



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

January 2023

On October 4, 1982, Marian and I took ownership of Sleuth of Baker Street. The decision to buy the store, forty years ago, was at Marian's insistence and it was one of many great decisions she made for us. But forty years it has been and we're running short of time. Retirement is nigh. We've been threatening this for a while and the time has now come. We will be closing Sleuth.

Forty years of owning and running Sleuth has been forty years of great fun and, fortunately, the bookstore has done well enough to allow us a comfortable retirement. We are also very much aware that it's thanks to the thousands of our loyal customers, over all these decades, who have supported us so generously that we can consider this next chapter. That our decision to close will not go over well with some of you, is something else we're very much aware of. Spending forty years doing something we love has been a great pleasure, but the time has come for other things.

There will be a transition period, naturally. What the transition will look like exactly, or how long the transition period will be, is not perfectly clear in our minds—there are a few moving parts and after forty years, it's with considerable trepidation that we undertake this last, final, turn to our bookselling career—but our need and desire to do this is quite clear. We'll stumble through this and make decisions as they need to be made.

So. This will be the last issue of the newsletter. We'll stop ordering new releases and stop re-stocking backlist. Essentially, we will now work towards disposing of the inventory and, sooner or later, proceed to put the building up for sale.

While we're around, we'll continue taking special orders for any book you might want. Feel free to ask and we'll get it. This'll give you a chance to use up whatever gift certificates or account credits that you might have. Of course, we'll issue refunds for any unused balances if you'd rather.

And that, alas, is pretty much that. We thank you. We apologize. We beg your forgiveness.

With deepest gratitude,
Prince, Pixie, Marian, jd

Come meet
Barbara Fradkin

Saturday, February 4, 2-4 pm
 and let her tell you all about the latest entry
 in her Amanda Doucette series,
WRECK BAY (#5) (\$21.99).

JD's Picks

Marian has been a big fan of the **M W CRAVEN** series for a long time and I finally got around to reading the debut novel in each of his series. Born in a Burial Gown (\$17.99), the first Avison Fluke novel and The Puppet Show (\$17.99), the first in the Washington Poe series.

Here's the blurb for Puppet Show: A serial killer is burning people alive in the Lake District's prehistoric stone circles. He leaves no clues and the police are helpless. When his name is found carved into the charred remains of the third victim, disgraced detective Washington Poe is brought back from suspension and into an investigation he wants no part of . . .

Reluctantly partnered with the brilliant, but socially awkward, civilian analyst, Tilly Bradshaw, the mismatched pair uncover a trail that only he is meant to see. The elusive killer has a plan and for some reason Poe is part of it.

As the body count rises, Poe discovers he has far more invested in the case than he could have possibly imagined. And in a shocking finale that will shatter everything he's ever believed about himself, Poe will learn that there are things far worse than being burned alive...

The novel turned out not to be as dark as I feared it might be from the opening chapter. It's a pretty graphic start but don't put the book down or you'll not get to meet one of crime fiction's most endearing characters in Tilly. She makes the book worthwhile. And, not to suggest I'm a brainiac, but there was one scene where the identity of the killer was telegraphed so clearly that "rookie mistake" was the expression that sprang to mind. Not that Puppet was the first book published, but it seemed so glaringly obvious—maybe the one time I guessed right. Let me know what you think.

And here's the blurb for Born in a Burial Ground: Detective Inspector Avison Fluke is a man on the edge. He has committed a crime to get back to work, concealed a debilitating illness and is about to be made homeless. Just as he thinks things can't get any worse, the body of a young woman is found buried on a Cumbrian building site.

Shot once in the back of the head, it is a cold, calculated execution. When the post-mortem reveals she has gone to significant expense in disguising her appearance, Fluke knows this is no ordinary murder.

With the help of a psychotic ex-Para, a gangland leader and a woman more interested in maggots than people, Fluke must find out who she was and why she was murdered before he can even think about finding her killer...

Read the two of them over the Christmas break at the cottage. Not a bad way to fill in the time between puppy walks—five or six a day—cocktails—five or six a day—napping—ditto—and meeting various and sundry for coffee. Not much time left for reading!

The other book I managed to read was **Simon Toyne's** Dark Objects (\$23.99) the first novel in his Dr. Laughton Rees series. Do not think I have ready anything by this author before but I very much liked Dark Objects. So much so that Marian wanted to read it as soon as I finished it and she'll give you her thoughts a little further on. I'll say no more, other than to tell you that I'm looking forward to the follow up Rees adventure, The Clearing (#2), a July release. Guess that one might cost me full price!

Marian's Picks

I'm glad December is over. Much as I love that time of the year, this December was a horrible month. Family tragedy, horrible weather, closed roads and highways frustrating family get togethers, broken stove—a tragedy, that!—a freezing cottage (although I am so lucky to have the privilege of owning a cottage), very few customers in the store because no one could drive without endangering life and limb, treacherous walking... but, no trees fell on the cottage or took down hydro wires. For which I was immensely grateful! The silver lining in all this? Getting to spend a week at the cottage with the two most precious pups—even if tit head was there as well. The forecast was for huge winds and the first few days at the cottage were frightening, but we survived. Hopefully, closing for the week did not inconvenience you too much...although, I guess that that now pales in comparison to what we have just announced.

Talking of which...we have been around and around and around this question of what comes next for us and having considered the options, only one makes total sense.

M W CRAVEN is one of my most favourite current writers. He has five books in his Washington Poe series and two in the DI Avison Fluke series. I've read all seven. And I loved all seven. There are some gritty parts in the books, but his characters are just fabulous, the stories are great, and I couldn't put any of the books down once I started them. The Puppet Show (#1) (\$17.99), his first in the Poe series, won the UK Gold Dagger, and has finally become easy to acquire here. Dead Ground (#4) (\$17.99), number four in the Poe series, won the Ian Fleming Steel Dagger. For the Poe series you should start with The Puppet Show because you need to be properly introduced to Tilly Bradshaw and then you can read them as you find them. For me, it's Tilly that makes this series sing. The first in the DI Avison Fluke series is Born in a Burial Gown (#1) (\$17.99), and it too is brilliant. I've just finished read The Botanist (#5) (\$34.99 hardcover, \$26.99 trade paperback), the latest in the Poe series and OMG, what a writer, what a story!

Here is the blurb for The Botanist: Detective Sergeant Washington Poe can count on one hand the number of friends he has. And he'd still have his thumb left. There's the insanely brilliant, guilelessly innocent civilian analyst, Tilly Bradshaw of course. He's known his beleaguered boss, Detective Inspector Stephanie Flynn for years as he has his nearest neighbour, full-time shepherd/part-time dog sitter, Victoria.

And then there's Estelle Doyle. It's true the caustic pathologist has never walked down the sunny side of the street but this time has she gone too far? Shot twice in the head, her father's murder appears to be an open and shut case. Estelle has firearms discharge residue on her hands, and, in a house surrounded by fresh snow, hers are the only footprints going in. Since her arrest she's only said three words: 'Tell Washington Poe.'

Meanwhile, a poisoner the press have dubbed the Botanist is sending high profile celebrities poems and pressed flowers. The killer seems to be able to walk through walls and, despite the advance notice he gives his victims, and regardless of the security measures the police take, he seems to be able to kill with impunity.

For a man who hates locked room mysteries, this is going to be the longest week of Washington Poe's life...

Himself has been reading Dark Objects (\$23.99) by **SIMON TOYNE** and it was hard to get him to make me a cocktail, or help around the cottage, as he was so engrossed with the book. (Yes, I know I could have made my own cocktail, but everything taste better when made by someone else. Especially toast and cocktails). Persist I did and got my cocktail but only after a lot of grumbling and moaning. He just didn't want to put the book down. Soooooo, I thought I'd give **Mr. Toyne** a try as well, once he was done with it, which took forever! I have to tell you that the description of the murder scenes are graphic (more than I am comfortable with) but, what a story, and what a terrific beginning to what I hope is a new series. I will certainly read the next book, so hurry up **Mr. Toyne** and get it done.

