



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

907 Millwood Rd., Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4G 1X2
416-483-3111 e-mail sleuth@SleuthOfBakerStreet.ca

Greetings

December 2017

Although it certainly does not look like it, nor feel like it, it's that time of the year. Another year comes to a close, and here's when Marian and I, and this year the delightful Ms. Pixie, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your friendship and your support for the past forever. And, in case we don't see you in the next little while, we'd like to wish you the best of the season, Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Kwanza, and nothing but good health and happiness in 2018.

This year marked the 35th year that Marian and I have owned Sleuth, Oct. 4, 1982 was when it became ours; it's been 38 years since the store was incorporated, Oct 1, 1979. Whenever these dates come up in conversation, we, of course, think of how much longer? Not only us, everyone else wants to know. And, the best answer we can come up is another day for sure but not more than another twenty years.

Winter has supposedly arrived, but there has been no snow or cold weather in the GTA. The prognostications have either been a mild winter or an old-fashioned winter with lots of snow. I have my fingers crossed! One of the advantages of the winter season is that I read a lot more.

Did you read about the possum that broke into a Florida liquor store, knocked over a bottle of bourbon and drank it all? Staff found the drunken little critter the next morning, and took her to a wildlife refuge centre, where she was pumped full of liquids, allowed to recuperate for a couple of days, before being released. No hangover was reported!

As we always do, our hours of business for the month of December will be extended. So, starting Monday the 11th, we'll be open every day, 10 to 6, except, of course, for Sundays, which will be usual noon to four. Closed the 25th and 26th, and open Wednesday the 27th, 10 to 6. Our normal schedule, closed MTW, open TFS 10 to 6, and Sunday noon to 4 will resume on the 28th.

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.

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.

JD's Picks

The new **MICHAEL CONNELLY**, Two Kinds of Truth (\$22) (\$38) was just great fun. I know that Marian's going to tell you all about the story a bit further on, so I'll pretty much leave it at that.

The new **JOHN LAWTON** is a delight. Friends and Traitors (#8) (\$37.50) is a Frederic Troy story that takes place primarily in the late 1950s. As a small boy, Troy—never Fred or even Frederick—had met many of the great politicians and writers of the day, as his father had become a wealthy newspaper publisher and baronet. It was not unusual for the likes of Churchill and Bernard Shaw and HG Wells to gather around the dining room table. It was how, as a young boy, he met Guy Burgess. Over the years they would run into each other around London, and they came to know each other well. It's now the late-50s and Burgess, along with Kim Philby, has fled to Moscow. Won't tell you much more...one of the things I loved the most about the author's writing is his subtle sense of humour. Had me laughing out loud in spots. You can read the novels in any order—the author himself would tell you that—so you can begin here without worrying about the back story. One more thing...a few years ago the Daily Telegraph named him one of the “50 crime writers to read before you die.”

NORMAN GREEN's novel, Shooting Dr. Jack (\$1) (\$14.99), I must have first read a dozen years ago. I happened to spot an old copy of it under a table and was reminded of how much I had liked it, so I decided to reread it. Loved it every bit as much the second time around, and, miracles do happen, it was still in print! So, I have ordered a few and this is the one I'm going to put in everyone's hands this month. It's that good. You'll thoroughly enjoy meeting Tommy Rosselli, aka Fat Tommy, aka Tommy Bagadonuts and Stoney, Tommy's partner, and Eddie Tuci, the illiterate New Yorican—that's a New Yorker via Puerto Rico—and the rest of the gang. The time is 1960s Brooklyn and the boys own a shady junkyard, working all the angles to make a buck or two. And, now I see that there are a number of other books by this writer around.

And, finally, **WILLIAM SHAW**, and his latest, The Birdwatcher (\$34). You might know the author's series featuring Detective Sergeant Cathal Breen and Women Police Constable Helen Tozer, set in London of the 60s. I hadn't been totally impressed by the Breen and Tozer novels, unlike so many of you. There was too much 60s London for my liking and not nearly enough for the others. In 2016 the author published The Birdwatcher (\$34), a standalone, and it has finally made its way over here. This novel features Police Sergeant William South, our birdwatcher. South shies away from murder investigations, and for a pretty good reason: he is a murderer himself. As a child in Northern Ireland, he may have killed a man. Besides, he a birder first and a community policeman second. Any chance he gets, he's out walking the rugged Kentish coast, spotting birds with his fellow birdwatchers. When his neighbour, another birder, is found murdered in his remote home, South's world flips. The culprit seems to be a drifter from South's childhood. What? How? Is his secret about to be exposed? And whatever he thought he knew about his dead neighbour is, well, all wrong. Who was this man? All in all, this is pretty good stuff and I quite enjoyed the read.

Marian's Picks

Have I told you recently how wonderful Pixie is? Although my heart still breaks thinking about Percy, it was a wise decision for us to have Pixie step into our lives while Percy was still around. He taught her so much. If you told me that one dog can learn from another I would not have believed you. But it's true, as you dog lovers and owners already know.

Christmas is going to be at my cottage this year, as it has been every year since I bought it, and it's usually a very hectic time. I arrive on Christmas Eve night after work, but my folks and other family members will already be there with dinner ready. This year, there will be three dogs joining in the fun as well, so it will be a busy time. New Years is no less hectic as traditionally, two girlfriends and their two dogs come and visit. While it is fun to enjoy fellowship and joy with others, I do be glad to get back to the store in the new year and have quiet time.

I hope all of you have a wonderful holiday, and get to spend it with family and friends.

Enjoy every minute.

And thank you for continuing to support us here at Sleuth. Without you we would not be around and Pixie wouldn't get all those special treats she deserves.

I have not read the last couple of **LEE CHILD** titles but decided to read The Midnight Line (#22) (\$38.99). It read like a vintage Jack Reacher mystery, and I thoroughly enjoyed it. It could easily be one of his best! Reacher sees a class ring in a pawn shop window in a small town in Wisconsin: West Point 2005. A tough year to graduate: Iraq, then Afghanistan. The ring is tiny, for a woman, and it has her initials engraved on the inside. He wonders what unlucky circumstance made her give up something she earned over four hard years. He decides to find out. And find the woman. And return her ring. Why not? So good!!!!

MICHAEL CONNELLY is back with a new Harry Bosch title. Two Kinds of Truth (#22) (\$38) is excellent. He is still working cold cases for the San Fernando Police Department but is called out to a local pharmacy where two people have just been murdered. Bosch and the town's 3-person detective squad sift through the clues, which lead into the dangerous, big business world of pill mills and prescription drug abuse.

Meanwhile, making Bosch's life even more complicated, an old case from his early LAPD days comes back to haunt him when a long-imprisoned killer claims Bosch framed him, and seems to have new evidence to prove it. Bosch left the LAPD on bad terms, so his former colleagues aren't keen to protect his reputation. He must fend for himself in clearing his name and keeping a killer in prison. Great story, love Bosch, and now must wait, patiently, for the next one.

Munich (\$24.95) by **ROBERT HARRIS** is set in September 1938, just as Neville Chamberlain is trying to maintain peace and Adolf Hitler is bound and determined to start a war. A meeting in Munich, which has been convened to determine how Germany will annex part of Czechoslovakia, without any delegates from Czechoslovakia attending, is the backdrop of the story. Hugh Legat, one of Chamberlain's private secretaries and Paul Hartmann, a German diplomat and one of the anti-Hitler resistance crowd, tell the story, over a four-day period, from their perspectives. Mr. Harris expertly weaves the facts surrounding the event with a fictional backstory which ties everything together and makes for an interesting read.

It was the title that drew me to this book! How could I resist The Secret, Book and Scone Society (\$27.95) by **ELLERY ADAMS**? I read it, liked it and will read the next one! Ms. Adams has written lots of books over the years, in any number of series: Books by the Bay, Charmed Pie Shoppe, Hope Street Church, Book Retreat... She also writes the Supper Club Mystery and Collectible Mystery series under the name of J B Stanley. And if that isn't enough, she and Sylvia May writes the Novel Idea Mystery series under the name Lucy Arlington. I wonder when she gets a chance to rest!! Secret, Book and Scone introduces Nora Pennington, who owns Miracle Books, in Miracle Springs, North Carolina. Over a fresh-baked "comfort" scone from the Gingerbread House bakery, customers exchange their stories with Nora in return for a carefully chosen book. That's Nora's special talent—prescribing the perfect novel to ease a person's deepest pain and lighten their heaviest burden.

When a visiting businessman reaches out to Nora for guidance, she knows exactly which novels will help. But before he can keep their appointment at Miracle Books, he's found dead on the train tracks.

Stunned, Nora forms the Secret, Book, and Scone Society, a group of damaged souls yearning to gain trust and earn redemption by helping others. And so it starts. The book has a bit of a 'chick lit' feel to it, and it includes lots of references to books, which had me ordering a couple of other titles that sounded interesting. It's the perfect book to curl up with on our long winter nights.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading The Ascendant (\$9.99) by **DREW CHAPMAN**. Garrett Reilly has a knack for numbers. He sees patterns no one else can. His gift has made him a rising star on Wall Street. But when he notices that two hundred billion dollars' worth of U.S. Treasury bonds are being sold off at a terrifying rate, his gift makes him the most wanted man alive.

The U.S. military wants him for his extraordinary abilities. They need someone to lead a crack squad of rogue soldiers to act as the last line of defense in a war that could mean the end of everything America holds dear. And everyone else? They just want

him dead. In his second book, The King of Fear (\$21.99), Garrett recognizes a string of events that could lead to economic Armageddon in the US: banks closing, grocery shelves lying empty, the nation's currency rendered worthless. Total chaos could engulf society within a matter of days. Garrett and the Ascendant team reunite to face enemies on all sides: a wounded Russia bent on keeping its crumbling empire in place, a cyber genius fixated on Garrett, a femme fatale willing to do anything to establish a new world order. Just non-stop action from start to finish and also a very scary look at what could happen if banking systems, electrical grids and all our food distribution systems collapsed.

As you can see I have been busy reading over the past few weeks. I came down with a nasty cold and have been hiding away at the cottage with not much to do, except read and take Pixie for walks. I brought a truck load of books to read and will get to the rest soon. I am almost finished **NORA ROBERTS**, Year One (\$36), a story of "epic of hope and horror, chaos and magick, and a journey that will unite a desperate group of people to fight the battle of their lives". A pandemic hits the world, and more than half of its population dies. The rest struggle to survive. Other than stopping for my martini last night, I tried to get it read in one sitting. But I got too tired, so this morning it should be done. Next up, and I can hardly wait as I have loved the first two in the series, is Hark the Herald Angels Slay (#3) (\$10.99) by **VICKI DELANY**. The town of Rudolph, New York, has the Christmas spirit all year long—but when homicide heats up a summer holiday, it's up to shop owner Merry Wilkinson to wrap up the case. The first two are Rest Ye Murdered Gentlemen (#1) (\$10.49) and We Wish You a Murderous Christmas (#2) (\$10.99).

I also have with me a new writer, **V. M. BURNS** who has written The Plot is Murder (\$16.95). "The small town of North Harbor on the shores of Lake Michigan is about to have a new mystery bookstore. But before the first customer can browse its shelves, the store's owner is suspected of her own murder plot." I'll report back in January!!!

Hardbacks

ADAMS, ELLERY society SECRET, BOOK, AND SCONE SOCIETY (#1) (\$27.95) Miracle Springs, North Carolina, is a place of healing. Strangers flock here hoping the natural hot springs, five-star cuisine, and renowned spa can cure their ills. If none of that works, they often find their way to Miracle Books, where, over a fresh-baked "comfort" scone from the Gingerbread House bakery, they exchange their stories with owner Nora Pennington in return for a carefully chosen book. That's Nora's special talent—prescribing the perfect novel to ease a person's deepest pain and lighten their heaviest burden. When a visiting businessman reaches out to Nora for guidance, she knows exactly which novels will help. But before he can keep their appointment at Miracle Books, he's found dead on the train tracks. Stunned, Nora forms the Secret, Book, and Scone Society, a group of damaged souls yearning to gain trust and earn redemption by helping others. To join the society, members must divulge their darkest secret—the terrible truth that brought each of them to Miracle Springs in the first place. Determined to uncover the truth behind the businessman's demise, the women meet in Nora's cramped and cozy bookstore to share stories and trade support. And as they untangle a web of corruption, they also discover their own courage, purpose, and a sisterhood that will carry them through every challenge, proving it's never too late to turn the page and start over.

AKUNIN, BORIS fandorin ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE (#11) (\$32.99) Eliza Aitarsky-Lointaine is the toast of Moscow society, a beautiful actress in an infamous theatre troupe. Her love life is as colourful as the parts she plays. She is the estranged wife of a descendant of Genghis Khan. And her ex-husband has threatened to kill anyone who courts her. He appears to be making good on his promise. Fandorin is contacted by concerned friend - the widowed wife of Chekhov - who asks him to investigate an alarming incident involving Eliza. But when he watches Eliza on stage for the first time, he falls desperately in love. Can he solve the case, and win over Eliza, without attracting the attentions of the murderer he is trying to find?

