



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

November 2017

In the October newsletter I had implored y'all to go have a look at our Online website and I had promised you that searching for and orderings books through that gateway would be fun and easy once you spent the few minutes required to set up an account. Judging by the deluge of orders that we got that way, my beseeching you, well, was not spectacularly successful. But, I'm of the if-at-first-you-don't-succeed school, so, you'll find the November list on the site and maybe a few more of you will have a look. Once again, if you have any problems, call and we'll walk you through it and if you have any comments, especially negative ones, call us for sure.

I don't suppose many of you read the Huffington Post on a regular basis. I do not, although I do get directed there from time to time, but after reading the following, I think I will make a point of going there more often.

Here's a bit from an article I came across recently: Former high-level officials and scientists with deep black experience—another topic to look up—who have always remained in the shadows came forward on one platform. These insiders have long-standing connections to government agencies which may have programs investigating unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP/UFOs). The purpose of the platform, called To The Stars Academy of Arts & Science (TTS/AAS), will be to advance research into unexplained phenomena and develop related technology. According to a TTS /AAS statement, its team members who have been "operating under the shadows of top-secrecy for decades" believe that "there is sufficient credible evidence of UAP that proves exotic technologies exist that could revolutionize the human experience." One member stated that they are "planning to provide never before released footage from real US Government systems...not blurry, amateur photos, but real data and real videos."

It seems that UFOs are real, other intelligent beings exist and they have visited us. And that some of the footage from US military sources is pretty amazing stuff. I, for one, look forward to seeing all this. Of course, it's possible that next week I'll read that this was all a joke.

Here's the link to the Huffpost.com entry: (https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/fmr-manager-of-dod-aerospace-threat-program-ufos_us_59de2f4be4b0b992a8214874?section=us_weird-news),

The Merchant of Menace,

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Postage & Handling

In a word: Actual

Hours of Business

Thursday to Saturday: 10 to 6

Sunday: Noon - 4pm

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
& Statutory Holidays: Closed

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

Did you know that sheep have advanced face-recognition abilities, comparable with those of humans and monkeys? Yup, true dat. The University of Cambridge scientists who have been doing this research hope it may help with understanding neurodegenerative diseases. Go science.

As you can see, I have nothing really important to tell you—just trying to fill in a few paragraphs—so, I'll stop.

Although I have bitched and complained vociferously about BoucherCon and all the stress and work that went into getting it organized and de-organized, one real positive was that I discovered a number of interesting new authors. Over the next few issues I'll tell you about others as I read them. The end of golf season is nigh, so I'll have more time to read.

JD's Picks

One new author to me was **ALEXANDRA SOKOLOFF**. She has written five novels in her Huntress/FBI series and Hunger Moon (#5) (\$22.95) was just sitting there calling out to be picked up. So, I did. Gave it the first paragraph test and, I was well into the story before I re-surfaced. This is an excellent thriller. Dark, and violent, lots of blood and death, yes, but readable and entertaining. Even the slight supernatural aspect is not off putting. If you don't mind the supernatural in **John Connolly's** Parker novels, if you don't object to the vigilante approach of **Jeff Lindsay's** Dexter novels, if you are not put off by the **Robert B. Parker** short chapters, then you'll like this one.

The background to the story is violence against women. The rape culture that exists on campuses, in society. The impunity with which rapists carry on their vile, evil, trade. The trafficking of women and children. Someone has had enough and becomes a hunter of these revolting, disgusting creatures. A group organizes on the internet and a coordinated "attack" is planned against US colleges where such incidences happen with shocking regularity and with seeming indifference of administrators. Starting at the end of the series didn't seem to matter very much, but I do plan on stocking the earlier entries in the series.

Saw **J. ROBERT JANES**, author of the St. Cyr and Kohler novels at the convention. You might remember him and his "team" of Insp. Jean-Louis St-Cyr of the Surete and his Nazi controller/shadow, Gestapo Officer Hermann Kohler, who investigate murders in German-occupied France. The first of their adventures was Mayhem (#1), published in 1992, and the most recent was Clandestine (#16) published in 2015. I mention all this as Bob has stock of many of the books in the series, which are otherwise mostly out of print, and he's going to be shipping them to Sleuth for sale. So, if there are gaps in your collection, let us know and we'll get back to you with availability and prices.

BILL BEVERLY's first book Dodgers (\$20) is a gripping coming-of-age novel that I liked the cover of and so picked it up. The story is of a young LA gang member named East, who is sent by his uncle to kill a key witness hiding out in Wisconsin. East, who has never been out of LA, most recently was "standing yard," running a ragtag army of lookouts to protect a drug house from cops and rival gangs. Pretty simple stuff, but it's everyone for himself, and the likelihood of gunfire, violence, death is ever-present. East is now on a journey, with three other gang members, into an America this is entirely alien to him. Four young black kids, driving three thousand miles through the heartland of white America...everyone will assume they are up to no good—and in this case, they'd be right—trying not to draw attention to themselves, get the job done and make it home safe. Of course, the mission goes sideways, and East is left to his own devices, a black kid freezing in Wisconsin, trying to survive. The writing is beautiful, spare, intense, the novel is of the right length, and it's a great debut. The title, by the way, refers to the Dodgers jerseys the boys buy as camouflage...

And finally, **SARA J. HENRY** is a new author for me. I'm embarrassed to tell you that I was pretty much unaware that her first novel, Learning to Swim (\$22) won the Anthony, Agatha, and Mary Higgins Clark Awards, amongst others, and was named one of Best Books of 2011 by the *Boston Globe*. Her second novel, A Cold and Lonely Place (\$17), the one I just finished reading, is an Anthony award nominee for Best Novel.

Here's the blurb: While she's watching the crew build the Winter Carnival ice palace, Troy Chance sees a body encased in the frozen lake—a man she recognizes as the boy-

friend of one of her roommates. When she is assigned to write a feature on his life and mysterious death, Troy discovers he was the missing son of a wealthy Connecticut family. Trying to unravel what brought him to this Adirondack village, she joins forces with his girlfriend and his sister, who comes to town to find answers. But as Troy digs deeper, it's clear someone doesn't want the investigation to continue. And when she uncovers long-buried secrets that could shatter the serenity of the small town and many people's lives, she'll be forced to decide how far her own loyalties reach.

This one should be on your TBR pile. Troy is an independent and likeable hero. The plot is intricate and well done. The wintry small-town setting is a delight. Let this be a lesson to me to pay more attention to award winners! I'm now going to get my hands on [Learning](#).

Marian's Picks

Finally, things are calming down, and I am so glad. I can't remember when I have felt so exhausted for such a long time. The mystery convention went by in a whirl and now we are in recover mode. I've got JD doing more of the heavy lifting—sorting, packing, delivering. Many of the publishing houses have distribution centres in the area, so returns are a matter of fighting traffic—the 401 is pleasure squared! —and fighting boredom. It's taken a while, but the end is in sight. And then! And then! The cottage, with nothing more pressing than raking leaves. And cleaning gutters. And reading trashy mysteries, with the fireplace blazing and the most lovely Pixie sitting on my feet. I'm hoping it snows, lots and soon, so that I can delay raking until next spring. I know, I know, it'll be more work in the spring, but I don't care. A chore delayed is a chore halved; that's my motto for the next little while.

