



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

October 2018

Read a couple of interesting—and I'll use “interesting” advisedly—articles in the *Star* and *Globe* recently, and I thought I'd share them with you. Ever thought you wanted to be a writer? According to the article in the *Star*, Canadian writers are making less money than ever—with incomes from writing dropping 78 per cent from 1998, according to a report released by the Writers' Union of Canada. The numbers, accounting for inflation, have been undergoing a steady drop. According to the report, writers made \$9,380 in 2017, down from \$12,879 in 2014—a 27 per cent drop in just three years. The median income in Canada overall is \$34,204. says the report.

Similar findings were released in the U.K. by the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS) in June, which found that earnings for writers in that region fell from 12,300 pounds in 2005 to 10,500 pounds in 2017.

Far more amusing—and, again, I use that advisedly—was the *Globe* article that detailed the trials and tribulations of Ms. Baker, a Goderich resident, who decided she wanted a patio added to the back of her house and got instead “a legal quagmire, an archeological puzzle, tens of thousands of dollars in bills and a hole in the ground.”

In early March 2017 she received an e-mail from her contractor that he'd found a part of a human skull in her backyard and had, as he was required to, called the OPP. Once she had been eliminated as suspect—the skull was likely from the 1880—she thought the story might “die there.” But, oh no. The “extremely fussy Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act (2002)” got involved and eighteen months later the story is still not over. Out of pocket some \$70,000, she then had to pay to have the fragment buried! At a cost of about \$2,500! Her neighbours are a little jittery. “No one in Goderich will ever pick up a bone again,” she said. “Much less build a patio.”

Okay, all that tomfoolery aside...

Some upcoming signings that had been mentioned in the September newsletter, and an addition:

BARBARA FRADKIN is here Saturday **November 3rd** 2018, from 2.30 to 4.00pm with her third Amanda Doucette mystery, *Prisoners of Hope* (\$19.99). Amanda finds herself drawn into the world of exploited foreign workers when she rescues a Filipino

The Merchant of Menace,

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Postage & Handling

In a word: Actual

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 and we just might let you in.

nanny accused of murdering her wealthy employer. This time her story is set around Georgian Bay.

PETER ROBINSON will swing by Thursday **November 15th, from 6-8 pm**. His newest Inspector Banks mystery is titled Careless Love (\$29.95). Banks and his team find themselves investigating two suspicious deaths: A young, local student who has apparently committed suicide, her body found in an abandoned car on a lonely country road, and a man in his sixties who is found dead in a gully up on the wild moorland.

VICKI DELANY is the author of many, many books but this time around she will be signing copies of her latest in her Sherlock Holmes Bookstore Mystery series, A Scandal in Scarlett (#4) (\$40.50). We will also have on hand trade paperback copies of the first three in the series, Cat of the Baskervilles (\$23.95) being the latest. If there are other titles that you are missing by **Ms. Delany** let us know and we'll make sure we have them for you. She will be at the bookstore on Saturday **November 24th, from 2-4 pm**.

The addition is **A G PASQUELLA** who will be here that afternoon as well, the **24th**, and he'll be launching his debut novel, Yard Dog (\$19.99). What does a man do when he gets out of jail? Jack Palace hits the streets, plunging back into a violent world of crime and corruption. Jack wants out, but first he must repay his debt to Tommy, the man who saved his life in prison. Tommy's dad, an old school mob boss, is on his deathbed, and Tommy wants to take over the old man's rackets. Jack and his new girlfriend, Suzanne, are soon caught in the middle of a mob war. Now Jack must fight to defend the people he loves from the man he has sworn to protect while he tries to get out of the criminal life alive.

JD's Picks

BRAD SMITH's second Carl Burns novel, Hearts of Stone (#2) (\$26.99) has been around for a year or so but I only got to it recently. He is an author that I enjoy a great deal and it was only a matter of time before I got to it. As it had been a while since I read the first in the series, Rough Justice (#1) (\$26), I decided to re-read it before going on to Hearts. What great fun these two novels are! Read them in the correct order for maximum reading pleasure. Hearts is a little darker than Rough but you'll love them both. The stories are about Carl Burns, home after ten years in prison, his estranged daughter Kate and his former sister-in-law, Frances. You'll enjoy meeting the three of them.

You might remember that Brad is the author of the three Virgil Cain novels and Red Means Run (#1) (\$16.99), the series debut, is still a favourite.

Not sure why Random Road (\$23.95) by **THOMAS KIES** ended up being reserved for me, but it had been sitting on my TBR pile since it was published about five months ago. My TBR pile only seems to get taller, so not sure how this one surfaced—maybe the pile toppled over—but, there it was, begging to be picked up. So, I did. And, once started I didn't feel the need to stop. Geneva Chase is our intrepid heroine. Genie, veteran reporter whose career may be dying alongside that of her small-town newspaper. Genie, battling alcoholism and bad choices, who has squandered every other major news job she's had. Genie, now working at her hometown newspaper, at the end of the line; there is nowhere else to go.

She gets what could be a big break when she scoops every other news outlet to a shocking crime scene. Six bodies, all nude, hacked to pieces in a very exclusive enclave on Long Island Sound, Connecticut's Gold Coast. Where is the protection afforded by the gated community and the expensive security? Ink still flows thick in her veins and she's not letting this story get away from her.

A Nancy Drew for slightly older readers, but good fun nonetheless. The writing is smooth and the plot not too convoluted. *Library Journal* gave it a starred review and recommends it to fans of the Carter Ross novels by Brad Parks. And, I gather, there will be further adventures.

I was out with the divine Ms. Pixie for our early morning constitutional and ran across Carolyn, a friend and customer, also out with her puppy, and in the conversation, she mentioned that she has just read the new Frank Elder novel by **JOHN HARVEY**, Body

and Soul (#4) (\$34.95 hardcover, \$25 trade paperback). Frank, previously known as Detective Inspector Elder, has left the force ahead of being disciplined for insubordination, is now living a quiet life near the end of the world, Land's End. Estranged from his daughter, he is surprised that she is coming to visit for a few days. Something is wrong, and you don't have to be an ex-detective to figure that out. Katherine has long been troubled, and Elder has always felt powerless to help her. Now, she has begun to self-destruct. The breakdown of her affair with a controversial artist has sent her into a tailspin and she seems to be self-harming. When the artist is murdered both Katherine and Frank are suspects. Loved it. And, Carolyn, never saw the twist at the end coming either!

This is an excellent series. Start at the beginning, Flesh and Blood (#1) (\$19.95) and carry on from there.

You might remember that Harvey is the author of the excellent twelve-novel long series featuring Charlie Resnick, the lonely, jazz-loving Nottingham policeman. (Lonely Hearts (#1) (\$25) is on order from the UK, and should be back in stock soon. Highly recommended.) And, sadly, I read that this will be the 79-year-old author's last book. How sad.

Marian's Picks

Where does the time go? One minute I'm stuffing the envelopes to mail out the September newsletter and the next moment it's October 21, and this issue is still no where ready. Hopefully, if there are no great golf tournaments (*oh, yes, there is, Brooks Koepka gets to tee off as the newest #1, in Shanghai*) on the telly or friends who want to play golf in this chilly weather (*at least two more weeks of golf left yet*) we are having, JD will put the finishing touches on it and it will be out to you with the push of a button (or many buttons!).

I'm not totally keen on the cold weather but Ms. Pixie is. She loves the cooler weather and she loves snow. She must love the snow because all she wants to do is jump head first into the fresh snow! She sticks her head so far into the snow that all you can see is her ears spread out on top of the snowbanks! Soon enough I'll have to pull out my boots and the bee's wax ointment for her paws (to help protect them from the salt used on the Toronto sidewalks). Spent two to three hours with her at the off-leash park the other day and I was frozen to the bone; she had a great time chasing her friends.

HENRY PORTER hasn't written anything for quite some time, so I was delighted to see Firefly (\$40.50 yikes!) come into the store. I remember reading Remembrance Day (\$14.99), his first book, twenty years ago and then whipped through the three Robert Harlands, MI6 agent: Spy's Life (#1), Empire State (#2) and Brandenburg (#3) (\$14.99 each). Just terrific espionage novels, full of action and, now we get Firefly. The same, only different. It's a pretty powerful book, recreating the horrific issues faced by migrants trying to reach Europe. There are two main characters, Naji, a thirteen-year-old boy trying to reach Germany, so that he can then save his family, and Paul Samson, an ex MI6 agent now working as a private eye. The story flips from one character to the other and I really tried hard to not look at the ending to see what happened to Naji. It breaks your heart when you realize what migrants go through to get a better life. Here is a short version of the blurb: From the refugee camps of Greece to the mountains of Macedonia, a thirteen-year-old boy is making his way to Germany and to safety. Codenamed "Firefly," he holds vital intelligence: unparalleled insight into a vicious ISIS terror cell, and details of their plans. But the terrorists are hot on his trail, determined he won't live to pass on the information. When MI6 become aware of Firefly and what he knows, the race is on to find him. Paul Samson, ex-MI6 agent and now private eye, finds himself recruited to the cause. Fluent in Arabic thanks to his Lebanese heritage and himself the product of an earlier era of violent civil war, Samson's job is to find Firefly, win his trust, and get him to safety.

I picked up Traitor (\$22) by **JONATHAN de SHALIT** thinking great, another espionage novel to read, but dang, I quickly realized that I had already read the book when it came out in hardcover. The story, translated from the Hebrew, has more twists and turns than a tangled-up rope. It's a fast paced, read with double agents, maybe triple agents, deeply hidden secrets and maybe a mole hidden so deep you'd need an excava-

tor to dig him out. Here is the blurb: When a young Israeli walks into an American embassy and offers to betray his country for money and power, he has no idea that the CIA agent interviewing him is a Russian mole. Years later, the Israeli has risen in the ranks to become a trusted advisor to Israel's prime minister, and throughout his career, he's been forced to share everything with the Kremlin. Now, however, a hint that there may be a traitor in the highest realms of power has slipped out, and a top-secret team is put together to hunt for him. The chase leads the team from the streets of Tel Aviv to deep inside the Russian zone and, finally, to the United States, where a most unique spymaster is revealed.

And to top off my espionage, spy reading rampage, I read Nomad (\$34.99) by **JAMES SWALLOW**. The book was released in September, but I only noticed it recently, and then I remembered I had read it some time ago in a publisher's advance reading copy. This is another dizzying story, full of action, with plots to destroy the world (or so it seems). Great reading. Marc Dane is a MI6 field agent at home behind a computer screen, one step away from the action. But when a brutal attack on his team leaves Dane the only survivor and with the shocking knowledge that there are traitors inside MI6, he's forced into the front line. But accused of betraying his country, he must race against time to clear his name. With nowhere to turn to for help and no one left to trust, Marc is forced to rely on the elusive Rubicon group and their operative Lucy Keyes. Ex US Army, Lucy also knows what it's like to be an outsider, and she's got the skills that Dane needs. A terrorist attack is coming, one bigger and deadlier than has ever been seen before.

My non-mystery picks this month is a cookbook by (somewhat) local woman, **SAM TURNBULL**. I'm not sure how I heard about Fuss Free Vegan (\$29.95) in the first place but I am really liking the recipes. I read cookbooks like I do fictional books, from beginning to end, and then I go back and see what I'll make. Even though these are plant-based recipes there is certainly something to appeal to everyone in this cookbook. It's fun to read, with great photographs

Hardbacks

BEATON, M C agatha DEAD RINGER (#29) (\$34.99) The idyllic Cotswolds village of Thirk Magna is best known for the medieval church of St. Ethelred and its bells, which are the pride and glory of the whole community. As the bell-ringers get ready for the visit of the dashing Bishop Peter Salver-Hinkley, the whole village is thrown into a frenzy. Meanwhile, Agatha convinces one of the bell-ringers, the charming lawyer Julian Brody, to hire her to investigate the mystery of the Bishop's ex-fiancée: a local heir-ess, Jennifer Toynby, who went missing years ago and whose body was never found. Meanwhile, the bodies in the village just keep on piling up: the corpse of Larry Jensen, a local policeman, is discovered in the crypt. Millicent Dupin, one of a pair of bell-ringing identical twins, is murdered near the church. And Terry Fletcher, a journalist and (briefly) Agatha's lover, is found dead in her sitting room! Agatha widens her investigation and very soon her main suspect is the handsome Bishop himself. But could he really be behind this series of violent killings, or is it someone who wants to bring him—and his reputation—down?

