



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

January 2017

Where I was quite happy to see the back end of 2016, the new year is not starting off much better! Percy's ongoing issues, the poor boy, my mother who spent a week recently in an intensive care unit, and, although she's home now, the prognosis is not good and my lungs...well, I can see your eyes crossing so I'll spare you most of the details but...my lungs do not like the cold weather. They just do not work in the cold. As soon as it gets cold I can't breathe. I can't walk, all I do is hack and cough my lungs out. Not sure what the solution is, but I need to find one. Do we shut the store down so that I can spend the winters somewhere warm? Or, perhaps, just be closed the first few months of the year and open for the warmer months, say, May to December? Or do I let Marian handle the store for the winters while I go play on a tropical beach? I'm afraid a decision has to be made sooner rather than later. Your comments would be appreciated.

And, all the above has resulted in my not reading a great deal. It seems like I've started twenty books but not been able to get very far into any of them. Lack of uninterrupted time and lack of quiet time has not helped, but it seemed that every moment I was not on the road to the hospital (a 90-minute journey one way) or to my sister's place where mom lives (60 minutes) all I wanted to do was sleep. So, I did a lot of that.

JD's Picks

All this to say that my Picks for this issue are slim. I really have only two for you this time and I'll start with The Life We Bury (\$16.95) by ALLEN ESKENS. Not absolutely sure who brought this one to my attention, but, thank you. I loved it. There are two subsequent books from this writer and I've ordered copies for myself.

Life We Bury is the story of college student Joe Talbert who has the modest goal of completing a writing assignment for an English class and in doing so gets pulled into a 30-year old mystery. His task is to interview a stranger and write a brief biography of the person. With deadlines looming, Joe heads to a nearby nursing home to find a willing subject. There he meets Carl Iverson, and soon nothing in Joe's life is ever the same.

The Merchant of Menace,

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

Postage & Handling

In a word: Actual

Hours of Business

Thursday to Saturday: 10 to 6

Sunday: Noon - 4pm

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
& Statutory Holidays:** Closed

We're often here outside of business hours, so call and we just might let you in.

Carl is a dying Vietnam veteran—and a convicted murderer. With only a few months to live, he has been medically paroled to a nursing home, after spending thirty years in prison for the crimes of rape and murder. Joe's story is also wanting to break free from his family situation—an autistic younger brother, whom he loves, and a dysfunctional mother, not so much. He feels guilty about leaving his brother behind, but does need to make his own way through life.

This is a well-told, compulsively readable, story with interesting and very likeable characters. The narrator, Joe, is actually, pretty awesome. Yes, there is a little suspension of disbelief required and a couple of scenes were cringe-worthy, but none of that detracts from this rather enjoyable read.

The latest from one of my favourite writers is now available so I can tell you how great a read it is. [The Old Man](#) (\$37.50) is **THOMAS PERRY**'s new stand-alone novel featuring this sixty-something year old man who was an intelligence operative for the US government many, many years ago. But, caca happens, and he's been on the "run" pretty much ever since. Life has been good, he's kept his multiple identities off the radar, adopted two dogs after his wife died and, well, life is good. Until it isn't so much anymore. Killers are on his trail and he and the two dogs are on run. Really, all you need to know is that this is **Thomas Perry**. Unputdownable, and I managed to read it in a couple of sittings. Love this guy so much, that I managed to stay upright and barrel my way through it! If you're lucky enough to have never read him, then start with the first two novels, [The Butcher's Boy](#) (#1) (\$22) and [Metzger's Dog](#) (\$18.95). No need to thank me!

A good customer and a good friend who is not a big fan of the British police procedural was quite taken with **DAVID WHELLAMS** and his Chief Inspector Peter Cammon novels. Normally she's a fan of the harder, mostly American, novels—**Silva, Sandford, Connelly, Child**. . .those muscular, action-packed stories, so this was a surprising anomaly. Being the kind of curious guy I am, I had to see what it was about this writer that would interest our Deb. The author, by the way, lives in Ottawa and his "30 years of writing criminal law and amending the Criminal Code in such areas as dangerous offenders and terrorist" seems to have been instrumental in writing his first novel, [Walking Into the Ocean](#) (#1) (\$14.95).

In this series debut, veteran Scotland Yard Chief Inspector Peter Cammon journeys to the Jurassic Coast to solve a seemingly ordinary domestic crime. At first glance, the perpetrator appears to have murdered his wife before drowning in the English Channel, but Cammon soon learns that his case is merely a sideshow. A broader series of murders has been unfolding along the cliffs, baffling the local police. Realizing that his assignment cannot be completed without figuring out the serial killings that threaten the region, the detective travels from London, Dorset, and Devon to the island of Malta, relentlessly following the overlapping threads of the two cases to their shocking climax.

This novel is quite a bit longer, at 463 pages, puhlease! and a lot more meandering than was probably necessary. There were many times when I was a little confused as to why this digression or that tangent was necessary. . .a good editor with a very sharp scalpel could have made something of this. But there's something about Cammon that was intriguing at the beginning. The umbrella, the bowler hat, the tweed coat. . .even though the umbrella and hat soon get misplaced. . .Given my recent distractions, I'm only about half-way through, and, I fear, that may be as far as I get. My tiny brain is having trouble keeping all the loose bits together. . .I'm obviously missing something. I'll call Deb and she'll show me the error of my ways.

This is sounding more like a non-Pick but should you give it a try, I'd love to know what you think.

Marian's Picks

Percy is still going strong and to look at him you wouldn't know he is unwell, however the latest tests show that the cancer has spread to his liver and spleen. He is on medication and seems to be happy and certainly enjoys his walks, treats and playtime. Well, perhaps not playtime with Pixie. But he is getting more tolerant of her and will let her play with his toys. It's quite amusing to watch him go retrieve them if Pixie stops playing with them and bring them back to his stash. Pixie is turning out to be a real joy and a most enthusiastic new employee for Sleuth. When we got her at 8 weeks old she weighed 14 lbs, now, at week 16, she clocks in at 30 lbs. Given that she is still very

fearful of going down stairs—up, she takes at a gallop—she had either stop growing or overcome her fears as carrying her down the stairs is getting to be a real workout. Our new little girl puppy loves to eat!

Christmas and New Years were rather uneventful; except for the freezing rain that put paid to trying to sell books and a treacherous mess of trying to get anywhere. What was scheduled for a family get together at 10am start on Boxing Day didn't get going until 2.30pm, but, thankfully, it did get going with everyone accounted for.

I hadn't read a Peculiar Crimes Unit, Bryant and May mystery by **CHRISTOPHER FOWLER** in ages, but when the latest one came in and I saw that JD had ordered a ton of copies I thought I'd better give it a go and see why he felt the urge to order so many. Bryant and May: Strange Tide (#13) (\$36) is fabulous. (*Uh, that's why, Marian!*) That perfectly subtle sense of British wit and humour, (and sometimes not so subtle), the craziness of the plot, the idiosyncrasies of each and every character...why did it take me so long to read another adventure of this crazy duo? On the bank of the River Thames, near the Tower of London, the body of a woman has been discovered chained to a stone post and left to drown. Only one set of footprints leads to the tragic spot and if Bryant and May can't solve the case then the Peculiar Crimes Unit will be closed down. Arthur Bryant wonders if the answer to the puzzle lies in the mythology of the Thames itself, but the venerable detective seems to be losing his grip on reality and May fears the worst as Bryant hallucinates that he's traveled back in time to solve the case. As more bodies are pulled from the river, his partner and the rest of the PCU find themselves in over their heads. The first in the series is Full Dark House (#1) (\$22) if you want to start at the beginning, but, as the author says in his notes at the end of Strange Tide, you really don't have to read the books in order. The first nine titles are readily available in trade paperback from a Canadian publisher/distributor so go wild and read on. The next three are not yet published in paperback in North America and those we smuggle in from our UK source. You are in for a treat and anyone who has read this series will happily tell you so.

And speaking of a writer I have never read before, I read and loved Murder on the Quai (#16) (\$35.95) by **CARA BLACK**. This latest entry in the Aimée Leduc series was originally published in June 2016—the paperback edition is due sometime in May—but I finally got around to reading it now. I felt pretty sure I had read her first mystery, Murder in the Marais (#1) (\$9.99) many years ago, so I perused it, but no bells rang. Murder on the Quai takes the reader back in time to November 1989 and reveals how Aimée became a private detective. She is in her first year of college at Paris's pre-eminent medical school, lives in a 17th-century apartment that overlooks the Seine with her father, who runs the family detective agency. But the week the Berlin Wall crumbles, so does Aimée's life as she knows it. Someone has sabotaged her lab work at med school, putting her at risk of failing out of the program. Then, she finds out her boyfriend is getting engaged to another woman. And finally, Aimée's father takes off to Berlin on a mysterious errand. He asks Aimée to help at the detective agency while he's gone. As it turns out, the case Aimée finds herself investigating, a murder linked to a transport truck of Nazi gold that disappeared in the French countryside during the height of World War II, has gotten under her skin, and there's really no going back to med school. Good story, beautiful descriptions of France, and for those of you who have wondered how it all started with Aimee, then this is a must read. Each of her titles features a different part of Paris: Passy, The Bastille, The Latin Quarter, Montmartre, sixteen books in total, so between **Ms. Black** and **Mr. Fowler** you have twenty-nine potential new books to read. How exciting is that!

I like wine and love to have neighbours over to my cottage so we can sip and talk and eat and enjoy a lovely evening. So, imagine my pleasure and excitement to get my hands on the latest **ELLEN CROSBY**, The Champagne Conspiracy (#7) (\$36.99). Learning about wine, its history in general, and viticulture in Virginia, in particular, wrapped around a great series of novels...well, what's not to like? I've always been fascinated by the art of wine-making and many years ago, I had thought about taking the sommelier program that was offered by George Brown College. Maybe now, if the sick old fart makes me sell the store I'll rethink it. I've read all of **Ellen's** wine mysteries and enjoyed them. The earlier entries in the series are all available but, like the first, The Merlot Murders (#1) (US\$23! which with shipping and exchange becomes Cdn\$30), only as pricy Print on Demands. The one exception, for the moment, is the second one, The Chardonnay Charade (#2) (\$9.99), which is still available in a cheap mass market edition. Yes, kinda pricy, but oh so good. Lucie Montgomery and wine-maker Quinn Santori have decided to make champagne, a first for the vineyard. But then Gino Tomassi, Quinn's uncle, turns up on their doorstep one afternoon, demanding help in solving the mystery of what happened to Zara Tomassi, the first wife of his grandfather, who died in 1923 under suspicious circumstances. Lucie searches for what

happened almost a hundred years ago as she delves into Prohibition-era Washington, D.C., a town of bootlegging and duplicity, jazz clubs and speakeasies. But then the investigation turns deadly, threatening Lucie, her relationship with Quinn, and the vineyard, as they realize someone is still out there nearly a century later who will go to any lengths to keep the truth about Zara's death a buried secret. My teeny, weeny complaint about the book is that I wish there had been more talk of Champagne, the history of it, the making of it, the drinking of it... I love Champagne but as it is rather pricy around here, I would have gotten some of my fill through osmosis!