The convection seemed to go well, I spent all my time in the book room so didn't get to any of the panel discussions. Remember Wendy? She spent her entire weekend helping us sell books. What a trooper. Could not have managed without her. Thursday, in particular, was pandemonium defined and I could have used three of her. Thank you, Wendy. Others helped, and I would like to thank all who alphabetized—harder than you would think—organize, and get us ready to for Thursday morning. There was such a line up of people trying to pay for books on that Thursday that we decided to close the store for the rest of the weekend so that JD could come to the convention and help as well. Sorry to those of you who were inconvenienced but there was no way that Wendy and I could have done it alone. Too many people wanting to buy books—be still my foolish heart; when was the last time that kind of frenzy occurred? (*About four years ago I happened to be at the Chennai Book Fair, as it turned out. Chennai, as in the far south of India. A large fair ground had been converted into tented book stalls and watching people walk out with bags, and I mean bags, laden down with bags, of books warmed the cockles of my heart. How I longed for the good old days of selling books! When 200 copies of the latest Robinson and James was a slow mover!—jd*). In all this, quite forgot about poor Pixie. What were going to do with her for the weekend? So, when in an emergency...my folks drove up from Trenton and took her home. Pix loves her grandpa and granny, but was happy to see me Monday. Her reaction to me coming in to pick her up was priceless. My folks, fond as they are of Pixie, were relieved when I came to collect Pix, they have a dog that weighs about 15 pounds. Pixie weighs in at an sturdy 60 pounds. But the two get along, rather well.

One of the great things about a conference such as the BoucherCon is the opportunity to meet and discover new writers and I got to meet a lot of writers I had not known about. I am now in the process of reading their books and over the next few issues you'll hear about them as well. But before I get to the "new to me" authors...I am so excited to be finally, after 10 long years, reading another William Murdoch mystery. **MAUREEN JENNINGS** has outdone herself with [Let Darkness Bury the Dead](#) (#8) (\$24.95). Her new Murdoch novel takes us to 1917 when the Great War is still claiming the lives and souls of so many young men. We have **autographed copies** available in the store right now and what a great Christmas gift that would make. Keep it a secret, though, as the pressure to make Christmas come early could be intense! Here is a quick overview of the story but, spoiler alert, it'll whet your appetite, but, you'll want the full meal soon.

It is November 1917. The Great War is grinding on, chewing up young men by the thousands. Initially, in the loyal Dominion of Canada, people are mostly eager to support the Motherland and fight for the Empire. Men perceived as slackers or cowards are shunned. But the carnage is horrendous and with enforced conscription, the enthusiasm

for war is dimming.

William Murdoch is a widower, a senior detective who, thanks to the new temperance laws, spends his time tracking down bootleggers and tipplers; most unsatisfying. His wife, Amy, died giving birth to their second child, a girl who lived only a few hours more. Murdoch, racked by grief, withdrew from four-year-old, Jack. This he regrets and would dearly love to make up for his negligence.

As we enter the story, Jack, now twenty-one, has returned from France after being wounded and gassed at the Battle of Passchendaele. It is soon apparent that he is deeply troubled but he's not confiding in his father. He does, however, seem to be bound by shared secrets to another wounded former soldier, Percy McKinnon.

Murdoch suddenly has much more serious crimes than rum-running on his hands. The night after Jack and McKinnon arrive home, a young man is found stabbed to death in the impoverished area of Toronto known as the Ward. Soon after, Murdoch has to deal with a tragic suicide, also a young man. Two more murders follow in quick succession. The only common denominator is that all of the men were exempted from conscription. Increasingly worried that Jack knows more than he is letting on, Murdoch must solve these crimes before more innocents lose their lives. It is a solution that will give him only sorrow.

Loved it. And, thank you Maureen, for the acknowledgement.

Getting back to some of the writers I met at BoucherCon...here are three of the many that I had the pleasure of meeting and talking books with, theirs or otherwise. In the December newsletter, I'll chat about a couple more.

SANDRA ORCHARD lives in the Niagara area and has written over a dozen novels, most of them in three different series. Mostly what would be called romantic suspense, I suppose. It was her art mysteries, featuring FBI Special Agent Serena Jones, that we were selling at BoucherCon. I read [A Fool and his Monet](#) (#1 in the Jones series) (\$18.49), a light read, full of art lore, art theft, mystery, fun, and, of course, the requisite dollop of romance that is required in a romantic suspense novel.

Serena Jones has a passion for uncovering lost and stolen art—one that's only surpassed by her zeal to uncover the truth about the art thief who murdered her grandfather. She's joined the FBI Art Crime Team with the secret hope that one of her cases will lead to his killer. Now, despite her mother's pleas to do something safer, like get married and give her grandkids, Serena's learning how to go undercover to catch thieves and black-market traders.

When a local museum discovers an irreplaceable Monet missing, Jones goes into action. The clues point in different directions and her boss orders her to cease investigating her most promising suspect. But determined to solve the case, and perhaps discover another clue in her grandfather's case, she pushes ahead, regardless of the danger. The others in the series are [Another Day Another Dali](#) and [Over Maya Dead Body](#) (\$18.49 each).

How could I resist a "birding" mysteries with titles like [Die, Die Birdie](#) (#1) and [Chickadee, Chickadee Bang Bang](#) (#5) (\$22.50 each) written by **J. R. RIPLEY**? Yes, I know, cutesy titles, but, I read [Die, Die Birdie](#) and really enjoyed it. I had just bought my first supply of bird seed to feed my cottage avian friends this upcoming winter, so it seemed like the perfect book to curl up with and watch the birds.

Here's the synopsis: For Amy Simms, hatching a birding shop in her hometown of Ruby Lake, North Carolina, hasn't exactly been a breeze. But could a deadly discovery clip her wings for good?

It's just days before Amy plans to open Birds & Bees on the first floor of her creaky Victorian house, but delayed seed shipments have prevented the fledging owner from stocking her shelves. And it doesn't help that Amy's best friend and business partner is out of town indefinitely. With locals skeptical about the niche shop taking flight, the last thing Amy needs now is a dead man in her storeroom or for a crotchety tenant to catch her holding a bloody birdfeeder hook over his body . . .

Pigeonholed as a leading murder suspect by police and lacking a solid alibi, Amy's delving into the victim's ugly past and buzzing around Ruby Lake for clues on his kill-

er . . . before she ends up like so many of her beloved feathery friends—trapped behind bars!

