



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

January 2022

Happy New Year. May 2022 be the year that we have all been longing for these last two years: the year that brings the end to COVID-19 for the planet. Where all of us at Sleuth have been spared, so far, no one has been sick, we've been able to get our shots and get boosted, the bookstore has not been badly affected by the lockdowns, whatever little medical attention we have needed has been available...all the things that we are so grateful for, and realize that we are so, so, so lucky. So much luckier than the vast majority of people on this planet. On that note, how do we gear up to produce enough serum for, what, 24 billion jabs? Give or take a billion. Maybe this new much-more-transmissible but much-less-deadly variant, Omicron, will infect everyone on the planet and everyone would have the antibodies. Wouldn't that be efficient? Save having to find garbage dumps for 24 billion needles and countless billion gloves and bottles... And at the rate that Omicron is doubling, every two to three days, that should only take about three months before everyone on the planet is protected. Can but dream!

Novak, aka Novax, Djokovic's trials and tribulations Down Under must have been hard lessons for him. Poor baby. Gloating that he managed to circumvent some of the toughest restrictions on the planet didn't sit too well with some Australians. Including the Prime Minister. Karma's a bitch! Maybe, it's time that our patience with vaccine sceptics runs out and bring home the message that choices have consequences. Singapore, if I remember correctly, has stopped covering the cost of COVID-19 treatment for those who are "unvaccinated by choice," citing the strain they are placing on its health care system. Time that we did the same thing? As of January 18, Quebec liquor stores will require proof of inoculation to enter! Maybe that'll help concentrate whatever tiny minds these morons have, given that science, logic and reason didn't. Choices have consequences. Also read with some amusement the story of the Sunwing "party flight" to Cancun. Those "influencers" are looking at ruinous fines, serious jail sentences, and huge inconvenience as their return flight was cancelled and Sunwing, and other airlines are banning them from their aircrafts. Be a long walk home! Choices have consequences.

On a much happier note...For only the second time in forty years, December 2020 being the first time, we were closed for a week or so at the end of December. This year, just the way the holidays fell, it was more like a week and a half, and it was a real pleasure to get to spend that much time with the puppies. HRH Prince is turning out to be a big galoot, full of life, full of energy, full of...well...other stuff too. He has these massive poops—his BMs have a real weight to them!—and he can pee for 30 seconds a time. I've weighed his offering and timed his leaks! Take him out first thing and you're going to need three poop bags; going broke buying poop bags! But he is a real affec-

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tionate boy, and his sister is getting more accepting of him. Although, she did tell me on the q.t. that she'd pay the postage to have him sent back to PEI, whence he came, take it out of her allowance, if I was tiring of him. Sorry, Pix, he's a keeper.

JD's Picks

You might remember that in last month's newsletter Marian had gone on about **CHRISTOBEL KENT's** *The Viper* (#6) (\$21.95), the sixth novel in the Sandro Cellini series and that she had asked me to track down the first, *A Time of Mourning* aka *The Drowning River* (#1) (\$28). Well, track down some copies I did and, since Florence is one of the many, many places I have yet to get to, I decided to give some time to *Time* and get acquainted with Florence and Mr. Cellini. I'm so glad I did. I had a map open in front of me and navigated my way around Florence with the characters. Not sure Florence still has the same charm that it had in my imagination after reading this reasonably dark novel but go visit I most definitely will.

Here's a short blurb: One wet November in Florence, the grieving widow of an eminent Jewish architect comes to visit Sandro Cellini, good husband, disgraced ex-policeman, and recently turned PI, to ask him to investigate her husband's suicide. Cellini takes her on out of sympathy, although this first case makes a downbeat start to his new career. There seems no doubt that Claudio Gentileschi, a Holocaust survivor and lifelong depressive found drowned on a bleak stretch of the River Arno, did take his own life, and initially Cellini imagines that his only duty is to support the widow through her time of mourning. But as Cellini doggedly retraces the architect's last hours through the worst rains since the devastating floods of 1966, a young Englishwoman is found to have gone missing from the city's community of hard-drinking, high-living art students, and Sandro's search turns abruptly into something grimmer and more urgent than he could have imagined, as he uncovers a network of greed and corruption that is hidden under a veneer of tradition and refinement.

This was time well spent. I'll certainly work my way through the series now that I've gotten a start.

The Darkness Knows (\$29.99 trade paperback) by **ARNALDIR INDRIDASON** was a great read as well. The slow unraveling of details, an irresistible character, our hero, Konrad, still missing his wife who died of cancer six years ago, Reykjavík, as much an important character as any other...combine to show you a writer at the top of his form. Although, I remember thinking the same thing when I read *Jar City* (#1) (\$19.99), the first of the eleven Insp. Erlendur novels and that was a long time ago!

Here's a short blurb: A frozen body is discovered in the icy depths of Langjökull glacier, apparently that of a businessman who disappeared thirty years before. At the time, an extensive search and police investigation yielded no results—one of the missing man's business associates was briefly held in custody, but there wasn't enough evidence to charge him. Now the associate is arrested again and Konrád, the retired policeman who originally investigated the disappearance, is called back to reopen the case that has weighed on his mind for decades. When a woman approaches him with new information that she obtained from her deceased brother, progress can finally be made in solving this long-cold case.

And, rooting around at the cottage for something to read, I found an advance reading copy of *The Best American Mystery Stories 2018* (\$22.99), an annual selection of short stories. I gather from the introduction by **Otto Penzler** that the heavy lifting, reading all the short stories published in the year, is done by **Michele Slung**, but each annual collection also has a special, guest editor, who does the final sifting and this time around that was **LOUISE PENNY**. **T. C. Boyle**, **James Lee Burke**, **Lee Child**, **Michael Connelly**, **Charlaine Harris**, **Andrew Klavan**, **Martin Limón**, **Joyce Carol Oates** are just some of the contributors and before you say that you don't like short stories, give this collection a whirl. There is a lot of excellent writing here. Louise's introduction is worth spending a few minutes with.

Marian's Picks

Well, it was quite the week between Christmas and New Years. Not much socializing due to Covid, but, still, lots of fine drinking, good food, lots of walks with the dogs and a visit to the vet. Prince had blood work done and he has been diagnosed with Lyme disease. He is showing no symptoms, but the vet will do some kidney function tests to see if they are compromised. Hopefully he'll continue to be asymptomatic, and all stays well. On another note, the scallywag has an umbilical hernia and the vet has decided that that should be dealt with sooner rather than later, and, since she'll be in there, might as well do that other thing as well! Her thought had been to wait a few more months so Prince could develop into the large dog his paws are forecasting but she was worried about necrosis, so decided to move both surgeries forward. Poor guy, he will not be a happy camper and will be very angry with me. He's the perfect size now, if you ask me, so, if she's not worried about his development, nor am I.

Two of the books I read over the holidays had been special orders by customer but they tweaked my interest, so I decided to get copies for myself to read.

The Postmistress of Paris (\$24.99) by **MEG WAITE CLAYTON** was a great read. The story was inspired by the real-life Chicago heiress Mary Jayne Gold, who worked with American journalist Varian Fry to smuggle artists and intellectuals out of France during WWII. Lots of names that I recognized as I was reading the book and it never ceases to amaze me how brave and fearless the resistance fighters were, risking their lives for so many others. The story features wealthy, beautiful Naneé who was born with a spirit of adventure. When German tanks roll across the border into France, she joins the resistance. Known as the Postmistress, because she delivers information to those in hiding, Naneé uses her charms, money and skill to house the hunted artists and deliver them to safety. A large part of the story focuses on photographer Edouard Moss who escaped Germany with his young daughter, Luki, only to be interned in a French labor camp, not knowing where Luki ends up. Romance, suspense and history all rolled into one.

Still Life (\$24.95) by **SARAH WINMAN** tells the story of two people's lives, and how they are intertwined spanning some 40 years or so. It is really not a mystery but the jacket blurb intrigued me, so I thought, why not. In addition to the two "main" characters there was a whole slew of colourful, secondary characters, and I was just as interested in their story. The story line, which starts in 1944, takes place mainly in London and Florence and had me hooked, from the get go. It's a beautiful story; full of art, food, love, war (of course), heartbreak (ditto) and Italy. Oh, Italy! I mean, really, wouldn't you want to read a book set in Florence?

Here is the blurb: In the wine-cellar of a Tuscan villa, as the Allies advance and bombs fall around them, two people meet and share an extraordinary evening: Ulysses Temper is a young British soldier from London's East End; Evelyn Skinner is a worldly older art historian and possible spy. She has come to Italy to rescue paintings from the ruins and relive her memories of the time she encountered E.M. Forster and had her heart stolen by an Italian maid in a particular Florentine room with a view.

Evelyn's talk of truth and beauty plants a seed in Ulysses's mind that night, one that will shape the trajectory of his life, and the lives of those who love him, for the next four decades. Moving from war-ravaged Tuscany to the boozy confines of The Stoat and Parrot pub in London and the piazzas of post-war Florence, *Still Life* is both sweeping and intimate, mischievous and deeply felt. It is a novel about beauty, love and fate, about the things that make life worth living, and the things we're prepared to die for.

A Three Book Problem (#7) (\$35.99) by **VICKI DELANY** is the seventh book in this delightful cosy series, which features Gemma, owner of the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop and Emporium, and her friend Jayne, who owns Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room. This time they are off to Suffolk Gardens House, not far from the bookstore, to cater to a Sherlock Holmes mystery weekend, put on by prominent Sherlockian David Master-son. A clever story, food, a manor house which has seen better days, lots of drinking, and, of course, Gemma, she with the brilliantly deductive mind and acerbic attitude.

Here is a part of the blurb: As the chosen caterers, Jayne Wilson and Gemma Doyle get to work preparing lavish meals and setting up Sherlockian books and props for entertainment. Meanwhile, police detective Ryan Ashburton has taken time away from his duties to assist in the kitchen. It quickly becomes apparent that David's guests don't like

each other—or their host. Plus, some of them aren't even acquainted with the adventures of the Great Detective. Before Gemma can ponder their relationships a poisoned dart sails through the window of the library, presenting Gemma Doyle with a three-book problem.

(If you're wondering what is a three-book problem...Holmes used to smoke a pipe while he was ratiocinating, thinking through a problem, and a particularly difficult problem would take three pipe-fulls—jd.) (He must think we are stupid.—Marian.)