Which reminds me of Cavas, Spain's answer to snooty, expensive Champers. We recently encountered Anna de Codorniu Brut Blanc de Blancs which, at around \$20, a quarter of the price of Veuve Clicquot—probably my fave bubbly—does the job most, most admirably. Not available at the LCBO, instead, it has to be ordered by the case from the distributor. Hate to tell you how many cases we have gone through. If you think you might like some, let me know and the next time we order, we'll order extra. (*Good thinking Marian, another profit centre for the store!*) NO. Don't listen to him, besides, by law only the LCBO can sell at a profit, alcohol in the province of Ontario. Or some such.

And, finally, to point out that Real Tigers (#3) (\$19.95) by **MICK HERRON** has arrived in trade paperback. It's the third featuring those MI5 agents who have messed up and been given mindless tasks to pass away the years to retirement while the real MI5 agents protect Britain. When one of their own is kidnapped, the washed-up MI5 operatives of Slough House, the Slow Horses as they're known, outwit rogue agents at the very highest levels of British Intelligence, and even to Downing Street itself. I think this is a terrific series and I wish the fourth book was out but it's not due until February 2017, titled Spook Street (#4) (\$33.95). I can hardly wait. The first two are titled Slow Horses (#1) (\$9.99) and Dead Lions (#2) (\$14.95).

Hardbacks

AIRTH, RENNIE madden DEATH OF KINGS (#5) (\$36) On a hot summer day in 1938, a beautiful actress is murdered on the grand Kent estate of Sir Jack Jessup, close friend of the Prince of Wales. The arrest of an ex-convict and his subsequent confession swiftly bring the case to a close, but in 1949, the reappearance of a jade necklace raises questions about the murder. Was the man convicted and executed the decade before truly guilty? Though happily retired from the police force, John Madden is persuaded to investigate the case afresh.

ARLIDGE, M J helen grace HIDE AND SEEK (#6) (\$27.99) 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.

BAUER, BELINDA BEAUTIFUL DEAD (\$36.50) TV crime reporter Eve Singer's career is flagging, but that starts to change when she covers a spate of bizarre murders, each one committed in public and advertised like an art exhibition. When the killer contacts Eve about her coverage of his crimes, she is suddenly on the inside of the biggest murder investigation of the decade. But as the killer becomes increasingly obsessed with her, Eve realizes there's a thin line between inside information and becoming an accomplice to murder, possibly her own.

CHILDS, LAURA cackleberry EGG DROP DEAD (#7) (\$35) Suzanne, Petra, and Toni—co-owners of the Cackleberry Club café—are back to track down another bad egg... Maintaining good personal relationships with their suppliers is one of the secrets of the Cackleberry Club café's success, so Suzanne doesn't mind going out to Mike Mullen's dairy farm to pick up some wheels of cheese. She's looking forward to a nice visit with the mild-mannered farmer before heading back to their hectic kitchen. But when she arrives, Mike's nowhere to be found. The moaning of his cows leads her to look in the barn, where she discovers a bloodcurdling sight—the farmer's dead body. Apparently not everyone was as fond of Mike Mullen as the Cackleberry Club. Churning with grief and outrage, Suzanne, Petra, and Toni vow to find the farmer's murder-

er—but as they get closer to the truth, the desperate killer gets whipped into a frenzy and plans to put the squeeze on them...

CLELAND, JANE K josie GLOW OF DEATH (#11) (\$36.99) As a warm ocean breeze ruffles the tall grass along Rocky Point's sandy dunes, Josie Prescott visits the house of a wealthy local couple, Edwin and Ava Belcher. She's been called in to appraise their Tiffany lamp, which everyone is delighted to find is genuine. Josie's good friend, Police Chief Ellis Hunter, is helping prepare for her annual Fourth of July barbecue when he gets a call that Ava has been murdered. Unable to reach Edwin, Ellis asks Josie to identify the body. Josie is stunned to discover that the dead woman lying on the Belcher kitchen floor is not the woman she knew as Ava. Astonishment turns to shock when Josie discovers that everything she thought she knew about the Tiffany lamp and the Belchers has been built on lies.

DUNCAN, ELIZABETH shakes ILL MET BY MURDER (#2) (\$37.50) It's the most important night of the year for costume designer Charlotte Fairfax and the Catskills Shakespeare Theater Company - the annual fund raising performance at the country estate of the wealthy widow Paula Van Dusen. This year, the company will give a moonlight performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as part of the wedding celebrations for Paula's daughter, Belinda, and her fiancé Adrian. But then Hugh Hedley, family friend of the Van Dusens and Adrian's rival in the cutthroat world of high-end Manhattan real estate, is found murdered with a stolen prop from the play. Paula, desperate to keep her daughter's name out of the paper, enlists Charlotte's help, even though Charlotte's already got her hands full amidst her costume design responsibilities and finding a home for the company's new theatre school. But Charlotte nevertheless throws herself into an investigation of shady business deals, a missing dog, and long buried family secrets because though she be but little, she is fierce! The first in this "Shakespeare" series is Untimely Death (\$22.95). There are seven books in **Ms. Duncan's** Penny Brannigan series, set in Wales. The eighth in that series, Murder is for Keeps (\$37.99) is due in April 2017.

FOWLER, CHRISTOPHER bryan STRANGE TIDE (#13) (\$36) London's most brilliant but unconventional detectives, Arthur Bryant and John May, must plumb the depths of a particularly murky mystery. The Peculiar Crimes Unit faces its most baffling case yet—and if Bryant and May can't rise to the challenge, the entire unit may go under. Near the Tower of London, along the River Thames, the body of a woman has been discovered chained to a stone post and left to drown. Curiously, only one set of footprints leads to the tragic spot. "The Bride in the Tide," as the London press gleefully dubs her, has the PCU stumped. Why wouldn't the killer simply dump her body in the river—as so many do? Arthur Bryant wonders if the answer lies in the mythology of the Thames itself. "I loved it", says Marian.

FRANCIS, FELIX TRIPLE CROWN (\$32) The richest prize in racing. The perfect motive to commit a crime...Jeff Hinkley, a British Horseracing Authority investigator, has been seconded to the US Federal Anti-Corruption in Sports Agency (FACSA) where he has been asked to find a mole in their organisation, an informant who is passing on confidential information to fix races. Jeff goes in search of answers, taking on an undercover role as a groom on the backstretch at Belmont Park racetrack in New York. But he discovers far more than he was bargaining for, finding himself as the meat in the sandwich between FACSA and corrupt individuals who will stop at nothing, including murder, to capture the most elusive and lucrative prize in the world—the Triple Crown.

GABALDON, DIANA VIRGINS AN OUTLANDER NOVELLA (\$30.00) A special order from the UK. We have only one copy left at the time of writing this. This is a novella which is a prequel to the first book Outlander (\$12.99). Mourning the death of his father and gravely injured at the hands of the English, Jamie Fraser finds himself running with a band of mercenaries in the French countryside, where he reconnects with his old friend Ian Murray. Both are nursing wounds; both have good reason to stay out of Scotland; and both are still virgins, despite several opportunities to remedy that deplorable situation with ladies of easy virtue. But Jamie's love life becomes infinitely more complicated, and dangerous, when fate brings the young men into the service of Dr. Hasdi, a Jewish gentleman who hires them to escort two priceless treasures to Paris. One is an old Torah; the other is the doctor's beautiful daughter, Rebekah, destined for an arranged marriage. Both Jamie and Ian are instantly drawn to the bride-to-be, but they might be more cautious if they had any idea who they're truly dealing with.

GIAMBANCO, VALENTINA madi BLOOD AND BONE (#3) (\$32.49) After two years as a Seattle Police Department homicide detective, Alice Madison has finally found a measure of peace she has never known before, a sense of belonging. When a local burglary escalates into a gruesome murder, Madison takes charge of the investigation, only to discover that this is no ordinary killing. She finds herself tracking a serial assassin who has haunted the city for years and whose brutality is the stuff of legend among the super-max prisons of the Pacific Northwest. As she delves deeper into the case, Madison learns that the widow of one of the victims is being stalked, is the killer poised to strike again? As pressures mount, Madison will stop at nothing to save the

next innocent victim, but when her own past comes under scrutiny from enemies close to home, Madison's position on the force, and the fate of the case itself, are suddenly thrown into jeopardy. The first two in the series are Gift of Darkness (\$14.99) and Dark (\$17.99).

GREBE, CAMILLA ICE BENEATH HER (\$36) The acclaimed Swedish author's solo American debut. Winter's chill has descended on Stockholm as police arrive at the scene of a shocking murder. An unidentified woman lies beheaded in a posh suburban home—a brutal crime made all the more disturbing by its uncanny resemblance to an unsolved killing ten years earlier. But this time there's a suspect: the charismatic and controversial chain-store CEO Jesper Orre, who owns the home but is nowhere to be found. To homicide detectives Peter Lindgren and Manfred Olsson, nothing about the suave, high-profile businessman—including a playboy reputation and rumors of financial misdeeds—suggests he conceals the dark heart and twisted mind of a cold-blooded killer. In search of a motive, Lindgren and Olsson turn to the brilliant criminal profiler Hanne Lagerlind-Schön.

HIGGINS, JACK dillon MIDNIGHT BELL (#22) (\$37) In Ulster, Northern Ireland, a petty criminal kills a woman in a drunken car crash. Her sons swear revenge. In London, Sean Dillon and his colleagues in the "Prime Minister's private army," fresh from defeating a deadly al-Qaeda operation, receive a warning: You may think you have weakened us, but you have only made us stronger. In Washington, D.C., a special projects director with the CIA, frustrated at not getting permission from the President for his daring anti-terrorism plan, decides to put it in motion anyway. He knows he's right—the nation will thank him later. Soon, the ripples from these events will meet and overlap, creating havoc in their wake. Desperate men will act, secrets will be revealed—and the midnight bell will toll.