I'm not sure if JD is going to mention **MEGAN EDWARDS** in his Picks—I never see what he is writing about until the newsletter gets put together, but he had mentioned how much he was enjoying one of her books—but I wanted to be sure to mention the two books in her series featuring journalist Cooper Black. I read her second book, Full Service Blonde (\$21.95), because that was what was left after the convention, having sold mostly the first in the series, Getting Off on Frank Sinatra (#1) (\$21.95). Turns out, Full Service Blonde, is a prequel to Frank Sinatra, so, who's the smart one now? The two books are set in Las Vegas and Cooper Black is quite the character: sassy (as they say), tenacious, brave, headstrong, but also vulnerable and good at what she does (sounds sort of like me!!). Anyway, here's the plot of Blonde: It's Christmastime in Sin City. Aspiring journalist Copper Black meets Victoria McKimber, an outspoken prostitute at one of Nevada's legal brothels. She's offered Copper the exclusive right to tell her story. Not only will the Las Vegas Light's "calendar girl" get a byline, but she can also impress her boyfriend and parents when they arrive for the holidays.

Copper is busy with work, Christmas shopping, and fantasizing about a whole week with her long-distance boyfriend. She's also helping her brother, a civic-minded pastor who is spearheading plans for a new center to serve the homeless. Things are hectic but under control when shocking news breaks. Victoria McKimber has turned up dead.

As she investigates the violent death, Copper evades enemies, juggles boyfriend, work, and family, and races against time to save her brother from a sinister plot. Unless she can expose the truth about Victoria McKimber, somebody just might get away with murder.

BERNARD CORNWELL has written many novels of historical fiction. His best known are probably the ones set during the Napoleonic Wars and featuring Richard Sharpe. Then there were the Nathaniel Starbuck and the American Civil War stories, the Last Kingdom novels set in the days of Alfred the Great...to mention only a few. In his most recent novel, Fools and Mortals (\$22.99), he is in Elizabethan London; apparently one of his favourite periods of British history. Set in the late 1500s, his main character is Richard Shakespeare, one of William's younger siblings. We get The Theatre, The Curtain, The Rose and The Swan and all the rivalries between the owners and actors of each. We get Elizabethan London at its finest (or maybe is it really at its worst!). Lots of Shakespeare, lots of actors, lots of plays, intrigue, romance and thievery. Richard has always dreamed of a glittering career in one of London's playhouses, but he is overshadowed by William. He is a penniless actor making ends meet through a combination of a beautiful face, petty theft and a silver tongue. But when a priceless manuscript goes missing suspicion falls on him. Can he act his way out of this situation? One thing that the author does so well is to transport you to the time and place that his books are set in. He knows his history and he knows how to tell it. This one is no exception. You are immersed in the stink and violence of Elizabethan times, in the rivalries of the playhouses and palaces, in the minds of the actors. I loved it, it's a terrific read. Here's hoping for further adventures of Richard and Will.

Hardbacks

ALEXANDER, TASHA ashton DEATH IN ST PETERSBURG (#12) (\$36.99) After the final curtain of Swan Lake, an animated crowd exits the Mariinsky theatre brimming with excitement from the night's performance. But outside the scene is somber. A ballerina's body lies face down in the snow, blood splattered like rose petals over the costume of the Swan Queen. The crowd is silenced by a single cry— "Nemetseva is dead!" Another job for Lady Emily and her dashing husband Colin.

ANDREWS, DONNA langslow HOW THE FINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (#22) (\$36.99) Meg's husband has decided to escalate his one-man show of Dickens' A Christmas Carol into a full-scale production with a large cast including their sons Jamie and Josh as Tiny Tim and young Scrooge and Meg helping as stage manager. The show must go on, even if the famous—though slightly over-the-hill—actor who's come to town to play the starring role of Scrooge has brought a sleigh-load of baggage and enemies with him. And why is Caerphilly suddenly overrun with a surplus of beautiful caged finches?

BAKER, SHANNON kate fox DARK SIGNAL (#2) (\$37.99) Reeling from her recent divorce, Kate Fox has just been sworn in as Grand County, Nebraska Sheriff when tragedy strikes. A railroad accident has left engineer Chad Mills dead, his conductor Bobby Jenkins in shock. Kate soon realizes that the accident was likely murder. Who would want to kill Chad Mills? Kate finds that he made a few enemies as president of the railroad workers union. Meanwhile his widow is behaving oddly. And why was his neighbor Josh Stevens at the Mills house on the night of the accident? Sequel to Stripped Bare (#1) (\$22.99), which was rather fun.

CLEEVES, ANN vera SEAGULL (#8) (\$34.99 hardcover, \$24.99 trade paperback) A visit to her local prison brings DI Vera Stanhope face to face with an old enemy: former detective superintendent, and now inmate, John Brace. Brace was convicted of corruption and involvement in the death of a gamekeeper—and Vera played a part in his downfall. Brace promises Vera information about the disappearance of Robbie Marshall, a notorious wheeler-dealer, if she will look out for his daughter and grandchildren. He tells her that Marshall is dead, his body is buried close to St Mary's Island in Whitley Bay. However, when a search team investigates, officers find not one skeleton, but two. This cold case takes Vera back in time, and very close to home, as Brace and Marshall, along with a mysterious stranger known only as 'the Prof', were close friends of Hector, her father. Together, they were 'the Gang of Four', and Hector had been one of the last people to see Marshall alive. Vera must confront her prejudices and unwanted memories to dig out the truth, as the past begins to collide dangerously with the present...

CONNELLY, MICHAEL bosch TWO KINDS OF TRUTH (#22) (\$38) Harry Bosch is back as a volunteer working cold cases for the San Fernando Police Department and is called out to a local drug store where a young pharmacist has been murdered. Bosch and the town's 3-person detective squad sift through the clues, which lead into the dangerous, big business world of pill mills and prescription drug abuse. Meanwhile, an old case from Bosch's LAPD days comes back to haunt him when a long-imprisoned killer claims Harry framed him, and seems to have new evidence to prove it. Bosch left the LAPD on bad terms, so his former colleagues aren't keen to protect his reputation. He must fend for himself in clearing his name and keeping a clever killer in prison. The two unrelated cases wind around each other like strands of barbed wire. Along the way Bosch discovers that there are two kinds of truth: the kind that sets you free and the kind that leaves you buried in darkness.

DENFELD, RENE CHILD FINDER (\$31.99) Three years ago, Madison Culver disappeared when her family was choosing a Christmas tree in Oregon's Skookum National Forest. She would be eight-years-old now—if she has survived. Desperate to find their beloved daughter, certain someone took her, the Culvers turn to Naomi, a private investigator with an uncanny talent for locating the lost and missing. Known to the police and a select group of parents as "the Child Finder," Naomi is their last hope. "Stunning."—*Globe and Mail*.

DORSEY, C MICHELE PERMANENT SUNSET (\$37.95) Former television meteorologist Sabrina Salter's new life in paradise was idyllic, sprinkled with new friendships, romance and a successful villa rental business, which just landed Villa Nirvana, the newest and most opulent villa in the Virgin Islands. But island life isn't all sun and sand. During the villa's opening weekend, Sabrina discovers the body of a bride murdered on the eve of her wedding to the villa owner. The case gives the police a new reason to scrutinize Sabrina and her business, which they suggest provides inadequate security for its guests and should lose its license. Unless Sabrina can show the bride's murder was unrelated to her or her business, her life on St. John will be over before sundown. In order to clear her name and salvage her business, Sabrina dives into the deep end of an investigation riddled with infidelity, fraud, identity theft, and conspiracy. Sequel to No Virgin Island (#1) (\$37.95).