Hardbacks

BILLINGHAM, MARK RABBIT HOLE (\$34.99 hardcover, \$24.99 trade paperback) My name is Alice. I'm a police officer. I'm trying to solve a murder on a psychiatric ward. But I'm also a patient...They were meant to be safe on Fleet Ward: psychiatric patients monitored, treated, cared for. But now one of their number is found murdered, and the accusations begin to fly. Was it one of his fellow patients? A member of staff? Or did someone come in from the outside? DC Alice Armitage is methodical, tireless, and she's quickly on the trail of the killer. The only problem is, Alice is a patient too.

CHRISTIE, AGATHA POIROT MURDER OF ROGER ACKROYD (#4) (\$45) Roger Ackroyd knew that the woman he loved had poisoned her first husband and suspected that someone had been blackmailing her. Now he learnt that she had taken her life with a drug overdose. The post brought Roger one last bit of information, but he was stabbed to death before he could read it. Published 1926.

CHRISTIE, AGATHA POIROT PERIL AT END HOUSE (#8) (\$45) On holiday on the Cornish Riviera, Hercule Poirot is alarmed to hear pretty Nick Buckley describe her recent "accidental brushes with death." First, on a treacherous Cornish hillside, the brakes on her car failed. Then, on a coastal path, a falling boulder missed her by inches. Later, an oil painting fell and almost crushed her in bed. So when Poirot finds a bullet hole in Nick's sun hat, he decides that this girl needs his help. Can he find the would-be killer before he hits his target? Published 1932.

CLEEVES, ANN TWO RIVERS HERON'S CRY (#2) (\$42.99) North Devon is enjoying a rare hot summer with tourists flocking to its coastline. Detective Matthew Venn is called out to a rural crime scene at the home of a group of artists. What he finds is an elaborately staged murder—Dr Nigel Yeo has been fatally stabbed with a shard of one of his glassblower daughter's broken vases. Dr. Yeo seems an unlikely murder victim. He's a good man, a public servant, beloved by his daughter. Matthew is unnerved, though, to find that she is a close friend of Jonathan, his husband. Then another body is found—killed in a similar way. Matthew soon finds himself treading carefully through the lies that fester at the heart of his community and a case that is dangerously close to home. Sequel to Long Call (#1) (\$24.99).

DAKIN, GLENN SHERLOCK HOLMES' LITTLE BOOK OF WISDOM: (\$19.95) In our pursuit of happiness, is it possible we have overlooked some crucial clue? Time to turn your days into a thrilling adventure! The game's afoot. In this age of nano-tech and quantum physics, the thinking of Sherlock Holmes returns to remind us that success in life depends on noticing the tiny details that others do not. As he once said, "You know my method. It is founded upon the observation of trifles." If you find life puzzling and incomprehensible, who better to help you understand what's going on than Sherlock Holmes?

DELANY, VICKI HOLMES THREE BOOK PROBLEM (#7) (\$35.99) It's a crisp, early October weekend, and business is slowing down as fall descends at the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop and Emporium and adjacent Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room. Wealthy philanthropist and prominent Sherlockian David Masterson has rented Suffolk Gardens House, where he plans to entertain his friends in a traditional English country house weekend. As the chosen caterers, Jayne Wilson and Gemma Doyle get to work preparing lavish meals and setting up Sherlockian books and props for entertainment. Meanwhile, police detective Ryan Ashburton has taken time away from his duties to assist in the kitchen. It quickly becomes apparent that David's guests don't like each other—or their host. Plus, some of them aren't even acquainted with the adventures of the Great Detective. Before Gemma can ponder their relationships a poisoned dart sails through the window of the library, presenting Gemma Doyle with a three-book problem.

DOVALPAGE, TERESA DEATH UNDER THE PERSEIDS (\$35.95) Cuban-born Mercedes Spivey and her American husband, Nolan, win a five-day cruise to Cuba. Although the circumstances surrounding the prize seem a little suspicious to Mercedes, Nolan's current unemployment and their need to spice up their marriage make the decision a no-brainer. Once aboard, Mercedes is surprised to see two people she met through her ex-boyfriend Lorenzo: former University of Havana professor Selfa Segarra and down-on-his-luck Spanish writer Javier Jurado. Even stranger: they also received

a free cruise. When Selfa disappears on their first day at sea, Mercedes and Javier begin to wonder if their presence on the cruise is more than coincidence. Mercedes confides her worries to her husband, but he convinces her that it's all in her head. However, when Javier dies under mysterious circumstances after disembarking in Havana, and Nolan is nowhere to be found, Mercedes scrambles through the city looking for him, fearing her suspicions were correct all along.

ERIKSSON, KJELL lindell DEATHWATCH BEETLE (#9) (\$37.99) Four years have passed since Cecilia Karlsson disappeared from the island of Gräsö in Roslagen. When Ann Lindell receives a tip that she has been seen alive she cannot help getting involved, even though she is no longer with the police. The black sheep of the island, Nils Lindberg, has never forgotten Cecilia Karlsson, with whom he was in love as a teenager. And he carries a secret. He may not be completely sober all the time, but he has no doubt of what he saw out on the bay just before Cecilia disappeared. Cecilia's parents are desperate, not knowing what happened to their daughter. Yet their silent house contains many things that have been left unsaid. While Ann struggles to put the jigsaw puzzle together, she is trying to establish herself in her new life together with her lover Edvard who, like herself, is marked by life. At the same time, someone is hiding in a cottage in a remote part of the island. Someone who is looking for revenge...

GEORGE, ELIZABETH lynley SOMETHING TO HIDE (#21) (\$39) When a police detective is taken off life support after falling into a coma, only an autopsy reveals the murderous act that precipitated her death. She'd been working on a special task force within North London's Nigerian community, and Acting Detective Superintendent Thomas Lynley is assigned to the case, which has far-reaching cultural associations that have nothing to do with life as he knows it. In his pursuit of a killer determined to remain hidden, he's assisted by Detective Sergeants Barbara Havers and Winston Nkata. They must sort through the lies and the secret lives of people whose superficial cooperation masks the damage they do to one another.

GRANT, KIMI CUNNINGHAM THESE SILENT WOODS (\$37.99) No electricity, no family, no connection to the outside world. For eight years, Cooper and his young daughter, Finch, have lived in isolation in a remote cabin in the northern Appalachian woods. And that's exactly the way Cooper wants it, because he's got a lot to hide. Finch has been raised on the books filling the cabin's shelves and the beautiful but brutal code of life in the wilderness. But she's starting to push back against the sheltered life Cooper has created for her—and he's still haunted by the painful truth of what it took to get them there. The only people who know they exist are a mysterious local hermit named Scotland, and Cooper's old friend, Jake, who visits each winter to bring them food and supplies. But this year, Jake doesn't show up, setting off an irreversible chain of events that reveals just how precarious their situation really is. Suddenly, the boundaries of their safe haven have blurred—and when a stranger wanders into their woods, Finch's growing obsession with her could put them all in danger. After a shocking disappearance threatens to upend the only life Finch has ever known, Cooper is forced to decide whether to keep hiding—or finally face the sins of his past.

GRAY, JOHN MACLACHLAN hook VILE SPIRITS (#2) (\$29.95) In this spellbinding follow-up to his mystery The White Angel (#1) (\$22.95), the author captures the spirit of Vancouver in those gritty, gin-soaked days, as the city was remaking itself between wars. Alcohol is once again legal in Vancouver after the failed experiment of prohibition, but pro-temperance sentiments remain strong. Politicians like Attorney General Gordon Cuning attempt appeasement by establishing the Liquor Control Board, which oversees supply, from the lofty circles of power down to bleak public drinking factories called "beer parlours." But when Cuning is found deceased, an empty martini glass at his side, quickly followed by Mrs. Harlan Crombie, the wife of a prominent bureaucrat, who falls dead after an afternoon book club meeting, suspicions are raised. Is it pure coincidence that the deceased were both drinking the same brand of "tonic"? Or is it a spillover from American prohibition, where deliberately tainted booze is killing thousands? Straight-shooting constable Calvin Hook, frustrated poet-cum-reporter Ed McCurdy and unpredictable, eavesdropping telephone operator Mildred Wickstram, pool their skills in order to get to the truth.

GRIFFITHS, ELLY magic men MIDNIGHT HOUR (#6) (\$36 hard cover, \$21.99 trade paperback) Newly minted PI Emma Holmes and her partner Sam Collins are just settling into their business when they're chosen for a high-profile case: retired music-hall star Verity Malone hires them to find out who poisoned her husband, a theater impresario. Verity herself has been accused of the crime. The only hitch—the Brighton police are already on the case, putting Emma in direct competition with her husband, police superintendent Edgar Stephens. Soon Emma realizes that Verity's life intersects closely with her own—most notably in their mutual connection, Max Mephisto, who has returned to England from America with his children and famous wife, Hollywood star Lydia Lamont. Lydia, desperately bored in the countryside, catches wind of what Emma and Sam are up to and offers her services. What secret does Lydia know about Verity's past? The team of female PIs circle closer to the killer, with the Brighton po-

lice hot on their tail. The clues suggest they're looking for a criminal targeting the old music-hall crew. How long will it be before that trail leads straight back to Max?

GUTERSON, DAVID FINAL CASE (\$36) A girl dies one late, rainy night a few feet from the back door of her home. The girl, Abeba, was born in Ethiopia. Her adoptive parents, Delvin and Betsy Harvey—conservative, white fundamentalist Christians—are charged with her murder. Royal, a Seattle criminal attorney in the last days of his long career, takes Betsy Harvey's case. An octogenarian without a driver's license, he leans on his son—the novel's narrator—as he prepares for trial. So begins this racing, astute, and deeply affecting examination of justice and injustice—and familial love. The author's first courtroom drama since Snow Falling on Cedars (\$22.95).

HAWLEY, NOAH ANTHEM (\$37) Something is happening to teenagers across America, spreading through memes only they can parse. At the Float Anxiety Abatement Center, in a suburb of Chicago, Simon Oliver is trying to recover from his sister's tragic passing. He breaks out to join a woman named Louise and a man called The Prophet on a quest as urgent as it is enigmatic. Who lies at the end of the road? A man known as The Wizard, whose past encounter with Louise sparked her own collapse. Their quest becomes a rescue mission when they join up with a man whose sister is being held captive by the Wizard, impregnated and imprisoned in a tower. By the author of Before The Fall (\$22.99).