Forensics expert Laughton Rees hunts an unusually clever killer who appears to be staging murder scenes just for her in this twisty new psychological thriller by the best-selling author of the Sanctus trilogy. How do you catch a killer if the victim doesn't exist?

A glamorous woman is murdered in her ultra-luxurious London mansion and her husband goes missing. But according to public records, neither of them exists.

The only leads police have are several objects arranged around the woman's body, including a set of keys and a book called *How to Process a Murder* by Laughton Rees—a book that appears to have helped the killer forensically cleanse the crime scene.

Laughton Rees is an academic who doesn't usually work live cases after the brutal murder of her mother as a teen left her traumatized and emotionally scarred. But the presence of her book at this scene draws her unwillingly into the high-profile investigation and media circus that springs up around it. As the dark objects found beside the body lead her closer to the victim's identity, a dangerous threat to Laughton and her daughter emerges, as well as painful memories of her past related to the man she has always blamed for her mother's death: John Rees, Laughton's father, the current Metropolitan Chief Commissioner and a man she has not spoken to in twenty years.

Laughton's family was destroyed once and she built herself a new one. Now, she has to face her darkest fears and help catch a killer before this one is destroyed too.

The second Laughton Rees, *The Clearing* (#2) (\$39.50) is a July release.

I don't know about you, but if some of my favourite writers are praising an unknown writer, I want to read that writer as well. Don't you? So, here are some reviews of *The Bangalore Detective Club* (\$19.99) by **HARINI NAGENDRA**, so, how could I resist:

The first in an effervescent new mystery series. . . a treat for historical mystery lovers looking for a new series to savor (or devour)' **NEW YORK TIMES**

'A gorgeous debut mystery with a charming and fearless sleuth . . . spellbinding'
SUJATA MASSEY

'Told with real warmth and wit. . . A perfect read for fans of **Alexander McCall Smith** and **Vaseem Khan**' - **ABIR MUKHERJEE**

'A cosy mystery that warmly illuminates a time and place not often examined in fiction'
VASEEM KHAN

'A beautifully painted picture of a woman's life in 1920s India' **M W CRAVEN**

'A delight' **CATRIONA MCPHERSON**

'The classic whodunnit with the added appeal of a female sleuth in Colonial India. . . fascinating' **RHYS BOWEN**

A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK OF 2022

Enough I thought, I better read this. *The Bangalore Detective Club* (\$19.99) is the first in a new series which features Mrs. Kaveri Murthy, mathematician, and Lady Detective. Set in 1920s Bangalore it is a lovey cosy that will go well with a cup of hot chocolate, and a warm blanket (just in case you are sitting in a frozen cottage). It is a delightful read, and a true cosy mystery. It highlights a time where women, especially Indian women, were expected to stay home, look after their husbands and have babies. Well, that is not our Mrs. Murthy. She is a delightful contrast to the norm, and her husband is pleased to go along with her and help in her new career as Lady Detective.

Here's what's garnered so many great reviews: Solving crimes isn't easy. Add a jealous mother-in-law and having to wear a flowing sari into the mix, and you've got a problem. When clever, headstrong Kaveri moves to Bangalore to marry doctor Ramu, she's resigned herself to a quiet life. But that all changes the night of the party at the Century Club, where she escapes to the garden for some peace - and instead spots an uninvited guest in the shadows. Half an hour later, the party turns into a murder scene. When a vulnerable woman is connected to the crime, Kaveri becomes determined to save her and launches a private investigation to find the killer, tracing his steps from an illustrious brothel to an Englishman's mansion. She soon finds that sleuthing in a sari isn't as hard as it seems when you have a talent for math, a head for logic and a doctor for a husband. And she's going to need them all as the case leads her deeper into a hotbed of danger, sedition and intrigue in Bangalore's darkest alleyways.

I have been wanting to read *The Thursday Murder Club* (#1) (\$23) by **RICHARD OS-**

MAN for some time, but never seemed to have extra copies in the store so I could take one with me to the cottage. So, I ordered tons of extra copies, got one of my very own and read it. What a delightful, fun book. It's witty, full of interesting characters and I'm going to use the word clever, which has been used in a lot of the reviews I've seen. But it is clever, and it deserves all the great reviews it's received. I so much loved Thursday that I just couldn't wait to get hands on the sequel, The Man Who Died Twice (#2) (\$23), had my staff deliver a copy to the cottage and promptly devoured that one as well. Just terrific.

Here is the blurb for the first book: Four septuagenarians with a few tricks up their sleeves. A female cop with her first big case. A brutal murder. Welcome to THE THURSDAY MURDER CLUB.

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves the Thursday Murder Club. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case. As the bodies begin to pile up, can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer, before it's too late?

Hardbacks

BECKMAN, ALICIA BLIND FAITH (\$37.99) For decades, the unsolved murder of Father Michael Leary has haunted Billings, Montana, the community he served. Who summoned the priest late one autumn night, then left his body in a sandstone gully for the ravens and other wild scavengers? No one more than Lindsay Keller, who admired and confided in him as a teenager. Detective Brian Donovan, a hot-shot Boston transplant, would like nothing more than to solve the county's coldest case. Probing the life and death of Father Leary takes Lindsay and Donovan deep into long-simmering tensions in this seemingly-peaceful place. Then another woman far away digs up unexpected clues about her own family's past—a history rooted in a shocking truth—and her questions bring her to Lindsay and the detective. But the dangerous answers could rock the community to its very core.

BECKMAN, ALICIA BITTERROOT LAKE (\$36.99) Twenty-five years ago, during a celebratory weekend at historic Whitetail Lodge, Sarah McCaskill had a vision. A dream. A nightmare. When a young man was killed, Sarah's guilt over having ignored the warning in her dreams devastated her. Her friendships with her closest friends, and her sister, fell apart as she worked to build a new life in a new city. But she never stopped loving Whitetail Lodge on the shores of Bitterroot Lake. Now the dreams are back.

BRUCE, CAMILLA YOU LET ME IN (\$34.99, \$25.50 paperback) Cassandra Tipp is dead...or is she? After all, the notorious recluse and eccentric bestselling novelist has always been prone to flights of fancy—everyone in town remembers the shocking events leading up to Cassie's infamous trial (she may have been acquitted, but the insanity defense only stretches so far). Cassandra Tipp has left behind no body—just her massive fortune, and one final manuscript. Then again, there are enough bodies in her past—her husband Tommy Tipp, whose mysterious disembowelment has never been solved, and a few years later, the shocking murder-suicide of her father and brother. Cassandra Tipp will tell you a story—but it will come with a terrible price. What really happened, out there in the woods—and who has Cassie been protecting all along? Read on, if you dare...

CLANCY, TOM & MARC CAMERON RED WINTER (\$39.95) 1985. A top secret F117 aircraft crashes into the Nevada desert. The Nighthawk is the most advanced fighting machine in the world and the Soviets will do anything to get their hands on its secrets. In East Berlin, a mysterious figure contacts the CIA with an incredible offer— invaluable details of his government's espionage plans in return for asylum. It's an offer they can't pass up...if it's genuine, but the risks are too great to blindly stumble into a deal. With the East German secret police closing in, someone will have to go to behind the Berlin Wall to investigate the potential defector. It's a job Deputy Director James Greer can only trust to one man--Jack Ryan. Ryan is a former Marine and a brilliant CIA analyst who's been the architect of some of the CIA's biggest coups but this time he's in enemy territory with a professional assassin on his tail. Can he get the right answers before the Cold War turns into a Red Winter?

