



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

October 4, 2022

This issue is dated a little differently than normal, October 4, 2022 instead of just October 2022, and that's because on this date in 1982 Marian and I took over Sleuth, forty years ago, to the day. I won't say it feels like it was just yesterday, but it doesn't seem like forty years have gone by. Gone by, they have, and here we are, still selling crime novels to the best customers in the world. A lot of water under that bridge, not to mention our four-legged friends, and we remain most grateful to y'all for this wonderful journey.

And talking of the passage of time...it's October and taking the kids out to the off-leash park was a decidedly cool experience. A tuque would have come in handy! Portent of things to come. Thanksgiving and Hallowe'en are around the corner and the time to arrange for winter tires and find those gloves and tuques and winter coats and boots and long underwear is nigh! But, not to rush things, I fully expect another five or six weeks of golf before the clubs get put away.

I just assumed that y'all were sick to your back teeth about our going on about how much we adore, and have adored, all our four-legged children, especially about Pixie and HRH Prince Paddington the Second, aka Prince. But something a friend said just a little while ago made me think that I could just go on and on about the current children and you might not mind. Normally that'd be all the impetus I needed to start blathering on about how wonderful they are, what magnificent companions they are, how intelligent and aware they are and how much more I love them than Marian does and how much more they love me than they do Marian, but... I'll resist. I'll just tell you about an article I read recently entitled What are They Thinking? written by **Yudhijit Bhattacharjee** in the October 2022 issue of National Geographic. The subtitle, "From rats with empathy to monkeys that complain, some animals have emotions as complex as ours" gives you an idea of where the article is going. This was a fascinating, eye-opening article and I would urge you to seek it out. The basic thrust of the article is that they feel empathy, grieve, seek joy...just like us. A growing number of behavioural studies, combined with anecdotal observations in the wild are revealing that many species have much more in common with humans than previously thought. It might be disturbing, what all this new research is showing—do you have any idea how smart octopuses are?—but, hopefully, it'll make you question all that you have held to be true.

The Merchant of Menace,

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

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JD's Picks

DAN FESPERMAN has written any number of excellent spy novels over the last quarter-century or so and his latest offering is Winter Works (\$37). This outstanding read is set in East Germany soon after the events of November 1989 when the Berlin Wall was dismantled. The wall which encircled West Berlin, separating it from East German territory, was dismantled by crowds of delirious Germans—wall woodpeckers, as they were named—resulting in the reunification of the two Germanys a year later.

As the GDR is disintegrating, the spy organizations of the West are keen to get their hands on high-ranking officers of the Stasi and learn what they know of the Stasi's operations in the West and that's where our story begins.

Here's a short blurb: On a chilly early morning walk on the wooded outskirts of Berlin, Emil Grimm finds the body of his neighbor, a fellow Stasi officer named Lothar, with a gunshot wound to the temple and a pistol in his right hand. Despite appearances, Emil suspects murder. A few months earlier he would have known just what to do, but now, as East Germany disintegrates, being a Stasi colonel is more of a liability than an asset. More troubling still is that Emil and Lothar were involved in a final clandestine mission, one that has clearly turned deadly. Now Emil must finish the job alone, on uncertain ground where old alliances seem to be shifting by the day.

Meanwhile, CIA agent Claire Saylor, sent to Berlin to assist an Agency mop-up action against their collapsing East German adversaries, has just received an upgrade to her assignment. She'll be the designated contact for a high ranking foreign intelligence officer of the Stasi, although details are suspiciously sketchy. When her first rendezvous goes dangerously awry, she realizes the mission is far more delicate than she was led to believe.

With the rules of the game changing fast, and as their missions intersect, Emil and Claire find themselves on unlikely common ground, fighting for their lives against a powerful enemy hiding in the shadows.

An enjoyable read on many levels and a very useful historical lesson in one. I particularly appreciated that the cast of characters was small, which made it easy enough to keep track of all the moving parts without having to keep a list of *dramatis personae*. Something I've often had to do with spy novels! (Getting too old to have to work so hard with my fiction!)

When Forsaken Country (\$35) by **ALLAN ESKENS** arrived a few weeks ago the author was vaguely familiar but, for the life of me, I couldn't remember exactly why. A little more research and I reminded myself that I had read a couple of his early novels and remember being very much taken with them. In particular, it was his first novel, The Life We Bury (\$18.95) that I remember having liked a great deal—published in 2014, so I can be forgiven for not remembering!—so Forsaken made it to my TBR pile. This was a satisfying read. There was a particularly clever spin on a classic plot device that kept me reading and I particularly liked the wildwoods settings. I'm glad to have been re-acquainted with the author.

The blurb is annotated a little further on, so I won't duplicate it here, but I'll give you a quick review: "The best stories test our view of the moral universe, which is one of the many reasons I love the work of Allen Eskens. Forsaken Country is a shining example of what fine crime fiction offers—a tight plot, intriguing characters, and important ethical questions. In this tale of a kidnapped boy and the men who desperately seek to save him, Eskens offers no easy answers, but delivers a taut Northwoods thriller with a raging pace guaranteed to sweep you along from first page to last. This is one of our best crime writers at the top of his game."—**William Kent Krueger**, author of the Cork O'Connor novels set in the Boundary Waters area of Northern Minnesota.

A favourite setting for me is Australia so when I realized that The Long Game (\$23.95) by **SIMON ROWELL** was set around the Melbourne area, it too made my TBR pile. That he and his wife, Karen, live in rural Victoria on a farm full of rescued animals make me predisposed to liking him already.

The blurb is also annotated a little further on, so I won't reprint it here. Detective Sergeant Zoe Mayer, back from an extended leave of absence, is still suffering from

PTSD. She has barely come back to work when she's called out to the scene of a gruesome murder and she's off with her new partner, Harry, a golden retriever therapy dog. It's pretty clear what's happened and who is suspect number one, but, of course, it's too neat a package for Zoe and with lots of support from Harry, Zoe is convinced to continue digging despite the flak from her colleagues who are pretty sure they got this and who are not keen to re-open old cases that Zoe now says are linked to this new one. Some of the clues were telegraphed well in advance, but there were enough twists and turns to keep me reading and guessing. Besides, Harry steals the show and I'd read his next adventure.

Marian's Picks

Congratulations to us! But more important is saying a big "THANK YOU" to you. As JD mentioned above, we have owned the bookstore for 40 years as of today. I think that's quite an accomplishment considering what has happened over the past 40 years: big box stores, the internet, Amazon, the ever-changing exchange rate on our dollar, and most recently the pandemic. We've had resident cats and dogs, four locations, three moves, and wonderful people who worked with us. A special thank you to Bill, John, Jill, Wendy, Mary and Elizabeth as without their dedication we could not have gotten as far as we did. I'll never forget the day that Wendy and Mary came into the bookstore wearing identical T-shirts that had "THE HELP" written on them. You were both more than just help! I'll stop crying now and get on with the books.

The Voter File (\$23) by **DAVID PEPPER** is a political thriller for our times. With all the election "issues" that have arisen in the USA over the past two to three years, the book is a real eye opener. It certainly presents a case of "what if" and maybe more than that, has what was once unimaginable already happened? Sometimes fact is stranger than fiction and I remember being thoroughly engrossed in the plot when I "picked" this when the book was first published in 2020. Now that the paperback has been published, I'm going to take the opportunity to mention it to you again. It is the third featuring Jack Sharpe, but you certainly do not need to read the first two to understand what is going on.

Here is the blurb: A twisty, one-step-ahead-of-the-headlines political thriller featuring a rogue reporter who investigates election meddling of epic proportions, written by the ultimate insider. (*He taught election and voting rights law at one point in his career--jd*)

Investigative reporter Jack Sharpe is down to his last chance. Fired from his high-profile gig with a national news channel, his only lead is a phone full of messages from a grad student named Tori Justice, who swears she's observed an impossible result in a local election. Sharpe is sure she's mistaken...but what if she isn't?

Sharpe learns that the most important tool in any election is the voter file: the database that keeps track of all voters in a district, and shapes a campaign's game plan for victory. If one person were to gain control of an entire party's voter file, they could manipulate the outcome of virtually every election in America. Sharpe discovers this has happened--and that the person behind the hack is determined to turn American politics upside down.

The more he digs, the more Sharpe is forced to question the values--and viability--of the country he loves and a president he admired. And soon it becomes clear that not just his career is in jeopardy...so is his life.

I love mysteries about art, stories that have some basis in fact, and when the setting is World War II, well, I'm all in. The Madonnas of Leningrad (\$19.99) is a debut novel by **DEBRA DEAN** and was originally published in 2006. I don't know how we got a copy of the book, we didn't have any on order, but there it was on the counter, it looked intriguing, so I read it. It's not all that long at 256 pages, and I wouldn't really call it a mystery, but it sure packed a punch. It tells the story of an 80-something-year-old woman beset by dementia (do I really want to read about what could happen to any of us!) who is recalling her time as a docent at the Hermitage Museum in Leningrad during the war. Her descriptions of the art that once hung on the walls of the museum is breathtaking and the suffering she recall the people of Leningrad enduring is heartbreaking.