HIGASHINO, KEIGO galileo SILENT PARADE (#4) (\$37.99) A popular young girl disappears without a trace, her skeletal remains discovered three years later in the ashes of a burned-out house. There's a suspect and compelling circumstantial evidence of his guilt, but no concrete proof. When he isn't indicted, he returns to mock the girl's family. And this isn't the first time he's been suspected of the murder of a young girl, nearly twenty years ago he was tried and released due to lack of evidence. Detective Chief Inspector Kusanagi of the Homicide Division of the Tokyo Police worked both cases. The neighborhood in which the murdered girl lived is famous for an annual street festival, featuring a parade with entries from around Tokyo and Japan. During the parade, the suspected killer dies unexpectedly. His death is suspiciously convenient but the people with all the best motives have rock solid alibis. DCI Kusanagi turns once again to his college friend, Physics professor and occasional police consultant Manabu Yukawa, known as Detective Galileo, to help solve the string of impossible-to-prove murders.

LE QUEUX, WILLIAM SPIES OF THE KAISER (\$25.50) Le Queux was the first and most prolific of all British spy writers, but Spies of the Kaiser was not just another tale of scheming foreigners and plucky British heroes, for this paranoid tale of German secret agents plotting the invasion of Britain played a major part in the formation of MI5, Britain's counter-espionage organisation. In his introduction, intelligence historian Nicholas Hiley explains how Le Queux's powerful blend of fact and fiction inspired a whole generation of British secret service officers, and led MI5 in a nation-wide hunt for a non-existent enemy.

MANSBRIDGE, PETER OFF THE RECORD (\$39.99, autographed copies while supply lasts) The author invites us to walk the beat with him in this entertaining and revealing look into his life and career, from his early broadcasting days in the remote northern Manitoba community of Churchill to the fast-paced news desk of CBC's flagship show, *The National*, where he reported on stories from around the world. With humour and heart, Peter shares never-before-told stories from his distinguished career, including reporting on the fall of the Berlin Wall and the horror of 9/11, walking the beaches of Normandy with Tom Brokaw, and talking with Canadian prime ministers from John Diefenbaker to Justin Trudeau. But it's far from all serious. Peter also writes about finding the "cure" for baldness in China and landing the role of Peter Moosebridge in Disney's *Zootopia*. From the first (and only) time he was late to broadcast to his poignant interview with the late Gord Downie, these are the moments that have stuck with him.

MILEY, MARY SPIRITS AND SMOKE (\$42.95) December, 1924. Young widow Maddie Pastore feels fortunate to be employed by the well-meaning but fraudulent medium Carlotta Romany. Investigating Carlotta's clients isn't work she's proud of, but she's proud of how well she does it. Maddie's talents, however, draw them unwelcome attention: sharp-eyed Officer O'Rourke from the Chicago Police. He doesn't believe in spiritualism—but in a city packed with mobsters, con artists and criminals, he'll take any help he can get. It's not long before Maddie has a case to bring him. Why did teetotal banker Herman Quillen die of alcohol poisoning? And who is the gold-toothed man claiming to be his brother, and demanding the spirits reveal where Herman hid his money? All Maddie wants is to uncover the truth—but to her horror, she's soon mixed up in a tangled web of secrets and deception that leads to the heart of Chicago's violent gangs . . . and she'll need all her wits about her if she, and her loved ones, are going to make it out again alive.

MUKHERJEE, ABIR wyndham SHADOWS OF MEN (#5) (\$27.99 hardcover or trade paperback) Calcutta, 1923. When a Hindu theologian is found murdered in his home, the city is on the brink of all-out religious war. Can officers of the Imperial Po-

lice Force, Captain Sam Wyndham and Sergeant Surendranath Banerjee track down those responsible in time to stop a bloodbath? Set at a time of heightened political tension, beginning in atmospheric Calcutta and taking the detectives all the way to bustling Bombay, the latest instalment in this 'unmissable' (The Times) series presents Wyndham and Banerjee with an unprecedented challenge. Will this be the case that finally drives them apart?

PARRY, AMBROSE *flesh* CORRUPTION OF BLOOD (#3) (\$29.50) Edinburgh, 1850. Dr Will Raven is a man seldom shocked by human remains, but even he is disturbed by the contents of a package washed up at the Port of Leith. Stranger still, a man Raven has long detested is pleading for his help to escape the hangman. Back in the townhouse of Dr James Simpson, Sarah Fisher has set her sights on learning to practise medicine. Almost everyone seems intent on dissuading her from this ambition, but when word reaches her that a woman has recently obtained a medical degree despite her gender, Sarah decides to seek her out. Raven's efforts to prove his former adversary's innocence are failing and he desperately needs Sarah's help. Putting their feelings for one another aside, their investigations take them to both extremes of Edinburgh's social divide, where they discover that wealth and status cannot alter a fate written in the blood.

PERRY, S W *shelby* HERETIC'S MARK (#4) (\$33.95) London, 1594. The Queen's physician has been executed for treason, and conspiracy theories flood the streets. When Nicholas Shelby, unorthodox physician and unwilling associate of spymaster Robert Cecil, is accused of being part of the plot, he and his new wife Bianca must flee for their lives. With agents of the Crown on their tail, they make for Padua, following the ancient pilgrimage route, the Via Francigena. But the pursuing English aren't the only threat Nicholas and Bianca face. Hella, a strange and fervently religious young woman, has joined them on their journey. When the trio finally reach relative safety, they become embroiled in a radical and dangerous scheme to shatter the old world's limits of knowledge. But Hella's dire predictions of an impending apocalypse, and the brutal murder of a friend of Bianca's forces them to wonder: who is this troublingly pious woman? And what does she want?

WOODS, STUART *barrington* CRIMINAL MISCHIEF (#60) (\$37) After a dangerous adventure has him traveling up and down the coast, Stone Barrington is looking forward to some down time at his Manhattan abode. But when an acquaintance alerts him to a hinky plot being hatched across the city, he finds himself eager to pursue justice. After the mastermind behind it all proves more evasive than anyone was expecting, Stone sets out on an international chase to places he's never gone before. With the help of old friends—and alluring new ones—Stone is determined to see the pursuit through to the end, even if it means going up against a foe more unpredictable than he has ever faced...

Paperbacks

ADAMS, ELLERY *society* INK AND SHADOWS (#4) (\$21.95) Known for her window displays, Nora Pennington decides to showcase fictional heroines like *Roald Dahl's Matilda and *Madeline Miller's Circe for Halloween. But a family-values group disapproves of the magical themes and wastes no time launching a modern-day witch hunt. Suddenly, former friends and customers are targeting not only Nora and Miracle Books, but a new shopkeeper, Celeste, who's been selling CBD oil products. Nora and her friends in the Secret, Book, and Scone Society are doing their best to put an end to the strife—but then someone puts an end to a life. Declared an accident, the ruling can't explain the old book page covered with strange symbols and disturbing drawings left under Nora's doormat. It's up to Nora and the Secret, Book, and Scone Society to sort out the clues before more bodies turn up and the secrets from Celeste's past come back to haunt them all...

ALEXANDER, TASHA *ashton* DARK HEART OF FLORENCE (#15) (\$24.99) In the latest entry in Lady Emily Mystery series, be transported to the legendary city of Florence, where Lady Emily and Colin must solve a murder with clues leading back to the time of the Medici.

ARCHER, C J *cleopatra fox* MURDER IN THE DRAWING ROOM (#3) (\$26) When Harry Armitage passes an investigation to Cleo involving adultery, they both think it will end in divorce. But when the client's wife is found stabbed in her drawing room, it becomes clear that marital problems are only part of the story. Reluctantly joining forces, Cleo and Harry realize the wrong person was targeted, but the police think they have their killer and refuse to look elsewhere. Taking on the investigation themselves, they peel back the lies and expose the sordid details of a marriage in tatters, and see firsthand how gossip and politics fuel the machinations of high society.

ASHDOWN, ISABEL LAKE CHILD (\$17.99) When 17-year-old Eva Olsen awakes after a horrific accident that has left her bedbound, her parents are right by her side. Devoted, they watch over her night and day in the attic room of their family home in the forests of Norway. But the accident has left Eva without her most recent memories, and not everything is as it seems. As secrets from the night of the accident begin to surface, Eva realises she has to escape her parents' house and discover the truth. But what if someone doesn't want her to find it?

BATES, SONYA INHERITANCE OF SECRETS (\$18.99) Juliet's elderly grandparents are killed in their Adelaide home. Who would commit such a heinous crime - and why? The only clue is her grandfather Karl's missing signet ring. When Juliet's estranged sister, Lily, returns in fear for her life, Juliet suspects something far more sinister than a simple break-in gone wrong. Before Juliet can get any answers, Lily vanishes once more. Juliet only knew Karl Weiss as a loving grandfather, a German soldier who emigrated to Australia to build a new life. What was he hiding that could have led to his murder? While attempting to find out, Juliet uncovers some disturbing secrets from WWII that will put both her and her sister's lives in danger ...

BERRY, STEVE malone KAISER'S WEB (#16) (\$12.99) Two candidates are vying to become Chancellor of Germany. One is a patriot having served for the past sixteen years, the other a usurper, stoking the flames of nationalistic hate. Both harbor secrets, but only one knows the truth about the other. They are on a collision course, all turning on the events of one fateful day — April 30, 1945 — and what happened deep beneath Berlin in the Führerbunker. Did Adolph Hitler and Eva Braun die there? Did Martin Bormann, Hitler's close confidant, manage to escape? And, even more important, where did billions in Nazi wealth disappear to in the waning days of World War II? The answers to these questions will determine who becomes the next Chancellor of Germany. From the mysterious Chilean lake district, to the dangerous mesas of South Africa, and finally into the secret vaults of Switzerland, former-Justice Department agent Cotton Malone discovers the truth about the fates of Hitler, Braun, and Bormann. Revelations that could not only transform Europe, but finally expose a mystery known as the Kaiser's web.

BILLINGHAM, MARK RABBIT HOLE (\$24.99 trade paperback, \$34.99 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

BIRKBY, MICHELLE baker st ALL ROADS LEAD TO WHITECHAPEL (#1) (\$23.95) The women in Sherlock Holmes's life have grown tired of toiling in his shadow. Matters come to a head when the Great Man declines to help a desperate young bride, prompting Mrs. Hudson (Holmes's housekeeper) and Mary Watson (wife to the good Doctor) to set up a sleuthing shop of their own, operating out of the kitchen at 221B Baker Street. Every clue they untangle leads to, yes, the grim slums of Whitechapel, where Jack the Ripper appears still to be busy with his carving knives. With so many women in terrible danger, it seems only appropriate that it's women who will set things right.