DAVIS, KRISTA *domestic diva* DIVA SAYS CHEESECAKE (#15) (\$35) A dinner with a dessert buffet on the waterfront. Is what Bobbie Sue Bodoin has ordered. Her homegrown cheesecake company is thriving, she wants to reward her employees. Bob-

bie Sue has only one menu demand: no cheesecake! But her specialty isn't the only thing missing from the evening—Tate, Bobbie Sue's husband, is too, much to her annoyance. Next morning, however, Tate's dead body is discovered. Bobbie Sue insists she didn't kick her spouse to the curb and begs for Sophie's help finding the real killer. Digging in, Sophie discovers an assortment of Old Town locals who all had reason to want a piece of Tate. Can she gather together the crumbs the killer left behind in time to prevent a second helping of murder?

DELANY, VICKI holmes GAME IS A FOOTNOTE (#8) (\$35.99) Scarlet House, now a historical re-enactment museum, is the oldest building in West London, Massachusetts. When things start moving around on their own, board members suggest that Gemma Doyle, owner of the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop and Emporium, might be able to get to the bottom of it. Gemma doesn't believe in ghosts, but she agrees to 'eliminate the impossible'. But when Gemma and Jayne stumble across a dead body on the property, they're forced to consider an all too physical threat. Gemma and Jayne suspect foul play as they start to uncover more secrets about the museum. With the museum being a revolving door for potential killers, they have plenty of options for who might be the actual culprit. Despite Gemma's determination not to get further involved, it would appear that once again, and much to the displeasure of Detective Ryan Ashburton, the game is afoot. Will Gemma and Jayne be able to solve the mystery behind the haunted museum, or will they be the next to haunt it?

DELLANDREA, JON S GREAT CANADIAN ART FRAUD CASE (\$47.50) In May 2016, the author came into possession of a box of the last effects of an obscure artist, William Firth MacGregor. The contents of the box chronicled a major, and long forgotten, trial involving forgeries of the art of Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven. The Great Canadian Art Fraud Case takes readers back to 1962, a time when forgeries were turning up on gallery walls, in auction houses, and (unwittingly) being hung in the homes of luminaries across Canada. Inspector James Erskine, enlisting the help of A.J. Casson, the youngest living member of the Group of Seven, set out to discover where the forgeries were coming from. Fifty years later, the author follows Erskine's hunt to the end, uncovering the masterminds behind the forgeries. Lavishly illustrated with reproductions and archival images, this book unravels the mystery of the greatest art fraud trial in Canadian history. Along the way, it also tells the story of a talented artist whose career might have been so very different.

ESTLEMAN, LOREN D walker MONKEY IN THE MIDDLE (\$34.99) The monkey in the middle is the one who "hears no evil." Private eye Amos Walker doesn't have that luxury. Hearing the truth, on the other hand, is a lot less common, even from people who need his help. It's summer in Detroit and Walker's just received word that his ex-wife has passed away. He can use a distraction, which arrives in the form of a young, would-be investigative journalist who has gotten in way over his head. He needs Walker's protection but is suspiciously vague about why and from whom. And he's not the only one playing their cards way too close to their chest. Not to mention any number of covert government agencies pursuing their own agendas, possibly in opposition to each other. Walker just wants answers, but what he finds is a dead body—and enough trouble to put him on ice for good, unless he can discover what everyone's not telling him.

FREDERICKS, MARIAH prescott DEATH OF A SHOWMAN (#4) (\$36.50) It is the summer of 1914 and lady's maid Jane Prescott is back in New York with the Tylers after a glittering society wedding in Europe. On their return, Jane learns another wedding has taken place. Her old dancing partner, Leo Hirschfeld, has married a chorus girl in his new Broadway musical. Jane and Louise Tyler are pulled into the sparkling and scandalous world of Broadway, as a star struck Louise invests in Leo's show, and Jane chaperones her at rehearsals. But behind the glittering facade of the theater, there are rivalries, secret romances, and some very dodgy business practices. When the show's abusive producer, Sidney Warburton, is murdered, the list of suspects is long... As the First World War looms in the distance, Jane and tabloid reporter Michael Behan must strip back the masks of these consummate performers before one of them kills again.

GILBERT, VICTORIA b&b FATAL BOOKING (#3) (\$35.99) Booklover Charlotte is delighted to welcome an eclectic group of guests to Chapters Bed and Breakfast for a book club retreat focused on fairy tales and classic children's literature. But when one of the guests is poisoned at a Mad Hatter tea party, Charlotte realizes she's fallen down a rather unpleasant rabbit hole. The victim—an opinionated busybody whose jewelry store sold original designs, along with some possibly "hot" merchandise—had plenty of enemies, spurring Charlotte and Ellen to offer their well-honed investigative skills to assist the local police. But as they delve deeper into each of the guest's stories, they realize all of them had a motive, and the means, to close the book on the unfortunate victim.

GILBERT, VICTORIA library DEATH IN THE MARGINS (#7) (\$37.99) It's early summer, and while Richard Muir and his dance partner, Karla, are preparing their new choreographic piece, Richard's wife, Amy, is gathering the dance's source materials.

Based on folktales and the music of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the production is set to premiere at an old cinema that has been converted to a theater. But when dancer Meredith Fox—Richard’s former fiancé—is found dead backstage, Amy is once again propelled into a murder case that threatens the careers and lives of those she loves.

HENDERSON, ALICE carter GHOST OF CARIBOU (#3) (\$34.99) When a remote camera on a large, rugged expanse held by the Land Trust for Wildlife Conservation picks up a blurry image of what could be a mountain caribou, they contact Alex Carter to investigate. After all, mountain caribou went extinct in the contiguous U.S. years ago, and if one has wandered down from Canada, it’s monumental. But when Alex arrives on scene in the Selkirk mountains of northeastern Washington state, she quickly learns that her only challenge isn’t finding an elusive caribou on a massive piece of land. The nearby townspeople are agitated; loggers and activists clash over a swath of old growth forest marked for clearcutting. The murdered body of a forest ranger is found strung up in the town’s park, and Alex learns of a backcountry hiker who went missing in the same area the year before. As she ventures into the forest in search of the endangered animal, she quickly finds herself in a fight for her life, caught between factions warring for the future of the forest and a murderer stalking the dense groves of ancient trees.

MACINTYRE, BEN PRISONERS OF THE CASTLE (\$36) The myth of Colditz, the most infamous prison in history, has stood unchallenged for 70 years: prisoners of war, mustaches firmly set on stiff upper lips, defying the Nazis by tunnelling out of a grim Gothic castle on a German hilltop. Like all legends, that story contains only part of the truth. In this new history, the author offers a vision of Colditz previously unimagined, a story of much more than an escape, just as the prison’s inmates were far more complicated than the cardboard saints depicted in post-war pop culture. With access to declassified archives, private papers, and never-before-seen photos, the author reveals a remarkable cast of characters, previously hidden from history: Indian doctor Birendranath Mazymdar, the only non-white prisoner, whose ill-treatment, hunger-strike and eventual escape reads like fiction; Florimond Duke, America’s oldest paratrooper and least successful secret agent; Christopher Clayton Hutton, the brilliant inventor employed by British intelligence to manufacture escape aids for POWs, from maps hidden in playing cards to a compass secreted inside a walnut; and much more...