DOYLE, ARTHUR CONAN SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTION slip cased set (\$77.95) A nicely produced, slip cases set of six books that contain almost the entire canon. Just going by the titles, missing is the Casebook.

DUNN, MATTHEW spycatcher ACT OF BETRAYAL (#7) (\$33.50) Three years ago, intelligence officer Will Cochrane was brought in by a Delta Force colonel to assassinate a terrorist financier in Berlin. After the job, the commander vanished, and hasn't been heard from since. The details don't quite add up, and one of the CIA agents who was involved has been investigating the mission. He reaches out to Will for help, but before they can connect, the CIA man is poisoned. Will is determined to uncover the truth about Berlin, even if it means putting himself in the crosshairs.

EARLY, BARBARA MURDER ON THE TOY TOWN EXPRESS (\$38.95) Liz McCall has come to love running her father's vintage toyshop back home in East Aurora, NY, so when the Train and Toy Show comes to town, she's all aboard for a fun toy-filled weekend. The only hitch is that her childhood bully Craig McFadden, now local business rival, has set up a booth next to hers. But the fun and games are over when Craig falls from the ceiling in a publicity stunt gone wrong. What was initially thought

to be a fatal accident proves much more sinister.

FOLLETT, KEN pillars COLUMN OF FIRE (#3) (\$45) In 1558, the ancient stones of Kingsbridge Cathedral look down on a city torn apart by religious conflict. As power in England shifts precariously between Catholics and Protestants, royalty and commoners clash, testing friendship, loyalty, and love. Ned Willard wants nothing more than to marry Margery Fitzgerald. But the lovers find themselves on opposing sides of the religious conflict dividing the country...

FROST, JACQUELINE TWELVE SLAYS OF CHRISTMAS (#1) (\$38.95) When Holly White's fiancé cancels their Christmas Eve wedding with less than two weeks to go, Holly heads home with a broken heart. Lucky for her, home in historic Mistletoe, Maine is magical during Christmastime—exactly what the doctor prescribed. Except her plan to drown her troubles in peppermints and snickerdoodles is upended when local grouch and president of the Mistletoe Historical Society Margaret Fenwick is bludgeoned and left in the sleigh display at Reindeer Games, Holly's family tree farm. And when the murder weapon is revealed as one of the wooden stakes used to identify trees on the farm...

GABALDON, DIANA DRAGONFLY IN AMBER (25TH ANNIVERSARY ED.) (\$45) A beautifully designed collector's edition of the second book in the Outlander series, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of its original publication. Claire Beauchamp Randall's spellbinding journey continues through the intrigue-ridden French court and the menace of Jacobite plots, to the Highlands of Scotland, through war and death in a desperate fight to save both the child and Jamie Fraser, the man she loves.

GREGORY, SUSANNA bartholomew HABIT OF MURDER (#23) (\$32.99) In 1360 a deputation from Cambridge ventures to the Suffolk town of Clare in the hope that the wealthy Elizabeth de Burgh has left a legacy to Michaelhouse. Yet when they arrive they discover that the report of her death is false and that the college seems destined for bankruptcy. They also quickly discover that a great many people in Clare have recently met untimely deaths. These killings have created a dangerous restlessness in the town: an atmosphere intensified when yet more murders occur. One of the victims is a fellow traveller of the Michaelhouse contingent, and Matthew Bartholomew and Brother Michael feel honour-bound to identify his killer. It is a hunt which takes them deep into Clare's murky foundation

GRISHAM, JOHN ROOSTER BAR (\$37) Mark, Todd, and Zola came to law school to change the world, to make it a better place. But now, as third-year students, these close friends realize they have been duped. They all borrowed heavily to attend a third-tier, for-profit law school so mediocre that its graduates rarely pass the bar exam, let alone get good jobs. And when they learn that their school is one of a chain owned by a shady New York hedge-fund operator who also happens to own a bank specializing in student loans, the three know they have been caught up in The Great Law School Scam. But maybe there's a way out. Maybe there's a way to escape their crushing debt, expose the bank and the scam, and make a few bucks in the process. But to do so, they would first have to quit school. And leaving law school a few short months before graduation would be completely crazy, right? Well, yes and no . . . grab a jar and plunk yourself down at the Rooster Bar.

IDE, JOE RIGHTEOUS (#2) (\$34) In this hotly anticipated follow-up to the smash hit *IQ* (#1) (\$20.99) a *New York Times* Critics' Best of the Year and winner of the Anthony, Macavity, and Shamus Awards, Isaiah uncovers a secret behind the death of his brother, Marcus. For ten years, something has gnawed at Isaiah Quintabe's gut and kept him up nights, boiling with anger and thoughts of revenge. Ten years ago, when Isaiah was just a boy, his brother was killed by an unknown assailant. The search for the killer sent Isaiah plunging into despair and nearly destroyed his life. Even with a flourishing career, a new dog, and near-iconic status as a PI in his hometown, East Long Beach, he has to begin the hunt again—or lose his mind. I was kinda lukewarm about *IQ*...just goes to show how much I know.

JAMES, P D SLEEP NO MORE 6 ss (\$27.95) Six previously uncollected stories, to stand alongside her bestselling *The Mistletoe Murder and Other Stories* (\$22.50).

JANCE, J A beaumont PROOF OF LIFE (#23) (\$34.99) Be careful what you wish for . . . Before he retired, J. P. Beaumont had looked forward to having his days all to himself. But too much free time doesn't suit a man used to brushing close to danger. When his longtime nemesis, retired Seattle crime reporter Maxwell Cole, dies in what's officially deemed to be an accidental fire, Beau is astonished to be dragged into the investigation at the request of none other than the deceased himself. In the process Beau learns that just because a long-ago case was solved doesn't mean it's over...

KELLERMAN, FAYE KILLING SEASON (\$31.99 hardcover, \$19.99 trade paperback) Four years ago, fifteen-year-old Ellen Vicksburg went missing in the quiet town of River Remez, New Mexico. Ellen was kind, studious, and universally liked. Her younger brother, Ben, could imagine nothing worse than never knowing what happened to her—until, on the first anniversary of her death, he found her body in a shallow grave by the river's edge. Ben, now sixteen, is committed to finding the monster who abduct-

ed and strangled Ellen.

KEYSE-WALKER, JOHN BEACH BREEZE BLOODSHED (#2) (\$36.99) After barely surviving the first criminal investigation in living memory on the sun-drenched British Virgin island of Anegada—in Sun, Sand, Murder (#1) (\$34.99)—Constable Teddy Creque has spent the past six months trying to weather the aftermath, and move on with his life. Now, with a promotion and a medal of honor, he's newly committed to the job. So, when a young woman dies in a shark attack off the coast of a neighboring island, Virgin Gorda, Teddy is happy to help when Deputy Commissioner Howard Lane orders him to capture the man-eater. But when Teddy arrives on Virgin Gorda, he begins to suspect there was human foul play involved, too.

