



# The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

## SLEUTH of Baker Street

907 Millwood Rd., Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4G 1X2  
416-483-3111 e-mail [sleuth@SleuthOfBakerStreet.ca](mailto:sleuth@SleuthOfBakerStreet.ca)

Greetings

November 2018

Did you read about the Belgian vape shop owner who was robbed by six men? The gang had arrived early in the day and the shop owner suggested that they come back closer to closing time as he would have the day's receipts and they would get more that way. They show up about an hour before closing and, again, the shop owner puts them off. They come back as requested at closing time and were promptly arrested! What fun is that!

Or the Dutch man who doesn't want to be 69 anymore? He's not getting enough dates on Tinder and, besides, he doesn't feel any older than 49, so he's petitioning the courts to be able to select his birthdate. If you can select your sex, then why not your age? Think of the money the government would save by not having to pay him his pension for another twenty years. Maybe I'll try that as well.

And, this one is just too funny to resist. From *Spiritual News*: Tony Perkins, president of the anti-gay religious lobbying group the Family Research Council, had his home destroyed by the massive flooding ravaging Southern Louisiana in early November. Although no one wants to celebrate a person losing their home, the destruction of Perkins' house isn't without irony, considering that he's claimed in the past that natural disasters are God's way of punishing an increasingly gay-friendly world. Calling into his own radio show, Perkins described the flood as being of "biblical proportions," adding that he and his family will have to live in a camper for 6 months until the damage is repaired. But Perkins was careful to point out that this particular flood wasn't because of the gays, but rather an "incredible, encouraging spiritual exercise to take you to the next level in your walk with an almighty and gracious God who does all things well."

And, one more, this one a bit more apropos, as reported in the LA Times by Michael Schaub: A Russian scientist working in Antarctica is facing attempted murder charges after allegedly stabbing a colleague for telling him the endings of books he wanted to read. The stabbing took place at Bellingshausen Station, a Russian research sta-

tion in the South Shetland Islands in Antarctica. The alleged attack was said to be the result of an argument between the two over one's habit of spoiling the endings of books that he'd read from the remote outpost's library. Some reports suggest that alcohol was involved. (You think?)

So, let this be a warning to you. Always tell your audience that a spoiler alert is coming and give them time to cover their ears. And hide the knives. (Thank you, Sara for bringing this to my attention).

### JD's Picks

After the Crash (\$15.99) by MICHEL BUSSI turned out to be unput-downable. Here's the gist of the story as Kirkus would have it: It's 1980, and a plane en route from Istanbul to Paris crashes into the side of a mountain. Everyone aboard is killed, but searchers find one survivor, an infant girl who's been improbably thrown from the plane. The 3-month-old baby is immediately hailed as a miracle child and would be reunited with her grandparents except for one small problem: there were two baby girls on the flight, and neither set of grandparents has ever seen their granddaughters. Up springs a battle to claim the little girl, with a rich family, the de Carvilles, on one side and a poor family, the Vitral, on the other. But a man who has investigated the case for 18 years is at the center of the drama. Crédule Grand-Duc, a private investigator hired by the de Carvilles to prove the child is their Lyse-Rose and not Emilie Vitral, has finally determined the child's identity. Complicated by the fact that DNA was not a commonplace identifying tool until the later 1980s, the action moves back and forth over the years as the two families tussle over the child, to the present day of the book, which is 1998. **Bussi** has an intriguing premise, but many things about his narrative will frustrate readers, including DNA test results that no one bothers to read, and when people do, they keep the results secret. Lyse-Rose's older sister, Malvina, is a heavy-handed villain; Emilie's brother, Marc, is also the

## The Merchant of Menace,

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

### Postage & Handling

In a word: Actual

What Canada Post charges us, is what we'll charge you. No handling, no packaging, no nothing else. No charge for the tape, no charge for the box, no charge for wages to get it all prepared. Simple. Fair.

### Hours of Business

Thursday to Saturday: 10 to 6  
Sunday: Noon - 4pm  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
& Statutory Holidays:  
Closed

We're often here outside of business hours, so call/e-mail, and check.

girl's lover, adding the possibility of incest to the mix; and Grand Duc's recounting of the events, in a notebook he left behind at his death, is a meandering mess that's like a long-winded uncle stretching a one-minute story into a three-hour monologue.

They conclude by saying: Lots of initial promise, but the plot proves improbable and the execution melodramatic.

Long-winded, yes, improbable, also yes, and melodramatic, ditto. But what they didn't tell you is that the book is unputdownable. Stick your tongue firmly in your cheek, suspend all the disbelief required, and just read it. I normally have no patience for long reads and found myself putting the book down after every chapter. But, golly gee whiz, it just would not stay down for long. Go ahead, read it. What you got to lose? Besides most of a \$20 bill and some time?

Equally unputdownable was **MICHAEL CONNELLY's** newest offering Dark Sacred Night (\$38). Remember Renee Ballard from last year's The Late Show (\$12.99)? Well, she's back. Still stuck doing the night beat, the late show. She catches this guy riffing through her police department's files and it turns out to be Bosch. Marian has a bit more to say, she got dibs, so, all I'll say is: another brilliant offering from the indefatigable Michael.

**GARRY DISHER** is an Australian writer and a favourite of mine. His latest novel, Signal Loss (#7) (\$19.95), has just been released in paperback, and I spent Monday—post-golf, so not much else to do except a long, boozy lunch with golf partners, rehashing the season that just ended. Sad.—on the couch, listening to whatever Apple Music thought I should be listening to and just devoured the newest Hal Challis adventure. Love the series and I'm not the only one. He has won more awards, more rave reviews, more accolades from more associations than I can comfortably list here. If you have not yet gotten to this fine writer you could do worse than to start with the first Challis, Dragon Man (#1) (\$9.99) or Bitter Wash Road (\$15.95), an excellent standalone.

One of my favourite reads of 2017 is now in trade paperback. Friends and Traitors (\$23.95), **JOHN LAWTON's** eighth Fredrick Troy adventure, is just bloody marvelous. Guy Burgess wants to come home. And that's all I'm going to tell you now. Other than, of course, do not miss one of the best writers in the business and one of the best books you'll read this year. Although this is the eighth in the Troy series, it, and the others, are really standalones and read well in any order. Ask the author; he'll tell you the same thing.

## Marian's Picks

What is it about me and computers? Something works one moment but doesn't the next. Sometimes I save a file never to find it again; other times I think I've deleted one, only to find it and wonder if it's the latest version of what I've been working on. Most recently, it's the mouse that doesn't work. One moment the computer recognizes the mouse, the next... I reboot. I re-initialize. I replace the battery. I curse. I rant. Nope... nothing, nada. (*Of course, the last time I was using that computer...jd*) And then 10 minutes later, wow, the darn thing is working. Right now, the mouse is on a coffee break somewhere and I am having a heck of a time trying to negotiate the cursor pad thingy. And then JD comes over and pushes a button (or what ever he does) and the darn thing works. Trouble is, I'm at the cottage right now and he is not here, so I can't fix this. I'm just hoping that this document doesn't disappear on me as I've just figured out that if I touch the screen things happen. (*It's a touch screen, Marian.—jd*) Magic, spooky things. And for some reason my "p" key isn't working unless I push really hard on it—"p" is for push—and to go back through the document replacing and the missing p's without a co-

operating mouse is exasperating. Oh well, at least I didn't have to type up the whole newsletter without a mouse, only my Picks. JD kindly did most of the heavy lifting this time!

Update: when I got back home from the cottage JD replaced the mouse, but why he could not have done that months ago, when I first mentioned these issues... maybe he's trying to drive me nuts. Hmmm, now that I think of it, this may well be his devious plan to have the fabulous Pixie all to himself. He drives me nuts, literally, has me committed, and hello..., Pixie is all his. I'll sleep with my eyes open from now on.

I've discovered three new writers (to me), that I want to tell you about.

We got an Advance Reading Copy (ARC) from a publisher titled Hush Hush, (\$16.99) by a writer named **MEL SHERRATT**. The front cover said: From the million-copy bestseller... I said, Mel who? Turns out **Ms. Sherrett** (aka Marcie Steele) has written about a dozen books in three different series, one of which we did carry a few years ago, but not one I read! So, I read Hush, Hush, and it turns out to be the first in a new series featuring DS Grace Allendale. Allendale has transferred to Stoke-on-Trent, a place from where, as a young girl, she and her mom escaped her very abusive and violent dad, George Steele. On top of that, it turns out he also had children with another woman and these kids, Allendale's step-brothers and sister, now adults, are the crime kingpins in Stoke. The murder of George Steele, a couple of years prior, has never been solved and the current spate of murders fall to Grace and her team to solve. The only little niggling weakness to me in the plot is that Grace's boss allows her to work these cases despite the conflict of interest. There is a valid reason for this but trying to keep the secret that Grace and the Steeles are related is tough for her and doesn't sit well with her team once they discover that fact. All that aside, I really enjoyed the book. It had lots of twists and turns, some quite gritty moments, compelling characters and I'll certainly be looking for more of this writer's work.

I wondered if it was the title of **PAULA MATTER's** new book that caught my eye and made me pick it up. Last Call (\$20.99) is a catchy title for someone who enjoys her 5 o'clock cocktail! Turns out, the book is a very good read. Maggie is a bartender at a veteran's bar in North DeSoto, Florida but is suspended when one of the Korean vets is murdered and she becomes the number one suspect. The police don't seem interested in trying to find another suspect, so Maggie takes charge. Snappy dialogue, feisty attitude, no holds barred kind of woman, I really liked Maggie. This is **Ms. Matter's** first mystery, and I know another Maggie book (Last Supper) is on the horizon, so I'll be on the watch out for it.

We got in a few copies of What Falls Beneath the Cracks (\$18.99) by **ROBERT SCRAGG** and as I was shelving one, I gave the blurb a read. (No wonder it takes forever to shelve a few books!) I had not heard of **Mr. Scragg**, but when you get dozens of new titles arriving every week, that's not surprising; it's hard to keep up with all the writers, much less read them all. Having now read this one, I'm going to be watching for more from this guy, that's for sure. On the cover were comments such as "A strong contender for crime fiction debut of the year... a sparkling new talent"—Howard Linksey. "I raced through this..."—Robert Ryan. "I loved it. I read it in two days... a classic whodunit."—Niki MacKay. Intrigued, I started to read it. And, wow, I can't wait to plant myself in my favourite chair, martini in hand, and, keep reading. I'm almost done! The prologue, of course, made no sense whatsoever, but by the end of the first chapter I was hooked. Here's the blurb: When the severed hand of Natasha Barclay is found in her abandoned flat, Detective Inspector Jake Porter and his partner Detective Sergeant Nick Styles begin an investigation into her disappearance. Neither can understand why no one has reported her missing. Delving into the details behind her disappearance and discovering links to another investigation, a tragic family history begins

to take on a darker twist. What a terrific premise!!! And I know I'm going to enjoy following the further adventures of DI Porter and DS Nick Styles.

The first book with Harry Bosch and Renee Ballard, who was introduced to us in The Late Show (\$12.99) working a cold case together is unputdownable. Dark Sacred Night (\$38.00) by **MICHAEL CONNELLY** is terrific and I want more. I read it mostly in one sitting, with the occasional break to take Pixie out for her walks. I really liked Ballard in The Late Show, and I've been a fan of Bosch from the very first line of the very first book, Black Echo (\$13.00) so having the two of them working together is a real treat. No need to wonder if it will work out between these two characters, trust me, it does. More please! Here is the blurb: Detective Renée Ballard is working the night beat, known in LAPD slang as "the late show", and returns to Hollywood Station in the early hours to find a stranger rifling through old file cabinets. The intruder is retired detective Harry Bosch, working a cold case that has gotten under his skin. Ballard can't let him go through department records, but when he leaves, she looks into the case herself and feels a deep tug of empathy and anger. She has never been the kind of cop who leaves the job behind at the end of her shift—and she wants in. The murder, unsolved, was of fifteen-year-old Daisy Clayton, a runaway on the streets of Hollywood who was brutally killed, her body left in a dumpster like so much trash. Now Ballard joins forces with Bosch to find out what happened to Daisy, and to finally bring her killer to justice.

## Hardbacks

**ALLINGHAM, MARGERY** SWEET DANGER (\$19.99) Albert Campion is called in by the British government to establish ownership of the tiny but oil-rich principality of Averno on the Adriatic Coast. The aristocratic but impoverished Fitton family are laying claim to it but the deeds are nowhere to be found. The Fittons live in the eccentric Suffolk village of Pontisbright where much of this lively mystery takes place. Campion is particularly taken with the young flame-haired Lady Amanda who later in the series becomes his wife. Amanda however declares she'll marry him 'when she's ready.' With the help of his loyal chums, and his sidekick, the ex-convict Magersfontein Lugg, Campion and the Fittons are up against a criminal financier and his heavies to claim ownership of Averno. With an introduction by **Val McDermid**.

