



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

February 2017

Say what you will about President Trump—and there's lots to be said, and very little of it complimentary—he seems to be good for the book business. Some books, at least. Publishers Weekly, the book industry's bible, reported that "George Orwell's dystopian classic *1984* is the #1 book in the country following the first week and a half of the presidency of Donald J. Trump." PW went on to report: "In one week, Signet Classics has reprinted 500,000 copies of *1984*," Signet vice president and executive publicity director Craig Burke said. "That's more than we sell in a typical year." In 2016, *1984* sold approximately 221,000 print copies, according to BookScan."

And, finally "The sales bump is similar to the 209% increase in sales in the year to date for Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, and reflects a general upward trend in the sales of dystopian classics following the election..."

So, what dystopian crime fiction have you read and liked? Maybe we can send **PD James'** *Children of Men* up the charts as well? Or **Paul Johnston's** Quintilian Dalrymple series? *Philosophical Investigations* by **Philip Kerr**?

JD's Picks

A new author for me, and one that I ended up liking a great deal, although his vision and his San Francisco is pretty damn bleak, is **JONATHAN MOORE**. I read a review of his second novel, *The Dark Room* (\$34), and it caught my attention, but I decided to start with an earlier novel, *Poison Artist* (\$20.95). In this one, Caleb Maddox, a brilliant toxicologist is asked by his friend, San Francisco's chief medical examiner Henry Newcomb, to examine a body that has been pulled from the bay. Henry is worried his own lab is missing something—there have been six other recent drownings—and wants Caleb

to take a look. Caleb is keen to do that; he needs the distraction. When we first meet Caleb, he's just broken up with his girlfriend, Bridget, and limps home, bruised and bleeding, to lick his wounds. He also needs to get on with his work—he's researching the effects of pain, and trying to isolate the chemical signature that pain leaves behind—but can't focus. Looking into Henry's request, he makes a horrifying discovery. Before the man died, "he went through as much pain as a man can take. Three hours, maybe more. Total, unbearable agony." Just a coincidence? And then Caleb learns that the man was last seen at the bar where he was drinking himself, after fleeing the home he shared with Bridget. The bar where he met the very mysterious woman who looks "as if she'd stepped out of a silent film." He becomes obsessed with her, and begins searching for her among the city's speakeasies and hidden bars. Then he finds her, the mysterious Emmeline and falls in love. She's into absinthe, in a big way, and his job, and Bridget, are forgotten. Forgotten also is the hunt for the serial killer, as bodies keep turning up.

I'm not sure I understood everything, particularly the ending; I'm pretty sure I know who the serial killer is, but, there is a lot of wiggle room for the author to run some more with the story. Suffice to say, I didn't want to put the book down and the last fifty pages, well, I couldn't have put the book down even if I had wanted to. There is a hypnotic, dream-like, mesmerizing—absinthian?—quality to the story. It's always dark, and there is this pervasive sense of menace, here be monsters...it's scary, but I loved it. So much so, that I immediately went on to read...

JONATHAN MOORE's *The Dark Room* (\$34). The story starts with Insp. Gavin Cain of the San Francisco PD in a Monterey County cemetery, watching the exhumation of a coffin, when his boss calls and tells him that he's being reassigned. The Mayor of San Francisco, Harry Castelli, has received an anonymous letter with four photographs showing a young woman being threatened and assaulted and the letter promises that there are other pictures which will be made public if the mayor does not do the honourable thing and top himself.

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The mayor, who claims to know nothing of this, expects the best, so it's Cain job to investigate and exonerate him.

The exhumation, which was prompted by a dying man's taped confession, finds two bodies in the coffin, and the extra body turns out to be linked to the mayor's issue. The coffin's been in the ground since the mid-80s, and the extra body is the woman in the photographs. Most horrifically, it seems that the young woman was still alive when she was sealed into the coffin. Cain's pretty sure the mayor knows a lot more than he's letting on, and begins to work the case.

Once again, the story makes great use of the Bay area setting, the plotting is tight, the story is dark and moves along very nicely.

I gather from the author's remarks that the second Cain thriller has been written and is due next year. And I look forward to it.

Another new author for me was **JANE HARPER** and her debut novel The Dry (\$36.99). The title refers to a draught, the worst in a century, that has struck this particular part of Australia and times are desperate. What made me pick up the book was the stunning jacket illustration. What made me want to read it were the glowing reviews from **John Hart** and **C J Box**, two writers that I like a great deal. That, and the fact that the book had won a "best unpublished manuscript award" and, just because I just like things Australian. And, guess what, it turned out to be a great read.

Small town, big secrets. After getting a note demanding his presence at his best friend, Luke's, funeral, Federal Agent Aaron Falk goes back to his hometown for the first time in decades. Twenty years ago, when Falk was accused of murdering his girlfriend, Luke was his alibi. But that was a lie, and Luke suggested it. Falk and his father were run out of town by the locals, led by the dead girl's father, and the only thing that saved Aaron from prosecution was Luke's steadfast claim that the boys had been together, nowhere near the scene, at the time of the crime. But that was a lie and it's now clear that someone else knows that the two boys did not tell the truth back then. Aaron may be held to account. The thing is, Aaron knows he didn't kill his girlfriend, but was too young and too intimidated by Luke to question why he should lie. So, what did really happen?

I had also noted a sizeable stack of Strange Things Done (\$18.99) by **ELLE WILD**. As the name was not familiar, I wondered why I had ordered such a quantity of it but soon realized that this novel was the winner of the 2015 Unhinged Arthur Award. Aha. This is the Canadian version of the Australian "best unpublished manuscript award" that Dry won. Talk about serendipity. The novel was also shortlisted for a number of international awards.

Our heroine is journalist Jo Silver, newly arrived in Dawson City to take over the editorship of the local weekly. It seems that she was over-sold the opportunity, but, she's here. Winter is closing in, and pretty soon there'll be no way out until the spring breakup. She's barely settled in—and Jo is investigating the dubious suicide of a local politician and discovers that not everything in the sleepy, inbred, cloistered tourist town is what it seems. Before long, law enforcement begins treating the death as a possible murder and Jo is the prime suspect. Good story, leavened with just enough wit...but, a little too Nancy Drew for my taste.

I've gotten back to reading! Now that I can breathe a little better and am not sleeping all the time. Of course, I start many books, but typically only finish a small percentage. Not necessarily because they were awful—there are those of course—but because mostly they are just okay. So, okay, I tried them.

I remember reading and liking very much the first two or three Moe Prager novels by **REED FARREL COLEMAN**. So, I was interested to read Where it Hurts (#1) (\$22), the first in a new series featuring

Gus Murphy. Read about half of it, and probably leave it at that. Gus Murphy had it all, a great marriage, a great career, his health, two great kids...but in one instant it all fell apart. And now he works as a courtesy van driver for a shabby motel, with no greater ambition than to get to the next day. His comfortable waking trance comes to an end when ex-con Tommy Delcamino asks him for help. Four months earlier, the battered body of Tommy's son TJ was discovered in a wooded lot, yet the cops don't seem interested in pursuing the killers and in desperation, Tommy seeks out the only cop he ever trusted—Gus Murphy.

This could have been an excellent story, were it to have been two-thirds the length. I just couldn't deal with Gus's issues, writ ad infinitum. I won't tell you what happened to send Gus into this spiral—it's won't really spoil anything, nonetheless—but I found it a tad over wrought. Way too much beating of the breast. There is a sequel which has just been published, What You Break (#2) (\$36).

The Gun (\$18.95) by **FUMINORI NAKAMURA** is a different matter altogether. This is a short, compelling, riveting, psychological study of a young university student named Nishikawa. On a nighttime walk along a Tokyo riverbed he stumbles on a dead body, beside which lies a gun. From the moment he takes the gun, the world around him blurs. He is obsessed. Possessing the weapon is intoxicating. He is mesmerized with this deadly, perfect, dangerous, thing that he now possesses. Will possessing it be enough, though? Free will or fate? Excellent.

Marian's Picks

Pixie is a joy. Until she sees another dog and then all hell breaks loose. Then it takes all my might to restrain her as she tries to get to it. She just wants to play and play but at almost 40 pounds, she can be a little daunting to other puppies. Or, she just plops down and watches. And at 40 pounds, she's a little hard to get moving again! Until the other puppy is out of sight and she's ready to move on. At 40 pounds, and only 5 months old, she towers over all the other puppies at puppy training class. She's going to be a big Standard Poodle. But she's the sweetest, most affectionate, little thing on four paws. And still, Percy is not amused!

I don't know how I managed to choose three books set in and around the Second World War. Or, how I managed to pick three books that are a bit difficult to get. (But not impossible if you don't mind waiting for them). JD didn't want me to pick any of the three writers until we had them in stock but I wanted to tell you about them now or else I'd forget and you would miss out. A UK import, Black Roses (#1) (\$25) by **JANE THYNNE** is set in Berlin in 1933. Aspiring actress Clara Vine arrives there to find work at the famous Ufa studios. Through a chance meeting, she is unwillingly drawn into a circle of Nazi wives, led by Magda Goebbels. British Intelligence officer Leo Quinn sees Clara as the perfect recruit to spy on her new elite friends as she speaks perfect German thanks to her German mother. But then Magda reveals to Clara a dramatic secret and entrusts her with an extraordinary mission. Lots of atmosphere and startling details of the rise of Hitler and the power his henchmen held over all aspects of German life. I was constantly on Google looking up details of history to see what was "real" and what was "make believe". I loved the character of Clara and her almost innocent way of thinking and her attitude to being a spy and I was delighted to discover that there are four more titles in the series and the next three are available from a Canadian distributor, so, easy to get. Woman in the Shadows (#2) aka The Winter Garden in the UK; Scent of Secrets (#3) aka War of Flowers; and Pursuit of Pearls (#4) aka Faith & Beauty (\$22.95 each). Why the first in the series, Black Roses, has not been released in North America is anyone's guess, but maybe if we all buy lots of copies of the oth-

ers, this omission may be corrected. The fifth book in the series, Solitaire (#5) (\$55) has only recently been published in the UK, but I can get the old fart to bring some in if you'd like a copy. Perhaps, by the time we get caught up on reading the first four titles, it will be available here in a format that we can all afford.

Princes Gate (#1) (\$24) by **MARK ELLIS** was listed in the January 2017 newsletter but JD had only ordered a small quantity as he was ordering them pretty much sight unseen. Well, I had a read and I loved it, and consequently we brought in more copies and still more are on the way. I am impatiently awaiting stock of the second titles in the series, Stalin's Gold (#2) (\$24), but himself assures me that it won't be long. It's a terrific combination of police procedural, political alliances with a bit of espionage thrown in. I'll just cut and paste what we said in the previous newsletter about this book: Princes Gate is the first in a new series of crime thrillers featuring DCI Frank Merlin. These atmospheric books are set in wartime London mixing historical and fictional characters and featuring a charismatic and intriguing half-Spanish detective. When a brilliant emigré scientist is killed by a hit and run driver and a young woman's body is washed up in the Thames, Merlin and his team must investigate. The woman is an employee of the American Embassy, whose Ambassador at this time is Joseph Kennedy. DCI Merlin's investigation of diplomats at the Embassy ruffles feathers at the Foreign Office—the American Ambassador is a well-known supporter of appeasement and many powerful and influential Britons favour the pursuit of a negotiated peace settlement with Hitler. The death of another Embassy employee leads Merlin into some of the seedier quarters of wartime London where a corrupt night-club owner, various high-flying diplomats and the Ambassador himself appear to be linked to the events surrounding the deaths. Merlin has to pursue his detective work under the interfering supervision of an Assistant Metropolitan Commissioner who is fearful about the impact of Merlin's investigations on Anglo-American relations at a time when America represents to many Britain's only hope of salvation. Capturing the atmosphere of Britain in 1940 during the 'phoney war' when, although war rages on the Continent, life continues relatively peacefully in Britain, Princes Gate is an enthralling detective novel. It's well worth the read!!

A Killer in King's Cove (\$18.50) by **IONA WHISHAW**, set in British Columbia in 1946, introduces us to Lane Winslow. She is a war-weary young ex-intelligence officer who leaves London to look for a fresh start in a small hamlet in the interior of British Columbia, close to Nelson. She tries to hide her past from the eclectic cast of small-town characters but when a body is discovered and a piece of paper with her name on it is also found on the body, she worries that the investigation will expose her past which she desperately wants to keep hidden. And what about the Official Secrets Act? Again, the setting, the characters, the policeman (especially Ames!), all combined to make this a very good read. This book was originally published under the title Dead in the Water. An interesting note by the author says that the character of Lane is based on her mother who was a British spy! Kinda cool! And, by the by, a sequel is due this Spring. Oh, joy!

And on a much lighter note, I really enjoyed Engaged in Death (\$8.99) by **STEPHANIE BLACKMOORE**. After dumping her cheating fiancé and cancelling the wedding, Mallory Shepard is very surprised when she inherits Thistle Park, a ramshackle mansion in her ex's hometown of Port Quincy, Pennsylvania. It's a problem she can't afford. Abound with stray cats, peeling wallpaper, and nosy neighbours, Mallory wants to sell it, but is torn because she also would like to turn it into a venue for weddings. And then a dead body found on her front lawn causes all sorts of grief. I really liked the story, the characters and the writing style. Turns out **Ms. Blackmore** was a lawyer and a librarian in her prior life and she tells a good story. The second in the series is Murder Wears White (\$8.99), which I have put in my bag to take to the cottage. Oh, more joy!

I read The Cracked Spine (\$10.99) by **PAIGE SHELTON** months ago, when it first came out in hardcover, and really liked it but at \$36.99 it was a bit pricy. Now that it's available in paperback, give it a read. Delaney Nichols moves to Edinburgh to start a job at The Cracked Spine, a rare book and manuscript shop located in the heart of the city. Her new boss, Edwin MacAlister, has given her the opportunity of a lifetime, albeit a cryptic one, promising that she'll be working with "a desk that has seen the likes of kings and queens, paupers and princes," and Delaney can't wait to get started. When she arrives, she meets her new Scottish family; also working at the Cracked Spine are spirited and lovable Rosie, who always has tiny dog Hector in tow; Hamlet, a nineteen-year-old thespian with a coloured past and bright future; and Edwin, who is just as enigmatic and mysterious as Delaney expected. An extra bonus is Tom the bartender from across the street, with his cobalt eyes, and a gentle brogue and he looks pretty good in a kilt. But before she can settle into her new life, a precious artifact goes missing, and Edwin's sister is brutally murdered. Delaney decides to use a little American ingenuity to find out just what the real story is behind the artifact, and how it's connected to the tragic death. Loved the characters, loved the story and loved that it's set in a bookshop.

Hardbacks

BLAEDEL, SARA rick & lind LOST WOMAN (#7) (\$34) A housewife is the target of a shocking, methodical killing. Shot with a hunting rifle through her kitchen window, the woman is dead before she hits the ground. Though murdered in England, it turns out that the woman, Sofie Parker, is actually a Danish citizen who's been on the Missing Persons list for almost two decades—so Louise Rick is called on to the case. Then, in an unexpected twist, the police discover that Sofie had been reported missing eighteen years ago by none other than Eik, Louise Rick's police colleague and lover. Impulsive as ever, Eik rushes to England, and ends up in jail on suspicion of Sofie's murder. Completely blindsided by Eik's connection to the case, Louise is thoroughly unsettled and sick with worry, yet she must set aside her own emotional turmoil if she hopes to find the killer in what will become her most controversial case yet...

BLOCK, LAWRENCE ed IN SUNLIGHT OR IN SHADOW s/s (\$34.95) "Edward Hopper is surely the greatest American narrative painter. His work bears special resonance for writers and readers, and yet his paintings never tell a story so much as they invite viewers to find for themselves the untold stories within." So says **Lawrence Block**, who has invited seventeen writers to join him in writing stories inspired by Hopper paintings. Included are full-color reproduction of the painting in question. Some of the contributors are **Stephen King, Joyce Carol Oates, Michael Connelly, Joe R. Lansdale, Jeffrey Deaver, and Lee Child**.