KLINGER/CALDWELL ANATOMY OF INNOCENCE: UNVEILING THE TRUTH OF THE WRONGFULLY CONVICTED (\$35.95) Wrongful convictions, long regarded as statistical anomalies in an otherwise sound justice system, now appear with frightening regularity. But few people understand just how or why they happen and, more important, the immeasurable consequences that often haunt the lucky few who are acquitted, years after they are proven innocent. In this anthology, fourteen exonerated inmates narrate their stories to a roster of high-profile mystery and thriller writers—including **Lee Child, Sara Paretsky, Laurie R. King, Jan Burke** and **S. J. Rozan**—while another exoneree's case is explored in a previously unpublished essay by legendary playwright **Arthur Miller**.

LAWTON, JOHN troy FRIENDS AND TRAITORS (#8) (\$37.50) London, 1958. Chief Superintendent Frederick Troy of Scotland Yard, newly promoted after good service during Nikita Khrushchev's visit to Britain, is not looking forward to a European trip with his older brother, Rod. Rod has decided to take his entire family on "the Grand Tour" for his fifty-first birthday: a whirlwind of restaurants, galleries, and concert halls from Paris to Florence to Vienna to Amsterdam. But Frederick Troy only gets as far as Vienna. It is there that he crosses paths with an old acquaintance, a man who always seems to be followed by trouble: British spy turned Soviet agent Guy Burgess. Suffice it to say that Troy is more than surprised when Burgess, who has escaped from the bosom of Moscow for a quick visit to Vienna, tells him something extraordinary: "I want to come home."

LEPIONKA, KRISTEN LAST PLACE YOU LOOK (\$36.99) "Roxane is a wonderfully complex character...This is a remarkably accomplished debut mystery, with sensitive character development and a heart-stopping denouement. Let's hope there are more Roxane Weary novels on the way."—*Booklist (starred review)*. Nobody knows what happened to Sarah Cook. The beautiful blonde teenager disappeared fifteen years ago, the same night her parents were brutally murdered in their suburban Ohio home. Her boyfriend Brad Stockton—black and from the wrong side of the tracks—was convicted of the murders and is now on death row. Though he's maintained his innocence all along, the clock is running out. His execution is only weeks away when his devoted sister insists she spied Sarah at an area gas station. Willing to try anything, she hires PI Roxane Weary to look at the case and see if she can locate Sarah.

LOVESEY, PETER editor USUAL SANTAS s/s (\$23.95) the perfect stocking stuffer for the crime fiction lover in your life? With a foreword by CWA Diamond Award-winner **Peter Lovesey**...Nine mall Santas must find the imposter among them. An elderly lady seeks peace from her murderously loud neighbors at Christmastime. A young woman receives a mysterious invitation to Christmas dinner with a stranger. Niccolò Machiavelli sets out to save an Italian city. Sherlock Holmes's one-time nemesis Irene Adler finds herself in an unexpected tangle in Paris while on a routine espionage assignment. Jane Austen searches for the Dowager Duchess of Wilborough's stolen diamonds... These and other adventures will whisk readers away to Christmases around the globe, from a Korean War POW camp to a Copenhagen refugee squat, from a palatial hotel in 1920s Bombay to a crumbling mansion in Havana. Includes stories by **Helene Tursten, Mick Herron, Martin Limón, Timothy Hallinan, Teresa Dovalpage, Mette Ivie Harrison, Colin Cotterill, Ed Lin, Stuart Neville, Tod Goldberg, Henry Chang, James R. Benn, Lene Kaaberbøl & Agnete Friis, Sujata Massey, Gary Corby, Cara Black, Stephanie Barron** and **Peter Lovesey**.

MACBIRD, BONNIE UNQUIET SPIRITS: WHISKY, GHOSTS, MURDER (\$38.99) The new novel from the author of the Art in the Blood (#17.99). December 1889. Fresh from debunking a "ghostly" hound in Dartmoor, Sherlock Holmes has returned to London, only to find himself the target of a deadly vendetta.

ROBINSON, PETER banks SLEEPING IN THE GROUND (#24) (\$29.95 signed copies while we have some) Detective Superintendent Alan Banks is called in to lead the investigation after a shocking mass murder occurs during a wedding outside a small church in the Yorkshire Dales. An exhaustive manhunt ensues and the shooter is run to ground as the investigation follows its inevitable course. But Banks, his colleague DI Annie Cabbot, and the newest and youngest team member, DI Gerry Masterson, are plagued by doubts as to exactly what happened in the churchyard that day, and why. Have they apprehended the right suspect? Is there more to uncover? Struggling with the

death of an old flame and the return of profiler Jenny Fuller, a former love interest, Banks is compelled to dig deeper into the suspect's past and motivations, and as he does, he uncovers forensic and psychological puzzles that lead him to long forgotten secrets. It's possible that eventually they'll provide the answers he is looking for, but will he piece together the clues in time?

SANDFORD, JOHN virgil DEEP FREEZE (#10) (\$39) Virgil knows the town of Trippton, Minnesota, a little too well. A few years back, he investigated the corrupt—and as it turned out, homicidal—local school board, and now the town's back in view with more alarming news: A woman's been found dead, frozen in a block of ice. There's a possibility that it might be connected to a high school class of twenty years ago that has a mid-winter reunion coming up, and so, wrapping his coat a little tighter, Virgil begins to dig into twenty years' worth of traumas, feuds, and bad blood. In the process, one thing becomes increasingly clear to him. It's true what they say: High school is murder.

STANLEY, MICHAEL kubu DYING TO LIVE (#6) (\$38.99) Bushman is discovered dead near the Central Kalahari Game Reserve in Africa. Although the man looks old enough to have died of natural causes, the police suspect foul play, and the body is sent to Gaborone for an autopsy. Pathologist Ian MacGregor confirms the cause of death as a broken neck, but is greatly puzzled by the man's physiology. Although he's obviously very old, his internal organs look remarkably young. He calls in Assistant Superintendent David "Kubu" Bengu. When the Bushman's corpse is stolen from the morgue, suddenly the case takes on a new dimension.

STEIN, STEPHEN ROBERT OATH (\$35.95) The intertwined lives of Dr. Michel Katz and SS Doktor Bloch, who both survive Auschwitz and the war to practice medicine in the United States, never losing the stains upon their souls. Katz, a respected Jewish French surgeon captured by the Nazis, volunteers to serve at Auschwitz, believing he can protect his wife and children from the gas chambers by helping Joseph Mengele and other SS physicians with their human studies. After the war, Doktor Bloch avoids criminal prosecution through "Operation Paperclip," a clandestine government program that welcomes German scientists to America (including Werner von Braun), ignoring Nazi ties and their participation in the war. Years later, just when Katz is coming to terms with his past, he receives a call from former Auschwitz inmate Martin Brosky, who has devoted his life to bringing painful retribution to Nazi criminals who have evaded capture. Martin insists that Michel help him kill Bloch, and Michel must now weigh the risks of defying Martin against the sweetness of revenge, knowing well that his own sordid complicity at Auschwitz could be revealed.