BOX, C J pickett OPEN SEASON (#1) (\$23) The first novel in the #1 New York Times bestselling series featuring Wyoming Game Warden Joe Pickett—the book that launched one of the biggest, most reliable, and entertaining series in crime fiction. Joe Pickett is the new game warden in Twelve Sleep, Wyoming, a town where nearly everyone hunts and the game warden—especially one like Joe who won't take bribes or look the other way—is far from popular. When he finds a local hunting outfitter dead, splayed out on the woodpile behind his state-owned home, he takes it personally. Even after the discovery of two more bodies, and the resolution of the case by local police, Joe continues to investigate.

BROWN, ERIC MARTIAN SIMULACRA: A SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY (\$18.99) The year is 1907, the setting is Baker Street, London. When the Martian Ambassador arrives at Holmes' door seeking the Great Detective's help in solving a grisly murder, how can he refuse? The case will involve a trip to the Red Planet, where few humans have been privileged enough to visit. Ever since the second wave of Martians arrived on Earth, inoculated against the germs that had halted their tripods the first time around, and humanity accepted the aliens as their overlords, Holmes has been curious... Soon he and Watson are boarding one of the great Martian spaceships, where they discover their old friend Professor Challenger has been invited along for the ride. What awaits them at their destination is a plot more dastardly than any of them could have imagined.

BRUEN, KEN jack taylor GALWAY EPIPHANY (#16) (\$23.95) Jack Taylor has finally escaped the despair of his violent life in Galway in favor of a quiet retirement in the country with his friend Keefer, a former Rolling Stones roadie, and a falcon named Maeve. But on a day trip back into the city to sort out his affairs, Jack is hit by a truck in front of Galway's Famine Memorial, left in a coma but mysteriously without a scratch on him. When he awakens weeks later, he finds Ireland in a frenzy over the so-called "Miracle of Galway." People have become convinced that the two children spotted tending to him are saintly, and the site of the accident sacred. The Catholic Church

isn't so sure, and Jack is commissioned to help find the children to verify the miracle or expose the stunt. But Jack isn't the only one looking for these children. A fraudulent order of nuns needs them to legitimize its sanctity and becomes involved with a dangerous arsonist. Soon, the building in which the children are living burns down. Jack returns to his old tricks, and his old demons, as his quest becomes personal.

BURKE, ALAFAIR hatcher FIND ME (#6) (\$23.99) She calls herself Hope Miller, but she has no idea who she actually is. Fifteen years ago, she was found in a small New Jersey town thrown from an overturned vehicle, with no clue to her identity. Doctors assumed her amnesia was a temporary side effect of her injuries, but she never regained her memory. Hope eventually started a new life with a new name in a new town that welcomed her, yet always wondered what she may have left behind—or been running from. Now, she's leaving New Jersey to start over once again. Manhattan defense lawyer Lindsay Kelly, Hope's best friend and the one who found her after the accident, understands why Hope wants a new beginning. But she worries how her friend will fare in her new East Hampton home, far away from everything familiar. Lindsay's worst fears are confirmed when she discovers Hope has vanished without a trace—the only lead a drop of blood found where she was last seen. Even more ominously, the blood matches a DNA sample with a connection to a notorious Kansas murderer. With nowhere else to turn, Lindsay calls NYPD homicide detective Ellie Hatcher, the daughter of the cop who dedicated his life to hunting the Kansas killer. Ellie has always believed there was more to the story of her father's death twenty years earlier—and she now fears that Hope's recent disappearance could be related.

CARSON, LOUISE maples CLUTTER OF CATS (#5) (\$16.95) It's late spring and young artist Gerry Coneybear and her twenty cats are thrilled to finally be able to get out of the house and into the garden surrounding her 200-year-old house on the Ottawa River. But Gerry is having a time keeping her curious cats in their own yard, safe from the new neighbours' large dog. Her neighbours' marriage isn't quite what it should be, and when the philandering husband is murdered, the wife is the obvious suspect. Or ought to be. As events unfold next door, Gerry watches from her garden, where she picks rhubarb, weeds, and plants her flowers, catnip and herbs, all supervised by her cats and her friend and part-time housekeeper Prudence. A terrible car crash, an eccentric train engineer (and his equally eccentric wife), and a midnight visit to the house next door all contribute to this cozy mystery coming out all right in the end. And there's jam-making. And ghosts.

CATES, BAILEY SPIRITS AND SOURDOUGH (#10) (\$11.99) Hedgewitch Katie Lightfoot works at the Honeybee Bakery in Savannah, and she's always up for investigating her adopted home's rich supernatural history. That's why she's taking a ghost tour for the very first time. But when the psychic tour guide tells Katie that she's being followed by the ghost of a recently murdered woman, Katie realizes she met the victim earlier that day, just before she died. She knows she must bring the killer to justice. And this murder isn't the only mystery Katie needs to solve. Her new husband, Declan McCarthy, is missing the guardian spirit who always watched over him, and she's concerned that Deck's life could be at risk if they can't find him. Under pressure from the living and the dead, Katie will have to use all of her magical skills to start an investigation from scratch and avoid half-baked alibis, because this baker kneads to find a killer.

CHAPMAN, JULIA dales DATE WITH DANGER (#5) (\$19.99) In the heart of Yorkshire, the Dales Detective Agency is about to face its biggest challenge. A fatal accident at Bruncliffe's livestock auction mart leads auctioneer Harry Furness to call in detective duo Samson O'Brien and Delilah Metcalfe. But what starts as a simple health-and-safety investigation soon takes a sinister turn when they discover evidence that suggests murder. With their enquiries ongoing, Clive Knowles approaches them for help—his sheep are being threatened by the gang of rustlers that is plaguing the Dales. Meanwhile, Poacher Pete Ferris has also decided to play his hand, setting in motion a blackmail plot which will ensure Samson is pulled back into trouble with his nemesis Rick Procter. With all three cases converging, Samson and Delilah will find that their latest investigation is fraught with danger; a danger that will leave them fighting for their lives.

CHAPMAN, JULIA dales DATE WITH DECEIT (#6) (\$19.99) A woman in tears in the Dales Detective Agency is never the best way to start the week. But when that woman is the wife of Bernard Taylor, town mayor and eminent businessman, there is even more cause for alarm. So when Nancy Taylor asks the detectives to investigate whether her husband is having an affair, Samson O'Brien and Delilah Metcalfe know they will have to tread carefully. The case however, proves to be more complex than even they had imagined. While Delilah is undercover at a local shoot to better keep tabs on the errant husband, she is on the scene for a fatal incident that sends the town into turmoil. Soon the detective duo are embroiled in a far more serious investigation than mere infidelity as they discover that deceit is rife in Bruncliffe. And it may well prove deadly.

CHAPMAN, JULIA dales DATE WITH POISON (#4) (\$19.99) Spring is in the air in Bruncliffe, but not everyone is filled with the joys of the season. Samson O'Brien of the Dales Detective Agency is being questioned by the police about a murder, with the truth about his policing past about to be brutally exposed. And with Bruncliffe turning on Samson, his business partner Delilah Metcalfe finds herself in the impossible position of defending him to her friends and family. Then Delilah's nephew, accused of being under Samson's influence, runs away from home and a frantic search begins. And with attention turning to Nathan, only a local vet is paying attention to a worrying spate of canine poisonings happening throughout the village. Bruncliffe is turning toxic and with suspicion raining down on him, Samson knows he has to ask Delilah for help. Can she forgive his transgressions and help him so that they can find Nathan and the poisoner, or has the poison already spread too far?

CHRISTIE, AGATHA DEADLY AFFAIR ss (\$21) Love can propel us to our greatest heights . . . and darkest depths. In this new collection of short stories from the Queen of Crime, witness the dark side of love—crimes of passion, games of the heart, and deadly affairs. This pulse-pounding compendium features beloved detectives Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, master of charades Parker Pyne, the enigmatic Harley Quin, and the adventurous Tommy and Tuppence, all on the ready to solve a tantalizing mystery. In The Face of Helen, a night at the Royal Opera could reach a deadly crescendo for a woman caught in a dicey love triangle; Finessing the King delivers a curious ad in the personals that could mask sinister intentions; who's in danger of getting stung in Wasp's Nest depends on rounding up suspects and solving a murder—before it even happens; and more tales that make for essential reading that her fans old and new will simply love to death.

CHRISTIE, AGATHA poirot MURDER OF ROGER ACKROYD (\$12.50) Roger Ackroyd knew too much. He knew that the woman he loved had poisoned her brutal first husband. He suspected also that someone had been blackmailing her. Then, tragically, came the news that she had taken her own life with an apparent drug overdose. However, the evening post brought Roger one last fatal scrap of information, but before he could finish reading the letter, he was stabbed to death. Luckily one of Roger's friends and the newest resident to retire to this normally quiet village takes over—none other than Monsieur Hercule Poirot. . . . Not only beloved by generations of readers, but one of the author's own favorite works—a brilliant whodunit that firmly established the author's reputation as the Queen of Mystery.

CLARK, SIMON CASE OF THE BEDEVILLED POET: A SHERLOCK HOLMES ENIGMA (\$18.99) After narrowly escaping a bomb blast during the blitz in WW-II London, poet Jack Crofton is threatened with death and worse by a mysterious soldier. Fleeing through the war-torn streets, he seeks sanctuary in a pub and falls into company with two elderly gentlemen who claim to be Holmes and Watson, the real life detectives that inspired Conan Doyle's fictions. Unconvinced but desperate, Jack shares his story, and Holmes agrees to take his case. . . .

CLAYTON, MEG WAITE POSTMISTRESS OF PARIS (\$24.99) Wealthy, beautiful Naneé was born with a spirit of adventure. For her, learning to fly is freedom. When German tanks roll across the border and into Paris, this woman with an adorable dog and a generous heart joins the resistance. Known as the Postmistress because she delivers information to those in hiding, Naneé uses her charms and skill to house the hunted and deliver them to safety. Photographer Edouard Moss has escaped Germany with his young daughter only to be interned in a French labor camp. His life collides with Naneé's in this sweeping tale of romance and danger set in a world aflame with personal and political passion.

CLEEVES, ANN shetland BLUE LIGHTNING (#4) (\$25) In the fourth book of Ann Cleeves' critically acclaimed series set in the Shetland Islands, Detective Inspector Jimmy Perez brings his fiancée home to Fair Isle, a birder's paradise, where strangers are viewed with suspicions and distrust. When a woman's body is discovered at the island's bird observatory, the investigation is hampered by a raging storm that renders the island totally isolated. Jimmy has to find clues the old-fashioned way, and he has to do it quickly. There's a killer on the island just waiting for the chance to strike again. US edition, while the Canadian is unavailable.