BELFOURE, CHARLES FALLEN ARCHITECT (\$36.99) Someone has to take the blame. When the Britannia Theatre's balcony collapses, killing over a dozen people, the fingers point at the architect. He should have known better, should have made it safer, should have done something. Douglas Layton knows the flaw wasn't in his design, but he can't fight a guilty verdict. When he is finally released from prison, he has nothing: no job, no family, nowhere to go. He needs to assume a new identity and rebuild his life. But he soon finds himself digging up the past in a way he never anticipated. If the collapse was not an accident who caused it? And why? And what if they find out who he used to be?

BOHNHOFF, MAYA gina myoko THE ANTIQUITIES HUNTER (\$34.95) Gina "Tinkerbell" Miyoko is not your typical private eye. Armed with a baby blue Magnum, a Harley blessed with Holy Water by her dramatically disposed mother, and a Japanese mingei tucked in her pocket (a good luck charm from her Sherlock Holmes-obsessed father), Tink spends her time sniffing out delinquent dads in the San Francisco Bay area and honing her detective skills. But when her best friend Rose, an undercover agent, discovers there's a stalker on her tail, she hires Tink as a bodyguard. Someone must be trying to intimidate Rose and scare her out of testifying in an upcoming case on

looted Anasazi artifacts. But when Tink tries to flush-out the stalker, things take a far more dangerous turn. Now, with a dead black-market dealer and an injured Rose on her hands, Tink must take her best friend's place and follow the looters' trail towards a powerful and lucrative antiquities collector in Cancun, Mexico.

BOOTH, STEPHEN FALL DOWN DEAD (#18) (\$34.99) 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.

DOYLE/ABDUL-JABBAR, KAREEM MYCROFT AND SHERLOCK (\$34.99) It is 1872, and a series of gruesome murders is the talk of London. Mycroft Holmes, now twenty-six and a force to be reckoned with at the War Office, has no interest in the killings; however, his brother Sherlock has developed a distasteful fascination for the macabre to the detriment of his studies, much to Mycroft's frustration. When a ship carrying cargo belonging to Mycroft's best friend Cyrus Douglas runs aground, Mycroft persuades Sherlock to serve as a tutor at the orphanage that Douglas runs as a charity, so that Douglas might travel to see what can be salvaged. Sherlock finds himself at home among the street urchins, and when a boy dies of a suspected drug overdose, he decides to investigate, following a trail of strange subterranean symbols to the squalid opium dens of the London docks. Meanwhile a meeting with a beautiful Chinese woman leads Mycroft to the very same mystery, one that forces him to examine the underbelly of the opium trade that is enriching his beloved Britain's coffers.

DOYLE/CROFT, MALCOLM WIT AND WISDOM OF SH HUMOROUS AND INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES (\$13.95) The Wit & Wisdom of Sherlock Holmes is a collection of more than 300 quotes from Sherlock Holmes, Dr. John Watson, Professor Moriarty, Irene Adler, Mycroft Holmes, Inspector Lestrade and more. The world's favourite detective is renowned for his incredible mind, wry observations and subtle humour. This unique anthology (all 160 pages of it), features quotes ranging from the deeply philosophical to the wonderfully humorous and is the perfect present for any Sherlock Holmes fan.

DOYLE/RYAN, RICHARD T DRUID OF DEATH - A SHERLOCK HOLMES ADVENTURE (\$55.00) On the morning of the vernal equinox in 1899, Holmes is roused from his bed by Lestrade. The inspector has received a report of a girl brutally murdered at Stonehenge. Upon arriving at the famed site, Holmes discovers the body of a young woman. On her forehead, painted in blood, is a druidic symbol. On her side, also in blood, is a message written in a strange language that neither Holmes nor Lestrade can decipher. Holmes senses a malevolent force at work, but without data, he is powerless. As the weeks pass, he slowly gathers information about the ancient druids and Celtic mythology and begins to assemble a small army of experts to assist him. On the morning of the summer solstice, Holmes learns that the body of a young man has been discovered in the eye of the White Horse of Uffington. Like the first victim, he too has been marked with a druidic symbol. Realizing full well that a maniac reminiscent of the Ripper is on the loose, Holmes and Watson find themselves in a race against time as they try to locate the cult, identify the killer and prevent another tragedy.

DOYLE/SHEPHERD, ROSE SHERLOCK HOLMES'S LONDON: DISCOVER THE CITY FROM THE WEST END TO WAPPING (\$19.95) Walk the streets of London in the footsteps of literature's most famous detective, the immortal Sherlock Holmes. From his fictional home of 221B Baker Street to the wharves and warehouses of the east end, you will see much today that is unchanged since Arthur Conan Doyle first created his much-loved sleuth. Other features of Edwardian London may be buried a little deeper but can still be uncovered if you know where to look. With maps showing the general outlay of the areas covered in each chapter, and photographs of the modern-day streets and buildings of London, you'll be able to explore the city on a self-guided tour dedicated to the Sherlock Holmes of the stories, the films, and the television adaptations. 128 pages.

EMERY, ANNE monty collins THOUGH THE HEAVENS FALL (#10) (\$29.95) As 1995 dawns in the North of Ireland, Belfast is a city of army patrols, bombed-out buildings, and "peace walls" segregating one community from the other. But the IRA has called a ceasefire. So, it's as good a time as any for Monty Collins and Father Brennan Burke to visit the city: Monty to do a short gig in a law firm, and Brennan to reconnect with family. And it's a good time for Brennan's cousin Ronan to lay down arms and campaign for election in a future peacetime government. But the past is never past in Belfast, and it rises up to haunt them all: a man goes off a bridge on a dark, lonely road; a rogue IRA enforcer is shot; and a series of car bombs remains an unsolved crime. The trouble is compounded by a breakdown in communication: Brennan knows nothing

about the secrets in a file on Monty's desk. And Monty has no idea what lies behind a late-night warning from the IRA.

FLUKE, JOANNE swensen CHRISTMAS CAKE MURDER (#23) (\$21.95) With her dream of opening The Cookie Jar taking shape, Hannah agrees to help recreate a spectacular Christmas Ball from the past in honour of Essie Granger, an elderly local in hospice care. But instead of poring over decadent dessert recipes for the merry festivities, she instantly becomes enthralled by Essie's old notebooks and the tale of a woman escaping danger on the streets of New York. Hannah's surprised by Essie's secret talent for penning crime fiction. She's even more surprised when the story turns real. As Hannah prepares to run a bakery and move out of her mother's house, it'll be a true miracle if she can prevent another Yuletide disaster by solving a mystery.

FRENCH, TANA WITCH ELM (\$37.00) Toby is a happy-go-lucky charmer who's dodged a scrape at work and is celebrating with friends when the night takes a turn that will change his life, he surprises two burglars who beat him and leave him for dead. Struggling to recover from his injuries, beginning to understand that he might never be the same man again, he takes refuge at his family's ancestral home to care for his dying uncle Hugo. Then a skull is found in the trunk of an elm tree in the garden and as detectives close in, Toby is forced to face the possibility that his past may not be what he has always believed. A standalone mystery.

GADOL, PETER STRANGER GAME (\$32.50) Rebecca's on-again, off-again boyfriend, Ezra, has gone missing, but when she notifies the police, they seem surprisingly unconcerned. They suspect he has been playing the "stranger game," a viral hit in which players start following others in real life, as they might otherwise do on social media. As the game spreads, however, the rules begin to change, play grows more intense and disappearances are reported across the country. Curious about this popular new obsession and hoping that she might be able to track down Ezra, Rebecca tries the game for herself. She also meets Carey, who is willing to take the game further than she imagined possible. As her relationship with Carey and involvement in the game deepen, she begins to uncover an unsettling subculture that has infiltrated the world around her.

GRIFFITHS, ELLY magic men VANISHING BOX (#4) (\$36.00) It's the holiday season and Max Mephisto and his daughter Ruby have landed a headlining gig at the Brighton Hippodrome, the biggest theatre in the city, an achievement only slightly marred by the less-than-savoury supporting act: a tableau show of naked "living statues." But when one of the girls goes missing and turns up dead not long after, Max and Ruby realize there's something far more sinister than obscenity afoot in the theatre. DI Edgar Stephens is on the case. As he searches for the killer, he begins to suspect that her fatal vanishing act may very well be related to another case, the death of a quiet local florist.

GRISHAM, JOHN RECKONING (#37) October 1946, Clanton, Mississippi. Pete Banning was Clanton, Mississippi's favorite son—a decorated World War II hero, the patriarch of a prominent family, a farmer, father, neighbor, and a faithful member of the Methodist church. Then one cool October morning he rose early, drove into town, walked into the church, and calmly shot and killed his pastor and friend, the Reverend Dexter Bell. As if the murder weren't shocking enough, it was even more baffling that Pete's only statement about it—to the sheriff, to his lawyers, to the judge, to the jury, and to his family—was: "I have nothing to say." He was not afraid of death and was willing to take his motive to the grave. In a major novel unlike anything he has written before, the author takes us on an incredible journey, from the Jim Crow South to the jungles of the Philippines during World War II; from an insane asylum filled with secrets to the Clanton courtroom where Pete's defense attorney tries desperately to save him.

HARKNESS, DEBORAH TIMES CONVERT (\$37.00) On the battlefields of the American Revolution, Matthew de Clermont meets Marcus MacNeil, a young surgeon from Massachusetts. When Matthew offers him a chance at immortality and a new life free from the restraints of his puritanical upbringing, Marcus seizes the opportunity to become a vampire. But his transformation is not an easy one and the ancient traditions and responsibilities of the de Clermont family clash with Marcus's deeply held beliefs in liberty, equality, and brotherhood. Fast-forward to contemporary Paris, where Phoebe Taylor, the young employee at Sotheby's whom Marcus has fallen for, is about to embark on her own journey to immortality. Though the modernized version of the process at first seems uncomplicated, the couple discovers that the challenges facing a human who wishes to be a vampire are no less formidable than they were in the eighteenth century. The shadows that Marcus believed he'd escaped centuries ago may return to haunt them both, forever.

HARVEY, JOHN elder BODY AND SOUL (#4) (\$34.95) When his estranged daughter Katherine suddenly appears on his doorstep, Elder knows that something is badly wrong. The breakdown of her relationship with a controversial artist has sent her into a self-destructive tailspin which culminates in murder. And as Elder struggles to protect Katherine and prove her innocence, the terrors of the past threaten them both once

more.

IDE, JOE WRECKED (#3) (\$35.00) Isaiah Quintabe, IQ for short, has never been more successful, or felt more alone. A series of high-profile wins in his hometown of East Long Beach have made him so notorious that he can hardly go to the corner store without being recognized. Dodson, once his sidekick, is now his full-fledged partner, hell-bent on giving IQ's PI business some real legitimacy: a Facebook page, and IQ's promise to stop accepting Christmas sweaters and carpet cleanings in exchange for PI services. So when a young painter approaches IQ for help tracking down her missing mother, it's not just the case Isaiah's looking for, but the human connection. And when his new confidant turns out to be connected to a dangerous paramilitary operation, IQ falls victim to a threat even a genius can't see coming. Waiting for Isaiah around every corner is Seb, the Oxford-educated African gangster who was responsible for the death of his brother, Marcus. Only, this time, Isaiah's not alone. Joined by a new love interest and his familiar band of accomplices, IQ is back--and the adventures are better than ever. The first two books in this terrific series are IQ (\$10.49) and Righteous (\$20.99).

JANSSON, SUSANNE FORBIDDEN PLACE (\$34.00) In the remote Swedish wetlands lies Mossmarken: the village on the edge of the mire where, once upon a time, people came to leave offerings to the gods. Biologist Nathalie came in order to study the peat bogs. But she has a secret: Mossmarken was once her home, a place where terrible things happened. She has returned at last, determined to confront her childhood trauma and find out the truth. Soon after her arrival, she finds an unconscious man out on the marsh, his pockets filled with gold, just like the ancient human sacrifices. A grave is dug in the mire, which vanishes a day after. And as the police investigate, the bodies start to surface. Is the mire calling out for sacrifices, as the superstitious locals claim? Or is it an all-too-human evil?