THOMAS, WILL barker OLD SCORES (#9) (\$36.99) In 1890, the first Japanese diplomatic delegation arrives in London to open an embassy. Cyrus Barker, private enquiry agent and occasional agent for the Foreign Service Office, is enlisted to display his personal Japanese garden to the visiting dignitaries. Later that night, Ambassador Toda is shot and killed in his office and Cyrus Barker is discovered across the street, watching the very same office, in possession of a revolver with one spent cartridge. Arrested by the Special Branch for the crime, Barker is vigorously interrogated and finally released due to the intervention of his assistant, Thomas Llewelyn, and his solicitor. With the London constabulary still convinced of his guilt, Barker is hired by the new Japanese ambassador to find the real murderer.

WOODS, STUART barrington QUICK & DIRTY (#43) (\$37) When a slam-bang of a crime brings a beautiful new client into Stone Barrington's office, little does he know his association with her will pull him into a far more serpentine mystery in the exclusive world of art. It's a business where a rare find could make a career—and a collection—and mistakes in judgment are costly. And under its genteel and high-minded veneer lurks an assortment of grifters and malfeasants eager to cash in on the game. In the upscale world of New York City's luxury penthouses and grand Hamptons estates, it will take a man of Stone Barrington's careful discernment and well-honed instincts to get to the truth without ruffling the wrong feathers...because when it comes to priceless and irreplaceable works of art, the money and reputations at stake are worth killing for.

Paperbacks

ALEXANDER, KARL FEVER (#1) (\$19.50) Deenie Nash is a diligent student with a close-knit family; her brother Eli is a hockey star and her father is a popular teacher. But when Deenie's best friend is struck by a terrifying, unexplained seizure in class, the Nashes' seeming stability dissolves into chaos. As rumors of a hazardous outbreak spread through school, and hysteria and contagion swell, a series of tightly held secrets emerges, threatening to unravel friendships, families, and the town's fragile sense of security. "panic attack of a novel"—*Jodi Picoult*.

ALEXANDER, KARL TIME AFTER TIME (#1) (\$11.99) What if **H. G. Wells**, the famous, bestselling author of such sensations as The Time Machine and War of the Worlds had actually invented a time machine? When Wells showed his friends his fantastic time machine he never suspected that his college friend, Leslie John Stevenson, was in truth the Jack the Ripper. But, when Scotland Yard detectives show up at Wells's house looking for Stevenson, he steals the machine and flees to the future—1979 San Francisco. Knowing that he was responsible for the infamous murderer's escape, Wells pursues the Ripper into the future. Once in San Francisco, Wells realizes that he must now save a city, and a particular lovely young woman, from a new reign of terror at the hands of the feared Terror of Whitechapel.

BATTEN, JACK crang BOOKING IN (#7) (\$16.99) Fletcher Marshall is a Toronto antiquarian book dealer, internationally respected in the business. One night, someone blows the safe in his office and makes off with the contents, which include an infamous forged first edition of **Elizabeth Barrett Browning's** Sonnets from the Portuguese that is in itself a collector's item. Fletcher, who was still in the process of verifying the book, doesn't even know whether it was the real thing or a clever forgery (of a forgery). But rather than summon the cops to investigate the theft, he turns to his pal Crang, the nervy criminal lawyer, hoping he can retrieve the books before their owner gets wind of the crime. The owner happens to be the richest woman in Canada and a tough cookie who could ruin Fletcher's career.

BINGHAM, HARRY griffiths DEEPEST GRAVE (#6) (\$24.99) DS Fiona Griffiths is bored. It's been months since she had a good corpse. Then she gets news; not just of a murder, but of a decapitation, and one committed with an antique sword no less. All that, and, a murder scene laid out like a gruesome crossword clue. Gaynor Charteris was an archaeologist excavating a nearby iron-age site. Genial, respected, well-liked, it was hard to see why anyone would want to kill her. But as Fiona starts to investigate, she finds evidence of a crime that seems to have its origins in King Arthur's greatest battle—a crime so bizarre that getting her superiors to take it seriously is going to be her toughest job. Especially since the crime hasn't yet been committed.

BOLDUC, MARIO max o'brien ROMA PLOT (#2) (\$17.99) Max O'Brien may be a professional con man, but that doesn't mean you can't count on him in a bind. So, when he hears that his old friend Kevin Dandurand is a wanted man over a seemingly racially motivated killing spree, he heads to Bucharest to try to make sense of what looks like an impossible situation. The buried truths he uncovers reach back to the Second World War, the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, and an entanglement between a Roma man and a German woman whose echoes pursue O'Brien and Dandurand into the present day. Sequel to Kashmir Trap (#1) (\$17.99).

BONNIER, JONAS HELICOPTER HEIST (\$22) A novel inspired by the true story of a group of four young Swedish men who pulled off "one of the most spectacular heists of all time" (*Time*). The men behind the daring daylight robbery have been caught and are in prison, but the \$6.5 million that they stole has never been recovered. At first, the plan seemed foolproof...

BROOKES, ADAM SPY'S DAUGHTER (#3) (\$12.99) Meet Pearl Tao: an American girl with a lethal secret. Pearl longs for the life of a normal American teenager: summers at the pool, friends, backyard barbecues in the Washington DC suburbs. But she is different. Her gift for mathematics means overprotective parents and college sponsorship from a secretive technology corporation. And now, aged nineteen, she is beginning to understand what her parents intend for her. The terrifying role she is to play. Her only hope of escape lies with two sidelined and discredited spies: Trish Patterson and Philip Mangan. Finding out the truth about Pearl will be the biggest mission they'll ever undertake.

BROOKMYRE, CHRIS PLACES IN THE DARKNESS (\$20.99) Hundreds of miles above Earth, the space station Ciudad de Cielo—The City in the Sky—is a beacon of hope for humanity's expansion into the stars. But not everyone aboard shares such noble ideals. Bootlegging, booze, and prostitution form a lucrative underground economy for rival gangs, which the authorities are happy to turn a blind eye to until a disassembled corpse is found dancing in the micro-gravity. In charge of the murder investigation is Nikki "Fix" Freeman, who is not thrilled to have Alice Blake, an uptight government goody-two-shoes, riding shotgun. As the bodies pile up, and the partners are forced to question their own memories, Nikki and Alice begin to realize that gang warfare may not be the only cause for the violence.

BUELL, JOHN PYX (\$15.95) When heroin-addicted call girl Elizabeth Lucy dies in a fall from a swanky penthouse terrace, homicide detective Henderson is assigned to the case. Was it murder? Suicide? Through his investigation, Henderson uncovers a frightening underworld that is far more dark and dangerous than those of prostitution and the drug trade. But more than anything, this is Elizabeth's story. Told through flashbacks and those who knew her, revelations unfold, revealing a life that ends with a struggle unlike any other. First published by in 1959 and for three decades, it enjoyed numerous translations and editions before going out of print in the early 'nineties. This Ricochet

Books edition marks the first in a quarter-century. It served as the basis of the feature film of the same name starring Karen Black and Christopher Plummer.