CLEEVES, ANN shetland COLD EARTH (#7) (\$25) In the dark days of a Shetland winter, torrential rain triggers a landslide that crosses the main road and sweeps down to the sea. At the burial of his old friend Magnus Tait, Jimmy Perez watches the flood of mud and water smash through a house in its path. Everyone thinks the home is uninhabited, but in the wreckage he finds the body of a dark-haired woman wearing a red silk dress. Perez soon becomes obsessed with tracing her identity and realizes he must find out who she was and how she died. US edition, while the Canadian is unavailable.

COLLINS, KATE flower shop FROND IN NEED (#22) (\$14.99) It's Summertime in New Chapel, Indiana, and feisty florist Abby Knight Salvare is up to her neck in work – supervising the construction of her float for the Fourth of July parade, managing her flower shop Bloomers, reigning in her over-eager cousin Jillian, and working with her

hunky husband Marco in his private detective business—when her best friend Nikki comes to her with a big problem. Blake Ryder, a handsome, charismatic surgeon at the New Chapel Hospital is a suspect in a murder case, and Nikki is supposed to go away with him for the holiday weekend. Is Blake being targeted unfairly or has Nikki gotten herself involved with a real life lady-killer? The days are long and humid, the clues are leading in all directions, and the responsibilities are piling up as Independence Day quickly approaches. Abby can't turn down a friend in need, but can she solve Nikki's dilemma and handle all her other concerns before the fireworks?

COLLINS, KATE *flower shop* TILL DEATH DO US PART (\$14.99) A novella. Fall has arrived in New Chapel, Indiana, and life has never been better for local florist Abby Knight Salvare and her handsome private eye husband, Marco, until a missing person's case puts our two hometown heroes at odds, showing signs of stress in an otherwise perfect marriage. Town busybody Sylvie Freeman is certain that her twin brother has gone missing, although everyone in her family is convinced that Sylvie has officially gone off her rocker. She has hired Team Salvare to investigate, leading them into a mystery much bigger than either one could have imagined. Tara Knight looks up to her crime-solving Aunt Abby – with the same red hair, short stature, and freckled cheeks – the two could be mistaken for sisters, but when a journalism assignment leads Tara into dangerous territory, her amateur sleuthing skills will be put to the ultimate test. Follow Abby and her young niece, Tara, as they walk the fine line between truth and fiction. Keep up with Marco's investigation as it unravels before his eyes, and watch carefully as the intrepid Team Salvare piece together a mystery that may have them understand the true meaning of the vow . . . till death do us part.

CONTE, CATE *full moon* WITCH TRIAL (#2) (\$11.99) The Full Moon crystal shop in North Harbor, Connecticut, offers healing stones for all sorts of ailments. Unfortunately, there's nothing among the gems that can help owner Violet Mooney learn how to wield the magick she inherited from both sides of her family—the legendary Ravenstar and Moonstone clans. As if being an apprentice witch weren't difficult enough, Violet's tutors are her estranged mother Fiona, a sister she never knew she had named Zoe, and a familiar in the form of a black cat, Xander. Between learning spells, Violet is being investigated by the Magickal Council. A reporter out to debunk spiritualists was “genied”—her soul imprisoned inside a bottle—in Violet's shop, and she can't prove she didn't do it. Meanwhile, her non-magickal life has become complicated when one of her crystal shop customers, Nicole St. James, goes missing and turns up dead, a victim of murder. Determined to solve both crimes, Violet taps into powers she doesn't understand, much less control—and finds herself conjuring up both supernatural and mortal enemies...

DAVIS, LINDSEY falco ALEXANDRIA (#19) (\$29.99) In first century A.D. Rome, during the reign of Vespasian, Marcus Didius Falco works as a private "informer," ferreting out hidden truths and bringing villains to ground. But even informers take vacations with their wives, so Falco and his wife, Helena Justina, with their two young children and others in tow, travel to Alexandria, Egypt. But they aren't there long before Falco finds himself in the midst of nefarious doings—when the Head Librarian of the world-famous library is found dead under suspicious circumstances, in his office with the door locked from inside. Falco quickly finds himself on the trail for dodgy doings, malfeasance, deadly professional rivalries, more bodies, and the lowest of the low—book thieves! As the bodies continue to pile up, it's up to Falco to untangle this horrible mess before the killer begins to strike closer to home. Published 2009.

DAVIS, LINDSEY falco NEMESIS (#20) (\$29.99) In the high summer of A.D. 77, Roman informer Marcus Didius Falco is beset by personal problems. Newly bereaved and facing unexpected upheavals in his life, it is a relief for him to consider someone else's misfortunes. A middle-aged couple who supplied statues to his father, Geminus, have disappeared under mysterious circumstances. They had an old feud with a bunch of notorious freedmen, the Claudii, who live rough in the pestilential Pontine Marshes, terrorizing the neighborhood. When a mutilated corpse turns up near Rome, Falco and his vigiles friend Petronius investigate, even though it means traveling in the dread marshes. But just as they are making progress, the Chief Spy, Anacrites, snatches their case away from them. As his rivalry with Falco escalates, he makes false overtures of friendship, but fails to cover up the fact that the violent Claudii have acquired corrupt protection at the highest level. Making further enquiries after they have been warned off can only be dangerous—but when did that stop Falco and Petronius? Egged on by the slippery bureaucrats who hate Anacrites, the dogged friends dig deeper while a psychotic killer keeps taking more victims, and the shocking truth creeps closer and closer to home. Published 2009.

DOYLE, ARTHUR CONAN SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE EMPTY HOUSE (\$8.95) An illustrated adaptation of the classic Sherlock Holmes adventure—at an easy-to-read level for readers 7 – 11. It has been three years since the death of Sherlock Holmes. Watson is now solving mysteries solo and he's about to face his toughest one yet: the

impossible murder of Mr Adair. What Watson doesn't know is that this curious case will unearth secrets from beyond the grave ...

DYLAN, JESS bloom PETALS AND POISON (#2) (\$10.99) Sierra Ravenswood has embraced her role as owner of Flower House floral shop and companion to her former boss's pet, Gus the Corgi. Sierra's team are enjoying their new jobs too. At least until everyone realizes their lack of experience might be contributing to their lack of customers...Sierra decides they need a change in luck, so she creates a special window display featuring lucky bamboo and auspicious flowers. It seems the new arrangement has worked when the shop is flooded with customers the next day, including a van full of college students on a horticulture club field trip. Unfortunately, Sierra doesn't notice that the students' distracted professor has gone missing until Gus's urgent barking leads her to the storeroom—and the body of the unfortunate professor. With folks now referring to Flower House as “Poison House” and suspects galore, Sierra fears her new business is doomed before it has a chance to get off the ground. Determined to reverse course and see justice served, she sets out to solve the crime and change her luck once more.

EDWARDS, MARTIN SURPRISE FOR CHRISTMAS AND OTHER SEASONAL MYSTERIES (\$22.50) A Postman murdered while delivering cards on Christmas morning. A Christmas pine growing over a forgotten homicide. A Yuletide heist gone horribly wrong. When there's as much murder as magic in the air and the facts seem to point to the impossible, it's up to the detective's trained eye to unwrap the clues and neatly tie together an explanation (preferably with a bow on top). **Martin Edwards** has once again gathered the best of these seasonal stories into a stellar anthology brimming with rare tales, fresh as fallen snow, and classics from the likes of **Julian Symons, Margery Allingham, Anthony Gilbert** and **Cyril Hare**. A most welcome surprise indeed, and perfect to be shared between super-sleuths by the fire on a cold winter's night.

ELLIS, KATE peterson SKELETON ROOM (#7) (\$15.99) When builders converting Chadleigh Hall, a former school, into a luxury hotel discover a skeleton in a sealed room, DI Wesley Peterson is called in to investigate. Soon Wesley has a second suspicious death on their hands: a team of marine archaeologists working on a nearby shipwreck off the Devon coast have dragged a woman's body from the sea. As Wesley investigates Chadleigh Hall's past and the woman's violent death, both trails lead in surprising directions. Matters are further complicated when a man wanted for murder in London appears on the scene—a man who may know more about the case than he admits...Published 2002.

ENGBERG, KATRINE copenhagen TENANT (#1) (\$12.99) When a young woman is discovered brutally murdered in her own apartment with an intricate pattern of lines carved into her face, Copenhagen police detectives Jeppe Korner and Anette Werner are assigned to the case. In short order, they establish a link between the victim, Julie Stender, and her landlady, Esther de Laurenti, who's a bit too fond of drink and the host of raucous dinner parties with her artist friends. Esther also turns out to be a budding novelist—and when Julie turns up as a murder victim in the still-unfinished mystery she's writing, the link between fiction and real life grows both more urgent and more dangerous. But Esther's role in this twisted scenario is not quite as clear as it first seems. Is she the culprit or just another victim, trapped in a twisted game of vengeance? Anette and Jeppe must dig more deeply into the two women's pasts to discover the identity of the brutal puppet-master pulling the strings.

FERGUSON, BEN SPRING OF KASPER MEIER (\$17.99) The war is over, but Berlin is a desolate sea of rubble. There is a shortage of everything: food, clothing, tobacco. The local population is scrabbling to get by. Kasper Meier is one of these Germans, and his solution is to trade on the black market to feed himself and his elderly father. He can find anything that people need, for the right price. When a young woman, Eva, arrives at Kasper's door seeking the whereabouts of a British pilot, he feels a reluctant sympathy for her but won't interfere in military affairs. But Eva knows Kasper has secrets, and she'll use them to get what she wants. As a net of deceit, lies and betrayal falls around him, Kasper begins to understand that the seemingly random killings of members of the occupying forces are connected to his own situation. He must work out who is behind Eva's demands, and why...

FITZEK, SEBASTIAN SOUL BREAKER (\$21.95) The Soul Breaker destroys women. He doesn't kill them or mutilate them. But he leaves them completely dead inside, paralyzed and catatonic. His only trace a note left in their hands. There are three known victims when suddenly the abductions stop. The Soul Breaker has tired of his game, it seems. Meanwhile, a man has been found in the snow outside an exclusive psychiatric clinic. He has no recollection of who he is, or why he is there. Unable to match him to any of the police's missing people, the nurses call him Casper. Casper makes little progress regaining his memory, but he grows restless and wants to leave the clinic to piece together the few clues to his life. But the weather has taken a turn for the worse, and the clinic becomes completely cut off to the world outside. No one is able to reach the clinic, and its staff and patients cannot leave. So when the head psychiatrist is found trem-

bling, naked and distraught, with a slip of paper clasped in her hands, it seems somehow the Soul Breaker has returned...