BALDACCI, DAVID robie END GAME (#5) (\$38 hardcover, \$40.50 large print, \$39 CD abridged audio, special order only on the large print and CD) Will Robie and Jessica Reel are two of the most lethal people alive. They're the ones the government calls in when the utmost secrecy is required to take out those who plot violence and mass destruction against the United States. And through every mission, one man has always had their backs: their handler, code-named Blue Man. But now, Blue Man is missing. Last seen in rural Colorado, Blue Man had taken a rare vacation to go fly fishing in his

hometown when he disappeared off the grid. With no communications since, the team can't help but fear the worst. Sent to investigate, Robie and Reel arrive in the small town of Grand to discover that it has its own share of problems. A stagnant local economy and a woefully understaffed police force have made this small community a magnet for crime, drugs, and a growing number of militant fringe groups. But lying in wait in Grand is an even more insidious and sweeping threat, one that may shake the very foundations of America. And when Robie and Reel find themselves up against an adversary with superior firepower and a home-court advantage, they'll be lucky if they make it out alive, with or without Blue Man.

BENN, JAMES R billy boyle DEVOURING (#12) (\$33.95) Europe, 1944: Captain Billy Boyle and his friend Lieutenant Piotr "Kaz" Kazimierz are sent to neutral Switzerland to work with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), investigating Swiss banks that are laundering looted Nazi gold. The US and Swiss governments are about to embark on diplomatic discussions regarding the Safehaven Protocols, aimed at limiting the amount of war materials exported by Switzerland to the Nazis, stemming the tide of looted gold, and preventing postwar use of Nazi wealth by war criminals. With the talks about to begin and the Gestapo ever present, the OSS wants Billy and Kaz to protect the participants, which turns out to be a very deadly task. The plans go wrong from the beginning when Billy and Kaz crash-land in France. As they make their way through occupied territory to the border, they meet Anton Lasho, a member of the Sinti ethnic group, whose family was slaughtered by the Nazis, and who is, in turn, a one-man Nazi-killing machine. They'll need his help, because as they find once they make it across the border, Swiss banks are openly laundering gold "harvested" from concentration camps, and those who are profiting will do everything they can to protect their wealth and hide their dark secrets.

BOWEN, RHYS molly murphy GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST (#17) (\$32.50) Semi-retired private detective Molly Murphy Sullivan is suffering from depression after a miscarriage following her adventure in San Francisco during the earthquake of 1906. She and her husband, Daniel, are invited for Christmas at a mansion on the Hudson, and they gratefully accept, expecting a peaceful and relaxing holiday season. Not long after they arrive, however, they start to feel the tension in the house's atmosphere. Then they learn that the host couple's young daughter wandered out into the snow ten years ago and was never seen again. Molly can identify with the mother's pain at never knowing what happened to her child and wants to help, but there is so little to go on. No ransom note. No body ever found. But Molly slowly begins to suspect that the occupants of the house know more than they are letting on. Then, on Christmas Eve, there is a knock at the door and a young girl stands there. "I'm Charlotte," she says. "I've come home."

BRODY, FRANCES shackleton DEATH AT THE SEASIDE (#8) (\$36.99) 1920s England. Nothing ever happens in August, and tenacious sleuth Kate Shackleton deserves a break. Heading off for a long-overdue holiday to Whitby, she visits her school friend Alma who works as a fortune teller there. Kate had been looking forward to a relaxing seaside sojourn, but upon arrival discovers that Alma's daughter Felicity has disappeared, leaving her mother a note and the pawn ticket for their only asset: a watch-guard. What makes this more intriguing is the jeweler who advanced Felicity the thirty shillings is Jack Phillips, Alma's current gentleman friend. Kate can't help but become involved, and goes to the jeweller's shop to get some answers. When she makes a horrifying discovery in the back room, it becomes clear that her services are needed. Met by a wall of silence by town officials, keen to maintain Whitby's idyllic facade, it's up to Kate, ably assisted by Jim Sykes and Mrs. Sugden, to discover the truth behind Felicity's disappearance.

BROWN, RITA MAE foxhuntin CRAZY LIKE A FOX (#10) (\$36) As the calendar turns, the crisp October winds bode well for this year's hunting season. But before the bugle sounds, Sister Jane takes a scenic drive up the Blue Ridge Mountains for a board meeting at the Museum of Hounds and Hunting. Brimming with colorful stories and mementos from hunts of yore, the mansion is plunged into mystery when a venerable hunting horn is stolen right out of its case. The only clue, on a left-behind cell phone, is what seems to be a "selfie" video of the horn's original owner, Wesley Carruthers—deceased since 1954. Odder still, Wesley's body was never found. When Sister makes a discovery that may explain his unsolved disappearance, it leads her back to the Jefferson Hunt at midcentury, with her faithful hounds at her side. But as the clues quickly mount, Sister is no longer sure if she's pursuing a priceless artifact, a thief, Wesley's killer or a ghost. The only certainty is that someone wants to put Sister off the chase, perhaps permanently.

BRUEN, KEN jack taylor GHOSTS OF GALWAY (#13) (\$36.50) As well-versed in politics, pop culture, and crime fiction as he is ill-fated in life, Jack Taylor is recovering from a mistaken medical diagnosis and a failed suicide attempt. In need of money, and with former cop on his resume, Jack has been hired as a night-shift security guard. But his Ukrainian boss has Jack in mind for a bit of off-the-books work. He wants Jack to find what some claim to be the first true book of heresy, *The Red Book*, currently in the

possession of a rogue priest who is hiding out in Galway after fleeing a position at the Vatican. Despite Jack's distaste for priests of any stripe, the money is too good to turn down. Em, the many-faced woman who has had a vise on Jack's heart and mind for the past two years, reappears and turns out to be entangled with the story of *The Red Book*, too, leading Jack down ever more mysterious and lethal pathways. It seems all sides are angling for a piece of Jack Taylor, but as *The Ghosts of Galway* twists toward a violent end, he is increasingly plagued by ghosts—by the disposable and disposed of in a city filled with as much darkness as the deepest corners of Jack's own mind.

CHILD, LEE reacher MIDNIGHT LINE (#) (\$38.99 hardcover, \$42 CD abridged audio, special order only on CD) Reacher takes a stroll through a small Wisconsin town and sees a class ring in a pawn shop window: West Point 2005. A tough year to graduate: Iraq, then Afghanistan. The ring is tiny, for a woman, and it has her initials engraved on the inside. Reacher wonders what unlucky circumstance made her give up something she earned over four hard years. He decides to find out. And find the woman. And return her ring. Why not? So begins a harrowing journey that takes Reacher through the upper Midwest, from a lowlife bar on the sad side of small town to a dirt-blown crossroads in the middle of nowhere, encountering bikers, cops, crooks, muscle, and a missing persons PI who wears a suit and a tie in the Wyoming wilderness. The deeper Reacher digs, and the more he learns, the more dangerous the terrain becomes. Turns out the ring was just a small link in a far darker chain. Powerful forces are guarding a vast criminal enterprise. Some lines should never be crossed. But then, neither should Reacher. "Excellent" says Marian.

CROSBY, ELLEN wine countr VINEYARD VICTIMS (#8) (\$33.99) When Jamison Vaughn, billionaire real estate mogul, Virginia vineyard owner, and unsuccessful U.S. presidential candidate, drives his gold SUV into a stone pillar at the entrance to Montgomery Estate Vineyard, Lucie Montgomery is certain the crash was deliberate. But everyone else in Atoka, Virginia is equally sure that Jamie must have lost control of his car on a rain-slicked country road. In spite of being saddled with massive campaign debts from the recent election, Jamie is seemingly the man with the perfect life. What possible reason could he have for committing suicide or was it murder? Before long Lucie uncovers a connection between Jamie and some of his old friends—an elite group of academics—and the brutal murder thirty years ago of a brilliant PhD student. Although a handyman is on death row for the crime, Lucie soon suspects someone else is guilty. But the investigation into the two deaths throws Lucie a curve ball when someone from her own past becomes involved, forcing her to confront old demons. Now the race to solve the mystery behind the two deaths becomes intensely personal as Lucie realizes someone wants her silenced for good.

DEMILLE, NELSON CUBAN AFFAIR (\$38.99) Daniel Graham MacCormick—Mac for short—seems to have a pretty good life. At age thirty-five he's living in Key West, owner of a forty-two-foot charter fishing boat, *The Maine*. Mac served five years in the Army as an infantry officer with two tours in Afghanistan. He returned with the Silver Star, two Purple Hearts, scars that don't tan, and a boat with a big bank loan. Truth be told, Mac's finances are more than a little shaky. One day, Mac is sitting in the famous Green Parrot Bar in Key West, contemplating his life, and waiting for Carlos, a hotshot Miami lawyer heavily involved with anti-Castro groups. Carlos wants to hire Mac and *The Maine* for a ten-day fishing tournament to Cuba at the standard rate, but Mac suspects there is more to this and turns it down. The price then goes up to two million dollars, and Mac agrees to hear the deal, and meet Carlos's clients—a beautiful Cuban-American woman named Sara Ortega, and a mysterious older Cuban exile, Eduardo Valazquez. What Mac learns is that there is sixty million American dollars hidden in Cuba by Sara's grandfather when he fled Castro's revolution. With the "Cuban Thaw" underway between Havana and Washington, Carlos, Eduardo, and Sara know it's only a matter of time before someone finds the stash—by accident or on purpose. And Mac knows if he accepts this job, he'll walk away rich...or not.

DOHERTY, PAUL athelstan MANSIONS OF MURDER (#18) (\$40) October, 1381. Brother Athelstan is summoned to the church of St. Benet's in Queenhithe to investigate the murder of a priest. Parson Reynaud has been found stabbed to death inside his own locked church. Other disturbing discoveries include an empty coffin and a ransacked money chest. Who would commit murder inside a holy church? Who would spirit away a corpse the night before the funeral – and who would be brave enough to steal treasure belonging to the most feared gang leader in London? Meanwhile, the death of one of Athelstan's parishioners reveals a shocking secret. Could there be a connection to the murdered priest of St. Benet's? Athelstan's investigations will lure him into the dark and dangerous world of the gang master known as The Flesher, whose influence has a frighteningly long reach.

DOYLE/ LOVEGROVE, JAMES CTHULHU CASEBOOKS: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND MISKATONIC MONSTROSITIES (\$25.99) It is the spring of 1895, and more than a decade of combating eldritch entities has cost Dr. John Watson his beloved wife Mary, and nearly broken the health of Sherlock Holmes. Yet the compan-

ions do not hesitate when they are called to the infamous Bedlam lunatic asylum, where they find an inmate speaking in R'lyehian, the language of the Old Ones. Moreover, the man is horribly scarred and has no memory of who he is. The detectives discover that the inmate was once a scientist, a student of Miskatonic University, and one of two survivors of a doomed voyage down the Miskatonic River to capture the semi-mythical shoggoth. Yet how has he ended up in London, without his wits? And when the man is taken from Bedlam by forces beyond normal mortal comprehension, it becomes clear that there is far more to the case than one disturbed Bostonian. It is only by learning what truly happened on that fateful New England voyage that Holmes and Watson will uncover the truth, and learn who is behind the Miskatonic monstrosity.

DUNCAN, ELIZABETH J MUCH ADO ABOUT MURDER (\$38.95) Costume designer Charlotte Fairfax has another murder on her hands as she prepares for the latest performance of the Catskills Shakespeare Theater Company, *Much Ado About Nothing*. The company's steady growth enables them to cast star British actress Audrey Ashley, who arrives on scene to play the lead role of Beatrice. But things immediately get more complicated when Audrey insists the company replace the current director with new, up and coming British director Edmund Albright. Edmund plans to change the popular romantic comedy, which alienates several people associated with the production. And the list of people he upsets only grows: the laid off former director, the hotel owner's secretary, and even Audrey herself. Just as Edmund's plans are about to come to fruition, his body is discovered on his sofa, holding a gun in his hand. His death is quickly ruled a suicide, but Charlotte thinks otherwise. Why would Edmund, on the brink of greatness, kill himself? And in such an American way? With a whole cast of characters to investigate, Charlotte is determined to unmask each one before its final curtain call on the whole production. The first two in this enjoyable series are Untimely Death and Ill Met by Murder (\$22.95 each).

DURBRIDGE, FRANCIS BEWARE OF JOHNNY WASHINGTON (\$18.99) Republished for the first time since 1951, *Beware of Johnny Washington* is Francis Durbridge's clever reworking of the very first Paul Temple radio serial using his new characters, the amiable Johnny Washington and newspaper columnist Verity Glyn. Includes as a bonus the first Paul Temple short story, 'A Present for Paul'.

EVANOVICH, JANET plum HARDCORE TWENTY-FOUR (#24) (\$37) Trouble comes in bunches for Stephanie Plum. First, professional grave robber and semi-professional 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 stun gun—whether that's for use on the wandering serpent or the petrified neighbors remains to be seen. Events take a dark turn when headless bodies start appearing across town. At first, it's just corpses from a funeral home and the morgue that have had the heads removed. But when a homeless man is murdered and dumped behind a church Stephanie knows that she's the only one with a prayer of catching this killer. If all that's not enough, Diesel's back in town. The 6-foot-tall, blonde-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. As usual Jersey's favorite bounty hunter is stuck in the middle with more questions than answers. What's the deal with Grandma Mazur's latest online paramour? Who is behind the startling epidemic of mutilated corpses? And is the enigmatic Diesel's sudden appearance a coincidence or the cause of recent deadly events?