KLINGER, LESLIE S ed. CLASSIC AMERICAN CRIME FICTION OF 1920s (\$53.95) Classic American Crime Writing of the 1920s—including *House Without a Key*, *The Benson Murder Case*, *The Roman Hat Mystery*, *Red Harvest*, and *Little Caesar*—offers some of the very best of that decade's writing. Earl Derr Biggers wrote about Charlie Chan, a Chinese-American detective, at a time when racism was rampant. S. S. Van Dine invented Philo Vance, an effete, rich amateur psychologist who flourished while America danced, and the stock market rose. The quintessential American detective Ellery Queen leapt onto the stage, to remain popular for fifty years. Dashiell Hammett brings readers another mystery narrated by the Continental Op. W. R. Burnett, created the indelible character of Rico, the first gangster antihero. Each of the five novels included is presented in its original published form, with extensive historical and cultural annotations and illustrations added by Edgar-winning editor Leslie S. Klinger, allowing the reader to experience the story to its fullest. Klinger's detailed foreword gives an overview of the history of American crime writing from its beginnings in the early years of America to the twentieth century. This gorgeously illustrated volume includes over 100 color and black and white images as well as an introduction by the eminent mystery publisher Otto Penzler.

MUNIER, PAULA BORROWING OF BONES (#1) (\$34.99) After their last deployment, when she got shot, her fiancé Martinez got killed and his bomb-sniffing dog Elvis got depressed, soldier Mercy Carr and Elvis were both sent home, her late lover's last words ringing in her ears: "Take care of my partner." Together the two former military police—one twenty-nine-year-old two-legged female with wounds deeper than skin and one handsome five-year-old four-legged Malinois with canine PTSD—march off their grief mile after mile in the beautiful remote Vermont wilderness. Even on the Fourth of July weekend, when all of Northshire celebrates with fun and frolic and fireworks, it's just another walk in the woods for Mercy and Elvis, until the dog alerts to explosives and they find a squalling baby abandoned near a shallow grave filled with what appear to be human bones. U.S. Game Warden Troy Warner and his search and rescue Newfoundland Susie Bear respond to Mercy's 911 call, and the four must work together to track down a missing mother, solve a cold-case murder, and keep the citizens of Northshire safe on potentially the most incendiary Independence Day since the American Revolution. It's a call to action Mercy and Elvis cannot ignore, no matter what the cost. Marian says: I loved this book!!

PELECANOS, GEORGE MAN WHO CAME UPTOWN (\$35.00) Michael Hudson spends the long days in prison devouring books given to him by the prison's librarian, a young woman named Anna who develops a soft spot for her best student. Anna keeps passing Michael books until one day he disappears, suddenly released after a private detective manipulated a witness in Michael's trial. Outside, Michael encounters a Washington, D.C. that has changed a lot during his time locked up. Once shady storefronts are now trendy beer gardens and flower shops. But what hasn't changed is the hard choice between the temptation of crime and doing what's right. Trying to balance his new job, his love of reading, and the debt he owes to the man who got him released, Michael struggles to figure out his place in this new world before he loses control.

PORTER, HENRY FIREFLY (\$40.50) From the refugee camps of Greece to the

mountains of Macedonia, a thirteen-year-old boy is making his way to Germany and to safety. Codenamed "Firefly," he holds vital intelligence: unparalleled insight into a vicious ISIS terror cell, and details of their plans. But the terrorists are hot on his trail, determined he won't live to pass on the information. When MI6 become aware of Firefly and what he knows, the race is on to find him. Paul Samson, ex-MI6 agent and now private eye, finds himself recruited to the cause. Fluent in Arabic thanks to his Lebanese heritage and himself the product of an earlier era of violent civil war, Samson's job is to find Firefly, win his trust, and get him to safety.

RANKIN, IAN rebus IN A HOUSE OF LIES (#22) (\$34.99) Everyone has something to hide! A missing private investigator is found, locked in a car hidden deep in the woods. Worse still, both for his family and the police, is that his body was in an area that had already been searched. Detective Inspector Siobhan Clarke is part of a new inquiry, combing through the mistakes of the original case. There were always suspicions over how the investigation was handled and now - after a decade without answers - it's time for the truth. Every officer involved must be questioned, and it seems everyone on the case has something to hide, and everything to lose. But there is one man who knows where the trail may lead and that it could be the end of him: John Rebus.

ROBINSON, PETER banks CARELESS LOVE (#25) (\$29.95) A young, local student has apparently died by suicide. Her body is found in an abandoned car on a lonely country road. She didn't own a car. Didn't even drive. How did she get there? Where did she die? Who moved her, and why? Meanwhile, a man in his sixties is found dead in a gully up on the wild moorland. He is wearing an expensive suit and carrying no identification. Post-mortem findings indicate he died from injuries sustained during the fall. But what was he doing up there? And why are there no signs of a car in the vicinity? As the inconsistencies multiply and the mysteries proliferate, Annie's father's new partner, Zelda, comes up with a shocking piece of information that alerts Banks and Annie to the return of an old enemy in a new guise. This is someone who will stop at nothing, not even murder, to get what he wants—and suddenly the stakes are raised and the hunt is on.

SANDFORD, JOHN virgil HOLY GHOST (#11) (\$39) Pinion, Minnesota: a metropolis of all of seven hundred souls, for which the word "moribund" might have been invented. Nothing ever happened there and nothing ever would--until the mayor of sorts (campaign slogan: "I'll Do What I Can") and a buddy come up with a scheme to put Pinion on the map. They'd heard of a place where a floating image of the Virgin Mary had turned the whole town into a shrine, attracting thousands of pilgrims. And all those pilgrims needed food, shelter, all kinds of crazy things, right? They'd all get rich! What could go wrong? When the dead body shows up, they find out, and that's only the beginning of their troubles, and Virgil Flowers, as they are all about to discover

SANSOM, C. J. shardlake TOMBLAND (#7) (\$39.95) Spring, 1549. Two years after the death of Henry VIII, England is sliding into chaos...The king, Edward VI, is eleven years old. His uncle Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, rules as Protector. Radical Protestants are conducting all-out war on the old religion, stirring discontent among the people. The Protector's prolonged war with Scotland is proving a disastrous failure. Worst of all, the economy is in collapse, inflation rages and rebellion is stirring among the peasantry. Since the old King's death, Matthew Shardlake has been working as a lawyer in the service of Henry's younger daughter, the Lady Elizabeth. The gruesome murder of the wife of John Boleyn, a distant Norfolk relation of Elizabeth's mother—which could have political implications for Elizabeth—brings Shardlake and his young assistant Nicholas Overton to the summer assizes at Norwich. There they are reunited with Shardlake's former assistant Jack Barak. The three find layers of mystery and danger surrounding the death of Edith Boleyn, as more murders are committed.

Paperbacks

ALLAN, BARBARA ANTIQUES HO-HO-HOMICIDES (#14) (\$8.99) To Brandy Borne and her ditzzy diva mother, homicide in small-town Serenity is the gift that keeps on taking. But murder turns merry as Brandy and Vivian gather collectible clues in a wintry workshop, seek the grinch who dimmed a pageant star's twinkle, and bag the humbug helper who snuffed a sidewalk Santa. Aided by Sushi, their elfin shih tzu, our seasonal sleuths crumble a bountiful batch of Christmas crookies. And though suspects may show bad will, and good cheer seems in short supply, this collection of Trash 'n' Treasures holiday homicides sparkles as the Borne girls wrap up three frolicsome felonies.

ANDREWS, DONNA langslow HOW THE FINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (#22) (\$10.50) It's Christmas time in Caerphilly, VA, and nothing is going by the book. Meg Langslow is trying to be supportive of her husband, who's escalated his one-man show

of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* into a full-scale production that includes their sons as Tiny Tim and the young Scrooge. But when the *real* Scrooge comes to town, a famous actor who is known for his personal dramas off-stage, Meg finds that her role as stage manager is a lot more than she bargained for. When Scrooge's inner demons and actual enemies catch up with him, it's up to Meg to solve a holiday murder mystery before the curtain comes down and the killer takes flight.

ARCHER, JEFFREY TELL TALE ss (\$22.50) A collection of short stories. Find out what happens to the hapless young detective from Naples who travels to an Italian hillside town to find out *Who Killed the Mayor?* and the pretentious schoolboy in *A Road to Damascus*, whose discovery of the origins of his father's wealth changes his life in the most profound way. Revel in the stories of the 1930's woman who dares to challenge the men at her Ivy League University in *A Gentleman and A Scholar* while another young woman who thumbs a lift gets more than she bargained for in *A Wasted Hour*.

ARCHER, WINNIE bread shop WALKING BREAD (#3) (\$8.99) Apprentice baker Ivy Culpepper sees art cars everywhere she turns. Besides helping prepare the bread and pastry for Santa Sofia's annual spring event, she's the official photographer, documenting the elaborate cars, outspoken artists, and riotous celebrations. Even her family's in on the act: her brother Billy has been runner-up in the competition more times than she can count, but this is going to be the year he celebrates his win in the victory lane. But after Billy's rival, Max Litman, revs up his bombastic showmanship, Billy is once again set to cruise into second place. Until Max is found dead, positioned as a prop in his own art car. The whole town knows there's no love lost between the two men, and Billy is the prime suspect. The first two in the series are Kneaded to Death and Crust No One (\$8.99 each).

BACKMAN, FREDRIK BEARTOWN (\$12.99) People say Beartown is finished. A tiny community nestled deep in the forest, it is slowly losing ground to the ever-encroaching trees. But down by the lake stands an old ice rink, built generations ago by the working men who founded this town. And in that ice rink is the reason people in Beartown believe tomorrow will be better than today. Their junior ice hockey team is about to compete in the national semi-finals, and they actually have a shot at winning. All the hopes and dreams of this place now rest on the shoulders of a handful of teenage boys. Being responsible for the hopes of an entire town is a heavy burden, and the semi-final match is the catalyst for a violent act that will leave a young girl traumatized and a town in turmoil. Accusations are made and, like ripples on a pond, they travel through all of Beartown, leaving no resident unaffected.

BALSON, RONALD H taggart TRUST (#4) (\$22.50) When his uncle dies, Liam Taggart reluctantly returns to his childhood home in Northern Ireland for the funeral, a home he left years ago after a bitter confrontation with his family, never to look back. But when he arrives, Liam learns that not only was his uncle shot to death, but that he'd anticipated his own murder: In an astonishing last will and testament, Uncle Fergus has left his entire estate to a secret trust, directing that no distributions be made to any person until the killer is found. Did Fergus know, but refuse to name, his killer? Was this a crime of revenge, a vendetta leftover from Northern Ireland's bloody sectarian war? After all, the Taggarts were deeply involved in the IRA. Or is it possible that the killer is a family member seeking Fergus's estate? Otherwise, why postpone distributions to the heirs? Most menacingly, does the killer now have his sights on other family members? As his investigation draws Liam farther and farther into the past he has abandoned, he realizes he is forced to reopen doors long ago shut and locked. Now, accepting the appointment as sole trustee of the Fergus Taggart Trust, Liam realizes he has stepped into the centre of a firestorm.

BEER, ALEX emmerich SECOND RIDER (#1) (\$25.50) Most of the remaining population of Vienna, a city scarred by World War I in which the grandeur of the Habsburg Empire is a fading memory, is surviving by its wits, living hand to mouth in a city rife with crime, prostitution, and grotesquely wounded beggars. There are shakedowns on every street corner, the black market is the only market, and shortages of vital goods create countless opportunities for unscrupulous operators. Into this cauldron of vice comes Inspector August Emmerich, a veteran himself, whose ambitions lead him to break the rules when necessary and whose abiding wish is to join the Viennese major crimes unit. When a corpse is found in the woods outside the city and immediately labeled a suicide, Emmerich, convinced it was nothing of the sort, sees a chance to prove his mettle. His investigations will reveal an insidious and homicidal urge lurking in the city. Translated from the German.

BELL, ALBERT A GODS HELP THOSE (#7) (\$23.99) Pliny the Younger hoped to improve relations with his unpleasant wife and her mother by investing in a warehouse on the Tiber with them. Now the building has collapsed due to heavy rains. Pliny discovers several dead people inside, including a man with a narrow red "equestrian" stripe on his tunic, indicating aristocracy. He wasn't killed by the cave-in, however, but by a knife wound in his back. When Pliny gives the body a forensic examination, he

finds two more puzzling things: a circumcision (unusual in Rome), and thirty pieces of silver in his sewn-closed mouth. To further complicate matters, Pliny's servant and lover, Aurora, finds a live baby in the wreckage.