COYLE, CLEO clare cosi DEAD COLD BREW (#16) (\$36) Coffeehouse manager Clare Cosi sheds tears of joy when her NYPD detective boyfriend surprises her with an engagement ring. But her bridal bliss is put on hold when a chilling mystery brings a wave of deadly danger to those she holds dear...

CROMBIE, DEBORAH kincaid GARDEN OF LAMENTATIONS (#17) (\$33.50 hardcover, \$21.99 trade paperback) Scotland Yard detectives Duncan Kincaid and Gemma James are drawn into separate investigations that hold disturbing—and deadly—complications for their own lives. On a beautiful morning in mid-May, the body of a young woman, Reagan, is found in one of Notting Hill's private gardens. Lead detective, DI Kerry Boatman, turns to Gemma James for help as Gemma has a personal connection to the case: Reagan was the nanny of a child who attends the same dance studio as Toby, Gemma and Kincaid's son. In the meanwhile, Kincaid finds himself plagued by disturbing questions about several previous—and seemingly unrelated—cases involving members of the force. If his suspicions are

correct and the crimes are linked, are his family and friends in mortal danger as well? Kincaid's hunch turns to certainty when a Metropolitan Police officer close to him is brutally attacked. There's a traitor in the ranks, and now Kincaid wonders if he can trust anyone.

DOHERTY, PAUL athelstan PILGRIMAGE TO MURDER (#17) (\$39.99) Summer, 1381. The Great Revolt has been crushed; the king's peace ruthlessly enforced. Brother Athelstan meanwhile is preparing for a pilgrimage to St Thomas a Becket's shrine in Canterbury to give thanks for the wellbeing of his congregation after the violent rebellion. But preparations are disrupted when Athelstan is summoned to a modest house in Cheapside, scene of a brutal triple murder. One of the victims was the chief clerk of the Secret Chancery of John of Gaunt. Could this be an act of revenge by the Upright Men, those rebels who survived the Great Revolt? At the same time Athelstan is receiving menacing messages from an assassin who calls himself Azrael, the Angel of Death? Who is he—and why is he targeting a harmless friar? Could Athelstan's pilgrimage be leading him into a deadly trap?

DOYLE/ SIMS, MICHAEL ARTHUR AND SHERLOCK: CONAN DOYLE AND THE CREATION OF HOLMES (\$36) As a young medical student, Arthur Conan Doyle studied in Edinburgh under the vigilant eye of a diagnostic genius, Dr. Joseph Bell. Doyle often observed Bell identifying a patient's occupation, hometown, and ailments from the smallest details of dress, gait, and speech. Although Doyle was training to be a surgeon, he was meanwhile cultivating essential knowledge that would feed his literary dreams and help him develop the most iconic detective in fiction. Michael Sims traces the circuitous development of Conan Doyle as the father of the modern mystery, from his early days in Edinburgh surrounded by poverty and violence, through his escape to University (where he gained terrifying firsthand knowledge of poisons), leading to his own medical practice in 1882. Five hardworking years later - after Doyle's only modest success in both medicine and literature - Sherlock Holmes emerged in A Study in Scarlet. Sims deftly shows Holmes to be a product of Doyle's varied adventures in his personal and professional life, as well as built out of the traditions of Edgar Allan Poe, Emile Gaboriau, Wilkie Collins, and Charles Dickens - not just a skillful translator of clues, but a veritable superhero of the mind in the tradition of Doyle's esteemed teacher. Filled with details that will surprise even the most knowledgeable Sherlockian, Arthur and Sherlock is a literary genesis story for detective fans everywhere.

ELLIS, KATE HIGH MORTALITY OF DOVES (\$36.99) 1919. The Derbyshire village of Wenfield is still reeling from four terrible years of war, and now, just when the village is coming to terms with the loss of so many of its sons, the brutal murder of a young girl shatters its hard-won tranquility. Myrtle Bligh is found stabbed and left in woodland, her mouth slit to accommodate a dead dove, a bird of peace. During the war Myrtle worked as a volunteer nurse with Flora Winsmore, the local doctor's daughter, caring for badly wounded soldiers at the nearby big house, Tarnhey Court. When two more women are found murdered in identical circumstances, Inspector Albert Lincoln is sent up from London to investigate.

FERENCIK, ERICA RIVER AT NIGHT (\$35) A high-stakes drama set against the harsh beauty of the Maine wilderness, charting the journey of four friends as they fight to survive the aftermath of a white water rafting accident. What starts out as an invigorating hiking and rafting excursion in the remote Allagash Wilderness soon becomes an all-too-real nightmare: A freak accident leaves the women stranded, separating them from their raft and everything they need to survive. When night descends, a fire on the mountainside lures them to a ramshackle camp that appears to be their lifeline. But as Wini and her friends grasp the true intent of their supposed saviors, long buried secrets emerge and lifelong allegiances are put to the test. To survive, Wini must reach beyond the world she knows to harness an inner strength she never knew she possessed.

GREANEY, MARK GUNMETAL GRAY (#6) (\$36) After five years on the run Court Gentry is back on the inside at the CIA. But his first mission makes him wish he had stayed on the outs when a pair of Chinese agents try to take him down in Hong Kong. Normally

the Chinese prefer to stay eyes-only on foreign agents. So why are they on such high alert? Court's high stakes hunt for answers takes him across Southeast Asia and leads to his old friend, Donald Fitzroy, who is being held hostage by the Chinese. Fitzroy was contracted to find Fan Jiang, a former member of an ultra-secret computer warfare unit responsible for testing China's own security systems. And it seems Fan may have been too good at his job—because China wants him dead.

HARPER, JANE DRY (\$36.99) After getting a note demanding his presence, Federal Agent Aaron Falk arrives in his hometown for the first time in decades to attend the funeral of his best friend, Luke. Twenty years ago when Falk was accused of murder, Luke was his alibi. Falk and his father fled under a cloud of suspicion, saved from prosecution only because of Luke's steadfast claim that the boys had been together at the time of the crime. But now more than one person knows they didn't tell the truth back then, and Luke is dead. Amid the worst drought in a century, Falk and the local detective question what really happened to Luke. As Falk reluctantly investigates to see if there's more to Luke's death than there seems to be, long-buried mysteries resurface, as do the lies that have haunted them. And Falk will find that small towns have *always* hidden big secrets. An excellent debut. Set in Australia and winner of the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an unpublished manuscript in 2015.

HARRISON, CORA burren UNJUST JUDGE (#14) (\$43.50) It was a macabre ending for an unjust judge: his throat slit by a sharp knife; his body stuffed into a lobster pot and left beneath a powerful jet of water shooting up through the cliffs from the turbulent Atlantic. When Mara, Brehon of the nearby kingdom of the Burren, comes to investigate, she knows that her first suspects have to be the five young men who had received such savage sentences for minor crimes. But there are others in the frame: the nephew of the former Brehon, a man with the power of the Tudor court behind him. The child bride who hated her husband. The ill-treated apprentice. And who was it who was seen on that moonlit night by the confused and elderly Fergus Mac Clancy?

HOWE, K J thea paris FREEDOM BROKER (\$32.49) There are twenty-five elite kidnap and ransom (K&R) specialists in the world. Only one is a woman: Thea Paris. And she's the best in the business. Twenty years ago, a terrified young boy was abducted in the middle of the night by masked intruders while his sister watched, paralyzed with fear. Returned after a harrowing nine months with his captors, Thea's brother has never been the same. This life-shattering experience drove Thea to become what she is today: a world-class freedom broker. Most hostage-recovery work is done at the negotiation table, but when diplomacy fails, Thea leads Quantum Security International's black-ops team on highly sensitive rescue missions to political hot spots around the globe. And, now, her oil magnate father, Christos Paris, is snatched from his yacht off Santorini on his sixtieth birthday...

HURWITZ, GREGG orphan x NOWHERE MAN (#2) (\$36.99) Evan Smoak is the Nowhere Man. Taken from a group home at twelve, Evan was raised and trained as part of the Orphan Program, an off-the-books operation designed to create deniable intelligence assets—i.e. assassins. Evan was Orphan X. He broke with the Program, using everything he learned to disappear and reinvent himself as the Nowhere Man. But his new life is interrupted when a surprise attack comes from an unlikely angle and Evan is caught unaware. Captured, drugged, and spirited off to a remote location, he finds himself heavily guarded and cut off from everything he knows. His captors think they have him trapped and helpless in a virtual cage but they don't know who they're dealing with—or that they've trapped themselves inside that cage with one of the deadliest and most resourceful men on earth. Sequel to Orphan X (\$13.99).

JAMES, MIRANDA librarians TWELVE ANGRY LIBRARIANS (#8) (\$35) Light-hearted librarian Charlie Harris is known around his hometown of Athena, Mississippi, for walking his cat, a rescued Maine Coon named Diesel. But he may soon be taken for a walk himself—in handcuffs...The Southern Academic Libraries Association is holding this year's annual meeting at Athena College and Charlie

must deliver the welcome speech to all the visiting librarians. And as if that weren't bad enough, the keynote address will be delivered by Charlie's old nemesis from library school, an insufferable know-it-all capable of getting under everyone's skin. So, when Gavin drops dead, no one is really all that upset, but Charlie was seen having a heated argument with Gavin the day before and he's jumped to the top of the suspect list.

JONES, STEPHEN MACK AUGUST SNOW (\$31.95) Tough, smart, and struggling to stay alive, August Snow is the embodiment of Detroit. The son of an African-American father and a Mexican-American mother, August grew up in the city's Mexicantown and joined the police force only to be drummed out by a conspiracy of corrupt cops and politicians. But August fought back; he took on the city and got himself a \$12 million wrongful dismissal settlement that left him low on friends. He has just returned to the house he grew up in after a year away, and quickly learns he has many scores to settle. It's not long before he's summoned to the palatial Grosse Pointe Estates home of business magnate Eleanore Paget. Powerful and manipulative, Paget wants August to investigate the increasingly unusual happenings at her private wealth management bank. But detective work is no longer August's beat, and he declines. A day later, Paget is dead of an apparent suicide—which August isn't buying for a minute. What begins as an inquiry into Eleanore Paget's death soon drags August into a rat's nest of Detroit's most dangerous criminals, from corporate embezzlers to tattooed mercenaries.

KELLERMAN, JONATHAN delaw HEARTBREAK HOTEL (#32) (\$38.99) 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. Alex and homicide detective Milo Sturgis investigate.

MARK, DAVID macavoy CRUEL MERCY (#6) (\$37) In the New York Police Department's 7th Precinct on the Lower East Side, Detective Ronny Alto is investigating a crime that's left one man dead and the other in a medically induced coma after surviving a shot to the head. One hope is that Brishen Ayres, a boxing coach and legend in the gypsy community in England, will wake up and reveal the person, or people, responsible for the murder of his protégé Shay Helden and his own mutilation. Another hope is Detective Sergeant Aector McAvoy. Far away from his home in the U.K., from his familiar Hull, and from the guidance of his boss Trish Pharaoh, McAvoy is flown in to assist with the case, but he has his own motives for the trip: find a man named Valentine Teague, another amateur boxer, a rival of the Helden family, and, perhaps most important, his brother-in-law. But every step toward locating Valentine is a step deeper into a sinister underground network of misguided loyalty, faith, and honor that pulses beneath the streets of New York.

MARSTON, EDWARD home front ENEMY WITHIN (#6) (\$39.99) Pentonville Prison. Wally Hibbert is serving a long sentence for arson. But after befriending and tricking one of the officers, Hibbert makes an audacious escape. Inspector Marmion, the detective who arrested Hibbert, is warned to watch his back, but it seems that Hibbert has another target in his murderous sights. However, the investigation is mired in confusion, the identities of killer and victim become increasingly ambiguous. An inmate at an internment camp who might be a spy sending intelligence to the Germans complicates matters further, and the multiplying manhunts, as well as Marmion's concern for his injured and withdrawn son Paul, leave the detective desperate and perhaps with too many threads to untangle.

MEJIA, MINDY EVERYTHING YOU WANT ME TO BE (\$35) High school senior Hattie Hoffman has spent her whole life playing many parts: the good student, the good daughter, the good citizen. When she's found brutally stabbed to death on the opening night of her high school play, the tragedy rips through the fabric of her small

town community. Local sheriff Del Goodman, a family friend of the Hoffmans, vows to find her killer, but trying to solve her murder yields more questions than answers. It seems that Hattie's acting talents ran far beyond the stage. Told from three points of view: Del, Hattie, and the new English teacher whose marriage is crumbling... **MEYER, STEPHENIE CHEMIST** (\$39) Don't know how we managed to order the LARGE PRINT version of this title but we did. She used to work for the U.S. government, but very few people ever knew that. An expert in her field, she was one of the darkest secrets of an agency so clandestine it doesn't even have a name. And when they decided she was a liability, they came for her without warning. Now she rarely stays in the same place or uses the same name for long. They've killed the only other person she trusted, but something she knows still poses a threat. They want her dead, and soon. When her former handler offers her a way out, she realizes it's her only chance to erase the giant target on her back. But it means taking one last job for her ex-employers. To her horror, the information she acquires only makes her situation more dangerous. Resolving to meet the threat head-on, she prepares for the toughest fight of her life but finds herself falling for a man who can only complicate her likelihood of survival. As she sees her choices being rapidly whittled down, she must apply her unique talents in ways she never dreamed of. We can order you a regular print version of this title for \$36.50.

MILLER, DEREK B GIRL IN GREEN (\$37) 1991. Near Checkpoint Zulu, one hundred miles from the Kuwaiti border, Thomas Benton meets Arwood Hobbes. Benton is a British journalist who reports from war zones in part to avoid his lackluster marriage and a daughter he loves but cannot connect with; Arwood is a Midwestern American private who might be an insufferable ignoramus, or might be a genuine lunatic with a death wish - it's hard to tell. Desert Storm is over, peace has been declared, but as they argue about whether it makes sense to cross the nearest border in search of an ice cream, they become embroiled in a horrific attack in which a young local girl in a green dress is killed as they are trying to protect her. The two men walk away into their respective lives. But something has cracked for them both. Twenty-two years later, in another place, in another war, they meet again and are offered an unlikely opportunity to redeem themselves when that same girl in green is found alive and in need of salvation. Or is she? From the author of the excellent Norwegian by Night (\$21.50).

MOORE, JONATHAN DARK ROOM (\$34) Gavin Cain, an SFPD homicide inspector, is in the middle of an exhumation when his phone rings. San Francisco's mayor is being blackmailed and has ordered Cain back to the city; a helicopter is on its way. The casket, and Cain's cold-case investigation, must wait. At City Hall, the mayor shows Cain four photographs he's received: the first, an unforgettable blonde; the second, pills and handcuffs on a nightstand; the third, the woman drinking from a flask; and last, the woman naked, unconscious, and shackled to a bed. The accompanying letter is straightforward: worse revelations are on the way unless the mayor takes his own life first.

PARKER, ROBERT B./KNOTT, ROBERT cole REVELATION (#9) (\$36) Territorial marshals Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch figured things had finally settled down in Appaloosa when Boston Bill Black's murder charge was dropped. But all that changed when Augustus Noble Driggs was transferred to a stateside penitentiary just across the border from Mexico. Square-jawed, handsome, and built like a muscled thoroughbred stallion, Driggs manages to intimidate everyone inside the prison walls, including the upstart young warden. In a haunting twist of fate, Driggs and a pack of cold-blooded convicts are suddenly on the loose—and it's up to any and all territorial lawmen, including Cole and Hitch, to capture the fugitives and rescue the woman kidnapped during their escape. The first four novels in this series were written by **Parker**...