FRANKLIN, ARIANA aguilar DEATH AND THE MAIDEN (#5) (\$21.99) The much-anticipated final installment in the author's popular Mistress of the Art of Death historical mystery series, finished by the author's daughter after her death... England. 1191. After the death of her friend and patron, King Henry II, Adelia Aguilar, England's vaunted Mistress of the Art of Death, is living comfortably in retirement and training her daughter, Allie, to carry on her craft—sharing the practical knowledge of anatomy, forensics, and sleuthing that catches murderers. Allie is already a skilled healer, with a particular gift for treating animals. But the young woman is nearly twenty, and her father, Rowley, Bishop of Saint Albans, and his patron, the formidable Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine, have plans to marry Allie to an influential husband . . . if they can find a man who will appreciate a woman with such unusual gifts. When a friend in Cambridgeshire falls ill, Allie is sent to Ely, where her path will cross with Lord Peverill, a young aristocrat who would be a most suitable match for the young healer. But when Allie arrives, all is chaos. A village girl has disappeared—and she's not the first. Over the past few months, several girls from the villages surrounding Ely have vanished. When the body of one of the missing is discovered, Allie manages to examine the remains before burial. The results lead her to suspect that a monstrous predator is on the loose. Will her training and her stubborn pursuit of the truth help her find the killer...or make her the next victim?

GARDNER, ERLE STANLEY mason TCOT GILDED LILY (#50) (\$26.99) Stewart Bedford is willing to cooperate with a blackmailer to protect his beloved wife. But when he wakes up in a daze to find the man shot dead with Bedford's gun and his blond escort missing, he'll need some help from defense lawyer Perry Mason . . .Published 1956.

GATTIS, RYAN SYSTEM (\$26.99) On December 6, 1993, a drug dealer called Scrapy is shot and left for dead on the lawn outside her mother's house in South Central Los Angeles. Augie, a heroin addict, witnesses the whole thing—before he steals all the drugs on her person, as well as the gun that was dropped at the scene. When Augie gets busted, he names local gang members Wizard and Dreamer the shooters. But only one of them is guilty. A search of Wizard and Dreamer's premises uncovers the gun that was used in the shooting, and a warrant goes out for their arrest. They know it's a frame-up, but the word from the gang is to keep their mouths shut and face the charges. With these two off the streets and headed for jail, Dreamer's friend Little, the unlikely of new gang members, is given one job: discover how the gun got moved, and why.

GEORGE, ELIZABETH lynley THIS BODY OF DEATH (#16) (\$21.99) On compassionate leave after the murder of his wife, Thomas Lynley is called back to Scotland Yard when the body of a woman is found stabbed and abandoned in an isolated London cemetery. His former team welcomes his return; they don't trust their new department chief, Isabelle Ardery, whose off-putting manner leaves them on edge. Lynley may be the sole person who can see beneath his superior officer's hard-as-nails exterior to a hidden—and compelling—vulnerability. While Lynley works in London, his former colleagues Barbara Havers and Winston Nkata follow the murder trail south to the New Forest—a beautiful and strange place where animals roam free, the long-lost art of thatching is very much alive, and outsiders are suspect. What they don't know is that more than one dark secret lurks within the secluded woodlands, and that their investigation will lead them to an outcome that is both tragic and shocking. Published 2010.

GRIFFITHS, ELLY magic men MIDNIGHT HOUR (#6) (\$21.99 trade paperback, \$36 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.)

HAMILTON, IAN ava SULTAN OF SARAWAK (#14) (\$19.99) Ava Lee travels to Sarawak, Malaysia, after a business affiliated with the Three Sisters is bombed in Kuching. She quickly discovers that the powerful Chong family has a political and economic stranglehold on the province and is likely responsible for the bombing. As Ava investigates the Chongs, she is shocked to learn of their billion-dollar illegal logging operation in Sarawak, which has decimated the Malaysian rainforest and threatens the existence of the Penan — a nomadic Indigenous people who have lived in the region for centuries. Determined to put an end to the Chongs' dominion over Sarawak, Ava follows a money trail that leads back to the Hong Kong real estate market. There, Ava and Sonny Kwon embark on a campaign of terror against the Chong family—attacking their holdings and bank accounts. Can Ava attain the vengeance she seeks? Or will the powerful Chong family triumph once again?

HANSEN, JOSEPH brandstetter FADEOUT (#1) (\$20) Published fifty years ago, a time when being gay was illegal in 49 out of 50 states, this first Dave Brandstetter novel shattered stereotypes and redefined the Private Eye novel as we know it. Five decades after its original landmark publication, it is as fresh and important as ever. Preceded only by a handful of gay protagonists in crime fiction, Dave Brandstetter, a ruggedly handsome World War II vet with a quick wit, faultless moral compass, and endless confidence, shattered stereotypes and won over a large reading audience, a feat previously

considered impossible for queer fiction. Set in the mid-1960s, this novel centers on the disappearance of a southern California radio personality named Fox Olson. A failed writer, Olson finally found success as a beloved folksinger and wholesome country raconteur with a growing national audience. The community is therefore shocked when Olson's car is found wrecked, having been driven off a bridge and swept away in a fast-moving arroyo on a rainy night. A life insurance claim is filed by Olson's widow and the company holding the policy sends their best man to investigate. The problem is that Olson's body was never found. Not in the car. Not further down the river. As Dave Brandstetter begins his investigation he quickly finds that none of it adds up. Also re-issued are the next two in the series, DEATH CLAIMS (#2) and TROUBLEMAKER (#3) (\$20 ea.) Excellent.

HARROD-EAGLES, C slider KILL MY DARLING (#14) (\$25.50) When Melanie Hunter goes missing, the men in her life come under suspicion. And there's plenty to suspect: lies, half-truths, deceptions. When you pull one thread, the whole fabric of family life can come apart. There are secrets in Melanie's past, and pain she tried to hide from the world. Slider and his team need to answer two questions: who loved Melanie . . . and who loved her too much? Published 2012.

HODGSON, ANTONIA hawkins DEATH AT FOUNTAINS ABBEY (#3) (\$17.99) Late spring, 1728. Fresh from his escape from the gallows, Thomas Hawkins has arrived in Yorkshire with his ward, Sam Fleet. But death still has a hand upon his shoulder, even in such idyllic surroundings. John Aislabie, Tom's reluctant host, is being tormented by anonymous letters threatening murder. A disgraced politician, Aislabie certainly has plenty of enemies. But, trapped in a house haunted by old tragedies, Tom begins to suspect that the danger lies much closer to home. Someone is playing a subtle and deadly game of revenge, years in the planning. And now Tom is standing in their way...

JOHNSTONE, DOUG skelfs BIG CHILL (#2) (\$21.95) Haunted by their past, the Skelf women are hoping for a quieter life. But running both a funeral directors' and a private investigation business means trouble is never far away, and when a car crashes into the open grave at a funeral that matriarch Dorothy is conducting, she can't help looking into the dead driver's shadowy life. While Dorothy uncovers a dark truth at the heart of Edinburgh society, her daughter Jenny and granddaughter Hannah have their own struggles. Jenny's ex-husband Craig is making plans that could shatter the Skelf women's lives, and the increasingly obsessive Hannah has formed a friendship with an elderly professor that is fast turning deadly. But something even more sinister emerges when a drumming student of Dorothy's disappears and suspicion falls on her parents. The Skelf women find themselves sucked into an unbearable darkness—but could the real threat be to themselves?

KEATING, H R F FILMI, FILMI, INSPECTOR GHOTE (\$27) India's most famous screen villain, Dhartiraj, lies dead on a Bollywood film set, his neck snapped by a falling stage light. There's no doubt it's murder, and Inspector Ghote of the Bombay CID, who's thrilled to be personally assigned such a high-profile case, quickly discovers that there's no shortage of suspects. The fading star who Dhartiraj toppled from his place; the superstar who stole Dhartiraj's wife, and whose mistress Dhartiraj stole in revenge; and Dhartiraj's secret-dealing stand-in—Ghote finds he could easily make a case for each of them wanting the great Dhartiraj off the boards and into permanent retirement. But his investigations are hindered not just by the film studio's intimidating owner, who is determined that nothing will stand in the way of his latest film's financial success, but by Ghote himself. For the good detective, caught up in visions of his own glittering success, finds himself desperate to solve the case in record time.

KENT, CHRISTOBEL cellini TIME OF MOURNING (#1) aka drowning river (\$28) When a young English girl goes missing from among Florence's hard-drinking, high-living community of foreign art students, ex-policeman, good husband and newly-minted private detective Sandro Cellini is at first unwilling to see any connection with his investigation of the suicide of an elderly Jewish architect.

KNOX, JOSEPH TRUE CRIME STORY (\$24.99) The thrilling story of a university student's sudden disappearance, the woman who became obsessed with her case, and the crime writer who uncovered the chilling truth about what happened...In 2011, Zoe Nolan walked out of her dormitory in Manchester and was never seen or heard from again. Her case went cold. Her story was sad, certainly, but hardly sensational, crime writer Joseph Knox thought. He wouldn't have given her any more thought were it not for his friend, Evelyn Mitchell. Another writer struggling to come up with a new idea, Evelyn was wondering just what happens to all the girls who go missing. What happens to the Zoe Nolans of the world? "...set up like an oral history, complete with emails, newspaper clippings and photos that propel the story all the way to a shocking and satisfying conclusion."—*Newsweek*.

LE TELLIER, HERVE ANOMALY (\$22.99) Who would we be if we had made different choices? Told that secret, left that relationship, written that book? We all wonder—the passengers of Air France 006 will find out. About to start their descent to JFK,

they hit a shockingly violent patch of turbulence, emerging on the other side to a reality both perfectly familiar and utterly strange. As it charts the fallout of this logic-defying event, this novel takes us on a journey from Lagos and Mumbai to the White House and a top-secret hangar.

LEDWIDGE, MICHAEL RUN FOR COVER (\$12.99) Fresh from a lethal entanglement with some of the darkest players in the global intelligence services, Michael Gannon heads to the safest place he can think of: deep in the wilds of Utah on the ranch of one of his oldest and closest war buddies. But when his friend's brother is found dead in the rocky foothills of Grand Teton, Gannon realizes there are some things more important than keeping your head down. Is his death just one in a string of grisly murders mysteriously occurring around national parks—or a part of something even more sinister?