BENJAMIN, CAROL LEA THIS DOG FOR HIRE (#1) (\$21.00) Originally published in 1996, this is a great series. Divorced dog trainer-turned-private-eye Rachel Alexander and her canine assistant Dash—short for Dashiell—are hired by a man named Dennis Keaton to investigate the hit-and-run death of his friend and neighbour Clifford Cole, whose body was found on an isolated Christopher Street pier. The police are treating the gay painter's suspicious death as a hate crime, but Dennis insists Cliff hadn't cruised the waterfront in months. Plus, Magritte, Cliff's champion basenji—a competitor in the upcoming Westminster Dog Show—may have been a witness to the crime and is now missing. The search for answers takes Rachel and Dash from the SoHo art scene to the most famous dog show in America. Now Rachel is in the sights of a killer hunting her across a treacherous urban landscape. There's no one she can trust—especially not of the two-legged variety.

BLAKE, JAMES CARLOS wolfe WAYS OF WOLFE (#4) (\$23.95) Twenty years ago, college student Axel Prince Wolfe—heir apparent to his Texas family's esteemed law firm and its "shade trade" criminal enterprises—teamed up with his best friend, Billy, and a Mexican stranger in a high-end robbery that went wrong. Abandoned by his partners, he was captured and imprisoned, his family disgraced, his wife absconded, his infant daughter Jessie left an orphan. Two decades later, with eleven years still to serve, Axel has long since exhausted his desire for revenge against the partners who deserted him. All he wants now is to see the woman his daughter has become, despite her lifelong refusal to acknowledge him. When the chance comes to escape in the company of Cacho, a young Mexican inmate with ties to a major cartel, Axel takes it, and a massive manhunt ensues, taking the pair down the Rio Grande and into a desert inferno. With his chance to see Jessie now within reach, a startling discovery re-ignites an old passion and sends Axel headlong toward reckonings many years in the making.

BOLDUC, MARIO max o'brien TANZANIA CONSPIRACY (#3) (\$17.99) Distracted by the murder of Tanzanian lawyer and ex-lover Valéria Michieka and her daughter Sophie, con man Max O'Brien travels to Tanzania to track down those responsible. What starts as a fight for justice quickly becomes entangled with the persecution of albinos in the East African state. Thought by some to have supernatural powers, many albinos find themselves targeted for their body parts, and Max has reason to think that Valéria and Sophie were killed because of her legal work defending albinos' rights and safety. Did the lawyers' fight against this horrendous business upset the human traffickers? Max's search for the truth about their deaths is filled with unknowns, each more impenetrable than the last.

BRADY, JOHN malone CRASH (#1) (\$28.00) The Ireland of 2010 may be reeling from the shocks of the economic crash, but Dublin's still a small place. Bernadette Cummins has her own worries, though - her only surviving son Gary is missing. Being the wife of jailed criminal godfather Tony Cummins only makes it worse for her, because she can't trust the Guards will search for her son. Frantic, she turns to her childhood friend for help - Sheila Malone, Sergeant Tommy Malone's Ma. These women's loyalties run deep and wide and long. With Bernie facing cancer, Sheila won't let her down. Fiercely loyal to his Ma, Tommy Malone cannot help but become entangled. In a meet with Bernie's infamous husband, Malone gets a coded signal that a deal can be done. A huge coup for the police? Maybe. But as the saying goes, the past can be unpredictable. With all the old standbys crumbling around them, people are turning against one another. Neither Malone nor those around him foresee what this collision of crime and loyalty will bring.

BRETT, SIMON feathering LIAR IN THE LIBRARY (#18) (\$26.95) Having been booked to give a talk at Feathering Library, successful author Burton St Clair invites his old friend Jude to come along. Although they haven't met for twenty years, Jude is not surprised to find that St Clair hasn't changed, with his towering ego and somewhat shaky relationship with the truth. What Jude hadn't been suspecting however was that the evening would end in sudden, violent death. More worrying, from Jude's point of view, is the fact that the investigating police officers seem to be convinced that she herself was responsible for the crime. With the evidence stacking up against her, Jude enlists the help of her neighbour Carole not just to solve the murder but to prevent herself from being arrested for committing it.

BROWN, RITA MAE foxhunting CRAZY LIKE A FOX (#10) (\$22.00) An investigation into a missing and valuable object flushes out murder, ghosts, and old family rivalries. Now "Sister" Jane Arnold and a pack of four-legged friends must catch the scent of a killer and unearth a long-buried truth.

BRYNDZA, ROBERT foster NIGHT STALKER (#2) (\$16.99) In the dead of a swelteringly hot summer's night, Detective Erika Foster is called to a murder scene. The victim, a doctor, is found suffocated in bed. His wrists are bound and his eyes bulging through a clear plastic bag tied tight over his head. A few days later, another victim is

found dead, in exactly the same circumstances. As Erika and her team start digging deeper, they discover a calculated serial killer - stalking their victims before choosing the right moment to strike. The victims are all single men, with very private lives. Why are their pasts shrouded in secrecy? And what links them to the killer? As a heat wave descends upon London, Erika will do everything to stop the Night Stalker before the body count rises, even if it means risking her job. But the victims might not be the only ones being watched. Erika's own life could be on the line.

BUELL, JOHN FOUR DAYS (\$14.95) An orphaned boy watches as his older brother and idol graduates from petty thievery into big-league crime. A bank heist goes awry, leaving loose threads and dangerous links back to the brothers. Following instructions, the boy leaves the city with the stolen money and travels to a rendezvous point in a mountain vacation resort. What he doesn't know is that he is on his own, his brother will not show up and the underworld is after him. Originally published in 1962.

BURNS, V M dog club IN THE DOG HOUSE (#1) (\$22.50) Lilly may be losing a husband but she's gaining a toy poodle. That could be seen as a win-win, since her new adopted pooch Aggie (named after Agatha Christie) is cute and adorable, and Lilly's dirty dog of a spouse is cheating on her with a blond bimbo except for one problem: Albert Echobys just been murdered, and Lilly is the number-one suspect. With the cops barking up the wrong tree, it's a good thing her best friend Scarlett "Dixie" Jefferson from Chattanooga, Tennessee, decided to take a break from the dog club circuit to pay a visit, along with her own prize pair of poodles. With help from Dixie, her defense attorney daughter, and a blue-eyed man in blue with a K-9 partner, Lilly is determined to collar the real killer.

BUTLER, DAVE willson NO PLACE FOR WOLVERINES (#2) (\$14.99) When Park Warden Jenny Willson initiates a covert inquiry into a proposed ski hill in Yoho National Park, she's quickly drawn into a web of political, environmental, and criminal intrigue that threatens to tear apart a small B.C. town. Suddenly, neighbour is pitted against neighbour, friend against friend, family against family. After a wolverine researcher dies in a mysterious fire, Jenny forms an uneasy alliance with an RCMP corporal and a journalist to expose the truth behind the project. But all is not what it seems. In a showdown involving the ski hill proponent, her own agency, and mysterious political puppeteers, Jenny must decide if she's willing to risk her career, and perhaps the lives of herself and those close to her, to reveal what lurks in the shadows.

BUZZELLI, ELIZABETH emily SHE STOPPED FOR DEATH (#2) (\$23.95) Jenny Weston and her mother, Dora, have been receiving strange midnight visits. Bear Falls' own elusive and highly secretive poet, Emily Sutton, has lived her life cloistered away with her sister in a house at the edge of Pewee Swamp. But now, Emily's started leaving scraps of poetry in Dora's Little Library, and Dora makes it her mission to befriend the sheltered woman. Meanwhile Zoe Zola, almost famous author, Little Person, and the Weston's quirky next-door neighbor, is hard at work on a new book, this one about the inner life of Emily Dickinson. And once again, Zoe's literary work starts making uncanny connections with the events in her own world as Emily Sutton reemerges into society. But Zoe begins to suspect things aren't anywhere near normal at Emily's swamp house or in the lives of the people she claims have abandoned her...until looking further into the poet's half-truths leads Zoe and Jenny to a horrible murder.

CHALLINOR, C S rex graves UPSTAGED BY MURDER (#11) (\$20.99) Rex Graves and his new wife, Helen, attend the opening night of a play in which five famous literary sleuths of a bygone era are invited to Pinegrove Hall to solve the mystery of a missing heirloom. When the heroine meets with a sinister end, the audience applauds, unaware that the real drama has only just begun. As a Scottish barrister and private detective, Rex is called upon to help discover who among the cast and crew staged the death of the beautiful young actress. But this challenging mystery has unexpected complications waiting in the wings, and Rex must use all his skills to unmask the true culprit.

CHANDRA, VIKRAM SACRED GAMES (\$21.99) Sartaj, one of the very few Sikhs on the Mumbai police force, is used to being identified by his turban, beard and the sharp cut of his trousers. But "the silky Sikh" is now past forty, his marriage is over and his career prospects are on the slide. When Sartaj gets an anonymous tip-off as to the secret hide-out of the legendary boss of G-Company, he's determined that he'll be the one to collect the prize.

CLEEVES, ANN shetland WILD FIRE (#8) (\$25.99) 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? This is supposed to be the final book in the series.

CONNELLY, MICHAEL bosch TWO KINDS OF TRUTH (#22) (\$12.99) Harry Bosch, exiled from the LAPD, is working cold cases for the San Fernando Police Department when all hands are called out to a local drugstore, where two pharmacists have been murdered in a robbery. Bosch and the tiny town's three-person detective squad sift through the clues, which lead into the dangerous, big-business world of prescription drug abuse. To get to the people at the top, Bosch must risk everything and go undercover in the shadowy world of organized pill mills. Meanwhile, an old case from Bosch's days with the LAPD comes back to haunt him when a long-imprisoned killer claims Harry framed him and seems to have new evidence to prove it.

CONNELLY, MICHAEL mcevoy SCARECROW (#2) (\$12.99) A reissue of the second book featuring Jack McEvoy, originally published in 2009. The first in the series is The Poet (\$12.99), first published in 1996. Both excellent!!

COOPER, GLENN DEVIL WILL COME (\$13.99) Elisabetta Celestino, a young archaeologist at work in Rome's ancient catacombs, has discovered a unique pattern of astrological symbols on an underground wall. When a cave-in damages the vault, a shocking discovery is made, and Elisabetta finds herself in a race to solve the secret of the catacomb and prevent an apocalyptic event that threatens the future of mankind. Originally published in 2011.

CORNWELL, BERNARD warrior WAR OF THE WOLF (#11) (\$24.99) His blood is Saxon. His heart is Viking. His battleground is England. And while Uhtred might have regained his family's fortress, it seems a peaceful life is not to be - as he is under threat from both an old enemy and a new foe. The old enemy comes from Wessex, where a dynastic struggle will determine who will be the next king. And the new foe is Skoll, a Norseman, whose ambition is to be king of Northumbria and who leads a frightening army of wolf-warriors, men who fight half-crazed in the belief they are indeed wolves. Uhtred, believing he is cursed, must fend off one enemy while he tries to destroy the other.

COYLE, CLEO haunted book GHOST AND THE BOGUS BESTSELLER (#6) (\$10.99) Bookshop owner Penelope Thornton-McClure didn't believe in ghosts, until she was haunted by the hard-boiled spirit of 1940s private investigator Jack Shepard. After an elegant new customer has a breakdown in her shop, Penelope suspects there is something bogus behind the biggest bestseller of the year. This popular potboiler is so hot that folks in her tiny Rhode Island town are dying to read it, literally. First one customer turns up dead, followed by another mysterious fatality connected to the book, which Pen discovers is more than just fiction. Now, with the help of her gumshoe ghost, Pen must solve the real-life cold case behind the bogus bestseller.

DAHL, K O oslo ICE SWIMMER (#3) (\$20.95) When a dead man is lifted from the freezing waters of Oslo Harbour just before Christmas, Detective Lena Stigersand's stressful life suddenly becomes even more complicated. Not only is she dealing with a cancer scare, a stalker and an untrustworthy boyfriend, but it seems both a politician and Norway's security services might be involved in the murder. With her trusted colleagues, Gunnarstranda and Frølich, at her side, Lena digs deep into the case and finds that it not only goes to the heart of the Norwegian establishment, but it might be rather to close to her personal life for comfort.