O’CONNOR, CARLENE CHRISTMAS COCOA MURDER (\$28.95) Three novellas: CHRISTMAS COCOA MURDER by **CARLENE O’CONNOR** (Siobhán O’Sullivan’s hopes for a quiet Irish Christmas are dashed when the local Santa turns up dead in a carnival dunk tank of hot cocoa. Now instead of hunting down holiday gifts, she’s pursuing a heartless killer. Seems the dead Santa was no angel either, stealing neighborhood dogs to guide his sleigh. But was it his holiday antics—or worse—that led to his death by chocolate?); CHRISTMAS COCOA AND A CORPSE by **MADDIE DAY** (When local businessman Jed Greenberg is found dead with a Chocolate lab whimpering over his body, the police start sniffing around Robbie Jordan’s country restaurant for answers. Was it something in Robbie’s hot cocoa that killed Jed, or was it Cocoa the dog? As the suspects pile as high as her holiday tree, Robbie attempts to get to the bottom of the sickly-sweet murder...) and DEATH BY HOT COCOA by **ALEX ERICKSON** (A Christmas-themed escape game seems like the perfect pre-holiday treat for bookstore café owner Krissy Hancock and her best friend. But when the host is found dead in a pool of hot cocoa, it’s up to Krissy and her team to catch the killer—or escape before getting killed.)

O’CONNOR, CARLENE CHRISTMAS SCARF MURDER (\$35) Three novellas: CHRISTMAS SCARF MURDER by **CARLENE O’CONNOR** (When grinchy thefts steal the good cheer at a local nursing home, Siobhan O’Sullivan manages to identify one missing item before Kilbane, Ireland’s Christmas tractor parade—a hideous shamrock scarf wrapped around a very dead body. Now, with her holiday farmhouse bash approaching, Siobhan must dash to stop a deadly Secret Santa from gifting another unwanted surprise.); SCARFED DOWN by **MADDIE DAY** (It’s beginning to taste a lot like Christmas at Pans ‘N Pancakes, as twelve days of menu specials dazzle hungry locals. But the festivities go cold the instant a diner dies while knitting a brilliant green scarf. With Aunt Adele tied into a murder investigation, it’s all on Robbie Jordan to find out who’s really been naughty or nice in South Lick, Indiana.) and DEATH BY CHRISTMAS SCARF by **PEGGY EHRHART** (Suspects pile up faster than New Jersey snow when frosty-tempered Carys Walcott is found strangled by a handmade scarf auctioned at Arborville’s tree-lighting ceremony. Between a winning bidder hiding behind the alias “S. Claws” and a victim who deserved coal in her stocking, can Pamela Paterson and the crafty Knit and Nibble ladies freeze a killer’s merry murder plot?)

SHAMES, TERRY MURDER AT THE JUBILEE RALLY (\$41.99) With the annual Jubilee Motorcycle Rally approaching, Jarrett Creek residents are divided. Some despise the rowdy, unsavory behaviour of the bikers, but they bring welcome money to local merchants. What’s to be done? At a town meeting to find a solution, temperatures flare as Amber Johnson and Lily Deverell—family women on opposing sides of the de-

bate—throw accusations at each other. Attempting to appease both camps, Chief of Police Samuel Craddock enacts a curfew to dissuade late-night revellers. Nevertheless, trouble strikes. With the rally in full swing, Amber is found murdered at the event. Why did Amber leave her home that night? What secrets was she hiding from her family? **WORSLEY, LUCY** AGATHA CHRISTIE: AN ELUSIVE WOMAN (\$45, \$29.99 trade paperback) Why did **Agatha Christie** spend her career pretending that she was “just” an ordinary housewife, when clearly she wasn’t? Her life is fascinating for its mysteries and its passions and, as the author says, “She was thrillingly, scintillatingly modern.” She went surfing in Hawaii, she loved fast cars, and she was intrigued by the new science of psychology, which helped her through devastating mental illness. So why—despite all the evidence to the contrary—did Agatha present herself as a retiring Edwardian lady of leisure? She was born in 1890 into a world that had its own rules about what women could and couldn’t do. Yet, despite the obstacles of class and gender, Christie became an astonishingly successful working woman. With access to personal letters and papers that have rarely been seen, this biography is both authoritative and entertaining and makes us realize what an extraordinary pioneer Agatha Christie was—truly a woman who wrote the twentieth century.

Paperbacks

ALEXANDER, ELLIE bakeshop MUFFIN BUT THE TRUTH (#16) (\$12.99) Ashland is known for its Elizabethan charm and touches of Shakespeare around every corner, but the surrounding Rogue Valley draws adventure enthusiasts to its outdoor wonderland of high alpine lakes, mountain ranges, and pristine rivers. Jules Capshaw and the team at Torte have been hired to cater a weekend getaway on the mighty Rogue River. Jules is going to have to put her culinary skills to the test while baking gooey chocolate chip skillet cookies over an open flame and preparing extravagant feasts under a canopy of stars. The executive team at a big city firm will be rafting the Rogue’s rapids and gathering around the campfire for spooky stories, but their dysfunction quickly begins to show. Between constant bickering and heavy drinking, Jules wonders how the team can accomplish anything. She’s happy for a brief reprieve when they zip up their lifejackets and head out in their boats, but the serenity of the scene quickly vanishes when Jules discovers one of the execs floating face down in the water. She’s going to have to uncover the truth before she gets pulled under.

ALSTERDAL, TOVE high coas WE KNOW YOU REMEMBER (#1) (\$21.99) A missing girl, a hidden body, a decades-long cover-up, and old sins cast in new light: the classic procedural meets Scandinavian atmosphere in this rich, character-driven mystery, awarded Best Swedish Crime Novel of the Year...It’s been more than twenty years since Olof Hagström left home. Returning to his family’s house, he knows instantly that something is amiss. The front door key, hidden under a familiar stone, is still there. Inside, there’s a panicked dog, a terrible stench, water pooling on the floor: the father Olaf has not seen or spoken to in decades is dead in the bathroom shower. For police detective Eira Sjödin, the investigation of this suspicious death resurrects long-forgotten nightmares. She was only nine when Olof Hagström, then fourteen, was found guilty of raping and murdering a local girl. The case left a mark on the town’s collective memory—a wound that never quite healed—and tinged Eira’s childhood with fear. Too young to be sentenced, Olof was sent to a youth home and exiled from his family. He was never seen in the town again. Until now.

BALDACCI, DAVID archer GAMBLING MAN (#2) (\$12.99) The 1950s are on the horizon, and Archer is in dire need of a fresh start after a nearly fatal detour in Poca City. So Archer hops on a bus and begins the long journey out west to California, where rumor has it there is money to be made if you’re hard-working, lucky, criminal—or all three. Archer’s first stop is a P.I. office where he is hoping to apprentice with a legendary private eye and former FBI agent named Willie Dash. He lands the job, and immediately finds himself in the thick of a potential scandal: a blackmail case involving a wealthy well-connected politician running for mayor that soon spins into something even more sinister. As bodies begin falling, Archer and Dash must infiltrate the world of brothels, gambling dens, drug operations, and long-hidden secrets, descending into the rotten bones of a corrupt town that is selling itself as the promised land—but might actually be the road to perdition, and Archer’s final resting place

BENTON, JACK hardy CLOCKMAKER’S SECRET (#2) (\$29.99) A buried clock holds the key to a decades-old mystery. On holiday to escape the nightmares of his last case, disgraced soldier turned private detective John “Slim” Hardy comes upon something buried in the peat on Bodmin Moor. Unfinished and water-damaged but still ticking, the old clock provides a vital clue to an unsolved missing-persons case. As Slim begins to ask questions of the tiny Cornish village of Penleven, he is drawn into a world

of lies, rumours, and secrets, some of which the residents would prefer to stay buried. Twenty-three years ago, a reclusive clockmaker left his workshop and walked out onto Bodmin Moor, taking his last, unfinished clock with him. He disappeared. Slim is determined to find out why.