LILLARD, AMY main street MURDER LIKE NO AUTHOR (#2) (\$12.99) It's movie time in Sugar Springs and the whole town is pitching together to get the historical Coliseum Theater ready for the event of the year—the premiere of Missing Girl, local author Wally Harrison's bestselling novel turned film. Thrilled to bring tourists to Sugar Springs, the town comes together to host the late author's event. But when a stranger arrives, boasting he has definitive proof that Wally didn't write Missing Girl...well, drama leaps from the page into real life. Mishaps start taking place around the theater—and then the stranger is discovered dead in his hotel room right before his press conference. Can Arlo and her Friday night book club to sleuth out the killer and solve the mystery before the town's Hollywood dreams go up in smoke?

MACKINTY/MCKINTY, ADRIAN duffy COLD, COLD GROUND (#1) (\$24) Northern Ireland, spring 1981. Hunger strikes, riots, power cuts, a homophobic serial killer with a penchant for opera, and a young woman's suicide that may yet turn out to be murder: on the surface, the events are unconnected, but then things—and people—aren't always what they seem. Detective Sergeant Duffy is the man tasked with trying to get to the bottom of it all. It's no easy job—especially when it turns out that one of the victims was involved in the IRA but was last seen discussing business with someone from the loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force. Add to this the fact that, as a Catholic policeman, it doesn't matter which side he's on, because nobody trusts him, and Sergeant Duffy really is in a no-win situation. Fast-paced, evocative, and brutal, this debut in the Duffy series, of six novels, is a brilliant depiction of Belfast at the height of the Troubles—and of a cop treading a thin, thin line. Glad to see that this series is available once again. A terrific read. A terrific series.

MACKINTY/MCKINTY, ADRIAN CHAIN (\$12.99) It's something parents do every morning: Rachel Klein drops her daughter at the bus stop and heads into her day. But a cell phone call from an unknown number changes everything: it's a woman on the line, informing her that she has Kylie bound and gagged in her back seat, and the only way Rachel will see her again is to follow her instructions exactly: pay a ransom, and find another child to abduct. This is no ordinary kidnapping: the caller is a mother herself, whose son has been taken, and if Rachel doesn't do as she's told, the boy will die. "You are not the first. And you will certainly not be the last." Rachel is now part of The Chain, an unending and ingenious scheme that turns victims into criminals—and is making someone else very rich in the process. The rules are simple, the moral challenges impossible; find the money fast, find your victim, and then commit a horrible act you'd have thought yourself incapable of just twenty-four hours ago.

MACLEAN, SHONA seaton REDEMPTION OF ALEXANDER SEATON (#1) (\$17.99) Banff, Scotland, the 1620s. A young man walks unsteadily through the streets. Is he just drunk or is there something more sinister happening? When he collapses in front of two sisters on that dark, wet night, the women guess that he's been poisoned. His body is discovered in the house of Alexander Seaton—a fallen minister, the discovery of whose clandestine love affair has left him disgraced. Why was the body in Seaton's house? And why would anyone want to murder this likeable young man? Seaton sets out to find answers, embarking on a journey not only through the darkest part of other men's souls, but also his own. Originally published in 2008.

MORGAN, ALEXIS abby DEATH BY THE FINISH LINE (#5) (\$11.99) With her inherited house, an unusually large dog, and a jam-packed committee calendar, Abby McCree keeps busy in her adopted town of Snowberry Creek in the Pacific Northwest even when she isn't investigating the occasional murder! When a dead body turns up on a 5K charity race route, Abby hits the ground running to catch a killer in this fifth installment.

MUKHERJEE, ABIR wyndham SHADOWS OF MEN (#5) (\$27.99 hardcover or trade paperback) See the hardcover for an annotation

OSWORTH, A E WE ARE WATCHING ELIZA BRIGHT (\$22.99) Eliza Bright was living the dream as an elite video game coder at Fancy Dog Games when her private life suddenly became public. When Eliza reports an incident of workplace harassment that is quickly dismissed, she's forced to take her frustrations to a journalist who blasts her story across the Internet. She's fired and doxxed, and becomes a rallying figure for

women across America. But she's also enraged the beast that is male gamers on 4Chan and Reddit, whose collective, unreliable voice narrates our story. Soon Eliza is in the cross-hairs of the gaming community, threatened and stalked as they monitor her every move online and across New York City. As the violent power of an angry male collective descends upon everyone in Eliza's life, it becomes increasingly difficult to know who to trust, even when she's eventually taken in and protected by an under-the-radar Collective known as the Sixsterhood. The violence moves from cyberspace to the real world, as a vicious male super-fan known only as The Inspectre is determined to exact his revenge on behalf of men everywhere. We watch alongside the Sixsterhood and subreddit incels as this dramatic cat-and-mouse game plays out to reach its violent and inevitable conclusion.

PEARSE, SARAH SANATORIUM (\$23) Half-hidden by forest and overshadowed by threatening peaks, Le Sommet has always been a sinister place. Long plagued by troubling rumors, the former abandoned sanatorium has since been renovated into a five-star minimalist hotel. An imposing, isolated getaway spot high up in the Swiss Alps is the last place Elin Warner wants to be. But Elin's taken time off from her job as a detective, so when her estranged brother, Isaac, and his fiancée, Laure, invite her to celebrate their engagement at the hotel, Elin really has no reason not to accept. Arriving in the midst of a threatening storm, Elin immediately feels on edge—there's something about the hotel that makes her nervous. And when they wake the following morning to discover Laure is missing, Elin must trust her instincts if they hope to find her. With the storm closing off all access to the hotel, the longer Laure stays missing, the more the remaining guests start to panic. Elin is under pressure to find Laure, but no one has realized yet that another woman has gone missing. And she's the only one who could have warned them just how much danger they are all in...

PERRY, THOMAS butchers EDDIE'S BOY (#4) (\$23.95) Michael Shaeffer is a retired American businessman, living peacefully in England with his aristocratic wife. But her annual summer party brings strangers to their house, and with them, an attempt on Michael's life. He is immediately thrust into action, luring his lethal pursuers to Australia before venturing into the lion's den—the States—to figure out why the mafia is after him again, and how to stop them. Start with Butcher's Boy (#1) (\$22).

PROSE, NITA MAID (\$24.95) Molly Gray is not like everyone else. She struggles with social skills and misreads the intentions of others. Her gran used to interpret the world for her, codifying it into simple rules that Molly could live by. Since Gran died a few months ago, twenty-five-year-old Molly has been navigating life's complexities all by herself. No matter—she throws herself with gusto into her work as a hotel maid. Her unique character, along with her obsessive love of cleaning and proper etiquette, make her an ideal fit for the job. She delights in donning her crisp uniform each morning, stocking her cart with miniature soaps and bottles, and returning guest rooms at the Regency Grand Hotel to a state of perfection. But Molly's orderly life is upended the day she enters the suite of the infamous and wealthy Charles Black, only to find it in a state of disarray and Mr. Black himself dead in his bed. Before she knows what's happening, Molly's unusual demeanour has the police targeting her as their lead suspect. She quickly finds herself caught in a web of deception, one she has no idea how to untangle. Fortunately for Molly, friends she never knew she had unite with her in a search for clues to what really happened to Mr. Black. But will they be able to find the real killer before it's too?

QUARTEY, KWEI emma djan SLEEP WELL, MY LADY (#2) (\$20.95) Hard-hitting talk show host Augustus Seeza has become a household name in Ghana, though notorious for his lavish overspending, alcoholism, and womanizing. He's dating the imposing, beautiful Lady Araba, who leads a self-made fashion empire. Fearing Augustus is only after her money, Araba's religious family intervenes to break them up. A few days later, just before a major runway show, Araba is found murdered in her bed. Her driver is arrested after a hasty investigation, but Araba's favorite aunt, Dele, suspects Augustus Seeza was the real killer. Almost a year later, Dele approaches Emma Djan, who has finally started to settle in as the only female PI at her agency. To solve Lady Araba's murder, Emma must not only go on an undercover mission that dredges up trauma from her past, but navigate a long list of suspects with strong motives. Emma quickly discovers that they are all willing to lie for each other—and that one may still be willing to kill.

RAMAN, RV athreya WILL TO KILL (#1) (\$24.50) A book that embodies all the things we love about **Agatha Christie**—a haunted manor house, estranged relatives a will, and a murder—set in modern-day India. Aging and wheelchair-bound patriarch Bhaskar Fernandez has finally reclaimed his family property after a bitter legal battle, and now wants to reunite his aggrieved relatives. So, he invites them to remote Greybrooke Manor in the misty Nilgiris—a mansion that has played host to several sudden deaths; a colonial edifice that stands alone in a valley that is said to be haunted by the ghost of an Englishman. But Bhaskar has other, more practical problems to deal with. He knows that his family is waiting for him to die to regain the family fortune, and to

safeguard himself against violence during the house party, he writes two conflicting wills. Which one of them comes into force depends on how he dies. Into this tinderbox, he brings Harith Athreya, a seasoned investigator. When a landslide occurs, temporarily isolating them all at the mansion, and resulting in a murder, Athreya finds that murder is not the only thing the mist conceals.

ROSENFELDT, HANS CRY WOLF (\$21.99) Hannah Wester, a policewoman in the remote northern town of Haparanda, Sweden, finds herself on the precipice of chaos. When human remains are found in the stomach of a dead wolf, Hannah knows that this summer won't be like any other. The remains are linked to a bloody drug deal across the border in Finland. But how did the victim end up in the woods outside of Haparanda? And where have the drugs and money gone? Hannah and her colleagues leave no stone unturned. But time is scarce and they aren't the only ones looking. When the secretive and deadly Katja arrives, unexpected and brutal events start to pile up. In just a few days, life in Haparanda is turned upside down. Not least for Hannah, who is finally forced to confront her own past.

ROSS, BARBARA darrowfield JANE DARROWFIELD AND THE MADWOMAN (#2) (\$11.99) Jane Darrowfield is using her retirement years to work as a professional busybody in her West Cambridge, Massachusetts community—but this time her client is Megan, the woman next door, who thinks someone is following her. Megan needs some help from her snooping neighbor. Megan's been having blackouts, hearing voices—and feeling like someone's following her. Are these symptoms of an illness—or signs that she's in danger? Considering the extensive security system in Megan's house, it seems like she should be safe—yet she soon vanishes into thin air. Some think she's run away, but would this ambitious young lawyer on the partner track really miss a meeting with an important client? And where's Megan's cat? The mystery is about to deepen when the cat is finally located in a hidden panic room—and as Jane and the police look into Megan's friends, family, and past, it may be time to sound the alarm...