DAMS, JEANNE M martin MISSING MASTERPIECE (#19) (\$26.95) When Dorothy Martin goes to France she worries about her ability to get along in a language she barely speaks, and in a country she hasn't seen for over fifty years. But by the time Alan joins her a week later, Dorothy has found herself embroiled in one mystery after another: a woman drowning in quicksand; a man suffering a near-fatal fall in the abbey at Mont Saint Michel; and a missing American archaeologist - all seemingly connected to a monk named Abelard who has been dead for almost nine hundred years.

DE SHALIT, JONATHAN TRAITOR (\$22.00) When a young Israeli walks into an American embassy and offers to betray his country for money and power, he has no idea that the CIA agent interviewing him is a Russian mole. Years later, the Israeli has risen in the ranks to become a trusted advisor to Israel's prime minister and throughout his career, he's been forced to share everything with the Kremlin. Now, however, a hint that there may be a traitor in the highest realms of power has slipped out and a top-secret team is put together to hunt him down. The chase leads the team from the streets of Tel Aviv to deep inside the Russian zone and, finally, to the United States, where a most unique spymaster is revealed. Marian says: When this book arrived about a week ago, I grabbed it to read but was miffed when I discovered I had already read it back in January when it first arrived in hardcover. Dang it...it was a good read.

DELANEY, DEVON cook-off FINAL ROASTING PLACE (#2) (\$8.99) Erno Oliveri made sure to be on set for his daughter's cook-off appearance on Sunny Side Up with Brett and Carmell. Or as it's now known, Sunny Side Up with Carmell and Brett—since the ambitious young Carmell seems to have the producer and station owner eating out of her hand. But the important news is that Sherry has bested the competition with her Spicy Toasted Chickpea and Almond appetizer and clinched the spatula-shaped trophy. It's her shining moment—until everything goes dark. A quick-moving storm has

knocked out power to the studio—and when the lights come back up, Carmell is at her desk with a sharp object lodged in her neck. The weapon is an unusual tool, used by craftsmen who make hooked rugs. Has someone taken corporate backstabbing to a new level, and framed Erno in the process? Includes Recipes from Sherry's Kitchen!

DEVLIN, A J hammerhead COBRA CLUTCH (#1) (\$18.95) "Hammerhead" Jed Ounstead thought he'd traded the pro-wrestling world for the slightly less dangerous one of a bar bouncer and errand boy for his father's detective agency, but the squared circle wasn't quite done with him yet. When his former tag-team partner draws upon their old friendship for help in finding his kidnapped pet snake, Jed finds himself dragged back into the fold of sleazy promoters, gimmicky performers, and violence inside and outside the ring. As the venom of Vancouver's criminal underworld begins to seep into Jed's life, a steel chair to the back of the head is the least of his problems. A debut novel.

DOYLE, ARTHUR CONAN HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (\$19.99) 'Mr. Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic hound!' The death, quite suddenly, of Sir Charles Baskerville in mysterious circumstances is the trigger for one of the most extraordinary cases ever to challenge the brilliant analytical mind of Sherlock Holmes. As rumours of a legendary hound said to haunt the Baskerville family circulate, Holmes and Watson are asked to ensure the protection of Sir Charles' only heir, Sir Henry - who has travelled all the way from America to reside at Baskerville Hall in Devon. And it is there, in an isolated mansion surrounded by mile after mile of wild moor, that Holmes and Watson come face to face with a terrifying evil that reaches out from centuries past.

DOYLE, ARTHUR CONAN ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$19.99) From Holmes's lodgings at 221B Baker Street, the famous detective and his faithful sidekick Dr Watson unravel the shadiest crimes taking place on the streets of London and across the English countryside. Discover Sherlock Holmes's most memorable and intriguing cases, including adventures with mysterious masked strangers, ingenious heists, murderous plots and hidden jewels. This series is a collaboration between Vintage Classics and MADE.COM. Two others include: *The Great Gatsby* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

DOYLE/FIDO, MARTIN WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES THE FACTS AND FICTION BEHIND THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE (\$24.95) The book delves into the detective's storied history to explore the myths and reality of the era where Holmes was first born - a time when crime analysis and medicine were seeing unprecedented developments and technology was quickly advancing. It was a world where Scotland Yard was the king of criminal detection - that is, before our enigmatic hero was written into existence. As well as the history of the character's origin, this book also looks at some of the many different portrayals of the "deerstalker" detective through the years, concluding with the modern BBC *Sherlock* series, the American spin-off *Elementary*, and the action-packed Sherlock Holmes films directed by Guy Ritchie.

DOYLE/HARPER, BRADLEY KNIFE IN THE FOG (\$17.00) September 1888. A twenty-nine-year-old Arthur Conan Doyle practices medicine by day and writes at night. His first Sherlock Holmes story, *A Study in Scarlet*, although gaining critical and popular success, has only netted him twenty-five pounds. Embittered by the experience, he vows never to write another "crime story." Then a messenger arrives with a mysterious summons from former Prime Minister William Gladstone, asking him to come to London immediately. Once there, he is offered one month's employment to assist the Metropolitan Police as a "consultant" in their hunt for the serial killer soon to be known as Jack the Ripper. Doyle agrees on the stipulation his old professor of surgery, Professor Joseph Bell, Doyle's inspiration for Sherlock Holmes, agrees to work with him. Bell agrees, and soon the two are joined by Miss Margaret Harkness, an author residing in the East End who knows how to use a Derringer and serves as their guide and companion.

DUNNETT, KAITLYN macCrimm X MARKS THE SCOT (#11) (\$8.99) The old Chadwick mansion on the edge of Moosetookalook, Maine, has been shrouded in mystery for generations. But when Scottish Emporium owner Liss MacCrimmon uncovers a treasure map at the mansion's estate sale, she never expected her curiosity would lead to a dead body. It's clear Liss isn't alone on this treasure hunt. With her life in real peril and the map at risk of being stolen, she launches into full-scale investigation mode. But as she deciphers clues and inches toward the dangerous culprit, Liss quickly realizes she's only a step away from ending up like the Chadwick clan.

DURBRIDGE, FRANCIS temple PAUL TEMPLE AND THE GENEVA MYSTERY (\$16.99) Paul and Steve are called upon to crack a case involving Carl Milbourne, the brother-in-law of wealthy financier Maurice Lonsdale. After the news that Carl has perished in a fatal car accident, rumours begin to stir that despite all odds, Carl is alive and well.

EMERY, ANNE monty collins LAMENT FOR BONNIE (#9) (\$17.95) Twelve-year-old Bonnie MacDonald, the beloved stepdancing, fiddling youngest member of Cape Breton's famed Clan Donnie band, vanishes after a family party. No one thinks Bonnie

ran away. Maura MacNeil, cousin to Clan Donnie, offers her husband's legal services to the family as the police search for the missing girl. But fame attracts some strange characters, and Clan Donnie has its groupies. So, it turns out, does lawyer and bluesman Monty Collins. Monty and Maura's daughter, Normie, is much closer to the action and, as she gets to know her cousins, learns things she wishes she never had. She has nightmares — visions? — that bring her no closer to finding Bonnie. Her spooky great-grandmother senses the presence of evil in their village — the kind of evil RCMP Sergeant Pierre Maguire left the big city to escape.

EVANOVICH, JANET plum HARDCORE TWENTY-FOUR (#24) (\$12.99) Trouble comes in bunches for Stephanie Plum. First, professional grave robber and semiprofessional loon Simon Diggery won't let her take him in until she agrees to care for his boa constrictor, Ethel. Stephanie's main qualification for babysitting an extremely large snake is that she owns a taser. Events take a dark turn when headless bodies start appearing across town. If all that's not enough, Diesel's back in town. The six-foot-tall, blond-haired hunk is a man who accepts no limits—that includes locked doors, closed windows, and underwear. Trenton's hottest cop, Joe Morelli, isn't pleased at this unexpected arrival, nor is Ranger, the high-powered security consultant who has his own plans for Stephanie.

FARROW, SHARON berry BLACKBERRY BURIAL (#2) (\$8.99) As owner of The Berry Basket, Marlee Jacob has learned a thing or two about surviving the summer tourist season in Oriole Point. So she gladly agrees to help run the annual road rally in honor of the local Blackberry Art School's centenary celebration. But when Marlee surveys the property, she stumbles upon a long-dead body hidden in the bramble. It's a horrifying mystery to everyone except her baker, who's convinced the skeletal remains belong to a former student who had gone missing twenty years earlier. Includes Berry Recipes!

FLETCHER, JESSICA MURDER SHE WROTE: A DATE WITH MURDER (\$10.99) Jessica Fletcher takes up the cause of her good friend Barbara "Babs" Wirth after Babs' husband Hal suffers a fatal heart attack that Jessica has reason to believe was actually murder. At the heart of her suspicions lies a sinister dating site Hal had used while he and Babs were having marital issue, a site that may be complicit in somehow swindling him out of millions. Jessica's investigation reveals that Hal was far from the only victim and when his former business partner is also killed, a deadly pattern emerges.

FLOWER, AMANDA amish shop PREMEDITATED PEPPERMINT (#3) (\$8.99) Christmas is Bailey King's favorite time of year. For her first Yuletide in Harvest, Ohio, the former big-city chocolatier is recreating a cherished holiday treat: peppermint combined with molten white chocolate. But her sugar high plummets when her former boyfriend walks into the candy shop she now runs with her Amish grandmother. New York celebrity chef Eric Sharp and his TV crew have arrived to film an authentic Amish Christmas. Unfortunately, she gets more publicity than she bargained for when Eric's executive producer is found strangled to death—and Eric's the prime suspect. With Bailey's sheriff deputy boyfriend out to prove Eric's guilt, her bad-boy ex tries to sweet-talk her into helping him clear his name and rekindle their romance to boost ratings for his show. Recipe Included!

FLYNN, VINCE mitch rapp RED WAR (#15) (\$22.00) When Russian president Maxim Krupin discovers that he has inoperable brain cancer, he's determined to cling to power. His first task is to kill or imprison any of his countrymen who can threaten him. Soon, though, his illness becomes serious enough to require a more dramatic diversion—war with the West. Upon learning of Krupin's condition, CIA director Irene Kennedy understands that the US is facing an opponent who has nothing to lose. The only way to avoid a confrontation that could leave millions dead is to send Mitch Rapp to Russia under impossibly dangerous orders. With the Kremlin's entire security apparatus hunting him, he must find and kill a man many have deemed the most powerful in the world.

FORD, G M waterman FAMILY VALUES (#10) (\$22.95) Returning to Seattle after a business trip, retired PI Leo Waterman is shocked to find his girlfriend, Rebecca Duvall, unconscious on the bathroom floor, her house filled with gas. Officials believe it was a suicide attempt in the wake of a humiliating scandal. Under investigation for dereliction of duty, she'd been suspended from her job as medical examiner for King County. Despite the prosecuting attorney's claims of a solid case, Leo rounds up his ragtag team of miscreants to find the truth. The investigation leads straight to The Highlands. There, behind the locked doors of one of Seattle's most exclusive gated communities, old money can afford to bury older family secrets.

FRADKIN, BARBARA doucette PRISONERS OF HOPE (#3) (\$19.99) Georgian Bay: a spectacular terrain of granite shores, deserted islands, and infinite sparkling bays. As part of her cross-Canada charity tour, Amanda has planned a kayaking trip in the area for abused families from a rural Ontario community. While exploring some remote islands offshore, she and a local tour guide rescue a frightened young woman

whose boat has capsized. In an apparent act of kindness, the tour guide takes the woman to shore, leaving Amanda stranded. But when news surfaces that a wealthy doctor has died at his estate and his Filipino nanny has gone missing, Amanda fears far more sinister forces are at work. When the young tour guide is found dead on a nearby island, she and RCMP officer Chris Tymko race to prevent more innocent deaths. This is an excellent series.

FULLER, CLAIRE [BITTER ORANGE](#) (\$22.95) From the attic of a dilapidated English country house, she sees them — Cara first: dark and beautiful, clinging to a marble fountain of Cupid, and Peter, an Apollo. It is 1969 and they are spending the summer in the rooms below hers, while Frances writes a report on the follies in the garden. But she is distracted. Beneath a floorboard in her bathroom, she discovers a peephole which gives her access to her neighbours' private lives. To Frances' surprise, Cara and Peter are keen to spend time with her. It is the first occasion that she has had anybody to call a friend, and before long they are spending every day together: eating lavish dinners, drinking bottle after bottle of wine, and smoking cigarettes till the ash piles up on the crumbling furniture. Frances is dazzled. But as the hot summer rolls lazily on, it becomes clear that not everything is right between Cara and Peter. Amid the decadence of that summer, a small crime brings on a bigger one: a crime so terrible that it will brand all their lives forever.