Here is the description of the story: Bit by bit, the ravages of age are eroding Marina's

grip on the everyday. An elderly Russian woman now living in America, she cannot hold on to fresh memories—the details of her grown children's lives, the approaching wedding of her grandchild—yet her distant past is miraculously preserved in her mind's eye.

Vivid images of her youth in war-torn Leningrad arise unbidden, carrying her back to the terrible fall of 1941, when she was a tour guide at the Hermitage Museum and the German army's approach signaled the beginning of what would be a long, torturous siege on the city. As the people braved starvation, bitter cold, and a relentless German onslaught, Marina joined other staff members in removing the museum's priceless masterpieces for safekeeping, leaving the frames hanging empty on the walls to symbolize the artworks' eventual return. As the Luftwaffe's bombs pounded the proud, stricken city, Marina built a personal Hermitage in her mind—a refuge that would stay buried deep within her, until she needed it once more.

JD will most likely moan and complain about me telling you about cookbooks and the “feel good” books I’ve bought lately, but tough for him, here are a few I’ve read, and yes, I do read through cookbooks as though they are novels. And yes, if you would like to order these titles from us you are more than welcome to. I’ll cut short some of the descriptions of the books, but you can always look them up on our website if you want the full details.

[Plant-Based India](#) (\$39) by **DR. SHEIL SHUKLA** is really an amazing cookbook featuring all plant-based Indian recipes. I love cooking Indian and this one will become part of my go to cookbook library.

India is home to a vibrant tapestry of culinary traditions—and to more vegetarians than anywhere else in the world. During his medical training, Dr. Shukla discovered the power of plant-based nutrition to prevent and manage chronic illness—and so began his mission to reinvent the classic vegetarian dishes of his heritage.

[Plant-Based India](#) presents over 100 completely vegan recipes for shāk (spiced vegetable dishes), dāl (legume stews), roti (flatbreads), bhāt (rice dishes), and more. From a comforting Pālak Tofu that transcends dairy-based paneer, to vegan Nān, festive Navratan Rice, hearty Dāl Makhani, and summery Chocolate Chāi Mousse with Berries, these are recipes from the heart—filled with nourishing ingredients at their seasonal best.

[The Vegan Chinese Kitchen](#) (\$40) by **HANNAH CHE** was a special order for a customer and it looked so beautiful that I got a copy for myself. The first recipe I made was the one on the front cover of the book. Love, love, love eggplant!

When Hannah Che decided to become a vegan, she was concerned that it would alienate her from the traditions and food that her Chinese family celebrated. But that was before she learned about Zhai cai, or vegetarian cooking, a fascinating subset of Chinese cookery that emphasizes umami-rich ingredients and can be traced back over hundreds, if not a thousand, years to Buddhist temple kitchens.

She shows us the magic of this highly developed and creative tradition in which nearly every dish in the Chinese repertoire can be replicated in a meatless way. In this book, you'll find recipes that are (also) naturally plant-based with a rich culinary history that are as irresistible as they are nourishing, such as flaky scallion pancakes, corn stir fried with peppers and pine nuts, or pea shoots braised in a velvety mushroom broth made with sesame-oil roux.

I’ve just started to read [A Dog Walks into a Nursing Home](#) (\$18) by **SUE HALPERN**, which was another special order from a customer. I was intrigued by the cover and by the blurb. So far, it is reading like a charm.

Here is a short blurb: In late adolescence, Pransky was bored: she needed a job. and so **Sue Halpern** decided to give herself and her underoccupied Labradoodle a new lease—er, lease—on life by getting the two of them certified as a therapy-dog team. Pransky proved to be not only a terrific therapist, smart and instinctively compassionate, but an unerring moral compass as well. In the unlikely-sounding arena of a public nursing home, she led her teammate into a series of encounters with the residents that revealed depths of warmth, humor, and insight Halpern hadn’t expected.

And finally...As I have mentioned many times, my cottage neighbour and I often imbibe in a martini together when we are at our cottages. But have you ever wondered if

you drink too much? If I estimate the number of martinis Sharon and I have drunk in the 18 years I've had my cottage, well....maybe, I'd better not! I heard about This Naked Mind (\$24) by **ANNIE GRACE** which delves into whether or not we drink too much, why we get hooked on our 5 pm ritual and, perhaps, how to cut back or stop drinking altogether. It was an interesting read backed with lots of footnotes supporting why alcohol is addictive.

Here is part of the jacket blurb: This Naked Mind offers a new, positive solution. Here, **Annie Grace** clearly presents the psychological and neurological components of alcohol use based on the latest science, and reveals the cultural, social, and industry factors that support alcohol dependence in all of us. Packed with surprising insight into the reasons we drink, this book will open your eyes to the startling role of alcohol in our culture, and how the stigma of alcoholism and recovery keeps people from getting the help they need. (*I'll have another, thanks.—jd.*)

Hardbacks

ADLER-OLSEN, JUSSI dept q SHADOW MURDERS (#9) (\$37.99) On her sixtieth birthday, a woman takes her own life. When the case lands on Detective Carl Mørck's desk, he can't imagine what this has to do with Department Q, Copenhagen's cold cases division since the cause of death seems apparent. However, his superior, Marcus Jacobsen, is convinced that this is related to an unsolved case that has been plaguing him since 1988. At Marcus's behest, Carl and the Department Q gang—Rose, Assad, and Gordon—reluctantly begin to investigate. And they quickly discover that Marcus is on to something: Every two years for the past three decades, there have been unusual, impeccably timed deaths with connections between them that cannot be ignored, including mysterious piles of salt at the scenes. As the investigation goes deeper, it emerges that these "accidents" are in fact part of a sinister murder scheme. Faced with their toughest case yet, made only more difficult by COVID-19 restrictions and the challenges of their personal lives, the Department Q team must race to find the culprit before the next murder is committed, as it is becoming increasingly clear that the killer is far from finished.

BALSON, RONALD H AFFAIR OF SPIES (\$36.99) Nathan Silverman grew up in Berlin in the 1920s, the son of a homemaker and a theoretical physicist. His idyllic childhood was soon marred by increasing levels of bigotry against his family and the rest of the Jewish community, and after his uncle is arrested on Kristallnacht, he leaves Germany for New York City with only his mother's wedding ring to sell for survival. While attending an evening course at Columbia in 1942, Nathan notices a recruitment poster on a university wall and decides to enlist in the military and help fight the Nazi regime. To his surprise, he is quickly selected for a special assignment; he is trained as a spy, and ordered to report to the Manhattan Project. There he learns that the Allies are racing to develop a nuclear weapon before the Nazis, and a German theoretical physicist is hoping to defect. The physicist was a friend of his father's, and Nathan's mission is to return to Berlin via France and smuggle him out of Europe.

BISHOP, D V aldo DARKEST SIN (#2) (\$37.99) Florence. Spring, 1537. When Cesare Aldo investigates a report of intruders at a convent in the Renaissance city's northern quarter, he enters a community divided by bitter rivalries and harbouring dark secrets. His case becomes far more complicated when a man's body is found deep inside the convent, stabbed more than two dozen times. Unthinkable as it seems, all the evidence suggests one of the nuns must be the killer. Meanwhile, Constable Carlo Strocchi finds human remains pulled from the Arno that belong to an officer of the law missing since winter. The dead man had many enemies, but who would dare kill an official of the city's most feared criminal court? As Aldo and Strocchi close in on the truth, identifying the killers will prove more treacherous than either of them could ever have imagined.

BOX, C J hoyt & dewell TREASURE STATE (#6) (\$38.99) Private Investigator Cassie Dewell's business is thriving, and her latest case puts her on the hunt for a slippery con man who's disappeared somewhere in the "treasure state". A wealthy Florida widow has accused him of absconding with her fortune and wants Cassie to find him and get it back. The trail takes Cassie to Anaconda, Montana, a quirky former copper mining town that's the perfect place to reinvent yourself. As the case develops, Cassie begins to wonder if her client is telling her everything. In Montana, a killer view can mean more than just the scenery, and Cassie knows much darker things hide behind the picturesque landscape of Big Sky Country. Treasure State, C. J. Box's highly anticipated follow-up to *The Bitterroots*, is full of more twists and turns than the switchbacks through the Anaconda Range.