ROYAL, PRISCILLA medieval PRAYERS OF THE DEAD (#17) (\$26.50) November 1283. Prioress Eleanor's cousin, the Earl of Ness, visits with his wife, Eda. When his unloved spouse is murdered in the priory chapel with his knife, he becomes the prime suspect. Another murder follows. Eda's quiet priest is killed in the same chapel. Eda had many enemies, so what connection could there be between a ruthless woman and a pious man who cared nothing of earthly things? Crowner Ralf insists the crimes fall under the king's law and that Prioress Eleanor lacks objectivity because of her cousin's involvement. Prioress Eleanor refuses, claiming that she must determine why the crime occurred in her priory. She also believes that her cousin is more likely to tell her needed details than to an unknown crowner. But as she digs deeper, she begins to fear what she might discover. She may have thought her cousin was innocent, but she realizes he is lying to her. Having given her word that she would not be blinded by familial love, she knows that she may have to face tragedy and walk her cousin to the gallows.

SIGURDARDOTTIR, YRSA I REMEMBER YOU (\$26.99) In an isolated village in the Icelandic Westfjords, three friends set to work renovating a rundown house. But soon, they realize they are not as alone as they thought. Something wants them to leave, and it's making its presence felt. Meanwhile, in a town across the fjord, a young doctor investigating the suicide of an elderly woman discovers that she was obsessed with his vanished son. When the two stories collide, the terrifying truth is uncovered. Partly based on a true story...

STEN, VIVECA sandhamn BURIED IN SECRET (#10) (\$20.95) A woman's skeletal remains are excavated on an uninhabited island in Sandhamn's archipelago, and Thomas Andreasson is called to officially investigate. But his best friend, Nora Linde, can't help but get involved. On leave after her last case took a dark turn, Nora is tortured by depression, nightmares, and guilt. Her marriage fractured, her pride chipped away, Nora could find redemption in this investigation. Then evidence suggests two possible cold cases linked to the grim discovery: two women who have been missing for ten years. Now Nora feels compelled to unearth a mystery someone has gone to great pains to bury. What could have happened to require such a cover-up?

TAYLOR, MARSALI lynch SHETLAND SEA MURDERS (#9) (\$17.99) While onboard her last chartered sailing trip of the season, Cass Lynch is awoken in the middle of the night by a Mayday call to the Shetland coastguard. A fishing vessel has become trapped on the rocks off the coast of one of the islands. In the days that follow, there's both a shocking murder and a baffling death. On the surface there's no link, but when Cass becomes involved it is soon clear that her life is also in danger. Convinced that someone sinister is at work in these Shetland waters, Cass is determined to find and stop them. But uncovering the truth could prove to be deadly . . .

TODD, CHARLES rutledge FATAL LIE (#23) (\$21) A peaceful Welsh village is thrown into turmoil when a terrified boy stumbles on a body in a nearby river. The man appears to have fallen from the canal aqueduct spanning the valley. But there is no identification on the body, he isn't a local, and no one will admit to having seen him be-

fore. With little to go on, the village police turn to Scotland Yard for help. When Inspector Ian Rutledge is sent from London to find answers, he is given few clues—a faded military tattoo on the victim's arm and an unusual label in the collar of his shirt. They eventually lead him to the victim's identity: Sam Milford. By all accounts, he was a good man and well-respected. Then, why is his death so mysterious? Looking for the truth, Rutledge uncovers a web of lies swirling around a suicidal woman, a child's tragic fate, and another woman bent on protecting her past. But where among all the lies is the motive for murder? To track a killer, Rutledge must retrace Milford's last journey. Yet death seems to stalk his every move, and the truth seems to shift at every turn. Man or woman, this murderer stays in the shadows, and it will take desperate measures to lure him—or her—into the light.

TREMAYNE, PETER fidelma CHALICE OF BLOOD (#21) (\$31.50) Ireland AD 670: When an eminent scholar is found murdered in his cell in the Abbey of Lios Mor, fear spreads among his brethren. His door was secured from the inside, with no other means of exit. How did the murderer escape? And what was the content of the manuscripts apparently stolen from the scholar's room? Abbot Iarnla insists on sending for Sister Fidelma and her companion Brother Eadulf to investigate the killing. But even before they reach the abbey walls, there is an attempt on their lives. As the mystery deepens, Fidelma and Eadulf must also wrestle with problems of their own, problems which threaten to separate them forever...Published 2010.

TREMAYNE, PETER fidelma BEHOLD A PALE HORSE (#22) (\$29.99) In 664 A.D., just after the events detailed in *Shroud for the Archbishop*, Fidelma of Cashel takes a unexpected detour on her trip home from Rome. While in the port at Genua (modern day Genoa), Fidelma—sister of one Ireland's kings and an advocate in her country's law courts—receives word that one of her old teachers, Brother Ruadan, is reaching the end of his days. Determined to see her old mentor one last time, Fidelma takes the treacherous journey to a remote abbey in the countryside—a place where the old pagan religion still has a hold and where even the Christians are often in bloody conflict with each other. But after she hears her dying teacher's last words, Fidelma's most dangerous adventure has just begun. With one murder after the next and a vicious war in the offing, it is up to Fidelma, alone and on her own, to unravel an extraordinary conspiracy before it is too late. Published 2011.

TREMAYNE, PETER fidelma DEVIL'S SEAL (#25) (\$15.99) Ireland, AD 671. When a curious deputation of religieus arrive in Cashel, death follows close behind. Sister Fidelma and her companion, Eadulf, seem unable to stem the bloodshed. Is one of the deputation responsible? What was the Venerable Verax, the scholar from Rome, hiding? Was there an evil secret behind the austere Bishop Arwald? Indeed, what was the real reason behind Eadulf's brother Egric's unexpected appearance at Cashel—could he be the culprit? Victims and suspects combine to make a tangled skein of mystery more complex and bloody than Fidelma and Eadulf have ever faced. Published 2014.

TREMAYNE, PETER fidelma BLOOD IN EDEN (#30) (\$25) Ireland. AD 672. The hamlet of Cloichin is said to be a veritable Eden, with its prosperous farms and close-knit, friendly community. But when Sister Fidelma and Eadulf arrive, a new priest has ordered the villagers to lynch a man accused of murdering a local farmer, his wife and two sons. The only evidence they hold against him is the fact that he is a stranger to their land. Saving the man's life, Fidelma is determined that the villagers must give the newcomer a fair trial. But there is to be more blood in Eden and more lives will be lost as long-standing friends become new-found enemies, and no one knows who to trust... Published 2019.

TREMAYNE, PETER fidelma SHAPESHIFTER'S LAIR (#31) (\$17.99) Ireland. AD 672. The body of a dead man has been found on a lonely mountain road and taken to the isolated abbey of Gleann Da Loch for a proper burial. The abbot quickly identifies him as Brehon Brocc, who had been travelling to the abbey on a secret mission with Princess Gelgeis and her steward. When news reaches Colgu, King of Muman, that his betrothed, Princess Gelgeis, has disappeared, Fidelma with her trusted companions, Eadulf and Enda, enter the hostile Kingdom of Laigin in search of the truth. But one death is quickly followed by another and warnings of demonic shapeshifters and evil lurking in the mountains must be taken seriously. Are there really brigands stealing gold and silver from the ancient mines? And are rumours of a war between the Kingdoms of Laigin and Muman to be believed? As Fidelma searches for answers, she must do everything in her power to avoid danger and death in a land where no one is to be trusted...

WILKINS, SUSAN phelps INFORMANT (\$17.99) Set in London and Essex... a story of ruthless criminals, corrupt cops, obsessive love and the villainy that operates on both sides of the law. As a drug-fuelled teenage tearaway, Kaz Phelps took the rap for her little brother Joey over a bungled armed robbery and went to jail. Six years later she's released on licence. Clean and sober, and driven by a secret passion for her lawyer, Helen, Kaz wants to escape the violence and abuse of her Essex gangster family. Joey is a charming, calculating and cold psychopath. He worships the ground Kaz walks on and he's desperate to get her back in the family firm. All Kaz wants is a fresh start and to

put the past behind her. When Joey murders an undercover cop, DS Nicci Armstrong is determined to put him behind bars. What she doesn't realize is that her efforts are being sabotaged by one of their own and the Met is being challenged at the highest level. The final test for Kaz comes when her cousin, Sean, gets out of jail. He is a vicious, old-school thug and wants to show Kaz who is boss. Kaz may be tough enough to face down any man, but is she strong enough to turn her back on her family and go straight? **WILKINS, SUSAN** phelps MOURNER (#2) (\$17.99) If she can't get justice, will she settle for vengeance? Kaz Phelps has escaped her brother and her criminal past to become an anonymous art student in Glasgow. But can life under the witness protection scheme ever give her the freedom she craves? Banged up and brooding, Joey Phelps faces thirty years behind bars. Still, with cash and connections on the outside, can an overstretched prison system really contain him? Helen Warner, once Kaz's lawyer and lover, is a rising star in Parliament. But has she made the kind of enemies who have no regard for the democratic process, or even the law? Ousted from the police and paralysed by tragic personal loss, Nicci Armstrong is in danger of going under. Can a job she doesn't want with a private security firm help her to put her life back on track? A murder dressed up as suicide and corruption that goes to the heart of government unite ex-cop and ex-con in a deadly quest to learn the truth. What they discover proves what both have always known—villainy is rife on both sides of the law.

WINMAN, SARAH STILL LIFE (\$24.95) In the wine-cellar of a Tuscan villa, as the Allies advance and bombs fall around them, two people meet and share an extraordinary evening: Ulysses Temper is a young British soldier from London's East End; Evelyn Skinner is a worldly older art historian and possible spy. She has come to Italy to rescue paintings from the ruins and relive her memories of the time she encountered E.M. Forster and had her heart stolen by an Italian maid in a particular Florentine room with a view. Evelyn's talk of truth and beauty plants a seed in Ulysses's mind that night, one that will shape the trajectory of his life—and the lives of those who love him—for the next four decades. Moving from war-ravaged Tuscany to the boozy confines of The Stoat and Parrot pub in London and the piazzas of post-war Florence, this is both sweeping and intimate, mischievous and deeply felt. It is a novel about beauty, love and fate, about the things that make life worth living, and the things we're prepared to die for. “And I loved it”, says Marian.