HOLT, ANNE wilhelmsen BEYOND THE TRUTH (#7) (\$35) Hanne Wilhelmsen, the brilliant female detective must untangle the complex and bitter history of one of Oslo's wealthiest families after a celebratory get together at their home ends in a multi-victim homicide. Shortly before Christmas, four people are found shot dead at the home of the Stahlbergs, a wealthy family of shipping merchants notorious for their miserliness and infighting. Three of the victims are members of the family, and the fourth is an outsider, seemingly out of place. Cake had been set out in the living room and a bottle of champagne had been opened but not yet poured. Yes, family gatherings during the holidays can be difficult, but why did this one become a bloodbath? As Hanne Wilhelmsen investigates the case alongside her longtime police partner, Billy T., motives for the murders emerge in abundance; each surviving member of the Stahlberg family had good reason to want the victims dead. As she searches for the killer, Hanne will once again risk everything to find out the truth. But this time, will she go too far?

KELLERMAN, FAYE decker THEORY OF DEATH (#23) (\$33.50) Now living in upstate New York, former LAPD lieutenant Peter Decker is plunged into a bizarre web involving academia, underworld crime, and calculating killers. Former LAPD lieutenant Peter Decker is relishing the quiet and slow pace of his new job with the Greenbury police department. The work is low stress and engaging, and it's been almost a year since the last murder in this sleepy upstate New York town. Then the body of a nude man is found deep within the woods, shattering Decker's peace. The death appears to be a suicide—a single shot to the head, the gun by his side. But until the coroner's ruling, the scene must be treated as a suspicious crime. Without any personal effects near the body, Decker must dig to uncover his identity, a task made difficult by the department's tight budget and limited personnel. Luckily, Decker gets some unexpected help when his friend and former Greenbury colleague Tyler McAdams calls, looking for a quiet place to study for his law finals. The investigation takes Decker and McAdams to Kneed Loft College, where they must penetrate the indecipherable upper echelons of mathematics and mathematical prodigies.

MACDERMID/MCDERMID, VAL OUT OF BOUNDS (\$36.50) When a teenage joyrider crashes a stolen car and ends up in a coma, a routine DNA test reveals a connection to an unsolved murder from twenty-two years before. Finding the answer to the cold case should be straightforward. But it's as twisted as the DNA helix itself. Meanwhile, detective Karen Pirie finds herself irresistibly drawn to another mystery that she has no business investigating, a mystery that has its roots in a terrorist bombing two decades ago. The bombing has until now been presumed to be a Republican attack even though no group claimed responsibility, because the pilot of the small plane was a former Northern Ireland government minister. But Karen comes at the incident from another angle and the kaleidoscope shifts.

THIEN, MADELEINE DO NOT SAY WE HAVE NOTHING (\$35) Winner of the 2016 Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction, shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, and longlisted for the 2017 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, this extraordinary novel tells the story of three musicians in China before, during and after the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989. Not a

crime novel, but one you should consider reading.

THOFT, INGRID DUPLICITY (#4) (\$34.00) When Ceci Renard hires Ludlow and Associates to sue the hip new church that she believes has brainwashed her daughter, Fina Ludlow is assigned to the case. Covenant Rising Church has all the trappings of a less-than-holy organization: a slick young pastor and his comely wife; fancy houses and luxury cars; and devoted congregants who seem eager to part with their money. Fina wonders if Ceci disapproves of Covenant Rising's theology or the pastor's ability to solicit generous donations, until a prominent church member dies unexpectedly. Boston private investigator Fina's investigation requires her to delve into the woman's life, both in and out of Covenant Rising, and ask a host of difficult questions. Is the pastor leading his flock astray? Did the church have a hand in the death or were there less savoury elements in the woman's life outside the parish? The first three in this great series are Loyalty (#1) and Identity (#2) (\$11.99 each) and Brutality (#3) (\$22.00).

Paperbacks

ADLER-OLSEN, JUSSI dept q HANGING GIRL (#6) (\$22) In the middle of his usual hard-won morning nap in the basement of police headquarters, Carl Mørck, head of Department Q, receives a call from a colleague working on the Danish island of Bornholm. Carl is dismissive when he realizes that a new case is being foisted on him, but a few hours later, he receives some shocking news that leaves his headstrong assistant Rose more furious than usual. Carl has no choice but to lead Department Q into the tragic cold case of a vivacious seventeen-year-old girl who vanished from school, only to be found dead hanging high up in a tree. The investigation will take them from the remote island of Bornholm to a strange sun-worshipping cult, where Carl, Assad, Rose, and newcomer Gordon attempt to stop a string of new murders and a skilled manipulator who refuses to let anything—or anyone—get in the way.

BANNER, A J TWILIGHT WIFE (\$20) Thirty-four-year-old marine biologist Kyra Winthrop remembers nothing about the diving accident that left her with a complex form of memory loss. With only brief flashes of the last few years of her life, her world has narrowed to a few close friendships on the island where she lives with her devoted husband, Jacob. But all is not what it seems. Kyra begins to have visions—or are they memories?—of a rocky marriage, broken promises, and cryptic relationships with the island residents, whom she believes to be her friends. As Kyra races to uncover her past, the truth becomes a terrifying nightmare.

BARTLETT, LORRAINE DEAD BATH AND BEYOND (#4) (\$10.99) Katie Bonner—owner of Artisans Alley in the quaint shopping district of Victoria Square—attempts to solve a murder at a nearby B & B. Katie Bonner feels like nothing can spoil her perfect day off, sailing Lake Ontario with her good friend and lawyer Seth Landers. Then she runs into her ex-boss Josh on the dock. It was never smooth sailing with Josh, and Katie is only too happy to get away from him as he makes a scene. Unfortunately, the next day her unpleasant former employer is found drowned in a bathtub at a bed-and-breakfast in Victoria Square. Who would pull the plug on Josh? When an autopsy reveals lake water—not bath water—in his lungs, Katie quickly finds herself in over her head. She'll need to race to find the killer before her business and her freedom both go down the drain...

BERKELEY, ANTHONY POISONED CHOCOLATE CASE (\$25) Sir Eustace is a cad of the first water, with a specialty in other men's wives, and the list of people who might want to do him in could fill a London phone book. But which of them actually sent the chocolates with their nasty hidden payload? Scotland Yard is baffled. Enter the Crime Circle, a group of society intellectuals with a shared conviction in their ability to succeed where the police have failed. Eventually, each member will produce a tightly reasoned solution to the Case of the Poisoned Chocolates, but each of those solutions will identify a different murderer. First published in 1929, this is both a classic of the golden age of mystery fiction, and one of the great puzzle-mysteries of all time.

BLACK, LISA gardiner THAT DARKNESS (#1) (\$10.99) For Cleveland forensic investigator Maggie Gardiner, dead bodies are part of the job. It's the mind of a killer that keeps her awake at night... When she notices a connection between the battered body of a young girl left in a cemetery and a career criminal shot in an alley, she must follow a trail no one else wants to see, picking up crumbs of evidence that no one else notices. Jack Renner is accustomed to being the hunter, not the hunted. He kills to make the world a safer place—even if that makes it a more dangerous one for Maggie. He will not let her stop him. One body at a time, Maggie circles in on a killer. But it's what she finds inside herself that will bring the terrible truth to light...

BOOTH, STEPHEN BLACK DOG (#1) (\$25) and DANCING WITH THE VIRGINS (#2) (\$26.95) The first two installments, of sixteen total, in the series featuring

Ben Cooper, a young DC, and Diane Fry, a ruthlessly ambitious DC from another division, set in the Peak District. Dark, brooding, and excellent.

BRACKSTON, P J grimm ONCE UPON A CRIME (#2) (\$19.95) Gretel (yes, that Gretel) is now 35, very large, still living with her brother Hans, and working as a private investigator. The small, sleepy town of Gesternstadt is shaken to its pretty foundations when the workshop of the local cart maker is burnt to the ground, and a body is discovered in the ashes. It is Gretel who notices that the cadaver is missing a finger. At first she does not see this as significant, as her mind is fully focused on a new case. Not that she wouldn't far rather be investigating an intriguing murder, but her client is willing to pay over the odds, so she must content herself with trying to trace three missing cats. It is not until she is further into her investigations that she realizes the two events are inextricably and dangerously connected, and that the mystery of the missing cats will lead her into perilous situations and frightening company. Very soon Gretel finds herself accused of kidnapping Princess Charlotte, twice locked up in the cells at the Summer Schloss, repelling the advances of an amorous troll, strapped to a rack in Herr Schmerz's torture chamber, and fleeing a murder charge. With dubious help from her brother (whose scant wits are habitually addled by drink), she must prove her innocence, solve the puzzle of the unidentified corpse, and find the stolen cats before they meet a grisly end.

BREThERICK, DIANA CITY OF DEVILS (#1) (\$15.99) The brightest mind meets the darkest killer... 1887. When James Murray, a young Scottish doctor fascinated by the workings of the criminal mind, travels to the vibrant city of Turin, it is to study with Cesare Lombroso, the world-renowned criminologist. But just hours after his introduction to Lombroso, the discovery of a horrifically mutilated body in the nearby Piazza Statuto, and a note that appears to implicate the celebrated criminologist himself, changes everything. With the help of his fellow apprentice, a local investigator and Lombroso's beautiful but enigmatic housekeeper, Murray must put his learning to the test and endeavour to understand the mind of a serial killer if he is to stop the rapidly escalating bloodbath and clear the name of his mentor. Meet the world's first criminologist.

BRIGGS, J C dickens MURDER BY GHOSTLIGHT (#3) (\$21.95) 1849: when Charles Dickens discovers the corpse of an actor on the empty stage of a Manchester theater, Dickens himself becomes the number one suspect. But with the help of Superintendent Jones of Bow Street, he sets out to find the murderer's true identity. The search takes them into the slums and to the fog-bound streets of London, where Dickens's life is threatened before this unusual case reaches its thrilling climax.