FARJEON, J JEFFERSON ben HOUSE OPPOSITE (#2) (\$18.99) From the Collins Crime Club archive, originally published in 1937, the first original novel to feature Ben the Cockney tramp, the unorthodox detective character created by J. Jefferson Farjeon, author of *Mystery in White*.

FLEMING, IAN COMPLETE JAMES BOND: OCTOPUSSY, THE CLASSIC COMIC STRIP (\$53.95) 1966-1969 Comic Strips. James Bond is back in action in this deluxe omnibus with four timeless tales starring Agent 007. Featuring the iconic *Octopussy* and *The Hildebrand Rarity*, based on the short stories by Ian Fleming, which are presented alongside *The Harpies* and *River of Death*, two unique adventures created by Jim Lawrence. This lavishly presented, high-action adventure is restored from the original Daily Express comic strips.

GRAY, JOHN MACLACHLAN WHITE ANGEL (\$29.95) Vancouver is in an uproar over the death by gunshot of a Scottish nanny, Janet Stewart. An almost deliberately ham-handed police investigation has Constable Hook suspecting a cover-up. The powerful United Council of Scottish Societies is demanding an inquiry. The killing has become a political issue with an election not far away. The city is buzzing with rumours. Miss Stewart's fellow nannies have accused the Chinese houseboy of murder, capitalizing on a wave of anti-Chinese propaganda led by the Asian Exclusion League and enthusiastically supported by the sensational press—not to mention the Ku Klux Klan, which has taken up residence in upper class Shaughnessy. This is a work of fiction inspired by the cold case of Janet Smith, who, on July 26, 1924, was found dead in her

employer's posh Shaughnessy Heights mansion. A dubious investigation led to the even more dubious conclusion that Smith died by suicide. After a public outcry, the case was re-examined, and it was decided that Smith was in fact murdered; but no one was ever convicted, though suspects abounded, from an infatuated Chinese houseboy to a drug-smuggling ring, devil-worshippers from the United States, or perhaps even the Prince of Wales. For Vancouver, the killing created a situation analogous to lifting a large flat rock to expose the creatures hiding underneath.

HALLINAN, TIMOTHY FOOLS' RIVER (\$33.95) The two most difficult days in Bangkok writer Poke Rafferty's life begin with an emergency visit from Edward Dell, the almost-boyfriend of Poke's teenage daughter, Miaow. The boy's father, Buddy, a late-middle-aged womanizer who has moved to Bangkok for happy hunting, has disappeared, and money is being siphoned out of his bank and credit card accounts. It soon becomes apparent that Buddy is in the hands of a pair of killers who prey on Bangkok's "sexpats"; when his accounts are empty, he'll be found, like a dozen others before him, floating facedown in a Bangkok canal with a weighted cast on his unbroken leg. His money is almost gone. Over forty-eight frantic hours, Poke does everything he can to locate Buddy before it's too late.

HINGLEY, DAVID blakewood BIRTHRIGHT (#1) (\$32.99) 1664. Four years after Charles II is restored to the throne, Mercia Blakewood stands to lose everything: her father to the executioner's axe, her freedom to her treacherous uncle, her son to his resentful grandparents. But when her father leaves her a cryptic message in his last speech, she seizes her chance to fight back. With would-be lover Nathan Keyte and unlikely new friend Nicholas Wildmoor, Mercia must unravel her father's mystery to find a great prize long thought lost, striving to recover the King's stolen birthright in the hope of reclaiming her own. From London's bulging metropolis to the forests of Manhattan she will contend with murder, intrigue and lust, fighting for her future and her life as the town of New York is born.

KEENER, JESSICA STRANGERS IN BUDAPEST (\$39.95) Budapest: gorgeous city of secrets, with ties to a shadowy, bloody past. It is to this enigmatic European capital that a young American couple, Annie and Will, move from Boston with their infant son shortly after the fall of the Communist regime. For Annie, it is an effort to escape the ghosts that haunt her past, and Will wants simply to seize the chance to build a new future for his family. Eight months after their move, their efforts to assimilate are thrown into turmoil when they receive a message from friends in the US asking that they check up on an elderly man, a fiercely independent Jewish American WWII veteran who helped free Hungarian Jews from a Nazi prison camp. They soon learn that the man, Edward Weiss, has come to Hungary to exact revenge on someone he is convinced seduced, married, and then murdered his daughter. Annie, unable to resist anyone's call for help, recklessly joins in the old man's plan to track down his former son-in-law and confront him, while Will, pragmatic and cautious by nature, insists they have nothing to do with Weiss and his vendetta. What Annie does not anticipate is that in helping Edward she will become enmeshed in a dark and deadly conflict that will end in tragedy and a stunning loss of innocence.

LEMAITRE, PIERRE THREE DAYS AND A LIFE (\$27.49) In 1999, in the small provincial town of Beauval, France, twelve-year-old Antoine Courtin accidentally kills a young neighbour boy in the woods near his home. Panicked, he conceals the body and to his relief, and ongoing shame, he is never suspected of any connection to the child's disappearance. But the boy's death continues to haunt him, shaping his life in unseen ways. More than a decade later, Antoine is living in Paris, now a young doctor with a fiancée and a promising future. On a rare trip home to the town he hates and fears, Antoine thoughtlessly sleeps with a beautiful young woman from his past. She shows up pregnant at his doorstep in Paris a few months later, insisting that they marry. Meanwhile, the newly discovered body of Antoine's childhood victim means that the case has been reopened, and all his old fears rush back. With the gravitational pull of his hometown strengthening its grip, Antoine may finally be forced to confront his past. Is he prepared to do what he must to keep his darkest secrets buried?

PAGE, KATHERINE HALL fait BODY IN THE CASKET (#24) (\$31.99) For most of her adult life, resourceful caterer Faith Fairchild has called the sleepy Massachusetts village of Aleford home. While the native New Yorker has come to know the region well, she isn't familiar with Havencrest, a privileged enclave, until the owner of Rowan House, a secluded sprawling Arts and Crafts mansion, calls her about catering a weekend house party. Producer/director of a string of hit musicals, Max Dane, a Broadway legend, is throwing a lavish party to celebrate his seventieth birthday. At the house as they discuss the event, Faith's client makes a startling confession. "I didn't hire you for your cooking skills, fine as they may be, but for your sleuthing ability. You see, one of the guests wants to kill me." Faith's only clue is an ominous birthday gift the man received the week before—an empty casket sent anonymously containing a twenty-year-old *Playbill* from Max's last, and only failed, production—*Heaven or Hell*. Consequently, Max has drawn his guest list for the party from the cast and crew. As the

guests begin to arrive one by one, and an ice storm brews overhead, Faith must keep one eye on the menu and the other on her host to prevent his birthday bash from becoming his final curtain call. Includes recipes.

PATTERSON, JAMES cross PEOPLE VS ALEX CROSS (#25) (\$38) The charges: explosive. Alex Cross has never been on the wrong side of the law—until now. Charged with gunning down followers of his nemesis Gary Soneji in cold blood, Cross is being turned into the poster child for trigger-happy cops who think they're above the law. Cross knows it was self-defense. But will a jury see it that way? The evidence: shocking. As Cross fights for his professional life and his freedom, his former partner John Sampson brings him a gruesome, titillating video tied to the mysterious disappearances of several young girls. Despite his suspension from the department, Cross can't say no to Sampson. The illicit investigation leads them to the darkest corners of the Internet, where murder is just another form of entertainment. The People vs. Alex Cross: the trial of the century. As the prosecution presents its case, and the nation watches, even those closest to Cross begin to doubt his innocence. If he can't convince his own family that he didn't pull the trigger with intent to kill, how can he hope to persuade a jury? But even with everything on the line, Cross will do whatever it takes to stop a dangerous criminal, even if he can't save himself.

PERRY, ANNE xmas CHRISTMAS RETURN (#15) (\$27) As Charlotte Pitt's grandmother Mariah Ellison finds herself investigating a long-unsolved slaying, it becomes clear that grappling with intrigue and foul play runs in the family. A festive Christmas package left on Mariah's doorstep contains an ominous present, sparking memories of a twenty-year-old murder that shattered her friendship with the victim's widow. Though the gift is a bitter reminder of that tragic time, in the spirit of the season Mariah travels to Surrey in hopes of reconciling with her estranged friend and solving the crime that drove them apart. On arrival, Mariah joins forces with the murdered man's grandson, a sleuth in his own right who's discovered promising evidence as well as a suspect. But Surrey's picturesque hills conceal dark doings and shocking revelations that could make the holiday anything but calm and bright. Her latest Christmas mystery running 192 pages.

ROBERTS, NORA YEAR ONE: CHRONICLES OF THE ONE, BOOK 1 (\$36) It began on New Year's Eve. The sickness came on suddenly, and spread quickly. The fear spread even faster. Within weeks, everything people counted on began to fail them. The electrical grid sputtered; law and government collapsed—and more than half of the world's population was decimated. Where there had been order, there was now chaos. And as the power of science and technology receded, magick rose up in its place. Some of it is good, like the witchcraft worked by Lana Bingham, practicing in the loft apartment she shares with her lover, Max. Some of it is unimaginably evil, and it can lurk anywhere, around a corner, in fetid tunnels beneath the river—or in the ones you know and love the most. As word spreads that neither the immune nor the gifted are safe from the authorities who patrol the ravaged streets, and with nothing left to count on but each other, Lana and Max make their way out of a wrecked New York City. At the same time, other travelers are heading west too, into a new frontier. Chuck, a tech genius trying to hack his way through a world gone offline. Arlys, a journalist who has lost her audience but uses pen and paper to record the truth. Fred, her young colleague, possessed of burgeoning abilities and an optimism that seems out of place in this bleak landscape. And Rachel and Jonah, a resourceful doctor and a paramedic who fend off despair with their determination to keep a young mother and three infants in their care alive. In a world of survivors where every stranger encountered could be either a savage or a savior, none of them knows exactly where they are heading, or why. But a purpose awaits them that will shape their lives and the lives of all those who remain. The end has come. The beginning comes next. "I loved it" says Marian.

SCHAFFHAUSEN, JOANNA VANISHING SEASON (\$32.50) Winner of the Mino-taur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Competition. Ellery Hathaway knows a thing or two about serial killers, but not through her police training. She's an officer in sleepy Woodbury, MA, where a bicycle theft still makes the newspapers. No one there knows she was once victim number seventeen in the grisly story of serial killer Francis Michael Coben. The only one who lived. When three people disappear from her town in three years—all around her birthday—Ellery fears someone knows her secret. Someone very dangerous. Her superiors dismiss her concerns, but Ellery knows the vanishing season is coming and anyone could be next. She contacts the one man she knows will believe her: the FBI agent who saved her from a killer all those years ago. Agent Reed Markham made his name and fame on the back of the Coben case, but his fortunes have since turned. His marriage is in shambles, his bosses think he's washed up, and worst of all, he blew a major investigation. When Ellery calls him, he can't help but wonder: sure, he rescued her, but was she ever truly saved? His greatest triumph is Ellery's waking nightmare, and now both of them are about to be sucked into the past, back to the case that made them...with a killer who can't let go.

SCHOFIELD, DOUGLAS KILLING PACE (\$33.99) A high-octane, heart-pounding

tale set in Everglades City, Florida and Sicily, Italy with three important questions: *Where am I?... How did I get here?... and most importantly... Who am I?* These three questions have plagued Lisa Green for the past two months since she crawled barefoot and bleeding from the wreckage of a catastrophic car accident. Her boyfriend Roland has been nursing her back to health under close watch. Lisa has amnesia. They both know that, but only Lisa knows that she hasn't lost her ability to reason. And reason tells her that she is not Roland's girlfriend. She is his prisoner. Escape is her only option, and Lisa must figure out who she can trust and how to stay alive. It's bad enough that she's been held against her will, but worse, it seems that she wasn't randomly chosen. There's more to her story than kidnapping, and the details appear to cross borders and continents. With organized criminals hard on her heels, Lisa must expose her enemies before they choose their next victim.

SMITH, ALEXANDER *botswana* HOUSE OF UNEXPECTED SISTERS (#18) (\$32) Mma Ramotswa and Mma Makutsi are approached by their part-time colleague, Mr. Polopetsi, with a troubling story: a woman, accused of being rude to a valued customer, has been wrongly dismissed from her job at an office furniture store. Never one to let an act of injustice go unanswered, Mma Ramotswa begins to investigate, but soon discovers unexpected information that causes her to reluctantly change her views about the case. Other surprises await our intrepid proprietress in the course of her inquiries. Mma Ramotswa is puzzled when she happens to hear of a local nurse named Mingie Ramotswa. She thought she knew everybody by the name of Ramotswa, and that they were all related. Who is this mystery lady? Then, she is alerted by Mma Potokwani that an unpleasant figure from her past has recently been spotted in town. Mma Ramotswa does her best to avoid the man, but it seems that he may have returned to Botswana specifically to seek her out. What could he want from her?