BENTON, JACK *hardy* GAMES KEEPER (#3) (\$25.99) Having fallen on hard times, disgraced soldier turned private investigator John “Slim” Hardy is hired by rich and enigmatic land owner Oliver Ozgood to uncover the identity of a mysterious blackmailer. The man is demanding a fortune in exchange for his silence. He claims to be Dennis Sharp, a former employee of Ozgood, and threatens to reveal secrets that will soil Ozgood’s family name and send the patriarch to prison. There’s only one problem. Dennis Sharp is dead, killed by Ozgood himself. In search of answers, Slim moves to the remote rural hamlet of Scuttleworth in the Devonshire countryside, where he will confront demons both from within and without in his most challenging case yet.

BLACKE, OLIVIA *record shop* VINYL RESTING PLACE (#1) (\$12.99) When Juni Jessup and her sisters Tansy and Maggie put all their beans in one basket to open Sip & Spin Records, a record-slash-coffee shop in Cedar River, Texas, they knew there could be some scratches on the track, but no one was expecting to find a body deader than disco in the supply closet. Family is everything to the Jessups, so when their uncle is arrested by Juni’s heartbreaking ex on suspicion of murder, the sisters don’t skip a beat putting Sip & Spin up for bail collateral. But their tune changes abruptly when Uncle Calvin disappears, leaving them in a grind. With their uncle’s freedom and the future of their small business on the line, it’s up to Juni and her sisters to get in the groove and figure out whodunit before the killer’s trail—and the coffee—goes cold.

BRIGHT, VERITY *lady swift* MURDER IN AN IRISH CASTLE (#12) (\$21.99) Christmas, 1924. Lady Eleanor Swift has received a rather unexpected invitation to the village Christmas party in the tiny, rural hamlet of Derrydee in the west of Ireland. Eleanor is thrilled about exploring her ancestral roots at her late uncle’s estate and spending the festive season in a castle. Packing Gladstone the bulldog’s coziest Christmas jumper, they set off to the Emerald Isle with her butler Clifford in tow. Arriving late at night, Eleanor and Clifford are shocked when they find a body sprawled in the snow on the winding country lane outside the estate. The local constable is immediately suspicious and all but accuses the pair of murder. This isn’t the warm Irish welcome Eleanor imagined!

BRUCE, CAMILLA YOU LET ME IN (\$25.50, \$34.99 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

BUONAGURO, GINA VIRGINS OF VENICE (\$24.99) Venice in 1509 is on the brink of war. The displeasure of Pope Julius II is a continuing threat to the republic, as is the barely contained fighting in the countryside. Amid this turmoil, noblewoman Justina Soranzo, just sixteen, hopes to make a rare love marriage with her sweetheart, Luca Cicogna. Her hopes are dashed when her father decides her younger sister, Rosa, will marry in a strategic alliance and Justina will be sent to the San Zaccaria convent, in the tradition of aristocratic daughters. Lord Soranzo is not acting only to protect his family. It’s well known that he is in debt to both his trading partners and the most infamous courtesan in the city, La Diamante, and the pressure is closing in. After arriving at the convent, Justina takes solace in her aunt Livia, one of the nuns, and in the growing knowledge that all is not strictly devout at San Zaccaria. Justina is shocked to discover how the women of the convent find their own freedom in what seems to her like a prison. But secrets and scandals breach the convent walls, and Justina learns there may be even worse fates for her than the veil, if La Diamante makes good on her threats. Desperate to protect herself and the ones she loves, Justina turns to Luca for help. She finds she must trust her own heart to make the impossible decisions that may save or ruin them all.

CAHOON, LYNN SECRETS IN THE STACKS (\$24.95) Following her recovery from breast cancer, Rarity has embraced a life of healing and service in her Sedona, Arizona, community. She welcomes the opportunity to participate in the annual summer healing fair with her fittingly named new-age bookstore, The Next Chapter. The members of the Tuesday Night Survivors’ Book Club are also volunteering, maintaining a cooling station for overheated festivalgoers, and hosting a Tarot card reader for entertainment. But one member, Darby, is anything but entertained when the Tarot reader pulls a Death card. With a mammogram coming up, she’s freaked out and goes home—only to walk into a crime scene where someone near and dear to her has been murdered. Despite the objections of Detective Drew Anderson, Rarity is determined to help her friend and protect her from being the killer’s next victim . . .

CAHOON, LYNN *tourist* WEDDING BELL BLUES (#13) (\$23.95) Jill couldn’t love police chief Greg King more—so why does that engagement ring still feel funny on her finger? At least she’ll have a chance to show it off this Saturday at their engagement party. Just in time for the event, a new dress shop has opened in town, Exquisite Gowns for You, specializing in designer wedding gowns and other custom-fit dresses. But Jill’s excitement turns to shock when she comes by to pick up her dress for the party and dis-

covers a dead body in the shop. New owner Harper Sanchez is behaving strangely and becoming more mysterious than anyone expected. Despite Greg's warnings to leave the case to him, Jill can't help looking into the murder. Somebody in South Cove is dressed to kill—and if Jill's not careful, she may not live to wear her wedding gown . . .

CASPARY, VERA SECRET OF ELIZABETH (\$19.99) Kate and Allan Royce are driving home from a party in Westport, Connecticut one night when they see a girl in a beautiful but muddied dress wandering in the road and stop to pick her up. She is suffering from amnesia, so they name her Elizabeth X and take her into their home while the police try to establish her identity. They are left in peace, until first a couple claim her as their daughter and then a psychiatrist arrives to say that she has escaped from his clinic. What does seem certain is that she is the child of wealthy parents. But who really is Elizabeth X, and what has happened to her?

CHRISTIE, AGATHA MISS MARPLE: THE COMPLETE SHORT STORIES: (\$19.99) gathers together in one magnificent volume all of the author's short stories featuring her beloved intrepid investigator, Miss Marple. It's an unparalleled compendium of murder, mayhem, mystery, and detection that represents some of the finest short form fiction in the crime fiction field, and is an essential omnibus for her fans. Described by her friend Dolly Bantry as "the typical old maid of fiction," Miss Marple has lived almost her entire life in the sleepy hamlet of St. Mary Mead. Yet, by observing village life she has gained an unparalleled insight into human nature—and used it to devastating effect. As her friend Sir Henry Clithering, the ex-Commissioner of Scotland Yard, has been heard to say: "She's just the finest detective God ever made"—and many fans would agree.

CRAVEN, M W poet BOTANIST (#5) (\$26.99, \$34.99 hardcover) Detective Sergeant Washington Poe can count on one hand the number of friends he has. And he'd still have his thumb left. There's the insanely brilliant, guilelessly innocent civilian analyst, Tilly Bradshaw of course. He's known his beleaguered boss, Detective Inspector Stephanie Flynn for years as he has his nearest neighbour, full-time shepherd/part-time dog sitter, Victoria. And then there's Estelle Doyle. It's true the caustic pathologist has never walked down the sunny side of the street but this time has she gone too far? Shot twice in the head, her father's murder appears to be an open and shut case. Estelle has firearms discharge residue on her hands, and, in a house surrounded by fresh snow, hers are the only footprints going in. Since her arrest she's only said three words: 'Tell Washington Poe.' Meanwhile, a poisoner the press have dubbed the Botanist is sending high profile celebrities poems and pressed flowers. The killer seems to be able to walk through walls and, despite the advance notice he gives his victims, and regardless of the security measures the police take, he seems to be able to kill with impunity. For a man who hates locked room mysteries, this is going to be the longest week of Washington Poe's life...

DAHL, ARNE YOU ARE NEXT (\$29.99) Detective Inspector Sam Berger's life has been turned upside down. He is suspected of a murder and his partner, Secret Service agent, Molly Blom, is in a coma. Meanwhile, a terrorist attempt is threatening Stockholm and a wanted murderer is on the loose. Berger escapes to the Stockholm Archipelago while he waits for orders from the Swedish Security Service's chief executive. But is he the solution or is he part of the problem?