BYRON, ELLEN CAJUN KISS OF DEATH (\$35.99) In Pelican, Louisiana, Valen-

tine's Day has a way of warming the heart, despite the February chill. But the air at Crozat Plantation B&B turns decidedly frigid when celebrity chef Phillippe Chanson checks in. And when the arrogant Phillippe—in town to open his newest Cajun themed restaurant—perishes in a fiery boat crash, Maggie Crozat's dear friend JJ lands in very cold water. Did JJ, proprietor of Junie's Oyster Bar and Dance Hall, murder Phillippe because he feared the competition? Might Maggie's mother, Ninette, have bumped off the chef for stealing one of her cherished recipes? Or was the culprit a local seafood vendor, miffed because Phillippe was somehow able to sell oysters for a remarkably reasonable price, despite an oyster shortage? Maggie had planned to devote her February to art lessons in New Orleans, a present from her sweetheart, Bo. But now she has to focus on helping her friend and her mother cross a murder charge off the menu.

CHRISTIE, AGATHA *marple* MARPLE: TWELVE NEW MYSTERIES (\$35.99)

Bringing a fresh twist to the hallmarks of a classic **Agatha Christie** mystery, twelve esteemed writers—**Alyssa Cole, Lucy Foley, Elly Griffiths, Natalie Haynes, Jean Kwok, Val McDermid, Kate Mosse**, among them—have captured the sharp wit, unique voice, and droll ingenuity of Jane Marple, legendary sleuth, who returns to solve twelve baffling cases in this brand-new collection.

CRAIG, FERGUS ONCE UPON A CRIME (\$26.99) Exeter: a city in decline, East Devon's capital of crime. Detective Roger LeCarre: a man on a quest to rid the world of crime (starting with Devon and Cornwall and then working outwards) so he can concentrate on his watercolours. LeCarre runs 10km a day but probably burns more calories shaking his head at what has become of his city. Now Exeter is set to become the UK Capital of Culture and the ambitious Lord Mayor wants to turn things around. But when a young man's (dead) body is found in the centre of town, things get murky. Detective Roger LeCarre is a character never seen before in modern fiction—a tough but troubled detective with a drink problem and a marriage in trouble. Can he find out who killed the young man, save the city, and change his energy provider before the new more expensive tariff kicks in?

DOYLE, ARTHUR CONAN RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$39.99) Thirteen stories involving Sherlock Holmes, one of literature's most beloved characters, are now available in an exclusive collector's edition. Featuring beautiful cover art from artist Laci Fowler and decorative interior pages, this giftable book is ideal for the Sherlockian in your family.

ESKENS, ALLEN FORSAKEN COUNTRY (\$35) Max Rupert has left his position as a Minneapolis homicide detective to live in solitude. Mourning the tragic death of his wife, he's also racked by guilt—he alone knows what happened to her killer. But then the former local sheriff, Lyle Voight, arrives with a desperate plea: Lyle's daughter Sandy and his six-year-old grandson Pip have disappeared. Lyle's certain Sandy's ex-husband Reed is behind it, but the new sheriff is refusing to investigate. When Max reluctantly looks into their disappearance, he too becomes convinced something has gone very wrong. But the closer Max and Lyle get to finding proof, the more slippery Reed becomes, until he makes a break for the beautiful but formidable Boundary Waters wilderness with vulnerable Pip in tow.

FELLOWES, JESSICA BEST FRIEND (\$35.99) Bella and Kate. Kate and Bella. From childhood they were bosom friends, Bella sensible and cautious, Kate gregarious and just a little dangerous. Yet in spite of their intimacy, their trust is fragile. Men came into their lives and things changed: a black seed was set in the heart of their relationship. Over decades, acts of both cruelty and love ferment until one shocking event tests them more than ever. Neither will escape unscathed.

FIELDING, JOY HOUSEKEEPER (\$32) Jodi Bishop, a top-notch real estate agent with a resentful, middling writer husband, is exhausted from trying to be all things to all people, especially caring for her elderly, sick, parents. She finally decides she's had enough and starts interviewing housekeepers to help care for them. She settles on Elyse Woodley, an energetic and attractive widow in her early sixties, who seems perfect for the job. While her father is initially resistant, he soon warms to Elyse's sunny personality and engaging ways. And Jodi is pleased to have an ally, someone she can talk to and occasionally even confide in. Until...She shuts Jodi out. And her mother's condition worsens—rapidly. Who is this woman suddenly wearing her mother's jewelry? What is she after? And how far will she go to get it?

FREEMAN, DIANNE BRIDE'S GUIDE TO MARRIAGE AND MURDER (\$35) A witty romp through the high society of Victorian England with a touch of romance, an appealing and independent female lead, and rich historical detail...In this charming fifth installment, Frances Wynn, the American-born Countess of Harleigh, finds her wedding day overshadowed by murder . . .

GOLDENBAUM, SALLY *society* DARK AND SNOWY NIGHT (#5) (\$35) It's holiday season in the picturesque, coastal town of Sea Harbor, Massachusetts! But the Seaside Knitters Society will have to take a break from crafting cozy Christmas gifts to investigate a murder at the Mayor's holiday party...Winter in Sea Harbor is a feast for the senses—crackling bonfires, the scent of snow in the salty air, carols ringing out on

the village green. The holidays are kicking off in style at Mayor Beatrice Scaglia's holiday party, where a well-dressed crowd admires the mayor's sumptuous new home and the celebrity chef catering the event. An additional treat for Ben and Nell Endicott at the festive affair is reconnecting with a dear college friend, Oliver Bishop. But it's not just reunions and the appetizers that are to-die-for. Before the party-goers can toast the beginning of Sea Harbor's festive season, the chef—and young wife of the Endicott's old Harvard friend—is found dead beneath the mistletoe.

MACEWAN/MCEWAN, IAN LESSONS (\$37) From the Suez Crisis to the Cuban Missile Crisis, the fall of the Berlin Wall to the current pandemic and climate change, our hero, Roland, sometimes rides with the tide of history, but more often struggles against it. Haunted by lost opportunities, he seeks solace through every possible means—music, literature, friends, sex, politics and, finally, love cut tragically short, then love ultimately redeemed. His journey raises important questions for us all. Can we take full charge of the course of our lives without damage to others? How do global events beyond our control shape our lives and our memories? And what can we really learn from the traumas of the past?

MACNEAL, SUSAN ELIA MOTHER DAUGHTER TRAITOR SPY (\$37.99) June 1940. France has fallen to the Nazis, and Britain may be next—but to many Americans, the war is something happening “over there.” Veronica Grace has just graduated from college; she and her mother, Violet, are looking for a fresh start in sunny Los Angeles. After a blunder cost her a prestigious career opportunity in New York, Veronica is relieved to take a typing job in L.A.—only to realize that she's working for one of the area's most vicious propagandists. Overnight, Veronica is exposed to the dark underbelly of her new home, where German Nazis are recruiting Americans for their devastating campaign. After the FBI dismisses the Graces' concerns, Veronica and Violet decide to call on an old friend, who introduces them to L.A.'s anti-Nazi spymaster. At once, the women go undercover to gather enough information about the California Reich to take to the authorities. But as the news of Pearl Harbor ripples through the United States, and President Roosevelt declares war, the Grace women realize that the plots they're investigating are far more sinister than they feared—and even a single misstep could cost them everything. Inspired by the real mother-daughter spy duo who foiled Nazi plots in Los Angeles during WWII.

MIRANDA, MEGAN LAST TO VANISH (\$36.99) North Carolina mountain town Cutter's Pass is best known for its outdoor offerings—rafting and hiking, with access to the Appalachian trail by way of a gorgeous waterfall—and its mysterious history. The string of unsolved disappearances that has haunted the town is once again thrust into the spotlight when journalist Landon West, who was staying at The Passage Inn, to investigate the story of the vanishing trail, disappears himself. When Landon's brother Trey shows up looking for answers, Abigail Lovett, the manager of the inn, can't help but feel the town closing ranks.

OSMAN, RICHARD thursday BULLET THAT MISSED (#3) (\$37) It is an ordinary Thursday, and things should finally be returning to normal...except trouble is never far away where the Thursday Murder Club are concerned. A decade-old cold case—their favorite kind—leads them to a local news legend and a murder with no body and no answers. Then a new foe pays Elizabeth a visit. Her mission? Kill or be killed. Suddenly the cold case has become red hot. While Elizabeth wrestles with her conscience (and a gun), Joyce, Ron, and Ibrahim chase down the clues with help from old friends and new. But can the gang solve the mystery and save Elizabeth before the murderer strikes again?

PERRY, ANNE elena standis TRUTH TO LIE FOR (#4) (\$37.99) It is the summer of 1934, and Hitler is nearing the summit of supreme power in Germany, his eyes set on European domination. When Britain's MI6 gets word that a pair of German scientists have made breakthroughs in germ warfare, they send Elena Standish on a dangerous mission to get one of them out of Germany before he's forced to share his knowledge and its devastating power with Hitler's elite. But the British soon learn that it's more than just time that Elena is working against. The new head of Germany's germ warfare division is an old enemy of Elena's grandfather Lucas, the former head of MI6. And he's bent on using any means at his disposal to avenge his defeat at Lucas's hands twenty years before. What starts as an effort to save Europe from the devastation of disease soon becomes an intensely personal fight.