GRANT, ANDREW [deveraux FALSE WITNESS \(#3\)](#) (\$12.99) A woman disappears on her twenty-first birthday. The following day her body is found, wrapped neatly like a gift in a crumbling, sun-speckled graveyard. What does Detective Devereaux have to go on? Very little. No motive, no suspects. Then another victim is discovered in a crematorium parking lot. Again, she was killed on her twenty-first birthday. Again, her body was wrapped like a gift. By the third murder the tabloids have dubbed the homicidal monster the Birthday Killer—and Devereaux is under the gun.

GRIPPANDO, JAMES [swytek DEATH IN LIVE OAK \(#15\)](#) (\$12.50) When the body of Jamal Cousin, president of the pre-eminent black fraternity at the Florida's flagship university, is discovered hogtied in the Stygian water swamps of the Suwanee River Valley, the death sets off a firestorm that threatens to rage out of control when a fellow student, Mark Towson, the president of a prominent white fraternity, is accused of the crime. Contending with rising political tensions, racial unrest, and a sensational media, Towson's defense attorney, Jack Swytek, knows that the stakes could not be higher—inside or outside the old Suwanee County Courthouse. The evidence against his client, which includes a threatening text message referencing "strange fruit" on the river, seems overwhelming. Then Jack gets a break that could turn the case. Jamal's gruesome murder bears disturbing similarities to another lynching that occurred back in the Jim Crow days of 1944. Are the chilling parallels purely coincidental?

HALLINAN, TIMOTHY [bender FIELDS WHERE THEY LAY \(#6\)](#) (\$19.95) The halls are decked, the deck is stacked, and here comes that jolly old elf. Junior Bender, divorced father of one and burglar extraordinaire, finds himself stuck inside the Edgerton Mall, and not just as a last-minute shopper (though he is that too). Edgerton isn't exactly the epicenter of holiday cheer, there is a rampant shoplifting problem. The murderous Russian mobster who owns the place has decided it takes a thief to catch a thief and hires Junior to solve the shoplifting problem for him. But Junior's surveillance operation doesn't go well: as Christmas Eve approaches, two people are dead and it's obvious that shoplifting is the least of the mall's problems. To prevent further deaths, possibly including his own, Junior must confront his dread of Christmas—both present and past.

HARVEY, JOHN [elder BODY AND SOUL \(#4\)](#) (\$25.00) Frank Elder has become estranged from his troubled daughter. Up until now, Katherine has been unable to come to terms with the terrible events of her past and her father has been powerless to help her. So, when Katherine suddenly appears on his doorstep, Elder knows that something is wrong. Katherine has become involved with an older man; a controversial artist known as much for his pornographic paintings as the public's suspicion that for him, life imitates art. But the breakdown of their relationship has sent Katherine into a self-destructive tailspin, made worse when the artist is found murdered in his studio. As a damaged young woman, Katherine had made the perfect muse. But now that he's dead, should that make her the prime suspect? Elder must solve the case if he has any hope of saving his daughter.

HEYER, GEORGETTE [NO WIND OF BLAME](#) (\$21.50) The superlatively analytical Inspector Hemingway is confronted by a murder that seems impossible, no one was near the murder weapon at the time the shot was fired. Everyone on the scene seems to have a motive, not to mention the wherewithal to commit murder, and alibis that simply don't hold up. The inspector is sorely tried by a wide variety of suspects, including the neglected widow, the neighbor who's in love with her, her resentful daughter, and a patently phony Russian prince preying on the widow's emotional vulnerability and social aspirations. And then there's the blackmail plot that may-or may not-be at the heart of the case.

HOLLIDAY, SUSI DEATHS OF DECEMBER (\$15.99) It looks like a regular advent calendar. Until DC Becky Greene starts opening doors . . . and discovers a crime scene behind almost everyone. The police hope it's a prank. Because if it isn't, a murderer has just surfaced - someone who's been killing for twenty years. But why now? And why has he sent it to this police station? As the country relaxes into festive cheer, Greene and DS Eddie Carmine must race against time to catch the killer. Because there are four doors left, and four murders will fill them.

HULL, RICHARD EXCELLENT INTENTIONS (\$20.00) With an introduction by Martin Edwards. Great Barwick's least popular man is murdered on a train. Twelve jurors sit in court. Four suspects are identified – but which of them is on trial? This novel has all the makings of a classic murder mystery, but with a twist: as Attorney-General Anstruther Blayton leads the court through prosecution and defence, Inspector Fenby carries out his investigation. All this occurs while the identity of the figure in the dock is kept tantalisingly out of reach. First published in 1938 and now revived as a British Library Crime Classic.

JAMES, P D SLEEP NO MORE: SIX MURDEROUS TALES (\$19.95) Six previously uncollected stories from the beloved "Queen of Crime" with several stories originally published in magazines.

JANCE, J A ali reynolds DUEL TO THE DEATH (#13) (\$12.99) After taking down the man responsible for his best friend's death, Stuart Ramey believes the case is finally closed. That is, until Stu discovers he's been left with a multimillion-dollar fortune in Bitcoin in a desperate attempt by Frigg, a rogue A.I. program created by the killer, to keep itself from being fully deactivated. To take Frigg down for good, Stu enlists the help of Ali Reynolds and the rest of his cyber security colleagues at High Noon Enterprises. But they are not the only ones who know about Frigg's existence.

JEMISIN, N K FIFTH SEASON (#1) (\$20.99) I think Marian ordered this because it won the Hugo Award for Best Novel 2016. It's the first book in a new fantasy trilogy. This is the way the world ends...for the last time. A season of endings has begun. It starts with the great red rift across the heart of the world's sole continent, spewing ash that blots out the sun. It starts with death, with a murdered son and a missing daughter. It starts with betrayal, and long dormant wounds rising up to fester. This is the Stillness, a land long familiar with catastrophe, where the power of the earth is wielded as a weapon. And where there is no mercy.

JONES, SANDIE OTHER WOMAN (\$24.99) Adam adores Emily. Emily thinks Adam's perfect, the man she thought she'd never meet. Lurking in the shadows is a rival, a woman who shares a deep bond with the man she loves. Emily chose Adam, but she didn't choose his mother Pammie. There's nothing a mother wouldn't do for her son, and now Emily is about to find out just how far Pammie will go to get what she wants: Emily gone forever.

KALLENTOFT, MONS fors EARTH STORM (#8) (\$15.99) In the early hours of the morning, the naked body of a young man is discovered in a ditch next to Gota Kanal. The cause of death is mysterious; the body bears no visible traces of violence. The man is soon identified as Peder Akerlund, a former Swedish politician, excluded from his party for racism but since reformed. Then sixteen-year-old Nadja Lundin is reported missing, possibly abducted, the same evening, and there are signs that suggest the two cases might be connected. But what do the victims have in common? And why were they chosen? Gradually, Malin Fors realises that they are dealing with someone who is playing a game with them, who speaks through murders and who will not be silenced.

LA PLANTE, LYNDA widows WIDOWS (#1) (\$22.00) Facing life alone, they turned to crime together. Dolly Rawlins, Linda Pirelli and Shirley Miller are left devastated when their husbands are killed in a security van heist that goes disastrously wrong. When Dolly discovers her husband's bank deposit box containing a gun, money and detailed plans for the hijack, she has three options. She could hand over the ledgers to the Detective. She could hand them over to the thugs who want to take over Harry's turf. Or, she and the other widows could finish the job their husbands started. As they rehearse the raid, the women discover that Harry's plan required four people and recruit hooker Bella O'Reilly. But only three bodies were discovered in the carnage of the original hijack - So who was the fourth man, and where is he now?

LAND, ALI GOOD ME BAD ME (\$22.50) Milly's mother is a serial killer. Though Milly loves her mother, the only way to make her stop is to turn her in to the police. Milly is given a fresh start: a new identity, a home with an affluent foster family, and a spot at an exclusive private school. But Milly has secrets, and life at her new home becomes complicated. As her mother's trial looms, with Milly as the star witness, Milly starts to wonder how much of her is nature, how much of her is nurture, and whether she is doomed to turn out like her mother after all. When tensions rise and Milly feels trapped by her shiny new life, she has to decide: Will she be good? Or is she bad? She is, after all, her mother's daughter.

LEHTOLAINEN, LEENA kallio DERAILED (#10) (\$21.95) After surviving a terrifying assault during her last investigation, Maria Kallio traded in her badge for a com-

fortable desk job. But when the head of social affairs for the Finnish Athletics Federation is murdered—the victim of an apparent poisoning—Maria is drawn back into a race against more than murder. A series of crimes has unfolded, and to Maria's trained eyes, they look like the makings of a conspiracy. As Maria follows the track to a doping scandal, a money-laundering scheme, domestic abuse, and explosive death threats leveled against a sports reporter, she collects the pieces of a baffling puzzle. Now, to run down the killer and save the next victim, all she has to do is make them fit. So far only one thing is for certain: Maria Kallio is rediscovering the thrill of the chase.

LINDSEY, ERIN MURDER ON MILLIONAIRES' ROW (\$22.50) Rose Gallagher might dream of bigger things, but she's content enough with her life as a housemaid. After all, it's not every girl from Five Points who gets to spend her days in a posh Fifth Avenue brownstone, even if only to sweep its floors. But all that changes on the day her boss, Mr. Thomas Wiltshire, disappears. Rose is certain Mr. Wiltshire is in trouble, but the police treat his disappearance as nothing more than the whims of a rich young man behaving badly. Meanwhile, the friend who reported him missing is suspiciously unhelpful. With nowhere left to turn, Rose takes it upon herself to find her handsome young employer. The investigation takes her from the marble palaces of Fifth Avenue to the sordid streets of Five Points. When a ghostly apparition accosts her on the street, Rose begins to realize that the world around her isn't at all as it seems and her place in it is about to change forever.

LLOYD, CATHERINE DEATH COMES TO KURLAND HALL (#3) (\$16.95) Lucy Harrington has returned to Kurland St. Mary to help with her friend Sophia Giffin's wedding. But her homecoming is made disagreeable by the presence of Major Robert Kurland, whose bungled proposal has ruffled Lucy's composure, and a meddling widow who has designs on her father, the village rector. Wary of the cloying Mrs. Chingsford from the start, Lucy has doubts about the busybody's intentions with her father. But everyone else seems to think they make an ideal match, until the courtship is curtailed when Mrs. Chingsford is found dead at the bottom of a staircase. It's clear that it wasn't an accident, and in hopes of finding the culprit, Lucy and Robert call a truce and begin scrutinizing the wedding guests.

LLOYD, CATHERINE DEATH COMES TO THE FAIR (#4) (\$16.95) As Miss Lucy Harrington, daughter of the village rector, and Major Sir Robert Kurland plan their nuptials, the major is beginning to wonder if he'll ever hear wedding bells. He's seen complex military campaigns that involved less strategy, and he's finding Lucy's meddling family maddening. When the body of Ezekiel Thurrock, the church verger, is discovered crushed by a gargoyle that has fallen from the bell tower, the wedding is delayed. But the evidence suggests this was no accident, and Lucy wonders if bad blood at the village fair had anything to do with the man's mysterious demise, since there was much bitterness over Ezekiel's prizewinning vegetables.

LYLE, H B IRREGULAR (\$20.49) London 1909: Vernon Kell, head of counterintelligence at the war office, wants to set up a Secret Service, but to convince his political masters he needs proof of a threat. And to find that proof, he needs an agent he can trust who is smart, ruthless, and able to blend in with the hoi polloi. As it happens, the man Kell needs is Wiggins. An ex-soldier with a talent for deduction perhaps second only to the Great Detective, Wiggins was a Baker Street Irregular, part of a gang of urchin investigators trained by Holmes himself. Unfortunately, Wiggins "don't do official," but when his best friend, Bill, is killed by Russian anarchists, Wiggins realizes that accepting the role of secret agent could give him the cover he needs to pursue revenge against Bill's killers.