DOERR, ANTHONY CLOUD CUCKOO LAND (\$25) Among the most celebrated and beloved novels of recent times, this one is a triumph of imagination and compassion, a soaring story about children on the cusp of adulthood in worlds in peril, who find resilience, hope, and a book.

DOSTOYEVSKY, FYODOR CRIME AND PUNISHMENT (\$19.99) Originally published in 1866, a psychological thriller that deals with issues of morality, conscience, and redemption. Widely considered to be one of the greatest novels written in any language, this novel explores the life of Rodin Raskolnikov, a young Russian man who robs and murders a pawnbroker to save himself from a life of poverty. As a consequence, he must deal with the oppressive mental anguish of being a criminal while attempting to maintain relationships with his friends and family.

FERRARS, E X virginia DEATH OF A MINOR CHARACTER (#4) (\$23.95) Virginia Freer has had it with her sort-of-ex-husband's taste for drama. Yes, Marcus Avery was a dear old duffer who lived in Virginia's town. Yes, Lillian Pace, Felix Freer's neighbor in London, was a sweet old bird. Yes, it's terrible they were murdered, but we live in a naughty world. But look at the coincidences!—Felix insists. That unpleasant silversmith. That awful couple seeking revenge. These were not two separate murders, I tell you: There is Something going on. Virginia raises an eyebrow and sighs deeply: The world lost a second Olivier, she thinks, when Felix opted for gambling, mooching, and petty theft rather than the stage. But eventually even her relentless pragmatism gets worn down, and thank goodness, because there is, indeed, Something going on. And Felix and Virginia are just the duo to sort it out, chalk and cheese though they may be.

FERRARS, E X virginia THINNER THAN WATER (#3) (\$23.95) Against her better judgment, Virginia Freer has agreed to be a witness at an old friend's second wed-

ding—against her judgment because the other witness is Felix, her sort-of-ex-husband. On the other hand, she does rather enjoy Felix...in small doses. Thank heavens for that, because little else about the wedding is enjoyable, from the oddly unwelcoming hostess to the vicious murder of the groom's father, shortly after the spectacularly dull reception. At least the police are amusing—right out of a third-rate comedy, with their insistence that this was just a robbery gone wrong. True, some silver appears to be missing, but Felix and Virginia have (sadly) seen enough murders to know when a fellow has been deliberately whacked in the head. Nailing down the details and persuading the police will take some time. It seems Virginia is in for rather a larger dose of Felix than she bargained for.

FLOWER, AMANDA matchmaker HONEYMOONS CAN BE HAZARDOUS (#4) (\$11.99) Widowed matchmaker Millie Fisher's decidedly not Amish best friend, Lois Henry, is outspoken, colorful, and so hopelessly romantic, she's had four husbands. Millie doesn't judge, and she also doesn't expect to run into Lois's most recent ex, gambler Gerome Moorhead, in small-town Harvest, Ohio. With him is the very young, new Mrs. Moorhead, aka "Honeybee." Lois is outraged, but Millie is completely shocked to learn the next day that Gerome is already a widower...When a large wood carving at the cozy Munich Chalet falls on "Honeybee," all eyes turn toward Lois. Who else would want a tourist—a complete stranger—dead? And half of Harvest witnessed Lois's enmity toward the young woman. Suddenly Millie must put aside her sewing needle and flex her sleuthing skills. She's no stranger to a murder investigation, after all, and if she doesn't learn who killed Honeybee, Lois could go from Millie's boisterous best friend to her horrified prison penpal . . .

GEORGE, ELIZABETH lynley SOMETHING TO HIDE (#21) (\$25.99) 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.

GODDARD, ROBERT THIS IS THE NIGHT THEY COME FOR YOU (\$21.99) On a stifling afternoon at Police HQ in Algiers, Superintendent Taleb, coasting towards retirement, with not even an air-conditioned office to show for his long years of service, is handed a ticking time bomb of a case which will take him deep into Algeria's troubled past and its fraught relationship with France. To his dismay, he is assigned to work with Agent Hidouchi, an intimidating representative of the country's feared secret service, who makes it clear she intends to call the shots. They are instructed to pursue a former agent, now on the run after twenty years in prison for his part in a high-level corruption scandal. But their search will lead them inexorably towards a greater mystery, surrounding a murder that took place in Paris more than fifty years ago. Uncovering the truth may be his responsibility, but Taleb is well aware that no-one in Algeria wants to be reminded of the dark deeds carried out in the struggle for independence—or in the violence that has racked the nation since. Before long, he will face a choice he has long sought to avoid, between self-preservation and doing the right thing.

HAMILTON, IAN ava GENERAL OF TIANANMEN SQUARE (#15) (\$19.99) Ava Lee is in the French Riviera with Pang Fai and Lau Lau for the long-awaited premiere of Tiananmen at the Cannes Film Festival. As the film collects numerous awards and international acclaim, a distribution deal with a major American firm is arranged by the film's producer, Chen. When several months go by with no word from the Americans, Chen decides to travel to Los Angeles to determine what is preventing the film's release. En route from his home in Bangkok, Chen goes missing. Ava is called in to investigate and soon learns that Chen is being held by the Thai immigration services on orders of the Chinese government, which is unhappy with the film's depiction of the infamous massacre at Tiananmen Square and seeks to punish those responsible for its production. To protect her investment, Ava must find a way for Tiananmen to be released, while keeping secret her own involvement in the film's creation and ensuring her friends are kept safe from retribution. It's a difficult balancing act, perhaps the most difficult of her life—the stakes have never been higher nor has failure been more costly.

HARRIS, SHERRY chloe RUM AND CHOKE (#4) (\$11.99) The Florida Panhandle Barbacade Games are coming up and Chloe's been drafted to represent the Sea Glass Saloon—competing in various obstacle-course events that conclude with rolling an empty keg up a hill. The rivalries are so fierce that some of the participating bars even stoop to bringing in ringers. Meanwhile, Chloe's friend Ann—a descendant of the famed pirate Jean Lafitte—asks her to come along for a boat ride as Ann dives into the Gulf of Mexico. She's found some old papers that may identify the location of sunken treasure. Instead, she finds a sunken body—of one of the ringers hired for the Barbacade Games. Now that murder is in the mix, Chloe has to figure out whether one of the competitors

went overboard . . .

HENDERSON, ALICE carter BLIZZARD OF POLAR BEARS (#2) (\$21.99) Fresh off her wolverine study in Montana, wildlife biologist Alex Carter lands a job studying a threatened population of polar bears in the Canadian Arctic. Embedded with a small team of Arctic researchers, she tracks the majestic bears by air, following them over vast, snowy terrain, spending days leaning precariously out of a helicopter with a tranquilizer gun, until she can get down on the ice to examine them up close. But as her study progresses, and she gathers data on the health of individual bears, things start to go awry. Her helicopter pilot quits unexpectedly, equipment goes missing, and a late-night intruder breaks into her lab and steals the samples she's collected. She realizes that someone doesn't want her to complete her study. But Alex is not easily deterred.

HIGASHINO, KEIGO SILENT PARADE (\$23.99) 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.

HILL, EDWIN WATCH HER (\$12.99) While attending a gala at Prescott University's lavish new campus, Hester Thursby and fellow guest, Detective Angela White, are called to the home of the college's owners, Tucker and Jennifer Matson. Jennifer claims that someone broke into Pinebank, their secluded mansion on the banks of Jamaica Pond. The more Hester and Angela investigate, the less they believe Jennifer's story, leaving Hester to wonder why she would lie. When Hester is asked by the college's general manager to locate some missing alumni, she employs her research skills on the family and their for-profit university. Between financial transgressions, a long-ago tragedy, and rumors of infidelity, it's clear that the Matsons aren't immune to scandal or mishap. But when one of the missing students turns up dead, the mystery takes on new urgency. Hester is edging closer to the truth, but as a decades-old secret collides with new lies, and a powerful Boston family grows more desperate to keep their darkest deeds from coming to light, a killer is more determined to keep the past buried with the dead. . .

INDRIDASON, ARNALDUR konrad DARKNESS KNOWS (#1) (\$21.99) 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.

JESSE, F TENNYSON PIN TO SEE THE PEEPSHOW (\$24.95) Julia Almond believes she is special and dreams of a more exciting and glamorous life away from the drab suburbia of her upbringing. Her work in a fashionable boutique in the West End gives her the personal freedom that she craves but escape from her parental home into marriage soon leads to boredom and frustration. She begins a passionate affair with a younger man, which has deadly consequences. Based on the events of a sensational murder trial in the 1920s—the Thompson/Bywaters case—Julia becomes trapped by her sex and class in a criminal justice system in which she has no control. Julia finds herself the victim of society's expectations of lower-middle-class female behavior and incriminated by her own words. Publisher 1934.

KARUNATILAKA, SHEHAN SEVEN MOONS OF MAALI ALMEIDA (\$24.95) Colombo, 1990. Maali Almeida—war photographer, gambler, and closet queen—has woken up dead in what seems like a celestial visa office. His dismembered body is sinking in the serene Beira Lake and he has no idea who killed him. In a country where scores are settled by death squads, suicide bombers, and hired goons, the list of suspects is depressingly long, as the ghouls and ghosts with grudges who cluster round can attest. But even in the afterlife, time is running out for Maali. He has seven moons to contact the man and woman he loves most and lead them to the photos that will rock Sri Lanka. Winner of the 2022 Booker.

LA PLANTE, LYNDA tennison DARK ROOMS (#8) (\$24.99) Helena Lanark is the only one who knows about the horrors which once occurred in her family's house. The heiress of an immense family fortune, she now resides in a luxurious care home; her

mind and memory fading fast. Jane Tennison is leading a murder investigation into the recent brutal death of a young girl, her decomposed, starved body discovered in an old air raid shelter in the garden of the Lanark's now derelict house. Initially the focus is on identifying the victim, until another body is found hidden in the walls of the shelter. As the investigation and search for answers intensifies, Jane travels to Australia. There she discovers the dark secret that the Lanark family has kept hidden for decades. A secret that not only threatens to bring down a family dynasty, but also places Jane Tennison in mortal danger . . .

LACKBERG, CAMILLA dabiri TRAPPED (#1) (\$24.99) It's a case unlike anything detective Mina Dabiri has seen before. A woman trapped inside a magician's box, with swords pierced through. But this time, it's not a magic trick. It's murder. Knowing she has a terrifying killer on her hands, Mina enlists the help of celebrity mentalist, Vincent Walder. Only he can give her an insight into the secret world of magic and illusions. Mina and Vincent soon discover that the murder victim has the roman numeral III engraved on her leg. The killer is counting down. There are going to be three more murders. And time is running out to stop them.

MACDERMID/MCDERMID, VAL gordon FINAL EDITION (#3) UNION JACK (#4) (\$25.50) Omnibus edition containing two novels featuring freelance journalist Lindsay Gordon. Published 1991, 1993.

MACEWAN/MCEWAN, IAN INNOCENT (\$19.95) The setting is Berlin. Into this divided city, wrenched between East and West, between past and present; comes twenty-five-year-old Leonard Marnham, assigned to a British-American surveillance team. Though only a pawn in an international plot that is never fully revealed to him, Leonard uses his secret work to escape the bonds of his ordinary life—and to lose his unwanted innocence. The promise of his new life begins to be fulfilled as Leonard becomes a crucial part of the surveillance team, while simultaneously being initiated into a new world of love and sex by Maria, a beautiful young German woman. It is a promise that turns to horror in the course of one terrible evening—a night when Leonard Marnham learns just how much of his innocence he's willing to shed.

MACKINLAY, JENN hat FATAL FASCINATOR (#7) (\$11.99) It's wedding season and Viv's longtime frenemy Piper May is getting married. She convinces Viv and Scarlett to take on the job of designing the headpieces for her "wedding of the year." Unfortunately, on the first night of the festivities, the groom is found murdered, and the joyous holiday becomes the stuff of nightmares as no one is allowed to leave the castle until the investigation is complete. Although Scarlett assures Harrison Wentworth, her fiancé, that she and Viv will stay out of harm's way, circumstances force them to step in when a secret affair between the deceased groom and a bridesmaid comes to light, and the murderer takes another life. Scarlett and Viv vow to unveil the killer's identity before the wedding adds another to its death toll.

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

MARSTON, EDWARD home front ORDERS TO KILL (#9) (\$16.95) December, 1917. Ada Hobbes arrives on a frosty morning to clean the house owned by Dr Tindall, a surgeon at the Edmonton Military Hospital. She is shocked to find the blood-covered body of her employer who has been hacked to death. A horrific scene awaits Detective Inspector Harvey Marmion and Sergeant Joe Keedy. Someone clearly enjoyed killing the doctor. Their investigation takes them far out of London and on the trail of a very different Dr Tindall, one who was not the respectable local GP everyone thought he was. Marmion and Keedy will need to sift through a number of likely suspects to find the killer behind this gruesome murder.

MARSTON, EDWARD ocean liner MURDER ON THE MINNESOTA (#3) (\$16.95) New York, 1908. Private detectives George Dillman and Genevieve Masefield plan to take a break from work upon the Cunard Line's fleet with the offer of employment upon the Minnesota, a freighter and passenger vessel, which is bound for the Far East. Although the pair are investigating the possibility of a smuggling operation on the route, at first all appears to be smooth sailing, but the voyage takes a dire turn when a fiery Catholic missionary is murdered and it proves to be the first in a series of crimes that plague the crossing. .

MORGAN, ALEXIS abby DEATH BY ARTS AND CRAFTS (#6) (\$11.99) As the newest member of the Snowberry Creek City Council, perpetually overextended Abby McCree is picked to liaise between the council and the new planning committee for the town's first ever arts and crafts fair. As far as gigs go, it's a fun one—Abby's spending the weekend tooling around Washington State, checking out similar fairs with her two

besties, coffee shop owner Bridey Roker, and ceramic artisan Dayna Fisk. As Abby spreads the word about Snowberry Creek's fair, recruiting the industry's biggest movers and makers, the trip feels like a glittering success. But then, someone is found murdered at one of the events and vendors begin disappearing amid suspicious circumstances. Abby's determined to keep her hands clean, until Dayna finds herself stuck at the top of the suspect list. Now, Abby must weave the clues together and clear her friend's name before the killer claims another victim—maybe even Abby herself. . . .

MORRISON, HUGH THIRD CLASS MURDER (\$20) England, 1930. An antiques dealer is found robbed and murdered in a third class train compartment on a remote Suffolk branch line. The police believe they know who the killer is, and an arrest is soon made. A passenger on the same train, the Reverend Lucian Shaw, country parson and former army chaplain, is concerned that the police have the wrong man, and begins an investigation of his own. Before long, Shaw is drawn into a web of intrigue, deceit and murder which lurks beneath the surface of a seemingly peaceful country parish.

NAGENDRA, HARINI BANGALORE DETECTIVES CLUB (\$19.99) Solving crimes isn't easy. Add a jealous mother-in-law and having to wear a flowing sari into the mix, and you've got a problem. When clever, headstrong Kaveri moves to Bangalore to marry doctor Ramu, she's resigned herself to a quiet life. But that all changes the night of the party at the Century Club, where she escapes to the garden for some peace—and instead spots an uninvited guest in the shadows. Half an hour later, the party turns into a murder scene. When a vulnerable woman is connected to the crime, Kaveri becomes determined to save her and launches a private investigation to find the killer, tracing his steps from an illustrious brothel to an Englishman's mansion. She soon finds that sleuthing in a sari isn't as hard as it seems when you have a talent for maths, a head for logic and a doctor for a husband. And she's going to need them all as the case leads her deeper into a hotbed of danger, sedition and intrigue in Bangalore's darkest alleyways. . . . A New York Times Notable Book of 2022.

PARKER, ROBERT B spenser BYE BYE BABY (#49) (\$12.99) Carolina Garcia-Ramirez is a rising star in national politics, taking on the establishment with her progressive agenda. Tough, outspoken, and driven, the young congresswoman has ignited a new conversation in Boston about race, poverty, healthcare, and the environment. Now facing her second campaign, she finds herself not only fighting a tight primary with an old-guard challenger, but also contending with numerous death threats coming from hundreds of suspects. When her chief of staff reaches out to Spenser for security and help finding the culprits of what he believes to be the most credible threats, Garcia-Ramirez is less than thrilled. Since her first grassroots run, she's used to the antipathy and intimidation women of color often face when seeking power. To her, it's all noise. But it turns out an FBI agent disagrees, warning Spenser that Garcia-Ramirez might be in real danger this time. It doesn't take long for Spenser to cross paths with an extremist group called the Minutemen, led by a wealthy Harvard grad named Bishop Graves. Although Graves is a social media sensation, pushing an agenda of white supremacy and toxic masculinity, he denies he's behind the attacks. As the primary nears and threats become a deadly plot, it's up to Spenser, Hawk, and a surprise trusted ally to ensure the congresswoman is safe. This is Spenser doing what he does best, living by a personal code and moral compass that can't ever be broken. By **Ace Atkins**.

REID, REBECCA WILL (\$21.99) The Mordaunts aren't like most families. For one, their family home is Roxborough Hall—a magnificent, centuries-old mansion in the Norfolk countryside. For another, the house isn't passed down from parent to child—but rather to the family member deemed most worthy. Cecily Mordaunt is dead. On the evening of her funeral, her family will gather for dinner and each will be given a letter, revealing who is the next custodian of Roxborough Hall. The house is a burden, a millstone, a full-time job. . . . but they all want it. And some are willing do anything to get it. One family. Eight letters. Who will get what they deserve?

STEN, VIVECA are HIDDEN IN SNOW (#1) (\$22.50) On the day Stockholm police officer Hanna Ahlander's personal and professional lives crash, she takes refuge at her sister's lodge in the Swedish ski resort paradise of Åre. But it's a brief comfort. The entire village is shaken by the sudden vanishing of a local teenage girl. Hanna can't help but investigate, and while searching for the missing person, she lands a job with the local police department. There she joins forces with Detective Inspector Daniel Lindskog, who has been tasked with finding the girl. Their only lead: a scarf in the snow. As sub-zero temperatures drop even further, a treacherous blizzard sweeps toward Åre. Hanna and Daniel's investigation is getting more desperate by the hour. Lost or abducted, either way time is running out for the missing girl. Each new clue closes in on something far more sinister than either Hanna or Daniel imagined.

TEMPLE, PETER irish BLACK TIDE (#2) (\$22.50) Jack Irish has no shortage of friends. Jockeys and journos, lawyers and standover men, people in nameless occupations who aren't in the phone book. These days, though, the only family he sees are Irish men in faded football team photographs on the pub wall. So when Des Connors, the last link to Jack's late father, calls to ask for help in the matter of a missing son,

Jack is happy to lend a hand. But sometimes prodigal sons go missing for a reason. As Jack begins to dig, he discovers that Gary Connors was a man with something to hide. And his friends are people with darker and more deadly secrets. Published 1999.

TEMPLE, PETER IRISH BAD DEBTS (#1) (\$22.50) The first novel in the iconic Jack Irish series and winner of the Ned Kelly Award for Best First Novel. When Jack receives a puzzling message from a jailed ex-client he's too deep in misery over Fitzroy's latest loss to take much notice. Next thing Jack knows, the ex-client's dead and he's been drawn into a life-threatening investigation involving high-level corruption, dark sexual secrets, shonky property deals, and murder. With hitmen after him, shady ex-policemen at every turn, and the body count rising, Jack needs to find out what's going on—and fast. Published 1996.

TEMPLETON, ALINE STRANG OLD SINS (#4) (\$16.95) On a clear moonlit night, DI Kelso Strang hears the spine-chilling howl of a wolf. It is not the only unsettling thing he discovers about the remote village of Inverbeg. Sean Reynolds, obsessive about rewilding his estate, is rumoured to have taken steps to hurry it on, to the anger of the local farmers. And then there are the whispers about an elderly lady, burdened with ugly secrets, who died some months before. Her best friend believes she was murdered. When fresh horror strikes Inverbeg, Strang feels that further retribution is at work, but as the ground keeps shifting under his feet he faces his biggest challenge yet.

THOMAS, WENDALL REDONDO FOGGED OFF (#3) (\$29.99) When one of her clients is found dead in London, Cyd Redondo is on the hook for thirty thousand dollars to return his body home. So when his university offers to cover the costs if she'll go in person to collect him—and his Ripper research—she jumps at the chance. But no sooner does Cyd arrive in London than Shep's death by natural causes starts to look most unnatural. Cyd's only hope for recovering the body and vamoosing back to Brooklyn is to find the killer herself—but she's thwarted at every turn by Scotland Yard, Shep's former girlfriends, a sinister mortuary service, an old nemesis, and her taxidermist uncle. And when Shep's apartment is ransacked and a second Ripper expert is found murdered, Cyd knows she'll have to solve the crimes fast, before someone books her on a one-way trip to the morgue . . .

TROW, M J CHAUCER CLERK'S TALE (#3) (\$23.99) Initially sent to investigate the death of a young student, Geoffrey Chaucer soon finds himself embroiled in matters of philosophy, religion, logic and death. Although he is entertainingly waylaid by tempting women, frightened cats, and even hallucinogens, as more men die Chaucer feels growing pressure to track down the killer and end the carnage. But in the city of dreaming spires and poignard-sharp minds, is he out of his depth?

WEIR, ANDY PROJECT HAIL MARY (\$26) Ryland Grace is the sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission—and if he fails, humanity and the earth itself will perish. Except that right now, he doesn't know that. He can't even remember his own name, let alone the nature of his assignment or how to complete it. All he knows is that he's been asleep for a very, very long time. And he's just been awakened to find himself millions of miles from home, with nothing but two corpses for company. His crewmates dead, his memories fuzzily returning, Ryland realizes that an impossible task now confronts him. Hurling through space on this tiny ship, it's up to him to puzzle out an impossible scientific mystery—and conquer an extinction-level threat to our species. And with the clock ticking down and the nearest human being light-years away, he's got to do it all alone. Or does he?

WHITELAW, JONATHAN BINGO HALL DETECTIVES (\$24.99) Jason Brazel is an out of work journalist who lives in Penrith with his family and mother-in-law, Amita. She knows everyone and everything that's going on in this corner of the Lakes. So when it's discovered that Madeline Forbisher, one of Amita's fellow regulars at the bingo club has died, found by the postman outside her crumbling country home close to Ullswater Lake, she senses immediately this is no accident. The trouble is, no one else seems to take her suspicions seriously. That is, until she enlists the help of her friends at the Penrith Bingo Club. Dismissed by many as eccentric, over the hill or out of touch, it turns out that it's unlucky for some that these amateur sleuths are on the case...

WORSLEY, LUCY AGATHA CHRISTIE: A VERY ELUSIVE WOMAN (\$29.99, \$45 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.