BURNS, CATHERINE VISITORS (\$22) Marion Zetland lives with her domineering older brother John in a crumbling mansion on the edge of a northern seaside resort. A timid spinster in her fifties who still sleeps with teddy bears, Marion does her best to live by John's rules, even if it means turning a blind eye to the noises she hears coming from behind the cellar door...and turning a blind eye to the women's laundry in the hamper that isn't hers. For years, she's buried the signs of John's devastating secret into the deep recesses of her mind—until the day John is crippled by a heart attack, and Marion becomes the only one whose shoulders are fit to bear his secret. Forced to go down to the cellar and face what her brother has kept hidden, Marion discovers more about herself than she ever thought possible. As the truth is slowly unraveled, we finally begin to understand: maybe John isn't the only one with a dark side....

CLEEVES, ANN *vera* SEAGULL (#8) (\$24.99 trade paperback, \$34.99 hardcover) See the hardcover section.

CONNELLY, MICHAEL *bosch* WRONG SIDE OF GOODBYE (#21) (\$12.99) One of Southern California's biggest moguls comes calling on Harry. The reclusive billionaire is nearing the end of his life and is haunted by one regret. When he was young, he had a relationship with a Mexican girl, his great love. But soon after becoming pregnant, she disappeared. Did she have the baby? And if so, what happened to it? Desperate to know whether he has an heir, the dying magnate hires Bosch, the only person he can trust. With such a vast fortune at stake, Harry realizes that his mission could be risky not only for himself but for the one he's seeking. But as he begins to uncover the haunting story—and finds uncanny links to his own past—he knows he cannot rest until he finds the truth. At the same time, unable to leave cop work behind completely, he volunteers as an investigator for a tiny cash-strapped police department and finds himself tracking a serial rapist who is one of the most baffling and dangerous foes he has ever faced. As ever, terrific.

COOPER, STEVEN *mills* DESERT REMAINS (#1) (\$17) Someone is filling the desert caves around Phoenix with bodies—a madman who, in a taunting ritual, is leaving behind a record of his crimes etched into the stone. With no leads and no suspects, Detective Alex Mills sees a case spinning out of control. City leaders want the case solved yesterday, and another detective wants to elbow Mills out of the way. As the body count rises, Mills turns to Gus Parker, an "intuitive medium" whose murky visions sometimes point to real clues. It's an unorthodox approach, but Mills is desperate.

CORNWELL, BERNARD FOOLS AND MORTALS (\$22.99) A departure for this international bestselling author which takes us into the heart of the Elizabethan era, long one of his favourite periods of British history. Shakespeare, plays, theatre... "just brilliant" says Marian.

CORRY, JANE MY HUSBAND'S WIFE (\$23) When young lawyer Lily marries Ed, she's determined to make a fresh start. To leave the secrets of the past behind. But then she takes on her first murder case and meets Joe. A convicted murderer whom Lily is strangely drawn to. For whom she will soon be willing to risk almost anything. But Lily is not the only one with secrets. Her next-door neighbor Carla may be only nine, but she has already learned that secrets are powerful things. That they can get her whatever she wants. When Lily finds Carla on her doorstep sixteen years later, a chain of events is set in motion that can end only one way.

CRAIG, JAMES *carlyle* ALL KINDS OF DEAD (#11) (\$17.99) When a fortune in uncut diamonds are nicked by a group of soldiers, Carlyle teams up with Captain Daniel Hunter of the Military Police to hunt them down. But Hunter has come up against this crew before and they are not going to let him stand in their way a second time. The investigation is turned upside down when Hunter's family are kidnapped by the gang. The inspector has to look on helplessly while the military policeman goes off on a personal mission of revenge. As events spiral horribly out of control, Carlyle faces a terrible choice: does he let Hunter take matters into his own hands or should he try and bring his new partner to justice?

DAMS, JEANNE M SMILE AND BE A VILLAIN (\$26.95) When Dorothy Martin and her husband, retired police detective Alan Nesbitt, decide to visit the beautiful island of Alderney in the English Channel, they hope for a pleasant, peaceful holiday. It's not to be. Taking a walk on their very first day, they discover a body, apparently the victim of an unfortunate accident, on a precipitous hill path. The dead man, they learn, is an American named Abercrombie who had made himself both loved and hated during his few weeks on the island. Although there is no concrete evidence of foul play, both Dorothy and Alan are uneasy about the death and decide to delve further. And then they unearth some most disquieting revelations . . .

DAVID, MONTROSE/SMITH BODY ON MOUNT ROYAL (\$14.95) From the back cover of the 1953 edition: Take a brutally beaten body, a lonely spot on Montreal's famous mountain, and a buxom brunette whose embrace brings treachery. Add a large dose of vicious gang warfare and a slice of underworld life. Mix these ingredients well

and you have a large helping of spicy, fast-paced adventure. And, finally, after 58 years, it's back in print. So here's your chance to meet hard-drinking private dick, Russell Teed.

DENMAN, CANDY DEAD PRETTY (#1) (\$10) Dr. Jocasta Hughes, thirty-two years old, a willowy blonde with a wicked sense of humour and an unsatisfactory love life, works part-time as a GP in Hastings, a small English fishing town, and is on call as a Forensic Medical Practitioner for the local police. When it becomes clear that there is a vicious serial killer on the loose, Jo finds herself increasingly at risk.

DOIRON, PAUL bowditch POACHER'S SON (#1) (\$9.99) Game warden Mike Bowditch returns home one evening to find an alarming voice from the past on his answering machine: his father Jack, a hard-drinking womanizer who makes his living poaching illegal game. An even more frightening call comes the next morning from the police: they are searching for the man who killed a beloved local cop the night before—and his father is their prime suspect. Jack has escaped from police custody, and only Mike believes that his tormented father might not be guilty. Now, alienated from the woman he loves, shunned by colleagues who have no sympathy for the suspected cop-killer, Mike must come to terms with his haunted past. He knows firsthand Jack's brutality, but is the man capable of murder? First published in 2010 and the first of seven.

DOYLE/KYME, NICK SHERLOCK HOLMES LEGACY OF DEEDS (\$19.95) It is 1894, and Sherlock Holmes is called to a Covent Garden art gallery where dozens of patrons lie dead before a painting of the Undying Man. Holmes and Watson are soon on the trail of a mysterious figure in black, whose astounding speed and agility make capture impossible. The same suspect is then implicated in another murder, when the servant of a visiting Russian grand duke is found terribly mutilated in a notorious slum. But what links the two crimes, and do they have anything to do with the suicide of an unpopular schoolteacher at a remote boarding school? So begins a case that will reveal the dark shadows that past misdeeds can cast, and test the companions to their limits...

DUNCAN, ELIZABETH shakes ILL MET BY MURDER (#2) (\$22.95) When Charlotte Fairfax, costume designer for the Catskill Shakespeare Theater Company, discovers a body murdered the night before their wealthy benefactor's daughter's wedding, she decides she must investigate.