TURSTEN, HELENE PROTECTED BY THE SHADOWS (#10) (\$33.95) With gang violence escalating in Göteborg, Sweden, the Organized Crimes Unit pairs with the Violent Crimes Unit to help defuse the situation. But could there be a mole on the force? In this final installment of the internationally bestselling Irene Huss investigations, the gang warfare that has been brewing in Göteborg is about to explode. A member of a notorious biker gang has been set on fire—alive. Even in a culture where ritual killings are common, this brutal assault attracts the attention of both Irene's unit and the Organized Crimes Unit. Anticipating a counterattack, the two units team up to patrol the lavish party of a rival gang, but that doesn't stop another murder from occurring just outside the event hall. And that's not the only thing going up in flames. Someone has planted a bomb under Irene's husband's car. Fearing for her family's safety, Irene sends her husband and daughters into hiding and takes up residence at a colleague's apartment. Still, she can't shake the feeling that she is being stalked. Somehow, the gangs are always one step ahead of the police. Someone is leaking information. But who? Irene's life depends on discovering the answer.

WEBSTER, JASON *camara* FATAL SUNSET (#6) (\$35.99) In the hills above Valencia is a notorious nightclub called Sunset. When its larger-than-life owner, Jose Luis, dies suddenly, everyone assumes it was a heart-attack. Perfectly understandable for a man of his age, size and lifestyle. Meanwhile, all is not well for Max Cámara at HQ. His new boss, Rita Hernández, has it in for him and his idiosyncratic methods. He must abandon a complex investigation into home-grown extremism to check out what looks like a routine death at Sunset. But an anonymous phone-call suggests otherwise. Back in the city, Max's journalist girlfriend Alicia is working on a lead that could turn out to be the story of her career. How her own investigation connects with Max's at Sunset, and an unholy network of drug dealers, priests and shady officials protecting a dark government secret, will place both their lives in jeopardy and push everything to the very edge.

Paperbacks

ABBOTT, KRISTI *popcorn* ASSAULT AND BUTTERY (#3) (\$10.99) Repairs are under way at Rebecca Anderson's gourmet popcorn shop. With production of her tasty treats on hold, Rebecca has plenty of time to read the old diary she discovered hidden in the shop's walls and to solve the odd crime or two...when local busybody Lloyd McLaughlin is found dead, the police suspect he was poisoned by Rebecca's popcorn. But Rebecca has only made one batch of popcorn recently, and it wasn't intended for Lloyd. Nothing about Lloyd's death makes sense—until Rebecca discovers a startling connection between the missing diary-writer and the murdered man. Now, with her reputation on the line, Rebecca must discover who's been cooking up murder—both in the past and in the present.

AIRTH, RENNIE *madden* DEATH OF KINGS (#5) (\$22) On a hot summer day in

1938, a beautiful actress is murdered on the grand Kent estate of Sir Jack Jessup, close friend of the Prince of Wales. The arrest of an ex-convict and his subsequent confession swiftly bring the case to a close, but in 1949, the reappearance of a jade necklace raises questions about the murder. Was the man convicted and executed the decade before truly guilty?

Though happily retired from the police force, John Madden is persuaded to investigate the case afresh.

ARLIDGE, M J helen grace LOVE ME NOT (#7) (\$16.99) A woman's body lies in the road. At first it looks like a tragic accident. But when Helen Grace arrives on the scene it's clear she's looking at a coldblooded killing. But why would anyone target a much-loved wife and mother? Across town, a shopkeeper is killed while his customers are left unharmed. But what lies behind the killer's choices? Who lives? Who dies? Who's next? The clock is ticking. If Helen can't solve this deadly puzzle then more blood will be shed. But any mistake and it might be her own ...

BAART, NICOLE LITTLE BROKEN THINGS (\$22) *I have something for you.* When Quinn Cruz receives that cryptic text message from her older sister Nora, she doesn't think much of it. They haven't seen each other in nearly a year...Nora's "something" is more shocking than Quinn could have ever imagined: a little girl, cowering, wide-eyed, and tight-lipped. Nora hands her over to Quinn with instructions to keep her safe, and not to utter a word about the child to anyone. Before Quinn can ask even one of the million questions swirling around her head, Nora disappears, and Quinn finds herself the unlikely caretaker of a girl introduced simply as Lucy. What has Nora gotten involved in?

BANNALEC, JEAN-LUC dupin MURDER ON BRITTANY SHORES (#2) (\$20.99) Ten miles off the coast of Brittany lie the fabled Glenan Islands. Boasting sparkling white sands and crystal-clear waters, they seem perfectly idyllic, until one day in May, three bodies wash up on shore. At first glance the deaths appear accidental, but as the identities of the victims come to light, Commissaire Dupin is pulled back into action for a case of what seems to be cold-blooded murder. Ever viewed as an outsider in a region full of myths and traditions, Dupin finds himself drawn deep into the history of the land. To get to the bottom of the case, he must tangle with treasure hunters, militant marine biologists, and dangerous divers. The investigation leads him further into the perilous, beautiful world of Glenan, as he discovers that there's more to the picturesque islands than meets the eye. Sequel to Death in Brittany (#1) (\$22.99).

BENN, JAMES R billy boyle BLUE MADONNA (#11) (\$19.95) May 1944: Captain Billy Boyle is convicted on spurious charges of black market dealings stripped of his officer's rank, reduced to private, and sentenced to three months' hard labor. But Billy is given an opportunity: if he takes on the incredibly dangerous mission of investigating a set of murders at the Allies' safe house in the French town of Chaumont, he can avoid his punishment. Parachuted in as part of a three-man team the night before the Normandy invasion, he has very little time to find the killer's identity and lead a group escape back to England, with a whole army of foes nipping at his heels.

BILL, FRANK SAVAGE (\$21) An unnerving vision of a fractured America gone terribly wrong, and a study of what happens when the last systems of morality and society collapse...the dollar has failed; the grid is wiped out. Walmarts are looted and homes are abandoned as common folk flee and bloodthirsty militias fight for power. In a twenty-first century America gone haywire, Darwinian struggle for survival is the law of the land. Enter Van Dorn; eighteen and running solo, raised by his father in the old ways: to value survival, self-reliance, and righteousness. Determined to seek justice, he fights through a litany of horrors to save those captured by Cotto, a savage, drug-crazed warlord who has risen among the roving gangs, gaining territory while enslaving women and children. From the author of Donnybrook 17).

BLUM, CHRISTINE E rose FULL BODIED MURDER (#1) (\$8.99) Leaving behind a failed marriage, New Yorker Annie "Halsey" Hall is ready to begin the next phase of her life in coastal Southern California. From the moment she arrives at her new digs on cozy Rose Avenue, she looks forward to joining the neighborhood ladies for their weekly Wine Club gathering. With only a rambunctious yellow lab puppy to keep her company, Halsey could really use a confidant—and a glass or two of her favorite white wine. Unfortunately, she finds nothing but red at the Wine Club meeting—and judging by the dead woman lying face down in the backyard, it's not spilled merlot. **BRUEN, KEN jack taylor** EMERALD LIE (#12) (\$22.95) An Eton and Cambridge graduate who becomes murderous over split infinitives, improper punctuation, and any other sign of bad grammar. And Emily (also known as Em, Emerald), a chameleon-like young woman who is by turns passionate, clever, and utterly homicidal, ready to use any sort of coercion to get Jack to conspire with her against the serial killer the Garda have nicknamed "the Grammarian." Poor Jack Taylor, doesn't know who to be more wary of!

BURNET, GRAEME MACRAE HIS BLOODY PROJECT (\$25.99) Man Booker Prize Finalist, *LA Times* Book Prize Finalist, *New York Times* Editor's Choice, an

American Booksellers Association National Indie Bestseller, named a Best Book of 2016 by *Newsweek*, *NPR*, *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph*, and *The Sunday Times*... In the smash hit historical thriller that the *New York Times Book Review* calls “thought provoking fiction,” a brutal triple murder in a remote Scottish farming community in 1869 leads to the arrest of seventeen-year-old Roderick Macrae. There is no question that Macrae committed this terrible act. What would lead such a shy and intelligent boy down this bloody path? And will he hang for his crime?

Presented as a collection of documents discovered by the.

BURNS, V M PLOT IS MURDER (\$16.95) The small town of North Harbor on the shores of Lake Michigan is about to have a new mystery bookstore. But before the first customer can browse its shelves, the store’s owner is suspected of her own murder plot...the unimaginable happens in real life. A shady realtor turns up dead in Samantha Wasington’s backyard, and the police suspect her—after all, the owner of a mystery bookstore might know a thing or two about murder. Aided by her feisty grandmother and an enthusiastic ensemble of colorful retirees, Samantha is determined to close the case before she opens her store. But will she live to conclude her own story when the killer has a revised ending in mind for her?

CAHOON, LYNN cat OF MURDER AND MEN (#3) (\$8.99) Ever since her business partner, Shauna, fell for a wealthy landowner in town, Cat has been working double time to keep her writers’ retreat running. And with the January session almost underway, that spells trouble. As if scheduling mishaps aren’t disastrous enough, Shauna skips out on kitchen duties one morning, forcing Cat to serve unsuspecting guests store-bought muffins. But best laid plans really go awry when Shauna discovers her beau missing from their bed. When his body later turns up in the horse barn, they quickly find out the victim’s scandalous lifestyle left many dying for revenge. While balancing an eccentric group of aspiring writers and a suspect list for the record books, Cat soon finds herself on the heels of a killer—and authoring her most deadly conclusion yet . . .

CARL, JOANNA CHOCOLATE BUNNY BROUHAHA (#16) (\$10.99) The approach of Easter means a rush of business at TenHuis Chocolate, and Lee Woodyard and her aunt Nettie need all the help they can get to make their famous chocolate bunnies. Unfortunately, new hire Bunny Birdsong is a klutzy basket case. But to Lee’s surprise, she’s a wiz with computers and fixing the store’s website, so they decide to keep her. Bunny, however, comes with a lot of baggage...her soon-to-be ex-husband Beau, his wealthy aunt Abigail, and his new girlfriend and her brother all descend on the shop one day and have a bitter argument. Lee hopes they can find a peaceful way to settle their dispute, but when Abigail’s body is discovered in the vacant store next door, it’s clear to Lee there’s a bad egg in her midst. Now she’s on the hunt to find out who it is...

CARLISLE, KATE fixer upper EAVES OF DESTRUCTION (#5) (\$10.99) Light-house Cove, California’s premier contractor, Shannon Hammer is in high demand among rival homeowners, who will do anything to win Best in Show. One-upmanship and even espionage break out among neighbors, construction crews, decorators, and landscapers. Thanks to several new hires, Shannon is sure she can handle the extra load—until murder throws a wrench in the works. The small town’s corrupt building inspector is found dead on one of Shannon’s jobsites...

CARVER, TANIA LOST GIRL (#8) (\$15.99) When three men are found hanged in locations around Colchester, Detective Inspector Phil Brennan gets the shock of his life. Not only are the victims dressed to look like him, but each carries a defaced tarot card in the pocket of their identical leather jackets, scrawled across with one name: *Phil Brennan*. The bodies aren’t found in random locations—they’re all in places where DI Brennan has caught a murderer. Someone is sending him a message. And he thinks he knows who it is...

CATES, BAILEY bakery POTIONS AND PASTRIES (#7) (\$10.99) It’s been exactly two years since witch Katie Lightfoot and her aunt and uncle opened the Honeybee Bakery, where they serve delicious—and bespelled—treats to the good people of Savannah. After a dinner celebrating the bakery’s anniversary, they all take a stroll along the waterfront and meet Aunt Lucy’s friend Orla, a colorful character who has been telling the fortunes of locals and tourists alike for years. The next day, Orla meets with what seems like a terrible accident, but Katie’s witchy intuition tells her it was something more sinister. Together with her trustworthy coven and her firefighter boyfriend, she’ll race to find out what happened to the unfortunate fortune-teller before the piping hot trail goes cold....

COHEN, TAMMY DYING FOR CHRISTMAS (\$21.95) Out Christmas shopping one December afternoon, Jessica Gould meets the charming Dominic Lacey and impulsively agrees to go home with him for a drink. What follows is a Twelve Days of Christmas from hell as Lacey holds Jessica captive, forcing her to wear his missing wife’s gowns and eat lavish holiday meals. Each day he gifts her with one item from his twisted past—his dead sister’s favorite toy, disturbing family photos, a box of teeth. As the days pass and the “gifts” become darker and darker, Jessica realizes that Lacey has a

plan for her, and he never intends to let her go. But Jessica has a secret of her own ... a secret that may just mean she has a chance to make it out alive.

CONNOLLY, SHEILA orchard LATE FROST (11) (\$10.99) The usually quiet town of Granford, Massachusetts, is even drowsier during the colder months. But this year it's in for a jolt when Monica Whitman moves into town and she has a great idea to bring in visitors during the off-season: WinterFare, which will feature local foods (such as Meg's apples) and crafts, as well as entertainment. Tragically, Monica falls ill and dies after the event in what looks like a case of food poisoning. When all the food served at WinterFare has been tested, including Meg's apples, it becomes clear that there's a more sinister explanation to the older woman's sudden demise.

COTTERILL, COLIN jimm AMOK RUNNERS (#0) (\$28). A prequel to the three published books with our intrepid lady journalist and her rather unique family still living in Chiang Mai. Becoming an extra along with her two brothers, Army and Sissy, on an American movie with Hollywood stars being shot in the north of Thailand, she stumbles upon murder and mayhem while at the same time being part of an ancient treasure hunt. As usual it would be wrong for the bad guys to underestimate Jimm.