PATTERSON, JAMES/CANDICE FOX NEVER NEVER (\$36.50) Never assume you know someone. Harry Blue is the top Sex Crimes investigator in her department. She's a seasoned pro who's seen it all. But even she didn't see this coming: her own brother arrested for the grisly murders of three beautiful young women. Never

accept a reassignment to the middle of nowhere "for your own good." Harry's been sent to a makeshift town in a desolate landscape—a world full of easy money, plenty of illegal ways to spend it, and a ragtag collection of transient characters who thrive on the fringes of society. A place where little grows, but evil flourishes. Never trust anyone. Looking into a seemingly simple missing persons case, Harry's been assigned to a new "partner." But is he actually meant to be a watchdog? Still reeling from the accusations against her brother, Harry can't even trust her own instincts, which she's never doubted...until now. Never go anywhere without leaving a trace. Far from the world she knows and desperate to clear her brother's name, Harry has to mine the dark secrets of her strange new home for answers to a deepening mystery—before she vanishes in a place where no one would ever think to look for her.

PERRY, THOMAS OLD MAN (\$37.50) To all appearances, Dan Chase is a harmless retiree in Vermont with two big mutts and a grown daughter he keeps in touch with by phone. But most sixty-year-old widowers don't have multiple driver's licenses, savings stockpiled in banks across the country, and a bugout kit with two Beretta Nanos stashed in the spare bedroom closet. Most have not spent decades on the run. Thirty-five years ago, as a young hotshot in army intelligence, Chase was sent to Libya to covertly assist a rebel army. When the plan turned sour, Chase reacted according to his own ideas of right and wrong, triggering consequences he could never have anticipated. And someone still wants him dead because of them. Just as he had begun to think himself finally safe, Chase must reawaken his survival instincts to contend with the history he has spent his adult life trying to escape. Armed mercenaries, spectacularly crashed cars, a precarious love interest, and an unforgettable chase scene through the snow. Non-stop action from this excellent writer.

PETRIE, NICHOLAS ash BURNING BRIGHT (#2) (\$35) War veteran Peter Ash sought peace and quiet among the towering redwoods of northern California, but the trip isn't quite the balm he'd hoped for. The dense forest and close fog cause his claustrophobia to buzz and spark, and then he stumbles upon a grizzly, long thought to have vanished from this part of the country. In a fight of man against bear, Peter doesn't favour his odds, so he makes a strategic retreat up a nearby sapling. There, he finds something strange: a climbing rope, affixed to a distant branch above. It leads to another, and another, up through the giant tree canopy, and ending at a hanging platform. On the platform is a woman on the run. From below them come the sounds of men and gunshots. Just days ago, investigative journalist June Cassidy escaped a kidnapping by the men who are still on her trail. She suspects they're after something belonging to her mother, a prominent software designer who recently died in an accident. June needs time to figure out what's going on, and help from someone with Peter's particular set of skills. Only one step ahead of their pursuers, Peter and June must race to unravel this peculiar mystery. What they find leads them to an eccentric recluse, a shadowy pseudo-military organization, and an extraordinary tool that may change the modern world forever.

SCARROW, SIMON cato INVICTUS (#15) (\$34.99 hardcover, \$24.99 trade paperback) It is AD 53. The soldiers of the Roman army patrol a growing Empire, from the Mediterranean to the North Sea, across the Atlantic to the banks of the Nile. Rome brutally enforces its rule, and its legions are the most efficient and aggressive fighting force in the world. Two battle-scarred veterans of this army, Prefect Cato and Centurion Macro, have survived years of campaigning in Britannia and have been recalled to Rome. Their time in the teeming, dangerously political city is short, and soon they are travelling with the Praetorian Guard to Spain, a restless colony where simmering tension in the face of Roman rule is aggravated by bitter rivalry amongst the natives. The challenges that face two old friends and their comrades in arms are unlike any they have seen before - in a land that declares itself unconquerable.

SMITH, BRAD burns HEARTS OF STONE (#2) (\$42) Happily ensconced at River Road Farm and planning to start their own maple syrup business, life is good for Carl Burns and his partner Frances, who also stars in her own TV show. But, unwittingly, Frances's TV

exposure has attracted unwelcome attention. Targeted by a gang of small-time criminals who need to get their hands on a large amount of cash, fast, Carl and Frances's perfect lives are shattered in an instant. With clues as to the gang's identity thin on the ground, the cops' hands are tied. It's up to Carl to track down the perpetrators and bring them to justice – in whatever way he can. The first in the series is Rough Justice (\$26).

SMITH, MICHAEL FARRIS DESPERATION ROAD (\$34) For eleven years the clock has been ticking for Russell Gaines as he sits in Parchman Penitentiary in the Mississippi Delta. His sentence is now up, and he believes his debt has been paid. But when he returns home, he soon discovers that revenge lives and breathes all around him. On the same day that Russell is released from prison, a woman named Maben and her young daughter trudge along the side of the interstate under the punishing summer sun. Desperate and exhausted, the pair spend their last dollar on a room for the night, a night that ends with Maben running through the darkness holding a pistol, and a dead deputy sprawled in the middle of the road in the glow of his own headlights. With the dawn, destinies collide, and Russell is forced to decide whose life he will save, his own or those of the woman and child.

VICHI, MARCO bordelli DEATH IN THE TUSCAN HILLS (#5) (\$32.99) Spring, 1967. The trail of tragedy and destruction that followed the previous winter's flood seems to have died down; Florence is beginning to recover. But Inspector Bordelli does not feel the same sense of relief, he has not had a moment's peace since his investigation of a young boy's murder went disastrously wrong. Unsettled and embittered, Bordelli resigns from the force and leaves the city. He could not continue to work as a policeman while the perpetrators of such a terrible crime were still at large. Now, in the solitude of his new home in the Tuscan hills, he spends his days cooking, going for long walks and learning to grow his own vegetables. But the thought of that case, of justice not served, is constantly with him. Until fate, in which he has never believed, unexpectedly offers him the chance of retribution.

WILCOX, JOHN BLACK ROCKS OF MORWENSTOW (\$39.99) The year is 1832 and great change and reform are sweeping England, but 23-year-old Joshua Weyland is languishing in Key West, USA. He was third mate on the schooner Jessica, which had run aground in suspicious circumstances and the skipper has been arrested on charges of deliberately wrecking his ship. Josh is desperate to get back to England to marry his fiancée, so he ships as second mate on a small brig bound for Bristol. But when the ship founders on rocks off the coast of Cornwall, it's clear it's been deliberately wrecked, and it's just a question of time before they seize the cargo—can Joshua stop them?

Paperbacks

ABBOTT, KRISTI popcorn POP GOES THE MURDER (#2) (\$10.99) Despite Rebecca Anderson's best efforts to distance herself from her ex-husband, the guy keeps popping up. When Antoine offers to feature her breakfast bars and popcorn fudge on his popular cooking show, she suspects he's once again trying to butter her up, but the TV exposure for her gourmet popcorn shop, POPS, is too good to turn down. Things take a shocking turn when the crew comes to Grand Lake to film in her shop, and Rebecca discovers Antoine's assistant electrocuted in a hotel bathtub. Now the police want Antoine to come clean. Her ex may be a pain, but he's no killer. So, Rebecca decides to bag the real culprit. If she isn't careful, however, she may be the next one getting burned. The first in the series is Kernel of Truth (\$10.49). Includes popcorn related recipes.

ADDISON, CORBAN HARVEST OF THORNS (\$24.99) In Dhaka, Bangladesh, a garment factory burns to the ground, claiming the lives of hundreds of workers, mostly young women. Amid the rubble, a bystander captures a heart-stopping photograph, a teenage girl lying in

the dirt, her body broken by a multi-story fall, and over her mouth a mask of fabric bearing the label of one of America's largest retailers, Presto Omnishops Corporation. Eight thousand miles away, at Presto's headquarters in Virginia, Cameron Alexander, the company's long-time general counsel, watches the media coverage of the fire in horror, wondering if the damage can be contained. When the photo goes viral, fanning the flames of a decades old controversy about sweatshops, labor rights, and the ethics of globalization, he launches an investigation into the disaster that will reach farther than he could ever imagine—and threaten everything he has left in the world. A year later, in Washington, D.C., Joshua Griswold, a disgraced former journalist from *The Washington Post*, receives an anonymous summons from a corporate whistleblower who offers him confidential information about Presto and the fire. For Griswold, the challenge of exposing Presto's culpability is irresistible, as is the chance, however slight, at redemption. Deploying his old journalistic skills, he builds a historic case against Presto, setting the stage for a war in the courtroom and in the media, that Griswold is determined to win, both to salvage his reputation and to provoke a revolution of conscience in Presto's boardroom that could transform the fashion industry across the globe.

ALEXANDER, ELLIE bakeshop FUDGE AND JURY (#5)

(\$10.99) It's almost spring in Ashland, Oregon, and the town is preparing for the Shakespeare and the annual Chocolate Festival. Business is cooking! at Torte, and the store is expanding as Jules' team whips up crepes filled with mascarpone cheese and dark chocolate. Torte stands a chance of being this year's confectionery belle of the ball! Life couldn't be sweeter, until murder taints the batter. Evan Rowe, of Confections Couture, makes a chocolate fountain that would put Willy Wonka to shame, and his truffles are to die for - *literally*? Yes, the world-renowned chocolatier has just turned up dead, right after sampling a slice of Jules' decadent four-layer chocolate cake. Now all eyes are on Jules as she tries to find the mysterious ingredient in her own recipe. Can she sift out the truth before another contestant bites the buttercream?

ALLINGHAM, MARGERY WHITE COTTAGE MYSTERY (\$22)

Eric Crowther collected secrets and used them as weapons. Delighting in nothing more than torturing those around him with what he knew, there is no shortage of suspects when he is found dead in the White Cottage. Chief Inspector Challenor and his son Jerry will have to look deep into everyone's past, including the victim's, before they can be sure who has pulled the trigger. The fact that Jerry is in love with one of the suspects, however, might complicate things. The White Cottage Mystery was Margery Allingham's first detective story, originally written as a serial for the *Daily Express* in 1927 and published as a book a year later. This new Bloomsbury edition is the only North American edition currently in print.

ANDREW, SALLY RECIPES FOR LOVE AND MURDER

(\$22.99) Tannie Maria (Tannie meaning "Auntie," the respectful Afrikaans address for a woman older than you) is a middle-aged widow who likes to cook and eat. Her life as a recipe columnist for her local paper is relatively quiet until *The Gazette* decides to replace her recipe column with an advice column. At first, Tannie Maria is resistant, but she soon discovers she has a knack, and a passion, for helping her correspondents and including recipes and culinary advice whenever she can! As she makes her way through the questions that pile up, she ends up not only helping others, but coming to terms with her own overeating, body image and loneliness along the way. Then Tannie Maria receives a sequence of letters from a woman trying to figure out how to escape her abusive husband--something Tannie Maria has had experience with in the past. When the woman is murdered, however, Tannie Maria and her colleague become dangerously entwined in the ensuing investigation, despite the best efforts of a handsome detective to keep them safe. Soon, Tannie Maria becomes involved in something much more sinister than perfecting her chocolate cake recipe

ARLIDGE, M J helen grace HIDE AND SEEK (#6) (\$16.99) Detective Inspector Helen Grace has spent her whole life running. From the past. From herself. From everyone who's ever tried to get close to

her. She's spent her whole life hiding. Behind the badge. Behind her reputation as one of the country's best detectives. Until - framed for murder - she became one of its most high-profile prisoners. Now there is nowhere to run. Nowhere to hide. Because HMP Holloway is a place of dark days and long nights with dangers at every turn. Despised by the inmates and reviled by the guards, Helen must face her nightmare alone. And then a carefully mutilated body is found in a locked cell. Now Helen must find a ruthless serial killer. Before the killer finds her.

ARMSTRONG, DIANE WINTER JOURNEY (\$19.99) Originally published in 2004. Polish-born Halina Shore is a forensic dentist working in Sydney. Her mother has just died, and while going through her things Halina comes across a letter from a woman, asking about a strange child. Intrigued, Halina sets out to learn more. Meanwhile, she is asked to assist a war crimes tribunal investigating a mass grave in Poland and when arrives in Nowa Kalwaria, finds herself at the centre of a bitter struggle in a community that has been divided by a grim legacy. What she does not realise is that she has also embarked on a confronting personal journey. Inspired by a true incident that took place in Poland in 1941, the story is part mystery, part forensic investigation, and a moving and confronting story of love, loss and sacrifice.

ARMSTRONG, KELLEY rockton CITY OF THE LOST (#1)

(\$21) Casey Duncan once killed a man and got away with it. But that's not why she's on the run. Her best friend's ex has found Diana again, despite all Casey has done to protect her. And Diana has decided the only way she'll ever be safe is if she finds the mythical town she's heard of where people like her can go to hide. Turns out the town really exists, and will take Diana, but only if Casey, a talented young police detective, comes too. Imagine a hidden town, isolated in the Yukon wilderness, where everyone is pretending to be someone they're not. Even good people can get up to some very bad stuff. The laconic town sheriff dispenses his own frontier justice, but he's more accustomed to sobering up drunks in the horse trough, than attempting to solve the series of brutal murders that has rocked the town. As much as he hates it, he needs Casey. As for Casey, coming to the far North may have started out as a sacrifice she was willing to make for her best friend. But maybe, just maybe, she needs Rockton as much as the town needs her.

BARRON, STEPHANIE JANE AND THE WATERLOO MAP

(\$20.95) November, 1815. The Battle of Waterloo has come and gone, leaving the British economy in shreds; Henry Austen, high-flying banker, is about to declare bankruptcy, dragging several of his brothers down with him. The crisis destroys Henry's health, and Jane Austen flies to his London bedside, believing him to be dying. While she's there, the chaplain to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent invites Jane to tour Carlton House, the Prince's fabulous London home. But her visit takes a startling turn when Jane stumbles upon a body sprawled on the carpet in the Regent's library. The dying man utters a single failing phrase: "Waterloo map," sending Jane on the hunt for a treasure of incalculable value and a killer of considerable cunning.

BENDER, AIMEE PARTICULAR SADNESS OF LEMON CAKE

(\$20.95) A special order. On the eve of her ninth birthday, unassuming Rose Edelstein bites into her mother's homemade lemon-chocolate cake and discovers she has a magical gift: she can taste her mother's emotions in the slice. To her horror, she finds that her cheerful mother tastes of despair. Soon, she's privy to the secret knowledge that most families keep hidden: her father's detachment, her mother's transgression, her brother's increasing retreat from the world. But there are some family secrets that even her cursed taste buds can't discern.

BERRY, STEVE malone 14TH COLONY (#11) (\$13.99) Shot down over Siberia, ex-Justice Department agent Cotton Malone is forced into a fight for survival against Aleksandr Zorin, a man whose loyalty to the former Soviet Union has festered for decades into an intense hatred of the United States. Before escaping, Malone learns that Zorin and another ex-KGB officer, this one a sleeper still embedded in the West, are headed overseas to Washington D.C. Noon on January 20th - Inauguration Day - is only hours away. A flaw in the Con-

stitution, and an even more flawed presidential succession act, have opened the door to disaster and Zorin intends to exploit both weaknesses to their fullest. Armed with a weapon leftover from the Cold War, one long thought to be just a myth, Zorin plans to attack. He's aided by a shocking secret hidden in the archives of America's oldest fraternal organization - the Society of Cincinnati - a group that once lent out its military savvy to presidents, including helping to formulate three invasion plans of what was intended to be America's 14th colony - Canada. In a race against the clock that starts in the frozen extremes of Russia and ultimately ends at the White House itself, Malone must not only battle Zorin, he must also confront a crippling fear that he's long denied, but which now jeopardizes everything.

BEVERLY, BILL DODGERS (\$20) This is the story of a young LA gang member named East, who is sent by his uncle along with some other teenage boys, including East's hothead younger brother, to kill a key witness hiding out in Wisconsin. The journey takes East out of a city he's never left and into an America that is entirely alien to him, ultimately forcing him to grapple with his place in the world and decide what kind of man he wants to become.

BLACK, BENJAMIN quirke EVEN THE DEAD (#7) (\$22.99) A car crashes into a tree in central Dublin and bursts into flames. The police assume the driver's death was either an accident or a suicide, but Quirke believes otherwise. Then his daughter Phoebe gets a mysterious visit from an acquaintance, who later disappears. Phoebe asks her father for help, and Quirke in turn seeks the assistance of his old friend Inspector Hackett. Before long the two men find themselves untangling a twisted string of events that takes them deep into a shadowy world where one of the city's most powerful men uses the cover of politics and religion to make obscene profits.

BLACKHURST, JENNY BEFORE I LET YOU IN (\$15.99) A psychiatrist must figure out why her patient is seemingly more interested in her than in being treated. If you don't know who is walking through the door, how do you know if you should let them in?

BLACKMOORE, STEPHANIE wed ENGAGED IN DEATH (#1) (\$8.99) After dumping her cheating fiancé and cancelling the wedding, Mallory Shepard can't bear another disaster. So when the former bride-to-be unexpectedly inherits Thistle Park, a ramshackle mansion in her ex's hometown of Port Quincy, it's a problem she can't afford--literally. Abound with stray cats, peeling wallpaper, and nosy neighbors, Mallory is dying to sell it off, once she finally fixes up both the place and her messy life. Turns out, Thistle Park has its charms. But the honeymoon phase is abruptly cut short when an unwanted visitor is found dead on the front lawn. Enlisting the help of her sister Rachel, Mallory vows to unveil the killer before she herself becomes married to the suspect list.

BLACKMOORE, STEPHANIE wed MURDER WEARS WHITE (#2) (\$8.99) Mallory hopes to unveil her new B&B just in time for her first ceremony as a wedding planner. The renovations to Thistle Park, the mansion she inherited in small-town Port Quincy, Pennsylvania, are almost complete. But what Mallory didn't plan on is the bride's aunt being poisoned at the wedding tasting and her perfect venue becoming a crime scene. Adding to the mystery is the discovery that this is not the first murder in the bridal family, and as Mallory becomes engaged in her own investigation she learns the man convicted of the crime may not be guilty. Now she has two crimes to solve before the bride walks down the aisle but a killer has other plans to ensure that Mallory forever holds her peace.

BOHJALIAN, CHRIS SLEEPWALKER (\$24.95) When Annalee Ahlberg goes missing her children fear the worst. Annalee is a sleepwalker whose affliction manifests in ways both bizarre and devastating. Once, she merely destroyed the hydrangeas in front of her Vermont home. More terrifying was the night her older daughter, Lianna, pulled her back from the precipice of the Gale River bridge. The morning of Annalee's disappearance, a search party combs the nearby woods. Annalee's husband, Warren, flies home from a business trip. Lianna is questioned by a young, hazel-eyed detective. And her little sister, Paige, takes to swimming the Gale to look for clues. When the police discover a small swatch of fabric, a nightshirt, ripped and hanging from a tree branch, it seems certain Annalee is dead, but

Gavin Rikert, the hazel-eyed detective, continues to call, continues to stop by the Ahlbergs' Victorian home. As Lianna peels back the layers of mystery surrounding Annalee's disappearance, she finds herself drawn to Gavin, but she must ask herself: Why does the detective know so much about her mother? Why did Annalee only leave her bed when her father was away? And if she really died while sleepwalking, where is the body?

BRADFORD, LAURA emergency ECLAIR AND PRESENT DANGER (#1) (\$10.99) With her rent rising faster than her pie crust, bakery owner Winnie Johnson had hoped to be rescued by an inheritance from her wealthy friend and neighbor Gertrude Redenbacher. Instead all she inherits is the widow's hostile hissing tabby, Lovey, and a vintage ambulance, restored by Gertrude's late husband. As her dream crumbles, Winnie makes her final delivery, a peach pie to an elderly widower. But she finds Bart Wagner lying on his kitchen floor, smothered by a pillow. To comfort her frightened and grieving neighbours, Winnie comes to the rescue with her baked goods, and an idea is born: dessert delivery via her ambulance and a new business called the Emergency Dessert Squad. When she's not speeding to the scenes of dessert emergencies, Winnie is also racing to track down Bart's killer.

BREKKE, JORGEN singsaker DREAMLESS (#2) (\$22.99) A promising young singer is found dead in a clearing in a forest, gruesomely murdered - her larynx cut out, and an antique music box placed carefully atop her body, playing a mysterious lullaby that sounds familiar, but that no one can quite place. Chief Inspector Odd Singsaker, of the Trondheim Police Department, still recovering from brain surgery, is called in to investigate. Singsaker, now married to Felicia Stone, the American detective he met while tracking down a serial killer, fears the worst when another young girl, also known for her melodic singing voice, suddenly goes missing while on a walk with her dog one night. As the Trondheim police follow the trail of this deadly killer, it becomes clear that both cases are somehow connected to a centuries-old ballad called "The Golden Peace," written by a mysterious composer called Jon Blund, in the seventeenth century. This lullaby promises the most sound, sweet sleep to the listener and as time ticks by, the elusive killer seems as if he will stop at nothing to get his hands on this perfect lullaby. The first in the series is Where Monsters Drew (\$18.50).

BRETT, SIMON feathering KILLING IN THE CAFE (#17) (\$26) Polly's Cake Shop has been a feature of the shopping parade for many years, but when its owner announces her retirement, the Feathering residents start to worry about the loss of this popular amenity. Alarmed by rumours that the café might become a Starbucks, a group joins together to form the Save Polly's Cake Shop Action Committee.

The plan is that Polly's should become a community venture, managed and run by volunteers from the village. Roped in to help, Jude finds the committee meetings fraught with petty power struggles, clashing personalities and monstrous egos. Matters take a turn for the worse when she and Carole come across a badly-decomposed body on Feathering beach and uncover a link to Polly's. Not only do the two neighbours have to find out whodunit, they are also faced with the thorny question: is it possible to run a business on that most volatile of commodities - goodwill?

BROOKES, ADAM SPY GAMES (#2) (\$12.99) Journalist Philip Mangan is trying to stay out of trouble in East Africa, his reputation and his life in tatters. But when he is caught in a terrorist attack in East Africa and a shadowy Chinese figure approaches him in the dead of night with information on the origins of the attack, Mangan is suddenly back in the eye of the storm. Meanwhile, thousands of miles away on a humid Hong Kong night, a key British Intelligence source is murdered minutes after meeting spy Trish Patterson. From Washington, D.C. to the hallowed halls of Oxford University and dusty African streets, a sinister power is stirring, one which will use Mangan and Patterson as pawns, if they survive. The first title is Night Heron (\$17.00).

BUCKLEY, FIONA blanchard TRAITOR'S TEARS (#12) (\$24) July, 1573. Recently widowed, Ursula Blanchard is living a quiet life

on her Surrey estate, caring for her infant son. But her peaceful existence is shattered when Ursula's neighbour Jane Cobbold is found dead in her own flowerbed, stabbed through the heart with a silver dagger - and Ursula's manservant Brockley is arrested for the crime. Determined to prove Brockley's innocence, Ursula seeks help from her old mentor Lord Burghley. But when a second death occurs and the queen's new spymaster, Francis Walsingham, gets involved, once again Ursula is reluctantly drawn into matters of espionage and affairs of state.

BUCKLEY, FIONA blanchard PERILOUS ALLIANCE (#13) (\$27) January, 1576. After three husbands, widow Ursula Blanchard has no desire to marry again. However, she is not in a position to refuse when Sir Francis Walsingham decides she must wed Count Gilbert Renard, the illegitimate son of King Henri II, in order to build a strategic alliance with the French. When the Count arrives at her country home to pay court, Ursula's misgivings grow stronger. Then one of her household staff is found dead at the bottom of the stairs. An accident - or something more sinister? The disturbing chain of events that follows sees Ursula heading on a perilous journey in a race against time to prevent a national catastrophe. En route she will encounter danger, hardship, conspiracy and murder.

BURKE, ALAFAIR EX (\$19.99) Widower Jack Harris has resisted the dating scene ever since the shooting of his wife Molly by a fifteen-year-old boy three years ago. An early morning run along the Hudson River changes that when he spots a woman in last night's party dress, barefoot, enjoying a champagne picnic alone, reading his favourite novel. Everything about her reminds him of what he used to have with Molly. Eager to help Jack find love again, his best friend posts a message on a popular website after he mentions the encounter. Days later, that same beautiful stranger responds and invites Jack to meet her in person at the waterfront. That's when Jack's world falls apart. Olivia Randall is one of New York City's best criminal defense lawyers. When she hears that her former fiancé, Jack Harris, has been arrested for a triple homicide, and that one of the victims was connected to his wife's murder, there is no doubt in her mind as to his innocence. The only question is who would go to such great lengths to frame him and why? For Olivia, representing Jack is a way to make up for past regrets, to absolve herself of guilt from a tragic decision, a secret she has held for twenty years. But as the evidence against him mounts, she is forced to confront her doubts. The man she knew could not have done this. But what if she never really knew him?

BURT, ALEXANDRA GOOD DAUGHTER (\$22) Dahlia Waller's childhood memories consist of stuffy cars, seedy motels, and a rootless existence traveling the country with her eccentric mother. Now grown, she desperately wants to distance herself from that life. Yet one thing is stopping her from moving forward: she has questions. In order to understand her past, Dahlia must go back. Back to her mother in the stifling town of Aurora, Texas. Back into the past of a woman on the brink of madness. But after she discovers three grave-like mounds on a neighbouring farm, she'll learn that in her mother's world of secrets, not all questions are meant to be answered.

BUSSI, MICHEL LACK WATER LILIES (\$19.50) Giverny, France. During the day, the town is the home of the famous artist Claude Monet and the gardens where he painted his *Water Lilies*. But once the tourists have gone, there is a darker side to the peaceful French village. This is the story of thirteen days that begin with one murder and end with another. Jérôme Morval, a man whose passion for art was matched only by his passion for women, has been found dead in the stream that runs through the gardens. In his pocket is a postcard of Monet's *Water Lilies* with the words: *Eleven years old. Happy Birthday*. Entangled in the mystery are three women: a young painting prodigy, the seductive village schoolteacher, and an old widow who watches over the village from a mill by the stream. All three of them share a secret. But what do they know about the discovery of Jérôme Morval's corpse? And what is the connection to the mysterious, rumoured painting of *Black Water Lilies*?

CLARE, ALYS hawkenlye SHADOWED EVIL (#16) (\$26) *February, 1212*. Sir Josse d'Acquin and Helewise are summoned to Southfire Hall, where Josse's elderly uncle, Hugh, lies dying, surrounded

by his children. But the pair soon discovers that Hugh's ill health is not the only cause of distress in the house: for Hugh's son and heir, Herbert, has taken an unpleasant new wife, the widowed Lady Cyrille. Josse and Helewise are distracted by the discovery of an injured young man on the road outside on the evening of their arrival, but the longer they remain in the house, the more they feel that something is very wrong. What happened to Josse's cousin Aeles, who no one speaks of? Where is Lady Cyrille's small son? And why do they both feel as if the house itself is alive and threatened by approaching evil?

CLEVERLY, BARBARA Sandilands LAST KASHMIRI ROSE (#1) (\$9.99) A new edition of this terrific mystery at a great price. Calcutta, 1922. In a land of saffron sunsets and blazing summer heat, an Englishwoman has been found dead, her wrists slit, her body floating in a bathtub of blood and water. But is it suicide or murder? The case falls to Scotland Yard inspector Joe Sandilands, who survived the horror of the Western Front and has endured six sultry months in English-ruled Calcutta. Sandilands is ordered to investigate and soon discovers that there have been other mysterious deaths, with sinister ties to the present case. Now, as the sovereignty of Britain is in decline and an insurgent India is on the rise, Sandilands must navigate the treacherous corridors of political decorum to bring a cunning killer to justice, knowing the next victim is already marked to die.

CLEVERLY, BARBARA sandilands RAGTIME IN SIMLA (#2) (\$15.99) A new edition. Simla. 1922. The summer capital of the British Raj is fizzing with the energy of the jazz age. Commander Joe Sandilands is looking forward to spending a month here in the cool of the Himalayan hills as the guest of Sir George Jardine, the Governor of Bengal. When Joe's travelling companion, a Russian opera singer, is shot dead at his side in the back of the Governor's car on the road up to Simla, he finds himself plunged into a murder investigation. Confronted by the mystery of an identical unsolved killing a year before, Joe realizes that Sir George's hospitality comes at a price. Behind the sparkling façade of social life in Simla he finds a trail of murder, vice and blackmail. Someone in this close-knit community has a secret and the nearer Joe comes to uncovering it, the nearer he comes to his own death.

COLEMAN, REED FARREL gus WHERE IT HURTS (#1) (\$22) Gus Murphy had everything a man could want: a great marriage, two kids, a nice house, and the rest of his life ahead of him. But in the course of a single deadly moment, his family is blown apart, and he is transformed from a man who believes he understands everything into a man who understands nothing. Now divorced and working as a courtesy van driver for a run-down hotel, Gus has settled into a mindless, soulless routine. But his comfortable waking trance comes to an end when ex-con Tommy Delcamino asks him for help. Four months earlier, the battered body of Tommy's son TJ was discovered in a wooded lot, yet the Suffolk County PD doesn't seem interested in pursuing the killers. In desperation, Tommy seeks out the only cop he ever trusted—Gus Murphy. Gus reluctantly agrees to see what he can uncover, and as he begins to investigate, he finds that Tommy was telling the truth. Everyone involved with the late TJ Delcamino—from his best friend, to a gang enforcer, to a Mafia capo, and even the police—has something to hide, and all are willing to go to extreme lengths to keep it hidden. It's a dangerous favor Gus has taken on as he claws his way back to take a place among the living, while searching through the sewers for a killer.

CONNELLY, MICHAEL haller BRASS VERDICT (#2) (\$11.99) Re-issue. Things are finally looking up for defense attorney Mickey Haller. After two years of wrong turns, Haller is back in the courtroom. When Hollywood lawyer Jerry Vincent is murdered, Haller inherits his biggest case yet: the defense of Walter Elliott, a prominent studio executive accused of murdering his wife and her lover. But as Haller prepares for the case that could launch him into the big time, he learns that Vincent's killer may be coming for him next. Enter Harry Bosch. Determined to find Vincent's killer, he is not opposed to using Haller as bait. But as danger mounts and the stakes rise, these two loners realize their only choice is to work together.

CRAIS, ROBERT elvis cole CHASING DARKNESS (#11) (\$12.99) Re-issue. The discovery of the week-old corpse of an appar-

ent suicide turns Elvis Cole's world upside down. Three years earlier Lionel Byrd, the dead man, was brought to trial for the murder of a female prostitute named Yvonne Bennett. A taped confession coerced by the police inspired a prominent defense attorney to take Byrd's case, and Elvis Cole was hired to investigate. It was Cole's eleventh-hour discovery of an exculpatory videotape that allowed Lionel Byrd to walk free. Elvis was hailed as a hero. But it now seems that Yvonne Bennett was the fifth of seven victims—two more young women were murdered after Lionel Byrd walked free. So, Elvis can't help but wonder—did he, Elvis Cole, cost two more young women their lives?

CROFTS, FREEMAN WILLS 12:30 FROM CROYDON (\$19.50)

We begin with a body. Andrew Crowther, a wealthy retired manufacturer, is found dead in his seat on the 12.30 flight from Croydon to Paris. Rather less orthodox is the ensuing flashback in which we live with the killer at every stage, from the first thoughts of murder to the strains and stresses of living with its execution. Seen from the criminal's perspective, a mild-mannered Inspector by the name of French is simply another character who needs to be dealt with. This is an unconventional yet gripping story of intrigue, betrayal, obsession, justification and self-delusion. And will the killer get away with it? First published in 1934.

CROMBIE, DEBORAH Kincaid GARDEN OF LAMENTATIONS (#17) (\$21.99 trade paperback, \$33.50 hardcover) See the Hardcover section for an annotation.

DARNIELLE, JOHN UNIVERSAL HARVESTER (\$21.99) Life in a small town takes a dark turn when mysterious footage begins appearing on VHS cassettes at the local Video Hut... When customers start mentioning defunct tapes that they have been renting—there's another movie dubbed on the tape—Jeremy, the store clerk, takes a look and, indeed, in the middle of the movies the screen blinks dark for a moment and the movie is replaced by a black-and-white scene, shot in a barn, with only the faint sounds of someone breathing. Four minutes... But there is something profoundly unsettling about that scene; the scenes are similar, undoubtedly created by the same hand, and the barn looks much like a barn just outside of town.

DAVIS, KRISTA paws&claws MISSION IMPAWSIBLE (#4) (\$10.99) Holly and her grandmother, Oma, are working their tails off to prepare the Sugar Maple Inn for an upcoming matchmaking event for pet owners. While Holly has no interest in pairing up, Oma plans on playing Cupid and finding someone to warm her reluctant granddaughter's heart. Unfortunately, one man Holly does meet is cold—dead cold—and he has a personal letter from Oma in his pocket. As suspicion is cast over the inn's guests, Holly—with the help of her furry friends, Trixie the Jack Russell and Twinkletoes the cat—must fetch the real killer, or she may soon have a date in court.

DEIGHTON, LEN MAMISTA (\$16.99) Deep in Marxist Guerilla territory a hopeless war is being fought. First published in 1991.

DOYLE/SICILIANO, SAM MOONSTONE'S CURSE (\$17.50) The aristocratic Charles Bromley arrives at 221B Baker Street to beg Holmes for his help. Bromley believes that his wife is in danger, as she has refused an offer to sell the Moonstone, a fabulous diamond that has been in her family for generations but which is said to be cursed. When a jeweller is found murdered, it seems as if the Moonstone deserves its reputation. Then the diamond is stolen, and Holmes must try to unravel a mystery centuries in the making...

DUNNING, JOHN janeway BOOKED TO DIE (\$23) Hard to believe that it has been twenty-five years since this book was first published, but it must be true as this is the 25th Anniversary edition. Remember it like it was yesterday. A classic.

FINDER, JOSEPH KILLER INSTINCT (\$26.99) Jason Steadman is a thirty-year-old sales executive living in Boston and working for an electronics giant, a competitor to Sony and Panasonic. He's a witty, charismatic guy who's well liked at the office, but he lacks the killer instinct necessary to move up the corporate ladder. To the chagrin of his ambitious wife, it looks as if his career has hit a ceiling. Jason's been sidelined. But all that will change one evening when Jason meets Kurt Semko, a former Special Forces officer just back from Iraq. Looking for a decent pitcher for the company softball team, Ja-

son gets Kurt, who was once drafted by the majors, a job in Corporate Security. Soon, good things start to happen for Jason—and bad things start to happen to Jason's rivals. His career suddenly takes off. He's an overnight success. Only too late does Jason discover that his friend Kurt has been secretly paving his path to the top by the most "efficient"—and ruthless—means available. After all, as Kurt says, "Business is war, right?" But when Jason tries to put a stop to it, he finds that his new best friend has become the most dangerous enemy imaginable. And now it's far more than just his career that lies in the balance.

FINDER, JOSEPH POWER PLAY (\$26.99) It was the perfect retreat for a troubled company. No cell phones. No BlackBerrys. No cars. Just a deluxe lodge surrounded by thousands of miles of wilderness and a desolate seacoast. 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 quiet, mild-mannered, Jake Landry. The high flyers hadn't wanted Jake to come along. Now he's the only one who can save them.

FLUKE, JOANNE swensen WEDDING CAKE MURDER (#19) (\$8.99) Lake Eden, Minnesota's, Hannah is thrilled to be marrying Ross Barton, her college crush. And her excitement only grows when she learns he'll be able to join her on her trip to New York City for the Food Channel's dessert chef contest. They get a taste of the Big Apple before Hannah wins the Hometown Challenge and the producers bring all the contestants to Lake Eden to tape the remainder of the show. It's nerve-wracking enough being judged by Alain Duquesne, a celebrity chef with a nasty reputation. But it's even more chilling to find him stabbed to death in the Lake Eden Inn's walk-in cooler—before he's even had a chance to taste Hannah's Butterscotch Sugar Cookies! Now Hannah has not only lost her advantage, she'll have to solve a mystery with more layers than a five-tiered wedding cake... Features over a dozen cookie and dessert recipes from the Cookie Jar, including Chocolate Coffee Cake and Butterscotch Sugar Cookies!

FORSYTHE, ROBIN MURDER ON PARADISE ISLAND (\$24) Geoffrey Mayne is in need of some serious r'n'r after studying intensively for his bar exams in London. A luxurious Pacific island cruise seems just the ticket, especially when one of his fellow passengers is the attractive young Freda Shannon. But after a terrible storm and shipwreck, Geoffrey and Freda find themselves in a small party of survivors, marooned on a remote South Sea island. The castaways resolve to make the best of what may be a long wait on the deserted isle. But is it really deserted? A gunshot is heard... and then one of their party is found, slain. Is a shadowy denizen intent on murdering the interlopers, or is the hidden truth more diabolical still? First published in 1937.

FORSYTHE, ROBIN vereker MISSING OR MURDERED (#1) (\$24) Lord Bygrave left the Ministry on Friday evening, with plans for a fortnight's holiday in the country. But the following morning he had seemingly vanished into thin air. Now Scotland Yard are struggling to find evidence of foul play in the absence of tangible clues. A national newspaper is offering a reward for information about the Minister's disappearance—whether Bygrave be dead or alive. Anthony "Algernon" Vereker, Lord Bygrave's friend and executor, joins Scotland Yard in their investigation of the mystery. So begins the first of five ingenious and effervescent detective novels featuring Vereker, an amiable and eccentric artist with a razor-sharp mind. First published in 1929, it's republished here for the first time in over 70 years. It includes a new introduction by crime fiction historian Curtis Evans.

FOX, CANDICE archer HADES (#1) (\$10.99) Homicide detective Frank Bennett has a new partner—dark, beautiful, coldly efficient Eden Archer. Frank doesn't know what to make of her, or her brother Eric, who's also on the police force. Their methods are...unusual. But when a graveyard full of large steel toolboxes filled with body parts is found at the bottom of Sydney harbor, unusual is the least of their worries. For Eden and Eric, the case holds chilling links to a scarred childhood—and the murderer who raised them. For Frank, each clue

brings him closer to something he's not sure he wants to face. But true evil goes beyond the bloody handiwork of a serial killer—and no one is truly innocent. . . Winner of the Ned Kelly Award. "A little bit Dexter, a little bit procedural, overall a great first novel."—*Australian Crime Writers Association*.

FREEMAN, BRIAN stride GOODBYE TO THE DEAD (#7) (\$20.49) Detective Jonathan Stride's first wife, Cindy, died of cancer eight years ago, but her ghost hangs over Stride's relationship with current lover, and fellow detective, Serena Dial. When Serena witnesses a brutal murder outside a Duluth bar, she stumbles onto a case with roots that go all the way back to the last year of Cindy Stride's life. At the time, Cindy and Stride were on opposite sides of a domestic murder investigation. Gorgeous, brilliant Janine Snow—a surgeon transplanted to Duluth from Texas—was the prime suspect in the shooting death of her husband. Cindy believed her friend Janine was innocent, but Stride thought all the evidence pointed to the surgeon—even though the gun was never found. Despite Cindy's attempts to help Janine, the case led to a high-profile murder trial in which Janine was convicted and sent to prison. During the current investigation, Serena finds a gun used in the murder of a woman connected to an organized crime syndicate—a gun that turns out to be the same weapon used to kill Janine Snow's husband. Two unrelated cases years apart suddenly have a mysterious connection. As Stride investigates the possibility that human traffickers are targeting women in the Duluth port, he begins to question whether he made a terrible mistake eight years ago by putting an innocent woman in prison. And whether he will ever be able to make peace with the memory of his beloved wife and give his heart to Serena.

FURLONG, SUSAN WAR AND PEACH (\$10.99) Nola Mae Harper is too busy restocking the jars of preserves and chutney flying off the shelves of her shop, Peachy Keen, to keep up with all the gossip about the upcoming mayoral election, but she does know the debate is sure to be a real barn burner. Local farmer Clem Rogers claims he has a bombshell that could take small business owner Margie Price out of the running. But before Clem can reveal his juicy secret at the debate, his actual barn goes up in flames—with him inside of it. The town casts its vote against Margie, but Nola isn't convinced the hardworking woman is capable of murder. Now to clear Margie's name Nola will have to work fast under pressure, before Margie gets taken in by the fuzz...

GOODMAN, CAROL RIVER ROAD (\$22) From the award-winning author of *The Lake of Dead Languages* (\$21) comes a "gripping read with emotion-charged twists and turns"—**Tess Gerritsen**, about a professor accused of killing her student in a hit-and-run accident. Nan Lewis—a creative writing professor at a university in upstate New York—is driving home from a faculty holiday party when she hits a deer. Yet when she gets out of her car to look for it, the deer is gone. The next morning, Nan is woken up by a police officer at her door with terrible news—one of her students, Leia Dawson, was killed in a hit-and-run on River Road the night before, and because of the damage to her car, Nan is a suspect. In the days following the accident, Nan finds herself shunned by the same community that rallied around her when her own daughter was killed in an eerily similar accident six years prior. When Nan begins finding disturbing tokens that recall her daughter's death, Nan suspects that the two accidents are connected.

GRIFFIN, NEAL sawyer VOICE FROM THE FIELD (#2) (\$13.99) Gunther Kane and his white supremacist group are using forced prostitution to finance the purchase of automatic weapons. Kane snatches young women off the streets and sells them to hundreds of men. When a victim is used up, she's killed and dumped. After all, there are always more where she came from. Kane is in the crosshairs of the FBI, but their work proceeds slowly. Along comes Tia Suarez, a small-town Wisconsin detective who, although physically recovered from being shot, is still struggling with PTSD. Tia almost doesn't believe her eyes when she glimpses a Hispanic teenager bound and gagged in the back of Kane's van. The look of terror on the woman's face makes Tia desperate to rescue her and she doesn't care if this will annoy the FBI.

GRIPPANDO, JAMES swytek PARDON (#1) (\$11.99) A brilliant Miami defense attorney, Jack Swytek has spent years rebelling against his father, Harry, currently the governor of Florida. Their relationship is strained to the limit when Harry allows one of Jack's clients to die in the electric chair—a man Jack firmly believed was innocent. But now they will have to put their mutual animosity on a back burner, because a psychopath driven by his own twisted version of justice has placed both father and son in extreme harm's way. With no one to turn to but each other, Jack and Harry must work together to overcome the sinister manipulations of a brilliant and bloodthirsty tormentor. Or they will die together as the stakes are raised to higher and more terrifying heights.

GRISHAM, JOHN boone THEODORE BOONE (#5) FUGITIVE (\$10.99) Theo Boone thought the danger had passed, but he's about to face off against an old adversary: accused murderer and fugitive Pete Duffy. On a field trip to Washington, DC, Theo spots a familiar face on the Metro: Duffy, who jumped bail and was never seen again. Theo's quick thinking helps bring Duffy back to Strattenburg to stand trial. But now that Duffy knows who he is, Theo is in greater danger than he's ever been in before. Even when everything is on the line, Theodore Boone will stop at nothing to make sure a killer is brought to justice. "Not since Nancy Drew has a nosy, crime-obsessed kid been so hard to resist."—*The New York Times*.

HARRIS, CHARLAINE midnight NIGHT SHIFT (#3) (\$13.50) At Midnight's local pawnshop, weapons are flying off the shelves—only to be used in sudden and dramatic suicides right at the main crossroads in town. Who better to figure out why blood is being spilled than the vampire Lemuel, who, while translating mysterious texts, discovers what makes Midnight the town it is. There's a reason why witches and werewolves, killers and psychics, have been drawn to this place...

HARRIS, OLIVER belsey HOUSE OF FAME (#3) (\$24) The third installment featuring the shrewd, cynical, and brilliant London detective, Nick Belsey, whose investigation into a child's disappearance pulls him into the hedonistic orbit of a young, hot celebrity actress/musician and the dark world lurking underneath its glamorous exterior.

HARROD-EAGLES, C slider BLOOD NEVER DIES (#15) (\$24) A boiling-hot August day and a handsome young man is found dead in his bath, exsanguinated. Bill Slider's colleague takes one look at the body and is convinced something isn't quite right. As Bill investigates, he reluctantly agrees. But as Slider and his team try to identify the man—whose personal papers are missing, along with his wallet and keys—it seems that the more they find out about him, the less they really know...

HARROD-EAGLES, C slider HARD GOING (#16) (\$26) A rare week off with his family is rudely interrupted when Slider is called in to investigate the murder of an elderly man, bashed on the head with a bronze statuette, in what Doc Cameron describes as 'our old friend, the Frenzied Attack.' Lionel Bygod, retired solicitor, was an old-fashioned gentleman, a pillar of society, who gave advice and help to all, from the highest to the lowest. But as Slider and his team investigate, they discover dark secrets at the heart of this mild and kindly man's life. Shadows from the past—professional enemies—long-incubated revenge: what was it that sparked such unquenchable fury? The trail is old and cold, and Slider's on the clock...

HARROD-EAGLES, C slider STAR FALL (#17) (\$26) Who would kill charming antiques expert, Rowland Egerton, the darling of daytime TV? Bill Slider and his team are on the case...

HARVEY, MICHAEL BRIGHTON (\$19.99) Kevin Pearce—baseball star, honor student, the pride of Brighton—was fifteen when he left town in the back of his uncle's cab. He and his buddy Bobby Scales had just committed heinous violence for what they thought were the best of reasons. Kevin didn't want a pass, but he was getting it anyway. Bobby would stay and face the music; Kevin's future would remain bright as ever. At least that was the way things were supposed to work, except in Brighton things never work the way they're supposed to. Twenty-six years later, Kevin is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. Then he learns his old friend is the prime suspect

in a string of local murders. Suddenly, Kevin's headed home—to protect a friend and the secret they share. To report this story to the end and protect those he loves, he must face not only an elusive, slippery killer, but his own corrupted conscience.

HILL, SUZETTE oughterard PRIMROSE PURSUIT (#6) (\$18.99) Primrose Oughterard, an eccentric artist living in East Sussex, has recently taken custody of her dead brother's cat and dog, Maurice and Bouncer. The brother—the Rev. Francis Oughterard—has had the misfortune to murder one of his parishioners, and (aided and abetted by his pets and sister) had devoted much of his time to concealing the crime and escaping the gallows (which he did). Following his heroic death rescuing another parishioner from impalement on a gargoyle, his sister feels duty-bound to take responsibility for the two animals. The arrangement results in a number of questionable entanglements including the usual mishaps of murder, foiled intentions, concealment of evidence—plus a peculiar manoeuvre on the cliff at Beachy Head.

HOLT, ANNE wilhelmsen LIONS MOUTH (#4) (\$22) Less than six months after taking office, the Norwegian Prime Minister is found dead. She has been shot in the head. Was it a politically motivated assassination or personal revenge? Hanne Wilhelmsen, chief inspector of the Oslo police, is on leave in California, but when the death shakes the country to its core, she knows she can't remain on the sidelines of such a crucial investigation. The hunt for the Prime Minister's killer is complicated, intense, and grueling. When secrets begin to unravel from the Prime Minister's past, Hanne and her partner, Billy T., must solve the crime before a private tragedy becomes a public scandal in the most sensitive case of their careers.

HOWARD, ALEX hanlon COLD REVENGE (#2) (\$19.95) Detective Inspector Hanlon has been promoted, and is undercover in Oxford to find the sadomasochistic killer of two students. Philosophy lecturer Dr. Gideon Fuller, with his penchant for high end sadistic sex, is in the frame, but Hanlon is not convinced. From the specialist brothels in Oxford and Soho, to the inner sanctum of a Russian people trafficker with a taste for hurting women, the trail leads Hanlon deeper and deeper into danger—until she herself becomes the killer's next target.

JAMES, MIRANDA librarian NO CATS ALLOWED (#7) (\$10.99) Mississippi librarian Charlie Harris and his Maine Coon cat Diesel are on their guard. Oscar Reilly, the new director at the Athena College library, is on a mission to cut costs and has set his sights on the archive and rare book collection. Reilly's also out to replace Charlie's fiery friend Melba with someone younger, but his biggest offense is declaring all four-legged creatures banned from the stacks. With enemies aplenty, the suspect list is long when Reilly's body is discovered in the library, but incriminating evidence throws suspicion on Melba. Charlie is convinced that his friend is no murderer, especially when he catches sight of a menacing stranger lurking around the library. Now he and Diesel will have to read between the lines, before Melba is shelved under "G" for guilty...

JENSEN, JANE IN THE LAND OF MILK AND HONEY (\$20) By solving the murders of two local girls, former NYPD homicide detective Elizabeth Harris has gained some trust in the Amish community. So, she's the first person its members turn to when a fast and fatal illness takes hold, though many believe that the sickness stems from a hexerei—a curse placed by a practitioner of old-world folk magic. Elizabeth doesn't believe in curses, and when an entire Amish family is found dead, she begins to suspect something far more sinister...As the CDC is called in to investigate, customers of a Philadelphia farmers market selling Amish raw milk start dying. Amid rapidly escalating panic, Elizabeth must peel away layers of superstition and fear to save the livelihood—and lives—of an entire community. Because what has happened isn't an accident of nature or an act of God, it's the handiwork of someone who has only just begun to kill...

KHAN, AUSMA ZEHANAT getty LANGUAGE OF SECRETS (#2) (\$22.99) Detective Esa Khattak heads up Canada's Community Policing Section, which handles minority-sensitive cases across all levels of law enforcement. Khattak is still under scrutiny for his last case, so he's surprised when INSET, Canada's national security team, calls him in on another politically sensitive issue. For months, INSET

has been investigating a local terrorist cell which is planning an attack on New Year's Day. INSET had an informant, Mohsin Dar, undercover inside the cell. But now, just weeks before the attack, Mohsin has been murdered at the group's training camp deep in the woods. INSET wants Khattak to give the appearance of investigating Mohsin's death, but not to risk exposing their operation, or Mohsin's role in it. But Khattak used to know Mohsin, and he knows he can't just let this murder slide. So Khattak sends his partner, Detective Rachel Getty, undercover into the unsuspecting mosque which houses the terrorist cell.

KNIGHT, ALANNA faro AKIN TO MURDER (#18) (\$12.99) The year is 1864 and Edinburgh Detective Inspector Faro's idyllic life has been shattered by the escape of convicted murderer John McLaw. With countless dead end sightings of the killer and further criminal activity Faro realises that this case is far more complicated than he had first assumed. When the disappearance of a maid comes to light, Faro begins to think there could be a link between her disappearance and the murder of Annie McLaw. His determination to unearth the truth becomes personal and in a race against time to solve the anomalies of the case, he takes matters into his own hands.

KOMAR, DEBRA LYNCHING OF PETER WHEELER, THE (\$19.95) At 2:21 am on September 8, 1896, authorities in Nova Scotia killed an innocent man. Peter Wheeler—a "coloured" man accused of murdering a white girl—was strung up with a slipknot noose. The hanging was state-sanctioned but it was a lynching all the same. Now, a re-examination of his case using modern forensic science reveals one of the greatest miscarriages of justice in Canadian history.

LASSMAN, DAVID swann CIRCLE OF SAPPHO (#2) (\$22.95) When a teacher and pupil are found dead at an exclusive girls' school in Bath, Jack Swann, the Regency Detective, becomes involved in one of the most intriguing cases of his career. Is it a tragic accident, a suicide pact, or murder? As Swann attempts to solve the mystery, his every move is observed by unseen forces with differing motives for him to succeed or fail. Meanwhile, Swann continues to investigate his sister's unscrupulous fiancé, combat the local crime boss, and persist in his search for the Scarred Man, who may hold the key to the unsolved murder of Swann's father. But time is running out . . .

LUDLOW, JACK HAWKWOOD (\$18.99) The Hundred Years' War is over and newly-knighted Sir John Hawkwood is headed for France to make his fortune as a freebooter. Violence and extortion are rife, and the freebooters will stop at nothing to capture the Papal City of Avignon. This is only the beginning: Italy beckons, and with it, yet more battles against rival mercenaries, powerful cities and the Papal State.

MACCALLUM/MCCALLUM, DAVID ONCE A CROOKED MAN (\$22.99) Crime pays. And pays well. Sal, Max, and Enzo Bruschetti have proved this over a lifetime of nefarious activity that they have kept hidden from law enforcement. Now, however, Max has a problem. His doctor has told him to take it easy, and so Max has decided that the time has come for the family to retire. But when young actor Harry Murphy overhears the Bruschetti brothers planning changes to their organization, including the murder of a man in London who knows too much, he makes the well-intentioned if egregious mistake of trying to warn the Bruschetti's intended victim, and the brothers' plans begin to unravel.

MACCARRY/MCCARRY, CHARLES MULBERRY BUSH (\$22.95) In a rose garden in Buenos Aires, an unnamed American spy meets the beautiful daughter of a famous Argentinean revolutionary. He becomes infatuated, and so does she. But he is no ordinary spy—he is an off-the-books lone wolf who spent his first five years at Headquarters hunting terrorists in the Middle East. Unbeknownst to his lieutenant handlers, he is loyal to a hidden agenda: to avenge his father, who was laughed out of Headquarters years earlier. In the sultry young Argentinean, Luz, the spy thinks he has found an ally for his secret mission. Like his father, her parents also met a terrible fate at the hands of the government. But as his purposes become further entwined with hers, and that of a Russian embassy official he meets through Luz's connections, the spy finds himself caught in a perilous web of passions, affiliations, and lies that spans three continents and

stretches back to the Cold War.

MACDONALD/MCDONALD, GREGORY SNATCH aka snatched aka who took toby rinaldi (\$17.50) Whether it's a Middle East oil crisis in the 1970s or the London Blitz during WWII, world events have a way of breeding trouble on the home front, too. That's how Toby Rinaldi, son of a U.N. Ambassador, wound up kidnapped on his way to a California amusement park, and how Robby Burnes, orphaned son of British nobility, wound up snatched on the snowy streets of New York City. But as Robby's famous namesake taught us, the best laid plans don't always work out as intended. Especially not when you're a kidnapper in the hands of this writer, author of the Fletch and Flynn books. These two kidnapping novels appear here for the first time in three decades—and the first time ever in a single volume.

MACKINLAY, JENN hat ASSAULT AND BERET (#5) (\$10.99) London milliner Vivian Tremont and her American cousin and partner, Scarlett Parker, tip their caps to their beloved shop on Portobello Road in Notting Hill and set off for Paris, where Viv can't wait to teach a hat-making class. But she has another reason to travel to the City of Light: to find the man she impulsively eloped with years ago and have their marriage annulled. William Graham is not only handsome and charming, but he also has a glamorous job as an insurance investigator who works with priceless pieces of art, most recently a small Renoir that has been discovered in a junk shop. But when both Will and the masterpiece suddenly disappear, it's up to the ladies from London to follow the trail of clues. They'll need to hold on to their chapeaux, however, because someone is a master in the art of deception...

MACMILLAN, GILLY WHAT SHE KNEW (\$19.99) In a heartbeat, everything changes... Rachel Jenner is walking in a Bristol park with her eight-year-old son, Ben, when he asks if he can run ahead. It's an ordinary request on an ordinary Sunday afternoon, and Rachel has no reason to worry—until Ben vanishes. Police are called, search parties go out, and Rachel, already insecure after her recent divorce, feels herself coming undone. As hours and then days pass without a sign of Ben, everyone who knew him is called into question, from Rachel's newly married ex-husband to her mother-of-the-year sister. Inevitably, media attention focuses on Rachel too, and the public's attitude toward her begins to shift from sympathy to suspicion. As she desperately pieces together the threadbare clues, Rachel realizes that nothing is quite as she imagined it to be, not even her own judgment. And the greatest dangers may lie not in the anonymous strangers of every parent's nightmares, but behind the familiar smiles of those she trusts the most. Where is Ben? The clock is ticking...

MARSTON, EDWARD home from DANCE OF DEATH (#5) (\$18.99) London, Autumn 1916. When he slips out of a house in the early hours of the morning, Simon Wilder is too preoccupied to realise that he is being stalked. As he walks along the street, lights begin to dim as a warning that there's another Zeppelin attack. Guns begin to pound away as British aeroplanes attack the Zeppelin. Suddenly, it bursts into flame and lights up the whole sky. The crowds cheer as the great fireball drops slowly down and crashes in a field but the one person unable to watch is Simon Wilder. While he is staring up at the sky, he is stabbed to death and left in an alleyway. It will prove to be a very puzzling case for Inspector Marmion and Sergeant Keedy...

MARTIN, ANDREW YELLOW DIAMOND (\$16.99) Detective Superintendent George Quinn—Mayfair resident and dandy with a razor-sharp brain—has set up a new police unit, dedicated to investigating the super-rich. When he is shot in mysterious circumstances, DI Blake Reynolds is charged with taking over. But Reynolds hadn't bargained for Quinn's personal assistant—the flinty Victoria Clifford—who knows more than she's prepared to reveal... The trail left by Quinn leads to a jewellery theft, a murderous conspiracy among some of the most glamorous (and richest) Russians in London—and the beautiful Anna, who challenges Reynolds' professional integrity. Reynolds and Clifford must learn to work together fast—or risk Quinn's fate. Set in the heart of twenty-first-century Mayfair, a world of champagne, Lamborghinis and Savile Row suits

MARTINI, STEVE madriani BLOOD FLAG (#14) (\$12.50) When

Emma Brauer is blamed in the mercy killing of her aged father, Robert, Paul Madriani steps in to defend her. Insisting she's innocent, Emma tells Madriani about a package sent to her father by a fellow World War II veteran, containing only a key and a slip of paper. Emma fears that it is connected to her father's death and that his real killer is still out there... Driven by the belief that she's innocent and might be right, Madriani digs into Robert Brauer's military history. He discovers that other members of Robert's army unit have also recently died—under suspicious circumstances. Madriani uncovers a trail leading to a mysterious talisman—a feared Nazi relic known as the Blood Flag. Soaked in the blood of a fallen Nazi follower, the flag was displayed by Hitler in ceremonies until it went missing at the end of the war, turning it into an historic prize. Racing to locate the artifact before it falls into the wrong hands, Madriani is in for the fight of his life.

MASTERMAN, BECKY quinn FEAR THE DARKNESS (#2) (\$16) Ex-FBI agent Brigid Quinn has seen more than her share of psychopaths. She is ready to put all that behind her, building a new life in Tucson with a husband, friends, and some nice quiet work as a private investigator. But sometimes it isn't that simple. When her sister-in-law dies, Brigid takes in her seventeen-year-old niece. There has always been something unsettling about Gemma-Kate, but family is family. Meanwhile, Brigid also agrees to help a local couple by investigating the death of their son—which also turns out not to be as simple as had been assumed. Her house with her husband isn't the sanctuary it used to be, and new dangers—including murder—seem to lurk everywhere. Brigid starts to wonder if there is anyone she can trust, or if the devil has simply moved closer to home. The sequel to Rage Against the Dying (#1) (\$16).

MAY, PETER RUNAWAY (\$20.49) Glasgow, 1965. Headstrong teenager Jack Mackay has just one destination on his mind—London—and successfully convinces his four friends, and fellow bandmates, to join him in abandoning their homes to pursue a goal of musical stardom. Fifty-years later, Jack dares not look back on a life of failure and mediocrity. The heavy-hearted sixty-seven-year-old is still haunted by what might have been. His recollections of the terrible events that befell him and his friends some fifty years earlier, and how he did not act when it mattered most, is a memory he has tried to escape his entire adult life. And, in London a man lies dead in a one-room flat, his killer looking on, remorseless. What started with five teenagers following a dream five decades before has been transformed over the intervening decades into a waking nightmare that might just consume them all.

MAYHEW, MARGARET BITTER POISON (#5) (\$27) Frog End, that most quintessential of English villages, is preparing for its annual Christmas pantomime. This year, it's Hans Christian Andersen's dark fairytale The Snow Queen. Local busybody Marjorie Cuthbertson is on the hunt for her leading lady—and who better to play the icy queen than beautiful new resident, ex-model Joan Dryden. But as interested as they are in their new neighbours, the residents of Frog End remain wary of the Dryden family, considering them aloof Londoners. Mystery is about to engulf the village however when a cast member collapses and dies at a Christmas party, having consumed a rogue mince pie. Was the death an accident—or was it a malicious revenge strategy masked as an allergic reaction? The Colonel makes it his business to find out.

MENDOZA, ELMER SILVER BULLETS (\$17.99) It's just another day at the office for Detective Edgar "Lefty" Mendieta: abandoned by the woman he loves, demoralized by his city's—and his nation's—ubiquitous corruption, and in dire need of some psychotherapy. Against this backdrop, he catches the case of Bruno Canizales, a high-powered lawyer with a double life, who was killed by a single silver bullet. Throwing himself into his work, Mendieta begins to piece together the details of Canizales' life. The son of a former government minister, and the lover of a drug lord's daughter, Canizales it seems had a penchant for cross-dressing and edgy sex. In the sweltering city of Culiacán, Mexico's capital of narco-crime, Mendieta scrambles to follow several leads. His dogged pursuit of the killer takes him from glitzy mansions to drug dens, from down-at-the-heels reporters to

glamorous transsexuals. When a second, apparently related murder surfaces, Mendieta discovers that his desire to unearth the truth has become as overpowering as any drug.

MENDOZA, ELMER ACID TEST (\$19.49) When the mutilated body of Mayra Cabral de Melo, a well-known stripper, is found by the side of a dusty road, detective Edgar "Lefty" Mendieta has personal reasons for bringing the culprit to justice. Mayra had no shortage of ardent, deluded, and downright dangerous admirers, and Lefty himself is haunted by one steamy night he spent in her generous company. So begins an investigation that will bring him ever closer to the murderous world of the narcos, who are waging a war of bloody attrition against the Mexican state. The country is a powder keg, waiting for a spark, and Mendieta is about to enter the darkest days of his life. Corrupt politicians, failed boxers, and unscrupulous arms dealers all lie in wait along the path to justice. But none of this can prepare him for his run-in with the FBI, when the father of the president of the United States is attacked while on vacation in Mexico. For all these perils it is the weight of his own murky past that Lefty finds hardest to bear. And as he scratches around for clues, faced with a gallery of suspects who all have a motive and none of whom is a stranger to the dark arts of murder, the reappearance of Samantha Valdés, now the boss of the Cartel del Pacífico, adds one more jagged piece to an already unsolvable puzzle.

MEYER, DEON griessel ICARUS (#5) (\$22.95) A week before Christmas, a young photographer discovers a plastic-wrapped corpse amidst the sand dunes north of Cape Town. The only thing found on the corpse is a dead iPhone, but it doesn't take long for the police to identify the body as that of Ernst Richter—the tech whiz behind MyAlibi, an internet service that provides unfaithful partners with sophisticated cover stories to hide an affair. Meanwhile, Benny Griessel is called to the scene of a multiple homicide involving a former colleague, and four years of sobriety are undone on the spot. He emerges from his drunken haze determined to quit the force, but the indomitable Major Mbali Kaleni, now his boss, wants Griessel on the Richter case. The high-profile murder has already been the subject of fierce media speculation, with questions swirling about the potential for motive: could the perpetrator be one of the countless jilted spouses? An aggrieved client? Excellent series.

MINIER, BERNARD servaz DON'T TURN OUT THE LIGHTS (#3) (\$24.99) Commandant Martin Servaz is on leave in a clinic for depressed cops, haunted by the latest crime committed by his nemesis, serial killer Julian Hirtmann. Then he receives a key card to a hotel room—the room where an artist committed suicide a year earlier. He soon realizes that the key opens a most intriguing mystery. Could someone really be cruelly, consciously driving women to kill themselves? Both he and Christine, Julian's latest "victim-to-be", are about to find out...but it may already be too late. Sequel to Frozen Dead (#1) (\$15.99) and Song for Drowned Souls (#2) (\$16.99).

NAKAMURA, FUMINORI GUN (\$18.95) On a nighttime walk along a Tokyo riverbank, a young man named Nishikawa stumbles on a dead body, beside which lies a gun. From the moment Nishikawa decides to take the gun, the world around him blurs. Knowing he possesses the weapon brings an intoxicating sense of purpose to his dull university life. But soon Nishikawa's personal entanglements become unexpectedly complicated: he finds himself romantically involved with two women while his biological father, whom he's never met, lies dying in a hospital. Through it all, he can't stop thinking about the gun—and the four bullets loaded in its chamber. As he spirals into obsession, his focus is consumed by one idea: that possessing the gun is no longer enough—he must fire it. Excellent.

NAUGHTIE, JAMES flemyng MADNESS OF JULY (#1) (\$15.95) Will Flemyng was a spy who turned to politics and is rising to the top in the 1970s. But when a bizarre death, on one hot summer day in London, starts to unravel some of the most sensitive secrets of his government, he's drawn back into the shadows of the Cold War and begins to dance with danger once more. Buffeted by political forces and the powerful women around him, and caught in interlocking mysteries he must disentangle—including a potentially lethal family secret—Flemyng faces his vulnerability and learns, through betrayal

and tragedy, more truth about his world than he has ever known.

NUNN, MALLA cooper PRESENT DARKNESS (#4) (\$23) Set in the corrupt, unforgiving world of apartheid South Africa... five days before Christmas, Detective Sergeant Emmanuel Cooper sits at his desk at the Johannesburg major crimes squad, ready for his holiday in Mozambique. A call comes in: a respectable white couple has been assaulted and left for dead in their bedroom. The couple's teenage daughter identifies the attacker as Aaron Shabalala—the youngest son of Zulu Detective Constable Samuel Shabalala—Cooper's best friend and a man to whom he owes his life. The Detective Branch isn't interested in evidence that might contradict their star witness's story, especially so close to the holidays. Determined to ensure justice for Aaron, Cooper, Shabalala, and their trusted friend Dr. Daniel Zweigman hunt for the truth. Their investigation uncovers a violent world of Sophiatown gangs, thieves, and corrupt government officials who will do anything to keep their dark world intact.

O'CONNOR, CARLENE MURDER IN AN IRISH VILLAGE (#1) (\$8.99) In the small village of Kilbane, County Cork, Ireland, Naomi's Bistro has always been a warm and welcoming spot to visit with neighbors and share a cup o' tea. But murder has a way of killing business... nowadays Siobhán O'Sullivan, along with her five siblings, runs the family bistro named for their mother. It's been a rough year for the O'Sullivans, but it's about to get rougher. One morning, as they're opening the bistro, they discover a man seated at a table with a pair of hot pink barber scissors protruding from his chest. With the local garda suspecting the O'Sullivans, and their business in danger of being shunned, it's up to feisty redheaded Siobhán to solve the crime and save her beloved brood.

OFFORD, LENORE MY TRUE LOVE LIES (#4) (\$22) The War is over, but only just, and San Francisco is still crammed with military uniforms. It is also crammed with Bohemians. Noel Bruce, the protagonist of this mystery with elements of romantic suspense, straddles both camps: By day she's a straight-laced driver for the Navy, but at night she lets her hair down and parties with her flamboyant art-school chums. The party comes to a screeching halt, however, when a dead body turns up in a sculptor's studio. The author, the mystery book critic for the San Francisco Chronicle for over 30 years, was the author of the Todd and Georgine series written in the mid- to late-40s, set in and around San Francisco.

OHLSSON, KRISTINA CHOSEN (#5) (\$23) On a cold winter's day, a pre-school teacher is shot to death in front of parents and children at the Jewish Congregation in Stockholm. Just a few hours later, two Jewish boys go missing on their way to tennis practice, and an unexpected blizzard destroys any trace of the perpetrator. Investigative analyst Fredrika Bergman and police superintendent Alex Recht face their toughest challenge ever on the hunt for a killer as merciless as he is effective. As they struggle to pin down a lead, someone or something called the Paper Boy—a mysterious old Israeli legend of a nighttime killer—keeps popping up in the police investigation. But who was the Paper Boy really? And how could he have resurfaced in Stockholm? It is up to Fredrika to track down the elusive murderer before he claims his next victim.

ORGAIN, DIANE love money THIRD TIME'S A CRIME (#3) (\$10.99) After two hit reality TV shows brought ex-detective Georgia Thornton into America's living rooms, audiences can't get enough of her quest for love and justice. Now producers have come up with an all-new show set in a haunted castle in Golden, California. Georgia and nine other contestants will need to solve the mystery of a young woman who disappeared at the castle in 1960. Except there's one rather substantial problem waiting for everyone when they arrive: a groundskeeper is found drowned at the bottom of the castle's empty pool. Now Georgia and the other contestants will need to work together, because there's a different sort of game afoot—and it's not one they can afford to lose...

PARKER, KATE bookshop CONSPIRING WOMAN (#4) (\$25) From the author of Vanishing Thief (#1) (\$16), The Counterfeit Lady (#2) (\$17), and The Royal Assassin (#3) (\$20) comes an all-new Victorian Bookshop Mystery featuring antiquarian bookseller Georgia Fenchurch, who doubles as a private investigator for the secret Archi-

vist Society...when Georgia is called in to find Sir Edward Hale's missing son, she's soon embroiled in multiple mysteries. After discovering young Teddy's been taken by his mother, her worry lessens. But further investigation reveals other well-to-do women have disappeared. Have they been kidnapped? Killed? Or is there something even more sinister going on? To muddle the mix further, the Duke of Blackford has asked to speak with Georgia when he returns to England. It's almost enough to distract any woman. Once Lady Hale is found dead, Georgia knows the Archivist Society must focus their efforts on finding the truth behind her disappearance and rescuing her son. But then a villain from Georgia's own past resurfaces...

PARKER, ROBERT B./KNOTT, ROBERT cole BLACKJACK (#8) (\$13.50) Appaloosa, the hometown of Territorial Marshals Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch, continues to prosper, but with prosperity comes a slew of new trouble: carpetbaggers, gamblers, migrants, peddlers, drifters, thieves, and whores, all boiling in a cauldron of excess and greed. And there's a new menace in town: a wealthy, handsome easterner—and the owner of Appaloosa's new casino—Boston Bill Black. Flashy and bigger than life, he's a prankster and a notorious womanizer, and with eight notches on the handle of his Colt, he's rumored quick on the draw. When he finds himself wanted for a series of murders, he quickly vanishes. Cole and Hitch locate and arrest him, but Boston Bill escapes once again. Another murder sets the duo on his trail, eventually taking them back to Appaloosa—where one woman in particular may, or may not, prove to be the apple of Boston Bill's eye.-

PAVONE, CHRIS TRAVELERS (#3) (\$22) Meet Will Rhodes: travel writer, recently married, barely solvent, his idealism rapidly giving way to disillusionment and the worry that he's living the wrong life. Then one night, on assignment for the award-winning *Travelers* magazine in the wine region of Argentina, a beautiful woman makes him an offer he can't refuse. Soon Will's bad choices—and dark secrets—take him across Europe, from a chateau in Bordeaux to a midnight raid on a Paris mansion, from a dive bar in Dublin to a mega-yacht in the Mediterranean and an isolated cabin perched on the rugged cliffs of Iceland. As he's drawn further into a tangled web of international intrigue, it becomes clear that nothing about Will Rhodes was ever ordinary, that the network of deception ensnaring him is part of an immense and deadly conspiracy with terrifying global implications—and that the people closest to him may pose the greatest threat of all.

PERRY, CAROL J salem MURDER GO ROUND (#3) (\$8.99) Lee Barrett and Aunt Ibby win a bid on an overlooked locker and uncover a trove of beautiful curiosities, including a stunning wooden carousel horse with gentle eyes and fading paint. But just before Lee leaves the fairground relic at a local repair shop, the sight of a silver samovar awakens her psychic abilities and conjures visions of murder. Lee prays the intrusive ESP episode was just a glimpse into the past—until her policeman boyfriend reports a dead man outside the repair shop. Apparently, the unknown victim had been hot on Lee's trail since the auction. And with the horse found dismantled, it looks like he was up to no good. What's the story behind the antique equine? Guided by her gift and O'Ryan, her wise tabby cat, Lee's set on catching the murderer . . . before she's sent on the darkest ride of her life.

PERRY, THOMAS FORTY THIEVES (\$22.95) Sid and Ronnie Abel are a husband-and-wife detective team, both ex-LAPD. Ed and Nicole Hoyt are assassins-for-hire living in the San Fernando Valley. Except for deadly aim with a handgun, the two couples have little in common—until both are hired to do damage control on the same murder case. The previous spring, a body was recovered from a storm sewer after two days of torrential rain. The corpse was identified as James Ballantine, a middle-aged African American who worked as a research scientist and was killed by two bullets to the back of the head. With the murder case turning cold, Ballantine's former employers bring in the Abels to succeed where the police have failed, while the Hoyts' mysterious contractors want to make sure that the facts about Ballantine's death stay hidden. Dramatic car chases, illicit affairs, and a notorious ring of Eastern European diamond thieves all

play into the plot as the book races toward its high-octane climax, and the Abels circle ever closer to the dangerous truth.

PETERS, ELIZABETH peabody CROCODILE ON THE SAND-BANK (#1) (\$12) Reissue.

QUIRK, MATTHEW COLD BARREL ZERO (\$20.99) John Hayes is a Special Operations legend who went rogue on a deep-cover mission and betrayed his own soldiers. Disgraced and on the run, he returns to the United States to get back to his wife and daughter and take revenge on his accusers with a series of devastating attacks. Only one man can stop him: Thomas Byrne. He once fought alongside Hayes as a combat medic, but he gave up the gun. Now a surgeon, he moves from town to town, trying to forget his past, until he is called upon by a high-ranking government official to help capture the man he once called a friend. Hayes and Byrne were once as close as brothers, but with the fate of the nation hanging in the balance and nothing as it seems, both men must decide whom to trust—and whom to betray. In a final, explosive battle for justice, they face off along a rifle's cold barrel.

RAYBOURN, DEANNA speedwel CURIOUS BEGINNING (#1) (\$20) London, 1887. After burying her spinster aunt, orphaned Veronica Speedwell is free to resume her world travels in pursuit of scientific inquiry—and the occasional romantic dalliance. As familiar with hunting butterflies as with fending off admirers, Veronica intends to embark upon the journey of a lifetime. But fate has other plans when Veronica thwarts her own attempted abduction with the help of an enigmatic German baron, who offers her sanctuary in the care of his friend Stoker, a reclusive and bad-tempered natural historian. But before the baron can reveal what he knows of the plot against her, he is found murdered—leaving Veronica and Stoker on the run from an elusive assailant as wary partners in search of the villainous truth. “I really enjoyed this” says Marian.

ROBB, J D APPRENTICE IN DEATH (\$10.99) The shots came quickly, silently, and with deadly accuracy. Within seconds, three people were dead at Central Park's ice-skating rink. The victims: a talented young skater, a doctor, and a teacher. As random as random can be. Eve Dallas has seen a lot of killers during her time with the NYPSD but never one like this. A review of the security videos reveals that the victims were killed with a tactical laser rifle fired by a sniper, who could have been miles away when the trigger was pulled. And though the list of locations where the shooter could have set up seems endless, the number of people with that particular skill set is finite: police, military, professional killer. Then she learns a shocking fact: there were two—one older, one younger. Someone is being trained by an expert in the science of killing, and they have an agenda. Central Park was just a warm-up. And as another sniper attack shakes the city to its core...

ROSS, ANN B julia MISS JULIA DELIVERS THE GOODS (#10) (\$18) In her latest adventure, Miss Julia whisks Hazel Marie off to the doctor when the latter admits she's been feeling poorly. The news floors them both: Hazel Marie is pregnant with twins. Unfortunately, she's also just sent her beau, Mr. Pickens, packing. Miss Julia needs a plan-and fast. So when Sam's house is robbed, Miss Julia declares that only J. D. Pickins, P.I., can get his things back. Playing Cupid and solving the crime might seem like a tall order but readers everywhere know that Miss Julia always delivers the goods.

RYAN, SOFIE second chance TELLING TAILS (#4) (\$10.99) When Sarah Grayson opened a secondhand shop in the quaint town of North Harbor, Maine, she was expecting peace and quiet. Then she was adopted by a rescue cat named Elvis and a kooky trio of senior sleuths known as Charlotte's Angels. Now she has nine lives worth of excitement. . . Sarah's friend and employee Rose is delivering a customer's purchase when the quick errand becomes a deadly escapade. Rose arrives just in time to see the customer murdered by his wife, but before she can call the police, she is knocked out cold. When she wakes up, no one believes her, especially after the woman claims her husband is very much alive and has left her for someone else—and has a text message and empty bank account to prove it. Despite her convincing story, Sarah is sure something is fishy—and it's not Elvis's kitty treats. Sarah, Elvis, and the Angels are determined to unravel

el this mysterious yarn, before the feral killer pounces again...

SANDFORD, JOHN & CTEIN SATURN RUN (\$13.50) In 2066, a Caltech intern notices an anomaly from a space telescope—something is approaching Saturn, and decelerating. Space objects don't decelerate. Spaceships do...A flurry of top-level government meetings produce the inescapable conclusion: Whatever built the ship is at least one hundred years ahead of our technology, and whoever can get their hands on it will have an advantage so large, no other nation can compete. The race is on, and a remarkable adventure begins. Soon a hastily thrown-together crew finds its strength and wits tested against adversaries of this earth and beyond. So buckle up...

SCARROW, SIMON HEART OF STONE (\$15.99) The fierce courage of the men and women of the Greek Resistance is the backdrop to this novel of World War II.

SCARROW, SIMON cato INVICTUS (#15) (\$24.99) It is AD 53. The soldiers of the Roman army patrol a growing Empire, from the Mediterranean to the North Sea, from the Atlantic to the banks of the Nile. Rome brutally enforces its rule, and its legions are the most efficient and aggressive fighting force in the world. Two battle-scarred veterans of this army, Prefect Cato and Centurion Macro, have survived years of campaigning in Britannia and have been recalled to Rome. Their time in the teeming, dangerously political city is short, and soon they are travelling with the Praetorian Guard to Spain, a restless colony where simmering tension in the face of Roman rule is aggravated by bitter rivalry amongst the natives. The challenges that face two old friends and their comrades in arms are unlike any they have seen before—in a land that declares itself unconquerable...

SCOTTOLINE, LISA DON'T GO (\$12.99) Dr. Mike Scanlon accepts the call of duty to serve as an Army doctor abroad he is acutely aware of the dangers he will face—and the hardships his being away will cause his wife, Chloe, and their newborn baby. But when Mike is away, it is Chloe who dies in the Scanlons' very own kitchen, a victim of an apparent household accident. Devastated, Mike returns home to bury her, only to discover that the life he left behind has fallen apart. His medical practice is in jeopardy, he is a stranger to his own daughter, and he discovers a shocking secret that sends him into a downward spiral. . .

SEYMOUR, GERALD NO MORTAL THING (\$11.99) Jago is a kid from a rough part of London who has worked hard to get a job in a bank and is now on a fast-track secondment to the Berlin office. Marcantonio is one of the new generation in the 'Ndrangheta crime families from Calabria, Southern Italy. He is in Germany to learn how to channel their illicit millions towards legitimate businesses all over Europe. When Jago witnesses Marcantonio commit a vicious assault and the police seem uninterested, the Englishman refuses to let the matter drop. But by pursuing the gangster to his grandfather's mountain lair, Jago is stepping into the middle of a delicate surveillance operation, which sets alarm bells ringing in Rome, London and Berlin...

SHAMES, TERRY craddock AN UNSETTLING CRIME FOR SAMUEL CRADDOCK (#0) (\$17) A prequel to the series. When the Jarrett Creek Fire Department is called to douse a blaze on the outskirts of town, they discover a grisly scene: five black young people have been murdered. Newly elected Chief of Police Samuel Craddock, just back from a stint in the Air Force, finds himself an outsider in the investigation headed by the Texas Highway Patrol. He takes an immediate dislike to John Sutherland, a racist trooper. Craddock's fears are realized when Sutherland arrests Truly Bennett, a young black man whom Craddock knows and respects. Sutherland cites dubious evidence that points to Bennett, and Craddock uncovers facts leading in another direction. When Sutherland refuses to relent, Craddock is faced with a choice that will define him as a lawman—either let the highway patrol have its way, or take on a separate investigation himself. Although his choice to investigate puts both Craddock and his family in danger, he perseveres. In the process, he learns something about himself and the limits of law enforcement in Jarrett Creek.

SHELTON, PAIGE bookshop CRACKED SPINE (#1) (\$10.99) Delaney Nichols is on the literary adventure of a lifetime when she leaves the States for Edinburgh, Scotland, to take a job at The

Cracked Spine. A legendary bookshop filled with special editions and rare manuscripts, it's a house of biblio delights...but before she can settle into her new life, a precious artifact from the shop goes missing and the big boss's sister is brutally murdered. Never did Delaney think that her dream job would turn into a living nightmare. Can she, along with Tom, the hot bartender from across the road, and her coworkers, help close the book on this killer mystery... before it's too late? A series debut.

SHELTON, PAIGE dangerous type BOOKMAN DEAD STYLE (#2) (\$10.99) It's January, and the Star City Film Festival has taken the Utah ski resort town by storm. Movie stars are everywhere, carving fresh powder on the slopes and crossing the thresholds of Bygone Alley's charming boutique shops—including The Rescued Word, where Clare Henry and her grandfather restore old typewriters and beloved books. When cinema's hottest superhero, Matt Bane, enters their store to buy some personalized notecards, it's hard not to be starstruck. But when Clare sees the police leading Matt out of The Fountain hotel in handcuffs only a few hours later, she can't believe her eyes. The affable actor is accused of killing his sister, but Clare's convinced he's wrong for that role. Now it's open call for suspects as Clare tries to reel in the killer before another victim fades to black...sequel to *To Helvetica and Back* (#1) (\$10.49).

SILVIS, RANDALL poe ON NIGHT'S SHORE (#1) (\$22.50) Standing on the grimy banks of the Hudson River, street urchin Augie Dubbins spots a young woman toss her baby into the water, then jump in herself. As the only witness to the tragedy, Augie sees an opportunity to make a few pennies recounting the events, and in doing so encounters a struggling young journalist named Edgar Allan Poe, a poet and newspaper hack whose penchant for saying the wrong thing at the wrong time has earned him more than a few enemies. When the unlikely duo discover the body of yet another young woman shortly after, they become entrapped in a mire of murder, greed, and power that stretches from the Five Points slums to the gleaming heights of Fifth Avenue.

SIMENON, GEORGES MAIGRET AT THE CORONER'S (\$16) On his travels through the U.S., Maigret stops in Tucson, Arizona at the guidance of his FBI friend Harry Cole, who leaves him one day to observe a coroner's inquest. The body being examined is that of Bessie Mitchell, a young girl who died under suspicious circumstances—she spent a night drinking and driving with five young Air Force men and was found the next morning on the tracks, run over by a train. Maigret quickly becomes engrossed in the hearing and the men's conflicting stories, leaving questions of who bears the guilt for this death and who can be trusted at all.

SMITH, ALEXANDER scotland BERTIE PROJECT (#11) (\$21) Bertie's mother, Irene, returns from the Middle East to discover that, in her absence, her son has been exposed to the worst of evils—television shows, ice cream parlors, and even unsanctioned art at the National Portrait Gallery. Her wrath descends on Bertie's long-suffering father, Stuart. But Stuart has found a reason to spend more time outside of the house and seems to have a new spring in his step. What does this mean for the residents of 44 Scotland Street? The winds of change have come...

STARR, MELVIN R LUCIFER'S HARVEST (#9) (\$19.99) King Charles of France has announced that he is confiscating Aquitaine, and Prince Edward has sent for knights and men at arms from England to assist him in opposing the French king. Lord Gilbert Talbot is required to provide five knights, twelve squires, and twenty archers and men at arms, and wishes his surgeon, Hugh de Singleton, to travel with the party, while Hugh's wife Kate will oversee the castle. Among the party will be Sir Simon Trillowe, Hugh's old nemesis and Kate's former suitor, who had once set fire to Hugh's house. After a brawl on the streets of Oxford Sir Simon had nearly lost an ear; Hugh had sewn it back on but it had healed crooked, and Simon blamed Hugh for the disfigurement. Finding himself in the same party, Hugh resolves not to turn his back on the knight - but it is Sir Simon who should not have turned his back.

STEVENS, CHEVY THAT NIGHT (\$10.99) Toni Murphy had a life full of typical teenage complications: a boyfriend, Ryan, whom

she adored; a strained relationship with her parents; and classmates who seemed hell-bent on making her suffer. Things weren't easy, but Toni could never have predicted how horrific they would become until her younger sister was brutally murdered one night - and Toni and Ryan were convicted of the murder. Now thirty-four, Toni is out of prison and back in her hometown, struggling to adjust to her new reality. Meanwhile, Ryan is convinced he can find the real murderer, Toni's own mother still doubts her innocence, and the group of women who made high school a nightmare for Toni may have darker secrets than anyone realizes. No matter how hard she tries, Toni can no longer ignore her old life... But before she can truly move on, Toni must risk everything to find out what really happened to her sister. Even if the truth is the most terrifying thing of all...

STEWART, FRAN WEE HOMICIDE IN THE HOTEL (#3) (\$10.99) Hamelin, Vermont, where Peggy Winn, owns a Scottish-themed shop, is overflowing with tourists enjoying the Scottish-themed games—and most of them are donning tartans from Peggy Winn's ScotShop. And her fourteenth-century ghostly companion, Dirk, has been indispensable, keeping an eye out for shoplifters and matching customers' family names to their clan plaid. Adding to the chaos is Big Willie, a longtime champion of the games, but not everyone is happy to have him in town. So when he misses the first event of the weekend, Peggy senses something is awry. After Willie is discovered dead in his hotel room, the victim of a bagpipe-related crime, Peggy decides it's up to her and Dirk to suss out a murderer.

STOCKWIN, JULIAN kydd INFERNO (#17) (\$24.99) 1807. Britain's Navy remains imperious at sea, but a succession of battles has seen Napoleon Bonaparte victorious on mainland Europe. His enemies have sued for peace and the Emperor's Continental System, establishing a European blockade, will mean that Britain will be cut off from her economic lifeblood. But one small link in this ring of steel is still free of French control: the neutral state of Denmark, which controls the straits through which the entire Baltic Trade passes. The French army are already mustering at her borders. If her navy falls into French hands all Europe will have fallen. So it's up to Thomas Kydd and his great friend, Nicholas Renzi, to persuade the Danes to give up their fleet to Britain.

TATE, CLOVER kite shop BLOWN AWAY (#1) (\$10.99) Emmy is finally living her dream. She's moved to the coastal town of Rock Point, Oregon, and is starting a kite business. Strings Attached features her own unique designs, inspired by everything from Picasso to Matisse's colorful cutouts. Her spirits are soaring sky-high the morning of the grand opening—until she stumbles upon a dead man washed up on the beach. The body belongs to local chef Miles Logan, and the gash across his chest indicates he's been murdered. The sheriff suspects Emmy's best friend, Avery, who used to date the chef. Emmy is sure Avery would never hurt anyone, but her pal doesn't have an alibi for the night of the murder. With Avery's freedom and the fate of her kite shop up in the air, Emmy takes it upon herself to follow the string of clues and solve the murder before the real killer takes flight.

THYNNE, JANE vine WOMAN IN THE SHADOWS (#2) (\$22.95) Berlin, 1937. The city radiates glamour and ambition. But danger lurks in every shadow... Anna Hansen, a bride-to-be, is a pupil at one of Hitler's notorious Nazi Bride Schools, where young women are schooled on the art of being an SS officer's wife. Then, one night, she is brutally murdered and left in the gardens of the school. Her death will be hushed up and her life forgotten. Clara Vine is an actress at Berlin's famous Ufa studios by day and an undercover British Intelligence agent by night. She knew Anna and is disturbed by news of her death. She cannot understand why someone would want to cover it up, but she soon discovers that Anna's murder is linked to a far more ominous secret. With the newly abdicated Edward VIII and his wife, Wallis, set to arrive in Berlin, and the Mitford sisters dazzling on the social scene, Clara must work in the shadows to find the truth and send it back to London. It is a dangerous path she treads, and it will take everything she has to survive...

THYNNE, JANE vine SCENT OF SECRETS (#3) (\$22.95) Clara Vine, a half-Jewish Anglo-German, uses her unique access to the up-

per echelons of pre-war Nazi society to spy for her native Britain. In this one, through her friendship with Eva Braun, Clara finds herself enmeshed in a plot to assassinate Hitler.

THYNNE, JANE vine PURSUIT OF PEARLS (#4) (\$22.95) Clara, an ambitious young actress, insinuates herself into the lives of the Nazi wives through her association with the famous Ufa Studios. Her close friendship with Magda Goebbels makes her an attractive asset to the British intelligence service.

TUCKER, K A HE WILL BE MY RUIN (\$22) On the surface, Celine Gonzalez had everything a twenty-eight-year-old in Manhattan could want: a one-bedroom apartment on the Lower East Side, a job that (mostly) paid the bills, and an acceptance letter to the prestigious Hollingsworth Institute of Art...all she had worked so hard to achieve was finally within her reach. So why would she kill herself? Her friend, Maggie Sparkes, arrives in New York City to pack up what's left of her best friend's belongings and discovers a scandalous photograph in a lock box hidden in Celine's apartment, and she begins asking questions. Questions about the man Celine fell in love with. The man she never told anyone about, not even Maggie. The man Celine believed would change her life...

TYLER, L C elsie CROOKED HERRING (#5) (\$18.99) Ethelred Tressider, mid-list crime writer, is surprised when fellow author Henry Holiday unexpectedly turns up on his doorstep. He's even more surprised when Henry confesses that he may have committed murder while drunk on New Year's Eve. Though he has little recollection of the night, Henry fears he may have killed drinking companion and fellow crime writer Crispin Vynall, and asks Ethelred to discreetly make enquiries in order to discover the truth. As Ethelred and his trusty agent Elsie begin to investigate, they discover that Henry has been set up, and now all that remains is for them to find out why and, more importantly ... whodunnit?

TYLER, L C elsie CAT AMONG THE HERRINGS (#6) (\$18.99) Robin Paghham is dead—drowned in a sailing accident. The reaction of everyone in the village on hearing this tragic news is that Robin must have been drunk. After all, that was what he did best—that and drug-dealing and breaking his former girlfriend's nose, with a bit of TV acting on the side. Surprisingly, newspaper reports of the inquest state that no alcohol was found in Robin's blood. It was accidental death, with no clear cause. At the funeral, however, Robin's latest girlfriend—to whom he has just got engaged—stands up and, lifting back her veil, announces that somebody in the congregation has murdered Robin and that she's going to have their arse. Although estranged, Elsie and Ethelred begin simultaneous investigations into Robin's death—as ever with some comical results.

WALLACE, AURALEE otter lake SNOWED IN WITH MURDER (#3) (\$10.99) Erica has returned to Otter Lake, New Hampshire, to rekindle her romance with Sheriff Grady Forrester at her mom's island retreat, currently closed for the off season. Just ahead of a rapidly advancing storm front, Erica arrives to discover Mom has rented the lodge to a reality TV show. They're filming the wealthy but awful Boatright brood, who've been summoned here by their patriarch because—so he says—one of them wants to kill him. Great television, terrible timing. Not only are Erica's romantic hopes snuffed out like a candle flame, the nasty Nor'easter just became a superstorm... and no one is getting off the island 'til it blows over. When the power fails, it's lights out for the patriarch. Now, marooned with a murdered millionaire and his feuding family, it's up to Erica to take the killer by storm and get back to the business of reuniting with Grady—until death do they part!

WALTERS, MINETTE CELLAR (\$8.99) When Mr. and Mrs. Songoli's young son goes missing, fourteen-year-old Muna's fortunes change for the better. Knowing no other life than that of a slave, she is used to being abused by the Songoli family—physically, emotionally and even sexually. To keep up appearances during Scotland Yard's investigation, Muna is given a real bedroom and real clothing, like a real daughter would have. But when the police leave the premises, she must once again call her captors "Princess" and "Master." Assuming she doesn't know how to read, write or speak English, the Songolis fear little from her. However, before long, it be-

comes clear that young Muna is far cleverer—and her plans far more terrifying—than the Songolis, or anyone else, could ever imagine.

WARE, RUTH WOMAN IN CABIN 10 (\$24.99) From the author of In a Dark, Dark Wood (\$24.99). Lo Blacklock, a journalist who writes for a travel magazine, has just been given the assignment of a lifetime: a week on a luxury cruise with only a handful of cabins. The sky is clear, the waters calm, and the veneered, select guests jovial, as the exclusive cruise ship, the Aurora, begins her voyage in the picturesque North Sea. At first, Lo's stay is nothing but pleasant, but as the week wears on, frigid winds whip the deck, gray skies fall, and Lo witnesses what she can only describe as a dark and terrifying nightmare: a woman being thrown overboard. The problem? All passengers remain accounted for—and so, the ship sails on as if nothing has happened, despite Lo's desperate attempts to convey that something (or someone) has gone terribly, terribly wrong...

WHISHAW, IONA KILLER IN KING'S COVE (#1) (\$18.50) It is 1946, and war-weary young ex-intelligence officer Lane Winslow leaves London to look for a fresh start. When she finds herself happily settled into a sleepy hamlet in the interior of British Columbia surrounded by a suitably eclectic cast of small-town characters she feels like she may finally be able to put her past to rest. But then a body is discovered, the victim of murder, and, although, she works alongside the town's inspectors Darling and Ames to discover who might possibly have motivation to kill, she unknowingly casts doubt on herself. As the investigation reveals facts that she has desperately tried to keep a secret, it threatens to pull her into a vortex of even greater losses than the ones she has already endured.

WILKINSON, KERRY NO PLACE LIKE HOME (\$18.99) Craig Macklin was a teenager when his headteacher told him he was heading either to prison or the grave. Instead, Craig left the north of England, saying goodbye to his friends and family to start a new life. Thirteen years on, redundant and separated from his wife, he returns to his hometown for the first time. It's Christmas and the markets in full swing, lights twinkling, shoppers shopping, revellers revelling. Despite the seasonal sense of jollity, there are secrets from which Craig cannot escape and, when debt-collectors call on his parents' house, Craig realizes the teenage hell-raiser he left behind might not be so buried after all.