RUE, GRETCHEN STEEPED TO DEATH (\$37.99) Phoebe Winchester's beloved aunt Eudora has a taste for adventure—and a knack for making magical tea. It's even rumored that she just might be a witch. So when Eudora passes away and leaves everything to her niece—her Victorian mansion, her bookshop/tea store, The Earl's Study, and one very chubby orange cat named Bob—Phoebe gets more than she bargained for. And she knows she's in deep when a dead man is found on the shop's back step, apparently killed while trying to break in. Phoebe knows she should leave it to the professionals, but as she starts to dig into the underbelly of Raven Creek, she begins to uncover the truth about Eudora. What's more, her aunt might not have been the only witch in

the family, as Phoebe soon discovers she has unique and unexpected gifts of her own. Now, it's just a matter of putting her newfound power to the test and cast a spell that could catch a killer.

RYAN, W C WINTER GUEST (\$35.99) January 1921. Though the Great War is over, in Ireland a new civil war is raging. The once-grand Kilcolgan House, a crumbling bastion shrouded in sea mist, lies half empty and filled with ghosts, both real and imagined, while it shelters the surviving members of the Prendeville family. Then, when an IRA ambush goes terribly wrong, Maud Prendeville, Lord Kilcolgan's eldest daughter, is killed, leaving the family reeling. Yet the IRA column behind the attack insists they left her alive, that someone else must be responsible for her terrible fate. Captain Tom Harkin, an IRA intelligence officer and Maud's former fiancé, is sent to investigate...

TRINCHIERI, CAMILLA tuscany MURDER ON THE VINE (#3) (\$35.95) On a late October Sunday morning in Gravigna, local maresciallo Perillo is having breakfast with ex-NYPD detective Nico Doyle when he is called back to the station in Greve.

Laura Benati, the young manager of Hotel Bella Vista, is worried—her bartender and good friend eighty-year-old Cesare Costanzi has been missing for three days. The next morning, Jimmy, co-owner of Bar All'Angolo, Gravigna's local café, where Nico is a frequent patron, runs out of gas on his way back from Florence. When Nico meets him to help, Nico's dog, OneWag, reacts to the smell coming from Jimmy's trunk. Inside Nico finds a body wrapped in plastic: Cesare Costanzi, stabbed several times in the chest. Why would anyone kill Cesare, and how did he end up in Jimmy's car? That's for Nico to find out, as Perillo once again turns to Nico for help with the investigation.

TUROW, SCOTT SUSPECT (\$37) For as long as Lucia Gomez has been the police chief in the city of Highland Isle, near Kindle County, she has known that any woman in law enforcement must walk a precarious line between authority and camaraderie to gain respect. She has maintained a spotless reputation—until now. Three male police officers have accused her of soliciting sex in exchange for promotions to higher ranks. With few people left who she can trust, Chief Gomez turns to an old friend, Rik Dudek, to act as her attorney in the federal grand jury investigation, insisting to Rik that the accusations against her are part of an ugly smear campaign designed to destroy her career and empower her enemies—both outside the police force and within...

WENDELBOE, C M spirit road DEATH ETCHED IN STONE (#4) (\$42) Lakota FBI Agent Manny Tanno is back in action with his faithful tribal officer sidekick Willie when a man is found drowned in a Pine Ridge Reservation Lake. The apparently accidental drowning turns out to be murder, and the investigation takes them on the road to the man's home reservation in Wyoming.

Paperbacks

ADAMS, ELLERY book retrea MURDER ON THE POET'S WALK (#8) (\$11.99)

As Jane eagerly anticipates the wedding of her best friend Eloise Alcott, Storyton Hall is overrun with poets in town to compete for a coveted greeting card contract. They're everywhere, scrawling verses on cocktail napkins in the reading rooms or seeking inspiration strolling the Poet's Walk, a series of trails named after famous authors. But the Tennyson Trail leads to a grim surprise: a woman's corpse drifting in a rowboat on a lake, posed as if she were "The Lady of Shallot." When a second body is discovered, also posed as a poetic character, a recurring MO emerges. Fortunately, Jane is well versed in sleuthing and won't rest until she gives the killer a taste of poetic justice...

ANDREWS, DONNA langslow TWELVE JAYS OF CHRISTMAS (#30) (\$12.99)

Meg and Michael's annual holiday celebration is well underway, with a throng of out-of-town relatives staying at their house. Hosting these festivities is a little harder than usual—they have to relocate all the events normally held in their library, currently occupied by Roderick Castlemayne, the irascible wildlife artist who's creating twelve paintings of birds to illustrate Meg's grandfather's latest nature book. Then someone murders Castlemayne in the middle of a blizzard and sets loose the birds he was painting. Can Meg help the police crack the case before the killer strikes again? Can she keep Christmas merry in spite of the body in the library? And can she recapture the twelve escaped jays before they begin nesting in the Christmas tree?

ANDREWS, DONNA langslow MURDER MOST FOWL (#29) (\$12.99) Meg Langslow's in for a busy summer. Her husband is directing a production of Macbeth, and most of the cast and crew are occupying spare bedrooms in their house. She also has to keep an eye on Camp Birnam, where a group of medieval reenactors are commemorating the real-life Macbeth by setting up what they fondly believe is an authentic medieval Scottish military camp. And then there's Damien Goodwin, a filmmaker who has been hanging around, trying to document the production. When Goodwin hosts a showing of some of the footage he's taken, he manages to embarrass or offend just

about everyone. The next morning Meg isn't exactly surprised to find that someone has murdered him. But who?

ARCHER, C J glass library LIBRARIAN OF CROOKED LANE (#1) (\$21.50) Librarian Sylvia Ashe knows nothing about her past, having grown up without a father and a mother who refused to discuss him. When she stumbles upon a diary that suggests she's descended from magicians, she's skeptical. After all, magicians are special, and she's just an ordinary girl who loves books. She seeks the truth from a member of the most prominent family of magicians, but she quickly learns that finding the truth won't be easy, especially when he turns out to be as artless as her, and more compelling and dangerous than books. But sometimes the past is better left buried...

ARLIDGE, M J helen grace TRUTH OR DARE (#10) (\$17.99) A crimewave sweeps through the city and no-one is safe. An arson at the docks. A carjacking gone wrong. A murder in a country park. What connects all these crimes without causes, which leave no clues? Detective Inspector Helen Grace faces the rising tide of cases which threatens to drown the city. But each crime is just a piece of a puzzle which is falling into place. And when it becomes clear just how twisted and ingenious this web of crime is, D.I. Grace will realise that it may be impossible to stop it . . .

BALSON, RONALD H taggart DEFENDING BRITTA STEIN (#6) (\$23.99) Chicago, 2018: Ole Henryks, a popular restaurateur, is set to be honored by the Danish/American Association for his many civic and charitable contributions. Frequently appearing on local TV, he is well known for his actions in Nazi-occupied Denmark during World War II—most consider him a hero. Britta Stein, however, does not. The ninety-year-old Chicago woman levels public accusations against Henryks by spray-painting "Coward," "Traitor," "Collaborator," and "War Criminal" on the walls of his restaurant. Mrs. Stein is ultimately taken into custody and charged with criminal defacement of property. Attorney Catherine Lockhart, though hesitant at first, agrees to take up Mrs. Stein's defense.

BARAM, NIR WORLD SHADOW (\$23.95) It's the mid 1990s. Gabriel Mantzur wants to take advantage of all the business opportunities opening up in Israel. Moving in political and financial circles, he finds his way into the upper reaches of power—but the higher he goes, the less he understands the intrigues in which he is involved. Cut to the present. A group of young Londoners—homeless, unemployed and disaffected—is organising a worldwide strike to protest globalisation and inequality. Sick of being screwed over, they conspire to overturn the prevailing order. Meanwhile, an eerily familiar American political consulting firm, with interests everywhere from Bolivia to the Congo, ostensibly exists to further liberal and progressive causes—until the veil is drawn back on the true nature of its activities. These ideas and philosophies come together in a shocking, but not unfamiliar event that leads to an unforgettable finale.

BELL, TED hawke SEA HAWKE (#12) (\$12.99) After saving the kidnapped heir to the British throne, gentleman spy and MI6 legend Alex Hawke is due for some downtime. He's got a new custom built sailing yacht and a goal: to get closer to his son Alexi during an epic cruise across the seven seas. But fate and the chief of MI6, Lord David Trulove, have other plans. There's an unholy alliance of nations who are plotting to attack Western democracies. The wily intelligence leader plans to use Hawke to drive a knife into the heart of this conspiracy. From an island base off Cuba to a secret jungle lair deep in the Amazon, on the land and the seas, the master spy and his crew of incorrigibles are in for the fight of their lives—the fight for freedom.