EDWARDS, MEGAN copper FULL SERVICE BLONDE (#0) (\$21.95) In this prequel to Getting off on Frank Sinatra (#1) (\$21.95) it's Christmastime in Sin City. Aspiring journalist Copper Black meets Victoria McKimber, an outspoken prostitute at one of Nevada's legal brothels. She's offered Copper the exclusive right to tell her story. Not only will the Las Vegas Light's "calendar girl" get a byline, but she can also impress her boyfriend and parents when they arrive for the holidays. Copper is busy with work, Christmas shopping, and fantasizing about a whole week with her long-distance boyfriend. She's also helping her brother, a civic-minded pastor who is spearheading plans for a new center to serve the homeless. Things are hectic but under control when shocking news breaks. Victoria McKimber has turned up dead. As she investigates the violent death, Copper evades enemies, juggles boyfriend, work, and family, and races against time to save her brother from a sinister plot. Unless she can expose the truth about Victoria McKimber, somebody just might get away with murder.

EDWARDS, MEGAN copper GETTING OFF ON FRANK SINATRA (#1) (\$21.95) A scorching Las Vegas summer is about to get even hotter. Aspiring journalist Copper Black has just found out that her boyfriend is responsible for his not-quite-ex-wife's pregnancy. An unexpected house-sitting job at a notorious Las Vegas "party house" should provide not only a private swimming pool but also much-needed distraction. While researching a story about an exclusive private school, Copper accidentally discovers the dead body of the school's beloved founder. Now involved in a high-profile murder investigation, Copper turns to her brother, a civic-minded pastor who is overseeing the construction of a center for the homeless. An Indian medicine man claims the site is a sacred burial ground, attracting hordes of protesters. As she tries to solve the murder, help her brother, advance her career, and sort out her love life, Copper stirs up a world of trouble.

ELLIS, KATE HIGH MORTALITY OF DOVES (\$15.99) 1919. The Derbyshire village of Wenfield is still reeling from four terrible years of war, and now, just when the village is coming to terms with the loss of so many of its sons, the brutal murder of a young girl shatters its hard-won tranquility. Myrtle Bligh is found stabbed and left in woodland, her mouth slit to accommodate a dead dove, a bird of peace. During the war Myrtle worked as a volunteer nurse with Flora Winsmore, the local doctor's daughter, caring for badly wounded soldiers at the nearby big house, Tarnhey Court. When two more women are found murdered in identical circumstances, Inspector Albert Lincoln is sent up from London, a man not only wounded in war but damaged in peace by the death of his young son and his cold, loveless marriage. Once in Wenfield, Albert begins to investigate the three recent murders and the Cartwright family of Tarnhey Court and their staff fall under suspicion as their hidden lives and secrets are uncovered. With rumours of a ghostly soldier with a painted face being spotted near the scene of the mur-

ders, the village is thrown into a state of panic—with the killer still on the loose.

ELLIS, KATE *peterson* MERMAID'S SCREAM (#21) (\$15.99) Why did Wynn Staniland, a legend in the literary world, suddenly become a recluse in the 1980s? Most assumed he stopped writing because of his wife's bizarre suicide; a death that mirrored a murder case from the nineteenth century. And now a promising young author called Zac Wilkinson is working on Staniland's biography and hopes to reveal the true story to a waiting world—while at the same time keeping his own troubled past hidden from public view. When Wilkinson is found brutally murdered, DI Wesley Peterson finds links to the unexplained poisoning of a middle-aged couple at a local caravan park—and Wynn Staniland appears to be the connection. As Wesley delves further into the case he suspects a sinister puppet show might provide the solution: a grim re-enactment of the murder of Mary Field, a *cause célèbre* from the reign of Queen Victoria that inspired Staniland's best-known novel.

ELLISON, J T ALL THE PRETTY GIRLS (\$11.99) Nashville Homicide lieutenant Taylor Jackson is working to catch a serial rapist after a local girl falls prey to a sadistic killer. The Southern Strangler is slaughtering his way through the Southeast, leaving a gruesome memento at each crime scene—the prior victim's severed hand. Taylor finds herself in a joint investigation with her lover, FBI profiler Dr. John Baldwin, as they pursue the vicious murderer. Ambitious TV reporter Whitney Connolly is certain the Southern Strangler is her ticket out of Nashville; she's got a scoop that could break the case. But she has no idea how close to this story she really is—or what it will cost her. Battling an old injury and her own demons, Taylor is desperate to quell the rising tide of bodies. But as the killer spirals out of control, everyone involved must face a horrible truth—the purest evil is born of private lies

EVANOVICH, JANET *between* TWICE THE PLUM (\$12.99) Plum Spooky and Vision of Sugar Plums

FLINT, EMMA LITTLE DEATHS (\$21) It's 1965 in a tight-knit working-class neighborhood in Queens, New York, and Ruth Malone—a single mother who works long hours as a cocktail waitress—wakes to discover her two small children, Frankie Jr. and Cindy, have gone missing. Later that day, Cindy's body is found in a derelict lot a half mile from her home, strangled. Ten days later, Frankie Jr.'s decomposing body is found. Immediately, all fingers point to Ruth. As police investigate the murders, the detritus of Ruth's life is exposed. Seen through the eyes of the cops, the empty bourbon bottles and provocative clothing which litter her apartment, the piles of letters from countless men and Ruth's little black book of phone numbers, make her a drunk, a loose woman—and therefore a bad mother. The lead detective, a strict Catholic who believes women belong in the home, leaps to the obvious conclusion: facing divorce and a custody battle, Malone took her children's lives. Pete Wonicke is a rookie tabloid reporter who finagles an assignment to cover the murders. Determined to make his name in the paper, he begins digging into the case. Pete's interest in the story develops into an obsession with Ruth, and he comes to believe there's something more to the woman whom prosecutors, the press, and the public have painted as a promiscuous femme fatale. Did Ruth Malone violently kill her own children, is she a victim of circumstance—or is there something more sinister at play? Inspired by a true story.

GARDNER, LISA *fbi profile* RIGHT BEHIND YOU (#7) (\$13.50) Eight years ago, Sharlah May Nash's older brother beat their drunken father to death with a baseball bat in order to save both of their lives. Five years on, a double murder at a local gas station, followed by reports of an armed suspect shooting his way through the wilds of Oregon, and it seems the shooter may very well be Sharlah's older brother, and it appears his killing spree has only just begun. What does this mean? Once upon a time, Sharlah's big brother saved her life. Now, is he a hero or a killer?

HARRIS, ROBERT MUNICH (\$24.95) September 1938 Hitler is determined to start a war. Chamberlain is desperate to preserve the peace. The issue is to be decided in a city that will forever afterwards be notorious for what takes place there. Munich. As Chamberlain's plane judders across the Channel and the Führer's train steams relentlessly south from Berlin, two young men travel with secrets of their own. Hugh Legat is one of Chamberlain's private secretaries, Paul Hartmann a German diplomat and member of the anti-Hitler resistance. