recently left the SAS after a long and distinguished career. He is now working for a Russian oligarch in the murky world of private security. But an incident from his past, in which three IRA members were killed, suddenly comes back to haunt him. Tracked by a hit man out for revenge, Carr is forced to break all sorts of laws to defend himself and his family. It's a violent world and one he thought he'd left behind, but memories are long. The story, set in current day, alternates between what happened in the 1980s during the Troubles and now, as Carr tracks down the man who has ordered the hit. Lots of action, tons of violence but just a crackerjack of a read. I can hardly wait for the next book.

**RONALD H. BALSON** is another new author to me. There was a reading copy of his novel *The Trust* lying around and it looked interesting, so I had a look. After I finished reading it I discovered that this is the fourth in the Catherine Lockhart/Liam Taggart series and we had carried the first, *Once We Were Brothers* (#1) (\$23.99), but none of the others: *Saving Sophie* (#2) (\$23.99), *Karolina's Twins* (#3) (\$22.99) or the new one. Read *The Trust* (#4) (\$37.99), and talk about non-stop action! What a thriller! Here's the gist of it: When his uncle dies, Liam Taggart reluctantly returns to his childhood home in Northern Ireland for the funeral—a home he left years ago after a bitter confrontation with his family, never to look back. But when he ar-

ives, Liam learns that not only was his uncle shot to death, but that he'd anticipated his own murder: In an astonishing last will and testament, Uncle Fergus has left his entire estate to a secret trust, directing that no distributions be made to any person until the killer is found. Did Fergus know, but refuse to name, his killer? Was this a crime of revenge, a vendetta leftover from Northern Ireland's bloody sectarian war? After all, the Taggarts were deeply involved in the IRA. Or is it possible that the killer is a family member seeking Fergus's estate? Otherwise, why postpone distributions to the heirs?

Obviously, I've ordered the first three and can't wait to get my hands of them.

In the December 2017 newsletter I mentioned that I intended to get to **VICKI DELANY's** *Hark the Herald Angels Slay* (#3) (\$10.99) in short order, and I did. I'm happy to report that I enjoyed it as much as I had the first two in the series: *Rest Ye Murdered Gentlemen* (#1) (\$10.49) and *We Wish You a Murderous Christmas* (#2) (\$10.99). Christmas in July heralds Santa's arrival by boat to begin his summer vacation at the lake, and Merry Wilkinson, owner of Mrs. Claus's Treasures, is looking forward to a busy weekend. But she's caught off guard when her ex-fiancé, Max Folger, unexpectedly arrives with a team from a magazine wanting to do a feature on the July festivities. It's clear that Max's visit has less to do with business and more to do with winning back Merry's heart. But when Max is found strangled to death in Mrs. Claus's Treasures, she must find out who wanted him dead. You can't beat Christmas cosies, even if two of the books are set during the summer months.

I also wanted to read **V. M. BURNS** who has written *The Plot is Murder* (\$16.95), another cosy where the main character, Samantha, has just opened a mystery bookstore in North Harbor, Michigan. I liked this debut and that bodes well for the series. The shady real estate agent, who acted for her when she bought building that houses her bookshop, is found dead in the back garden. Trying to get the mystery solved so she can go back to just selling books, she is aided by her grandmother and an enthusiastic ensemble of colourful retirees. Quite charming and entertaining, and I'm rather grateful that I've never found a dead body in my bookstore. Well, other than the odd mouse or bird that Princess would bring as gifts. I'll certainly give book number two a go when it comes out.

When we first got the bookstore, way back in the last century, I discovered **PATRICIA MOYES** and read all of her books—I think there were twenty featuring Chief Inspector Henry Tibbett of Scotland Yard. It seemed that every time Henry and his wife went on vacation, and they went everywhere, there was a murder to be solved. I just loved that series and I got to travel along with them. The good folks at Felony and Mayhem have now released the first four in the series and if you want a traditional British police procedural, do yourself a favour. *Dead Men Don't Ski* (#1) (1958) came about as the author, confined to her bed having broken a leg on a skiing holiday, decided she could do better than the crime novels she was reading. Since all she could see out the window was a chair lift...or so I remember her telling me the story. *Sunken Sailor* (#2) aka *Down Among the Dead Men* (1961), *Death on the Agenda* (#3) (1962) and *Murder a la Mode* (#4) (1963) (\$22.50 each) are the others that have been re-issued.

## Hardbacks

**BROCK, LYNN NIGHTMARE** (\$18.99) Driven to madness by the cruelty of a small group of people, a young novelist sets about taking murderous revenge. Lynn Brock was one of the most popular and prolific detective novelists of the 1920s and 30s, famous for creating the detective character Colonel Gore. This novel is another re-issue

from HarperCollins' Detective Club series, their first crime imprint that goes back to the 20s.

**BURKE, JAMES LEE robicheau** ROBICHEAUX (#21) (\$36.99) Dave Robicheaux is a haunted man. Between his recurrent nightmares about Vietnam, his battle with alcoholism, and the sudden loss of his beloved wife, Molly, his thoughts drift from one irreconcilable memory to the next. Images of ghosts at Spanish Lake live on the edge of his vision. During a murder investigation, Dave Robicheaux discovers he may have committed the homicide he's investigating, one which involved the death of the man who took the life of Dave's beloved wife. As he works to clear his name and make sense of the murder, Robicheaux encounters a cast of characters and a resurgence of dark social forces that threaten to destroy all of those whom he loves.

**CORRIAS, PINO** WE'LL SLEEP WHEN WERE OLD (\$35) Rome, present day: an extravagant, opulent world of fashionable parties, fancy cars, and powerful men and women in a constant dance of excess and intrigue. Oscar Martello, president of a film production company, is a self-made man: despite his humble origins, he has managed to achieve unbelievable fame and success. He is also a cutthroat and ruthless visionary. Andrea Serrano, his best friend, is a scriptwriter who explores the themes of love and murder in his work. The beautiful actress Jacaranda Rizzi, Oscar's muse, has a secret that has been tormenting her for many years. Pulsing with ambition, all three represent the apex of Rome's complex and privileged network of glamorous yet troubled aristocrats. When a fire devastates Oscar's villa in one of the city's most fashionable neighborhoods and he goes missing, all of Rome is left to wonder about his fate. The evidence points to Jacaranda, but could she have orchestrated something so sinister? More important, could she have done it alone, or has Andrea played some role in the debacle?

**CRAIS, ROBERT pike** WANTED (#17) (\$37) Investigator Elvis Cole and his partner Joe Pike take on the deadliest case of their lives. It seemed like a simple case—before the bodies started piling up... When single-mother Devon Connor hires Elvis Cole, it's because her troubled teenage son Tyson is flashing cash and she's afraid he's dealing drugs. But the truth is devastatingly different. With two others, he's been responsible for a string of high-end burglaries, a crime spree that takes a deadly turn when one of them is murdered and Tyson and his girlfriend disappear. They stole the wrong thing from the wrong man, and, determined to get it back, he has hired two men who are smart and brutal and the best at what they do. To even the odds, Cole brings in his friend Joe Pike, but even the two of them together may be overmatched. The police don't want them anywhere near the investigation, the teenagers refuse to be found, and the hired killers are leaving a trail of bodies in their wake. Pretty soon, they'll find out everything they need to know to track the kids down—and then nothing that Elvis or Joe can do may make any difference. It might even get them killed.

**DISHER, GARRY** SIGNAL LOSS (#7) (\$33.95) The Ned Kelly Award-winning master of Australian noir shows us the darker side of the Peninsula. A meth-related crime has Inspector Hal Challis on his backfoot, while Sergeant Ellen Destry hunts down an elusive serial rapist. A pair of hit men working a job for a meth kingpin have a very bad day, and the resulting bushfire draws attention to a drug lab and two burned bodies in a Mercedes. Sergeant Ellen Destry—newly minted head of her department's sex crime unit—and Inspector Hal Challis return in this newest installment of the author's Peninsula-based crimes series. With meth-related crime on the rise, interdepartmental tensions mount, and Challis soon finds himself fighting to keep control of his case. Meanwhile, Destry is hunting for a serial rapist who is extremely adept at not leaving clues. An excellent series.

**DOLAN, HARRY** MAN IN THE CROOKED HAT (\$36) There's a killer, and he wears a crooked hat. Private investigator Jack Pellum has spent two years searching for the man who he believes murdered his wife—a man he last saw wearing a peacoat and a fedora. Months of posting fliers and combing through crime records yield no leads. Then a local writer commits suicide, and he leaves a bewildering

message that may be the first breadcrumb in a winding trail of unsolved murders. Michael Underhill is a philosophical man preoccupied by what-ifs and could-have-beens, but his life is finally coming together. He has a sweet and beautiful girlfriend, and together they're building their future home. Nothing will go wrong, not if Underhill has anything to say about it. The problem is, Underhill has a dark and secret past, and it's coming back to haunt him. These two men are inexorably drawn together in a mystery where there is far more than meets the eye, and nothing can be taken for granted. From the author of Bad Things Happen (#1) (\$18), the first David Loogan novel, a fabulous read.

**EASTMAN, DAWN** leclair UNNATURAL CAUSES (#1) (\$38.95) Katie LeClair has finally settled down as the new doctor in Baxter, MI. After years of moving, schooling, and training, she wants nothing more than to find a place she can call home, and a small town outside of Ann Arbor seemed perfect. Katie quickly gets to work in building a life for herself in Baxter, and beyond reviving her love life, she also finds a pair of business partners in a team of father and son family practitioners. But that idyllic dream is immediately shattered when one of her patients is found dead. That wouldn't be the worst thing, except the death is ruled a suicide, and as evidence has it, the suicide was a result of the medication Katie had prescribed. But she doesn't remember writing it. When a closer investigation reveals it was murder, Katie is catapulted into an off-the-books investigation that leads her down a dark path of past secrets. But someone is willing to kill to keep part of the town's history in the shadows, and Katie must race to find out who before it's too late.

**FOWLER, CHRISTOPHER** bryant WILD CHAMBER (#14) (\$36) Detectives Arthur Bryant and John May are back on the case in this whip-smart and wildly twisting mystery, in which a killer in London's parks is proving to be a most elusive quarry. Helen Forester's day starts like any other: Around seven in the morning, she takes her West Highland terrier for a walk in her street's private garden. But by 7:20 she is dead, strangled yet peacefully laid out on the path, her dog nowhere to be found. The only other person in the locked space is the gardener, who finds the body and calls the police. He expects proper cops to arrive, but what he gets are Bryant, May, and the wily members of the Peculiar Crimes Unit. Before the detectives can make any headway on the case, a second woman is discovered in a public park, murdered in nearly identical fashion. Bryant, recovering from a health scare, delves into the arcane history of London's cherished green spaces, rife with class drama, violence, and illicit passions. But as a devious killer continues to strike, Bryant and May struggle to connect the clues, not quite seeing the forest for the trees. Now they have to think and act fast to save innocent lives, the fate of the city's parks, and the very existence of the PCU. An irresistibly witty, inventive blend of history and suspense. A series that I

**FRANCIS, FELIX** PULSE (\$32.00) Chris Rankin is a doctor, a specialist in Emergency Medicine at Cheltenham Hospital, but a doctor who also has health problems. A smartly dressed man has been found unconscious at the local racecourse and is rushed to the hospital, where he subsequently dies. But who is he? Where does he come from? He had no form of identification on him, and no one claims the body. Doctor Rankin is intrigued by the nameless dead man, obsessed even, and starts asking questions. However, someone doesn't want the questions answered and will go to any lengths to prevent it, including attempting murder. But no one else believes that someone tried to kill Chris, leaving the doctor no option but to discover who the nameless man is and why he died, preferably before following him into an early grave.

**GILBERT, VICTORIA** library MURDER FOR THE BOOKS (#1) (\$38.95) Fleeing a disastrous love affair, university librarian Amy Webber moves in with her aunt in a quiet, historic mountain town in Virginia. She quickly busies herself with managing a charming public library that requires all her attention with its severe lack of funds and overabundance of eccentric patrons. The last thing she needs is a new, available neighbor whose charm lures her into trouble. Dancer-turned-teacher and choreographer Richard Muir inherited the farmhouse next door from his great-uncle, Paul Dassin. But town folklore claims

the house's original owner was poisoned by his wife, who was an outsider. It quickly became water under the bridge, until she vanished after her sensational 1925 murder trial. Determined to clear the name of the woman his great-uncle loved, Richard implores Amy to help him investigate the case. Amy is skeptical until their research raises questions about the culpability of the town's leading families... including her own. When inexplicable murders plunge the quiet town into chaos, Amy and Richard must crack open the books to reveal a cruel conspiracy and lay a turbulent past to rest.

**GRANT, ANDREW** deveraux FALSE WITNESS (#3) (\$36) Alabama police detective Cooper Devereaux chases a cunning serial killer terrorizing the city of Birmingham... A woman disappears on her twenty-first birthday. The following day her body is found, wrapped neatly like a gift in a crumbling, sun-speckled graveyard. What does Detective Devereaux have to go on? Very little. No motive, no suspects. Then another victim is discovered in a crematorium parking lot. Again, she was killed on her twenty-first birthday. Again, her body was wrapped like a gift. By the third murder the tabloids have dubbed the homicidal monster the Birthday Killer—and Devereaux is under the gun. While Devereaux's own violent and mysterious past nips at his heels, and his fragile home life threatens to unravel, he can't afford to be anything but totally obsessed with the frantic search through the many layers of this city, from its wealthy enclaves to its dark criminal underbelly. The only certainty is that Devereaux is hunting a killer determined to fulfill a deranged agenda in which women's lives are extinguished like candles on a cake.

**HAMBLY, BARBARA** january MURDER IN JULY (#15) (\$39.99) Benjamin January investigates the murder of a mysterious Englishman in this absorbing New Orleans-set mystery. When British spymaster Sir John Oldmixon offers Benjamin January a hundred dollars to find the murderer of an Englishman whose body has been found floating in the New Basin Canal, Benjamin turns him down immediately. As a free man of colour in New Orleans in the sweltering July of 1839, he knows this is not something he should get mixed up in. But when clues to the dead man's identity link the death to another murder, in another July in January's past, he is reluctantly drawn into the investigation. Nine years ago in Paris he failed to catch a killer—with tragic consequences. Now in New Orleans he must unravel the earlier murder, the one that took place during the great revolt against the Bourbon kings, to solve the second killing. At stake is not merely a hundred dollars, but hidden treasure, the fate of an innocent woman—and the lives of January's wife, son and unborn child.

**HAWKSWOOD, SARAH** MARKED TO DIE (#3) (\$36.99) October 1143. A mysterious archer who kills cleanly and 'dissolves' into the forest, a missing train of pack mules on the salt road from Wich, and a lord in the wrong place at the wrong time, mean a crime the lord Sheriff of Worcestershire cannot ignore. Bradecote, Catchpoll, and the eager Walkelin, are hunting a killer and a gang, and whoever is giving them orders. They are not helped by a reeve keen to keep his position, a lord with his own ends to serve, and a distrusting and vengeful widow with a haunted past, to whom Bradecote is increasingly attracted.

**HENSHAW, MARK** red cell LAST MAN IN TEHRAN (#4) (\$33.99) New Red Cell Chief Kyra Stryker has barely settled into the job when an attack on an Israeli port throws the Middle East into chaos. The Mossad—Israel's feared intelligence service—responds with a campaign of covert sabotage and assassination, determined to protect the homeland. But evidence quickly turns up suggesting that a group of moles inside Langley are helping Mossad wage its covert war. Convinced that Mossad has heavily penetrated the CIA's leadership, the FBI launches a counterintelligence investigation that threatens to cripple the Agency—and anyone who questions the official story is suspect. With few officials willing to help for fear of getting accused, Kyra turns to her former mentors—now-retired Red Cell Chief Jonathan Burke and his wife, former CIA Director Kathryn Cooke—to help uncover who is trying to tear the CIA apart from the inside out. Red Cell (#1) (\$12.99) was the series debut.

**IGNATIUS, DAVID** QUANTUM SPY (\$34.95) A hyper-fast quantum computer is the digital equivalent of a nuclear bomb; whoever

possesses one will be able to shred any encryption and break any code in existence. The winner of the race to build the world's first quantum machine will attain global dominance for generations to come. The question is, who will cross the finish line first: the U.S. or China? In this cyber thriller, the United States' top-secret quantum research labs are compromised by a suspected Chinese informant, inciting a mole hunt of history-altering proportions. CIA officer Harris Chang leads the charge, pursuing his target from the towering cityscape of Singapore to the lush hills of the Pacific Northwest, the mountains of Mexico, and beyond. The investigation is obsessive, destructive, and—above all—uncertain. Do the leaks expose real secrets, or are they false trails meant to deceive the Chinese? The answer forces Chang to question everything he thought he knew about loyalty, morality, and the primacy of truth. Grounded in the real-world technological arms race...

**JARDINE, QUINTIN** skinner STATE SECRETS (#28) (\$34.99 hardcover, \$26.99 trade paperback) A shocking murder at the Palace of Westminster draws Edinburgh's toughest cop into a complex new case... Former Chief Constable Bob Skinner is long out of the police force but trouble has a habit of following him around. So it is that he finds himself in the Palace of Westminster as a shocking act befalls the nation. Hours before the Prime Minister is due to make a controversial statement, she is discovered in her office with a letter opener driven through her skull. Is the act political? Personal? Or even one of terror? Skinner is swiftly enlisted by the Security Service to lead the investigation. Reunited with Met Police Commander Neil McIlhenny, he has forty-eight hours to crack the case—before the press unleash their wrath. There are many in the tangled web of government with cause to act. But the outcome will be one that not even Skinner himself could predict...

**JENNINGS/RICCI, MICHELLE** INVESTIGATING MURDOCH MYSTERIES: THE OFFICIAL COMPANION TO THE SERIES (\$29.95) Based on Maureen Jennings' award-winning novels, at the end of the Victorian era, Toronto-based police detective William Murdoch uses radical forensic techniques, including fingerprinting and trace evidence, to solve some of the city's most gruesome murders. His unconventional approach often elicits skepticism from his colleagues, though he is usually supported by his boss Inspector Brackenreid, young Constable George Crabtree, and doctors/pathologists Emily Grace and Julia Ogden. This companion looks at every aspect of all 8 seasons of the show, from the regular characters and their relationships, to the history of the period, including figures Murdoch encounters, the forensic and scientific advances he utilises, and Murdoch's most notable cases. The companion also goes behind the scenes on the show to examine every aspect of the production, including sets, costumes, music and writing.

**JONASSON, RAGNAR** NIGHTBLIND (#5) (\$33.99) Ari Thor Arason is a local policeman who has an uneasy relationship with the villagers in an idyllically quiet fishing village in Northern Iceland—where no one locks their doors. The peace of this close-knit community is shattered by a murder. One of Ari's colleagues is gunned down at point-blank range in the dead of night in a deserted house. With a killer on the loose and the dark Arctic waters closing in, it falls to Ari Thor to piece together a puzzle that involves a new mayor and a psychiatric ward in Reykjavik. It becomes all too clear that tragic events from the past are weaving a sinister spell that may threaten them all. This is the North American edition; the British trade paperback has been around for two years.

**LOCKE, ATTICA** BLUEBIRD BLUEBIRD (\$34) When it comes to law and order, East Texas plays by its own rules—a fact that Darren Mathews, a black Texas Ranger, knows all too well. Deeply ambivalent about growing up black in the lone star state, he was the first in his family to get as far away from Texas as he could. Until duty called him home. When his allegiance to his roots puts his job in jeopardy, he travels up Highway 59 to the small town of Lark, where two murders—a black lawyer from Chicago and a local white woman—have stirred up a hornet's nest of resentment. Darren must solve the crimes—and save himself in the process—before Lark's long-simmering racial fault lines erupt. From the author of Black Water

**Rising** (\$18.50) and **Cutting Season** (\$19.99), two excellent reads. **LOVESEY, PETER diamond** **BEAU DEATH (#17)** (\$35.95) Peter Diamond, British detective extraordinaire, must dig deep into Bath history to ferret out the secrets of one of its most famous (and scandalous) icons: Richard “Beau” Nash, who might be the victim of a centuries old murder. Bath, England: A wrecking crew is demolishing a row of townhouses in order to build a grocery store when they uncover a skeleton in one of the attics. The dead man is wearing authentic 1760s garb and on the floor next to it is a white tricorn hat—the ostentatious signature accessory of Beau Nash, one of Bath’s most famous historical men-about-town, a fashion icon and incurable rake who, some say, ended up in a pauper’s grave. Or did the Beau actually end up in a townhouse attic? The Beau Nash Society will be all in a tizzy when the truth is revealed to them. Chief Inspector Peter Diamond, who has been assigned to identify the remains, begins to fantasize about turning Nash scholarship on its ear. But one of his constables is stubbornly insisting the corpse can’t be Nash’s—the non-believer threatens to spoil Diamond’s favorite theory, especially when he offers some pretty irrefutable evidence. Is Diamond on a historical goose chase? Should he actually be investigating a much more modern murder? Love this series; Lovesey is one of the best.

**MACDERMID/MCDERMID, VAL tony hill** **INSIDIOUS INTENT (#10)** (\$37.50) Widely recognized as one of our finest crime writers, with numerous accolades and legions of devoted readers worldwide, internationally bestselling author Val McDermid is back with the latest installment in her series featuring psychologist Tony Hill and former police detective Carol Jordan. In this one, Tony and Carol are on the hunt for a serial killer who victimizes women at weddings without a date—and forces the duo to confront their most haunting moral dilemma so far. In the north of England, single women are beginning to disappear from weddings. A pattern soon becomes clear: Someone is crashing the festivities and luring the women away—only to leave the victims’ bodies in their own burned-out cars in remote locations. Tony and Carol are called upon to investigate—but this may be the toughest case they’ve ever had to face. Meanwhile, Detective Sergeant Paula McIntyre and her partner Elinor must deal with a cruel cyber-blackmailer targeting their teenage ward, Torin.

**MALANE, DONNA rowe** **MY BROTHERS KEEPER (#2)** (\$33.99) Diane Rowe is a missing persons expert. Ex-con Karen needs Diane's help to track down her fourteen-year-old daughter, Sunny, whom she's lost contact with while she's been in prison. To Diane, this appears at first glance to be a simple case of a mother wanting to reunite with a beloved daughter. Tracking the girl down is easy. However, convincing her to meet her mother is no easy task. And at the back of Diane's mind is a nagging thought—that guilt and innocence aren't straightforward, and nothing is quite what it seems. Does Karen really want to fix the wrongs of the past or is there something darker at play here that will take all of Diane's skills to uncover? Set in New Zealand.

**OLAFSSON, OLAF** **ONE STATION AWAY** (\$31.99) An overlooked pianist who finally receives fraught success after decades of disappointment. An elusive dancer whose untimely death her fiancé is desperate to untangle. A mysterious patient who is comatose after a violent accident. These are the three women who animate this novel. Magnus, a New York neurologist—son to one, lover to another, and doctor to a third—is the thread that binds these women’s stories together as he navigates relationships defined by compromise and misunderstanding, guilt and forgiveness, and, most of all, by an obsessive attempt to communicate—to understand and to be understood, to love and to be loved.

**PARRA, NANCY J wine** **CASE OF SYRAH. SYRAH (#1)** (\$38.95) Taylor O’Brian is a new businesswoman, founder of “Taylor’s Off The Beaten Path Wine Tours,” who lives on a small winery with her Aunt Jemma. She plans to take small groups around romantic Sonoma county to discover some of the county’s outdoor gardens. It’s all running as smooth as can be until Laura, the leader of the group of yoga instructors she’s leading, is found dead. And it’s Taylor’s corkscrew that’s found buried in Laura’s neck. She’s not sure who to trust,

and everyone around suddenly seems suspect. Only two weeks after the murder, her very own administrative assistant, Amy, marries Laura’s husband, Dan, who doesn’t seem very bereaved about being widowed, and the three yoga masters who were also out on the tour begin to seem shady. Taylor can’t afford to jump ship from her new business endeavor, but just as she begins her investigation, another dead body surfaces. This time, it’s Dan’s sister. And the killer is coming for Taylor next. Now it’s up to Taylor to uncork this open-bottle mystery, before more blood is spilled.

**PERRY, THOMAS** **BOMB MAKER** (\$37.50) A bomb is more than a weapon. A bomb is an expression of the bomber’s predictions of human behavior—a performance designed to fool you into making one fatally wrong move. A threat is called into the LAPD Bomb Squad and when tragedy ensues, the fragmented unit turns to Dick Stahl, a former Bomb Squad commander who now operates his own private security company. Just returned from a tough job in Mexico, Stahl is at first reluctant to accept the offer, but his sense of duty to the technicians he trained is too strong to turn it down. On his first day back at the head of the squad, Stahl’s three-person team is dispatched to a suspected car bomb. And it quickly becomes clear to him that they are dealing with an unusual mastermind—one whose intended target seems to be the Bomb Squad itself. As the shadowy organization sponsoring this campaign of violence puts increasing pressure on the bomb maker, and Stahl becomes dangerously entangled with a member of his own team, the fuse on this high-stakes plot only burns faster.

**RIPLEY, MIKE** **KISS KISS BANG BANG BOOM IN BRITISH** (\$32.99) An entertaining history of British thrillers from **Casino Royale** (\$21.95) to **The Eagle Has Landed** (\$10.50), in which award-winning crime writer Mike Ripley reveals that, though Britain may have lost an empire, her thrillers helped save the world. With a foreword by Lee Child.

**STOCKWIN, JULIAN kydd** **BALTIC PRIZE (#19)** (\$40.50) 1808. Parted from his new bride, Captain Sir Thomas Kydd is called away to join the Northern Expedition to Sweden, now Britain's only ally in the Baltic. Following the sudden declaration of war by Russia and with the consequent threat of the czar's great fleet in St Petersburg, the expedition must defend Britain's dearly-won freedom in those waters. However, Kydd finds his popular fame as a frigate captain is a poisoned chalice; in the face of jealousy and envy from his fellow captains, the distrust of the commander-in-chief and the betrayal of friendship by a former brother-in-arms now made his subordinate, can he redeem his reputation? In an entirely hostile sea *Tyger* ranges from the frozen north to the deadly confines of the Danish Sound—and plays a pivotal role in the situation ensuing after the czar's sudden attack on Finland. This climaxes in the first clash of fleets between Great Britain and Russia in history. To the victor will be the prize of the Baltic!

**TREMAYNE, PETER fidelma** **NIGHT OF THE LIGHTBRINGER (#28)** (\$34.99) Ireland, AD 671. On the eve of the pagan feast of Samhain, Brother Eadulf and the warrior, Aidan, discover a man murdered in an unlit pyre in the heart of Cashel. He has been dressed in the robes of a religious and killed by the ritualistic 'three deaths'.

When a strange woman known as Branche appears in a raven-feather cloak foretelling of ancient gods returning to exact revenge upon the mortal world, she is quickly branded a suspect. But in their search for the killer, Sister Fidelma and Eadulf will soon discover a darker shadow looming over the fortress. For their investigation is linked to a book stolen from the Papal Secret Archives which could destroy the New Faith in the Five Kingdoms...and Fidelma herself will come up against mortal danger before the case is unravelled.

## Paperbacks

**AHNHEM, STEFAN risk** **EIGHTEEN BELOW (#3)** (\$19.95) A high-speed chase ends in tragedy when a car crashes into Helsingborg

harbour. In the front seat is one of Sweden's most affluent IT entrepreneurs. Initially all signs point to an accident, but a closer examination of the body shows that it has been frozen. Stranger yet is the time of death: two months before the crash. Two years have passed since the events of Victim Without a Face (#1) (\$19.95). Fabian Risk has taken advantage of the quiet at work to focus on patching things up with his family, while across the strait Dunja Hougaard has donned the uniform once more, this time as a police officer. When a homeless man is brutally beaten to death, Dunja can't stop herself from starting an investigation of her own. Before long the clues take her to Sweden and Helsingborg, where Risk is investigating the peculiar case of the frozen millionaire. The second book is The Ninth Grave (\$19.95).

**ALEXANDER, ELLIE** bakeshop ANOTHER ONE BITES THE CRUST (#7) (\$10.50) It's the role of a lifetime for Jules. The Shakespeare Festival has returned to Ashland, Oregon, for the season and Torte (the beloved small-town bakeshop run by Jules Capshaw), has been cast as the supplier of Elizabethan-era treats for the main event. But on the eve of opening night, a brawl between Jules's friend Lance, the artistic director, and a strapping young thespian named Anthony almost brings down the house. . . and the next morning, Anthony is dead. Jules knows that Lance loves his drama, and his just desserts, but she also knows that murder is way off-script for him. Now it's up to Jules to cut through a bevy of backstage betrayals and catty co-stars who all have their own secrets—before the curtain drops on someone else.

**ALLINGHAM, MARGERY** albert CRIME AT BLACK DUDLEY (#1) aka black dudley (\$23.95) George Abbershaw is set for a social weekend at Black Dudley manor, hosted by Wyatt Petrie and his elderly uncle Colonel Combe, who enjoys the company of Bright Young Things. With Meggie Oliphant in attendance, George looks forward to the chance of getting closer to the girl he's set his heart on. But when murder spoils the party, the group soon find out that not only is there a killer in their midst, but the house is also under the control of notorious criminals. Trapped and at their mercy, George must find a way to thwart their diabolical plans while getting himself and Meggie out alive. Luckily for Abbershaw, among the guests is Albert Campion—a garrulous and affable party-crasher with a great knack for solving mysteries and interrogating suspects. The Crime at Black Dudley, first published in 1929, is the first novel to introduce Margery Allingham's amiable and much-loved sleuth-Albert Campion.

**ARCHER, WINNIE** bread shop CRUST NO ONE (#2) (\$8.99) Business is booming at Yeast of Eden. But with a deadly mystery taking over the seaside town of Santa Sofia, the Mexican bread shop can't possibly leaven a killer's appetite. For once, Ivy Culpepper feels fulfilled. An apprenticeship at Yeast of Eden has opened her world to time-honored baking techniques under owner Olaya Solis's guidance—as well as the freshest small-town gossip, courtesy of chatty regulars known as the Blackbird Ladies. Ivy even begins accepting that she and restaurateur Miguel Baptista may never again rekindle their romance—despite the undeniable tension between them. But she's tied to Miguel again when his trusted produce supplier goes missing. Old Hank Riviera's financial troubles would make anyone consider running away forever. And with his relationship woes, there are plenty of people who might want to see Hank disappear. As Ivy, with the help of her octogenarian sidekick, turns to the loose-lipped Blackbird Ladies for leads, she soon finds herself caught in a web of lies stickier than a batch of Olaya's popular pastries. The first in the series is Kneaded to Death (\$8.99).

**ASHLEY, JENNIFER** below DEATH BELOW STAIRS (#1) (\$20.00) Victorian class lines are crossed when cook Kat Holloway is drawn into a murder that reaches all the way to the throne. Highly sought-after young cook Kat, takes a position in a Mayfair mansion and soon finds herself immersed in the odd household of Lord Rankin. Kat is unbothered by the family's eccentricities as long as they stay away from her kitchen, but trouble finds its way below stairs when her young Irish assistant is murdered. Intent on discovering who killed the helpless kitchen maid, Kat turns to the ever-capable Daniel McAdam, who is certainly much more than the charming delivery man he pretends to be. Along with the assistance of Lord

Rankin's unconventional sister-in-law and a mathematical genius, Kat and Daniel discover that the household murder was the barest tip of a plot rife with danger and treason—one that's a threat to Queen Victoria herself.

**BARCLAY, LINWOOD** NEVER SAW IT COMING (\$17.95) Keisha Ceylon is a psychic. At least, that's what she tells people. She watches the news for stories of missing people, then waits a few days and goes to see the family. She tells them she's had a vision and that she may know where their missing loved one is, for a price, of course. Keisha's latest mark is Wendell Garfield, whose wife disappeared a week ago. She's seen him on TV, pleading for his wife to come home, or for whoever took her to let her go. Keisha tells Wendell her vision of what might have happened. Unluckily for Keisha, her vision turns out to be alarmingly close to the truth. As she wades deeper into the mystery, Keisha inadvertently finds herself caught in a web of suspicion and violence that's much more complicated than she first thought --and which may end up with her own disappearance.

**BERENSON, ALEX** john wells PRISONER (#11) (\$13.50) It is the most dangerous mission of John Wells's career. Evidence is mounting that someone high up in the CIA is doing the unthinkable—passing messages to ISIS, alerting them to planned operations. Finding out the mole's identity without alerting him, however, will be very hard, and to accomplish it, Wells will have to do something he thought he'd left behind forever. He will have to reassume his former identity as an al Qaeda jihadi, get captured, and go undercover to befriend an ISIS prisoner in a secret Bulgarian prison. Many years before, Wells was the only American agent ever to penetrate al Qaeda, but times have changed drastically. The terrorist organizations have multiplied: gotten bigger, crueler, more ambitious and powerful. Wells knows it may well be his death sentence. But there is no one else.

**BERRY, STEVE** malone LOST ORDER (#12) (\$12.99) The Knights of the Golden Circle was the largest and most dangerous clandestine organization in American history. It amassed billions in stolen gold and silver, all buried in hidden caches across the country. Treasure hunters searched for over a century, but little of that immense wealth was ever found—until now. When the news about the found treasure gets out, two factions of what remains of the Knights rush to seize their fair share. Thrust into this battle is former Justice Department Agent Cotton Malone, who has his own ancestral connection to the Knights—one that is far more complicated than he ever could have imagined. As Malone tries to uncover the truth about one of the United States' most legendary secrets, he finds himself on a perilous adventure that takes him from the Senate floor and the backrooms of the Smithsonian Institution to the deepest woods in rural Arkansas and finally into the rugged mountains of New Mexico.

**BLACK, LISA** gardiner UNPUNISHED (#2) (\$10.99) The Cleveland Herald is making headlines for all the wrong reasons. A dead body found hanging above the newspaper's assembly line is a surefire way to stop the presses. Forensic investigator Maggie Gardiner rules out suicide. The evidence tells her a murderer is implementing a staff cut—and the killing is far from over. Homicide detective Jack Renner believes in justice—by any means necessary. If killing is what it takes, he won't let the law get in his way. It's just too bad Maggie knows his secrets. As the body count rises, Maggie has no choice but to put her trust in the one person she can never trust.

**BLAEDEL, SARA** rick & lind STOLEN ANGEL (\$12.99) When the granddaughter of the wealthy Sachs-Smith family is kidnapped, Louise's skills as a trained negotiator are put to work. She is tasked with helping the desperate mother negotiate what soon turns into a life-or-death situation. The kidnappers will only exchange the deathly ill little girl for an infamous stained-glass panel—known as the Angel of Death—that has been in the family for generations. But there's a problem... the Angel, worth millions, was recently stolen from the family home.

Racing against the clock as she matches wits with a criminal mastermind, Louise will be taken to the depths of human depravity. She's about to learn the hard way that money can buy absolutely anything. But will she be able to find the little girl before her time runs out?

**BLAEDEL, SARA** rick & lind RUNNING GIRL (\$12.99) Detec-

tive Louise Rick gets a call from her son, Jonas. It's every parent's worst nightmare: A school party has ended in terrifying chaos after a group of violent teenagers forced their way into the building in search of alcohol and valuables. Dashing to the scene, Louise discovers one of the students gravely injured—struck by a car while attempting to run for help. Now the girl's distraught mother, pushed to her emotional breaking point, will do anything to make those who hurt her daughter pay. So, when someone targets the gang members with a vicious attack, the girl's mother is the obvious suspect. But Louise can't shake the feeling that the case might not be as cut-and-dried as it first appears. Someone is lying—but who?

**BLAEDEL, SARA rick & lind** NIGHT WOMEN (#) aka farewell to freedom (\$12.99) A journey to a new life or a prison of despair and death? A shocking murder on Copenhagen's idyllic streets and an abandoned child reveal a perverse criminal underworld that crosses international borders. A young woman's body is found on the street with her throat slit, and the media is clamoring for the grisly details. Detective Louise Rick is investigating the gruesome murder when her friend Camilla Lind calls. Louise assumes it is because Camilla, a crime reporter, wants to be the first to hear of any juicy new developments. Instead, her distraught friend reveals that her ten-year-old son found an abandoned baby on his way to school. As Louise digs deeper into the murder and the mysterious foundling, every clue uncovered points to organized human trafficking from Eastern Europe, run by ruthless gangsters who won't hesitate to kill anyone who gets in their way.

**BRADFORD, LAURA emergency** DIAL M FOR MOUSSE (#3) (\$10.99) The Emergency Dessert Squad business is booming, with owner and baker Winnie Johnson working overtime to satisfy the emergency cravings of Silver Lake, Ohio. Her latest order, a plate of motivational desserts for an artists' retreat, is just what she needs to keep her mind off her own relationship woes. But Winnie's problems seem like trifles when she discovers the body of retreat owner Sally Dearfield mere inches away from five oh-so-eccentric and viable suspects. Now, this baking detective must uncover the inspiration behind Sally's murder before another creative genius is iced.

**BUDE, JOHN** DEATH MAKES A PROPHET (\$19.95) Originally published in 1947. Welworth Garden City in the 1940s is a forward-thinking town where free spirits find a home—vegetarians, socialists, and an array of exotic religious groups. Chief among these are the Children of Osiris, led by the eccentric High Prophet, Eustace K. Mildmann. The cult is a seething hotbed of petty resentment, jealousy and dark secrets - which eventually lead to murder. The stage is set for one of Inspector Meredith's most bizarre and exacting cases. This witty crime novel by a writer on top form is a neglected classic of British crime fiction.

**CAINE, RACHEL stillhouse** STILLHOUSE LAKE (#1) (\$22.95) Gina Royal is the definition of average—a shy Midwestern housewife with a happy marriage and two adorable children. But when a car accident reveals her husband's secret life as a serial killer, she must remake herself as Gwen Proctor—the ultimate warrior mom. With her ex now in prison, Gwen has finally found refuge in a new home on remote Stillhouse Lake. Though still the target of stalkers and Internet trolls who think she had something to do with her husband's crimes, Gwen dares to think her kids can finally grow up in peace. But just when she's starting to feel at ease in her new identity, a body turns up in the lake—and threatening letters start arriving from an all-too-familiar address. Gwen Proctor must keep friends close and enemies at bay to avoid being exposed—or watch her kids fall victim to a killer who takes pleasure in tormenting her. One thing is certain: she's learned how to fight evil. And she'll never stop.

**CAMILLERI, ANDREA montalb** PYRAMID OF MUD (#22) (\$22.00) On a gloomy morning in Vigata, a call from Fazio rouses Inspector Montalbano from a nightmare. A man called Giugiu Nicotra has been found dead in the skeletal workings of a construction site, a place now entombed by a sea of mud from recent days of rain and floods. Shot in the back, he had fled into a water supply system tunnel. The investigation gets off to a slow start, but all the evidence points to the world of construction and public contracts, a world just

as slimy and impenetrable as mud. As he wades through a world in which construction firms and public officials thrive, Montalbano is obsessed by one thought: that by going to die in the tunnel, Nicotra had been trying to communicate something.

**CARSON, CLARE coyle** ORKNEY TWILIGHT (\$19.95) All families have secrets. But some have more secrets than others. Jim is a brilliant raconteur whose stories get taller with each glass of whisky. His daughter Sam thinks it's time she found out the truth about her dad. On vacation in Orkney, Sam spies on Jim as he travels across the island. What has he hidden in the abandoned watchtower? Who is he meeting in the stone circle at dusk? And why is he suddenly obsessed with Norse myths? As Sam is drawn into Jim's shadowy world, she begins to realize that pursuing the truth is not as simple as it seems. Set against the harsh beauty of the remote Scottish islands of Orkney, inspired by the author's own childhood, this is a debut novel.

**CASARETT, DAVID** MISSING GUESTS OF THE MAGIC GROVE HOTEL (\$20.99) As a nurse ethicist, Ladarat Patalung works to save the lives of her patients, and to make sure the ones she can't save have at least the dignity of a "good death." But when wealthy foreign travelers start to go missing all across Thailand, Detective Wiriya Mookjai fears that a killer is at large, and turns to Ladarat for help. The travelers have nothing in common, except for brief stays at a mysterious resort, known as the Magic Grove Hotel.

**CELESTIN, RAY** DEAD MANS BLUES (\$18.99) Chicago, 1928. In the stifling summer heat three disturbing events take place. A group of city leaders is poisoned in a fancy hotel. A white gangster is found mutilated in an alleyway in the Black Belt. And a famous heiress vanishes without a trace. Pinkerton detectives Michael Talbot and Ida Davis are hired to find the missing heiress. But it proves harder than expected, and Ida must elicit the help of her friend Louis Armstrong to track her down. While the police take little interest in the Black Belt murder, crime scene photographer Jacob Russo can't get the dead man's image out of his head, and so embarks on his own investigation. And Dante Sanfelippo - rum-runner and fixer - is back in Chicago on the orders of Al Capone, who suspects there's a traitor in the ranks and wants Dante to investigate. But Dante is struggling with his own problems as he is forced to return to the city he thought he'd never see again. As the three parties edge closer to the truth, their paths will cross and their lives threatened. But will any of them find the answers they need in the city of blues, booze and corruption?

**CHILD, LEE** NO MIDDLE NAME complete reacher ss (\$12.99) A new novella and eleven previously published Reacher stories, together for the first time in one collection.

**CHILDS, LAURA** cackleberry EGG DROP DEAD (#7) (\$10.99) Maintaining good personal relationships with their suppliers is one of the secrets of the Cackleberry Club café's success, so Suzanne doesn't mind going out to Mike Mullen's dairy farm to pick up some wheels of cheese. She's looking forward to a nice visit with the mild-mannered farmer before heading back to their hectic kitchen. But when she arrives, Mike's nowhere to be found. The moaning of his cows leads her to look in the barn, where she discovers a bloodcurdling sight—the farmer's dead body. Apparently not everyone was as fond of Mike Mullen as the Cackleberry Club. Churning with grief and outrage, Suzanne, Petra, and Toni vow to find the farmer's murderer—but as they get closer to the truth, the desperate killer gets whipped into a frenzy and plans to put the squeeze on them.

**COLE, DANIEL** RAGDOLL (\$19.99) William Fawkes, a controversial detective known as The Wolf, has just been reinstated to his post after he was suspended for assaulting a vindicated suspect. Still under psychological evaluation, Fawkes returns to the force eager for a big case. When his former partner and friend, Detective Emily Baxter, calls him to a crime scene, he's sure this is it: the body is made of the dismembered parts of six victims, sewn together like a puppet—a corpse that becomes known as "The Ragdoll." Fawkes is tasked with identifying the six victims, but that gets dicey when his reporter ex-wife anonymously receives photographs from the crime scene, along with a list of six names, and the dates on which the Ragdoll Killer plans to murder them. The final name on the list is Fawkes. Baxter and her trainee partner, Alex Edmunds, hone in on figuring out what

links the victims together before the killer strikes again. But for Fawkes, seeing his name on the list sparks a dark memory, and he fears that the catalyst for these killings has more to do with him—and his past—than anyone realizes.

**COLEMAN, REED FARREL gus** WHAT YOU BREAK (#2) (\$22.00) Gus Murphy and his girlfriend Magdalena are put in harm's way when Gus is caught up in the distant aftershocks of heinous crimes committed decades ago in Vietnam and Russia. Gus's ex-priest pal, Bill Kilkenny, introduces him to a wealthy businessman anxious to have someone look more deeply into the brutal murder of his granddaughter. Though the police already have the girl's murderer in custody, they have been unable to provide a reason for the killing. The businessman, Spears, offers big incentives if Gus can supply him with what the cops cannot—a motive. Later that same day, Gus witnesses the execution of a man who has just met with his friend Slava. As Gus looks into the girl's murder and tries to protect Slava from the executioner's bullet, he must navigate a mine field populated by hostile cops, street gangs, and a Russian mercenary who will stop at nothing to do his master's bidding. But in trying to solve the girl's murder and save his friend, Gus may be opening a door into a past that was best left forgotten. Can he fix the damage done, or is it true that what you break you own...forever?

**CONNOLLY, SHEILA cork** CRUEL WINTER (#5) (\$22.95) Snow is a rarity in Maura Donovan's small village in County Cork, Ireland, so she wasn't sure what to expect when a major snowstorm rolled in around Sullivan's pub. But now she's stranded in a bar full of patrons—and a suspected killer in a long-ago murder.

Maura's been in Ireland less than a year and hasn't heard about the decades-old unsolved crime that took place nearby, let alone the infamous suspect, Diane Caldwell. But the locals have, and they're not happy to be trapped with her. Diane, meanwhile, seeks to set the record straight, asserting her innocence after all this time. And since no one is going anywhere in the storm, Maura encourages Diane to share her side of the story, which she'd never had a chance to do in court. Over the next few hours, the informal court in Sullivan's reviews the facts and theories about the case—and comes to some surprising conclusions. But is it enough to convince the police to take a new look at an old case?

**COTTERILL, COLIN jimm** AMOK RUNNERS (#0) (\$28.00) A detective crime novel set in Thailand featuring Jimm Juree. It is a prequel to the three published books with our intrepid lady journalist and her rather unique family still living in Chiang Mai. Becoming an extra along with her two brothers, Arny and Sissy, on an American movie with Hollywood stars being shot in the north of Thailand, she stumbles upon murder and mayhem while at the same time being part of an ancient treasure hunt. As usual it would be wrong for the bad guys to underestimate Jimm.

**CROSS, MASON blake** DON'T LOOK FOR ME (#4) (\$22.99) Don't look for me. It was a simple instruction. And for six long years Carter Blake kept his word and didn't search for the woman he once loved. But now someone else is looking for her. He'll come for you. Trenton Gage is a hitman with a talent for finding people - dead or alive. His next job is to track down a woman who's on the run, who is harbouring a secret many will kill for. Both men are hunting the same person. The question is, who will find her first?

**D'ANDREA, LUCA** BENEATH THE MOUNTAIN (\$21.00) Translated from the Italian. New York City native Jeremiah Salinger is one half of a hot-shot documentary-making team. He and his partner, Mike, made a reality show about roadies that skyrocketed them to fame. But now Salinger's left that all behind, to move with his wife, Annelise, and young daughter, Clara, to the remote part of Italy where Annelise grew up—the Alto Adige. Nestled in the Dolomites, this breathtaking, rural region that was once part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire remains more Austro than Italian. Locals speak a strange, ancient dialect—Ladino—and root for Germany (against Italy) in the world cup. Annelise's small town—Siebenhoch—is close-knit to say the least and does not take kindly to out-of-towners. When Salinger decides to make a documentary about the mountain rescue group, the mission goes horribly awry, leaving him the only survivor. He blames

himself, and so—it seems—does everyone else in Siebenhoch. Spiraling into a deep depression, he begins having terrible, recurrent nightmares. Only his little girl Clara can put a smile on his face. But when he takes Clara to the Bletterbach Gorge—a canyon rich in fossil remains—he accidentally overhears a conversation that gives his life renewed focus. In 1985, three students were murdered there, their bodies savaged, limbs severed and strewn by a killer who was never found. Although Salinger knows this is a tightlipped community, one where he is definitely persona non-grata, he becomes obsessed with solving this mystery and is convinced it is all that can keep him sane. And as Salinger unearths the long-kept secrets of this small town, one by one, the terrifying truth is eventually revealed about the horrifying crime that marked an entire village.

**DAVIES, MICHELLE neville** GONE ASTRAY (#1) (\$16.99) A debut crime novel featuring Detective Constable Maggie Neville. Money can't buy you happiness. The truth could hurt more than a lie. And one moment can change your life forever. When Lesley Kinnock bought a lottery ticket on a whim, she could never have imagined how radically her life would change. Catapulted into wealth beyond their wildest dreams, Lesley, her husband Mack, and their 15-year-old daughter move into an exclusive gated community in Buckinghamshire, England, leaving their ordinary life, and friends, behind. But their sudden luck quickly turns into their darkest nightmare when Lesley returns home one day to find their house empty - and her daughter, Rosie, gone. Detective Constable Maggie Neville is assigned to be Family Liaison Officer to Lesley and Mack, supporting them while quietly trying to investigate the family. And she has a crisis threatening her own life: a secret from the past that could shatter everything she's worked so hard to build. As Lesley and Maggie desperately search for Rosie, their fates hurtle together on a collision course that threatens to end in tragedy.

**DAVIS, LINDSEY flavia** THIRD NERO (#5) (\$15.99) Flavia Albia's day-old marriage is in trouble - her new husband may be permanently disabled and they have no funds. So, when Palace officials ask her to expose a traitor in their midst she is ready for the task. Ever since the Emperor Nero committed suicide in AD 68, Rome has been haunted by reports that he is actually alive and ready to reclaim his throne. Two Nero pretenders have emerged from the East and met grisly fates. But now a new pretender has been smuggled into Rome by the traitor. Flavia must negotiate with spies, dodge assassins and reveal this third Nero before he can make his move. Will she act in time or will Rome once more be plunged into civil war?

**DEAVER, JEFFERY W rhyme** BURIAL HOUR (#13) (\$20.99) A businessman snatched from an Upper East Side street in broad daylight. A miniature hangman's noose left at the scene. A nine-year-old girl, the only witness to the crime. With a crime scene this puzzling, forensic expertise of the highest order is absolutely essential. Lincoln Rhyme and Amelia Sachs are called in to investigate. Soon the case takes a stranger turn: a recording surfaces of the victim being slowly hanged, his desperate gasps the backdrop to an eerie piece of music. The video is marked as the work of The Composer. Despite their best efforts, the suspect gets away. So when a similar kidnapping occurs on a dusty road outside Naples, Italy, Rhyme and Sachs don't hesitate to rejoin the hunt. But the search is now a complex case of international cooperation--and not all those involved may be who they seem. Sachs and Rhyme find themselves playing a dangerous game, with lives all across the globe hanging in the balance.

**DORSEY, TIM serge storms** CLOWNFISH BLUES (#20) (\$19.99) With Coleman riding shotgun, Serge is rolling down the highway of his dreams in a vintage silver convertible Corvette just like the snazzy car Martin Milner drove. It doesn't matter that the actual Route 66 didn't pass through Florida, for Serge discovers that a dozen episodes near the series' end were filmed (really!) in his beloved home state. So for Serge and the always toked and stoked Coleman, the Sunshine State is all the road you need to get your kicks. But their adventure traveling the byways of the Sunshine State's underbelly is about to take a detour. Someone is trying to tilt the odds in the state lottery amidst a conga line of huge jackpots spinning off more chaos than any hurricane season. With this much at stake, of course every shady

character wants in. Crooked bodega owners, drug cartels laundering money through the lottery, and venture capitalists are all trying to game the system—and lining up to get their cut. They're also gambling with their lives, because when Serge and Coleman get hip to this timely (and very lucrative) trip, there's no telling whose number is up next. Throw in Brooke Campanella, Serge's old flame, as well as the perpetually star-crossed Reeves, and it's a sure bet that the ever-lucky Serge will hit it big. Winning has never been this deadly—or this much fun!

**EDWARDS, MARTIN** editor LONG ARM OF THE LAW (\$19.95)

In classic British crime fiction, dazzling detective work is often the province of a brilliant amateur – whereas the humble police detective cuts a hapless figure. The twelve stories collected here strike a blow for the professionals, with teasing mysteries to challenge a hard-working police officer's persistence and scrupulous attention to detail. As in his previous anthologies for the British Library Crime Classics series, Martin Edwards introduces readers to fascinating neglected gems of British crime writing as well as uncovering lesser-known stories by the great novelists of the golden age. Each of these stories combines realism with entertainment, skillfully blending the conduct of a criminal investigation with a compelling murder-mystery plot.

**ELLORY, R J** KINGS OF AMERICA (\$15.99) In America, kings are not born, they are made. Danny McCabe isn't his real name.

America certainly isn't his real home. But now Danny finds himself fleeing Ireland for the bright lights of 1930s Hollywood with two virtual strangers, Nicky Mariani and his beautiful sister, Lucia. As Lucia pursues her dream of stardom, Nicky finds his calling in the violent underbelly of the city of dreams. Torn between his love for Lucia and his desperate fear for their safety, Danny is drawn into a chain of events that will pit brother against sister, friend against friend, and lover against lover.

**ERIKSSON, KJELL** lindell STONE COFFIN (#7) (\$22.50) One sunny summer morning a young woman and her six-year old daughter are run over by a car. Both are killed immediately. Is it an accident, or did someone kill them on purpose? The same morning the husband of the deceased young woman disappears. During the police investigation, it turns out that the husband had recently bought a property that nobody knew anything about. A few days later a macabre discovery is made in a forest nearby.

**FERRARO, NICOLAS** DOGO (\$19.99) Dagoberto Juárez, the “Ginger” was the thief who robbed the most important jewelry store in Buenos Aires. He was convicted and imprisoned, but he never confessed where he hid the stolen jewelry, and took his secret to the grave. The loot of the legendary robbery becomes a “Maltese Falcon,” an object of desire. With millimetric suspense and an impeccable narrative, the author traps the reader without giving them respite.

**FIELDING, JOY** SHE'S NOT THERE (\$11.99) A lifetime ago, every year Caroline Shipley looked forward to her wedding anniversary. But then a celebratory trip to Mexico for the occasion with her husband and friends ended in the unsolved kidnapping of her infant daughter, Samantha. Now, fifteen years after that horrific time, divorced and isolated, Caroline is forced to relive the kidnapping by reporters who call every year on the anniversary of Samantha's disappearance. However, this year when the phone rings, Caroline hears the sweet voice of a girl claiming to be her long-lost daughter. Plunged back into the world of heartbreak, suspicion and questions that led the case to run cold so many years ago, Caroline doesn't know what or who to believe. But when she starts to figure it out, she finds the answers dangerously close to home.

**FINCH, PAUL** clayburn SHADOWS (#2) (\$16.99) As a female cop walking the mean streets of Manchester, life can be tough for PC Lucy Clayburn. But when one of the North West's toughest gangsters is your father, things can be particularly difficult. When Lucy's patch is gripped by a spate of murder-robberies, the police are quick to action. Yet when it transpires that the targets are Manchester's criminal underworld, attitudes change. Lucy is soon faced with one of the toughest cases of her life - and one which will prove once and for all whether blood really is thicker than water.

**FINN, A J** WOMAN IN THE WINDOW (\$24.99) Anna Fox lives

alone—a recluse in her New York City home, unable to venture outside. She spends her day drinking wine (maybe too much), watching old movies, recalling happier times, and spying on her neighbours. Then the Russells move into the house across the way: a father, mother, their teenaged son. The perfect family. But when Anna, gazing out her window one night, sees something she shouldn't, her world begins to crumble—and its shocking secrets are laid bare. What is real? What is imagined? Who is in danger? Who is in control? In this diabolically gripping thriller, no one—and nothing—is what it seems.

**FRENCH, NICCI** frieda klei SUNDAY SILENCE (#7) aka sunday morning coming down (\$19.99) Lover of London, gifted psychologist, frequent police consultant — Frieda Klein is many things. And now she's a person of interest in a murder case. A body has been discovered in the most unlikely and horrifying of places: beneath the floorboards of Frieda's house. The corpse is only months old, but the chief suspect appears to have died more than seven years ago. Except as Frieda knows all too well, he's alive and well and living in secret. And it seems he's inspired a copycat. As the days pass and the body count rises, Frieda finds herself caught in a fatal tug-of-war between two killers: one who won't let her go, and another who can't let her live.

**GARDINER, MEG** unsub UNSUB (#1) (\$13.50) Caitlin Hendrix has been a Narcotics detective for six months when the killer at the heart of all her childhood nightmares reemerges: the Prophet. An UNSUB—what the FBI calls an unknown subject—the Prophet terrorized the Bay Area in the 1990s and nearly destroyed her father, the lead investigator on the case. The Prophet's cryptic messages and mind games drove Detective Mack Hendrix to the brink of madness, and Mack's failure to solve the series of ritualized murders—eleven seemingly unconnected victims left with the ancient sign for Mercury etched into their flesh—was the final nail in the coffin for a once promising career. Twenty years later, two bodies are found bearing the haunting signature of the Prophet. Caitlin Hendrix has never escaped the shadow of her father's failure to protect their city. But now the ruthless madman is killing again and has set his sights on her, threatening to undermine the fragile barrier she rigidly maintains for her own protection, between relentless pursuit and dangerous obsession. Determined to decipher his twisted messages and stop the carnage, Caitlin ignores her father's warnings as she draws closer to the killer with each new gruesome murder. Is it a copycat, or can this really be the same Prophet who haunted her childhood? Will Caitlin avoid repeating her father's mistakes and redeem her family name, or will chasing the Prophet drag her and everyone she loves into the depths of the abyss?

**GREENWOOD, KERRY** fisher DEAD MAN'S CHEST (#18) (\$23.95) Traveling at high speed in her beloved Hispano-Suiza with her maid and trusted companion Dot, her two adoptive daughters Jane and Ruth, and their dog Molly, Phryne Fisher is off to Queenscliff. She'd promised everyone a nice holiday by the sea with absolutely no murders, but when they arrive at their rented accommodation that doesn't seem likely at all. An empty house, a gang of teenage louts, a fisherboy saved, and a missing butler and his wife seem to lead inexorably toward a hunt for buried treasure by the sea. Phryne knows to what depths people will sink for greed, but with a glass of champagne in one hand and a pearl-handled Beretta in the other, no one is getting past her.

**GREGORY, LENA** psychic OCCULT AND BATTERY (#2) (\$10.99) The outlook is not so good for Cass's psychic shop, Mystical Musings. With winter winds discouraging tourists from riding the ferry from Long Island to Bay Island, Cass hopes to draw in more customers by hosting a murder mystery weekend, complete with a séance, in a supposedly haunted mansion. But Cass begins to lose her spirit when her ex-husband shows up, along with his fiancée—Cass's ex-best friend. Then, after one of the guests is found dead, a blizzard blows in, trapping everyone inside with a murderer. Now Cass must divine who did the deed before her reputation and her livelihood fade away.

**GREGORY, SUSANNA** bartholo A PLAGUE ON BOTH YOUR HOUSES (#1) (\$15.99) A reissue of the first in the series. Matthew

Bartholomew, unorthodox but effective physician to Michaelhouse college in medieval Cambridge, is as worried as anyone about the pestilence that is ravaging Europe and seems to be approaching England. But he is distracted by the sudden and inexplicable death of the Master of Michaelhouse - a death the University authorities do not want investigated. But Matt is determined to get to the truth, leading him into a tangle of lies and intrigue that cause him to question the innocence of his closest friends - and even his family - just as the Black Death finally arrives.

**GREGORY, SUSANNA bartholo UNHOLY ALLIANCE (#2)** (\$15.99) A reissue of the 2<sup>nd</sup> in the series. In 1350, the people of Cambridge are struggling to overcome the effects of the Black Death - and with a high mortality rate among priests and monks, the townsfolk are vulnerable to sinister cults that have sprung up. At Michaelhouse, Matthew Bartholomew is training new physicians when the body of a friar is found in the massive chest that the University uses to store precious documents. While investigating, Bartholomew stumbles across a derelict church being used as a meeting place for the mysterious sect he believes is at the heart of a web of blackmail and deceit - with intention to overthrow the established religion.

**GREGORY, SUSANNA chaloner EXECUTIONER OF ST PAULS (#12)** (\$15.99) The plague raging through London in 1665 has emptied the city. The only people left are those too poor to flee, or those who selflessly struggle to control the contagion and safeguard the capital's future. Amongst them, though, are those prepared to risk their health for money - those who sell dubious 'cures' and hawk food at wildly inflated prices. Also amongst them are those who hold in their hands the future of the city's most iconic building - St Paul's Cathedral. The handsome edifice is crumbling from decades of neglect and indecision, giving the current custodians a stark choice - repair or demolish. Both sides have fanatical adherents who have been fighting each other since the Civil Wars. Large sums of money have disappeared, major players have mysteriously vanished, and then an unidentified skeleton is discovered in another man's grave. A reluctant Chaloner returns to London to investigate, only to discover that someone is determined to thwart him by any means - by bullet, poison or bludgeon - and he fears he has very little time to identify the culprits before he becomes yet another victim in the battle for the Cathedral's future.

**HADDOCK, NANCY silver six CRIME OF POISON (#3)** (\$10.99) It's early October, time for the Fall Folk Art Festival and Bake Sale in Lilyvale, Arkansas. Every business along the town square will benefit from the event, including the craft store run by Leslee Stanton Nix—aka Nixy—and the Silver Six, a group of retirees. In charge of making the festival go smoothly, Nixy is confident that it will be a success. But things become knotty when local troublemaker Cornell Lewis is found dead with a plate of Snickerdoodles from the bake sale. Two members of the Silver Six are accused of cooking up a murder plot, but Nixy knows that the cookies weren't literally to die for. With time running out, Nixy and company must catch the actual killer...before the Silver Six find their number permanently reduced to four.

**HAMILTON, IAN IMAM OF TAWI-TAWI (#10)** (\$19.95) Ava has spent two nights luxuriating in a hotel in Yunnan Province with the actress Pang Fai, with whom she has begun a secret relationship. She receives an urgent phone call from Chang Wang, the right hand to the billionaire Tommy Ordonez and one of Uncle's oldest friends. Years ago, Ava and Uncle helped Tommy recover \$50 million in a land swindle. Chang asks Ava to fly to Manila to meet with his friend, Senator Miguel Ramirez. Ramirez asks Ava to investigate a college in Tawi-Tawi, an island province in the Philippines, which he suspects is training terrorists. Ava's investigation leads to a partnership with a CIA agent, and together they attempt to stop an international plot, horrific in size and scope, only to have it turn on them. Ava's judgement and morals — which Uncle helped her forge — are tested like never before.

**HARPER, JANE DRY** (\$20.99) After getting a note demanding his presence, Federal Agent Aaron Falk arrives in his hometown for the first time in decades to attend the funeral of his best friend, Luke.

Twenty years ago, when Falk was accused of murder, Luke was his alibi. Falk and his father fled under a cloud of suspicion, saved from prosecution only because of Luke's steadfast claim that the boys had been together at the time of the crime. But now more than one person knows they didn't tell the truth back then, and Luke is dead. Amid the worst drought in a century, Falk and the local detective question what really happened to Luke. As Falk reluctantly investigates to see if there's more to Luke's death than there seems to be, long-buried mysteries resurface, as do the lies that have haunted them. And Falk will find that small towns have always hidden big secrets.

**HARRISON, METTE wallheim FOR TIME AND ALL ETERNITIES (#3)** (\$19.95) Mormon bishop's wife Linda Wallheim couldn't be more surprised to learn that her son Kenneth is engaged. Kenneth has left the Mormon church, and met his fiancée, med student Naomi Carter, at a "Mormons Anonymous" meeting. Naomi was also raised Mormon—but her family belongs to a group that practices polygamy. Naomi's father, Stephen, invites the Wallheims to visit the family compound. Though Stephen and his five wives seem to live normal, modern lives, Linda can't shake the feeling that the family dynamics are off. When tensions on the compound escalate to murder, Linda delves into the many Carter family secrets to find the killer.

**HEARON, LEIGH carson UNBRIDLED MURDER (#3)** (\$8.99) After horse trainer and rancher Annie Carson visits a feedlot in eastern Washington, she is determined to save as many horses from slaughter as possible before hightailing it back home—until she discovers the sleazy owner seemingly trampled in his corral. With the fate of the feedlot herd in her hands, Annie must navigate unfamiliar territory while trying to track down a killer and solve an increasingly tangled mystery. But unfortunately for Annie, returning to the Olympic Peninsula alive will be trickier than she ever imagined.

**HELLER, PETER CELINE** (\$22.00) Celine is not your typical private eye. With prep school pedigree and a pair of opera glasses for stakeouts, her methods are unconventional but extremely successful. Working out of her jewel box of an apartment nestled under the Brooklyn Bridge, Celine has made a career out of tracking down missing persons nobody else can find. But when a young woman named Gabriela employs her expertise, what was meant to be Celine's last case becomes a scavenger hunt through her own memories, the secrets there and the surprising redemptions. Gabriela's father was a National Geographic photographer who went missing in Wyoming twenty years ago and while he was assumed to have been mauled by a grizzly his body was never found. Celine and her partner set out to Yellowstone National Park to follow a trail gone cold but soon realize that somebody desperately wants to keep this case closed.

**HERRON, MICK slow horses SPOOK STREET (#4)** (\$19.95) WINNER OF THE 2017 CWA IAN FLEMING STEEL DAGGER FOR BEST THRILLER. "This is a terrific book and such a great series", says Marian. What happens when an old spook loses his mind? Does the Service have a retirement home for those who know too many secrets but don't remember they're secret? Or does someone take care of the senile spy for good? These are the paranoid concerns of David Cartwright, a Cold War—era operative and one-time head of MI5 who is sliding into dementia, and questions his grandson, River, must figure out answers to now that the spy who raised him has started to forget to wear pants. But River, himself an agent at Slough House, MI5's outpost for disgraced spies, has other things to worry about. A bomb has detonated in the middle of a busy shopping center and killed forty innocent civilians. The "slow horses" of Slough House must figure out who is behind this act of terror before the situation escalates.

**HIAASEN, CARL SKINNY DIP** (\$21.95) Just in case you haven't read this yet. Originally published in 2004. Chaz Perrone may care more about Hummers than hammerheads, but he's done pretty well for himself as a marine biologist, doctoring water samples so that an agribusiness tycoon can continue dumping fertilizer into the Everglades. When Chaz suspects that his wife, Joey Perrone, has figured out his scam, he resolves to push her overboard a cruise liner into the seething Atlantic. But if Chaz is a subpar scientist, he's an even worse killer. Joey, clinging blindly to a bale of Jamaican pot, is plucked

from the ocean by a rugged stranger. Instead of rushing to the authorities, she seizes the opportunity to stay dead and, with her new friend's help, screw with Chaz until he screws himself. Add in an ill-tempered detective with a penchant for albino pythons, an oddly hirsute body-guard addicted to fentanyl, and an unscrupulous boss growing uneasy about his lackey's increasingly erratic behavior . . . and Chaz's life is about to get a whole lot more interesting.

**HIGGINS, JACK dillon** MIDNIGHT BELL (#22) (\$13.50) In Ulster, Northern Ireland, a petty criminal kills a woman in a drunken car crash. Her sons swear revenge. In London, Sean Dillon and his colleagues in the "Prime Minister's private army," fresh from defeating a deadly al-Qaeda operation, receive a warning: You may think you have weakened us, but you have only made us stronger. In Washington, D.C., a special projects director with the CIA, frustrated at not getting permission from the President for his daring anti-terrorism plan, decides to put it in motion anyway. He knows he's right—the nation will thank him later. Soon, the ripples from these events will meet and overlap, creating havoc in their wake. Desperate men will act, secrets will be revealed—and the midnight bell will toll.

**HILTON, MATT joe hunter** JUDGEMENT AND WRATH (#2) (\$14.99) Originally published in 2009. Joe Hunter doesn't like bullies. So his latest job - saving a young woman from her bully boyfriend - is a no-brainer. As it turns out, the vengeful father isn't the only one who wants the boyfriend dead. Soon Hunter is face-to-face with a contract killer who takes his work very seriously. Contract killer Dantalion has a talent for killing and keeps a list of his victims in a book chained to his waist. Each victim is numbered. And the body count is about to start rising.

**HILTON, MATT joe hunter** DEVIL'S ANVIL (#10) (\$15.99) Accepting the task of protecting Billie Womack is a no-brainer for ex-counterterrorist soldier Joe Hunter, but it comes with its own set of complications. Billie's husband, Richard, stole thirty million dollars from some violent people. He apparently died in a car crash with Billie's daughter, Nicola, during a desperate attempt to elude his pursuers. But his enemies don't believe him dead. They think he escaped the plunge into the icy river that killed Nicola and has now decided to come back for the money. If he's alive, they believe he'll contact Billie. It doesn't take long for the bad guys to arrive at her remote farmhouse. Soon she and Joe are fugitives. Dead or alive, Richard's fate means nothing to Hunter, but he promises to do everything in his power to protect the grieving mother. Even if it means taking a bullet for her, it's a price he'll pay. It's a pledge he will come to regret, as he learns that killers are forged on the Devil's anvil.

**HUNTER, MADDY passport** SAY NO MOOR (#11) (\$23.95) Hoping to reach an expanded clientele of senior travelers, Emily Andrew-Miceli invites a handful of bloggers to join her group's tour of England's Cornwall region. But when the quarrelsome host of a historic inn dies under suspicious circumstances, Emily worries that the bloggers' online reviews will torpedo her travel agency. To make matters worse, Emily is roped into running the inn, and not even a team effort from her friends can prevent impending disaster. As one guest goes missing and another turns up dead, Emily discovers that well-kept secrets can provide more than enough motive for murder.

**ILES, GREG unwritten laws** MISSISSIPPI BLOOD (#3) (\$12.50) The final installment in the epic Natchez Burning trilogy, sequel to Natchez Burning (#1) and Bone Tree (#2) (\$12.50 each). Shattered by grief and dreaming of vengeance, Penn Cage sees his family and his world collapsing around him. The woman he loves is gone, his principles have been irrevocably compromised, and his father, once a paragon of the community that Penn leads as mayor, is about to be tried for the murder of a former lover. Most terrifying of all, Dr. Cage seems bent on self-destruction. Despite Penn's experience as a prosecutor in major murder trials, his father has frozen him out of the trial preparations--preferring to risk dying in prison to revealing the truth of the crime to his son. **Stephen King** says "...is extraordinarily entertaining and fiendishly suspenseful. I defy you to start it and find a way to put it down; as long as it is, I wished it were longer... This is an amazing work of popular fiction."

**JAMES, MIRANDA librarian** TWELVE ANGRY LIBRARIANS

(#8) (\$10.99) Charlie is stressed out. The Southern Academic Libraries Association is holding this year's annual meeting at Athena College. Since Charlie is the interim library director, he must deliver the welcome speech to all the visiting librarians. And as if that weren't bad enough, the keynote address will be delivered by Charlie's old nemesis from library school. It's been thirty years since Charlie has seen Gavin Fong, and he's still an insufferable know-it-all capable of getting under everyone's skin. In his keynote, Gavin puts forth a most unpopular opinion: that degreed librarians will be obsolete in the academic libraries of the future. So when Gavin drops dead, no one seems too upset. But Charlie, who was seen having a heated argument with Gavin the day before, has jumped to the top of the suspect list. Now Charlie and Diesel must check out every clue to refine their search for the real killer among them before the next book Charlie reads comes from a prison library.

**JANCE, J A ali reynolds** MAN OVERBOARD (#12) (\$12.99) Cybersecurity expert Roger McGeary finally has his life back on track after years of struggling with depression. But when he falls from the balcony of his suite on an all-expenses-paid cruise, the police quickly dismiss it as an accident. Unsatisfied, Roger's tough-as-nails aunt, Julia Miller, is determined to find answers and closure. By contacting Roger's childhood friend Stuart Ramey to help her solve the mystery of his fate, Julia unwittingly sets up a collision course with a serial killer. Stuart, his sidekick Cami Lee, and journalist-turned-amateur-sleuth Ali Reynolds put the full resources of cutting edge online security firm High Noon Enterprises into learning the truth about Roger's death. With Cami on the high seas investigating the ship from which Roger disappeared, Stuart stays tied to his computer, locked in a battle of wits and technology against an unusually twisted adversary. When the heartless killer sets sights on Stuart, High Noon must race against time to save him and countless others.

**JARDINE, QUINTIN skinner** STATE SECRETS (#28) (\$26.99) Former Chief Constable Bob Skinner is long out of the police force but trouble has a habit of following him around. So it is that he finds himself in the Palace of Westminster as a shocking act befalls the nation. Hours before the Prime Minister is due to make a controversial statement, she is discovered in her office with a letter opener driven through her skull. Is the act political? Personal? Or even one of terror? Skinner is swiftly enlisted by the Security Service to lead the investigation. Reunited with Met Police Commander Neil McIlhenney, he has forty-eight hours to crack the case - before the press unleash their wrath. There are many in the tangled web of government with cause to act. But the outcome will be one that not even Skinner himself could predict.

**KAABERBOL, LENE karno** DOCTOR DEATH (#1) (\$22.00) Strong-minded and ambitious, Madeleine Karno is eager to shatter the constraints of her provincial French upbringing. She longs to become a pathologist like her father, whom she assists, but this is 1894. Autopsies are considered unseemly and ungodly, even when performed by a man. So it's no surprise that when seventeen-year-old Cecile Montaine is found dead in the snowy streets of Varbourg, her family will not permit a full postmortem autopsy, and Madeleine and her father are left with a single mysterious clue. Soon after, the priest who held vigil by the dead girl's corpse is brutally murdered. The thread that connects these two events is a tangled one, and as the death toll mounts, Madeleine must seek knowledge in odd places: behind convent walls, in secret diaries, and in the yellow stare of an aging wolf.

**KAABERBOL, LENE karno** LADY IN SHADOWS (#2) (\$22.00) On June 2nd, 1894, in the wake of President Marie Francois Sadi Carnot's assassination, France descends into chaos and riots in the streets of Varbourg. Many lives are lost in the mayhem, but when one lady of the night is found murdered with brutal incisions and no sign of a struggle, it is clear something is amiss. Madeleine Karno must ask herself the terrifying question: Do they have their very own Jack the Ripper in France? Madeleine is no stranger to cases such as this. Though she is a woman in forensic pathology (a career considered unseemly even for men), her recent work with a string of mysterious deaths and becoming the first female student admitted to the University of Varbroug has earned her some semblance of respect. But

there's only so much her physiology courses can do to help her uncover the mysteries of a mad scientist's brutal murders. Madeleine must do whatever it takes—investigate the darkest corners of the city and even work undercover—to track down a murderer at large. But if there's one thing the press has right about “Mademoiselle Death,” it's this: it takes a woman to find a killer of women.

**KOPFLER, PAMELA** b&b spiri BETTER DEAD (#1) (\$8.99)

Burl Davis checked out of this life a little earlier than expected—before Holly could serve him with divorce papers over his extramarital flings. Unfortunately, it was not before he nearly bankrupted her beloved B&B, Holly Grove, a converted plantation that has been in her family for generations. Holly would never wish anyone dead, but three months later she's feeling a lot more relief than grief. Until Burl's ghost appears as an unwelcome guest. Before his spirit can move on, her not-so-dearly departed needs Holly's human help to bust up the drug smuggling ring he was involved with. She has reservations, to say the least, but agrees to assist him if he'll make a show of haunting the B&B to draw in visitors. But when Holly's former love, Jack McCann, mysteriously resurfaces in town and checks in, she has to wonder if her B&B is big enough for the ghost of her husband and the very real physical presence of her old flame.

**KOVAC, CHRISTINA** CUTAWAY (\$22.00) When brilliant TV news producer Virginia Knightly, “a tenacious, lovable heroine” (Publishers Weekly, starred review), receives a disturbing “MISSING” notice on her desk related to the disappearance of a beautiful young attorney, she can't help but suspect that the lawyer may be at the heart of something far more sinister. When she realizes that she is the only one at her studio who seems to care, Knightly decides to investigate on her own. Risking her career, her life, and perhaps even her own sanity, Knightly dives deep into the dark underbelly of Washington, DC business and politics in an investigation that will drag her mercilessly through the inextricable webs of corruption that bind the press, the police, and politics in our nation's capital.

**LAURA JOH ROWLAND** victori RIPPER'S SHADOW (#1)

(\$22.95) The year is 1888 and Jack the Ripper begins his reign of terror. Miss Sarah Bain, a photographer in Whitechapel, is an independent woman with dark secrets. In the privacy of her studio, she supplements her meager income by taking illicit “boudoir photographs” of the town's local ladies of the night. But when two of her models are found gruesomely murdered within weeks of one another, Sarah begins to suspect it's more than mere coincidence. Teamed with a motley crew of friends—including a street urchin, a gay aristocrat, a Jewish butcher and his wife, and a beautiful young actress—Sarah delves into the crime of the century. But just as she starts unlocking the Ripper's secrets, she catches the attention of the local police, who believe she knows more than she's revealing, as well as from the Ripper himself, now bent on silencing her and her friends for good. Caught in the crosshairs of a ruthless killer, Sarah races through Whitechapel's darkest alleys to find the truth...until she makes a shocking discovery that challenges everything she thought she knew about the case.

**LEBOR, ADAM** DISTRICT VIII (\$27.95) Life's tough for a Gypsy cop in Budapest. The cops don't trust you because you're a Gypsy. Your fellow Gypsies, even your own family, shun you because you're a cop. The dead, however, don't care. So, when Balthazar Kovacs, a detective in the city's murder squad, gets a mysterious message on his phone from a blocked number he gulps down the rest of his morning coffee, grabs his police ID and goes to work. Danube Blues reveals an underworld that Budapest visitors never get to see: the gritty back-alleys of District VII; the endemic corruption that reaches deep into the government as officials and their business allies plunder state coffers at will; a rule of law bent to serve the interests of the rich, well-connected and powerful; the rising power of international organized crime gangs who use the Hungarian capital as a springboard for their European operations; and the ghosts of Communism and Nazism that still haunt Hungary.

**LEESON, GAYLE** SILENCE OF THE JAMS (#2) (\$10.99) It's Independence Day in Winter Garden, Virginia, and the residents are gearing up for their annual celebration. The Down South Café is open and flourishing, and Amy Flowers is busy making pies and cakes for

the holiday. The only thorn in her side is Chamber of Commerce director George Lincoln, who is trying to buy the café, so he can tear it down and build a B&B on the site. When George collapses while eating at the Down South, everybody assumes it's a heart attack—until the autopsy declares it to be poisoning. Now, it's up to Amy to prove her innocence before her liberty is lost.

Includes delicious Southern recipes!

**LEESON, GAYLE** HONEY BAKED HOMICIDE (#3) (\$10.99) It's fall in Winter Garden, Virginia, and business at Amy Flowers' Down South Café has never been better. So when struggling beekeeper Stuart Landon asks Amy to sell some of his honey, she's happy to help. The jars of honey are a sweet success, but their partnership is cut short when Amy discovers Landon's body outside the café early one morning. As Amy tries to figure out who could possibly have wanted to harm the unassuming beekeeper, she discovers an ever-expanding list of suspects—and they're all buzzing mad. She'll have to use all of her skills—and her Southern charm—to find her way out of this sticky situation.

**LELIC, SIMON** HOUSE (\$16.99) The perfect couple. The perfect house. The perfect crime. Londoners Jack and Syd moved into the house a year ago. It seemed like their dream home: tons of space, the perfect location, and a friendly owner who wanted a young couple to have it. So when they made a grisly discovery in the attic, Jack and Syd chose to ignore it. That was a mistake. Because someone has just been murdered outside their back door. AND NOW THE POLICE ARE WATCHING THEM.

**LOVE, MELISSA** LOLA (\$22.00) The Crenshaw Six are a small but up-and-coming gang in South Central LA who have recently been drawn into an escalating war between rival drug cartels. To outsiders, the Crenshaw Six appear to be led by a man named Garcia . . . but what no one has figured out is that the gang's real leader (and secret weapon) is Garcia's girlfriend, a brilliant young woman named Lola. Lola has mastered playing the role of submissive girlfriend, and in the man's world she inhabits she is consistently underestimated. But in truth she is much, much smarter—and in many ways tougher and more ruthless—than any of the men around her, and as the gang is increasingly sucked into a world of high-stakes betrayal and brutal violence, her skills and leadership become their only hope of survival.

**LYALL, GAVIN** JUDAS COUNTRY (\$20.00) Roy Case, ex-Royal Air Force turned cargo pilot, lands in Nicosia to discover that his employers have gone bankrupt. Stranded at a rapidly deteriorating hotel, and assaulted in the street, he realizes that the cases clearly marked 'champagne' that he was supposed to be flying to Lebanon actually contain machine guns. Luckily Case's old friend Cavitt is around to help, but no sooner are they rid of the guns than they get caught up in a terrorist plot that will draw them in, and start a hunt for a priceless long-lost relic.

**MACRAE, MOLLY** bookshop PLAID AND PLAGIARISM (#1)

(\$21.95) Set in the weeks before the annual Inversgail Literature Festival in Scotland, Plaid and Plagiarism begins on a morning shortly after the four women take possession of their bookshop in the Highlands. Unfortunately, the move to Inversgail hasn't gone as smoothly as they'd planned. First, Janet Marsh is told she'll have to wait before moving into her new home. Then she finds out the house has been vandalized. Again. The chief suspect? Una Graham, an advice columnist for the local paper—who's trying to make a name for herself as an investigative reporter. When Janet and her business partners go looking for clues at the house, they find a body—it's Una, in the garden shed, with a sickle in her neck. Janet never did like that garden shed. Who wanted Una dead? After discovering a cache of nasty letters, Janet and her friends are beginning to wonder who didn't, including Janet's ex-husband. Surrounded by a cast of characters with whom readers will fall in love, the new owners of Yon Bonnie Books set out to solve Una's murder, so they can get back to business.

**MARSTON, EDWARD** home from ENEMY WITHIN (#6)

(\$18.99) Pentonville Prison. Wally Hubbard is serving a long sentence for arson. But after befriending and tricking one of the officers, Hubbard makes an audacious escape. Inspector Marmion, the detective who arrested Hubbard, is warned to watch his back, but it seems

that Hubbard has another target in his murderous sights. However, the investigation is mired in confusion, the identities of killer and victim become increasingly ambiguous. An inmate at an internment camp who might be a spy sending intelligence to the Germans complicates matters further, and the multiplying manhunts, as well as Marmion's concern for his injured and withdrawn son Paul, leave the detective desperate and perhaps with too many threads to untangle.

**MASON, RICHARD WHO KILLED PIET BAROL?** (\$22.95) One of the Best Books of the Year: *Newsday*, *The Times*, *The Observer*, *Mail on Sunday*. This "gorgeous treat of a novel" (*The Times*, Book of the Month) is a funny, sexy, irreverent, and intensely moving portrait of what unites human beings when their sacred mysteries are blown apart. Avoiding the trauma of the First World War, Piet Barol heads into Africa's greatest forest. With a business to build and secrets to escape, he's running out of time to make his own luck. His African guides have reasons of their own for taking him to their ancestral lands – where he finds a prize beyond his wildest imaginings. To get it, he must use every weapon at his disposal. As the story moves to its devastating conclusion, every character becomes a suspect, and Piet's gamble sets him on a collision course with forces he cannot control.

**MAY, PETER china FIREMAKER (#1)** (\$19.49) Finally! Available through a Canadian distributor at a much better price. This is a terrific series. Originally published in 1999. A grotesquely burned corpse found in a city park is a troubling mystery for Beijing detective Li Yan. Yan, devoted to his career as a means of restoring the respect his family lost during the Cultural Revolution, needs outside help if he is to break the case. The unidentified cadaver in turn provides a welcome distraction for forensic pathologist Margaret Campbell. Campbell, married to her work and having left America and her broken past behind, throws herself into the investigation and before long uncovers a bizarre anomaly. An unlikely partnership develops between Li and Campbell as they follow the resulting lead. A fiery and volatile chemistry ignites, exposing not only their individual demons, but an even greater evil—a conspiracy that threatens their lives, as well as those of millions of others.

**MELVILLE, ALAN DEATH OF ANTON** (\$19.95) Seven Bengal tigers are the star attraction of Carey's Circus. Their trainer is the fearless Anton, whose work demands absolute fitness and the steadiest of nerves. When Anton is found lying dead in the tigers' cage, it seems that he has lost control and been mauled by the tigers - but Detective-Inspector Minto of Scotland Yard is not convinced. Minto's investigations lead him deep into the circus world of tents and caravans, clowns and acrobats, human and animal performers. No one is above suspicion. Carey, the circus-owner with a secret to hide; Dodo, the clown whose costume is scratched as if by a claw; and Lorimer, the trapeze artist jealous of his flirtatious wife - all come under Minto's scrutiny as the mystery deepens. This amusing and light-hearted novel from the golden age of British crime writing has long been neglected, and this new edition will help to restore Melville's reputation as an author of extremely entertaining detective fiction.

**MELVILLE, ALAN QUICK CURTAIN** (\$19.95) 'Don't talk bunk!' said Mr. Douglas. 'You can't carry on with the show with a man dying on stage. Drop the curtain!' When Douglas B. Douglas - leading light of the London theatre - premieres his new musical extravaganza, *Blue Music*, he is sure the packed house will be dazzled by the performance. What he couldn't predict is the death of his star, Brandon Baker, on stage in the middle of Act 2. Soon another member of the cast is found dead, and it seems to be a straightforward case of murder followed by suicide. Inspector Wilson of Scotland Yard - who happens to be among the audience - soon discovers otherwise. Together with Derek, his journalist son, Wilson takes charge of proceedings in his own inimitable way. This is a witty, satirical novel from the golden age of British crime fiction between the world wars. It is long overdue for rediscovery and this new edition includes an informative introduction by Martin Edwards, author of *The Golden Age of Murder*.

**MITCHELL, DAVID GHOSTWRITTEN** (\$23.95) A gallery attendant at the Hermitage. A young jazz buff in Tokyo. A crooked

British lawyer in Hong Kong. A disc jockey in Manhattan. A physicist in Ireland. An elderly woman running a tea shack in rural China. A cult-controlled terrorist in Okinawa. A musician in London. A transmigrating spirit in Mongolia. What is the common thread of coincidence or destiny that connects the lives of these nine souls in nine far-flung countries, stretching across the globe from east to west? What pattern do their linked fates form through time and space? Many forces bind these lives, but at root all involve the same universal longing for connection and transcendence, an axis of commonality that leads in two directions—to creation and to destruction. In the end, as lives converge with a fearful symmetry, *Ghostwritten* comes full circle, to a point at which a familiar idea—that whether the planet is vast or small is merely a matter of perspective—strikes home with the force of a new revelation. It marks the debut of a writer of astonishing gifts.

**MOORE, JONATHAN DARK ROOM** (\$19.95) Gavin Cain, an SFPD homicide inspector, is at an exhumation when his phone rings. The mayor is being blackmailed and has ordered Cain back to the city; a helicopter is on its way. The casket, and Cain's cold-case investigation, must wait. At City Hall, the mayor shows Cain four photographs he's received: the first, an unforgettable blonde; the second, pills and handcuffs on a nightstand; the third, the woman drinking from a flask; and last, the woman naked, unconscious, and shackled to a bed. The accompanying letter is straightforward: worse revelations will come unless the mayor takes his own life first.

**MOYES, PATRICIA tibbett MURDER A LA MODE (#4)** (\$22.50) Originally published in 1963. Patricia Moyes worked as an editor at *British Vogue*, and her familiarity with the London fashion scene is put to good use in this tale of murder at the fictional *Style* magazine, right in the midst of their preparations for the upcoming Paris shows. Happily, Inspector Tibbett, who knows very little about fashion, is very good at solving crime.

**MOYES, PATRICIA tibbett DEATH ON THE AGENDA (#3)** (\$22.50) Originally published in 1962. Henry Tibbett is attending an international police conference intended to stop drug-smuggling. The conference is in Switzerland, and it's all a glittering whirl of attractive folks in their best early-1960s attire until one of Henry's colleagues winds up dead and Henry becomes a suspect.

**MOYES, PATRICIA tibbett SUNKEN SAILOR (#2) aka down among the dead men** (\$22.50) Originally published in 1961. Inspector Henry Tibbett and his wife, Emmy, are lazing on a friend's yacht, tacking from one little English sea-town to the next, and it should all be delicious indolence...except that Henry can't stop thinking about the death of a local sailor, especially when it starts looking as though it is connected to the robbery at a nearby manor-house.

**MOYES, PATRICIA tibbett DEAD MEN DONT SKI (#1)** (\$22.50) Originally published in 1958. In this first title in her "Inspector Tibbett" series, Patricia Moyes introduces Henry Tibbett and his wife Emmy whose skiing vacation in the Italian Dolomites is interrupted by a spot of murder. A pleasantly old-fashioned whodunit. "If you love classic British cosies, then read this series. Well, the first that have been reissued anyway. It's excellent" says Marian.

**MOZLEY, FIONA ELMET** (\$23.95) FINALIST FOR THE 2017 MAN BOOKER PRIZE; \*\*The Guardian Best Books of 2017 \* December Indie Next Pick \* Amazon Best of the Month \* Amazon Debut Spotlight \* PEOPLE Magazine BOOK OF THE WEEK\*\* The family thought the little house they had made themselves in Elmet, a corner of Yorkshire, was theirs, that their peaceful, self-sufficient life was safe. Cathy and Daniel roamed the woods freely, occasionally visiting a local woman for some schooling, living outside all conventions. Their father built things and hunted, working with his hands; sometimes he would disappear, forced to do secret, brutal work for money, but to them he was a gentle protector. Narrated by Daniel after a catastrophic event has occurred, Elmet mesmerizes even as it becomes clear the family's solitary idyll will not last. When a local landowner shows up on their doorstep, their precarious existence is threatened, their innocence lost. Daddy and Cathy, both of them fierce, strong, and unyielding, set out to protect themselves and their neighbors, putting into motion a chain of events that can only end in

violence.

**NADEL, BARBARA** ikmen HOUSE OF FOUR (#19) (\$15.99) Everyone in the Istanbul neighbourhood of Moda knows the Devil's House. A crumbling Ottoman mansion, and once the home of a princess, it is a place associated with ill fortune. The princess's four children, now in old age, still live in separate apartments on different floors and are rumoured never to speak to each other. Then one of them is found dead, stabbed through the heart, and it is discovered that the other three siblings have met an identical fate. There is no sign of forced entry or burglary, and all evidence must be gained from letters and diaries, but as Inspector Ikmen digs into their past it becomes clear they have been harbouring a secret. Meanwhile a young couple are arrested for a series of seemingly random killings on the streets of Istanbul. They claim to have been squatting in the Devil's House. But this fiendish mystery is far from over and it will take Inspector Ikmen to the darkest and most devilish depths of this ancient city.

**OPPENHEIM, E PHILLIPS** FALSE EVIDENCE (\$17.50) Originally published in 1896. The story of a gallant soldier who is dismissed his regiment, and disowned by his father, because he has been found guilty, on "false evidence," of cowardice in the field. He changes his name, and later his son falls in love with the daughter of the man whose false evidence led to his ruin.

**OPPENHEIM, E PHILLIPS** SPY PARAMOUNT (\$19.95) Originally published in 1934. The Spy Paramount takes us to Rome, 1934. American Martin Fawley, a former secret service agent, is recruited as a spy by General Berati, the most feared man in fascist Italy. Going undercover to Monte Carlo, Fawley travels in a world of casinos and cocktails, high stakes and secrecy - and discovers the secret weapon that could determine the outcome of the looming world war.

**OPPENHEIM, E PHILLIPS** GREAT IMPERSONATION (\$15.00) Originally published in 1920. The year is 1913. The disgraced and formerly penniless aristocrat Sir Everard Dominey returns from German East Africa a reformed and wealthy man determined to take his place in English society. But is he Sir Everard or the German spy, Baron Leopold von Ragastein? Leopold, educated at Eton and Oxford with the Englishman, bears a striking resemblance to Dominey and was often taken as his double at school. After a chance encounter in Africa, one of them has returned. But who? The Great Impersonation is considered one of the most famous spy novel of all time. This is marvelous reading with its fast-moving plot and its descriptions of the rich life of English aristocrats before the Great War, and its bold characters. Besides the Kaiser and a whole host of Dukes, Duchesses, Ambassadors, German agents and silly young Englishman, there's the Princess Eiderstrom, "one of the most passionate women in Europe," desperately in love with Leopold; Sir Everard's insane wife who has bowed to kill him if he should every return home; the frightening Mrs. Unthank, Lady Dominey's only companion, and her son, Roger Unthank, whom everyone believes Sir Everard murdered, and whose spirit haunts the ancestral home.

**PARKER, ROBERT B cole** REVELATION (#9) (\$10.99) Territorial marshals Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch figured things had finally settled down in Appaloosa when Boston Bill Black's murder charge was dropped. But all that changed when Augustus Noble Driggs was transferred to a stateside penitentiary just across the border from Mexico. Square-jawed, handsome, and built like a muscled thoroughbred stallion, Driggs manages to intimidate everyone inside the prison walls, including the upstart young warden. In a haunting twist of fate, Driggs and a pack of cold-blooded convicts are suddenly on the loose—and it's up to any and all territorial lawmen, including Cole and Hitch, to capture the fugitives and rescue the woman kidnapped during their escape. But nothing is ever quite what it seems with the ever-elusive Driggs. Finally free, he's quickly on his own furious hunt for a hidden cache of gold and jewels—and for the men who betrayed him and left him for dead. With an unlikely and unconventional Yankee detective by their side, Cole and Hitch set off on a massive manhunt. As horses' hooves thunder and guns echo deadening reports, Driggs discovers one of the lawmen on his trail is none other than a fellow West Point graduate he'd just as soon see dead. Ruthless and

willing to leave a bloody path of destruction in his wake, Driggs seeks vengeance at any cost.

**PARKS, BRAD** SAY NOTHING (\$22.00) Judge Scott Sampson doesn't brag about having a perfect life, but the evidence is clear: A prestigious job. A loving marriage. A pair of healthy children. Then a phone call begins every parent's most chilling nightmare. Scott's six-year-old twins, Sam and Emma, have been taken. The judge must rule exactly as instructed in a drug case he is about to hear. If he refuses, the consequences for the children will be dire. For Scott and his wife, Alison, the kidnapper's call is only the beginning of a twisting, gut-churning ordeal of blackmail, deceit, and terror. Through it all, they will stop at nothing to get their children back, no matter the cost to themselves . . . or to each other.

**PARSONS, KELLY** UNDER THE KNIFE (\$12.99) Biotechnology tycoon Morgan Finney is highly intelligent but shy and emotionally fragile. When his beloved wife, Jenny, dies of complications during a surgery led by Dr. Rita Wu, Finney's grief turns to rage. He vows to kill Rita just as he believes she killed Jenny. But first Finney will systematically destroy her life. He will take what is precious to her just as she did to him. Aided by a mysterious man, Finney uses advanced medical technology to ruin Rita's reputation and bring her to the brink of madness. Alone, fighting for her life, Rita reaches out to her former lover, Dr. Spencer Cameron, for help. Together, they must fight to uncover Finney's horrific intentions and race to stop him before it's too late.

**PATTERSON & FOX** harriet NEVER NEVER (#1) (\$12.99) Never...assume you know someone. Harry Blue is the top Sex Crimes investigator in her department. She's a seasoned pro who's seen it all. But even she didn't see this coming: her own brother arrested for the grisly murders of three beautiful young women. Never...accept a reassignment to the middle of nowhere "for your own good." Harry's been sent to a makeshift town in a desolate landscape—a world full of easy money, plenty of illegal ways to spend it, and a ragtag collection of transient characters who thrive on the fringes of society. A place where little grows, but evil flourishes. Never...trust anyone. Looking into a seemingly simple missing persons case, Harry's been assigned to a new "partner." But is he actually meant to be a watchdog? Still reeling from the accusations against her brother, Harry can't even trust her own instincts, which she's never doubted...until now. Never...go anywhere without leaving a trace. Far from the world she knows and desperate to clear her brother's name, Harry has to mine the dark secrets of her strange new home for answers to a deepening mystery—before she vanishes in a place where no one would ever think to look for her.

**PATTERSON, JAMES** womens 16TH SEDUCTION (#16) (\$20.99) Fifteen months ago, Detective Lindsay Boxer's life was perfect—she had a beautiful child and a doting husband, Joe, who helped her catch a criminal who'd brazenly detonated a bomb in downtown San Francisco, killing twenty-five people. But Joe wasn't everything that Lindsay thought he was, and she's still reeling from his betrayal as a wave of mysterious, and possibly unnatural, heart attacks claims seemingly unrelated victims across San Francisco. As if that weren't enough, the bomber she and Joe captured is about to go on trial, and his defense raises damning questions about Lindsay and Joe's investigation. Not knowing whom to trust, and struggling to accept the truth about the man she thought she knew, Lindsay must connect the dots of a deadly conspiracy before a brilliant criminal puts her on trial.

**PAVONE, CHRIS** ACCIDENT (\$12.99) As dawn approaches in New York, literary agent Isabel Reed is turning the final pages of a mysterious, anonymous manuscript, racing through the explosive revelations about powerful people, as well as long-hidden secrets about her own past. In Copenhagen, veteran CIA operative Hayden Gray, determined that this sweeping story be buried, is suddenly staring down the barrel of an unexpected gun. And in Zurich, the author himself is hiding in a shadowy expat life, trying to atone for a lifetime's worth of lies and betrayals with publication of *The Accident*, while always looking over his shoulder. Over the course of one long, desperate, increasingly perilous day, these lives collide as the book begins its dangerous march toward publication, toward saving or ruining

careers and companies, placing everything at risk—and everyone in mortal peril. The rich cast of characters—in publishing and film, politics and espionage—are all forced to confront the consequences of their ambitions, the schisms between their ideal selves and the people they actually became.

**PERRY, THOMAS** OLD MAN (\$22.95) To all appearances, Dan Chase is a harmless retiree in Vermont with two big mutts and a grown daughter he keeps in touch with by phone. But most sixty-year-old widowers don't have multiple driver's licenses, savings stockpiled in banks across the country, and a bugout kit with two Beretta Nanos stashed in the spare bedroom closet. Most have not spent decades on the run. Thirty-five years ago, as a young hotshot in army intelligence Chase was sent to Libya to covertly assist a rebel army. When the plan turned sour, Chase reacted according to his own ideas of right and wrong, triggering consequences he could never have anticipated. And someone still wants him dead because of them. Just as he had begun to think himself finally safe, Chase must reawaken his survival instincts to contend with the history he has spent his adult life trying to escape.

**PETERSEN, PENNY** DAISY ROSES AND DAISIES AND DEATH, OH MY! (#1) (\$18.95) Nothing ruins a peaceful morning walk like finding a blood-spattered body. And Daisy Greene and Rose Forrest, sisters and co-owners of Champagne Taste, really need a peaceful morning walk. They have enough on their minds already. Christmas is right around the corner, business is brisk, and their little antiques district of Old Towne is being plagued with petty thievery and vandalism. Murder is just not in the game plan. And if finding bodies lying around walking trails isn't enough to destroy a perfectly good day, Daisy's ex-husband, state trooper Bill Greene, shows up to investigate the murder. Nosy by nature anyway, Daisy takes Bill's presence as a challenge to find the murderer. When Daisy and Rose start asking questions, things get hairier. Someone begins stalking them. Daisy receives threatening letters and is brutally attacked. Their determination grows when clues lead to a missing priceless diamond and the man Daisy is dating becomes the next victim. With the help of their eccentric mother, Angela, and their hormonally-exuberant dog, Malcolm, they follow the clues to catch a killer.

**PRYOR, MARK** hollow man DOMINIC (#2) (\$17.00) Only two other people know that Dominic, a charming Englishman, prosecutor, and musician in Austin, Texas, is also a psychopath. They also know that a year ago he got away with murder. One of those people is his "special lady," and the other is her brother, a teenager and fellow psychopath called Bobby. When a wily homicide detective starts digging up that past murder, little Bobby offers to take care of the problem—permanently. Dominic tries to dissuade him, but as he himself knows, psychopaths aren't good with following instructions. Or impulse control. As Detective Megan Ledsome circles closer, Dominic knows his life depends on keeping his secrets hidden, from her and the rest of the world. And when his annoying office-mate declares his interest in a judicial position, one he himself would like, Dominic realizes that one of his carefully-orchestrated plans could kill two birds with one stone. Of course, that means some sleight of hand and a sacrifice or two. But if there's one thing a psychopath doesn't mind, it's sacrificing other people. The first in this series is Hollow Man (\$17.00).

**PULLEY, D M** UNCLAIMED VICTIM (\$22.95) In 1938, at the height of the Great Depression, a madman hunts his victims through the hobo jungles of Cleveland, terrorizing the city. Ethel Harding, a prostitute struggling to survive both the cold streets and the Torso Killer, takes refuge with a devout missionary sect—only to find that its righteous facade conceals the darkest of secrets. Sixty years later, the police find the butchered body of Alfred Wiley in the woods. But before his daughter, Kris, can even identify the remains, things he never told her begin to surface one by one—a mysterious private eye who'd been tracking him, an eerie website devoted to the unsolved "Torso" murders, missing archives, stolen books, and an abandoned Bible factory harboring vagrants. The more she learns about her father's obsession with the Torso Killer, the more Alfred's death appears to be related, pulling Kris further into Cleveland's hellish past. Living decades apart, Ethel and Kris must unravel the truth behind the

city's most notorious serial killer...or die trying.

**ROBB, J D** SECRETS IN DEATH (#45) (\$10.99) Du Vin isn't the kind of bar Lieutenant Eve Dallas would usually patronize—nor the kind where a lot of blood gets spilled. But one February evening, a mortally wounded woman stumbles out of the chic Manhattan night-spot's ladies' room. Larinda Mars is a self-described "social information reporter," or in more old-fashioned terms, a professional gossip. She also had a side business in blackmail. Setting her sights on rich, prominent marks, she'd learn what they most wanted to keep hidden and then bleed them dry. Now someone's done the same to her, literally—with a knife to the brachial artery. Eve didn't like Larinda Mars. But she likes murder even less. To find justice for this victim, she'll have to discover what dirty secrets Larinda Mars used to victimize others. But along the way, Eve may be exposed to information she really didn't want to know.

**ROGERS, BILL** agency PICK, THE SPADE AND THE CROW (#1) (\$23.95) When the body of a man is discovered in woodlands outside Manchester, a ten-year missing-persons investigation can finally be filed away. But this was no ordinary death: gagged, bound and buried alive, he was the victim of a sophisticated and sadistic killer. And there is something else that has the National Crime Agency puzzled. A single character carved into a nearby tree. Newly promoted to the NCA's Behavioural Sciences Unit, Senior Investigator Joanne Stuart is determined to hunt down the perpetrator. Just as Jo's investigation begins to reveal links with other disappearances, there is another murder. This is no longer a cold case; she is dealing with the escalating violence of a chilling serial killer. Stepping into a sinister world of secrets, symbols and rituals, Jo will have to confront the legacy of her own past and the violent memories that lurk there if she is going to solve this case. But at what cost?

**ROLLINS, JAMES** sigma forc DEMON CROWN (#12) (\$21.99) Off the coast of Brazil, a team of scientists discovers a horror like no other, an island where all life has been eradicated, consumed, and possessed by a species beyond imagination. Before they can report their discovery, a mysterious agency attacks the group, killing them all, save one: an entomologist, an expert on venomous creatures, Professor Ken Matsui from Cornell University. Strangest of all, this inexplicable threat traces back to a terrifying secret buried a century ago beneath the National Mall: a cache of bones preserved in amber. The artifact was hidden away by a cabal of scientists—led by Alexander Graham Bell—to protect humankind. But they dared not destroy it, for the object also holds an astonishing promise for the future: the very secret of life after death.

**ROSENFELT, DAVID** carpente ONE DOG NIGHT (#9) (\$9.99) For six years Noah Galloway has lived with a horrible secret and the fear that his rebuilt life could be shattered at any moment. Now his dread has become a certainty, and he has been arrested for the arson murder of twenty-six people. What he needs now is defense lawyer Andy Carpenter, who most definitely is not in the market for a new client. So Noah plays his hole card: a shared love for Andy's golden retriever, Tara, and the knowledge of what her life was like before Andy rescued her. Because Andy wasn't her first owner—Noah rescued Tara first, and when he wasn't able to care for her any longer, he did everything in his power to make sure that she was placed in the right home: Andy's. With that knowledge, Andy has little choice but to take Noah on, and he soon learns that the long-ago event that may destroy Noah's life is only the beginning of an ongoing conspiracy that grows more deadly by the day. Andy will have to pull out all of his tricks to get to the bottom of this cold case turned white hot.

**ROSS, BARBARA** clambake STOWED AWAY (#6) (\$8.99) It's June in Busman's Harbor, Maine, and Julia Snowden and her family are working hard to get their authentic Maine clambake business ready for summer. Preparations must be put on hold, however, when a mysterious yacht drops anchor in the harbor—and delivers an unexpected dose of murder. When Julia's old prep school rival Wyatt Jayne invites her to dinner on board her billionaire fiancé's decked-out yacht, Julia arrives to find a sumptuous table set for two—and the yachtsman dead in his chair. Suspicion quickly falls on Wyatt, and Julia's quest to dredge up the truth leads her into the murky private

world of a mega-rich recluse who may not have been all that he seemed.

**RYAN, CHRIS** strikeback SHADOW KILL (#3) (\$10.99) Strikeback hero John Porter is sent on a mission with Regimental scallywag John Bald. Where Porter plays it by the book, Bald will always want to break the rules. They are sent to Sierra Leone to extract Ronald Soames, a former CO of the Regiment and now right-hand man to the President. But when Porter and Bald arrive the Englishman has disappeared, leaving a trail of destruction in his wake. Rebels are threatening to take over the country and its diamond mines—and to massacre all foreigners. Porter and Bald find themselves fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Regiment psychopath who is already embedded in the country. But it soon becomes clear that the Firm has lied to them about the true nature of the mission. What seems at first to be a battle to control Sierra Leone's diamond mines will turn out to be about a much greater evil—and with a trail that leads back to both Westminster and the Kremlin.

**RYAN, ANNE** LISE DEAD IN THE WATER (\$8.99) As a single mom and deputy coroner of Sorenson, Wisconsin, Mattie Winston is used to her life being a juggling act. But now that she's moved in with Detective Steve Hurley and his teenaged daughter, and has started planning their wedding, her home life is looking more like a three-ring circus. At least her workload at the Medical Examiner's office is lightened by the new hire Hal Dawson. But before Hal can even cash his first paycheck, he's murdered on a fishing trip with his girlfriend, who's gone missing. To keep her life from going completely under, Mattie will have to dive deep for clues. But a killer is just as determined to keep the truth from ever surfacing.

**SHELTON, PAIGE** bookshop OF BOOKS AND BAGPIPES (#2) (\$10.50) A small-town bookseller in search of a rare Scottish text finds herself in epic danger in Paige Shelton's *Of Books and Bagpipes: A Scottish Bookshop Mystery*. Always up for a literary adventure, Delaney Nichols left Kansas to pursue her dream job at the Cracked Spine, a Scottish bookshop specializing in rare manuscripts and other valuable historical objects. So when her boss asks her to retrieve a hard-to-find edition of an Oor Wullie comic, Delaney is only too eager to please. Even though her trip to Castle Doune, outside of Edinburgh, ends up being a lot more than she bargained for. . . While viewing the Highlands from the castle's ramparts, Delaney spots a sandal-clad foot at the other end of the roof—one that belongs to the now-deceased man in charge of bringing her the Oor Wullie. Delaney grabs the pages of the comic book and hides them under her jacket before rushing off to find the police. It's not until she's back in at the Cracked Spine that Delaney realizes just how complicated this story really is. Can she untangle the plot and figure out who the killer is. . . before getting herself booked for murder?

**SHERMAN, S C** LONE WOLF CANYON (\$21.99) Lance "Ham" Hamilton had made the kind of promise you don't break to his dying Army buddy Mac. After their tour ended, they'd planned to "play cowboy," just like days gone by. So Ham headed out West to a job waiting at The Lost Circus Ranch on the River of No Return, smack-dab in the middle of a million acres of "Nowhere, Idaho." It was as good a place as any to disappear, cowboy up, and forget the past. Ham was looking forward to it. He'd had his fill of blood, sand, rocks, and following orders. But sometimes the past doesn't stay the past. It seems no matter how far Ham goes, the wars of the Middle East follow. When Ham finds out his neighbors next door at Lone Wolf Canyon ranch aren't running a summer camp, but instead, a secret terrorist training camp, he knows that justice must be done. And there will be blood.

**SIMENON, GEORGES** MAIGRET'S MISTAKE (\$17.50) Book 43. A young woman named Lulu, who has a history of brushes with the law and once lived on the streets of the 18th arrondissement, is found murdered in Paris. Maigret is called to the scene and soon learns that her boyfriend, a musician, has gone into hiding upon reading the news of her death. And when the Inspector learns that the young victim was pregnant, he begins to suspect the case might be more sinister than he imagined.

**SIMENON, GEORGES** MAIGRET GOES TO SCHOOL (\$17.50)

Book 44. Maigret is called from his usual duties in Paris to investigate a murder in a small village located close to La Rochelle. A local postmistress has been killed and suspicion has fallen on the local schoolmaster. When Maigret gets there, he discovers a very inward-looking community of people who hated the victim because she knew all their secrets. Maigret must determine if one of those secrets was enough to make someone into a killer.

**SIMPSON, ROSEMARY** gilded WHAT THE DEAD LEAVE BEHIND (#1) (\$17.95) As the Great Blizzard of 1888 cripples New York City, heiress Prudence MacKenzie sits anxiously within her palatial Fifth Avenue home waiting for her fiancé's safe return. But the fearsome storm rages through the night. With daylight, more than two hundred people are found to have perished in the icy winds and treacherous snowdrifts. Among them is Prudence's fiancé—his body frozen, his head crushed by a heavy branch, his fingers clutching a single playing card, the ace of spades. Close on the heels of her father's untimely demise, Prudence is convinced Charles's death was no accident. The ace of spades was a code he shared with his school friend, Geoffrey Hunter, a former Pinkerton agent and attorney from the South. Wary of sinister forces closing in on her, Prudence turns to Geoffrey as her only hope in solving a murder not all believe in—and to help protect her inheritance from a stepmother who seems more interested in the family fortune than Prudence's wellbeing.

**SMITH, KAREN ROSE** daisy MURDER WITH LEMON TEA CAKES (#1) (\$8.99) Daisy, a widowed mom of two teenagers, is used to feeling protective—so when Iris started dating the wealthy and not-quite-divorced Harvey Fitz, she worried. . . especially after his bitter ex stormed in and caused a scene at the party Daisy's Tea Garden was catering. Then there was the gossip she overheard about Harvey's grown children being cut out of his will. Daisy didn't want her aunt to wind up with a broken heart—but she never expected Iris to wind up a suspect in Harvey's murder. Now the apple bread and orange pekoe is on the back burner while the cops treat the shop like a crime scene—and Daisy hopes that Jonas Groft, a former detective from Philadelphia, can help her clear her aunt's name and bag the real killer before things boil over. Includes delicious recipes for Iris's Lemon Tea Cakes and more!

**STANSFIELD, KATHERINE** FALLING CREATURES (#1) (\$18.99) Cornwall, 1844. On a lonely moorland farm not far from Jamaica Inn, farmhand Shilly finds love in the arms of Charlotte Dymond. But Charlotte has many secrets, possessing powers that cause both good and ill. When she's found on the moor with her throat cut, Shilly is determined to find out who is responsible, and so is the stranger calling himself Mr. Williams who asks for Shilly's help. Mr. Williams has secrets too, and Shilly is thrown into the bewildering new world of modern detection.

**SULLIVAN, MATTHEW** MIDNIGHT AT THE BRIGHT IDEAS BOOKSTORE: (\$23.00) When a bookshop patron commits suicide, his favorite store clerk must unravel the puzzle he left behind in this "intriguingly dark, twisty" (Kirkus Reviews) debut novel from an award-winning short story writer. Lydia Smith lives her life hiding in plain sight. A clerk at the Bright Ideas bookstore, she keeps a meticulously crafted existence among her beloved books, eccentric colleagues, and the BookFrogs—the lost and lonely regulars who spend every day marauding the store's overwhelmed shelves. But when Joey Molina, a young, beguiling BookFrog, kills himself in the bookstore's upper room, Lydia's life comes unglued. Always Joey's favorite bookseller, Lydia has been bequeathed his meager worldly possessions. Trinkets and books; the detritus of a lonely, uncared for man. But when Lydia flips through his books she finds them defaced in ways both disturbing and inexplicable. They reveal the psyche of a young man on the verge of an emotional reckoning. And they seem to contain a hidden message. What did Joey know? And what does it have to do with Lydia? As Lydia untangles the mystery of Joey's suicide, she unearths a long-buried memory from her own violent childhood. Details from that one bloody night begin to circle back. Her distant father returns to the fold, along with an obsessive local cop, and the Hammerman, a murderer who came into Lydia's life long ago and, as she soon discovers, never completely left.

**SWAIN, JAMES cunningham** SUPER CON (#3) (\$22.95) Master grifter Billy Cunningham has built a lucrative career conning a long list of Las Vegas casinos. In fact, he's never walked into one he couldn't rip off. Now he's scheming a "super con" with a gang of high-profile cheats—a one-time-only scam that could rake in a cool multi-million-dollar payday. All goes as planned until Chinese crime lord Broken Tooth strong-arms Billy into rigging the Super Bowl, too. Billy has no choice but to play ball. Broken Tooth has a special edge on him: blackmail. When someone on his own team betrays Billy, all bets are off. Both the super con and Super Bowl gambits are in jeopardy. And just who's scamming who? With kickoff time looming, it'll take a Hail Mary pass for Billy to grift the game and survive long enough to pull off the wildest double-cross-with-a-twist in Vegas history.

**TATE, CLOVER** kite shop LIVE AND LET FLY (#2) (\$10.99) With summer drawing to a close in Rock Point, Oregon, Emmy Adler hopes to beat the seasonal drop in business by winning the annual kite festival. What better way to garner publicity for the handmade kites sold in her shop, Strings Attached? In the days leading up to the festival, Emmy's ambitions are soaring. Even an argument with reality TV star and contest judge Jasmine Normand can't bring her down. But when Jasmine is found dead the morning after their altercation, Emmy's no longer flying high. When the police open an investigation into Jasmine's death and deem it a murder, Emmy falls under suspicion. With a national tabloid reporter convinced that she is guilty and business at her shop at a standstill, Emmy has to trade kite making for crime solving—or find all of her ambitions blown off course.

**TAYLOR, ANDREW** FIRESIDE GOTHIC (\$16.99) From the No.1 bestselling author of *The American Boy* and *The Ashes of London* comes a collection of three gothic novellas – *Broken Voices*, *The Leper House* and *The Scratch*.

**TAYLOR, BRAD** RING OF FIRE (\$13.50) Fifteen years ago, in order to win a contract in the Kingdom, a desperate defense contractor used a shell company to provide a bribe to a wealthy Saudi businessman. Now a powerful player in the defense industry, he panics when the Panama Papers burst onto the public scene. Providing insight into the illicit deeds of offshore financing, they could prove his undoing. To prevent the exposure of his illegal activities, he sets in motion a plan to interdict the next leak, but he is not the only one worried about spilled secrets. The data theft has left the Taskforce potentially vulnerable, leaving a trail that could compromise the unit. Back in the good graces of the new president, Pike Logan and Jennifer Cahill are ordered to interdict the next leak as well, in order to control the damage. Unbeknownst to either group, the Saudi has been using the shell company to fund terrorists all over the world, and he has a spectacular attack planned, coinciding with the fifteenth anniversary of 9/11. The information Pike and Jennifer uncover will put them on the trail of the imminent threat, but it's one that they might be unable to stop. Called *Ring of Fire*, it will cause unimaginable destruction across the United States, and the ensuing chaos and terror will distract the Taskforce from a truth no one sees: *Ring of Fire* was only the beginning, and the danger is far from over.

**THOMPSON, MIA** SACRIFICING SAPPHIRE (#4) (\$22.50) Sapphire Dubois is about to celebrate her first Christmas in Beverly Hills with her new husband, Detective Aston Ridder. She has assured him that her days of defying death to save victims from serial killers are over. But after three months of marriage she hasn't kicked the habit. Sapphire feels compelled to check out a lead—two women with similar descriptions have vanished from the same location. After breaking her promise, the daring crime fighter gets abducted by the very killer she was hunting. While a distraught Aston scrambles to find his missing wife, Sapphire wakes up in a bizarre reality where she is now the victim, forced to play a part in her abductor's sick ritualistic game. Soon she realizes she's not alone; a little girl is imprisoned with her, and Sapphire is her only chance of escape.

**THOMSON, LESLEY stella** DOG WALKER (#5) (\$17.95) January, 1987: in the depths of winter, only joggers and dog walkers brave the Thames towpath after dark. Helen Honeysett, a young newlywed, sets off for an evening run from her riverside cottage. Only her dog

returns. Twenty-nine years later, her husband has asked Stella Darnell, a private detective, and her sidekick Jack Harmon, to find out what happened all those years ago. But when the five households on that desolate stretch of towpath refuse to give up their secrets, Stella and Jack find themselves hunting a killer whose trail has long gone cold.

**TODD, CHARLES rutledge** RACING THE DEVIL (#19) (\$18.50) On the eve of the bloody Battle of the Somme, a group of English officers having a last drink before returning to the Front make a promise to each other: if they survive the battle ahead—and make it through the war—they will meet in Paris a year after the fighting ends. They will celebrate their good fortune by racing motorcars they beg, borrow, or own from Paris to Nice. In November 1919, the officers all meet as planned, and though their motorcars are not designed for racing, they set out for Nice. But a serious mishap mars the reunion. In the mountains just north of their destination, two vehicles are nearly run off the road, and one man is badly injured. No one knows—or will admit to knowing—which driver was at the wheel of the rogue motorcar. Back in England one year later, during a heavy rainstorm, a driver loses control on a twisting road and is killed in the crash. Was it an accident due to the hazardous conditions? Or premeditated murder? Is the crash connected in some way to the unfortunate events in the mountains above Nice the year before? The dead driver wasn't in France—although the motorcar he drove was. If it was foul play, was it a case of mistaken identity? Or was the dead man the intended victim after all? Investigating this perplexing case, Scotland Yard Inspector Ian Rutledge discovers that the truth is elusive—and that the villages on the South Downs, where the accident happened, are adept at keeping secrets, frustrating his search. Determined to remain in the shadows this faceless killer is willing to strike again to stop Rutledge from finding him. This time, the victim he chooses is a child, and it will take all of Rutledge's skill to stop him before an innocent young life is sacrificed.

**TYLER, L C grey** PLAGUE ROAD (#3) (\$15.99) 1665, and the Great Plague has London in its grip. Where better, then, to hide a murdered man than among the corpses on their way to the Plague pit? When a supposed Plague victim is found with a knife in his back, John Grey, now a successful lawyer, is called in to investigate. The dead man was known to be carrying a compromising letter from the Duke of York to the French ambassador. Now the letter has vanished, and Secretary of State Lord Arlington wants it. But Arlington is not the only one trying to recover the letter. Somebody has killed once trying to obtain it - and is prepared to kill again. Grey must set off on a journey through Plague-ravaged England to fulfil his commission and keep himself safe from his enemies - if the Plague doesn't get him first.

**WEAVER, ASHLEY ames** MURDER AT THE BRIGHTWELL (#1) (\$9.99) Amory Ames, a wealthy young woman questioning her marriage to her notoriously charming playboy husband, Milo, is looking for a change. She accepts a request for help from her former fiancée, Gil Trent, not knowing that she'll soon become embroiled in a murder investigation that will not only test her friendship with Gil, but also will upset the status quo with her husband. Amory accompanies Gil to the luxurious Brightwell Hotel in an attempt to circumvent the marriage of his sister, Emmeline, to Rupert Howe a disreputable ladies man. There is more than her happiness at stake, however, when Rupert is murdered and Gil is arrested for the crime. Matters are further complicated by Milo's unexpected arrival, and as the line between friend and foe becomes less clear, Amory must decide where her heart lies and catch the killer before she, too, becomes a victim.

**WENTWORTH, PATRICIA** GREY MASK (\$23.99) Originally published in 1928, this is the first Miss Silver mystery. Four years ago Charles Moray had been jilted at the altar by Margaret Langton. Four years later he returns to London to find his ex-fiancée mixed up in a vicious plot involving kidnap and worse.

**WILSON, ANDREW christie** TALENT FOR MURDER (\$22.00) Agatha Christie is preparing to board a train, preoccupied with the devastating knowledge that her husband is having an affair. She feels a light touch on her back, causing her to lose her balance, then a sense

of someone pulling her to safety from the rush of the incoming train. So begins a terrifying sequence of events—for her rescuer is no guardian angel, rather he is a blackmailer of the most insidious, manipulative kind. “You, Mrs. Christie, are going to commit a murder. But, before then, you are going to disappear.” Writing about murder is a far cry from committing a crime, and Agatha must use every ounce of her cleverness and resourcefulness to thwart an adversary determined to exploit her expertise and knowledge of the act of murder to kill on his behalf. Andrew Wilson explores Agatha Christie’s odd ten-day disappearance in 1926 and weaves an utterly compelling and convincing story around this still unsolved mystery involving the world’s bestselling novelist.