BOX, C J hoyt & dewell PARADISE VALLEY (#4) (\$23.99) For three years, investigator Cassie Dewell has been on a hunt for a serial killer known as the Lizard King, whose hunting grounds are the highways and truck stops where runaways and prostitutes are most likely to vanish. Cassie almost caught him... once. Working for the Bakken County, North Dakota, sheriff's department, Cassie has set what she believes is the perfect trap, luring him and his truck to a depot. But the plan goes horribly wrong, and the blame falls on Cassie. Disgraced, she loses her job and an inquiry into her role in the debacle is put into motion. At the same time, Kyle Westergaard, a troubled kid whom Cassie has taken under her wing, has disappeared after telling people that he's going off on a long-planned adventure. Kyle's grandmother begs Cassie to find him and, with nothing else to do, Cassie agrees—all the while hunting the Lizard King. Can she do it alone, without losing her own humanity or her own life?

BRADY, EILEEN kate LAST BUT NOT LEASHED (#2) (\$12.99) All Dr. Kate Turner wants to do is get her life in order before ringing in the new year, but with bodies turning up left and right, she'll have to trust her own instincts—and those of her beloved animals—to stop a killer in their tracks. As the only veterinarian at Oak Falls Animal Hospital, Dr. Kate's life is complicated. She's swamped with hospital patients and house calls, a longdistance relationship with law student Luke Gianetti (that is less than perfect), and a handsome, flirtatious artist who sets his sights on her as his new muse. When the body of Sookie Overmann is found outside the community center after her organization seminar, the entire town is hunting for answers. All of Kates hopes of quietly ringing in the new year are lost and when the body of Sookie's assistant falls with

the confetti at midnight, she has no choice but to sniff out the killer.

BRIGHT, VERITY lady swift DEATH DOWN THE AISLE (#11) (\$21.99) Lady Eleanor Swift isn't normally one for grand social occasions, but who can resist a wedding? Especially when it's her old friend, Constance Grainger, marrying the most eligible bachelor in town, Lord Peregrine Davencourt. Eleanor is taking Gladstone the bulldog as her plus one, with a smart new bowtie to match her bridesmaid's dress. But the big day is ruined when the groom is arrested for murder before he makes it to the altar. In a baffling twist, it turns out he was already engaged to the lovely Daisy Balforth, who has been found dead at the local inn with Lord Davencourt kneeling over her. The gossip pages will have a field day! The distraught bride-to-be asks Eleanor to clear her fiancé's name, as she's certain he wouldn't hurt a fly...

BRIGHTWELL, EMILY MRS. JEFFRIES MIDWINTER MURDERS (#40) (\$23) Harriet Andover had no intention of dying young like her silly siblings had. She intended to outlive them and outdo them as she always had. But Harriet discovers that the best intentions can lead to murder when she is strangled inside her mansion with a house full of holiday guests. As much as Inspector Witherspoon enjoys his job delivering justice, the last thing he wanted was a complicated murder case just a week before Christmas. He soon discovers that Harriet's own husband and grown stepchildren are not overcome with grief and neither are most of her friends. And to put the icing on the Christmas cookies, the room where Harriet's body was found was locked from the inside and she had the only key in her pocket. Mrs. Jeffries and the household have no intention of letting their inspector down and learn that Harriet's sister may have died from foul play as well. As the clues mount, this dedicated band of merry sleuths will not rest until they've delivered a stocking full of coal to a crafty killer.

CARTER, A F YARDS (\$22.95) Git O'Rourke is from the wrong side of the tracks—even if, in the depressed Rust Belt town of Baxter, it's not always clear where that designation begins. A single mother, she works hard to support her daughter Charlie, but still finds time to cut loose every once in a while, to go to a local bar, drink martinis and find a companion for the night. Which is exactly how she ends up in a hotel room with a strange man passed out on heroin, and how she comes to possess the bag of money and guns that he left open as he got his fix. When the dead body is discovered at the Skyview Motor Court, a bullet through its forehead, officer Delia Mariola is one of the first on the scene. She recognizes the victim as the perpetrator in an earlier crime and all signs point to a pick-up gone wrong. Which means that all signs point to Git...

CASS, LAURIE bookmobile CRIME THAT BINDS (#10) (\$11.99) Late March is prime reading weather in the small northern Michigan town of Chilson. Though snowfall and cloudy skies deter outdoor activities, life inside the bookmobile is warm and cheerful. But as Minnie and Eddie are making the rounds to deliver comforting reads, they see something strange: loyal bookmobile patron Ryan Anderson making a sudden u-turn and speeding away. When Minnie discovers the police want to question Ryan about a bank robbery and the death of a security guard, she realizes she's one of the only people who thinks Ryan isn't morally bankrupt. When an additional murder victim is discovered, the police immediately suspect her patron, but Minnie isn't convinced. And when she encounters Ryan hiding from the police, she decides to help him by investigating the crimes. Minnie and Eddie will have to fight tooth and claw to prove his innocence.

CHAPMAN, BRENDA hunter & tate BLIND DATE (#1) (\$26.99) Nobody's safe when a killer has you in their sights. True crime podcaster Ella Tate is shaken to her core by the horrific assault and murder of Josie Wheatly, a teacher she has never met ... because not only had Josie moved into Ella's vacated apartment three months earlier, but her Facebook photos reveal a striking resemblance between the two women. Within days, two people close to Ella are harmed, and she fears that she's become the target of twisted revenge from her crime-reporting days. Reluctantly teaming up with her neighbour Tony, a hairdresser who loves the finer things in life, and Liam Hunter, the persistent detective assigned to the cases, Ella struggles to stay one step ahead before she becomes the target of the final kill.

COLLETTE, ABBY books SOUL OF A KILLER (#2) (\$11.99) Keaton and Koby are fraternal twins who were separated as children, but now they've found each other and opened Books & Biscuits in the pleasant Pacific Northwest town of Timber Lake. Business is booming, but even so, trouble always seems to find them. Mama Zola, Koby's devoted foster mom, has taken up residence in Timber Lake. She and Pete, one of the bookstore's quirky employees, bring a peach cobbler over to her church's potluck, and then someone who sampled the cobbler is found dead. Mama Zola and Pete find themselves suspects in the murder, but luckily Koby and Keaton are ready to sling out a side of justice.

COWAN-ERSKINE, BETH LOCH DOWN ABBEY (\$17.99) It's the 1930s and a mysterious illness is spreading over Scotland. But the noble and ancient family of Inverkillen, residents of Loch Down Abbey, are much more concerned with dwindling toilet roll supplies and who will look after the children now that Nanny has regrettably

(and most inconveniently) departed this life. Then Lord Inverkillen, Earl and head of the family, is found dead in mysterious circumstances. The inspector declares it an accident but Mrs MacBain, the head housekeeper, isn't so convinced. As no one is allowed in or out because of the illness, the residents of the house—both upstairs and downstairs—are the only suspects. With the Earl's own family too busy doing what can only be described as nothing, she decides to do some digging—in between chores, of course—and in doing so uncovers a whole host of long-hidden secrets, lies and betrayals that will alter the dynamics of the household for ever.

COYLE, CLEO haunted book GHOST AND THE STOLEN TEARS (#8) (\$11.99)

Norma is a modern-day nomad. Living out of her van and teardrop trailer, she revels in self-reliance, solitude, and reading in the glorious peace of nature. Jovial, wise, and scrupulously honest, she's become an uplifting presence in the little town of Quindicott, Rhode Island, where bookseller Pen is thankful to have her part-time help. But it's Norma's other job, working as a housekeeper at the Finch Inn, that gets her into terrible trouble. Norma is accused of stealing jewels from a guest's room: the legendary Valentino Teardrops, an antique necklace and earring set, inherited by a young socialite. Pen doesn't believe Norma is guilty of the crime—though the evidence is distressingly strong. And when the spirited Norma vanishes before her arrest, Pen turns to another spirit... Jack Shepard, PI, may have been gunned down decades ago, but his memory hasn't been ghosted. Back in the 1940s, those same Valentino Teardrops starred in a bizarre case of betrayal and murder. From the look of things, history is about to repeat. Now Jack is back on the job, and Pen is eternally grateful.

CRICHTON, MICHAEL RISING SUN (\$11.99) On the forty-fifth floor of the Nakamoto tower in downtown Los Angeles—the new American headquarters of the immense Japanese conglomerate—a grand opening celebration is in full swing. On the forty-sixth floor, in an empty conference room, the corpse of a beautiful young woman is discovered. The investigation immediately becomes a headlong chase through a twisting maze of industrial intrigue, a no-holds-barred conflict in which control of a vital American technology is the fiercely coveted prize—and in which the Japanese saying “Business is war” takes on a terrifying reality. Originally published in 1991.

DAY, MADDIE cozy capers MURDER IN A CAPE COTTAGE (#4) (\$11.99) 'Tis the day after Christmas, following a wicked-busy time of year for Mac's bike shop. It's just as well her Cozy Capers Book Group's new pick is a nerve-soothing coloring book mystery, especially when she has last-minute wedding planning to do. But all prewedding jitters fade into the background when Mac and her fiancé, Tim, begin a cottage renovation project and open up a wall to find a skeleton—sitting on a stool, dressed in an old-fashioned bridal gown... As Mac delves into the decades-old mystery with the help of librarian Flo and her book group, she discovers a story of star-crossed lovers and feuding families worthy of the bard himself. Yet this tale has a modern-day villain still lurking in Mac's quaint seaside town, ready to make this a murderous New Year's Eve. Includes Recipes!

DICKER, JOEL ENIGMA OF ROOM 622 (\$25.99) A writer named Joël, Switzerland's most prominent novelist, flees to the Hôtel de Verbier, a luxury resort in the Swiss Alps. Disheartened over a recent breakup and his longtime publisher's death, Joël hopes to rest. However, his plans quickly go awry. It all starts with a seemingly innocuous detail: at the Verbier, there is no room 622. Before long, Joël and fellow guest Scarlett uncover a long-unsolved murder that transpired in the hotel's room 622. The attendant circumstances: the succession of Switzerland's largest private bank, a mysterious counterintelligence operation called P-30, and a most disreputable sabotage of hotel hospitality. A European phenomenon, *The Enigma of Room 622* is a matryoshka doll of intrigue—as precise as a Swiss watch—and Dicker's most diabolically addictive thriller yet. Translated from the French by Robert Bononn.

DOYLE/LOVEGROVE, JAMES SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE THREE WINTER TERRORS (\$21.95) 1889. The First Terror. At a boys' prep school in the Kent marshes, a pupil is found drowned in a pond. Could this be the fulfilment of a witch's curse from four hundred years earlier? 1890. The Second Terror. A wealthy man dies of a heart attack at his London townhouse. Was he really frightened to death by ghosts? 1894. The Third Terror. A body is discovered in the dark woods near a Surrey country manor, hideously ravaged. Is the culprit a cannibal, as the evidence suggests? These three chilling and strangely linked crimes test Sherlock Holmes's deductive powers, and his scepticism about the supernatural, to the limit.

DOYLE/ROSENSTOCK, MARTIN ed. SHERLOCK HOLMES A DETECTIVE'S LIFE (\$21.95) A brand-new collection of twelve Sherlock Holmes short stories which spans Holmes's entire career, from the early days in Baker Street to retirement on the South Downs. Written by Peter Swanson, Cara Black, James Lovegrove, among others, these Sherlock stories feature a woman haunted by the ghost of a rival actress, Moriarty's son looking for revenge, Oscar Wilde's lost manuscript, a woman framing her husband for murder, Mycroft's encounter with Moriarty and Colonel Moran, and many more!

DUNCAN, ROD BULLET-CATCHER'S DAUGHTER (\$14.99) Elizabeth Barnabus lives a double life—as herself and as her brother, the private detective. She is trying to solve the mystery of a disappearing aristocrat and a hoard of arcane machines. In her way stand the rogues, freaks, and self-proclaimed alchemists of a travelling circus. But when she comes up against an agent of the all-powerful Patent Office, her life and the course of history will begin to change. And not necessarily for the better.

ENGBERG, KATRINE copenhag HARBOR (#3) (\$23) When fifteen-year-old Oscar Dreyer-Hoff disappears in this “masterpiece of Nordic noir” (*Booklist*, starred review), the police assume he’s simply a runaway—a typically overlooked middle child doing what teenagers do all around the world. But his frantic family is certain that something terrible has happened. After all, what runaway would leave behind a note that reads: “He looked around and saw the knife that had stabbed Basil Hallward. He had cleaned it many times, till there was no stain left upon it. It was bright and glistened. As it had killed the painter, so it would kill the painter’s work, and all that that meant. It would kill the past, and when that was dead, he would be free.” It’s not much to go on, but it’s all that detectives Jeppe Kørner and Anette Werner have. And with every passing hour, as the odds of finding a missing person grow dimmer, it will have to be enough.

EVANOVICH, JANET fox BOUNTY (#7) (\$12.99) Type A special agent Kate O’Hare and international criminal Nick Fox have brought down some of the biggest bad guys out there. But now they face their most dangerous foe yet—a vast, shadowy international organization known only as the Brotherhood. Directly descended from the Vatican Bank priests who served Hitler during World War II, the Brotherhood is on a frantic search for a lost train loaded with \$30 billion in Nazi gold, untouched for over seventy-five years somewhere in the mountains of Eastern Europe. Kate and Nick know that there is only one man who can find the fortune and bring down the Brotherhood—the same man who taught Nick everything he knows—his father, Quentin. As the stakes get higher, they must also rely on Kate’s own father, Jake, who shares his daughter’s grit and stubbornness.

FARNDALE, NIGEL DICTATOR'S MUSE (\$21.99) It is the early 1930s, and Europe is holding its breath. As Hitler's grip on power tightens, preparations are being made for the Berlin Olympics. Leni Riefenstahl is the pioneering, sexually-liberated star film-maker of the Third Reich. She has been chosen by Hitler to capture the Olympics on celluloid but is about to find that even his closest friends have much to fear.

FELLOWES, JESSICA mitford MITFORD VANISHING (#5) (\$24.99) 1937. War with Germany is dawning, and a civil war already rages in Spain. Split across political lines, the six Mitford sisters are more divided than ever. Meanwhile their former maid Louisa Cannon is now a private detective, working with her policeman husband Guy Sullivan. Louisa and Guy are surprised when a call comes in from novelist Nancy Mitford requesting that they look into the disappearance of her Communist sister Jessica in Spain. But one case leads to another as they are also asked to investigate the mysterious vanishing of a soldier. As the two cases come together, Louisa and Guy discover that every marriage has its secrets—but some are more deadly than others. Suddenly home feels a long way away...

FLOWER, AMANDA dickinson BECAUSE I COULD NOT STOP FOR DEATH (#1) (\$23) January 1855 Willa Noble knew it was bad luck when it was pouring rain on the day of her ever-important job interview at the Dickinson home in Amherst, Massachusetts. But, get the job she does and what begins as tenuous employment turns to friendship as Emily, the reclusive poet, takes Willa under her wing. Tragedy soon strikes and Willa's beloved brother, Henry, is killed in a tragic accident at the town stables. With no other family and nowhere else to turn, Willa tells Emily about her brother's death and why she believes it was no accident. Willa is convinced it was murder. Henry had been very secretive of late, only hinting to Willa that he'd found a way to earn money to take care of them both. Viewing it first as a puzzle to piece together, Emily offers to help, only to realize that she and Willa are caught in a deadly game of cat and mouse that reveals corruption in Amherst that is generations deep. Some very high-powered people will stop at nothing to keep their profitable secrets even if that means forever silencing Willa and her new mistress....

GARDNER, ERLE STANLEY lam BIGGER THEY COME (#1) (\$21.95) Bertha Cool is the gruff, tough-talking, corpulent head of her private detective agency, opened after the death of her husband; Donald Lam is her meek, slight, and nervy new hire, who makes up for a lack of boldness with brilliant deductive work. The duo couldn't be any more dissimilar but, with their skills combined, they are an unstoppable force when it comes to solving crimes. In this, their first outing, Donald Lam is tasked with delivering divorce papers to a man who reportedly made a fortune in rigged slot machines. The only problem is that nobody—not even the police—can find him. Before long, Lam's seemingly-simple assignment finds him caught up in a web of money, mysterious safety deposit boxes, and a gang of toughs every bit as desperate as he is to find the runaway husband. Published 1939.

HARPER, JANE SURVIVORS (\$12.99) Kieran Elliott's life changed forever on the

day a reckless mistake led to devastating consequences. The guilt that still haunts him resurfaces during a visit with his young family to the small coastal community he once called home. Kieran's parents are struggling in a town where fortunes are forged by the sea. Between them all is his absent brother, Finn. When a body is discovered on the beach, long-held secrets threaten to emerge. A sunken wreck, a missing girl, and questions that have never washed away...

HARRIS, ROBERT FATHERLAND (\$19.99) Fatherland is set in an alternative world where Hitler has won the Second World War. It is April 1964 and one week before Hitler's 75th birthday. Xavier March, a detective of the Kriminalpolizei, is called out to investigate the discovery of a dead body in a lake near Berlin's most prestigious suburb. As March discovers the identity of the body, he uncovers signs of a conspiracy that could go to the very top of the German Reich. And, with the Gestapo just one step behind, March, together with an American journalist, is caught up in a race to discover and reveal the truth—a truth that has already killed, a truth that could topple governments, a truth that will change history. Originally published in 1992.

HIGASHINO, KEIGO MIRACLES OF THE NAMIYA GENERAL STORE (\$18.50) “From exactly midnight until daybreak, the Namiya General Store advice box will be reopening for one night only.” When three delinquents hole up in an abandoned general store after their most recent robbery, to their great surprise, a letter drops through the mail slot in the store's shutter. This seemingly simple request for advice sets the trio on a journey of discovery as, over the course of a single night, they step into the role of the kindhearted former shopkeeper who devoted his waning years to offering thoughtful counsel to his correspondents. Through the lens of time, they share insight with those seeking guidance, and by morning, none of their lives will ever be the same...a work that has touched the hearts of readers around the world.

HIGH, KATE MAN WHO VANISHED AND THE DOG WHO WAITED (\$17.99) Summer in the Lincolnshire Wolds and Clarice is rung by her friend Louise, asking whether she can look after Susie, her son's lively Boxer, as 41-year-old Guy has gone missing from the family home. His mother thinks he has been suffering from depression but more worryingly, in his professional life, he had been working on a high-profile case, defending a known criminal. Getting drawn into the puzzle of Guy's disappearance, Clarice wonders how Susie received a nasty cut to her back leg, and who is the mysterious Charles? Guy apparently did not trust him enough to let him into his home, and he had not been seen since he was driven away in Charles car. Guy's friends all say that he was a good, honest man, but as Clarice looks further into the murky criminal world he inhabits, she questions if Guy has been pulled in out of his depth. And—why does Susie keep returning to the private woods, where she had spent so much time with her beloved master...

JAMES, PETER grace PICTURE YOU DEAD (#18) (\$25.99) Harry and Freya, an ordinary couple, dreamed for years of finding something priceless buried amongst the tat in a car boot sale. It was a dream they knew in their hearts would never come true—until the day it did. They buy the drab portrait for a few pounds, for its beautiful frame, planning to cut the painting out. Then studying it back at home there seems to be another picture beneath, of a stunning landscape. Could it be a long-lost masterpiece from 1770? If genuine, it could be worth millions. One collector is certain it is genuine. Someone who uses any method he can to get what he wants and will stop at nothing. Detective Superintendent Roy Grace finds himself plunged into an unfamiliar and rarefied world of fine art. Outwardly it appears respectable, gentlemanly, above reproach. But beneath the veneer, he rapidly finds that greed, deception and violence walk hand-in-hand. And Harry and Freya Kipling are about to discover that their dream is turning into their worst nightmare...

KESTREL, JAMES FIVE DECEMBERS (\$21.95) December 1941. America teeters on the brink of war, and in Honolulu, Hawaii, police detective Joe McGrady is assigned to investigate a homicide that will change his life forever. Because the trail of murder he uncovers will lead him across the Pacific, far from home and the woman he loves; and though the U.S. doesn't know it yet, a Japanese fleet is already steaming toward Pearl Harbor. This extraordinary novel is so much more than just a gripping crime story—it's a story of survival against all odds, of love and loss and the human cost of war. Winner of the 2022 Edgar Award for Best Novel.

KEYSE-WALKER, JOHN PALMS PARADISE POISON (\$26.99) Constable Teddy Creque, the sole police officer on the tiny, sun-soaked island of Anegada, is used to weathering storms. So when Hurricane Leatha hits the Caribbean with brutal force, his main concern is keeping the island's two hundred residents safe. Teddy expects the power to go out. He expects the phone lines to go down. But he doesn't expect the radioed message from the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force headquarters, informing him of a dangerous escaped prisoner. Queen Ya-Ya is a practitioner of ancient Afro-Cuban rites—and rumor has it she can kill with magic. Teddy doesn't believe in magic, and when he easily recaptures the dignified, imposing Queen Ya-Ya, he doesn't believe his prisoner is dangerous either. But when she mysteriously kills a man from inside her

locked cell, before vanishing once more into the night, Teddy is forced to reconsider... **KING, STEPHEN DOLORES CLAIBORNE** (\$12.99) When Vera Donovan, one of the wealthiest and most ill-natured residents of Maine's Little Tall Island, dies suddenly in her home, suspicion is immediately cast on her housekeeper and caretaker, Dolores Claiborne. Dolores herself is no stranger to such mistrust, thanks to the local chatter and mysterious circumstances surrounding her abusive husband's death twenty-nine years earlier. But if this is truly to be the day of Dolores Claiborne's reckoning, she has a few things of her own that she'd like to get off her chest...and begins to confess a spirited, intimate, and harrowing tale of the darkest secrets hidden within her hard-scrabble existence, revealing above all one woman's unwavering determination to weather the storm of her life with grace and protect the one she loves, no matter what the cost. Originally published in 1992.

LACKBERG, CAMILLA SWEET REVENGE ss (\$12.99) Two novellas: Women Without Mercy (Ingrid gave up her career to support her husband. Now he's having an affair. Birgitta is avoiding the doctor. No one can see the bruises her husband leaves. Victoria left Russia to marry a man she met online. But he is nothing like she imagined. Maybe the only way out is to commit three perfect murders...) and Truth or Dare (Best friends Liv, Martina, Max and Anton are spending New Year's Eve together. But each of them is keeping a terrible secret. When a game of truth or dare takes a dark turn, the shocking truth emerges. Not everyone will live to see the chime of midnight...)

LOVESEY, PETER diamond DIAMOND AND THE EYE (#20) (\$22.95) If there's one thing detective Bath Peter Diamond has no patience for, it's a dumb git trying to get involved in one of his investigations—for example, a Philip Marlowe-wannabee private investigator like the self-styled Johnny Getz (his card claims he Getz results). But fate has saddled Diamond with this trial. A Bath antiques dealer, Septimus "Seppy" Hubbard, has disappeared without a trace, and his daughter, Ruby, has hired Johnny Getz to find him. When a dead body is discovered in Seppy's locked-up store, the missing persons case becomes a murder investigation, and now Diamond has to collaborate with the insufferable private eye.

MACBRIDE, STUART NO LESS THE DEVIL (\$24.99) It's been seventeen months since the Bloodsmith butchered his first victim and Operation Maypole is still no nearer catching him. The media is whipping up a storm, the top brass are demanding results, but the investigation is sinking fast. Now isn't the time to get distracted with other cases, but Detective Sergeant Lucy McVeigh doesn't have much choice. When Benedict Strachan was just eleven, he hunted down and killed a homeless man. No one's ever figured out why Benedict did it, but now, after sixteen years, he's back on the streets again—battered, frightened, convinced a shadowy 'They' are out to get him, and begging Lucy for help. It sounds like paranoia, but what if he's right? What if he really is caught up in something bigger and darker than Lucy's ever dealt with before? What if the Bloodsmith isn't the only monster out there? And what's going to happen when Lucy goes after them?

MACILVANNEY/MCILVANNEY, WILLIAM and IAN RANKIN laidlaw DARK REMAINS (#0) (\$19.95) Lawyer Bobby Carter did a lot of work for the wrong type of people. Now he's dead and it was no accident. Besides a distraught family and a heap of powerful friends, Carter's left behind his share of enemies. So, who dealt the fatal blow? DC Jack Laidlaw's reputation precedes him. He's not a team player, but he's got a sixth sense for what's happening on the streets. His boss chalks the violence up to the usual rivalries, but is it that simple? As two Glasgow gangs go to war, Laidlaw needs to find out who got Carter before the whole city explodes.

MOSS, KORINA cheese shop GONE FOR GOUDA (#2) (\$12.99) Yarrow Glen's newest cheese shop, Curds & Whey, has a lot on its plate, but cheesemonger Willa Bauer relishes a challenge. There's a float to build for the fall festival, plus the French-inspired cheese shop is playing host to celebrity vegan chef Phoebe Winston. But when photos surface that prove this vegan Influencer is, in fact, a carnivore, things crumble faster than any cheese on the market: Phoebe is murdered. Willa's employee, the affable Archie, was the last one to see Phoebe alive and the first person the police suspect. To clear his name Willa must uncover who's been up to no gouda...

MUKHERJEE, ABIR wyndham SHADOWS OF MEN (#5) (\$19.99) Calcutta, 1923. When a Hindu theologian is found murdered in his home, the city is on the brink of all-out religious war. Can officers of the Imperial Police Force, Captain Sam Wyndham and Sergeant Surendranath Banerjee track down those responsible in time to stop a bloodbath? Set at a time of heightened political tension, beginning in atmospheric Calcutta and taking the detectives all the way to bustling Bombay, the latest instalment in this 'unmissable' (*The Times*) series presents Wyndham and Banerjee with an unprecedented challenge. Will this be the case that finally drives them apart?