BRODRICK, WILLIAM anselm SILENT ONES (#6) (\$25) All you have to do is find out why Harry is prepared to blame an innocent man. That's the thread. Follow it. You'll reach the Silent Ones. This is your way - our way - of making a difference. With this challenge from Father Edmund Littlemore, Anselm returns to the Old Bailey to fight the most difficult and troubling case of his life. The man in the dock is Littlemore himself. He is charged with grave offences against Harry Brandwell, who, it seems, is both a victim and a liar. But he's the only link to these others who've chosen silence over their right to justice. Unknown to Anselm, Robert Saunders, a journalist, has been investigating Littlemore's background. And he's a man with a troubled past, always on the move, from Boston in the USA to Freetown in Sierra Leone, finally running from a London police station rather than explain himself. More disturbingly, Robert uncovers details of a carefully planned scheme to entice Anselm back into court, exploiting his reputation for honesty to secure a shock acquittal. Meanwhile Harry Brandwell—abused, abandoned and betrayed—has decided to take matters into his own hands.

BUDE, JOHN CHELTHENHAM SQUARE MURDER (\$25) First published in 1937. In the seeming tranquility of Regency Square in Cheltenham live the diverse inhabitants of its ten houses. One summer's evening, the square's rivalries and allegiances are disrupted by a sudden and unusual death - an arrow to the head, shot through an open window at no. 6. Unfortunately for the murderer, an invitation to visit had just been sent by the crime writer Aldous Barnet, staying with his sister at no. 8, to his friend Superintendent Meredith. Three days after his arrival, Meredith finds himself investigating the shocking murder two doors down. Six of the square's inhabitants are keen members of the Wellington Archery Club, but if Meredith thought that the case was going to be easy to solve, he was wrong... This is a classic example of how the author builds a drama within a very specific location. Here the Regency splendour of Cheltenham provides the perfect setting for a story in which appearances are certainly deceiving.

CLARE, Alys aelf fen NIGHT WANDERER (#7) (\$27) Eleventh century Cambridge is rocked by a series of brutal murders. Called out to attend a body found on a lonely stretch of river bank, its throat torn out, apprentice healer Lassair is skeptical of the sheriff's verdict that this was the result of a wild animal attack. But when a second body is discovered, similarly mutilated, rumours engulf the town that the legendary demon known as the Night Wanderer has returned to wreak havoc. Determined to stop the

fear spreading and prove that the killer is human, Lassair and lawman Jack Chevestrier investigate. If they could only find out what links the victims, they would be one step closer to discovering the Night Wanderer's identity—and what it is he really wants. But when the killer turns his sights on Lassair herself, can she survive long enough to find out?

COPPERMAN, E J haunted SPOUSE ON HAUNTED HILL (#8) (\$10.99) Where Alison Kerby's ex-husband goes, trouble follows. This time, unfortunately, he's brought that trouble right to her doorstep. On the run from a business deal gone bad, Steven, aka "the Swine," owes some scary people a staggering sum of money. No need to panic, though. He has a plan: Sell Alison's Jersey Shore guesthouse to pay them off. Before Alison has a chance to read Steven the riot act, he disappears—after a mysterious man trailing him ends up full of bullet holes. Now the police are next to darken her doorway. For all his faults, Steven is still the father of Alison's daughter, so with the help of ghosts Maxie and Paul, Alison sets out to find her ex and clear him of the murder. But if the bad guys get to him first, he may not have a ghost of a chance...

CROFTS, FREEMAN WILLS MYSTERY IN THE CHANNEL (\$19) First published in 1931. The Chichester is making a routine journey across the English Channel on a pleasant afternoon in June, when the steamer's crew notice something strange. A yacht, bobbing about in the water ahead of them, appears to have been abandoned, and there is a dark red stain on the deck... Two bodies later, with no sign of a gun, there certainly is a mystery in the channel. Inspector French soon discovers a world of high-powered banking, luxury yachts and international double-dealing. British and French coastal towns, harbours—and of course the Channel itself—provide an alluring backdrop to this nautical adventure, along with a cast of shady characters.

CROFTS, FREEMAN WILLS 12:30 FROM CROYDON (\$25) First published in 1934. 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?

DARD, FREDERIC CRUSH (\$13.95) Bored with her mundane factory job, her nagging mother and her alcoholic father-in-law, Louise is captivated by a glamorous American couple who move to her industrial hometown in Northern France. The Roolands' home is an island of colour, good humour and easy living in drab 1950s Léopoldville, and soon Louise is working there as a maid. But once she is under her new employers' roof their model life starts to fall apart—painful secrets from their past emerge, cracks in their relationship appear and a dark obsession begins to grow, which will end in murder...

DAZIERI, SANDRONE KILL THE FATHER (\$22.00) When a woman is beheaded in a park outside Rome and her six-year-old son goes missing, the police unit assigned to the case arrest the woman's husband and await his confession. But the city's Chief of Major Crimes has his doubts and assigns two of Italy's top analytical minds to the case: Deputy Captain Colomba Caselli, a fierce, warrior-like detective still reeling from a horrific mass killing she survived, and Dante Torre, a man who spent his childhood trapped inside a concrete silo. Fed through the gloved hand of a masked kidnapper who called himself "the Father," Dante emerged from his ordeal with crippling claustrophobia but, also, with an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. All evidence suggests that the Father is back at work and wants a reunion with Dante. But when Colomba and Dante begin unraveling the truth, they find themselves wanted for murder. Now Dante and Colomba must confront the question that may solve it all: what lies beneath the water in a remote Italian quarry? And what might that revelation mean for ten children who have recently gone missing? Originally published in Italian this is the first in a new series.

DORSEY, TIM serge storms COCONUT COWBOY (#19) (\$12.50) Florida's favorite trigger-happy, shoot-from-the-hip vigilante history teacher is back—and he has a few scores to settle. Serge A. Storms is hitting the road. Inspired by the classic biker flick *Easy Rider*, the irrepressible trivia buff and his drug-addled travel buddy, Coleman, head out on a motorcycle tour down the length of the Sunshine State, on a mission to rediscover the lost era of the American Dream. But going from small town to small town, they discover that some have lost much of their former charm—including one particular hamlet of sleazy rural politicians hell-bent on keeping prying eyes out of their ineptly corrupt style of local government. Serge and Coleman engage in some high-life hijinks, complete with the state's trademark crop of jerks, lethal science experiments, drug kingpins, double-crosses, unearthed bodies, barbecue, and groovy tunes. And when a few innocent newcomers stumble into the mix, the stakes are raised to new backwoods heights.

DOYLE/CORNELL, PAUL shadow police WHO KILLED SHERLOCK HOLMES? (#3) (\$18.99) The third book in the Shadow Police series continuing from London Falling (#1) (\$9.99) and The Severed Streets (#2) (\$12.99). Someone has murdered the ghost of Sherlock Holmes. As a fictional character remembered by the people of London, Holmes' ghost walked the city, and now someone has put a ceremonial dagger through his chest. What could be the motive? The small team of Metropolitan Police detectives who have The Sight find themselves pursuing a criminal genius who soon lures them into a Sherlockian maze of too many clues and too much evidence.

DOYLE/KING, LAURIE R russell MARY RUSSELL'S WAR ss (\$23.99) Since the first book-length "memoir" appeared in 1994, the partnership of young Mary Russell and her more famous partner, Sherlock Holmes, has excited a community of readers, young and old. This collection of nine short stories, seven of which have never previously been available in print, and one brand new one, finally brings them together. Includes and "Appreciation" by noted Sherlockian **Leslie S. Klinger**. From a novella composed of Mary Russell's teenage diaries to the story of how, in her nineties, Miss Russell came to send her Memoirs to **Laurie R. King**, from Mrs. Hudson's own investigation to a tale of young Russell's beloved Uncle Jake, and a Christmas investigation by Sherlock Holmes and his very young assistant.

EASTER, PATRICK CUCKOLD POINT (#4) (\$25.00) An expensive British import. October, 1799. A century is coming to an end, but river policeman Tom Pascoe's work is never done. A new case in London's Docks holds danger not just for Tom but for the nation. Sailing master Robert Cox cannot pay his gambling debts. But he has information about a ship which has arrived in British waters carrying a precious cargo. Selling that information to one of London's most feared men might be Robert Cox's salvation or his damnation. Elsewhere in the warren of streets and waterways, Tom and his assistant Sam Hart are tipped off about a robbery. Their inquiries take them to London's secretive Jewish community, where a dealer admits to being told that a quantity of silk is about to come on the market. When Robert Cox goes missing and powerful men from London's underworld and beyond begin to hunt for the silk, Tom finds himself investigating not just a crime but a conspiracy that will threaten his life, his family and his country. The first three in the series are available from a Canadian distributor: Watermen (#1) (\$15.99), River of Fire (#2) (\$16.99) and Rising Tide (#3) (\$15.99).

EDWARDS, MARTIN CRIMSON SNOW (\$19) Crimson Snow brings together a dozen vintage crime stories set in winter. Welcome to a world of Father Christmases behaving oddly, a famous fictional detective in a Yuletide drama, mysterious tracks in the snow, and some very unpleasant carol singers. There's no denying that the supposed season of goodwill is a time of year that lends itself to detective fiction. On a cold night, it's tempting to curl up by the fireside with a good mystery. And more than that, claustrophobic house parties, with people cooped up with long-estranged relatives, can provide plenty of motives for murder. Including forgotten stories by major writers such as **Margery Allingham**, as well as classic tales by less familiar crime novelists, each story in this selection is introduced by the leading expert on classic crime, **Martin Edwards**.

ELLIS, MARK merlin PRINCES GATE (#1) (\$24.00) Marian here: I don't know why JD only ordered two copies of this 'expensive British import' but we sold them both copies within the hour of arrival. And I wanted to read it!!!! Please order one so that he will get more in. It really does sound like a terrific new series. Here is what the publisher says: Princes Gate is the first in a new series of crime thrillers that involve 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 'phony war' when, although war rages on the Continent, life continues relatively peacefully in Britain, Princes Gate is an enthralling detective novel. Doesn't this sound intriguing?

ELLISON, J T FIELD OF GRAVES (\$11.99) All of Nashville is on edge with a serial killer on the loose. A madman is trying to create his own end-of-days apocalypse and the cops trying to catch him are almost as damaged as the killer. This novel reveals

the origins of some of the author's most famous creations: the haunted Lieutenant Taylor Jackson; her blunt, exceptional best friend, medical examiner Dr. Samantha Owens; and troubled FBI profiler Dr. John Baldwin. Together, they race the clock and their own demons to find the killer before he claims yet another victim. This dark, thrilling and utterly compelling novel will have readers on the edge of their seats, and Ellison's fans will be delighted with the revelations about their favorite characters.