MANZINI, ANTONIO schiavon OUT OF SEASON (#3) (\$19.99) It's the bitterly cold spring season in alpine Aosta, and a girl has been kidnapped. Chiara Berguet, daughter of the owners of a local construction firm, was targeted thanks to the sizeable debt her parents owe. But like many a best-laid plan, a blown tire causes the crime to go haywire as the kidnappers' van skids off the road and crashes into a pair of larch trees. Both the driver and his accomplice die on impact, leaving the girl in the back, gagged and bound and unable to break herself free. Meanwhile Rocco Schiavone wakes to find himself in Anna's apartment. She's the best friend of his girlfriend Nora, and memories of the night before, a heated evening with Anna, return to him. As he sneaks out, he sees the first few snowstorm clouds of the spring season move across the sky, an ominous reference that something is off.

MARSTON, EDWARD railway CHRISTMAS RAILWAY MYSTERY (#15) (\$18.99) December 1860. Headed for the morning shift at the Swindon Locomotive works is an army of men pouring out of terraced houses built by the GWR, a miniature town and planned community that aims to provide for its employees from cradle to grave. Unfortunately, boiler smith Frank Rodman is headed for the grave sooner than he'd expected, or he will be once his missing head is found. Colbeck, the Railway Detective, finds his investigation into Rodman's murder mired in contradictions. Was the victim a short-tempered brawler, or a committed Christian and chorister who aimed to

better himself? On the trail of Rodman's enemy as the season starts to bite, Colbeck finds little festive cheer in the twists and turns of this peculiar case.

MATTER, PAULA maggie LAST CALL (#1) (\$20.99) On a bad day at work, bartender Maggie Lewis would love to kill a customer or two. On a very bad day, she's accused of doing just that. Suspended from her job at a Florida VFW after being set up for the murder of Korean war veteran Jack Hoffman, Maggie has no intention of letting herself be framed. And since the police have yet to arrest anybody for the last major crime in town, the murder of Maggie's husband, she's sure they won't try too hard this time, either. So Maggie must produce enough evidence to clear her name, get her job back, and find the killer before she ends up behind the wrong kind of bars. All in a day's work for a bartender who can't hold her beer, her tongue, or her temper.

MATTHIEUSSENT, BRICE REVENGE OF THE TRANSLATOR (\$23.95) We follow Trad, who is translating a mysterious author's book, *Translator's Revenge*, from English to French. The book opens as a series of footnotes from Trad as he justifies changes he makes. As the novel progresses, Trad begins to take over the writing, methodically breaking down the work of the original writer and changing the course of the text. The lines between reality and fiction start to blur as Trad's world overlaps with the characters in *Translator's Revenge*, who seem to grow more and more independent of Trad's increasingly deranged struggle to control the plot. Translated from the French.

MAY, PETER enzo CAST IRON (#6) (\$20.49) Western France, 1989. A weeping killer deposits the unconscious body of twenty-year-old Lucie Martin, her head wrapped in a blue plastic bag, into the waters of a picturesque lake. Lot-et-Garonne, 2003. Fourteen years later, a summer heat wave parches the countryside, killing trees and bushes and drying out streams. In the scorched mud and desiccated slime of the lake, a fisherman finds a skeleton wearing a bag over its skull. Paris, October 2011. In an elegant apartment in Paris, forensic expert Enzo Macleod, now fifty-six years old, pores over the scant evidence of the sixth and final cold case he has been challenged to solve. The most obvious suspect is Régis Blanc, a former pimp already imprisoned for the murders of three sex workers, who may have been Lucie's lover in the months before her disappearance. But Régis has a solid alibi, and Enzo has a feeling the real explanation might be more complicated. In taking on this old and seemingly impossible-to-crack case, Enzo puts everything and everyone he holds dear in terrible danger and in ways even he never could have imagined.

MITCHELL, GLADYS DEATH AT THE OPERA (#5) (\$19.99) Originally published in 1934. Hillmaston School has chosen *The Mikado* for their next school performance and, in recognition of her generous offer to finance the production, their meek and self-effacing arithmetic mistress is offered a key role. But when she disappears mid-way through the opening night performance and is later found dead, unconventional psychoanalyst and sleuth Mrs Bradley is called in to investigate. To her surprise she soon discovers that the hapless teacher had quite a number of enemies - all with a motive for murder.

MITCHELL, GLADYS MYSTERY OF A BUTCHERS SHOP (#1) (\$19.99) Originally published in 1929. When Rupert Sethleigh's body is found one morning, laid out in the village butcher shop but minus its head, the inhabitants of Wandles Parva aren't particularly upset. Sethleigh was a blackmailing moneylender and when the peerless detective and renowned psychoanalyst Mrs Bradley begins her investigation she finds no shortage of suspects. It soon transpires that most of the village seem to have been wandering about Manor Woods, home of the mysterious druidic stone on which Sethleigh's blood is found splashed, on the night he was murdered, but can she eliminate the red herrings and catch the real killer?

MORTON, KATE CLOCKMAKER'S DAUGHTER (\$24.99) In the summer of 1862, a group of young artists led by the passionate and talented Edward Radcliffe descends upon Birchwood Manor on the banks of the Upper Thames. Their plan: to spend a secluded summer month in a haze of inspiration and creativity. But by the time their stay is over, one woman has been shot dead while another has disappeared; a priceless heirloom is missing; and Edward Radcliffe's life is in ruins. Over one hundred and fifty years later, Elodie Winslow, a young archivist in London, uncovers a leather satchel containing two seemingly unrelated items: a sepia photograph of an arresting-looking woman in Victorian clothing, and an artist's sketchbook containing the drawing of a twin-gabled house on the bend of a river. Why does Birchwood Manor feel so familiar to Elodie? And who is the beautiful woman in the photograph? Will she ever give up her secrets? Told by multiple voices across time, spanning the 1860s to the present.

MOYES, PATRICIA tibbett WHO SAW HER DIE (#9) (\$22.50) Lady Balaclava keels over midway through a house party, having apparently been poisoned. The most obvious suspects are her Ladyship's daughters and their (suspiciously foreign) husbands: Leave it to Henry Tibbet to head off to the Continent to check on the daughters' alibis and solve the case.

MOYES, PATRICIA tibbett SEASON OF SNOW AND SINS (#10) (\$22.50) While on holiday in the Swiss Alps, Henry Tibbett investigates the death of a popular ski instructor.

PATTERSON, JAMES cross PEOPLE VS ALEX CROSS (#25) (\$12.99) Alex Cross is on the wrong side of the law. Serving a suspension from the force while he awaits trial for murder, Cross has been branded as a trigger-happy cop, another bad apple walking the streets with a gun, an accusation that Cross will do anything to refute. To make himself feel useful again, Cross opens a counseling office in the basement of his home. When his former partner Sampson shows up needing his help, Cross jumps at the chance, even if it may end up costing him what's left of his career. When a string of young, blonde women go missing, the investigation leads Cross and Sampson to the most depraved, darkest corners of the internet. Struggling to prove his own innocence and uncover the truth lurking online, Cross must risk everything to save his most at-risk patient of all...himself.

PATTERSON, JAMES nypd RED ALERT 5 (\$20.99) The richest of New York's rich gather at The Pierre's Cotillion Room to raise money for those less fortunate. A fatal blast rocks the room, stirring up horrifying memories of 9/11. Is the explosion an act of terrorism or a homicide? A big-name female filmmaker is the next to die, in a desolate corner of New York City. Detectives Zach Jordan and Kylie MacDonald investigate. But the crimes keep escalating as a shadowy killer masterfully plays out his vendetta--and threatens to take down NYPD Red in the bargain.

PENNY, LOUISE ed. BEST AMERICAN MYSTERY STORIES 2018 (\$22.99) Includes stories by Michael Connelly, Lee Child, Charlaine Harris, T.C. Boyle and others.

PERRY, CAROL J salem BELLS, SPELLS AND MURDERS (#7) (\$8.99) Lee Barrett has landed her dream job at Salem's WICH-TV. As the new field reporter, she'll be covering events live as they're unfolding. Next on her holiday checklist is an interview with the beloved chairman of a popular walking tour through Salem's historic districts. But it may be his ghost walking this snowy Noel season after Lee finds him murdered in his stately offices, bloody Santa hat askew. With her police detective boyfriend working the case and a witch's brew of suspects—including some bell-ringing Santas—Lee chases down leads aided and abetted by her wise cat O'Ryan and some unsettling psychic visions of her own.

PRESTON & CHILD crew GIDEON'S CORPSE (#2) (\$9.00) A top nuclear scientist goes mad and takes an innocent family hostage at gunpoint, killing one and causing a massive standoff. A plume of radiation above New York City leads to a warehouse where, it seems, a powerful nuclear bomb was assembled just hours before. Sifting through the evidence, authorities determine that the unthinkable is about to happen: in ten days, a major American city will be vaporized by a terrorist attack. Ten days. And Gideon Crew, tracking the mysterious terrorist cell from the suburbs of New York to the mountains of New Mexico, learns the end may be something worse--far worse--than mere Armageddon.

QUINTANA, JENNY MISSING GIRL (\$19.99) When Anna Flores' adored older sister goes missing as a teenager, Anna copes by disappearing too, just as soon as she can: running as far away from her family as possible, and eventually building a life for herself abroad. Thirty years later, the death of her mother finally forces Anna to return home. Tasked with sorting through her mother's possessions, she begins to confront not just her mother's death, but also the huge hole Gabriella's disappearance left in her life and finds herself asking a question she's not allowed herself to ask for years: what really happened to her sister? With that question comes the revelation that her biggest fear isn't discovering the worst, it's never knowing the answer. But is it too late for Anna to uncover the truth about Gabriella's disappearance?

RAABE, MELANIE STRANGER UPSTAIRS (\$19.95) Several years ago, your husband, and the father of your young son, disappeared. Since then, you've dreamt of his return; railed against him for leaving you alone; grieved for your marriage; and, finally, vowed to move on. One morning, the phone rings. When you answer, a voice at the other end tells you that your husband is on a plane bound for home, and that you'll see him tomorrow. You've imagined this reunion countless times. But nothing has prepared you for the reality. For the moment you realise you don't know this man.

Because he isn't your husband; he's a complete stranger and he's coming home with you. Even worse, he seems to know about something very bad you once did, something no one else could possibly know about. Could they?

REED & MAYER AN EMPIRE FOR RAVENS (#12) (\$23.95) Emperor Justinian's former Lord Chamberlain, John, gets a letter from his longtime comrade, Felix, and, placing loyalty to a friend above his own safety, risks defying imperial edict by leaving his exile in Greece for Rome where Felix is in some kind of trouble. John's covert entrance into Rome is ambushed, driving him deep into ancient catacombs before he exits into the heart of the city. Arrested and brought before Diogenes, John learns that Felix is missing. It has been two days since he went to call upon Archdeacon Leon, a troublesome man at the heart of Felix's dispatch to the city. When sent to lodge at Felix's quar-

ters, John finds the household in disarray, evidence that Felix has taken a questionable lover and run up his usual debts, and someone is rifling supplies. Then a young woman servant, also missing, is found dead. John has many mysteries to solve before Diogenes' courier to Justinian can return and prompt John's immediate execution.

ROBB, J D TIME OF DEATH (\$10.99) A seductive killer is luring in victims with a promise of the impossible: immortality. Eve Dallas must strip away the fantasy to catch the coldhearted madman. She is plunged into the violent aftermath of a ritualistic murder and into the mind of an alleged witness who can't remember a thing to save his life. When a woman disappears from a New York City ferry, it's a case that only Eve Dallas can solve because the woman didn't jump, and yet she's not on board.

ROBOTHAM, MICHAEL SECRETS SHE KEEPS (\$17.99) Everyone has an idea of what their perfect life is. For Agatha, it's Meghan Shaughnessy's. These two women from vastly different backgrounds have one thing in common - a dangerous secret that could destroy everything they hold dear. Both will risk everything to hide the truth, but their worlds are about to collide in a shocking act that cannot be undone.

ROBOTHAM, MICHAEL oloughlin OTHER WIFE (#9) (\$24.99) Childhood sweethearts William and Mary have been married for sixty years. William is a celebrated surgeon, Mary a devoted wife. Both have a strong sense of right and wrong. This is what their son, Joe O'Loughlin, has always believed. But when Joe is summoned to the hospital with news that his father has been brutally attacked, his world is turned upside down. Who is the strange woman crying at William's bedside, covered in his blood - a friend, a mistress, a fantasist or a killer? Against the advice of the police, Joe launches his own investigation. As he learns more, he discovers sides to his father he never knew - and is forcibly reminded that the truth comes at a price.