**ANDREWS, DONNA** langslow LARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING (#24) (\$32.50) It's Christmastime in Caerphilly and Meg, full of holiday spirit, is helping out with the town's festivities. While directing a nativity pageant and herding the children participating in it, she finds a surprise in the manger: a live baby. A note from the mother, attached to the baby girl's clothes, says that it's time for her father to take care of her—and implicates Meg's brother, Rob, as the father. And while a DNA test can reveal whether there's any truth to the accusation, Rob's afraid the mere suspicion could derail his plan to propose to the woman he loves. Meg quickly realizes it's up to her to find the baby's real identity.

**ARCHER, JEFFREY** HEADS YOU WIN (\$37.99) Leningrad, Russia, 1968. Alexander Karpenko is no ordinary child, and from an early age, it is clear he is destined to lead his countrymen. But when his father is assassinated by the KGB for defying the state, he and his mother will have to escape from Russia if they hope to survive. At the docks, they are confronted with an irreversible choice: should they board a container ship bound for America, or Great Britain? Alexander leaves that choice to the toss of a coin. . . In a single moment, a double twist decides Alexander's future. During an epic tale of fate and fortune, spanning two continents and thirty years, we follow his triumphs and defeats as he struggles as an immigrant to conquer his new world. As this unique story unfolds, Alexander comes to realize where his destiny lies, and accepts that he must face the past he left

behind in Russia.

**BALSON, RONALD H** taggart GIRL FROM BERLIN (#5) (\$36.50) An old friend calls Catherine Lockhart and Liam Taggart to his famous Italian restaurant to enlist their help. His aunt is being evicted from her home in the Tuscan hills by a powerful corporation claiming they own the deeds, even though she can produce her own set of deeds to her land. Catherine and Liam's only clue is a bound handwritten manuscript, entirely in German, and hidden in its pages is a story long-forgotten. . . As they dig through the layers of lies, corruption, and human evil, Catherine and Liam uncover an unfinished story of heart, redemption, and hope—the ending of which is yet to be written.

**BERNEY, LOU** NOVEMBER ROAD (\$33.50) Frank Guidry's luck has finally run out. A loyal street lieutenant to New Orleans' mob boss Carlos Marcello, Guidry has learned that everybody is expendable. But now it's his turn—he knows too much about the crime of the century: the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Within hours of JFK's murder, everyone with ties to Marcello is turning up dead, and Guidry suspects he's next: he was in Dallas on an errand for the boss less than two weeks before the president was shot. With few good options, Guidry hits the road to Las Vegas, to see an old associate—a dangerous man who hates Marcello enough to help Guidry vanish.

**BILLINGHAM, MARK** thorne KILLING HABIT (#15) (\$34.99 hard cover, \$24.99 trade paperback) How do you catch a killer who is yet to kill? We all know the signs. Cruelty, lack of empathy, the killing of animals. Now, pets on suburban London streets are being stalked by a shadow, and it could just be the start. DI Tom Thorne knows the psychological profile of such offenders all too well, so when he is tasked with catching a notorious killer of domestic cats, he sees the chance to stop a series of homicides before they happen. Others are less convinced, so once more, Thorne relies on DI Nicola Tanner to help him solve the case, before the culprit starts hunting people. It's a journey that brings them face to face with a killer who will tear their lives apart.

**BOLTON, SHARON** CRAFTSMAN (\$36.50) Florence Lovelady's career was made when she convicted coffin-maker Larry Grassbrook of a series of child murders 30 years ago in a small village in Lancashire. Like something out of a nightmare, the victims were buried alive. Florence was able to solve the mystery and get a confession out of Larry before more children were murdered., and he spent the rest of his life in prison. But now, decades later, he's dead, and events from the past start to repeat themselves. Is someone copying the original murders? Or did she get it wrong all those years ago? When her own son goes missing under similar circumstances, the case not only gets reopened. . . it gets personal.

**CHILD, LEE** reacher PAST TENSE (#23) (\$38.99) Jack Reacher hits the pavement and sticks out his thumb. He plans to follow the sun on an epic trip across America, from Maine to California. He doesn't get far. On a country road deep in the New England woods, he sees a sign to a place he has never been: the town where his father was born. He thinks, *What's one extra day?* He takes the detour. At the same moment, in the same isolated area, a car breaks down. Two young Canadians had been on their way to New York City to sell a treasure. Now they're stranded at a lonely motel in the middle of nowhere. The owners seem almost too friendly. It's a strange place, but it's all there is. The next morning, in the city clerk's office, Reacher asks about the old family home. He's told no one named Reacher ever lived in town. He's always known his father left and never returned, but now Reacher wonders, *Was he ever there in the first place?* As Reacher explores his father's life, and as the Canadians face lethal dangers, strands of different stories begin to merge. Then Reacher makes a shocking discovery: The present can be tough, but the past can be tense . . . and deadly.

**CLEEVES, ANN** shetland WILD FIRE (#8) (\$34.99 hardcover, \$25.99 trade paperback) The final book in this series. Shetland: Welcoming. Wild. Remote. Drawn in by the reputation of the islands, a new English family move to the area, eager to give their autistic son a better life and make a new start. But when a young nanny's body is

found hanging in the barn of their home, rumours of her affair with the husband begin to spread like wild fire. With suspicion raining down on the family, DI Jimmy Perez is called in to investigate. For him it will mean returning to the islands of his on-off lover and boss Willow Reeves, who will run the case. Perez is already facing the most disturbing investigation of his career, when Willow drops a bombshell that will change his life forever. Is he ready for what is to come?

**CONNELLY, MICHAEL Bosch & Ballard** DARK SACRED NIGHT (#1) (\$38.00) Detective Renée Ballard is working the night beat—known in LAPD slang as "the late show"—and returns to Hollywood Station in the early hours to find a stranger rifling through old file cabinets. The intruder is retired detective Harry Bosch, working a cold case that has gotten under his skin. Ballard can't let him go through department records, but when he leaves, she looks into the case herself and feels a deep tug of empathy and anger. She has never been the kind of cop who leaves the job behind at the end of her shift—and she wants in. The murder, unsolved, was of fifteen-year-old Daisy Clayton, a runaway on the streets of Hollywood who was brutally killed, her body left in a dumpster like so much trash. Now Ballard joins forces with Bosch to find out what happened to Daisy, and to finally bring her killer to justice. Along the way, the two detectives forge a fragile trust, but this new partnership is put to the test when the case takes an unexpected and dangerous turn.

**CORNWELL, BERNARD warrior** WAR OF THE WOLF (#11) (\$34.99 hardcover, \$24.99 trade paperback) At the fortress of the eagles, three kings will fight ...

**DONACHIE, DAVID pearce** CLOSE RUN THING (#15) (\$36.99) John Pearce is hiding in Gravelines with his mysterious companion, known to him as Oliphant. Although they find a crew willing to take them back to England, they learn on the journey that Pearce's old enemies, the Tolland brothers, are still active on the route, and may have been responsible for the murder of Catherine Carruthers. Back in England their problems continue: Pearce must seek to mend fences with Emily Barclay, in a relationship in which nothing is simple. And just as things may be looking up, it seems Henry Dundas has another role for him and Oliphant: a mission to North East Spain ...

**DOYLE/PETERSEN, JULIE** SHERLOCK'S NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS (\$13.99) In the rhyme and meter of Clark Clement Moore's classic Christmas poem, Sherlock Holmes tracks clues through his familiar haunts to "eliminate the impossible." When he discovers the jolly old gent with the white beard dipping his hand into a bag full of toys, Sherlock surmises that "whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth." Or is it? This little holiday mystery will delight Sherlock fans of all ages.

**ELDRIDGE, JIM** MURDER AT THE FITZWILLIAM (\$36.99) After rising to prominence for his role investigating the case of Jack the Ripper, former Detective Inspector Daniel Wilson is now retired. Known for his intelligence, investigative skills, and most of all his discretion, he's often consulted when a case must be solved quickly and quietly. So when a body is found in the Egyptian Collection of the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, Wilson is called in. As he tries to uncover the identity of the dead man and the circumstances surrounding his demise, Wilson must contend with an unhelpful police Inspector, and more alarmingly, Abigail McKenzie, the archaeologist who discovered the body and is determined to protect the Egyptian collection. Can they find a way to work together to solve the mystery?

**EVANOVICH, JANET plum** LOOK ALIVE TWENTY-FIVE (#25) (\$37) There's nothing like a good deli, and the Red River Deli in Trenton is one of the best. World-famous for its pastrami, cole slaw, and for its disappearing managers. Over the last month, three have vanished from the face of the earth, and the only clue in each case is one shoe that's been left behind. The police are baffled. Lula is convinced that it's a case of alien abduction. Whatever it is, they'd better figure out what's going on before they lose their new manager, Ms. Stephanie Plum.

**FELLOWES, JESSICA** BRIGHT YOUNG DEAD (\$34.99) Meet the Bright Young Things, the rabble-raising hedonists of the 1920s

whose treasure hunts were a media obsession. One such game takes place at the 18th birthday party of Pamela Mitford, but ends in tragedy as cruel, charismatic Adrian Curtis is pushed to his death from the church neighbouring the Mitford home. The police quickly identify the killer as a maid, Dulcie. But Louisa Cannon, chaperone to the Mitford girls and a former criminal herself, believes Dulcie to be innocent, and sets out to clear the girl's name . . . all while the real killer may only be steps away. By the author of The Mitford Murders (\$23.99).

**GREGORY, SUSANNA chaloner** INTRIGUE IN COVENT GARDEN (#13) (\$34.99) By January 1666, the plague has almost disappeared from London, leaving its surviving population diminished and in poverty. The resentment against those who had fled to the country turns to outrage as the court and its followers return, their licentiousness undiminished. The death of a well-connected physician, the mysterious sinking of a man-of-war in the Thames and the disappearance of a popular courtier are causing concern to Thomas Chaloner's employer. When instructed to investigate them all, he is irritated that he is prevented from gaining intelligence on the military preparations of the Dutch. Then he discovers common threads in all the cases, which seem linked to those planning to set a match to the powder keg of rebellion in the city. Battling a ferocious winter storm that causes serious damage to London's fabric, Chaloner is in a race against time to prevent the weakened city from utter destruction.

**HAINES, CAROLYN bones** GIFT OF BONES (#19) (\$32.50) Christmas is just around the corner and Sarah Booth and Tinkie are preparing for a festive holiday season. After a turbulent season of solving cases, they're ready for some holiday cheer. Sarah Booth and Sheriff Coleman Peters have finally gotten together, and this is the first holiday they're celebrating as a couple. Sarah Booth busies herself with decking the halls and daydreaming about romantic Christmas nights with Coleman. Then her friend Cece Dee Falcon shows up needing Sarah Booth's help—right now. She shows Sarah Booth a box that was delivered by courier and left at Cece's front porch. It contains a lock of hair, a photograph of a pretty young woman, very pregnant, and a note demanding ransom for the return of the teen. Cece reveals that this is her cousin's daughter, Eve Falcon.

**HALLINAN, TIMOTHY bender** NIGHTTOWN (#7) (\$33.95) Los Angeles burglar Junior Bender has a rule about never taking a job that pays too well: in the criminal underworld, if you're offered more money than a job is worth, someone is going to end up dead. But he's bending his rule this one time because he and his girlfriend, Ronnie, are in desperate need of cash to hire a kidnapper to snatch Ronnie's two-year-old son back from her ex. The whole thing is pretty complicated and has Junior on edge. The parameters of the job do nothing to calm his nerves. A nameless woman in an orange wig has offered Junior fifty grand—twenty-five up front—to break into the abandoned house of a recently deceased 97-year-old recluse, Daisy Horton, and steal a doll from her collection. Junior knows no doll is worth 50K, so he figures there must be something hidden inside the doll that can get him in a heap of trouble. It doesn't take long for Junior to realize he's not the only one looking for the doll. When an old friend ends up murdered, Junior decides he will stop at nothing to figure out who the woman in the orange wig is, and why she wants the doll badly enough to leave a trail of bodies in her wake.

**HARVEY, MICHAEL PULSE** (\$34.99) Detectives "Bark" Jones and Tommy Dillon are assigned to investigate the murder of Harry, a Harvard football star. The veteran partners thought they'd seen it all, but they are stunned when Harry's brother Daniel wanders into the crime scene. Even stranger, Daniel claims to have known the details of his brother's murder before it ever happened. The subsequent investigation leads the detectives deep into the brothers' past. They find heartbreaking loss, sordid characters, and metaphysical conspiracies. Even on the rough streets of 1970s Boston, Jones and Dillon have never had a case like this.

**JAMES, MIRANDA librarian** SIX CATS A SLAYIN' (#10) (\$35.00) Charlie Harris and his Maine Coon cat, Diesel, are busy decking the halls for the holidays when an unexpected delivery—a box left on his doorstep with five kittens inside and a note begging

him to keep them safe!—and a shocking murder conspire to shake up the season.