CRICHTON, MICHAEL DRAGON TEETH (\$12.50) The year is 1876. Warring Indian tribes still populate America's western territories, even as lawless gold-rush towns begin to mark the landscape, and two monomaniacal paleontologists pillage the Wild West, hunting for dinosaur fossils while surveilling, deceiving, and sabotaging each other. Into this treacherous territory enters William Johnson, a student who has joined world-renowned paleontologist Othniel Charles Marsh on his latest expedition. But when Marsh becomes convinced that William is spying for his nemesis, Edwin Drinker Cope, he abandons him in Cheyenne, Wyoming, a locus of crime and vice. William joins forces with Cope and soon stumbles upon a discovery of historic proportions. With this extraordinary treasure, however, comes exceptional danger, and Johnson's newfound resilience will be sorely tested...

CROMBIE, DEBORAH GARDEN OF LAMENTATIONS (#17) (\$18.50) Scotland Yard detectives Duncan Kincaid and Gemma James are drawn into separate investigations that hold disturbing—and deadly—complications for their own lives...a slightly less expensive edition of the latest in this bestselling series.

CULLINANE, JONOTHAN RED HERRING (\$21) In Auckland 1951 the workers and the government are heading for bloody confrontation and the waterfront is the frontline. But this is a war with more than two sides and nothing is what it seems. Into the secret world of rival union politics, dark political agendas and worldwide anti-communist hysteria steps Johnny Molloy, a private detective with secrets of his own. Caitlin O'Carolan, a feisty young reporter, is following her own leads. Together they begin to uncover a conspiracy that goes to the heart of the Establishment—and which will threaten their own lives in the process. Filled with memorable characters, including many colourful real-life figures from recent New Zealand history...

DAHL, K O oslo FAITHLESS (#2) (\$18.95) When the body of a woman turns up in a dumpster, scalded and wrapped in plastic, Inspector Frank Frølich is shocked to discover that he knows her—and their recent meetings may hold the clue to her murder. As he begins to look deeper into the tragic events surrounding her death, Frølich's colleague Gunnarstranda finds another body, and things take a more sinister turn. With a cold case involving the murder of a young girl in northern Norway casting a shadow, and an unsettling number of coincidences clouding the plot, Frølich is forced to look into his own past to find the answers—and the killer—before he strikes again. Dark, brooding and utterly chilling...

DAVIS, KRISTA paws&claws NOT A CREATURE WAS PURRING (#5) (\$10.99) Inspired by her German heritage, Holly's grandmother has arranged for Wagtail, Virginia to have a Christkindl Market packed with goodies and decorations for the howliday tourists. But Holly's mood takes an unseasonable turn when she learns that her old flame and childhood friend Holmes Richardson has brought his fiancée home—and she'll be staying at the Sugar Maple Inn...A love triangle becomes the last thing on Holly's mind when her Jack Russell Trixie's nose for trouble leads her to the corpse of a pet clothing tycoon. Now Holly and her dedicated detectives—Trixie and Twinkletoes the cat—must sniff out the killer to keep Christmas from going to the dogs.

DELANY, VICKI christmas HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SLAY (#3) (\$10.99) The town of Rudolph, New York, has the Christmas spirit all year long—but when homicide heats up a summer holiday, it's up to shop owner Merry Wilkinson to wrap up the case...Christmas in July heralds Santa's arrival by boat to begin his summer vacation at the lake, and Merry Wilkinson, owner of Mrs. Claus's Treasures, is looking forward to a busy weekend. But she's caught off guard when her ex-fiancé, Max Folger, unexpectedly arrives with a team from a lifestyle magazine wanting to do a feature on the July festivities. It's clear that Max's visit has less to do with business and more to do with winning back Merry's heart. Merry has too much on her plate to deal with an old flame, but when Max is found strangled to death in Mrs. Claus's Treasures, she must find out who wanted him dead—and stop a killer from ruining the summer holi-

day cheer.

DISILVERIO, LAURA RECKONING STONES (\$24.95) Nobody believed that Pastor Matt raped her. The tight-knit religious community punished her when she spoke out, expected fifteen-year-old Mercy to repent for making false allegations. Instead, she ran. And somebody—her father?—beat Pastor Matt into a coma and left his wife for dead. Twenty-three years later, Iris has put a life together, transformed herself from runaway teen Mercy Asher to sought-after jewelry designer Iris Dashwood. But now that Pastor Matt's awake, she's sliding back, losing ground to the painful memories she's barely kept at bay. Iris has no choice but to return to Lone Pine—to confront the man who tore her life apart and recover the truth from a community that protects its own. Winner of the 2016 Colorado Book Award for Mystery.

DOYLE/CHRISTER, SAM HOUSE OF SMOKE (\$15.99) Big Ben chimes in the first seconds of the first day of 1900, the start of a fresh century. Inside London's oldest gaol, preparations are afoot to hang Victorian England's deadliest assassin, a man wanted for two decades' worth of murders. Cold-blooded killer Simeon Lynch has lived a brutal and glorious life in the employ of the House of Moriarty—the most feared criminal enterprise in the world. Now, as he faces the noose, Simeon learns dark truths about his master, about Sherlock Holmes and about his own past. Truths that make him determined to escape and kill again...

DOYLE/KING, LAURIE R ECHOES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: Short Stories Inspired by the Canon (\$19.95) In this follow-up to the acclaimed In the Company of Sherlock Holmes (\$20.95), expert Sherlockians **Laurie King** and **Les Klinger** put forth the question: What happens when great writers/creators who are not known as Sherlock Holmes devotees admit to being inspired by the stories? While some are highly-regarded mystery writers, others are best known for their work in the fields of fantasy or science fiction. All of these talented authors, however, share a great admiration for **Arthur Conan Doyle** and his greatest creations, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. The result is this collection of new Sherlock Holmes stories.

EARLY, BARBARA DEATH OF A TOY SOLDIER (#1) (\$22.95) Liz McCall grew up in a playful winter wonderland but it was never her dream to manage her father's vintage toyshop. However, after he sank his entire police pension into the business, someone needed to help him turn his dreams into reality—and keep him from sneaking off to patrol the not-so-mean streets of East Aurora, NY. The mood goes from nice to naughty when a nervous man, who was trying to have his antique toys appraised, is found in the shop with a lawn dart through his chest. Suddenly, Liz's business plan is plunged into deep freeze, while she and her father find themselves toying with a cold-blooded killer who's playing for keeps. And, worse, it looks like Christmas might be cancelled for the neighborhood kids if Liz can't wrap up the case, post haste.

EATON, J C sophie DITCHED 4 MURDER (#2) (\$8.99) Moving from Minnesota to Arizona was a big change for Sophie "Phee" Kimball. She's much closer to her mother's retirement community now—which can drive her a little crazy, but at least her mom, Harriet, has her book club and her chiweenie dog, Streetman, to keep her company. And now there's even more activity, with Aunt Ina's upcoming wedding. The seventy-four-year-old bride has roped Phee into working on the tent, the pastries, and even her headpiece in preparation for the ceremony. But it's Harriet who really gets demanding when a dead body turns up yards from her front door. Sequel to Booked 4 Murder (#1) (\$8.99).

ELLWOOD, NUALA MY SISTER'S BONES (\$16.99) If you can't trust your sister, then who can you trust? Kate Rafter has spent her life running from her past. But when her mother dies, she's forced to return to Herne Bay - a place her sister Sally never left. But something isn't right in the old family home. On her first night Kate is woken by terrifying screams. And then she sees a shadowy figure in the garden... Who is crying for help? What does it have to do with Kate's past? And why does no one—not even her sister—believe her?

FARJEON, J JEFFERSON ben NO. 17 (#1) (\$16.99), HOUSE OPPOSITE (#2) (\$14.99), MURDERER'S TRAIL (#3) (\$16.99), BEN ON THE JOB (#4) (\$18.99), BEN SEES IT THROUGH (#5) (\$16.99), LITTLE GOD BEN (#6) (\$16.99), DETECTIVE BEN (#7) (\$14.99) and NUMBER NINETEEN (#8) (\$18.99). The author was an English crime and mystery novelist, playwright and screenwriter. One of the author's best known works was a play, Number 17, which was made into a number of films. His crime novels were admired by **Dorothy L. Sayers**, who called him "unsurpassed for creepy skill in mysterious adventures." Most of his works has been forgotten, but not Ben, the Cockney tramp, a most unorthodox detective.

FEDARCYK, JAN FIDELITY (\$22) A brilliant young FBI agent named Kay Malloy joins the counterintelligence unit in New York City with devastating consequences—both personal and professional. Kay Malloy always knew hers would be a life of service and she takes a job at the FBI. After rising quickly through the ranks and working for an elite counterterrorism unit in New York, Kay struggles to find her footing. When she is assigned to investigate the leak of Russian government intelligence operatives

alongside the CIA, she knows this is her chance to prove she deserves a place in the department. As danger mounts and conflicting leads cloud the investigation, Kay suddenly finds she must make the impossible choice between those she loves and the country she's sworn to protect. Filled with insider detail as the author, now retired, was the first woman to lead the FBI's prestigious New York Office.

FINCH, CHARLES lenox INHERITANCE (#10) (\$23.99) A mysterious bequest of money leads to a murder. Charles Lenox has received a cryptic plea for help from an old Harrow schoolmate, Gerald Leigh, but when he looks into the matter he finds that his friend has suddenly disappeared. As boys they had shared a secret: a bequest from a mysterious benefactor had smoothed Leigh's way into the world after the death of his father. Lenox, already with a passionate interest in detective work, made discovering the benefactor's identity his first case—but was never able to solve it. Now, years later, Leigh has been the recipient of a second, even more generous bequest. Is it from the same anonymous sponsor? Or is the money poisoned by ulterior motives? Leigh's disappearance suggests the latter, and as Lenox tries, desperately, to save his friend's life, he's forced into confrontations with both the most dangerous of east end gangs and the far more genteel denizens of the illustrious Royal Society. When someone close to the bequest dies, Lenox must finally delve deep into the past to uncover at last the identity of the person who is either his friend's savior—or his lethal enemy.

FINDER, JOSEPH POWER PLAY (\$12.99) Jake Landry is a junior executive at the Hammond Aerospace Corporation, a steady, modest, and taciturn guy with a gift for keeping his head down—and a turbulent past he prays he's put behind him. Ordered to fill in for his boss at the annual offsite, a deluxe lodge surrounded by thousands of miles of wilderness and a desolate seacoast, he's out of his element. He's uncomfortable with the lavish accommodations and especially with the arrogant, swaggering men who run the company and the only person he knows there is the new special assistant to the CEO—who happens to be Jake's ex. Then a band of hunters, apparently lost in the woods, crash the opening-night festivities. Soon the execs of a billion-dollar company, cut off from the rest of the world, find themselves at the mercy of a group of men with guns...and a cunning plan to take Hammond Aerospace for all it's worth. But the hostage takers aren't who they appear to be and neither is Jake Landry. The high flyers hadn't wanted Jake to come along. Now he's the only one who can save them.

GARDNER, ERLE STANLEY lam TURN ON THE HEAT (#3) (\$13.50) **Erle Stanley Gardner** was not just the creator of Perry Mason—at the time of his death, he was the best-selling American author of all time, with hundreds of millions of books in print. Among those books were the 29 cases of the brash, irresistible detective team of Bertha Cool and Donald Lam. Last year, Hard Case Crime brought out the first new Cool and Lam novel in decades, *The Knife Slipped* (\$13.50), lost for 77 years after Gardner's publisher refused it. Now, they bring you the book the author wrote to replace it, often considered the best in the series...Hired by a mysterious "Mr. Smith" to find a woman who vanished 21 years earlier, Donald Lam finds himself facing a sadistic cop, a desperate showgirl, a duplicitous client, and one very dogged (and beautiful) newspaper reporter—while Bertha Cool's attempts to cut herself in on this lucrative opportunity land them both hip-deep in murder...

GARDNER, JOHN bond NEVER SEND FLOWERS (#13) (\$15.99) In different corners of the world four high-profile figures are assassinated in less than a week. Nobody links the deaths, but one thing is certain: each of them has been stalked, sought out and killed with care and preparation. Then a sinister connection is established: a single, blood-tipped rose is sent to each funeral and an unremarkable female agent is murdered in Switzerland. When MI5 come to MI6 to ask for help M brings in his best. At first, a weekend abroad seems tempting to James Bond: especially when he's paired with Flicka von Grusse, a gorgeous Swiss intelligence officer. But this is a perilous assignment that starts with the mysterious actor David Dragonpol and leads them to Athens, Milan and on to EuroDisney ... and an explosive climax. First published in 1993.

GARDNER, LISA fbi profile THIRD VICTIM (#2) (\$13.50) An unspeakable act has ripped apart the idyllic town of Bakersville, Oregon, and its once-peaceful residents are demanding quick justice. But though a boy has confessed to the horrific crime, evidence shows he may not be guilty. Officer Rainie Conner, leading her first homicide investigation, stands at the center of the controversy. It's hitting too close to home, bringing back her worst nightmares, threatening to expose her secret sins. But with the boy's life at stake, she won't let anything stop her from finding the real killer. With the help of FBI profiler Pierce Quincy, Rainie comes closer to a deadly truth than she can imagine. Because out there in the shadows a man watches her and plots his next move. He knows her secrets. He kills for sport. He's already brought death to Bakersville and forever shattered the community. But what he has really come for is Rainie—and he won't leave until he has destroyed her....

GAYFORD, CECILY MURDER UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE (\$21.95) Ten stories for the festive season from **Ian Rankin, Val McDermid, Arthur Conan Doyle, Dorothy L. Sayers, Edmund Crispin, G.K. Chesterton, Ngaio Marsh, Carter Dick-**

son, Margery Allingham, and Ellis Peters.

GENTILL, SULARI FEW RIGHT THINKING MEN (#1) (\$23.95) Meet Rowland Sinclair, gentleman and artist living in 1931 Sydney. Friend of the Left, son of the Right, he paints in a superbly tailored, three-piece suit and houses friends who include a poet, a painter, and a feminist sculptress whom he has painted nude and hung it in the drawing room. Is he perhaps in love with Edna? If so, she isn't having any. Sinclair's life of ease, it may be said almost that of playboy, is akin to that of the era's English gentlemen. He's the third son of a vastly wealthy family with large estates and homes, whose middle brother was killed in the war, and older brother, Wilfred, forever bruised. Rowland and Wilfred are often at odds. And his fortune and his indifference to politics keep him sheltered from mounting tensions fueled by the Great Depression, which is roiling Australia and taking it near the brink of revolution. And also available is the sequel, Decline in Prophets (#2) (\$23.95).

GRAHAM, HEATHER PERFECT OBSESSION (\$9.99) Someone is murdering beautiful young women, women who embody perfection. The corpse of a gorgeous model is found dramatically displayed in the crypt under a deconsecrated church-turned-nightclub—right around the corner from Finnegan's pub. With the investigation spilling into the family pub, part owner and forensic psychologist Kieran Finnegan is consulting on the case, and her boyfriend, Special Agent Craig Frasier, leads the FBI team. As more bodies are discovered, it becomes clear that a clever, careful psychopath is using New York as his hunting ground. They're right in the action, but Craig fears they're too close, and his beautiful Kieran is in danger, since she could be the perfect victim...

GREEN, NORMAN SHADOW OF A THIEF (\$14.99) In a previous life, Saul Fowler was a thief-for-hire with an impressive client list, including the US government. When he seeks shelter from his addictions up on the coast of Maine, his past comes back to haunt him in the form of his estranged stepfather, Reverend McClendon. "Someone killed my daughter," says the rev. "Find out who did it Saul, I know you can help me. Please?" None of this would be Saul's problem, except that the girl might be his half-sister. Back in NYC, a place he never thought he'd see again, Saul delves deep under the surface of the dead girl's life. Before long he finds himself contending with gangs, pimps, prostitutes, the NYPD, and just maybe, the fifth fundamental universal force. Finding the truth will either change his life forever, or end it. From the author of the excellent Killing Dr. Jack (#1) (\$14.95).

GREENWOOD, KERRY AWAY WITH THE FAIRIES (#11) (\$23.95) It's 1928 in Melbourne and Phryne is asked to investigate the puzzling death of a famous author and illustrator of fairy stories. To do so, Phryne takes a job within the women's magazine that employed the victim and finds herself enmeshed in her colleagues' deceptions.

GREENWOOD, KERRY URN BURIAL (\$22.50, also available in large print \$34.50) The redoubtable Phryne Fisher is holidaying at Cave House, a Gothic mansion in the heart of Australia's Victorian mountain country. But the peaceful surroundings mask danger. Her host is receiving death threats, lethal traps are set without explanation, and the parlour maid is found strangled to death. What with the reappearance of mysterious funerary urns, a pair of young lovers, an extremely eccentric swagman, an angry outcast heir, and the luscious Lin Chung, Phryne's attention has definitely been caught. Her search for answers takes her deep into the dungeons of the house and into the limestone Buchan caves. What will she find this time?

GREGORY, SUSANNA bartholo GRAVE CONCERN (#22) (\$15.99) Identifying the murderer of the Chancellor of the University is not the only challenge facing physician Matthew Bartholomew. Many of his patients have been made worse by the ministrations of a 'surgeon' recently arrived from Nottingham, his sister is being rooked by the mason she has commissioned to build her husband's tomb, and his friend, Brother Michael, has been offered a Bishopric which will cause him to leave Cambridge. Brother Michael, keen to leave the University in good order, is determined that the new Chancellor will be a man of his choosing. The number of contenders putting themselves forward for election threatens to get out of control, then more deaths in mysterious circumstances make it appear that someone is taking extreme measures to manipulate the competition. With passions running high and a bold killer at large, both Bartholomew and Brother Michael fear the very future of the University is at stake.

GRIFFITHS, REBECCA PRIMROSE PATH (\$15.99) As a teenager, Sarah D'Villez famously escaped a man who abducted and held her hostage for eleven days. The case became notorious, with Sarah's face splashed across the front of every newspaper in the country. Now, seventeen years later, that man is about to be released from prison. Fearful of the media storm that is sure to follow, Sarah decides to flee to rural Wales under a new identity, telling nobody where she's gone. Settling into the small community she is now part of, Sarah soon realises that someone is watching her. Someone who seems to know everything about her . . .

GUSTAWSSON, JOHANA BLOCK 46 (\$16.95) In Falkenberg, Sweden: the mutilated body of talented young jewelry designer Linnea Blix is found in a snow-swept marina. In Hampstead Heath, London: the body of a young boy is discovered with similar

wounds to Linnea's. Buchenwald Concentration Camp, 1944: In the midst of the hell of the Holocaust, Erich Hebner will do anything to see himself as a human again. Are the two murders the work of a serial killer, and how are they connected to shocking events at Buchenwald? Emily Roy, a profiler on loan to Scotland Yard from the Canadian Royal Mounted Police, joins up with Linnea's friend, French true-crime writer Alexis Castells, to investigate the puzzling case. They travel between Sweden and London, and then deep into the past, as a startling and terrifying connection comes to light.

HAMMETT, DASHIELL BIG BOOK OF THE CONTINENTAL OP (\$34) Dashiell Hammett is the father of modern hard-boiled detective stories. His legendary works have been lauded for almost one hundred years by fans, and his novel The Maltese Falcon (\$19.50) was adapted into a classic film starring Humphrey Bogart. One of the author's most memorable characters, the Continental Op, made his debut in Black Mask magazine on October 1, 1923, narrating the first of twenty-eight stories and two novels that would change forever the face of detective fiction. The Op is a tough, wry, unglamorous gumshoe who has inspired a following that is both global and enduring. He has been published in periodicals, paperback digests, and short story collections, but until now, he has never, in all his ninety-two years, had the whole of his exploits contained in one book. The book features all twenty-eight of the original standalone Continental Op stories, the original serialized versions of Red Harvest (\$17.95) and The Dain Curse (\$19.50), and previously unpublished material.

HANNAH, MARI daniels GALLOWS DROP (#6) (\$18.99) At dawn on a lonely stretch of road, a body is found hanging from an ancient gallows, the morning after a country show. Hours earlier, DCI Kate Daniels had seen the victim alive. With her leave period imminent, she's forced to step aside when DCI James Atkins is called in to investigate, despite the bad blood between them. When Kate discovers that Atkins' daughter was an eyewitness to a fight involving the victim, the two detectives lock horns and he's bumped off the case. It's the trigger for a vicious attack on Kate, exposing a secret she's kept hidden for years and unearthing an even darker one. Shaken but undeterred, Kate sets out to solve a case that has shocked a close-knit village community. As suspects emerge, she uncovers a curious historical connection with a hangman, a culture of systematic bullying, a web of deceit and a deep-seated psychosis, any one of which could be motive for murder.

HANNAH, SOPHIE poirot CLOSED CASKET (#2) (\$18.50) The world's most famous detective—and Agatha Christie's most famous creation—returns in this new novel from the author of The Monogram Murders (#1) (\$18.50): a diabolically clever mystery soaked in period atmosphere and loaded with clues, suspense, and danger.

HIGASHINO, KEIGO galileo MIDSUMMER'S EQUATION (#3) (\$20.99) Manabu Yukawa, the physicist known as "Detective Galileo," has traveled to Hari Cove, a once-popular summer resort town that has fallen on hard times. He is there to speak at a conference on a planned underwater mining operation, which has sharply divided the town. One faction is against the proposed operation, concerned about the environmental impact on the area, known for its pristine waters. The other faction, seeing no future in the town as it is, believes its only hope lies in the development project. The night after the tense panel discussion, one of the resort's guests is found dead on the seashore at the base of the local cliffs. The local police at first believe it was a simple accident—that he wandered over the edge while walking on unfamiliar territory in the middle of the night. But when they discover that the victim was a former policeman and that the cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning, they begin to suspect he was murdered, and his body tossed off the cliff to misdirect the police. As the police try to uncover where Tsukahara was killed and why, Yukawa finds himself enmeshed in yet another confounding case of murder. In a series of twists as complex and surprising as any in Higashino's brilliant, critically acclaimed work, Galileo uncovers the hidden relationship behind the tragic events that led to this murder.

JACKSON, LISA alvarez CHOSEN TO DIE (#2) (\$9.99) Detective Regan Pescoli has worked the "Star Crossed Killer" case for months, never imagining she'd be captured by the madman she's been hunting. Regan knows exactly what he's capable of—and avoiding the same fate will take every drop of her courage and cunning.

KELLERMAN, JONATHAN delaw HEARTBREAK HOTEL (#32) (\$12.99) At nearly one hundred years old, Thalia Mars is a far cry from the patients that child psychologist Alex Delaware normally treats. But the charming, witty woman convinces Alex to meet with her in a suite at the Aventura, a luxury hotel with a checkered history. What Thalia wants from Alex are answers to unsettling questions—about guilt, patterns of criminal behavior, victim selection. When Alex asks the reason for her morbid fascination, Thalia promises to tell all during their next session. But when he shows up the following morning, he is met with silence: Thalia is dead in her room. When questions arise about how Thalia perished, Alex and homicide detective Milo Sturgis must peel back the layers of a fascinating but elusive woman's life and embark on one of the most baffling investigations either of them has ever experienced. For Thalia Mars is a victim like no other, an enigma who harbored nearly a century of secrets and whose life

and death draw those around her into a vortex of violence.

KENDAL, CLAIRE SECOND SISTER (\$24.99) A decade ago, Ella Brooke's older sister, Miranda, vanished without a trace. With every passing year, Ella has come to resemble more closely the sister she lost—the same dark hair, the same piercing blue eyes—and now she's the same age Miranda was when she disappeared. Ella has never let go of her sister. She can still feel Miranda's presence, still hear her voice. She still talks to her. What holds Ella together is her love for her sister's ten-year-old son and her work as a self-defense expert helping victims. Ella is certain that Miranda was taken, and that one man is key to her disappearance: Jason Thorne. The tabloids report that a new link has been found connecting Miranda to this sadistic serial killer locked away in a psychiatric hospital. Ignoring warnings from the police and the disapproval of her parents, she seeks Thorne out. Ella will do whatever it takes to uncover the truth—no matter how dangerous...

KINCHELOE, JENNIFER blanc WOMAN IN THE CAMPHOR TRUNK (#2) (\$17) Los Angeles, 1908. In Chinatown, the most dangerous beat in Los Angeles, police matron Anna Blanc and her former sweetheart, Detective Joe Singer, discover the body of a white missionary woman, stuffed in a trunk in the apartment of her Chinese lover. If news about the murder gets out, there will be a violent backlash against the Chinese. Joe and Anna work to solve the crime quietly and keep the death a secret, reluctantly helped by the good-looking Mr. Jones, a prominent local leader. Meanwhile, the kidnapping of two slave girls fuels existing tensions, leaving Chinatown poised on the verge of a bloody tong war. Joe orders Anna to stay away, but Anna is determined to solve the crime before news of the murder is leaked and Chinatown explodes.

LESLIE, BARBRA UNHINGED (\$19.95) Danny used to smoke crack cocaine. But two years ago, her sister was murdered, and Danny was flung into a wild chase across North America in pursuit of the murderer and his acolytes. Following a tumultuous stint in rehab, Danny and her family have finally found sanctuary: in a converted factory in downtown Toronto decked out in the most advanced security available. Danny is clean, running a gym, and finally free to enjoy quality time with her nephews. But when the boys' father turns up one night, beaten to a pulp and with the name of a stripper on his lips, Danny is tangled into a series of secrets that will lead her to the final showdown and a discovery of the ultimate betrayal...

LYLE, D P DEEP SIX (\$23.95) Ex-professional baseball player Jake Longly adamantly refuses to work for his father, wanting no part of Ray's PI world. He prefers to hang out at his beachfront bar and chase bikinis along the sugary beaches of Gulf Shores, Alabama. But Ray can be persuasive, so Jake finds himself staking out the home of wealthy Barbara Plummer, a suspected adulteress. The mission seems simple enough hang around, take a few pictures, sip a little bourbon. Except Barbara gets herself murdered right under Jake's nose. When Jake launches into an investigation of his target's homicide, he quickly runs afoul of Ukrainian mobster Victor Borkov. Aided by his new girlfriend Nicole Jemison and Tommy Pancake Jeffers—his behemoth employee with crazy computer skills—Jake tries to peel away the layers of the crime. The deeper the intrepid trio delves, the more murders start to pile up, leading them to Borkov's massive yacht where they just might be deep-sixed.

MACCONNON/MCCONNON, MAGGIE bel BEL, BOOK AND SCANDAL (#3) (\$10.50) Bel McGrath tries her best to keep herself on the straight and narrow but she just has a taste for trouble. This time danger arrives in the form of a newspaper left behind by visitors to Shamrock Manor—and a photograph that jolts Bel out of the present and back into a dark chapter from her past. The person in the photo is Bel's best friend Amy Mitchell, long gone from Foster's Landing, at a commune in upstate New York shortly after her disappearance. The picture, and Bel's burning desire to find out what happened to Amy—and whether she may still be alive—is the catalyst for a story in which old secrets are revealed, little by little...and certain characters are shown to not be as genuine as Bel once thought.

MACKINLAY/MCKINLAY, JENN library BETTER LATE THAN NEVER (#7) (\$10.99) When the Briar Creek Public Library holds its first overdue book amnesty day—no fines for late returns—the volume of incoming materials is more than Lindsey and her staff can handle. But one tardy tome catches her attention—a copy of J. D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*, twenty years past due. When Lindsey looks up the borrower, she's shocked to discover it was a murdered teacher named Candice Whitley, whose killer was never found. Candice checked out the novel on the day she died. Now Lindsey wonders if it could provide a clue to the decades-old cold case. No one noticed who brought the book back in, but could it be Candice's killer? Lindsey is determined to catch the culprit one way or another, because justice for Candice Whitley is long overdue. Includes reading club recommendations.

MACKINTOSH, CLARE I LET YOU GO (\$11.99) One of The New York Times Book Review's 10 Best Crime Novels of 2016! The blockbuster thriller for those who loved *The Girl on the Train* (\$14.95) and *The Widow* (\$16.95)... "[A] finely crafted novel with a killer twist."—#1 *New York Times* bestselling author Paula Hawkins.

On a rainy afternoon, a mother's life is shattered as her son slips from her grip and runs into the street. **Let You Go** follows Jenna Gray as she moves to a ramshackle cottage on the remote Welsh coast, trying to escape the memory of the car accident that plays again and again in her mind, desperate to heal from the loss of her child and the rest of her painful past. At the same time, the novel tracks the pair of Bristol police investigators trying to get to the bottom of this hit-and-run. As they chase down one hopeless lead after another, they find themselves as drawn to each other as they are to the frustrating, twist-filled case before them.

MACNAB/MCNABB, ANDY nick stone COLD BLOOD (#18) (\$16.99) Nick Stone is suffering. The two people he cared for most are gone. Thousands of miles away five ex-servicemen, badly wounded in Afghanistan, are preparing for a trek to the North Pole in an attempt to begin to rebuild their shattered bodies and minds. When Stone is summoned as close protection for the trek by an old SAS officer, he accepts unthinkingly, desperate for the chance to escape his own misery. They meet at the world's most northerly airport, where the locals are as hard as nails and the polar bear threat makes it against the law not to carry a gun. But it doesn't take long for Stone and his team to discover that neither the bears nor the locals are the most dangerous predators in this part of the world. It is quickly clear to Stone that the coldest war of all is just beginning.

MACNAB/MCNABB, ANDY nick stone LINE OF FIRE (#19) (\$29.99) Nick Stone has returned to London. Both the UK and the US are in a state of unrest and ever more extreme politicians are looking to take advantage of an unstable world. Their motives are unclear. But their threat is real. Who are they really working for?

MAHMOOD, IMRAN YOU DONT KNOW ME (\$27.99) As chosen by The BBC RADIO 2 BOOK CLUB and one of The TELEGRAPH'S CRIME BOOKS OF THE YEAR. It's easy to judge between right and wrong - isn't it? Not until you hear a convincing truth. Now it's up to you to decide... An unnamed defendant stands accused of murder. Just before the Closing Speeches, the young man sacks his lawyer, and decides to give his own defence speech. He tells us that his barrister told him to leave some things out. Sometimes, the truth can be too difficult to explain, or believe. But he thinks that if he's going to go down for life, he might as well go down telling the truth. There are eight pieces of evidence against him. As he talks us through them one by one, his life is in our hands. We, the reader - member of the jury - must keep an open mind till we hear the end of his story. His defence raises many questions... but at the end of the speeches, only one matters: Did he do it?

MANKELL, HENNING AFTER THE FIRE (\$22.95) Henning Mankell's last novel about an aging man whose quiet, solitary life on an isolated island off the coast of Sweden is turned upside down when his house catches fire. Fredrik Welin is a former surgeon who retired in disgrace decades earlier to a tiny island on which he is the only resident. He has a daughter he rarely sees and his mailman Jansson is the closest thing he has to a friend, and to an adversary. He is perfectly content to live out his days in quiet solitude. One autumn evening, he is startled awake by a blinding light--only to discover that his house is on fire. With the help of Jansson, he escapes the flames just in time wearing two left boots. Dawn reveals that everything he owns is now a smoldering pile of ash and his house is destroyed--forcing him to move into an abandoned trailer on his island. A local journalist, Lisa Modin, who wants to write a story about the fire, comes into his life. In doing so, she awakens in him something that he thought was long dead. Soon after, his daughter comes to the island with surprising news of her own. Meanwhile, the police suspect Fredrik of arson because he had a sizable insurance claim on his house. When Fredrik is away from the archipelago, another house goes up in flames and the community realizes they have an arsonist in their midst. *After the Fire* is an intimate portrait of an elderly recluse who is forced to open himself up to a world he'd left behind. **Mr. Mankell** died in 2015.

MARIAS, JAVIER THUS BAD BEGINS (\$22.95) In Madrid, 1980, five years after Franco's death, Juan de Vere takes a job assisting Eduardo Muriel, a film director in the twilight of his career. Muriel is eccentric but charming, an irresistible idol for Juan. But certain people, and forces, loom, among them Beatriz, Muriel's difficult wife; and Dr. Jorge Van Vechten, a mysterious figure implicated in unsavory rumours involving Muriel. As Juan digs deeper into all three of their lives, the deceptions and loyalties he begins to uncover will change the course of his young life. *Thus Bad Begins* is an ambitious, sweeping novel of a young man and his country, and of life in the wake of a dictator's reign.

MARSH, AVA EXPOSURE (\$16.99) Kitty Sweet isn't like anyone you've ever met before. She's an infamous porn star, imprisoned for double murder. As damaged as she is charismatic, as dangerous as she is charming. But once no different from you or I. Kitty's past is full of heartbreak and desperation, of adulation and glamour. Of ruin. She's descended to an underworld most people can only imagine, and lived to tell the tale. This is her story.

MATTHEWS, OLIVIA sister lou MAYHEM & MASS (#1) (\$8.99) First in a new series. A Los Angeles transplant, Sister Louise "Lou" LaSalle feels right at home in

Briar Coast, New York. After all, her beloved nephew, Chris, works at the college founded by her congregation. But while Sister Lou has always played by the rules, she's about to have her faith in herself tested—by murder. Sister Lou expects some pushback when she invites her friend, Maurice Jordan, to be the guest speaker for the St. Hermione of Ephesus Feast Day presentation. The theology professor is known far and wide for his controversial views. What she's not prepared for is finding him dead in his hotel room, bashed over the head. When the local deputies focus on the members of her congregation as suspects, Sister Lou takes matters into her own hands. Against Chris's wishes, she teams up with a cynical local reporter to delve into Maurice's life. The unlikely partners in crime-fighting uncover a litany of both devotees and detractors. And though it might take a miracle to find the killer, Sister Lou vows to carry on until justice prevails.

MAY, PETER COFFIN ROAD (\$20.49) In his latest mystery set in Scotland and the Outer Hebrides, award-winning author Peter May spins a tale about three disparate cases that may or may not be linked. On the remote Isle of Harris in Scotland's Outer Hebrides, a man washes up on a deserted beach, hypothermic and completely disoriented. He has no idea who he is or how he got there. The only clue to his condition is a map of the island showing a desolate, ancient path called the Coffin Road. With a sense of dread and no clear idea what lies at the other end, he knows he must follow the trail if he has any hope of discovering his identity. Meanwhile, homicide detective George Gunn makes the rough ocean crossing to a remote, sea-battered lighthouse on a rock in the northern Atlantic, twenty miles west of the Outer Hebrides, to investigate a brutal murder. Despite its isolation, the tiny island has seen its share of tragedy: more than a century earlier, three lighthouse keepers disappeared, never to be seen or heard from again. And now there is a new tragedy, and Gunn must figure out what happened. At the same time, a teenage girl lies in her Edinburgh bedroom, desperate to discover the truth about her father's death. Two years after the discovery of the pioneering scientist's suicide note, Karen Fleming still cannot accept that her father would willingly abandon her. And the more she discovers about the nature of his research, the more she suspects that suicide had nothing to do with it.

MORRELL, DAVID de quincey RULER OF THE NIGHT (#3) (\$20.99) The notorious Opium-Eater returns in the sensational climax to David Morrell's acclaimed Victorian mystery trilogy. 1855. The railway has irrevocably altered English society, effectively changing geography and fueling the industrial revolution by shortening distances between cities: a whole day's journey can now be covered in a matter of hours. People marvel at their new freedom. But train travel brings new dangers as well, with England's first death by train recorded on the very first day of railway operations in 1830. Twenty-five years later, England's first train murder occurs, paralyzing London with the unthinkable when a gentleman is stabbed to death in a safely locked first-class passenger compartment. In the next compartment, the brilliant opium-eater Thomas De Quincey and his quick-witted daughter, Emily, discover the homicide in a most gruesome manner. Key witnesses, and also resourceful sleuths, they join forces with their allies in Scotland Yard, Detective Ryan and his partner-in-training, Becker, to pursue the killer back into the fogbound streets of London, where other baffling murders occur. Ultimately, De Quincey must confront two ruthless adversaries: this terrifying enemy, and his own opium addiction which endangers his life and his tormented soul. The first two in the trilogy are Murder as a Fine Art (\$21.00) and Inspector of the Dead (\$20.99).

MOSBY, STEVE YOU CAN RUN (\$15.99) When a car crashes into a garage on an ordinary street, the attending officer is shocked to look inside the damaged building and discover a woman imprisoned within. As the remains of several other victims are found in the attached house, police believe they have finally identified the Red River Killer - a man who has been abducting women for nearly twenty years and taunting the police with notes about his crimes. But now the main suspect, John Blythe, is on the run. As the manhunt for Blythe intensifies, DI Will Turner finds himself fighting to stay involved in the investigation. The Red River killings hold a personal significance to him and he must be the one to find the killer, although he's determined to keep this from his fellow officers at all costs.

NAUGHTON, SARAH J TATTLETALE (\$15.99) *One day changes Jody's life forever.* She has shut herself down, haunted by her memories and unable to trust anyone. But then she meets Abe, the perfect stranger next door and suddenly life seems full of possibility and hope. *One day changes Mags's life forever.* After years of estrangement from her family, Mags receives a shocking phone call. Her brother Abe is in hospital and no-one knows what happened to him. She meets his fiancée Jody, and gradually pieces together the ruins of the life she left behind. But the pieces don't quite seem to fit...What readers are saying about TATTLETALE: 'It's one of the best debuts I've read. It deserves to be MASSIVE.' Julia Crouch; 'A well-crafted tale of love, obsession and murder - beautifully written and brilliantly twisted.' Ava Marsh, author of EXPOSURE; 'Gripping, electrifying, heartbreaking.' Erin Kelly, author of HE SAID/SHE SAID.

O'BRIAN, PATRICK aubrey BEASTS ROYAL 12Short Stories (\$16.99) *Beasts*

Royal is the second book written by Patrick O'Brian – made available, at last, for the first time since the 1930s. Published when Patrick O'Brian was just 19, this is the enchanting, often bloodthirsty collection of 12 tales of animal adventure that would be published in 1934 as the author's second book. His first, *Caesar* (\$22.50), had been published in 1930 and was an instant success, seeing O'Brian hailed as the 'boy-Thoreau'. As with *Caesar*, *Beasts Royal* sheds fascinating light on the formation of the literary genius behind the Aubrey-Maturin series of historical adventure tales.

OULD, CHRIS faroe BLOOD STRAND (#3) (\$10.99) Having left the Faroes as a child, Jan Reyna is now a British police detective, and the islands are foreign to him. But he is drawn back when his estranged father is found unconscious with a shotgun by his side and someone else's blood at the scene. Then a man's body is washed up on an isolated beach. Is Reyna's father responsible? Looking for answers, Reyna falls in with local detective Hjalti Hentze. But as the stakes get higher and Reyna learns more about his family and the truth behind his mother's flight from the Faroes, he must decide whether to stay, or to forsake the strange, windswept islands for good.

PARETSKY, SARA warshawski FALLOUT (#18) (\$12.50) To her parents, she's Victoria Iphigenia Warshawski. To her friends, she's Vic. But to clients seeking her talents as a detective, she's V.I. And her new case will lead her from her native Chicago... and into Kansas, on the trail of a vanished film student and a faded Hollywood star. Accompanied by her dog, V.I. tracks her quarry through a university town, across fields where missile silos once flourished — and into a past riven by long-simmering racial tensions, a past that holds the key to the crimes of the present. But as the mysteries stack up, so does the body count. And in this, her toughest case, not even V.I. is safe.

PATTERSON, JAMES private COUNT TO TEN: A PRIVATE NOVEL (\$20.99) Santosh Wagh quit his job as head of Private India after harrowing events in Mumbai almost got him killed. But Jack Morgan, global head of the world's finest investigation agency, needs him back. Jack is setting up a new office in Delhi, and Santosh is the only person he can trust. Still battling his demons, Santosh accepts, and it's not long before the agency takes on a case that could make or break them. Plastic barrels containing dissolved human remains have been found in the basement of a house in an upmarket area of South Delhi. But this isn't just any house, this property belongs to the state government. With the crime scene in lockdown and information suppressed by the authorities, delving too deep could make Santosh a target to be eliminated.

POST, MELVILLE DAVISSON UNCLE ABNER, MASTER OF MYSTERIES: A COLLECTION OF CLASSIC MYSTERY STORIES (\$14.95) This famous collection, reprinted in its entirety, chronicles the exploits of Uncle Abner, a powerful mind and moral figure in the wilderness and frontier territories of the Appalachians. Set in the 1840s and 1850s in what is now West Virginia, these 18 stories profile the detective as seen through the eyes of his young nephew. With a combination of shrewd deductive skill, uncanny intuition, and keen powers of perception, Uncle Abner deftly exposes evil and evildoers.

Abner has many opportunities to exercise his skills in this wild, brutal frontier. How could a murderer come through a closed window, without disturbing the cobwebs? How can a dead man and his horse be made to vanish? How could thieves creep through an ordinary keyhole to steal a hoard of gold? Author Melville Davison Post was a lawyer before he turned to fiction, and the Uncle Abner stories reflect his expertise, abounding in subtle nuances of evidence, criminal investigation, and points of law. Loaded with historical, political, and religious observations, these tales offer fine entertainment for lovers of classic detective fiction.

POSTGATE, RAYMOND SOMEBODY AT THE DOOR (\$19.95) With an introduction by **Martin Edwards**. 'The death was an odd one, it was true; but there was after all no very clear reason to assume it was anything but natural.' In the winter of 1942, England lies cold and dark in the wartime blackout. One bleak evening, Councillor Grayling steps off the 6.12 from Euston, carrying £120 in cash, and oblivious to the fate that awaits him in the snow-covered suburbs. Inspector Holly draws up a list of Grayling's fellow passengers: his distrusted employee Charles Evetts, the charming Hugh Rolandson, and an unknown refugee from Nazi Germany, among others. Inspector Holly will soon discover that each passenger harbours their own dark secrets, and that the councillor had more than one enemy among them. First published in 1943, Raymond Postgate's wartime murder mystery combines thrilling detection with rich characters and a fascinating depiction of life on the home front.

RINEHART, MARY ROBERTS CASE OF JENNIE BRICE (\$10.95) Originally published in 1913. Mrs. Pittman's well-to-do Pittsburgh family didn't approve of her marriage, so the young bride moved away and lost touch with her relatives. Years later, she has returned to her native city as a widow and now runs a boarding house, one of the only jobs available to respectable women in the early twentieth century. Rooms at Mrs. Pittman's place are cheap because of the annual floods from the Allegheny River, which inundate the building's basement and first floor. Ordinarily, the overflowing wa-

ters are just a mild nuisance but this year the flood takes a sinister turn when a headless corpse emerges from the waters. One of Mrs. Pittman's tenants, actress Jennie Brice, has disappeared and the landlady is certain not only that the unidentified body is Jennie's but also that Jennie's husband is the killer. Lacking evidence, the police have dropped the case but Mrs. Pittman's discovery of a broken knife and blood-stained rope are enough to strengthen her resolve. An eager young reporter and other amateur detectives join Mrs. Pittman in her crusade to solve the crime, and their efforts lead to a budding romance that might help bring the lonely landlady back into the family fold.

ROSENSTIEL, TOM SHINING CITY (\$19.99) A debut novel. Peter Rena is a “fixer.” He and his partner, Randi Brooks, earn their living making the problems of the powerful disappear. They get their biggest job yet when the White House hires them to vet the president's nominee for the Supreme Court. Judge Roland Madison is a legal giant, but he's a political maverick, with views that might make the already tricky confirmation process even more difficult. Rena and his team go full-bore to cover every inch of the judge's past, while the competing factions of Washington D.C. mobilize with frightening intensity: ambitious senators, garrulous journalists, and wily power players on both sides of the aisle. All of that becomes background when a string of seemingly random killings overlaps with Rena's investigation, with Judge Madison a possible target. Racing against the clock to keep his nominee safe, the President satisfied, and the political wolves at bay, Rena learns just how dangerous Washington's obsession with power—how to get it and how to keep it—can be.

SHELTON, PAIGE dangerous COMIC SANS MURDER (#3) (\$10.99) The visit of quirky world-famous horror author Nathan Grimes to Star City is especially thrilling for Clare Henry and her grandfather Chester. As the owners of The Rescued Word, a charming boutique shop in town, Clare and Chester specialize in restoring old typewriters and repairing beloved books. They've invited Nathan to their shop to use their equipment for his next book. But all plans to work on the book take a step in the wrong direction when a tourist discovers an abandoned ski boot on the slopes—and the only sign of the owner is the dismembered foot he left inside! Nathan's writer's curiosity for all things horror is further piqued after the body of Clare's high school friend Lloyd Gavin is discovered sans one foot. When all toes point to a class reunion gone wrong, Nathan can't help but join Clare and her best friend, police officer Jodie Wentworth, as they hurry to track down the killer before more former classmates become Most Likely to Be Killed.

SIMENON, GEORGES MAIGRET IS AFRAID (#42) (\$17.50) On his way home from a conference, Maigret stops to visit an old school friend in Fontenay-le-Comte. A man in the same train car introduces himself and asks if Maigret has come to help solve the murder case. In fact, the man's brother-in-law had been murdered four days earlier, followed by the murder of a local widow in the same way, a blow to the head with a pipe. While Maigret is in town, a third murder is reported. Maigret soon discovers that there are two warring factions in the town, a clear class separation, and an air of suspicion that only he can put to rest.

STAINCLIFFE, CATH GIRL IN THE GREEN DRESS (\$24.99) How far would you go to protect your child? Can you really keep them safe? What if who they are puts them at risk? And what if they have blood on their hands? Teenager Allie Kennaway heads off for prom night, cheered on by her dad Steve and little sister Teagan. But Allie never comes home, beaten to death in an apparent hate crime because of her transgender identity. As police investigate the brutal murder, a crime that has appalled the country, one parent is at her wit's end with her son's behaviour. Are his outbursts and silences hiding something much darker than adolescent mood swings? And if her suspicions are correct, then what does she do? Another parent will fight tooth and nail to save his boy from the full force of the law. After all, blood is thicker than water and everyone should look after their own. But if he succeeds then Allie and her family will never get the justice they deserve.

STAUB, WENDY CORSI dale SOMETHING BURIED SOMETHING BLUE (#2) (\$22.95) After agreeing to stay in Lily Dale through the winter as caretakers of the Valley View Guesthouse and its feline residents, widowed mom Bella Jordan and her son Max are looking forward to the peaceful off-season after a hectic summer—that is, until the medium next door, Odelia Lauder, recruits Bella to host a destination wedding for the world's most petulant bride, Johneen Maynard, a friend of Odelia's granddaughter. Things take an even more stressful turn as the wedding day looms amidst an October blizzard, when suddenly the Spirits start giving Odelia a major heads-up that the bride might be fated for death. And if there's any truth to her premonitions, the wedding is off—and that's the least of their problems. It's a race to figure out who would want to kill Johneen before her attacker has a chance to strike.

STEN, VIVECA sandhamn TONIGHT YOU'RE DEAD (#4) (\$21.95) Soon to be divorced, attorney Nora Linde is finding her way as a single mother, and even falling in love again, when she's asked by her childhood friend Detective Thomas Andreasson to help in a disturbing investigation. Marcus Nielsen, a university student, has apparently

committed suicide, but it's what he's left behind that's so suspicious and damning: his research into the Coastal Rangers, an elite military group where, in 1977, a young cadet died under questionable circumstances, a sadistic sergeant went free, and a case went cold. When two of Nielsen's contacts are also found dead—and diaries of their tortuous training turn up missing—Thomas and Nora are certain that whatever happened three decades ago is unforgivable. And for someone who wants to keep those secrets buried—unforgettable. Now they must fight against time to expose a cover-up that hasn't yet claimed its last victim.

THOMAS, WILL *barker* HELL BAY (#8) (\$22.99) At the request of Her Majesty's government, private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker agrees to take on his least favorite kind of assignment—he's to provide security for a secret conference with the French government. The conference is to take place on the private estate of Lord Hargrave on a remote island off the coast of Cornwall. The goal of the conference is the negotiation of a new treaty with France. The cover story for the gathering is a house party—an attempt to introduce Lord Hargrave's two unmarried sons to potential mates. But shortly after the parties land at the island, Lord Hargrave is killed by a sniper shot, and the French ambassador's head of security is found stabbed to death. The only means of egress from the island, a boat, has been sent away, and the means of signaling for help has been destroyed. Trapped in a manor house with no way of escape, Cyrus Barker and his assistant, Thomas Llewelyn, must uncover which among them is the killer before the next victim falls. "If you love Sherlock Holmes, historical mysteries, or just a good, rousing adventure, you'll love these books, too." - Laurell K. Hamilton

TRUMAN & BAIN DEADLY MEDICINE (#29) (\$11.99) If someone in the pharmaceutical industry came upon a cheaper, non-addictive, and more effective painkiller, would he kill for it? Washington, D.C., private detective Robert Brixton discovers the answer is a resounding "Yes," as he helps Jayla King, a medical researcher at a small D.C. pharmaceutical firm, carry on the work of her father. Dr. Preston King's experiments in the jungles of Papua New Guinea and the discoveries he made led to his brutal murder and the theft of his papers. Did her father's lab assistant kill the doctor and steal his research? Is this shadowy figure prepared to kill again to keep Jayla from profiting from her father's work? Does her recent paramour's romantic interest reflect his true feelings—or will he sell her out and reap the rewards for himself? And to what lengths would Big Pharma's leading lobbyist go to cover up his involvement with King's death . . . and to protect a leading champion of the pharmaceutical industry, a Georgian senator with a shady past? **Mr. Bain** died in 2017.

TURSTEN, HELENE WHO WATCHETH (#9) (\$19.95) He watches the women from the shadows. He has an understanding with them: As long as they follow his rules, they are safe. But when they sin, he sentences them to death. A woman is found dead in a cemetery, strangled and covered in plastic. Just a few days before her death, the victim had received a flower, an unintelligible note, and a photograph of herself. Detective Inspector Irene Huss and her colleagues on the Violent Crimes Unit in Göteborg, Sweden, have neither clue nor motive to pursue, and when similar murders follow, their search for the killer becomes increasingly desperate. Meanwhile, strange things have been going on at home for Irene: first the rose bush in her garden is mangled, then she receives a threatening package with no return address. Is Irene being paranoid, or is she next on the killer's list?

VAN LUSTBADER, ERIC BOURNE INITIATIVE (#14) (\$12.99) General Boris Karpov, head of the feared Russian FSB, is dead. But Karpov has reached out from the grave with an unstoppable cyber operation he conceived before his murder, aimed at the heart of the United States—a way to steal the president's nuclear launch codes. Who has taken over the operation? Karpov trusted only one man: Jason Bourne. But can Bourne be working against his own country? The U.S. Government is convinced of his treason, and is doing everything in its power to kill him. Flushed from cover and gravely wounded, Bourne's only hope is to join forces with his bitterest enemy: a powerful Somali terrorist named Keyre, and his protégée, the Angelmaker. If he hopes to survive, Bourne has no choice but unravel the mystery of Karpov's last legacy—a weaponized code that may bring about the unthinkable: a violent end to America.

WILSON, ELIZABETH SHE DIED YOUNG (\$21.95) London, 1956. A young woman has been found dead in a hotel in King's Cross. It looks like an accident, and Scotland Yard isn't interested in accidents. But Fleet Street journalist Gerry Blackstone reckons there's more to it than meets the eye. Meanwhile, Oxford is filling with Hungarian émigrés fleeing the failed revolution. Special Branch, concerned there could be Soviet spies among the genuine refugees, send in detective chief inspector Jack McGovern to keep an eye on proceedings. As McGovern plays spy-catcher in Oxford and Blackstone hunts for clues in the seedy corners of London, a complex web of rogues, schemers, and potential suspects starts to emerge: the well-to-do madam, the classics professor, the East London crime boss, and the government minister—does it all lead back to the dead girl in King's Cross? Or is there something even more sinister going on?

WOODS, STUART barrington FAST AND LOOSE (#41) (\$13.50) Stone Barrington is enjoying a boating excursion off the Maine coast when a chance encounter leaves him somewhat the worse for wear. Always able to find the silver lining in even the unhappiest circumstances, Stone is pleased to discover that the authors of his misfortune are, in fact, members of a prestigious family who present a unique business opportunity, and who require a man of Stone's skills to overcome a sticky situation of their own. The acquaintance is fortuitous indeed, for as it turns out, Stone and his new friends have an enemy in common. He's the sort of man who prefers force to finesse, and who regards any professional defeat as a personal and intolerable insult. And when Stone's sly cunning collides with his adversary's hair-trigger-temper, the results are sure to be explosive.