SANDFORD, JOHN virgil DEEP FREEZE (#10) (\$12.99) Virgil knows the town of Tripton, Minnesota, a little too well. A few years back, he investigated the corrupt and, as it turned out, homicidal, local school board, and now the town's back in view with more alarming news: A woman's been found dead, frozen in a block of ice. There's a possibility that it might be connected to a high school class of twenty years ago that has a mid-winter reunion coming up, and so, wrapping his coat a little tighter, Virgil begins to dig into twenty years' worth of traumas, feuds, and bad blood. In the process, one thing becomes increasingly clear to him. It's true what they say: High school is murder.

SIMONSON, HELEN SUMMER BEFORE THE WAR (\$22.00) It's the summer of 1914 and life in the sleepy village of Rye, England is about to take an interesting turn. Agatha Kent, a canny force for progress, is expecting an unusual candidate to be the school's Latin teacher: Beatrice Nash, a young woman of good breeding in search of a position after the death of her father. (Never has there been a woman Latin teacher.) Agatha's nephews, meanwhile, have come to spend the summer months, as always, both with dreams of their own: Daniel, the poet, to publish a literary journal in Paris, and Hugh, to graduate from medical studies and marry his surgeon's daughter thus inheriting a lucrative practice. But then Hugh is sent to pick up Beatrice from the train station and life, of course, changes.

STEINHAUER, OLEN weaver TOURIST (#1) (\$9.99) A reissue. Originally published in 2009, this book is non-stop action! Milo Weaver has tried to leave his old life of secrets and lies behind by giving up his job as a "tourist" for the CIA—an undercover agent with no home, no identity—and working a desk at the CIA's New York headquarters. But staying retired from the field becomes impossible when the arrest of a long-sought-after assassin sets off an investigation into one of Milo's oldest colleagues and friends. With new layers of intrigue being exposed in his old cases, he has no choice but to go back undercover and find out who's been pulling the strings once and for all.

STOCKWIN, JULIAN kydd QUARTERDECK (#5) (\$14.99) Thomas Kydd was promoted to acting lieutenant at the bloody Battle of Camperdown in October 1797. Now, he must sit an examination to confirm his rank or face an inglorious return before the mast. But this is only the first of many obstacles for a man who was pressed into the King's Service and discovered a calling for the sea. Kydd is from humble origins, yet he attains the lofty heights of the quarterdeck as an officer in His Majesty's Navy. Kydd and his enigmatic friend Nicholas Renzi set sail in HMS Tenacious for the North American station. Aboard the old 64-gun ship, Kydd comes to doubt he will ever match up to the high-born gentlemen officers.

SWANSON, CYNTHIA GLASS FOREST (\$21.99) In the autumn of 1960, Angie Glass is living an idyllic life in her Wisconsin hometown. At twenty-one, she's married to handsome, charming Paul, and has just given birth to a baby boy. But one phone call changes her life forever. When Paul's niece, Ruby, tells them that her father, Henry, has committed suicide and her mother, Silja, has gone missing, the newlyweds drop everything to be by Ruby's side in the small upstate town of Stonekill, New York. Angie thinks they're coming to the rescue of Paul's grief-stricken young niece, but seventeen-

year-old Ruby, self-possessed and enigmatic, resists Angie's attempts to nurture her. Angie discovers astonishing truths about the complicated Glass family.

SWANSTON, A D INCENDIUM PLOT (\$19.99) England, 1572. In the England of Elizabeth I, the fear of plague and invasion, and the threat of insurrection are constant. As the Earl of Leicester's chief intelligencer, lawyer Dr Christopher Radcliff is tasked with investigating rumours of treachery at home and the papist threat from abroad. And with heresy and religious unrest simmering beneath the surface of a country on the brink, Radcliff is under pressure to get results. Then two brutal and seemingly motiveless killings point alert Radcliff to the whisper of a new plot against the queen. There are few clues, and all he and his network of agents have to go on is a single word: *incendium*. But what does it mean - and who lies behind it?

THOMAS, SHERRY lady sherlock HOLLOW OF FEAR (#3) (\$20.00) Under the cover of "Sherlock Holmes, consulting detective," Charlotte Holmes puts her extraordinary powers of deduction to good use. Aided by the capable Mrs. Watson, Charlotte draws those in need to her and makes it her business to know what other people don't. Moriarty's shadow looms large. First, Charlotte's half-brother disappears. Then, Lady Ingram, the estranged wife of Charlotte's close friend Lord Ingram, turns up dead on his estate. And all signs point to Lord Ingram as the murderer. With Scotland Yard closing in, Charlotte goes under disguise to seek out the truth.

THOMPSON, VICTORIA countess CITY OF LIES (#1) (\$10.99) The first in her new historical series. Like most women, Elizabeth Miles assumes many roles; unlike most, hers have made her a woman on the run. Living on the edge of society, Elizabeth uses her guile to relieve so-called respectable men of their ill-gotten gains. But brutal and greedy entrepreneur Oscar Thornton is out for blood. He's lost a great deal of money and is not going to forgive a woman for outwitting him. With his thugs hot on her trail, Elizabeth seizes the moment to blend in with a group of women who have an agenda of their own. She never expects to like or understand these privileged women, but she soon comes to respect their intentions, forming an unlikely bond with the wealthy matriarch of the group whose son Gideon is the rarest of species, an honest man in a dishonest world.

UNGER, LISA UNDER MY SKIN (\$22.99) It's been a year since Poppy's husband, Jack, was brutally murdered during his morning run through Manhattan's Riverside Park. In the immediate aftermath, Poppy spiraled into an oblivion of grief, disappearing for several days only to turn up ragged and confused wearing a tight red dress she didn't recognize. The case was never solved, and Poppy has finally begun to move on. But those lost days have never stopped haunting her. Poppy starts having nightmares and blackouts—there are periods of time she can't remember, and she's unable to tell the difference between what is real and what she's imagining. When she begins to sense that someone is following her,

VARGAS, FRED evangelists ACCORDIONIST (#3) (\$19.99) When two Parisian women are shockingly murdered in their homes, the police suspect young accordionist Clément Vauquer, who was seen outside both of the apartments in question. It seems on the surface like an open-and-shut case. But now Clément has disappeared from public view. His likeness has appeared in the papers and detectives from Paris to Nevers are on his tail. To have a chance of proving his innocence, he seeks refuge with old Marthe, a former prostitute and the only mother figure he has known. Marthe calls ex-special investigator Louis Kehlweiler to help Clément. But what Louis uncovers is anything but straightforward, and he must call on some unconventional friends to help him solve his most complex case yet.

VISKIC, EMMA zelic AND FIRE CAME DOWN (#2) (\$19.95) Caleb Zelic used to meet life head-on. Now he's struggling just to get through the day. His best mate is dead, his ex-wife, Kat, is avoiding him, and nightmares haunt his waking hours. But when a young woman is killed after pleading for his help in sign language, Caleb is determined to find out who she was. And the trail leads straight to his hometown, Resurrection Bay. The town is on bushfire alert and simmering with racial tensions. As he delves deeper, Caleb uncovers secrets that could threaten his life and any chance of reuniting with Kat. Driven by his demons, he pushes on. But who is he willing to sacrifice along the way? The first book in the series is the excellent Resurrection Bay (\$19.95)

VIVIAN, FRANCIS knollis DEATH OF MR. LOMAS (#1) (\$24.00) Originally published in 1941. When Mr. Lomas visits the Chief Constable of Burnham and describes his symptoms, Sir Wilfred Burrows believes that his visitor suffers from nothing more serious than nerves. Later that day Mr. Lomas's body is recovered from the water at Willow Lock; yet death is not by drowning. Sir Wilfred recounts the interview to Inspector Knollis, who, realizing the significance of the symptoms, is satisfied that Mr. Lomas is a victim of cocaine poisoning. With characteristic energy he sets about the task of unmasking the murderer.

WARE, RUTH LYING GAME (\$12.99) "*I need you.*" Three small words that change everything. Isa Wilde knows something terrible has happened when she receives this text from an old friend. Why else would Kate summon her and their two friends Thea

and Fatima to the seaside town where they briefly attended school together seventeen years ago? The four friends first met at Salten House boarding school, where they quickly bonded over The Lying Game, a risky contest that involved tricking fellow boarders and faculty with their lies. The girls were eventually expelled after Kate's dad, their beloved art teacher, mysteriously disappeared. Now reunited, Isa, Kate, Thea, and Fatima discover that their past lies had far-reaching effects and criminal implications that threaten them all. In order to protect their reputations, and their friendship, they must uncover the truth about what really happened all those years ago.

WATKINS, EILEEN groomer FERAL ATTRACTION (#3) (\$17.95) Cassie's good friend Dawn is part of an organization that's trying to protect a colony of stray cats on the property of a condo community in Chadwick, New Jersey. The residents have got their backs up over the cat invasion, and Dawn has come to Cassie's grooming and boarding shop, Cassie's Comfy Cats, to ask her help in talking sense to them. Not everyone's against the cats. Eccentric Sabrina Ward feeds them and has even created make-shift shelters for them in the nearby woods, infuriating her neighbors. Following a heated community meeting, Sabrina's body is found in the woods. The police are calling her death an accident, but Cassie smells a rat.

WENTWORTH, PATRICIA LADIES' BANE (#22) (\$15.99) Originally published in 1952. No one has seen Allegra Trent since she got married. Her husband swept her off her feet and out of London, to a faraway town called Bleake. She has stopped writing letters, and her family has begun to worry. Allegra's husband is a strange man. He is consumed with his dream of owning the ramshackle estate curiously known as Ladies' Bane, and he intends to use his new wife's money to do it. Why he wants to live there no one knows, but Josepha Bowden does not want his castle to become her goddaughter's prison. She asks the help of Maud Silver, the former governess who now makes a living using her reason to unravel the intricacies of murder. There has been no killing in Bleake, but if Miss Silver doesn't intervene quickly, there could be one soon.

WENTWORTH, PATRICIA silver DANGER POINT (#4) aka IN THE BALANCE (\$15.99) Originally published in 1941. Maud Silver, demure private eye, is on a train to London when a young woman in a state of shock bursts into her compartment. She is Lisle Jertingham, a newlywed with a fortune, which may be about to get her killed. Lisle explains that she fled her home in a hurry after overhearing a sinister conversation. Her new husband's first wife died in an apparent accident, and the resultant infusion of cash saved his family home. Now, he's broke again, and she fears he is attempting to engineer a second convenient mishap. Whether the widower is bent on a second murder or his young wife is being paranoid, no one is clear. But if Lisle is in danger, it is up to Miss Silver to find out.

WENTWORTH, PATRICIA silver SPOTLIGHT (#12) aka WICKED UNCLE (\$15.99) Originally published in 1947. When the menacing Gregory Porlock invites a group of unacquainted friends into his home, no one is quite sure what to expect. But after the host himself is stabbed in the back it soon becomes clear to all that he was a blackmailer. Every person in his house has something to hide, and many have good reason for wishing Porlock ill. It is up to Miss Silver to see through the lies and determine which guest made certain the party was really over.

WHISHAW, IONA winslow SORROWFUL SANCTUARY (#5) (\$16.95) Auto-graphed copies available. Lane Winslow is enjoying a perfect, sunny day at the lake when she spots a gravely injured young man drifting in a sinking rowboat. Hypothermic, bleeding, and soaked in icy, bloody water, he is unable to speak, leaving Lane at a loss. What series of events brought him to this grisly fate? Darling and Ames are quick to pick up the case, but leads are few until Angela's young son finds an unsettling clue on the beach—a bright red swastika lapel pin—that points to the National Unity Party of Canada. When the anonymous man succumbs to his injuries, Darling and Lane are thrown headlong into a murder investigation with ties to the old country.

YOCUM, ROBIN FAVORITE SONS (\$25.99) Hutch Van Buren is fifteen years old, playing sports and searching for arrowheads in a small industrial town in Ohio with his three closest friends when an altercation between them and Petey Sanchez, a troubled seventeen-year-old, leads to Petey's accidental death. Vowing a pact of silence, they allow a local ne'er-do-well to go to jail for the crime. As they grow older, each boy shoulders the burden of truth in his own way as each attempts to leave the past behind. Thirty-three years later, in 2004, Van Buren is the prosecuting attorney in Summit County, Ohio, and a candidate for state attorney general when he learns that he and his boyhood friends weren't the only ones keeping a secret about Petey's death. A convicted sex offender in need of a favor attempts to blackmail Van Buren in return for his silence. Van Buren must decide between his political career and the duty of the office he has sworn to uphold.