NESBO, JO JEALOUSY MAN AND OTHER STORIES (\$24.95) The author's talent for hair-raising suspense and shocking twists are on full display in this inventive and harrowing collection of stories and novellas. A detective with a nose for jealousy is on the trail of a man suspected of murdering his twin; a bereaved father must decide

whether vengeance has a place in the new world order after a pandemic brings about the collapse of society; a woman finally overcomes her intimacy issues through a dark encounter with her Peeping Tom neighbour; a hired assassin pits his wits against his greatest adversary in a dangerous fight for survival; and an instantly electric connection between passengers on a flight to London may spell romance, or something much more sinister.

NIEH, DANIEL BEIJING PAYBACK (\$21) Victor Li is devastated by his father's murder, and shocked by a confessional letter he finds among his father's things. In it, his father admits that he was never just a restaurateur—in fact he was part of a vast international crime syndicate that formed during China's leanest communist years. Victor travels to Beijing, where he navigates his father's secret criminal life, confronting decades-old grudges, violent spats, and a shocking new enterprise that the organization wants to undertake. Standing up against it is likely what got his father killed, but Victor remains undeterred. He enlists his growing network of allies and friends to finish what his father started, no matter the costs.

PARETSKY, SARA ed. BEST MYSTERY STORIES OF THE YEAR 2022 (\$23.95) Sara Paretsky selects the twenty best mystery short stories of the year, including tales by **Michael Connelly**, **Jo Nesbo**, **Joyce Carol Oates**, **Colson Whitehead**, and a bonus vintage story from the annals of mystery fiction, written over a century ago.

PARKER, STEVE paterson DEAD ON DELIVERY (#8) (\$24) The city of London. Morning rush hour. The police pull over a motorcycle courier for a trivial offence. He doesn't stop. The police give high-speed chase. He jumps a red light and is mown down by an oncoming car. Killed on impact. Detectives Paterson and Clocks arrive at a scene of carnage. Large plastic boxes are scattered across the road. A closer look at the boxes...

PENNY, LOUISE RULE AGAINST MURDER (#4) Murder Stone (\$22.50)

PENNY, LOUISE FATAL GRACE (#2) Dead Cold (\$22.50) A new edition. Published 2006.

PEPPER, DAVID VOTER FILE (#3) (\$23) Investigative reporter Jack Sharpe is down to his last chance. Fired from his high-profile gig with a national news channel, his only lead is a phone full of messages from a grad student named Tori Justice, who swears she's observed an impossible result in a local election. Sharpe is sure she's mistaken...but what if she isn't? Sharpe learns that the most important tool in any election is the voter file: the database that keeps track of all voters in a district, and shapes a campaign's game plan for victory. If one person were to gain control of an entire party's voter file, they could manipulate the outcome of virtually every election in America. Sharpe discovers this has happened--and that the person behind the hack is determined to turn American politics upside down. The more he digs, the more Sharpe is forced to question the values—and viability—of the country he loves and a president he admired. And soon it becomes clear that not just his career is in jeopardy...so is his life.

ROSENFELD, KAT NO ONE WILL MISS HER (\$21.99) On a beautiful October morning in rural Maine, a homicide investigator from the state police pulls into the hard-luck town of Copper Falls. The local junkyard is burning, and the town pariah Lizzie Oullette is dead—with her husband, Dwayne, nowhere to be found. As scandal ripples through the community, Detective Ian Bird's inquiries unexpectedly lead him away from small-town Maine to a swank city townhouse several hours south. Adrienne Richards, blonde and fabulous social media influencer and wife of a disgraced billionaire, had been renting Lizzie's tiny lake house as a country getaway...even though Copper Falls is anything but a resort town. As Adrienne's connection to the case becomes clear, so too does her connection to Lizzie, who narrates their story from beyond the grave. Each woman is desperately lonely in her own way, and they navigate a relationship that cuts across class boundaries: transactional, complicated, and, finally, deadly.

ROWELL, SIMON LONG GAME (\$23.95) When a local surfer named Ray Carlson is found dead at the local beach with a silver-handled kitchen knife in his chest, DS Zoe Mayer is assigned the case. Scarcely back from extended leave, and still wrestling with her demons, she works the case in the blazing summer heat alongside Harry. There's an obvious suspect for the murder, and Zoe makes an arrest. But it's all too neat, and none of Zoe's colleagues believe her theory that the whole thing is a set-up... until they discover that someone wants Zoe and her theories out of the picture.

SALMON, CHRISTIAN BLUMKIN PROJECT A BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL

(\$23.99) Yakov Blumkin claimed to have had nine lives. Born to a poor Jewish family and orphaned as a child, he was a Socialist Revolutionary, a terrorist, the assassin of the German ambassador Wilhelm von Mirbach, a poet close to the avant-garde, a member of Cheka, a military strategist, a secret agent, and Leon Trotsky's secretary. Executed in 1929 on Stalin's orders at the age of only twenty-nine, he has continued to inspire a powerful curiosity, and wild rumors and falsehoods about his extraordinary life abound today. As a young man in 1980s Paris, the author identified strongly as a Bolshevik, drawn to the glorious October Revolution immortalized in literature and films such as Warren Beatty's *Reds* and Sergei Eisenstein's trilogy. Picking up the thread of his

dream thirty years later, he sets out to reconstruct Blumkin's shadowy past and ever-shifting identity with a trove of manuscripts, documents, rare photographs, and personal souvenirs.

SMIRNOFF, KARIN MY BROTHER (\$19.95) Jana Kippo has returned to Smalånger to see her twin brother, Bror, still living in the small family farmhouse in the remote north of Sweden. Within the isolated community, secrets and lies have grown silently, undisturbed for years. Following the discovery of a young woman's body in the long grass behind the sawmill, the siblings, hooked by a childhood steeped in darkness, need to break free. But the truth cannot be found in other people's stories. The question is: can it be found anywhere?

SPENCER, JONATHAN NAPOLEON'S RUN (\$12.99) After receiving a mysterious dispatch that Napoleon's army is preparing an invasion, the Sea Lords of the British Navy fear an assault on England and need a special officer to uncover the destination of Napoleon's armada—a man who never stops: Marine Lt William John Hazzard. But Hazzard has left the Navy, vowing never to return. The Admiralty, however, knows just how to persuade him. They know where his missing fiancée, Sarah, is...and she's in danger.

VERDON, JOHN gurney ON HARROW HILL (#7) (\$24) The idyllic community of Larchfield is rocked to its core when Angus Russell, its wealthiest and most powerful citizen, is found dead in his mansion on Harrow Hill. A preliminary analysis of DNA gathered at the crime scene points to the guilt of local bad boy Billy Tate, whose hatred for the victim was well known. Except that Tate fell from the roof of a local church and was declared dead by the medical examiner the day before Russell was killed. When police rush to the mortuary, they discover Tate's coffin has been broken open from the inside, and the body is gone. A series of murders soon follows as Larchfield loses its collective mind. Gun sales explode. Conspiracy theories and religious fundamentalism spread. The once peaceful town becomes a magnet for sensation seekers, self-proclaimed zombie hunters, TV producers eager for ratings, and apocalyptic preachers rallying the faithful for the end of days. His quiet retirement shattered, ex-NYPD detective Dave Gurney finds himself not only facing down a murderer, but struggling to restore order to the town rapidly spiraling out of control.

WENDELBOE, C M spirit roa DEATH THROUGH DESTINY'S DOOR (#5) (\$38.50) Nearly a century and a half ago, Oglala Lakota leader Crazy Horse was tragically killed in custody and buried. His parents whisked away his remains to a location known only to them, safe from marauding trophy seekers and thieves. His grave has never been found. Apparently, until now... Lakota FBI Agent Manny Tanno is called to the reservation once again. He uncovers a conspiracy to take over a local rancher's business, and the next thing he knows, he's investigating deaths. Murders. Somehow all connected to finding the long-gone body of the sacred Lakota leader. As Manny closes in on the killer, the killer closes in on the final burial place of Crazy Horse. The race is on, for whose destiny will it be—the killer's, or Manny's—or both—to succumb to the very soil that enshrouded the sacred leader, Crazy Horse, for so many generations?

WOODS, STUART barrington CRIMINAL MISCHIEF (#60) (\$12.99) After a dangerous adventure has him traveling up and down the coast, Stone Barrington is looking forward to some down time at his Manhattan abode. But when an acquaintance alerts him to a hinky plot being hatched across the city, he finds himself eager to pursue justice. After the mastermind behind it all proves more evasive than anyone was expecting, Stone sets out on an international chase to places he's never gone before. With the help of old friends—and alluring new ones—Stone is determined to see the pursuit through to the end, even if it means going up against a foe more unpredictable than he has ever faced...