**JONASSON, RAGNAR hulda** DARKNESS (#1) (\$36.50) The body of a young Russian woman washes up on an Icelandic shore. After a cursory investigation, the death is declared a suicide and the case is quietly closed. Over a year later Detective Inspector Hulda Hermannsdóttir of the Reykjavik police is forced into early retirement at 64. She dreads the loneliness, and the memories of her dark past that threaten to come back to haunt her. But before she leaves she is given two weeks to solve a single cold case of her choice. She knows which one: the Russian woman whose hope for asylum ended on the dark, cold shore of an unfamiliar country. Soon Hulda discovers that another young woman vanished at the same time, and that no one is telling her the whole story. Even her colleagues in the police seem determined to put the brakes on her investigation. Meanwhile the clock is ticking. Hulda *will* find the killer, even if it means putting her own life in danger.

**KELLY, STEPHEN lamb** HUSHED IN DEATH (#3) (\$34.95) In the spring of 1942, with the war in Europe raging, a gruesome murder shocks the rural community of Marbury, where a once-grand estate called Elton House has been transformed into a hospital for “shell-shocked” officers sent back from the front lines. When Detective Chief Inspector Lamb arrives to solve the case, he quickly learns that the victim, Elton House's gardener Joseph Lee, had plenty of enemies in Marbury—and so he and his team have plenty of suspects. Along with his team of investigators, which includes his daughter Vera, Lamb begins to untangle the threads of rivalry and deceit that lie beneath the surface of the seemingly-peaceful countryside village. It soon becomes clear that Lee's mysterious past is intertwined with the history of Elton House itself, which fell into disrepair a generation earlier after a shockingly similar murder, and the mystery deepens further when Lamb discovers that one of the prime suspects has seemingly committed suicide. As Lamb pieces together the connections between the crimes of the present and those of the past, he must dive into the darkest, most secret corners of Elton House to discover who is committing murder, and why.

**LEROUX, GASTON** MYSTERY OF THE YELLOW ROOM (\$18.99) One of the defining novels of the entire crime genre, which has inspired readers and writers including **Agatha Christie** and **John Dickson Carr**, and, is now republished in hardback in the Detective Club series with a brand new introduction.

**MACPHERSON/MCPHERSON, CATRIONA** GO TO MY GRAVE (\$34.99) Donna Weaver has put everything she has into restoring The Breakers, an old bed and breakfast on a remote stretch of beach in Galloway. Now it sits waiting—freshly painted, richly furnished, filled with flowers—for the first guests to arrive. But Donna's guests, a contentious group of estranged cousins, soon realize that they've been here before, years ago. Decades have passed, but that night still haunts them: a sixteenth birthday party that started with peach schnapps and ended with a girl walking into the sea. Each of them had made a vow of silence: “lock it in a box, stitch my lips, and go to my grave.” But now someone has broken the pact. Amid the home-baked scones and lavish rooms, someone is playing games, locking boxes, stitching lips. And before the weekend is over, at least one of them will go to their grave.

**PARETSKY, SARA warshawski** SHELL GAME (#18) (\$34.99 hardcover, \$23.99 trade paper) When V. I. Warshawski gets word that her closest friend and mentor Lotty Herschel's nephew has become a suspect in a murder, the legendary detective will do everything she can to save him. The cops found Felix Herschel's name and phone number on the unknown victim's remains, but Felix insists he doesn't know why. As Vic digs deeper, she discovers that the dead man was obsessed with Middle Eastern archeology—the first clue in a bewildering case that leads to a stolen artifact and a shadowy network of international criminals. But the trouble multiplies when Vic's long lost niece, Reno, goes missing. A beautiful young woman with a heartbreaking past and a promising future, Reno is harboring a secret that may cost her her life. V.I. can hear the clock ticking on her niece's safety and is frantic in her efforts to find her.

**PERRY, ANNE xmas** CHRISTMAS REVELATION (#16) (\$27.00) An orphan boy investigates a woman's kidnapping—and discovers there's more at stake than a disappearance. Formerly a river urchin living on the banks of the Thames, nine-year-old Worm has never experienced a family Christmas. But thanks to a job at Hester Monk's clinic in Portpool Lane, he's found a makeshift family in kindly volunteer Miss Claudine Burroughs and curmudgeonly old bookkeeper Squeaky Robinson. When Worm witnesses the abduction of a beautiful woman by a pair of ruffians just days before Christmas, he frantically turns to Squeaky for help. A one-time brothel owner, Squeaky knows the perils of interfering in nasty business, but he can't bear to disappoint Worm—or leave the boy to attempt a rescue on his own. So, despite his better judgement...

**ROSENFELT, DAVID carpenter** DECK THE HOUNDS (#18) (\$32.50) Reluctant lawyer Andy Carpenter doesn't usually stop to help others, but, seeing a dog next to a homeless man inspires him to give the pair some money to help. It's just Andy's luck that things don't end there. Soon after Andy's encounter with them, man and dog are attacked in the middle of the night on the street. The dog defends its new owner, and the erstwhile attacker is bitten but escapes. But the dog is quarantined and the man, Don Carrigan, is heartbroken. Andy's wife Laurie can't resist helping the duo after learning Andy has met them before... it's the Christmas season after all. In a matter of days Don and his dog Zoey are living above Andy's garage and become two new additions to the family. It's not until Andy accidentally gives away his guest's name during an interview that things go awry; turns out Don is wanted for a murder that happened two years ago. Don not only claims he's innocent, but that he had no idea that he was wanted for a crime he has no knowledge of in the first place. It's up to Andy to exonerate his new friend, if he doesn't get pulled into the quagmire first.

**SMITH, ALEXANDER botswana** COLORS OF ALL THE CATTLE (#19) (\$32.00) When Mma Potokwane suggests to Mma Ramotswa that she run for a seat on the City Council, Mma Ramotswa is at first unsure. But when she learns about the proposed construction of the flashy Big Fun Hotel next to a graveyard, she allows herself to be persuaded. Her opponent is none other than Violet Sephotho, who is in the pocket of the hotel developers. Although Violet is intent on using every trick in the book to secure her election, Mma Ramotswa refuses to promise anything beyond what she can deliver—hence her slogan: “I can't promise anything—but I shall do my best.” To everyone's surprise, she wins. As it turns out, politics does not agree with Mma Ramotswa. Though everyone is supportive, she eventually resigns. She thinks there will be a new election, but she discovers that the rules state that in such an event, the runner-up automatically takes the seat. Violet is triumphant, and sure that she will get the Big Fun Hotel planning application through without a hitch. But Mma Makutsi and Mma Potokwane are not about to make it easy for her.

**ST. VINCENT, SARAH** WAYS TO HIDE IN WINTER (\$33.99) After surviving a life-altering accident at twenty-two, Kathleen recuperates by retreating to a remote campground lodge in a state park, where she works flipping burgers for deer hunters and hikers—happy, she insists, to be left alone. But when a hesitant, heavily accented stranger appears in the dead of winter—seemingly out of nowhere, kicking snow from his flimsy dress shoes—the wary Kathleen is intrigued, despite herself. He says he's a student from Uzbekistan. To her he seems shell-shocked, clearly hiding from something that terrifies him. And as she becomes absorbed in his secrets, she's forced to confront her own—even as her awareness of being in danger grows.

**TATA, A J mahegan** DARK WINTER (#5) (\$28.95) By the time anyone realizes what's happening, it is too late. A dark network of hackers has infiltrated the computers of the U.S. military, unleashing chaos across the globe. U.S. missiles strike the wrong targets. Defense systems fail. Power grids shut down. Within hours, America's enemies move in. Russian tanks plow through northern Europe. Iranian troops invade Iraq. North Korea destroys Seoul and fires missiles at Japan. Enter Jake Mahegan and his team of highly trained operatives.

**THOMPSON, VICTORIA** counterfeit lady CITY OF SECRETS

(#2) (\$35) Elizabeth Miles knows that honesty is not always the best policy when it comes to finding justice. Elizabeth has discovered that navigating the rules of high society is the biggest con of all. She knows she can play the game, but so far, her only success is Priscilla Knight, a dedicated young suffragist recently widowed for the second time. Priscilla stands to lose everything, and Elizabeth is determined not to let that happen. But, as always, Elizabeth walks a fine line between using her unusual talents and revealing her own scandalous past. To save her new friend's future—and possibly her own—Elizabeth, along with her honest-to-a-fault beau, Gideon, delve into the sinister secrets someone would kill to keep. Sequel to *City of Lies* (#1) (\$10.99).

**TURSTEN, HELENE** AN ELDERLY LADY IS UP TO NO GOOD (\$15.99) Maud is an irascible 88-year-old Swedish woman with no family, no friends, and... no qualms about a little murder. Ever since her darling father's untimely death when she was only eighteen, Maud has lived in the family's spacious apartment in downtown Gothenburg rent-free, thanks to a minor clause in a hastily negotiated contract. That was how Maud learned that good things can come from tragedy. Now in her late eighties, Maud contents herself with traveling the world and surfing the net from the comfort of her father's ancient armchair. It's a solitary existence, and she likes it that way. Over the course of her adventures—or misadventures—this little bold lady will handle a crisis with a local celebrity who has her eyes on Maud's apartment, foil the engagement of her long-ago lover, and dispose of some pesky neighbors. But when the local authorities are called to investigate a dead body found in Maud's apartment, will Maud finally become a suspect? A collection of five stories, presented in this charming, small hardcover.

**WESTERSON, JERI** guest DEEPEST GRAVE (#10) (\$42.95) *London, 1392*. Strange mischief is afoot at St Modwen's Church. Are corpses stalking the graveyard at night, disturbing graves, and dragging coffins? When a fearful Father Bulthius begs Crispin Guest for his help, he agrees to investigate with his apprentice, Jack Tucker, intrigued by the horrific tales. Meanwhile, an urgent summons arrives from Crispin's former love, Philippa Walcote. Her seven-year-old son, Christopher, has been accused of murder and of attempting to steal a family relic—the missing relic of St Modwen. Who is behind the gruesome occurrences in the graveyard? Is Christopher guilty of murder? Crispin faces a desperate race against time to solve the strange goings-on at St Modwen's and prove a child's innocence.

**WINER, JEANNE** HER KIND OF CASE (\$32.95) Lee Isaacs is a female defense attorney on the cusp of turning 60, who, out of curiosity, determination, and desire for a big, even impossible, professional challenge, chooses to take on a tough murder case in which a largely uncooperative young man is accused of helping kill a gay gang member...starred reviews from *Kirkus* and *Booklist*.

## Paperbacks

**ADAMS, SETH C** IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS (\$17.99) GET READY FOR THE MOST POWERFUL AND EMOTIONAL DEBUT THRILLER OF 2018! Perfect for fans of *It* (\$26.99) by Stephen King, *The Chalk Man* by C. J. Tudor (\$24.95) and the TV show *Stranger Things*. Or, so trumpets the blurb.

**ANONYMOUS** KINGFISHER SECRET (\$19.95) October 2016: In America, the election is a few weeks away. Journalist Grace Elliott has just landed a scoop that she believes will make her career. A porn star is willing to talk about her affair with the man some hope and many fear will become the next president of the United States. But no one will touch it. Not even Grace's boss, the right-wing publisher of America's leading tabloid. Instead, Grace is sent to Europe where she discovers a story so big, so explosive that it could decide the American election and launch a new Cold War. As long as she can stay alive long enough to tell it...spies, murder, and one of the biggest conspiracies of our time lie at the heart of this immersive thriller.

**BARCLAY, LINWOOD** promise PARTING SHOT (#4) (\$12.99) After a tragedy rocks the community of Promise Falls, Cal Weaver is asked to investigate the threats being made to the accused's family. He's heard all about it on the news: the young man who drank too much, stole a Porsche and killed a girl, and who claimed afterwards not to remember a single thing. The whole town is outraged that he got off lightly, but for reasons Cal can't explain, he accepts the job. Then Cal finds himself caught up in a vicious revenge plot, chasing someone set on delivering retribution. In Cal's experience, it's only ever a matter of time before threats turn into action. . .

**BENISON, C C** PAUL IS DEAD (\$19.95) Under the sway of a charismatic stranger, five friends at an isolated lakeside cottage find their idyll unravelling, leaving two of them—Lydia Eadon and Dorian Grant—trapped in an explosion of violence that shatters their young lives and propels them past the borders of conventional morality. Forty years later when a body is unearthed from the scene of their revels, Lydia, a book editor in San Francisco, and Dorian, a vagabond actor, are plunged into a terrible reckoning with the past.

**BERENSON, LAURIEN** WAGGING THROUGH THE SNOW (\$8.99) With a demanding teaching job and five poodles scampering around the house, Melanie Travis barely has energy for the upcoming Christmas rush. But she unwraps an unexpected challenge when her brother and ex-husband make a spontaneous bid on a dilapidated pine tree farm. Although the ten-acre lot had been a popular seasonal destination while the original owner was still alive, it'll take a small miracle or two before the neglected place is in shape for December. But the business venture goes cold when the group discovers a purebred Maltese whimpering in the snow-covered grove—right beside a dead body. Pete, a squatter who camped out on the land, apparently met his end after a fallen fir tree branch fell on his head. But as Melanie and Aunt Peg investigate Pete's complicated history, it's clear his death was no accident. Now, Melanie must run through a flurry of likely suspects and muzzle a dogged murderer in time—or she'll be next on someone's deadly list.

**BILLINGHAM, MARK** thorne KILLING HABIT (#15) (\$24.99 trade paperback, \$34.99 hard cover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

**BLAEDEL, SARA** rick & lind MIDNIGHT WITNESS (#1) (\$12.99) A young woman is found strangled in a park, and a male journalist has been killed in the backyard of the Royal Hotel in Copenhagen. Rookie Homicide Detective Louise Rick is put on the case of the young girl, but very soon becomes entangled in solving the other homicide too when it turns out her best friend, journalist Camilla Lind, knew the murdered man. Louise tries to keep her friend from getting too involved, but Camilla's never been one to miss out on an interesting story. And this time, Camilla may have gone too far...

**BLAKE, BETHANY** lucky PAWPRINTS & PREDICAMENTS (#3) (\$8.99) The Tail Waggin' Winterfest is the highlight of the season in the famously pet-friendly Pocono Mountains town of Sylvan Creek. But despite attractions like an ice sculpture display, a dogsled race, and gourmet hot chocolate, Daphne Templeton finds herself annoyed by TV producer Lauren Savidge, who's filming the festivities. She's critical, controlling, and as chilly as the January air. Daphne would like to tell her to go jump in a lake—and as a matter of fact, that's exactly what they're both going to do . . . It's the first-ever polar bear plunge in Lake Wallapawakee, and Daphne and Lauren are among the eighty or so people who charge into the frigid water to raise funds for animals in need. Daphne makes it back to shore—with the help of a mysterious St. Bernard—but Lauren is dragged out stone cold dead. Now, with her trusty basset hound Socrates at her side, Daphne intends to assist Detective Jonathan Black in his investigation—whether he wants her to or not . . . Includes recipes for homemade pet treats!

**BOOTH, STEPHEN** FALL DOWN DEAD (#18) (\$24.99) The mountain of Kinder Scout offers the most incredible views of the Peak District, but when thick fog descends there on a walking party led by enigmatic Darius Roth, this spectacular landscape is turned into a death trap that claims a life. For DI Ben Cooper however, something about the way Faith Matthew fell to her death suggests it was no

accident, and he quickly discovers more than one of the hikers may have had reason to murder their companion. To make things worse, his old colleague DS Diane Fry finds herself at centre of an internal investigations storm that threatens to drag Cooper down with it.

**BOWEN, RHYS molly murphy GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST (#17)** (\$22.50) Semi-retired private detective Molly Murphy Sullivan is suffering from depression after a miscarriage following her adventure in San Francisco during the earthquake of 1906. She and her husband, Daniel, are invited for Christmas at a mansion on the Hudson, and they gratefully accept, expecting a peaceful and relaxing holiday season. Not long after they arrive, however, they start to feel the tension in the house's atmosphere. Then they learn that the host couple's young daughter wandered out into the snow ten years ago and was never seen again. Molly can identify with the mother's pain at never knowing what happened to her child and wants to help, but there is so little to go on. No ransom note. No body ever found. But Molly slowly begins to suspect that the occupants of the house know more than they are letting on. Then, on Christmas Eve, there is a knock at the door and a young girl stands there. "I'm Charlotte," she says. "I've come home."

**BURKE, JAMES LEE robicheaux LIGHT OF THE WORLD (#20)** (\$22.00) First published in 2013. Sadist and serial killer Asa Surette narrowly escaped the death penalty for the string of heinous murders he committed while capital punishment was outlawed in Kansas. But following a series of damning articles written by Dave Robicheaux's daughter Alafair, Surette escapes from a prison transport van and heads to Montana, where an unsuspecting Dave—along with Alafair; Dave's wife, Molly; Dave's faithful partner Clete; and Clete's new-found daughter, Gretchen Horowitz—have come to take in the sweet summer air.

**BURKE, JAMES LEE robicheaux CREOLE BELLE (#19)** (\$22.00) First published in 2012. Set against the events of the Gulf Coast oil spill... Dave Robicheaux is languishing in a New Orleans recovery unit since surviving a bayou shoot-out. The detective's body is healing; it's his morphine-addled mind that conjures spectral visions of Tee Jolie Melton, a young woman who in reality has gone missing. An iPod with an old blues song left by his bedside turns Robicheaux into a man obsessed... And as oil companies assign blame after an epic disaster threatens the Gulf's very existence, Robicheaux unearths connections between tragedies both global and personal—and faces down forces that can corrupt and destroy the best of men.

**BUSSE, MICHEL DON'T LET GO** (\$25.50) Holidaying in an idyllic resort on the island of Reunion, wealthy Parisians Martial and Liane Bellion are enjoying the perfect family moment with their six-year-old daughter. Turquoise skies, clear water, palm trees, a warm breeze. Then Liane Bellion disappears from her hotel room. The door to her room is open, the walls and sheets are spotted with blood. A hotel employee swears he saw Martial in the corridor at the time Liane went missing, and he becomes the number one suspect. But then Martial also disappears, along with his daughter. An all-out manhunt is declared across the island. Could Martial really have killed his wife? By the author of the excellent novel After the Crash (\$15.99).

**BUTLER, D S hart BRING THEM HOME (#1)** (\$22.95) When two young girls disappear from their primary school, the village of Heighington is put on high alert—and not for the first time. Called in to investigate, Detective Karen Hart is sure that parallels with a previous disappearance are anything but coincidental. DS Hart is still reeling from a case she tried and failed to solve eighteen months ago, when a young woman vanished without a trace. She's no nearer to the truth of what happened to Amy Fisher, but with two children missing now too, the stakes have never been higher. As she looks to the past for clues, she must confront her own haunting loss, a nightmare she is determined to spare other families. Hart soon realises that nothing in this close-knit Lincolnshire community is what it seems. Pursuing the investigation with personal vengeance, she finds herself in conflict with her scrupulous new boss, but playing by the rules will have to wait. Because while there's no shortage of suspects, the missing girls are running out of time...

**CARLISLE, KATE fixer upper WRENCH IN THE WORKS (#6)** (\$10.99) Shannon Hammer's younger sister Chloe left Lighthouse Cove after high school to make it big in Hollywood. And she did it! Now, after ten years, Chloe returns to Lighthouse Cove with her crew and co-host to film several shows featuring her sister Shannon. But Shannon realizes quickly that things are not exactly blissful in TV land. Her sister's handsome co-host is being stalked by someone who turns out to be his estranged wife, Erica—who also happens to be the executive producer of the show. Erica's got a knack for stirring up sticky situations and when she's found dead, Chloe and the entire crew are under suspicion. Then Shannon discovers the real reason why Chloe was so eager to move away from Lighthouse Cove all those years ago. Can Shannon figure out if that ten-year-old secret is connected to Erica's death? And can she track down the real killer before her beloved sister becomes the next victim?

**CLARK&BURKE under suspicion EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE (#5)** (\$11.99) Television producer Laurie Moran investigates the unsolved Metropolitan Museum of Art Gala murder—in which a wealthy widow was pushed to her death from the famous museum's rooftop.

**DAVIES, MICHELLE neville WRONG PLACE (#2)** (\$17.99) When a man fails in his attempt to murder his wife and commit suicide, DC Maggie Neville is assigned to be the surviving woman's Family Liaison Officer. As the husband lies in a coma at the hospital, his wife sets about making sure everyone knows he's guilty. But there's something about her story that doesn't ring true for Maggie... Digging deeper, she finds an unexpected link between the couple's case and a series of burglaries she and her colleagues are investigating in the local area—and the mysterious disappearance of a young woman twenty years ago. Sequel to Gone Astray (#1) (\$16.99).

**DAVIES, MICHELLE neville FALSE WITNESS (#3)** (\$16.99) 7.15am: Two children are seen on top of a wall in a school. Shortly after, one of them lies fatally injured at the bottom. Did the boy fall or was he pushed? As a family liaison offer, DC Maggie Neville has seen parents crumble under the weight of their child's death. Imogen Tyler is no different. Her son's fall was witnessed by the school caretaker, a pupil is under suspicion, and Imogen is paralysed by questions. Why was he at the school so early? Why was he with the girl who's now being questioned? For Maggie, finding the answers to these questions is paramount if she is to help the mother. But as she investigates, further questions emerge, and the truth suddenly seems far from certain. Could the witness be mistaken about what happened, and if he is, then who is responsible? And how far will they go to cover up the boy's death?

**DELANY, VICKI holmes CAT OF THE BASKERVILLES (#3)** (\$23.95) Legendary stage and movie star Sir Nigel Bellingham arrives on Cape Cod to star in a stage production of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* put on by the West London Theater Festival. When Sir Nigel, some of the cast, and the director visit the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop at 222 Baker Street, Gemma Doyle realizes that Sir Nigel is not at all suited to the role. He is long past his prime and an old drunk to boot. The cast, in particular the much younger actor who previously had the role, are not happy, but the show must go on. Then Sir Nigel goes missing. Only to be found at the bottom of the rocky cliff, dead. Accident? Something more nefarious?

**DISHER, GARRY challis SIGNAL LOSS (#7)** (\$19.95) A pair of hit men have a very bad day, and the resulting bushfire draws attention to a meth lab and two burned bodies in a Mercedes. As Inspector Hal Challis of the Crime Investigation Unit struggles to link these events to major meth suppliers flooding the Peninsula with drugs, he also finds himself spending valuable time fending off jurisdictional challenges from Melbourne's Major Drug Investigative Division. Meanwhile, Sgt. Ellen Destry, of CIU's sex crimes unit, is hunting for a serial rapist who is extremely adept at not leaving clues. An excellent series; start with Dragon Man (#1) (\$9.99).

**DOYLE/SMITH, DENIS O FURTHER CHRONICLES SH V.1** (\$28.00) A collection of six Sherlock Holmes pastiches. Some hook the reader with a tantalizing opening, such as The Jet Broach, in which the Baker Street detective receives an anonymous package

containing a brooch and a scrawled note for help. Even those with a less dramatic start take unexpected and intriguing turns, such as The Five Keys, which begins with a request for help so banal that Watson is surprised his friend accepts the case—a couple want the detective to attend the reading of a will, to keep his eyes and ears open for anything underhanded. Holmes gets drawn into a mystery worthy of his skills that ends with an eminently fair solution. The Inn on the Marsh features an odder entreaty from another man and wife, who are perplexed as to why the guest register at the inn they stayed at during their honeymoon no longer contains their names.

**DONACHIE, DAVID** pearce ON A PARTICULAR SERVICE (#14) (\$18.99) John Pearce is going home. But he has to avoid capture by an Algerine warship, having his Pelicans pressed into a British frigate and that's before they are at risk of being hanged for desertion once home. Then there is the problem of Emily Barclay and their son Adam. By cunning and bluff he protects his friends, but not his troubled love life. In a whirlwind of action, there are forged wills, devious trades, contrived murders and dangerous spy missions, with so much deceit that Pearce does not know who to trust. All he can hope to do is survive.

**ELLIOTT, LAUREN** bookstore MURDER BY THE BOOK (#1) (\$8.99) Addie Greyborne loved working with rare books at the Boston Public Library—she even got to play detective, tracking down clues about mysterious old volumes. But she didn't expect her sleuthing skills to come in so handy in a little seaside town... Addie left some painful memories behind in the big city, including the unsolved murder of her fiancé and her father's fatal car accident. After an unexpected inheritance from a great aunt, she's moved to a small New England town founded by her ancestors back in colonial times—and living in spacious Greyborne Manor, on a hilltop overlooking the harbor. Best of all, her aunt also left her countless first editions and other treasures—providing an inventory to start her own store. But there's trouble from day one, and not just from the grumpy woman who runs the bakery next door. A car nearly runs Addie down. Someone steals a copy of Alice in Wonderland. Then, Addie's friend Serena, who owns a nearby tea shop, is arrested—for killing another local merchant. The police seem pretty sure they've got the story in hand, but Addie's not going to let them close the book on this case without a fight.

**ELLIS, KATE** peterson MECHANICAL DEVIL (#22) (\$15.99) When archaeologist Neil Watson unearths a long-buried mechanical figure in a Dartmoor field, he is determined to discover the truth behind the bizarre find. Soon, however, the sleepy village becomes the focus of press attention for another reason when two people with no apparent connection to each other are found shot dead in nearby Manor Field, seemingly victims of an execution-style double murder. DI Wesley Peterson is called in to investigate, but the two murders aren't his only problem. The daughter of a local MP has gone missing and the pressure is on to find her, especially when it's revealed that she has a connection to one of the murder victims. And Wesley's own life is thrown into turmoil when a woman he helped on a previous investigation finds herself subjected to a campaign of terror. Is there a link between the double murder and the accidental death of a young history student in Manor Field twenty years ago? And just what is the true identity of the Mechanical Devil?

**ELLIS, KATE** plantagenet WALKING BY NIGHT (#5) (\$26.00) Taking a short cut home beneath the ruined abbey in the centre of the city, a teenage girl reports stumbling across a body. She also claims to have seen a mysterious nun-like figure watching her from the shadows. But during the subsequent search, no body is found. The girl's inebriated state and her troubled history make the police sceptical of her story, and only Detective Inspector Joe Plantagenet is inclined to believe her. Then a woman is reported missing, and Joe finds himself caught up in a complex investigation involving a production of *The Devils* at the local Playhouse. Could the play, with its shocking religious and sexual violence, have something to do with the woman's disappearance? And is there really a connection with the tragic death of a young nun at the site many centuries before? Nothing is as it first appears.

**ETEROVIC, RAMON heredia** DARK ECHOES OF THE PAST (#1) (\$21.95) Private investigator Heredia spends his days reading detective novels; commiserating with his cat, Simenon; and peering out over the Mapocho River from his Santiago apartment. The city he loves may be changing, but Heredia can't stop chasing the ghosts of the past. Virginia Reyes's brother, an ex-political prisoner of dictator Augusto Pinochet, was killed in an apparent robbery. Yet nothing of value was taken. The police have declared the case closed, but Virginia suspects that things aren't quite as they appear and turns to Heredia for help. Heredia couldn't agree more—but he can't shake the feeling that there's something Virginia's not telling him. Heredia knows this is not a simple crime. His investigation proves it. Drawn back into a world where murderers nest, secrets are to kill and die for, and Pinochet's legacy still casts a long, dark, and very threatening shadow, it's all Heredia can do to crawl out of it alive. The first novel by this multiple-award-winning Chilean author to be translated into English.

**ETEROVIC, RAMON heredia** ANGELS & LONERS (#2) (\$21.95) Private investigator Heredia has many phantoms—and one of his most haunting has come calling. Argentine investigative journalist Fernanda Arredondo, an old flame he loved and lost, needs to see him after saying goodbye years ago. All it takes is a single day for Heredia to lose her again when she's found dead—an apparent suicide in a lonely hotel room in Santiago. Heredia has more than his instincts to tell him that it was murder. He has clues. Like the suspicious death in the same hotel weeks before of a North American journalist specializing in uncovering covert military affairs. Both he and Fernanda were trailing an explosive story—chemical weapons tied to the Latin American arms industry—and they won't be the last to die. Now Heredia is following their secrets by infiltrating the most powerful and dangerous criminal network in Chile. Exposing it is Heredia's business. Avenging Fernanda's murder is personal. For a man with so few illusions left, surviving it is up to fate.

**FARROW, SHARON berry** KILLED ON BLUEBERRY HILL (#3) (\$8.99) It's peak tourist season in Oriole Point, Michigan—the blueberry buckle of the fruit belt. Nothing draws the crowds quite like their annual carnival. And nothing turns it sour faster than murder! The death of the king of Blueberry Hill is a shock but not too surprising—he was a diabetic whose last pig out meal was deliciously fatal. But when authorities discover that someone tampered with Porter's insulin, a tragic accident is looking like murder—and Marlee's boyfriend is looking good for prime suspect. Includes Berry Recipes! **FLETCHER, JESSICA** MURDER SHE WROTE HOOK LINE AND MURDER (\$10.99) Jessica enters a fly-fishing competition at a nearby lake. Joining her is the sheriff's wife, Maureen Metzger, who surprises Jess with her enthusiasm for the sport. Their guide, however, is a surprise to both. Brian Kinney is an ex-con. Jailed as an accomplice to convicted killer Darryl Jepson, Brian was later exonerated, but not before spending seven years behind bars. He seems like a decent enough fellow. Just someone trying to rebuild his life as a family man and fishing guide. Yet when Jepson breaks out of prison vowing revenge, and the lawyer for both men is found murdered, Cabot Cove becomes the focus of the nation as local, state, and federal authorities descend on Jessica's hometown. And to add to the tension, Maureen has gone missing. Is she lost or is she a hostage? Jess soon finds herself caught in a net full of lies, deceit, and ulterior motives. In order to save her friend, she'll need to find some answers by hook or by crook...

**FRANKLIN, ARIANA aguilar** MISTRESS OF THE ART OF DEATH (#1) (\$24) and SERPENTS TALE (#2) aka death maze (\$25). Reissues of the first two in this series. In medieval Cambridge, England, Adelia, a female forensics expert, is summoned by King Henry II to investigate a series of gruesome murders that has wrongly implicated the Jewish population, yielding even more tragic results. As Adelia's investigation takes her behind the closed doors of the country's churches, the killer prepares to strike again. An excellent series, and one of Marian's favourites.

**FREEMAN, R AUSTIN thorndyke** MR POLTON EXPLAINS (\$28.00) One of the last in the Thorndyke series, published in 1940.

**GARDNER, ERLE STANLEY lam** COUNT OF 9 (\$13.50) From the creator of the Perry Mason investigations, a re-issue of a Bertha Cool & Donald Lam story that has been out of print for fifty years. Hired to protect the treasures of a globe-trotting adventurer, Bertha and Donald confront an impossible crime: how could anything be smuggled out of a dinner party—least of all a 6-foot-long blowgun—when the guests were X-rayed coming and going?

**GOLDAMMER, FRANK heller** AIR RAID KILLER (#1) (\$21.95) In the final days of the Nazi regime, with the historic city of Dresden on the brink of destruction, terrifying rumors spread about the Fright Man, a demonic killer who exploited the cover of a nighttime air raid siren to mutilate and kill a young nurse. Just as seasoned detective Max Heller begins investigating, the Fright Man kills again. The investigation seems hopeless. Desperate refugees flood the streets, all of Heller's resources are depleted, and his new boss is a ruthless SS officer. And like so many others, Heller and his wife, Karin, survive on meager rations while fearing for the lives of their sons at the front. But as tensions mount and enemy firebombs decimate the city, dangerous new clues come to light—and the determined Heller pursues a violent and twisting path to unmask a monster.

**GOLDAMMER, FRANK heller** THOUSAND DEVILS (#2) (\$21.95) Two years after the firebombing that devastated the historic East German city, the suffering continues in the throes of a brutal winter. The wary and exhausted citizens scramble to survive, wolf packs of orphans scavenge for food, and Detective Max Heller is called to the scene of a savage murder. A Russian officer was stabbed to death, and not far from the frozen corpse is an abandoned backpack containing another man's severed head. If the grisly find belonged to the dead officer, it could implicate the city's all-powerful Soviet military occupiers. If it belonged to the officer's killer, then Heller faces even more troubling questions. Despite dire warnings from higher-ups on all sides, Heller is determined to discover the answers. His investigation leads him down a trail of unspeakable corruption, desperate murders, and greater looming evils that Heller may never be able to contain.

**GREENWOOD, KERRY fisher** DEATH BY WATER (#15) (\$23.99) The nice men at P&O are worried. A succession of jewelry thefts from the first-class passengers is hardly the best advertisement for their cruises. Especially when it is likely that a passenger is the thief. Phryne Fisher, with her Lulu bob, green eyes, cupid's bow lips, and sense of the ends justifying the means, is just the person to mingle seamlessly with the upper classes and take on a case of theft on the high seas—or at least on the *S.S. Hinemoa*—on a luxury cruise to New Zealand. She is carrying the Great Queen of Sapphires, the Maharani, as bait. There are shipboard romances, champagne cocktails, erotic photographers, jealous swains, mickey fins, jazz musicians, blackmail, and attempted murder, all before the thieves find out—as have countless love-smitten men before them—that where the glamorous and intelligent Phryne is concerned, resistance is futile.

**GREGORY, SUSANNA bartholomew** HABIT OF MURDER (#23) (\$15.99) In 1360 a deputation from Cambridge ventures to the Suffolk town of Clare in the hope that the wealthy Elizabeth de Burgh has left a legacy to Michaelhouse. Yet when they arrive they discover that the report of her death is false and that the college seems destined for bankruptcy. Determined to see if some of its well-heeled citizens can be persuaded to sponsor Michaelhouse, Matthew Bartholomew, Brother Michael and Master Langelee become enmeshed in the town's politics. They quickly discover that a great many other people in Clare have recently met untimely deaths. These killings, combined with the arrogance Lady de Burgh has shown over the refurbishment of the church and the grotesque behaviour of some of her entourage, have created a dangerous restlessness in the town: an atmosphere intensified when yet more murders occur. One of the victims is a fellow traveler of the Michaelhouse contingent, and Matthew Bartholomew and Brother Michael feel honour-bound to identify his killer. It is a hunt which takes them deep into Clare's murky foundations and which threatens their own survival as well as that of their beloved college.

**HARFFY, MATTHEW bernicia** SERPENT SWORD (#1) (\$16.95) AD 633, Anglo-Saxon Britain: Beobrand is a young man with a shadowy past. As an outsider in the kingdom of Bernicia, he is compelled to join his brother, Octa, as a warrior in the household of King Edwin. He must learn to fight with sword and shield to defend the war-ravaged kingdoms of Northumbria. In a period of great upheaval for Dark Age Britain, all he finds is death and war. Among the blood and the betrayals, Beobrand learns of his brother's near-certain murder. Inexperienced but ruthless, Beobrand must form his own allegiances in order to avenge his kin's death.

**HARVEY, JOHN elder** Body and Soul (#4) (\$25) the fourth and, apparently, last, installment in the Detective Inspector Frank Elder series has been published and here are the first three installments: FLESH AND BLOOD (#1) (\$19.99), ASH AND BONE (#2) (\$16.99) and DARKNESS AND LIGHT (#3) (\$29.95). An excellent series.

**HERRON, MICK slow horses** MARYLEBONE DROP (\$9.99) Old spooks carry the memory of tradecraft in their bones, and when Solomon Dortmund sees an envelope being passed from one pair of hands to another in a Marylebone café, he knows he's witnessed more than an innocent encounter. But in relaying his suspicions to John Bachelor, who babysits retired spies like Solly for MI5, he sets in motion a train of events that will alter lives.

**HIRVONEN, ELINA** WHEN TIME RUNS OUT (\$16.95) A young man is shooting people from a rooftop in downtown Helsinki. An unsuspecting mother is confronted with a horrifying scenario she's powerless to stop. A sister can only watch events unfold from afar. Over the course of a day, one family fractures and each member must examine everything that brought them to this moment. But this crisis goes beyond their small lives; Aslak is not the only boy on a rooftop with a gun today. He is part of an international group set on stopping environmental disaster by killing as many of those they deem responsible as they can. Can a desperate mother reconcile her complicated feelings towards her son and reach him in time to stop a catastrophe?

**HOROWITZ, ANTHONY bond** FOREVER AND A DAY (\$24.99) The sea keeps its secrets. But not this time. One body. Three bullets. 007 floats in the waters of Marseilles, killed by an unknown hand. It's time for a new agent to step up. Time for a new weapon in the war against organized crime. It's time for James Bond to earn his license to kill. This is the story of the birth of a legend, in the brutal underworld of the French Riviera. With "original material by Ian Fleming."

**HOUM, NICOLAI** GRADUAL DISAPPEARANCE OF JANE ASHLAND (\$21.95) An American woman wakes up alone in a tent in the Norwegian mountains. Outside a storm rages and the fog is dense. Her phone is dead. She has no map, no compass, and no food. How she ended up there, and the tragic details of her life, emerge over the course of this novel. We discover that Jane is a novelist with a bad case of writer's block—she had come to Norway to seek out distant relatives and family history, but when her trip went awry, she tethered herself to a zoologist she met by chance on the plane, joining him on a trek to see the musk oxen of the Dovrefjell mountain range. As we gradually unpack the emotional debris of her past—troubled Midwestern parents, a loving courtship in New York, and a cruel, sudden tragedy that rearranged everything—we begin to understand what led her to this lonely landscape.

**HUGHES, DOROTHY B** SO BLUE MARBLE (\$21.95) Three well-heeled villains terrorize New York's high society in pursuit of a rare and powerful gem. The author's debut novel, published in 1940.

**IGNATIUS, DAVID** QUANTUM SPY (\$21.95) A hyper-fast quantum computer is the digital equivalent of a nuclear bomb; whoever possesses one will be able to shred any encryption and break any code in existence. The question is: who will build one first, the U.S. or China? U.S. quantum research labs are compromised by a suspected Chinese informant, inciting a mole hunt of history-altering proportions. CIA officer Harris Chang leads the charge, pursuing his target from Singapore to Mexico and beyond. Do the leaks expose real secrets, or are they false trails meant to deceive the Chinese? The answer forces Chang to question everything he thought he knew about loyalty, morality, and the primacy of truth.

**JACKSON, DOUGLAS** HAMMER OF ROME (\$27.99) AD 80 Gaius Valerius Verrens is back where he belongs, at the head of a legion. But this is no ordinary legion. His command is the 'unlucky' Ninth, tainted by four decades of ill fortune and poor leadership. A unit regarded as expendable by Valerius's superior, Gnaeus Julius Agricola, governor of Britannia.

**JACKSON, KATE** GOLDEN AGE OF DETECTION PUZZLE BOOK (\$20.00) Polish off your magnifying glass and step into the shoes of your favourite detectives as you unlock tantalising clues and solve intricate puzzles. There are over 100 criminally teasing challenges to be scrutinised, including word searches, anagrams, snapshot covers, and crosswords - a favourite puzzle of crime fiction's golden age. Suitable for all levels, this is the ultimate test for fans of the British Library Crime Classics series.

**JACQUELINE FROST** TWELVE SLAYS OF CHRISTMAS (#1) (\$23.95) Filled with holiday charm and perfect for fans of Leslie Meier, this series debut is set at a Christmas tree farm when the jolliest time of the year turns deadly.

**JAMES, PETER** ABSOLUTE PROOF (\$25.99) What would it take to prove the existence of God? And what would be the consequences? This question and its answer lie at the heart of this novel. The false faith of a billionaire evangelist, the life's work of a famous atheist, and the credibility of each of the world's major religions are all under threat. If Ross Hunter can survive long enough to present the evidence.

**JAMES, PETER** DEAD IF YOU DONT (#14) (\$13.99) Shortly after Kipp Brown, a seemingly wealthy businessman, and his teenage son, Mungo, arrive at the Amex stadium for their team's biggest-ever football game, Mungo disappears. Assuming that Mungo has gone to the loo before kick-off, Kipp calmly takes his seat. But when there's an emergency security announcement telling everyone to evacuate the stadium, Kipp begins desperately searching for his son. In the panic that follows, Kipp receives a text with a ransom demand and a terrifying warning: *We have your son. If you wish to see him alive again you will not contact the police and you will follow our instructions very carefully.* But as a massive, covert manhunt for the boy and his kidnappers begins, Detective Superintendent Roy Grace realizes that nothing is what it seems.

**JECKS, MICHAEL** blackjack MURDER TOO SOON (#2) (\$26.99) June, 1554. Former cutpurse and now professional assassin Jack Blackjack has deep misgivings about his latest assignment. He has been despatched to the Palace of Woodstock, where Queen Mary's half-sister Princess Elizabeth is being kept under close guard. Jack's employer has reason to believe that a spy has been installed within the princess's household, and Jack has been ordered to kill her. Jack has no choice but to agree. But he arrives at Woodstock to discover that a murder has already been committed. As he sets out to prove his innocence by uncovering the real killer, Jack finds the palace to be a place steeped in misery and deceit; a hotbed of illicit love affairs, seething resentments, clashing egos and bitter jealousies. But who among Woodstock's residents is hiding a deadly secret—and will Jack survive long enough to find out?

**JONES, CAROL DEAN** quiltin SEA BOUND (#3) (\$22.50) When sixty-eight year old Sarah Miller moves into the Cunningham Village retirement community, she is mourning the loss of her husband, her young grandson, and the place that has been home for forty-two years. But Sarah is a survivor. As she reaches out into the retirement community that is to become home, she finds friends, activities, new hobbies, and a possible love interest. Sarah and her friends go on a quilting cruise, where they find a gambling debt gone bad, a missing passenger presumed dead, and a touch of romance.

**JOYCE, RACHEL** MUSIC SHOP (\$19.95) "... a love story and a journey through music."

**KEATON, DAVID** JAMES DIRTY BOULEVARD (\$22.50) A collection of crime stories inspired by the songs of Lou Reed. Includes stories by Reed Farrel Coleman, Alison Gaylin, Patrick Wensink.

**KEENER, JESSICA** STRANGERS IN BUDAPEST (\$23.95) Budapest: gorgeous city of secrets, with ties to a shadowy, bloody past. It is to this enigmatic European capital that a young American couple,

Annie and Will, move from Boston with their infant son shortly after the fall of the Communist regime. For Annie, it is an effort to escape the ghosts that haunt her past, and Will wants simply to seize the chance to build a new future for his family. Eight months after their move, their efforts to assimilate are thrown into turmoil when they receive a message from friends in the US asking that they check up on an elderly man, a fiercely independent Jewish American WWII veteran who helped free Hungarian Jews from a Nazi prison camp. They soon learn that the man, Edward Weiss, has come to Hungary to exact revenge on someone he is convinced seduced, married, and then murdered his daughter. Annie, unable to resist anyone's call for help, recklessly joins in the old man's plan to track down his former son-in-law and confront him, while Will, pragmatic and cautious by nature, insists they have nothing to do with Weiss and his vendetta. What Annie does not anticipate is that in helping Edward she will become enmeshed in a dark and deadly conflict that will end in tragedy and a stunning loss of innocence.

**KELLY, DIANE** paw LONG PAW OF THE LAW (#7) (\$10.50) One night, while on duty with her four-legged crime-fighting companion, Meg gets an urgent call from her boyfriend Seth, who works for the Fort Worth fire department. A baby girl has turned up at the station with only two clues to her identity: One is a peace-sign symbol stitched into her blanket. The other is a word, written in string: *help*. Megan follows every loose thread and, along with Brigit, ends up on a twisted path that leads to the People of Peace compound, the site of a religious sect on the outskirts of the city. Its leader, Father Emmanuel, keeps his followers on a short leash—and his enemies even closer. Could this be the abandoned baby's original home? And if so, why was she cast out? Now that Megan and Brigit are on the case, the secrets of this reclusive cult are bound to be dug up. . .

**KELLY, JIM** brooke GREAT DARKNESS (#1) (\$18.99) 1939, Cambridge. The opening weeks of the Second World War, and the first blackout - The Great Darkness - covers southern England, enveloping the city. Detective Inspector Eden Brooke, a wounded hero of the Great War, takes his nightly dip in the cool waters of the Cam. The night is full of alarms, but in this Phoney War, the enemy never comes. But daylight reveals a corpse on the riverside, the body torn apart by some unspeakable force. Brooke investigates, calling on the expertise and inspiration of a faithful group of fellow "nighthawks" across the city, all condemned, like him, to a life lived away from the light. Within hours The Great Darkness has claimed a second victim. War, it seems, has many victims. But what links these crimes of the night?

**KESSLER, KATE** ward DEAD RINGER (\$20.99) The Gemini Killer targets twins. He takes one. He leaves the other. But one of the survivors has grown up. Eighteen years ago, FBI Agent Rachel Ward's mirror twin was kidnapped. Now, she's coming after the monster who stole her sister, because another twin has been abducted, and Rachel won't let Gemini escape again.

**KNIGHT, ALANNA** mcquinn MURDER LIES WAITING (#9) (\$18.99) For Rose McQuinn the invitation to holiday at a luxury hotel on the isle of Bute is an unexpected delight until she discovers the real reason is to investigate a twenty-year-old non-proven murder case. With close links to a strange local family of ancient origin whose modern castle holds many dark secrets, Rose's involvement in this challenge unleashes a web of intrigue and sinister happenings as she realises too late when a drowned man is a murder victim, and someone decides she is close enough to the truth not to leave the island alive.

**LANGE, RICHARD** SMACK (\$20.99) Rowan Petty is a conman down on his luck. He's flat broke, living out of cheap hotels, and wondering how it all went wrong. His car quits on him in Reno, and he takes a job there on the bottom rung of a lousy phone scam. When he's not swindling lonely widows, he tries to turn nickels into dimes at the poker table. One snowy night, he crosses paths with a sweet-talking hooker who's tired of the streets, and sparks fly. When an old friend of his turns up spreading a rumor about two million dollars in army money smuggled out of Afghanistan and stashed in an apartment in Los Angeles, it seems like a chance at the score of a lifetime.

So Petty and the hooker head south, and straight into trouble. A wounded vet, a washed-up actor, and Petty's estranged daughter are all players in the dangerous game they find themselves caught up in. For the winner: a fortune. For the loser: a bullet to the head.

**LAWTON, JOHN troy** FRIENDS AND TRAITORS (#8) (\$23.95) London, 1958. Chief Superintendent Frederick Troy of Scotland Yard—newly promoted after good service during Nikita Khrushchev's visit to Britain—is not looking forward to a European trip with his older brother, Rod. Rod has decided to take his entire family on "the Grand Tour" for his fifty-first birthday: a whirlwind of restaurants, galleries, and concert halls from Paris to Florence to Vienna to Amsterdam. But in Vienna, Frederick Troy crosses paths with an old acquaintance: British-spy-turned-Soviet-agent Guy Burgess, who makes an extraordinary confession: "I want to come home." Troy knows this news will cause a ruckus in London, but he doesn't expect that an MI5 man will be gunned down as a result—and Troy himself suspected of the crime. As he fights to prove his innocence, Troy finds that Burgess is not the only ghost who has returned to haunt him. Excellent.

**LEON, DONNA** WILLFUL BEHAVIOR (#11) (\$23.95) Brunetti is approached for a favor by one of his wife's students. Intelligent and serious, Claudia Leonardo asks for his help in obtaining a pardon for a crime once committed by her now-dead grandfather. Brunetti thinks little of it—until Claudia is found dead. Soon, another corpse and an extraordinary art collection lead Brunetti to long-buried secrets of Nazi collaboration and the exploitation of Italian Jews—secrets few in Italy want revealed. Published 2002.

**LLOYD, CATHERINE** DEATH COMES TO THE SCHOOL (#5) (\$17.95) Three years have passed since Major Sir Robert Kurland and Lucy Harrington, the rector's daughter, became husband and wife. Having established a measure of contentment among the local gentry, the couple lately have found an unsettling distance grown between them. But when the small-village peace is disrupted by an anonymous letter accusing Lucy of witchcraft, her as yet unfulfilled desire to be a mother becomes the least of her worries, especially after she learns she is not the only one to have received such a malicious letter. Speculation only escalates when the village schoolteacher, Miss Broomfield, is discovered murdered at her classroom desk. Was the unlikeable teacher the letter writer, and if so, who killed her and why? Despite her husband's objections, Lucy offers to help out at the school until a replacement can be found, hoping the children might inadvertently reveal a clue, but by doing so she may be putting her own life at risk . . .

**LOVESEY, PETER diamond** BEAU DEATH (#17) (\$20.95) Bath, England: A wrecking crew is demolishing a row of townhouses in order to build a grocery store when they uncover a skeleton in one of the attics. The dead man is wearing authentic 1760s garb and, on the floor, next to it is a white tricorne hat—the ostentatious signature accessory of Beau Nash, one of Bath's most famous historical men-about-town, a fashion icon and incurable rake who, some say, ended up in a pauper's grave. Or did the Beau actually end up in a townhouse attic? The Beau Nash Society will be all in a tizzy when the truth is revealed to them. Superintendent Peter Diamond, who has been assigned to identify the remains, starts making discoveries that turn Nash scholarship on its ear. But one of his constables is stubbornly insisting the corpse can't be Nash's—the non-believer threatens to spoil Diamond's favorite theory, especially when he offers some pretty irrefutable evidence. Is Diamond on a historical goose chase? Should he actually be investigating a much more modern murder?

**MACGOWN/MCGOWN, JILL lloyd** MURDER AT THE OLD VICARAGE (#2) aka redemption (\$19.99) Deepening snow has isolated the village of Byford from the outside world, but as the locals settle down for the festive period, the peace is suddenly destroyed with news of a violent crime at the vicarage. The victim is the vicar's son-in-law, but few are saddened by his death. And although Chief Inspector Lloyd is expecting an open-and-shut case, he is soon confronted with more than he bargained for. Struggling to keep control of his personal relationship with Sergeant Judy Hill, Lloyd must work

his way through a tangle of suspects, each doing their part to disrupt the investigation in this perplexing mystery.

**MARGOLIN, PHILLIP** THIRD VICTIM (\$12.99) A woman stumbles onto a dark road in rural Oregon—tortured, battered, and bound. She tells a horrific story about being kidnapped, then tortured, until she finally managed to escape. She was the lucky one—two other women, with similar burns and bruises, were found dead. The surviving victim identifies the house where she was held captive and the owner, Alex Mason—a prominent local attorney—is arrested. Although he loudly insists upon his innocence, his wife's statements about his sexual sadism and the physical evidence found at the scene, his summer home, is damning. Regina Barrister and Robin Lockwood defend Alex.

**MARSTON, EDWARD** home front UNDER ATTACK (#7) (\$18.99) June, 1917. While German Gotha bombers raid London from above, a man's body is fished from the Thames below. The man had been garrotted and his tongue cut out before he was left to his watery grave, and as the killer has taken care to remove identifying items and even labels, Detective Inspector Marmion and Sergeant Keedy struggle to name the victim before they can begin properly with their investigation. As family and business associates are found, the list of suspects grows ever longer, and as Marmion wrangles with the case, he and his family must also contend with their anxieties for his now-missing son Paul. The interminable presence of war and, closer to home, pitched battles in the East End between rival adolescent gangs, suggest the Home Front is more insecure than ever before. With great care, Marmion must pick his way along a twisting path that will lead him towards the killer.

**MEIER, LESLIE** lucy stone TURKEY TROT MURDER (#24) (\$8.99) Besides the annual Turkey Trot 5K on Thanksgiving Day, Lucy expects the approaching holiday to be a relatively uneventful one—until she finds beautiful Alison Franklin dead and frozen in Blueberry Pond. No one knows much about Alison, except that she was the daughter of wealthy investor Ed Franklin and struggled quietly with drug addiction. Police blame her death on an accidental overdose, but Lucy can't understand what terrible forces could lead a privileged woman to watery ruin . . .

**MEULEMAN, SARAH** FIND ME GONE (\$19.99) 1996. In the sleepy hamlet of *Bachte-Maria-Lerne*, in the Belgian countryside, the residents are reeling from the disappearance of several young girls. The country is thrown into a state of emergency and even after the killer is apprehended, not all the girls missing are found alive, causing further alarm and political protests in the form of White Marches. Two decades later, Hannah, is living in New York and writing a biography of three famous authors: Agatha Christie, Barbara Follett, and Virginia Woolf—three women who struggled with family, loyalty, and ambition. . . three women who one day disappeared without a trace. And that reminds her: what really happened to her friend Sophie who failed to return home after a high school dance—and is never seen again. How does a person just go missing, never to be heard from again?

**MURPHY, PETER** JUDGE WALDEN: BACK IN SESSION (\$19.95) Resident judge Charlie Walden is back, to preside over five new cases from the Bermondsey Crown Court. The author, a retired resident judge, takes us back to the world of criminal trials in South London, with Charlie keeping the peace between his fellow judges—Marjorie, "Legless" and Hubert—while fighting off attacks of the Grey Smoothies, the civil servants who seem intent on reducing the court's dwindling resources to vanishing point in the name of "business cases" and "value for money." Fortunately, he has Jeanie and Elsie's lattes and ham and cheese baps, and newspaper vendor George's witty banter, to sustain him in the mornings; and in the evenings, the Delights of the Raj, or La Bella Napoli, to enjoy with the Reverend Mrs. Walden.

**PALMER, STUART** withers PUZZLE OF THE HAPPY HOOLIGAN (#8) (\$21.95) After plans for a grand tour of Europe are interrupted by Germany's invasion of Poland, Hildegard Withers heads to sunny Los Angeles instead, where her vacation finds her working as a technical advisor on the set of a film adaptation of the Lizzie

Borden story. The producer has plans for an epic retelling of the historical killer's patricidal spree—plans which are derailed when a screenwriter turns up dead. While the local authorities quickly deem his death accidental, Withers suspects otherwise and calls up a detective back home for advice. The two soon team up to catch a wily killer. Published in 1941.

**PARETSKY, SARA warshawski** SHELL GAME (#18) (\$23.99 trade paper, \$34.99 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

**PENZLER, OTTO** ed BIG BOOK OF FEMALE DETECTIVES (\$34.00) For the first time ever, Otto Penzler gathers the most iconic women of the detective canon over the past 150 years, captivating and surprising readers in equal measure. The 74 handpicked stories in this collection introduce us to the most determined of gumshoe gals, from debutant detectives like Anna Katharine Green's Violet Strange to spinster sleuths like Mary Roberts Rinehart's Hilda Adams, from groundbreaking female cops like Baroness Orczy's Lady Molly to contemporary crime-fighting P.I.s like Sue Grafton's Kinsey Millhone, and include indelible tales from Agatha Christie, Carolyn Wells, Edgar Wallace, L. T. Meade and Robert Eustace, Sara Paretsky, Nevada Barr, Linda Barnes, Laura Lippman, and many more.

**PETRIE, NICHOLAS ash** LIGHT IT UP (#3) (\$12.99) Combat veteran Peter Ash leaves a simple life rebuilding hiking trails in Oregon to help his good friend Henry Nygaard, whose daughter runs a Denver security company that protects cash-rich cannabis entrepreneurs from modern-day highwaymen. Henry's son-in-law and the company's operations manager were carrying a large sum of client money when their vehicle vanished without a trace, leaving Henry's daughter and her company vulnerable. When Peter is riding shotgun on another cash run, the cargo he's guarding comes under attack and he narrowly escapes with his life. As the assaults escalate, Peter has to wonder: for criminals this sophisticated, is it really just about the cash? After finding himself on the defensive for too long, Peter marshals his resources and begins to dig for the truth in a scheme that is bigger—and far more lucrative—than he'd ever anticipated. With so much on the line, his enemy will not give up quietly...and now he has Peter directly in his sights.

**QUARTEY, KWEI darko** GOLD OF OUR FATHERS (#4) (\$19.95) Darko Dawson has just been promoted to Chief Inspector in the Ghana Police Service—the promotion even comes with a (rather modest) salary bump. But he doesn't have long to celebrate because his new boss is transferring him from Accra, Ghana's capital, out to remote Obuasi in the Ashanti region, an area now notorious for the illegal exploitation of its gold mines. When Dawson arrives at the Obuasi headquarters, he finds it in complete disarray. The office is a mess of uncatalogued evidence and cold case files, morale is low, and discipline among officers is lax. On only his second day on the job, the body of a Chinese mine owner is unearthed in his own gold quarry. As Dawson investigates the case, he quickly learns how dangerous it is to pursue justice in this kingdom of illegal gold mines, where the worst offenders have so much money they have no fear of the law.

**QUARTEY, KWEI darko** DEATH BY HIS GRACE (#5) (\$19.95) Katherine Yeboah's marriage to Solomon Vanderpuye is all the talk of Accra (Ghana) high society. But when it becomes apparent that Katherine is infertile, Solomon's extended family accuses her of being a witch, hounding her until the relationship is so soured Solomon feels compelled to order Katherine out of the house they shared. Alone on her last night there, Katherine is brutally murdered by an intruder. Chief Inspector Darko Dawson of the Ghanaian federal police has personal as well as professional reasons to find the killer fast: Katherine was the first cousin of his wife, Christine, who is devastated by the tragedy. As Darko investigates, he discovers that many people close to Katherine had powerful motives to kill her, including: Solomon, her husband; James Bentsi-Enchill, her lawyer and ex-lover; and her filthy rich pastor, Bishop Clem Howard-Mills. In order to expose the truth, Darko must confront the pivotal role religion plays in Ghana—and wrestle with his old demons the investigation stirs up.

**QUEEN, ELLERY CHINESE ORANGE MYSTERY** (\$21.95) The offices of foreign literature publisher and renowned stamp collector Donald Kirk are often host to strange activities, but the most recent occurrence—the murder of an unknown caller, found dead in an empty waiting room—is unlike any that has come before. Nobody, it seems, entered or exited the room, and yet the crime scene clearly has been manipulated, leaving everything in the room turned backwards and upside down. Stuck through the back of the corpse's shirt are two long spears—and a tangerine is missing from the fruit bowl. Enter amateur sleuth Ellery Queen, who arrives just in time to witness the discovery of the body, only to be immediately drawn into a complex case in which no clue is too minor or too glaring to warrant careful consideration. Reprinted for the first time in over thirty years,

**RADEMACHER, CAY provence** MURDEROUS MISTRAL (#1) (\$22.50) Capitaine Roger Blanc, an investigator with the anti-corruption-unit of the French Gendarmerie, was a bit too successful in his investigations. He finds himself removed from Paris to the south of France, far away from political power. Or so it would seem. The stress is too much for his marriage, and he attempts to manage the break up while trying to settle into his new life in Provence in a 200-year-old, half-ruined house. At the same time, Blanc is tasked with his first murder case: A man with no friends and a lot of enemies, an outsider, was found shot and burned. When a second man dies under suspicious circumstances in the quaint French countryside, the Capitaine from Paris has to dig deep into the hidden, dark undersides of the Provence he never expected to see.

**RADEMACHER, CAY stave** FORGER (#3) (\$21.95) Shot down during a routine operation, inspector Frank Stave had moved from the murder commission to combatting the black market that runs rife in post-war Hamburg. There, Stave is confronted with an enigmatic case: in the ruins of the bomb torn city, some women have found works of art from the Weimar period—right next to a corpse whose identity the murder commission seem desperate to conceal. Shortly afterwards, Lieutenant MacDonald is confronted with another problem: mysterious banknotes are popping up on the black market, banknotes whose existence disturbs the secret plans of the Allies. The inspector soon discovers strange parallels between the two cases. An excellent trilogy. Start with Murderer in Ruins (#1) (\$25).

**RAWSON, CLAYTON merlini** DEATH FROM A TOP HAT (#1) (\$21.95) Now retired from the tour circuit on which he made his name, master magician The Great Merlini spends his days running a magic shop in New York's Times Square and his nights moonlighting as a consultant for the NYPD. The cops call him when faced with crimes so impossible that they can only be comprehended by a magician's mind. In the most recent case, two occultists are discovered dead in locked rooms, one spread out on a pentagram, both appearing to have been murdered under similar circumstances. The list of suspects includes an escape artist, a professional medium, and a ventriloquist, so it's clear that the crimes took place in a realm that Merlini knows well. But in the end, it will take his logical skills, and not his magical ones, to apprehend the killer. Reprinted for the first time in over twenty years.

**RICE, CRAIG** HOME SWEET HOMICIDE (\$21.95) Unoccupied and unsupervised while mother is working, the children of widowed crime writer Marion Carstairs find diversion wherever they can. So, when the kids hear gunshots at the house next door, they jump at the chance to launch their own amateur investigation—and after all, why shouldn't they? They know everything the cops do about crime scenes, having read about them in mother's novels. They know what her literary detectives would do in such a situation, how they would interpret the clues and handle witnesses. Plus, if the children solve the puzzle before the cops, it will do wonders for the sales of mother's novels. But this crime scene isn't a game at all; the murder is real, and when its details prove more twisted than anything in mother's fiction, they'll have to enlist Marion's help to sort them out. Or is that just part of their plan to hook her up with the lead detective on the case?

**RIPLEY, MIKE champion** MR CAMPION'S ABDICATION (\$26.00) Margery Allingham's Mr. Campion finds himself masquerading as technical advisor to a very suspicious but glamorous Italian

film producer and her crew hunting for buried treasure that never was in the Suffolk village of Heronhoe near Pontisbright which used to host trysts between Edward VIII and Mrs Wallis Simpson.

**ROBINSON, MAGGIE lady adelaide** NOBODY'S SWEET-HEART NOW (#1) (\$24.00) Lady Adelaide Compton has recently (and satisfactorily) interred her husband, Major Rupert Charles Cressleigh Compton, hero of the Somme, in the family vault in the village churchyard. Rupert, you see, died by smashing his Hispano-Suiza on a Cotswold country road while carrying a French mademoiselle in the passenger seat! With the house now Addie's, needed improvements in hand, and a weekend house party underway, how inconvenient of Rupert to turn up! Not in the flesh, but in—actually, as a—spirit. Before Addie can convince herself she's not completely lost her mind, a murder disrupts her careful seating arrangement. Which of her twelve houseguests is a killer? Her mother, the formidable Dowager Marchioness of Broughton? Her sister Cecilia, the born-again vegetarian? Her childhood friend and potential lover, Lord Lucas Waring? Rupert has a solid alibi as a ghost and an urge to detect. Enter Inspector Devanand Hunter from the Yard, an Anglo-Indian who is not going to let some barmy society beauty witnessed talking to herself derail his investigation. Something very peculiar is afoot at Compton Court and he's going to get to the bottom of it—or go as mad as its mistress trying.

**ROBINSON, PETER banks** SLEEPING IN THE GROUND (#24) (\$21.00) Detective Superintendent Alan Banks is called in to lead the investigation after a shocking mass murder occurs during a wedding outside a small church in the Yorkshire Dales. An exhaustive man-hunt ensues, and the shooter is run to ground as the investigation follows its inevitable course. But Banks, his colleague DI Annie Cabbot, and the newest and youngest team member, DC Gerry Masterson, are plagued by doubts as to exactly what happened in the churchyard that day, and why. Have they apprehended the right suspect? Is there more to uncover? Struggling with the death of an old flame and the return of profiler Jenny Fuller, a former love interest, Banks is compelled to dig deeper into the suspect's past and motivations, and as he does, he uncovers forensic and psychological puzzles that lead him to long forgotten secrets. It's possible that eventually they'll provide the answers he is looking for, but will he piece together the clues in time?

**ROSLUND-HELLSTROM grens** PEN 33 (#1) (\$20.49) Bernt Lund harbors a sickness. He is a monster, an unrepentant child molester and serial killer. In the mind of society, in the minds of his nine-year-old victims' parents, and in the minds of his fellow inmates, he is a waking nightmare. And now he has escaped from custody—the worst scenario imaginable for Aspsås Prison's Department for Sexual Crimes. Detective Superintendent Ewert Grens is about to encounter the most profoundly appalling case in his career, and perhaps in Stockholm's history. During the course of one long, hot summer, Sweden will face an explosive series of events that spread across the country like wildfire, events that call into question the very nature of humanity, duty, forgiveness, and self-defense. And justice.

**SANDFORD, JOHN ed** BEST AMERICAN MYSTERY STORIES 2017 (\$22.50) “Some people might tell you that crime short stories, unlike the more precious kind, are a kind of fictional ghetto, full of cardboard characters and clichéd situations. Not true. These stories are remarkably free of bullshit—al-though there's always a little, just to grease the wheels,” writes guest editor John Sandford in his introduction. From an isolated Wyoming ranch to the Detroit boxing underworld, and from kidnapping and adultery in the Hollywood Hills to a serial killer loose in a nursing home...

**SCRAGG, ROBERT porter** WHAT FALLS BETWEEN THE CRACKS (#1) (\$18.99) When a severed hand is found in an abandoned flat, Detective Jake Porter and his partner Nick Styles are able to DNA match the limb to the owner, Natasha Barclay, who has not been seen in decades. But why has no one been looking for her? It seems that Natasha's family are the people who can least be trusted. Delving into the details behind her disappearance and discovering links to another investigation, a tragic family history begins to take on a darker twist. Hampered by a widespread fear of a local heavy, as well as internal politics and possible corruption within the force, Por-

ter and Styles are digging for answers, but will what they find ever see the light of day?

**SETTERFIELD, DIANE** THIRTEENTH TALE (\$19.95) Biographer Margaret Lea returns one night to her apartment above her father's antiquarian bookshop. On her steps she finds a letter. It is a hand-written request from one of Britain's most prolific and well-loved novelists. Vida Winter, gravely ill, wants to recount her life story before it is too late, and she wants Margaret to be the one to capture her history. The request takes Margaret by surprise—she doesn't know the author, nor has she read any of Miss Winter's dozens of novels. Intrigued, Margaret begins to read her father's rare copy of Miss Winter's Thirteen Tales of Change and Desperation. She is spellbound by the stories and confused when she realizes the book only contains twelve stories. Where is the thirteenth tale? First published 2006.

**SIMENON, GEORGES** A MAIGRET CHRISTMAS and other stories (\$17.50) In this holiday-themed collection of nine short stories, Inspector Maigret must solve a series of little mysteries—just in time for Christmas morning.

**SIMENON, GEORGES** MAIGRET AND THE RELUCTANT WITNESSES (\$17.50) Maigret is called to the home of the high-profile Lachaume family where the eldest brother has been found shot dead. But on his arrival, the family closes rank and claims to have heard and seen nothing at the time of the murder. Maigret must pick his way through the family's web of lies, secrets, and deceit, as well as handle Angelot, a troublesome new breed of magistrate who has waded into the case. And it's the estranged black sheep of the family, Veronique, who may hold the key to it all with her knowledge of the depths to which the family will sink to protect their reputation.

**SIMPSON, ROSEMARY** gilded LIES THAT COMFORT AND BETRAY (#2) (\$17.95) Heiress Prudence MacKenzie is a valuable partner to attorney Geoffrey Hunter, despite the fact that women are not admitted to the bar in nineteenth-century New York. Nora Kenny works in Prudence's Fifth Avenue house, just as her mother once served Prudence's mother. As children, they played freely together, before retreating into their respective social classes. Still, they remain fond of each other. So, when Nora's body is discovered in a local park, Prudence is devastated. As other poor, vulnerable young women fall victim, the police are confounded. Has the Ripper crossed the Atlantic to find a new hunting ground? Is someone copying his crimes? A former Pinkerton agent, Geoffrey intends to step in, and Prudence is equally determined. But a killer with a disordered mind and an incomprehensible motive may prove too elusive for even this experienced pair to outwit.

**STANSFIELD, KATHERINE** MAGPIE TREE (#2) (\$18.99) Jamaica Inn, 1844: the talk is of witches. A boy has vanished in the woods of Trethvy on the North Cornish coast, and a reward is offered for his return. Shilly has had enough of such dark doings, but her new companion, the woman who calls herself Anna Drake, insists they investigate. Anna wants to open a detective agency, and the reward would fund it. They soon learn of a mysterious pair of strangers who have likely taken the boy, and of Saint Nectan who, legend has it, kept safe the people of the woods. As Shilly and Anna seek the missing child, the case takes another turn - murder. Something is stirring in the woods and old sins have come home to roost.

**STEN, VIVECA sandhamn** IN HARMS WAY (#6) (\$21.95) The body of world-famous journalist Jeanette Thiels is discovered the day after Christmas, frozen in a snow-covered garden just steps from her hotel on Sandhamn Island. Detective Thomas Andreasson finds it highly unlikely that it was some bizarre accident. After all, the relentless war-zone correspondent was no stranger to conflict and controversy—both professional and, of late, very personal. Who would want to see her dead is another story. Enlisting the help of attorney Nora Linde, his longtime friend on holiday, Thomas is anxious for the answers. But he and Nora don't have to look far. The clues are leading them closer to home than they imagined.

**STEN, VIVECA sandhamn** IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT (#5) (\$21.95) It's Midsummer's Eve, the celebration of the longest day of the year, and on Sandhamn it's the longest party of the year.

But the fun comes to a dead halt when a young reveler is murdered, a teenage girl is found drugged and dazed on the beach, and other young women vanish. So far, what links the victims is a mystery. For Nora Linde and her new boyfriend, Jonas Sköld, the crimes are personal: one of the missing girls is Wilma, Jonas's daughter. And her disappearance could test Nora and Jonas's relationship in ways they never expected. Thrust into the investigation, they soon discover that it's more than a case of bad blood between friends. But the truth, which has receded into a haze of carousing, drugs, and liquor, is getting harder to see. If Nora and Jonas are going to find out what happened to Wilma, they'd better do it fast—before the ebbing tides sweep away all the terrible secrets of that night on Sandhamn Island.

**TEMPLETON, ALINE** fleming HUMAN FACE (#10) (\$18.99) Beatrice Lacey is passionate about Human Face, the charity for Third World children she helped to found, and its co-founder Adam Carnegie. She has learned to turn a blind eye to some strange goings on, however; parties for donors who don't seem the philanthropic type and a merry-go-round of "housekeepers". It's best not to think about that. But when the latest housekeeper, Eva, suddenly disappears, the police and DI Kelso Strang are called in. Keen to move on from recent personal horrors, Strang revels in the responsibility the investigation affords, as a former sniper, he has no problems with making solitary decisions. But when he and the team make some fatal errors, Strang has his work cut out to avoid the case ending in disaster and death.

**THOMAS, WILL** barker OLD SCORES (#9) (\$22.50) In 1890, the first Japanese diplomatic delegation arrives in London to open an embassy. Cyrus Barker, private enquiry agent and occasional agent for the Foreign Service Office, is enlisted to display his personal Japanese garden to the visiting dignitaries. Later that night, Ambassador Toda is shot and killed in his office and Cyrus Barker is discovered across the street, watching the very same office, in possession of a revolver with one spent cartridge. Arrested by the Special Branch for the crime, Barker is vigorously interrogated and finally released due to the intervention of his assistant, Thomas Llewelyn, and his solicitor. With the London constabulary still convinced of his guilt, Barker is hired by the new Japanese ambassador to find the real murderer.

**THOMSON, LESLEY** stella DEATH CHAMBER (#6) (\$27.95) Queen's Jubilee, 1977: Cassie Baker sees her boyfriend kissing another girl at the village disco. Upset, she heads home alone and is never seen again. Millennium Eve, 1999: DCI Paul Mercer finds Cassie's remains in a field. Now he must prove the man who led him there is guilty. When Mercer's daughter asks Stella Darnell for help solving the murder, Stella see echoes of herself. Another detective's daughter. With her sidekick sleuth, Jack, Stella moves to Winchcombe, where DCI Mercer and his prime suspect have been playing cat and mouse for the past eighteen years.

**TOGAWA, MASAKO** LADY KILLER (\$18.95) The Lady Killer leads a double life in the shadow world of Tokyo's singles bars and nightclubs. By day a devoted husband and hard worker, by night he cruises nightclubs cafes and cinemas in search of lonely single women to seduce. But now the hunter is being hunted, and in his wake lies a trail of gruesome murders. Who is the culprit? The answer lies tangled in a web of clues, and to find it he must accept that nothing is what it seems. This is a moody, brilliantly plotted mystery from the writer dubbed 'the P.D. James of Japan'. Published 1985.

**TRUSS, LYNNE** twitten SHOT IN THE DARK (#1) (\$23.00) It's 1957, and the famed theater critic A. S. Crystal has come to the British seaside resort of Brighton with something other than the local production of *A Shilling in the Meter* on his mind. Sitting in the Brighton Royal Theater with Constable Twitten, Crystal intends to tell the detective the secret he knows about the still-unsolved Aldersgate Stick-Up case of 1945. And yet, just before Crystal names the criminal mastermind involved, he's shot dead in his seat. With a new murder case on his hands and a lazy captain at the helm of the police department, the keen and clever Constable Twitten and his colleague Sargent Jim Brunswick set out to solve the decade-old mystery of the Aldersgate Stick-Up.

**TURSTEN, HELENE** PROTECTED BY THE SHADOWS (#10) (\$19.95) The gang warfare that has been brewing in Göteborg is about to explode. A member of a notorious biker gang has been set on fire—alive. Even in a culture where ritual killings are common, this brutal assault attracts the attention of both Irene's unit and the Organized Crimes Unit. Anticipating a counterattack, the two units team up to patrol the lavish party of a rival gang, but that doesn't stop another murder from occurring just outside the event hall. And that's not the only thing going up in flames. Someone has planted a bomb under Irene's husband's car. Fearing for her family's safety, Irene sends her husband and daughters into hiding and takes up residence at a colleague's apartment. Still, she can't shake the feeling that she is being stalked. Somehow, the gangs are always one step ahead of the police. Someone is leaking information. But who? Irene's life depends on discovering the answer. The final installment of the Irene Huss investigations.

**VAN DER VLUGT, SIMONE** MIDNIGHT BLUE (\$16.99) Amsterdam 1654: a dangerous secret threatens to destroy a young widow's new life.

**WAIT, LEA** needlepoint THREAD HERRINGS (#7) (\$8.99) Tagging along to an estate sale with her fellow Needlepointer, antiques shop owner Sarah Byrne, Angie Curtis impulsively bids on a tattered embroidery of a coat of arms. When she gets her prize back home to Haven Harbor, she discovers a document from 1757 behind the framed needlework—a claim for a child from a foundling hospital. Intrigued, Angie is determined to find the common thread between the child and the coat of arms. Accepting her reporter friend Clem Walker's invitation to talk about her find on the local TV news, Angie makes an appeal to anyone who might have information. Instead, both women receive death threats. When Clem is found shot to death in a parking lot, Angie fears her own life may be in jeopardy. She has to unravel this historical mystery—or she may be the next one going, going...gone...

**WALLACE, AURALEE** otter lake HAUNTED HAYRIDE WITH MURDER (#6) (\$10.50) Erica Bloom is loving everything about autumn this year in Otter Lake, New Hampshire: changing leaves, apple cider, cozy sweaters...and the warm and fuzzy relationship that's heating up between her and Sheriff Grady Forrester. But when some local teens out to find some Halloween thrills come across a boot with a dead man's foot bones still inside it, a chilling new reality comes into play. Everyone in Otter Lake knows about the age-old witch who haunts the apple orchard bordering the White Mountains. So when the bones turn out to belong to a long-gone local with a scandalous connection to the orchard, stories of the spooky figure roaming the forests at night once again rise up from the past. Now it's up to Erica and the rest of the Otter Lake Security team to expose the identity of the killer. Will they be able to lay this ghost to rest...or will this witch hunt be their last?

**WASSMER, JULIE** whitstable MURDER ON SEA (#2) (\$15.99) The festive month is kicking off in style and Pearl is rushed off her feet with her restaurant, The Whitstable Pearl. She's also busy planning her own family Christmas and providing mulled wine for a charity church fundraiser when Christmas cards begin arriving all over town—filled with spiteful messages from an anonymous writer. Pearl's curiosity is piqued but having pledged not to take on a case at her detective agency before Christmas, she reluctantly agrees that Canterbury's DCI Mike McGuire should take over; poisoned pen cards are after all a matter for the police. The last thing Pearl expects for Christmas is murder but soon the bodies are piling up. Can Pearl possibly solve the mystery in time to make 25th December an unforgettable day—or will the murderer contrive to ensure her goose is well and truly cooked before then?

**WENTWORTH, PATRICIA** silver CHINESE SHAWL (#5) (\$23.99) An early Maud Silver novel. Published 1943.

**WISHART, DAVID** marcus GOING BACK (#20) (\$25.00) When the ex-praetor husband of a friend of Claudius's mother-in-law is found murdered on his estate near Carthage the emperor gives Corvinus the job of working out whodunnit.