EVANOVICH, STEPHANIE TOTAL PACKAGE (\$9.99) Heartthrob star quarterback Tyson Palmer has it all: a million-dollar arm, a winning season and the promise of a Superbowl ring. But more importantly, football's biggest star is the ultimate comeback kid. After an addiction to painkillers nearly derailed his career, Tyson got sober and went from zero to hero in the eyes of the public. But one person remains unconvinced: Dani Carr, a sports commentator with high ratings and following of her own. Dani can't forgive Tyson's transgressions or forget a single passionate night with him back in college. To make things worse, Tyson doesn't realize that the bombshell with huge ratings is the cute co-ed whose heart he once broke. But can a sports journalist trying to claw her way to the top and a quarterback who knows all about rock bottom make it to the Super Bowl without destroying each other? And what will happen when Tyson—riding high now that he's revived his career—realizes he needs to make an even more important comeback with Dani? Can he use his million-dollar moves to get past her defenses—or will she sideline him for good?.

FAIR, A A KNIFE SLIPPED (\$13.50) Lost for more than 75 years, this one was meant to be the second book in the series, but was shelved when **Erle Stanley Gardner's** publisher objected to (among other things) Bertha Cool's tendency to "talk tough, swear, smoke cigarettes, and try to gyp people." But this tale of adultery and corruption, of double-crosses and triple identities—however shocking for 1939—shines today as a glorious present from the past, a return to the heyday of private eyes and shady dames, of powerful criminals, crooked cops, blazing dialogue, and delicious plot twists. Donald Lam has never been cooler—not even when played by Frank Sinatra on the *U.S. Steel Hour of Mystery* in 1946. Bertha Cool has never been tougher.

FOWLER, CHRISTOPHER bryan BLEEDING HEART (#11) (\$25) Romain Curtis sneaks into St. George's Gardens one evening with his date, planning to show her the stars. A centuries-old burial ground, the small, quiet park is the perfect place to be alone. Yet the night takes a chilling turn when the two teenagers spy a strange figure rising from among the tombstones: a corpse emerging from the grave. Suffice it to say that wherever there's a dead man walking, Bryant and May and the Peculiar Crimes Unit are never far behind. The British paperback as no North American edition is in the offing.

FOWLER, CHRISTOPHER bryan BURNING MAN (#12) (\$25) In the week before Guy Fawkes Night, London's peaceful streets break out in sudden unrest. Enraged by a scandal involving a corrupt financier accused of insider trading, demonstrators are rioting outside the Findersbury Private Bank, chanting, marching, and growing violent. But when someone hurls a Molotov cocktail at the bank's front door, killing a homeless man on its steps, Bryant, May, and the rest of the Peculiar Crimes Unit is called in. Is this an act of protest gone terribly wrong? Or a devious, premeditated murder? The British paperback as no North American edition is in the offing.

FOX, SARAH music lovers DEATH IN A MAJOR (#2) (\$14.99) When Archibald Major, local big wig and nasty tyrant, drops dead at a post-concert reception, violinist Midori Bishop soon suspects foul play. Although Midori has no intention of getting involved in another murder investigation, that all changes when Jordan—her violin student and the victim's grandson—seeks her help convincing the police that the real killer is his uncle, a low-level criminal. As Midori digs into the victim's life, she discovers that he was a man who created discord at every turn, even within his own family, and there is no shortage of potential suspects. When someone close to Midori unexpectedly confesses to the crime, Midori must race to discover the identity of the true killer before an innocent person goes to jail for a crime they didn't commit...and before Midori herself becomes a victim in the killer's deadly encore.

FOX, SARAH music lovers DEAD RINGER (#1) (\$14.99) Orchestra practice hits the wrong chord when a fellow musician is found dead, and violinist (and now amateur sleuth) Midori Bishop finds herself investigating more than just a new concerto. Midori Bishop's life is hitting all the right notes. She has her dream job playing violin in the Point Grey Philharmonic Orchestra, and is embarking on a new relationship with the symphony's hot maestro. But when Midori finds a cellist strangled to death during a rehearsal, the maestro soon becomes the number-one suspect and Midori his only supporter. Midori sets out to prove the maestro's innocence, but soon discovers that he and many others have secrets they would rather keep hidden. For someone who was only a ringer—a temporary member of the orchestra—the dead cellist had certainly made a lot of enemies. And as the investigation takes Midori closer to the truth, the killer gears up for a grand finale—with Midori as the intended victim.

FRANK, PAT FORBIDDEN AREA (\$18.50) A young teenage couple having a

rendezvous one night on a beach in Florida suddenly sees a submarine emerge from the ocean. Armed soldiers disembark the vessel and a Buick drives off its landing ramp. For Henry Hazen, who is scheduled to ship out to an army training camp the next day, the sight leaves him uneasy, but he tells no one what he has witnessed...Katherine Hume is the only woman working for the Pentagon's Atomic Energy Commission. From intelligence they have gathered, she and her team are convinced the Russians are poised to conduct a nuclear attack on the U.S. on or shortly before Christmas. But convincing their superiors an attack is imminent is proving far more difficult than she could have imagined—even after several stealth fighter planes and their pilots go missing over the Gulf...Banker Robert Gumol sees all the signs that the big attack is finally coming. As a reluctant spy for the Russians, Gumol's loyalties lie more with his adopted country than his motherland. Deciding to take the next flight to Havana, he risks being executed by the Russians if his betrayal is discovered—but he's willing to put it all on the line for a chance at freedom. With the clock ticking, the fate of America hangs by a very thin thread. A classic of science fiction that is a cautionary tale of the dangers of nuclear power, Forbidden Area is as timely today as it was when it was first published in 1958.

FREEMAN, PHILIP celtic SACRIFICE (#2) (\$19.95) Someone is killing the nuns of Ireland. The grisly discovery of an elderly sister of Saint Brigid's monastery strangled, bled dry, and thrown into a bog is just the beginning. Soon a beautiful young nun is found decapitated and hung from a barren tree. It doesn't take long before the members of the struggling monastic community of Kildare realize that not only are the nuns being hunted by a serial killer, but the murderer is performing the gruesome slayings in the manner of the ancient druid sacrifices. Set in the turmoil of sixth-century Ireland, where ruthless tribal kings wage constant war for survival and the powerful religious order of the druids is threatened by the newly-arrived Christian church, the desperate task of finding the killer falls to Sister Deirdre, a young woman torn between the world of the monastery and her own druidic heritage. Unless Deirdre can find the killer before the cycle of sacrifices is complete, more of her friends will die, the monastery will face destruction, and the whole of Ireland may be plunged into civil war.

FRENCH, TANA dublin FAITHFUL PLACE (#3) (\$24) First published in 2010. Excellent. Back in 1985, Frank Mackey was a nineteen-year-old kid with a dream of escaping his family's cramped flat on Faithful Place and running away to London with his girl, Rosie Daly. But on the night they were supposed to leave, Rosie didn't show. Frank took it for granted that she'd dumped him—probably because of his alcoholic father, nutcase mother, and generally dysfunctional family. He never went home again. Neither did Rosie. Then, twenty-two years later, Rosie's suitcase shows up behind a fireplace in a derelict house on Faithful Place, and Frank, now a detective in the Dublin Undercover squad, is going home whether he likes it or not.

FUSCO, JOHN DOG BEACH (\$20) Leaving behind a successful career as a stunt double in Hong Kong to escape entanglements with the Chinese mafia, Louie Mo now makes his living in Los Angeles as a hired knee-breaker, putting fear into the hearts of people reneging on payments to investors. Troy, an aspiring director with NYU credentials and encyclopedic movie knowledge, is beginning to realize that he's made a deal with the devil by agreeing to direct a film for producer Avi Ghazaryan. When Avi's sketchy investors hire Louie to scare Troy into finishing their movie, Troy's reverence for film and keen eye save him from a beating when he recognizes Louie Mo as the stunt man extraordinaire he once was and begs Louie to take the lead role in the movie based on Troy's own pet screenplay. For Louie Mo, this chance at redemption might be his last. As his past catches up with him and his body becomes ever more broken down, he teams up with Troy in a race against the clock—and the bad guys—to pull off an impossible film of epic proportions.

GREANEY, MARK BACK BLAST (#5) (\$13.50) Court Gentry was the CIA's best agent. Until the day the Agency turned against him and put out a kill on sight order. That's when the enigmatic international assassin called the Gray Man was born—and Court has been working for himself ever since. Now, Court is back in Washington looking for answers. He's determined to find out what happened all those years ago that made the Agency turn against him. On his list to interrogate are his former partners and the men who sent him on his last mission. What he doesn't realize is that the questions that arose from that mission are still reverberating in the U.S. intelligence community, and he's stumbled onto a secret that powerful people want kept under wraps. And now, they have Court in their crosshairs. Court Gentry is used to having people on his trail, but this time, it's on U.S. soil—the last place he wants to be. Now, he'll have to find the answers to his fate while evading capture...and avoiding death

GRIPPANDO, JAMES swyteck GONE AGAIN (#13) (\$12.50) Sashi Burgette vanished three years ago on her way to school. The night after the teenager's disappearance, ex-con Dylan Reeves was stopped for drunk driving. An article of Sashi's clothing was found in his truck, and a police videotape of his drunken explanation under interrogation sealed his fate at trial. Now, just days from Reeves's execution, Sashi's

mother visits Jack Swyteck, doing pro bono work at the Freedom Institute, and delivers shocking news: “Sashi called me.” The police dismiss the call as a cruel hoax. The State Attorney refuses to consider the new evidence, insisting the case is closed. An innocent man may be executed and time is running out—unless his lawyers can locate Sashi. A man of principle who believes in justice, Jack jumps into the investigation. But nothing is what it appears to be. Not the victim. Not her alleged killer. And definitely not Sashi’s parents. As their gut-wrenching and hopelessly conflicting version of events unfolds in a Miami courtroom, it becomes clear there is something even more difficult to find than a long-missing girl...the truth.

HAAS, DEREK DIFFERENT LIE (#4) (\$19.95) Now a new dad, the infamous Silver Bear, aka Columbus, finds himself staying up late for feedings and changing diapers—all while leading the double life of a contract killer. The struggle is not with his conscience. He enjoys his gig. But a child forces him to weigh selfishness versus safety. Continue his line of work, and he’ll always wonder if he’s putting his child’s life at risk. His partner, Risina, serves as his fence. Like Columbus, she’s good at her job and likes doing it. An unusual take on working motherhood...When the next assignment comes in, both Columbus and Risina are surprised to find that the mark is another assassin: a brash, young killer named Castillo. Castillo is an assassin on the rise. Even Columbus is impressed by his tenacity and talent—and as he closes in on his target, he realizes that Castillo is a younger version of himself. It’s almost like looking in a mirror. Castillo has even studied Columbus’s work. But Columbus’s assignment is clear: kill the young man. However, Castillo learns that his hero and unwitting mentor has a family—a revelation with enormous ramifications.

HAMILTON, IAN COUTURIER OF MILAN (#9) (\$19.95) Ava attends London Fashion Week for the launch of the PÖ fashion line, one of the major investments she and her partners in the Three Sisters—May Ling Wong and Amanda Yee—have made during the last year. With the exponential expansion of the luxury-brand market in China, Ava and her partners are determined to see a young Chinese designer break out in Europe and North America and they go full out in London. The show is a success, but perhaps too much of one. It attracts the attention of Dominic Ventola, the principal partner in the luxury fashion conglomerate VLG. The women are invited to Milan to meet with Ventola and senior executives in his company. VLG offers to buy the Three Sisters’ stake in PÖ. Ava and her partners decline. A few days later, PÖ comes under attack in the fashion media and a large part of their customer base is pressured by VLG to abandon them. Ava decides to strike back and turns to Xu for assistance, leading to a confrontation between two of the world’s biggest global crime syndicates: the Camorra and the Triad.

HERRON, MICK slow horses REAL TIGERS (#3) (\$19.95) London: Slough House is the MI5 branch where disgraced operatives are reassigned after they’ve messed up too badly to be trusted with real intelligence work. The “Slow Horses,” as the failed spies of Slough House are called, are doomed to spend the rest of their careers pushing paper, but they all want back in on the action. When one of their own is kidnapped and held for ransom, the agents of Slough House must defeat the odds, overturning all expectations of their competence, to breach the top-notch security of MI5’s intelligence headquarters, Regent’s Park, and steal valuable intel in exchange for their comrade’s safety. The kidnapping is only the tip of the iceberg, however—the agents uncover a larger web of intrigue that involves not only a group of private mercenaries but the highest authorities in the Secret Service. After years spent as the lowest on the totem pole, the Slow Horses suddenly find themselves caught in the midst of a conspiracy that threatens not only the future of Slough House, but of MI5 itself.

HIEBERT, MICHAEL abe teal CLOSE TO THE BROKEN HEARTED (#2) (\$10.99) At twenty-two, Sylvie Carson has known a lifetime’s worth of trouble. When she was a child, her baby brother was shot to death by a man named Preacher Eli. Orphaned by her teens, Sylvie is now raising her own baby with no partner in sight. That’s why Leah Teal, Alvin, Alabama’s only detective, tries to stay patient when Sylvie calls the station day and night, always with some new false alarm. But now Preacher Eli is out of prison, moving back to town—and Sylvie’s panic is mounting. As far as the law goes, the old man has paid his dues—though Leah’s twelve-year-old son, Abe, strongly disagrees. Between that and his relentless curiosity about the daddy he hardly knew, Abe’s imagination is running in all directions lately. While Leah struggles with how much to tell him, she’s also concerned about Sylvie. Something tells her the girl might be a target after all. It’s a hunch that will be tested soon enough, as secrets and lies from both sides collide...

HIEKKAPELTO, KATI fekete EXILED (#2) (\$19.95) Anna Fekete returns to the Balkan village of her birth for a relaxing summer holiday. But when her purse is stolen and the thief is found dead on the banks of the river, Anna is pulled into a murder case. Her investigation leads straight to her own family, to closely guarded secrets concealing a horrendous travesty of justice that threatens them all. As layer after layer of corruption, deceit and guilt are revealed, Anna is caught up in the refugee crisis spreading like

wildfire across Europe. How long will it take before everything explodes? Chilling, taut, relevant...a thriller from one of Finland's most celebrated crime writers.

HURLEY, GRAHAM suttle ORDER OF THINGS (#4) (\$15.99) D/S Jimmy Suttle is called to a brutal murder in the picturesque Devon village of Lympstone. Harriet Reilly, a local GP, has been found disembowelled in the bedroom of her partner, climate scientist Alois Bentner. Suttle's estranged wife, Lizzie, has abandoned Portsmouth, moved to Exeter and returned to journalism, hearing rumours of a local GP offering mercy killings to patients meeting certain criteria. The name of the GP is Harriet Reilly. So begins two investigations of the same crime. Operation Buzzard, with D/S Suttle at its heart, and Lizzie, piecing together her own version of the events that led to Harriet Reilly's death.

JAFFARIAN, SUE ANN granny GHOSTS OF MISTY HOLLOW (#6) (\$10.99)

The author of Ghost in the Guacamole (#5) (\$9.99) returns as a spiritual medium and her spectral sidekick encounter murder and mystery in a Massachusetts farmhouse...

JANCE, J A ali reynolds CLAWBACK (#11) (\$12.99) Ali Reynolds faces her most controversial mystery yet: the murder of a man whose Ponzi scheme bankrupted hundreds of people, and left them seeking justice...or revenge. When Ali's parents lose their life savings to a Ponzi scheme, her father goes to confront his longtime friend and financial advisor, only to stumble upon the scene of a bloody double homicide. With her father suddenly a prime suspect, Ali and her husband work to clear his name and seek justice for her parents, as well as the rest of the scheme's suddenly impoverished victims. But if Ali's father is innocent, that can mean only one thing: one of the others is a stone cold killer.

KAVANAGH, EMMA MISSING HOURS (\$15.99) A woman disappears. One moment, Selena Cole is in the playground with her children and the next, she has vanished without a trace. Twenty hours later, Selena is found safe and well, but with no memory of where she has been. What took place in those missing hours, and are they linked to the discovery of a nearby murder?

KELLERMAN, JONATHAN delaware BREAKDOWN (#31) (\$13.50) Psychologist Dr. Alex Delaware meets beautiful and emotionally fragile TV actress Zelda Chase when called upon to evaluate her five-year-old son, Ovid. Years later, Alex is unexpectedly reunited with Zelda when she is involuntarily committed after a bizarre psychotic episode. Shortly after Zelda's release, an already sad situation turns tragic when she is discovered dead on the grounds of a palatial Bel Air estate. Having experienced more than enough of L.A.'s dark side to recognize the scent of evil, Alex turns to his friend LAPD Lieutenant Milo Sturgis for help in finding out who ended Zelda's broken life. At the same time, Alex is caught up in another quest: the search for Zelda's missing son. And when other victims vanish from the same upscale neighborhood, worry turns to terror.

KELLY, DIANE paw ABOVE THE PAW (#5) (\$10.99) When a rash of college students falls seriously ill after ingesting Molly, a "club drug" also known as ecstasy, Officer Megan Luz and her K-9 partner Brigit are tasked with tracking down the dealers. Going undercover at the university leads Megan closer and closer to infiltrating the drug trafficking ring. But when the investigation implicates her former partner and workplace nemesis, Officer Derek Mackey, Megan's powers of discernment are put to the test. Thwarted when the Feds seize control of the investigation and frustrated by the lack of attention the DEA is putting into the case, Megan continues her own unofficial investigation with Brigit's help. But when the trail leads them in an unexpected and dangerous direction, Megan and Brigit find their own lives at risk. Can the K-9 team take down those in power? Or are some criminals simply above the law - and paw?

LACKBERG, CAMILLA hedstrom ICE CHILD (#9) (\$11.99) The new psychological thriller featuring Detective Patrick Hedstrom and Erica Falck—irresistible for fans of **Stieg Larsson** and **Jo Nesbo**.

LAWRENCE, MARY bianca DEATH AT ST. VEDAST (#3) (\$16.95) During the tempestuous reign of Henry VIII, London alchemist Bianca Goddard has seen up close what keeps a man alive—and what can kill him. A good thing, for she will need all her knowledge to keep a friend away from the gallows...Bianca and her husband John are delighted to share in the glad fortune of their friend, Boisvert, the silversmith, who is to wed Odile, the wealthy widow of a goldsmith. But a pall is cast over the upcoming nuptials when the body of a pregnant woman is found beneath the bell tower of St. Vedast, the very church where the betrothed are to be married. Tragedy strikes again at the couple's reception, when Odile suddenly drops dead in the middle of the wedding feast. The constable suspects Boisvert poisoned his new bride for her money, but there's not a trace of poison in her food or wine. Could the two deaths be connected? To prove their friend's innocence, Bianca will need to employ her knowledge of alchemy—for if she can determine *how* the bride was killed, she may find the person responsible for her murder—before another victim is added to the death toll . . .

LEE, AMANDA stitching BETTER OFF THREAD (#10) (\$10.99) Marcy is busy helping her customers make hand-crafted ornaments at her embroidery shop, the Seven-

Year Stitch. But despite the yuletide bustle, when her friend Captain Moe asks for her help, she can't refuse—especially when the favor is to play the elf to his Santa for sick children at a local hospital. Despite the ridiculous outfit, Marcy finds herself enjoying spreading cheer—until the hospital's administrator is found murdered. Although the deceased had plenty of people willing to fill her stocking with coal, evidence pins the crime on Moe. Now it's up to Marcy, with the help of her police officer boyfriend Ted and her Irish Wolfhound Angus, to stitch together the clues to clear Moe's name—before someone else winds up crossed off Santa's list for good...

LEHANE, DENNIS coughlin LIVE BY NIGHT (#2) (\$12.50 mass market, \$21 trade) An epic, unflinching tale of the making and unmaking of a gangster in the Prohibition Era of the Roaring Twenties—now a Warner Bros. movie starring Ben Affleck, Elle Fanning, Zoe Saldana, and Sienna Miller. The story of one man's rise from Boston petty thief to the Gulf Coast's most successful rum runner. Sequel to Given Day (#1) (\$21).

LETOILE, JAMES AT WHAT COST (\$22.95) What would you do to save your child? Detective John Penley and his new partner, Detective Paula Newberry, of the Sacramento Police Department are tasked with leading the investigation into a local serial killer who has dumped three bodies in the past six weeks and all of them are missing their internal organs. But while pursuing a lead, the detectives stumble upon a personal message the killer left behind for Penley. And it's attached to a human kidney. How could the killer know Penley's son is on the kidney transplant waiting list? Now Penley's baited into an impossible trap that could jeopardize his entire career. Will the detective take down the killer and place his faith in the medical establishment to heal his son? Or, will he make a deal with the devil for the transplant organ his son needs to live?

MACCALLIN/MCCALLIN, LUKE reinhardt DIVIDED CITY (#3) (\$22) A year after Germany's defeat, Reinhardt has been hired back onto Berlin's civilian police force. The city is divided among the victorious allied powers, but tensions are growing, and the police are riven by internal rivalries as factions within it jockey for power and influence with Berlin's new masters. When a man is found slain in a broken-down tenement, Reinhardt embarks on a gruesome investigation. It seems a serial killer is on the loose, and matters only escalate when it's discovered that one of the victims was the brother of a Nazi scientist. Reinhardt's search for the truth takes him across the divided city and soon embroils him in a plot involving the Western Allies and the Soviets. And as he comes under the scrutiny of a group of Germans who want to continue the war—and faces an unwanted reminder from his own past—Reinhardt realizes that this investigation could cost him everything as he pursues a killer who believes that all wrongs must be avenged...

MACDERMID/MCDERMID, VAL tony hill SPLINTER THE SILENCE (#9) (\$14.99) Is it violence if it's virtual? The outspoken women targeted by the increasingly cruel Internet trolls and bullies would say so. For some of them, the torrents of bile and vicious threats prove too much. They begin to silence themselves in a series of high-profile suicides. Or do they? Tony Hill isn't convinced. But he's the only one. After departing from the force in a storm of grief, Carol Jordan is too busy messing up her life to care. Until she gets an unexpected second chance. Now it's game on, and the stakes have never been higher...a timely and disturbing look at the way the anonymity of the Internet enables abuse.

MARINOVICH, MATT WINTER GIRL (\$22) It's wintertime in the Hamptons, where a young couple, Scott and his wife, Elise, are staying at the home of her terminally ill father, awaiting the inevitable. As weeks turn to months, the fault lines in their marriage start to show and Scott, bored and left to his own devices, decides to sneak into the seemingly vacant house next door. Exhilarated by his transgression, he soon convinces Elise to join him for a return visit, but their decision leads to a shocking discovery. As deep-buried secrets come to the fore and it becomes clear that things are not as they seem, Scott and Elise soon find themselves trapped in a deliriously wicked spiral of infidelity and violence.

MARSTON, EDWARD rawson VERY MURDERING BATTLE (#5) (\$17.99) It is 1709, and Europe is in the midst of the coldest winter for a century. France is suffering profoundly: with her people starving and her army rattled by mutiny and desertions, King Louis XIV is at The Hague, searching for peace with the English on almost any terms. To assist these negotiations, the Duke of Marlborough sends Captain Daniel Rawson on a dangerous mission to Paris to seek out a package of vital information that could secure an advantageous peace deal for England. Yet when the peace talks collapse, Daniel is again embroiled in a dangerous adventure behind enemy lines. As the French army regains its strength and a bloody encounter looms at Malplaquet, Daniel faces his most murdering battle yet.

MARTIN, MIKE LONG WAYS FROM HOME (\$28) A weekend visit to picturesque Newfoundland by a large crew of outlaw bikers leaves behind another mess for Sgt. Windflower to clean up. This time he's facing violence, murder, mystery and in-

trigue. This adventure has Windflower questioning everything he thought he knew. There are troubles on the home front, cutbacks in the policing budget, old friends leaving and new ones not quite here yet. Windflower is seeking to find answers in territory that is both dangerous and unfamiliar. This instalment in the Sgt. Windflower Mystery series has our hero dashing from the Southeast shores of Newfoundland to the West Coast and Great Northern Peninsula, all the way back to the scene of the crime in the otherwise calm town of Grand Falls in the middle of the Island. No matter how far he is from home, the quest to bring the culprits to justice must continue.

MOORE, JONATHAN POISON ARTIST (\$20.95) Caleb Maddox is a San Francisco toxicologist studying the chemical effects of pain. He's out drinking after a bad breakup when a hauntingly seductive woman sits down at his side. He talks to Emmeline over absinthe, but their encounter is fleeting. She brushes her lips on his ear and disappears. He must find her. As Caleb scours the city, he begins helping the city's medical examiner with a serial-murder investigation. Soon the search for the killer entwines with Caleb's hunt for Emmeline, and the closer he gets to each, the more dangerous his world becomes. Marian said: I tried Absinthe once when I visiting Prague to run the Prague Marathon. And I really did see "The Green Fairy"!

MUGAVERO, LIZ pawsitively CUSTOM BAKED MURDER (#5) (\$8.99) Summer is winding down in Frog Ledge, Connecticut, but Stan's love life and career are both heating up nicely. In between planning her new pet patisserie and café, Stan is settling into living-in-bliss with sexy pub owner Jake McGee. Love's on the menu for Stan's mom, Patricia, too, who's engaged to Frog Ledge's mayor, Tony Falco. Mayor Falco's dogged ambition isn't popular among locals, but it's his executive coach, Eleanor Chang, who's inspired a dangerous grudge. When Eleanor is found dead, there's a whole pack of suspects to choose from. Stan has first-hand experience of Eleanor's unsavory business tactics. But finding out who forced her to take a fatal plunge off the corporate ladder means unearthing some shady secrets...and a killer who's too close for comfort. Includes Gourmet Pet Food Recipes!

NALLY, JAMES lynch DANCE WITH THE DEAD (#2) (\$16.99) Aspiring actress Elizabeth Smart lands her centre stage role: her mutilated body is found dumped in North London's red light district. Clashed in her hand is a piece of human hair belonging to an unidentified body of a woman murdered two weeks earlier. PC Donal lands himself a place on the murder squad just as his unconventional brother, journalist Finton, unearths the secret double life of Elizabeth. The bodies mount, each clinging to the strands of hair belonging to the previous victim. The police are convinced it's the act of a serial killer. But how does Donal convince them it's not? The only people he can trust are the victims he dances with in his dreams.

NAUGHTIE, JAMES PARIS SPRING (\$17.95) In a city alive with talk of revolution, Will Flemyng finds himself in the thick of the action, a young spy whose first adventures behind the Iron Curtain have already given him a secret glamour. But now he gets news that threatens the closest and most complicated relationship in his life, with his younger brother. In the unforgettable weeks of a crisis that claims blood and tests his deepest loyalties, Flemyng lives and loves the tumult of a city in which his private fears teach him the secrets that lie beneath the raucous politics of the streets. Sequel to The Madness of July (#1) (\$15.99).

PAGE, KATHERINE HALL fait BODY IN THE WARDROBE (#23) (\$9.99) Attorney Sophie Maxwell has come to Savannah to be with her new husband, Will. But nothing throws cold water on a hot relationship faster than a dead body. Worse for Sophie, no one believes the body she knows she saw is real. Will is spending an awful lot of time in Atlanta on a case he claims is urgent, and she's been tasked with house hunting for them with his former sweetheart, who Sophie can't help but suspect wishes Sophie would return to her Yankee roots! Fortunately, Sophie has a good friend in Faith Fairchild.

PAGE, SHARON WORTHINGTON WIFE (\$18.99) Lady Julia Hazelton is the most dazzling among 1920s England's bright, young things. But rather than choosing the thrill of wanton adventure like so many of her contemporaries, Julia shocks society with her bold business aspirations. Determined to usher the cursed Worthington estate into a prosperous, modern new era, and thus preserve her beloved late fiancé's legacy, the willful Julia tackles her wildest, most unexpected adventure in Cal Carstairs, the reluctant new Earl of Worthington. The unconventional American artist threatens everything Julia seeks to protect while stirring desires she thought had died in the war. For reasons of his own, Cal has designed the ultimate revenge. Rather than see the estate prosper, he intends to destroy it. But their impulsive marriage—one that secures Julia's plans as well as Cal's secrets—proves that passion is ambition's greatest rival. Unless Cal ends his quest to satisfy his darkest vendetta, he stands to ruin his Worthington wife and all her glittering dreams.

PAINA, CORRADO BETWEEN ROTHKO AND 3 WINDOWS (\$18) Set in Toronto and Milan...Luigi Sasta, editor in chief of the moribund Italian language daily, *Stampa Italica*, is caught in his own existential vortex in a kind of no man's land that is the city

of Toronto. Nearing retirement age and suffering from periodic angina attacks, widowed for eleven years, estranged from his beloved daughter, unable to forge lasting friendships in the New World, Luigi meanders on the streets of Toronto, at once seduced and repelled by the steel and glass temples of commerce, longing for a return to some Arcadian homeland that seems to exist only in his fevered imagination.

PARK, TONY FAR HORIZON (\$15.99) A bloody and tragic run-in with ivory hunters in Mozambique left Mike Williams, former Australian Army officer, in despair. A year on, the authorities are on the poachers' trail and need his help to catch them. Now, as an overland tour guide, he must choose between his duty to keep the young tourists in his care safe, and his hunger for retribution. Thrown into the mix is tenacious English journalist Sarah Thatcher, who is determined to cover the story. She'll risk anything and anyone for a scoop, but little does she realize the danger that lies ahead. The murderous hunters and the innocent travelers are on a parallel journey through Africa's most spectacular locations. Eventually their paths will cross and Mike will have his shot at revenge. But at what cost?

PATTERSON, JAMES CHRISTMAS MYSTERY (\$5.99) A BookShots quick read written with **Richard DiLallo**. Have yourself a scary little Christmas. In the heart of the holiday season, priceless paintings have vanished from a Park Avenue murder scene. Now, dashing French detective Luc Moncrief must become a quick study in the art of the steal—before a coldblooded killer paints the town red. Merry Christmas, Detective. Novels you can devour in a few hours.

PATTERSON, JAMES BLACK & BLUE (\$5.99) A BookShots quick read written with **Candice Fox**. Is Harriet Blue as great a detective as Lindsay Boxer? Harriet Blue, the most single-minded detective since Lindsay Boxer, won't rest until she stops a savage killer targeting female university students. But new clues point to a more chilling predator than she ever could have imagined. Novels you can devour in a few hours.

PATTERSON, JAMES PRIVATE: THE ROYALS (\$5.99) A BookShots quick read written with **Rees Jones**. Private is the most elite detective agency in the world. But when kidnappers threaten to execute a Royal Family member in front of the Queen, Jack Morgan and his team have just 24 hours to stop them. Or heads will roll...literally. Novels you can devour in a few hours.

PATTERSON, JAMES MURDER HOUSE (\$12.99) No. 7 Ocean Drive is a gorgeous, multi-million-dollar beachfront estate in the Hamptons, where money and privilege know no bounds. But its beautiful gothic exterior hides a horrific past: it was the scene of a series of depraved killings that have never been solved. Neglected, empty, and rumored to be cursed, it's known as the Murder House, and locals keep their distance. Detective Jenna Murphy used to consider herself a local, but she hasn't been back since she was a girl. Trying to escape her troubled past and rehabilitate a career on the rocks, the former New York City cop hardly expects her lush and wealthy surroundings to be a hotbed of grisly depravity. But when a Hollywood power broker and his mistress are found dead in the abandoned Murder House, the gruesome crime scene rivals anything Jenna experienced in Manhattan. And what at first seems like an open and shut case turns out to have as many shocking secrets as the Murder House itself, as Jenna quickly realizes that the mansion's history is much darker than even the town's most salacious gossips could have imagined. As more bodies surface, and the secret that Jenna has tried desperately to escape closes in on her, she must risk her own life to expose the truth—before the Murder House claims another victim.

PATTERSON, JAMES private GAMES (#11) (\$20.99) Beautiful white-sand beaches, gorgeous women, and stunning natural beauty. Sounds like heaven on earth, but to Jack Morgan, head of the renowned international security firm Private, it's a place where threats are coming fast and furious. As summer reaches full swing, prominent clients he's supposed to protect are disappearing and bodies mysteriously start to litter the streets. The countdown to a deadly spectacle has begun. Jack must fight his way deep into the heart of a ruthless underworld and stop his most destructive enemies ever. Before their dark plan can reach its catastrophic end.

PRESTON & CHILD crew BEYOND THE ICE LIMIT (#4) (\$10.49) Five years ago, the mysterious and inscrutable head of Effective Engineering Solutions, Eli Glinn, led a mission to recover a gigantic meteorite, the largest ever discovered, from a remote island off the coast of South America. The mission ended in disaster when their ship, the Rolvaag, foundered in a vicious storm in the Antarctic waters and broke apart, sinking, along with its unique cargo—to the ocean floor. One hundred and eight crew members perished, and Eli Glinn was left paralyzed.

But this was not all. The tragedy revealed something truly terrifying: the meteorite they tried to retrieve was not, in fact, simply a rock. Instead, it was a complex organism from the deep reaches of space. Now, that organism has implanted itself in the sea bed two miles below the surface—and it is growing. If it is not destroyed, the planet will be doomed. There is only one hope: for Glinn and his team to annihilate it, a task which requires Gideon's expertise with nuclear weapons. But as Gideon and his colleagues

soon discover, the "meteorite" has a mind of its own and it has no intention of going quietly

ROLLINS, JAMES sigma force SEVENTH PLAGUE (#11) (\$21.99) If the biblical plagues of Egypt truly happened—could they happen again—on a global scale? Two years after vanishing into the Sudanese desert, the leader of a British archeological expedition, Professor Harold McCabe, comes stumbling out, but he dies before he can tell his story. The mystery deepens when an autopsy uncovers a bizarre corruption: someone had begun to mummify the professor's body—while he was still alive. Professor McCabe had vanished while searching for proof of the ten plagues of Moses. And when the medical team who performed the man's autopsy falls ill with an unknown disease, a disturbing question arises: Are those plagues starting again?

ROLLINS, JAMES tucker WAR HAWK (#2) (\$12.50) Former Army Ranger Tucker Wayne and his war dog Kane's past and present collide when a former army colleague comes to him for help. She's on the run from brutal assassins hunting her and her son. To keep them safe, Tucker must discover who killed a brilliant young idealist—a crime that leads back to the most powerful figures in the U.S. government. From the haunted ruins of a plantation in the deep South to the beachheads of a savage civil war in Trinidad, Tucker and Kane must discover the truth behind a mystery that leads back to World War II, to a true event that is even now changing the world . . . and will redefine what it means to be human.

ROSS, BARBARA clambake ICED UNDER (#5) (\$8.99) The snow is deep in Maine's Busman's Harbor and the mighty rivers are covered in ice. Snowden Family Clambake Company proprietor Julia Snowden and her mother, Jacqueline, are hunkered down for the winter when a mysterious package arrives—heating up February with an unexpected case of murder. . . Inside the mystery package is an enormous black diamond necklace that once belonged to Julia's great-grandmother and disappeared in the 1920s. Who could have sent it—and why? Julia's search for clues takes her on a perilous journey through her mother's troubled family history, from a squabble over the family fortune in "frozen water" to the recent unexplained death of Jacqueline's long-lost cousin Hugh—who'd been missing and presumed drowned for more than forty years. To protect her mother's inheritance, Julia must fend off a small army of feuding relatives, solve the mystery surrounding Hugh's demise, and get back home before the next blizzard buries them all . . .

SCHEPP, EMELIE MARKED FOR LIFE (\$11.99) When the head of immigration is shot dead, suspects quickly emerge. But no one can account for the mysterious child-size fingerprints at the scene. Public prosecutor Jana Berzelius steps in to lead the investigation. Young and brilliant but emotionally cold, Berzelius, like her famous prosecutor father, is not swayed by the devious widow or threats of blackmail. She is steely, aloof, impenetrable. Until the boy. . . On a nearby shore, the drug-riddled body of a young teen is found along with a murder weapon. Reviewing his autopsy, Berzelius sees something hauntingly familiar. . . Carved deeply into his flesh are initials that scream child trafficking—and trigger in her a flash of recognition from her own nightmarish childhood. Now, to protect herself and keep her dark past a secret, she must solve the crimes and find the depraved mastermind first. . . before the police do.

SHIGEKUNI, JULIE IN PLAIN VIEW (\$22.95) Daidai and her husband Hiroshi have what many of their friends believe is a perfect life. Daidai has recently left her job as curator of the Japanese American Museum in Los Angeles's Little Tokyo so that she and Hiroshi, a university professor, can try for a baby. Frustrated by their lack of success so far, and by their increasingly clinical love life, Daidai befriends Satsuki, one of Hiroshi's graduate students. Newly arrived from Japan, Satsuki clings to her friendship to Daidai and quickly becomes a mainstay in their household. Spurred by a revelation concerning Satsuki's estranged mother and a disturbing trip to Japan where Daidai discovered Satsuki's father was engaged in illegal, and illicit, activities, Daidai begins to seriously question Satsuki's seemingly innocent connection to three possible murders. Daidai's concerns about Satsuki are dismissed as jealousy by her husband until Daidai's investigation will lead to a harrowing confrontation between the two women, and Satsuki's true intentions will be revealed.

SIMENON, GEORGES MY FRIEND MAIGRET (\$16) Three vintage Maigret novels. . . o. In My Friend Maigret, Inspector Maigret investigates the murder of a small-time crook on a Mediterranean island. Told in spare, unsentimental prose, Inspector Cadaver is a haunting exploration of provincial hypocrisy and snobbery, in which Maigret encounters a rival sleuth from his past. In Maigret and the Man on the Boulevard, Simenon's tenacious detective pieces together the life of a man who for three years lived a secret life—until he is found stabbed to death in an alleyway.

STAALESEN, GUNNAR veum WHERE ROSES NEVER DIE (#17) (\$25) September 1977. Mette Misvær, a three-year-old girl, disappears without trace from the sandpit outside her home. Her tiny, close middle-class community in the tranquil suburb of Nordas is devastated, but their enquiries and the police produce nothing. Curtains twitch, suspicions are raised, but Mette is never found. Almost 25 years later, as the ex-

piration date for the statute of limitations draws near, Mette's mother approaches PI Varg Veum, in a last, desperate attempt to find out what happened to her daughter. As Veum starts to dig, he uncovers an intricate web of secrets, lies and shocking events that have been methodically concealed. When another brutal incident takes place, a pattern begins to emerge. Chilling, shocking and full of extraordinary twists and turns...

TEMPLE, PETER *irish* DEAD POINT (#3) (\$21.95) The woman in Jack Irish's life has reconnected with an old flame, and Jack's mind is not fully on the job he's being paid to do: find Robbie Colburn. But when he does get serious, Jack finds his target is of great interest to some powerful people, with some very bad habits and little respect for the criminal justice system. First published in 2000. An excellent series.

THOMSON, LESLEY *stella* HOUSE WITH NO ROOMS (#4) (\$19.95) The summer of 1976 was the hottest in living memory. In the Botanical Gardens at Kew, a lost little girl stumbled upon a deserted gallery. Dizzied by the heat, she thought she saw a woman lying dead on the ground. But when she opened her eyes, the woman had gone. Forty years later, Stella Darnell, the detective's daughter, is investigating a chilling new case. What she uncovers will draw her into the obsessive world of botany, and towards an unsolved murder that has lain dormant for decades.

TUOMAINEN, ANTTI MINE (\$19.95) In the dead of winter, investigative reporter Janne Vuori sets out to uncover the truth about a mining company, whose illegal activities have created an environmental disaster in a small town in Northern Finland. When the company's executives begin to die in a string of mysterious accidents, and Janne's personal life starts to unravel, past meets present in a catastrophic series of events that could cost him his life. A traumatic story of family, a study in corruption, and a shocking reminder that secrets from the past can return to haunt us, with deadly results.

WILSON, SAM ZODIAC (\$16.99) In a society divided along Zodiac lines, status is cast at birth—and binding for life. Who you are can be determined by a matter of days, hours, even minutes. Even for the most experienced detectives, every once in a while, a murder can shake them to the core. Like when the Chief of Police is killed in his own home. For Detective Jerome Burton, catching the killer will change his life forever. Because this murder is only the first piece of a vast and twisted puzzle made of secrets, lies and tragedy. The signs are everywhere. But is the truth written in the stars or hiding in the shadows?

WRIGHT, ERICA GRANITE MOTH (\$19.95) It begins with a bang: Kathleen Stone is watching her friend Dolly and his fellow drag queens from The Pink Parrot perform at the Halloween Parade when their float explodes. Suspecting foul play, The Pink Parrot's owner, Big Mamma, hires Kat to find the culprit. Meanwhile, Kat has not given up on her quest to bring gangster Salvatore Magrelli to justice and once more dons a disguise to infiltrate The Skyview, an exclusive club run by his wife, Eva. When she watches the club's poker dealer drop dead during a high-stakes game, she decides to look into his death as well. Upon discovering that he was also gay, she suspects that this murder could be a hate crime connected to the parade explosion. However, as Kat digs deeper, she realizes that the truth is much more complicated and the real villains are much more difficult to spot.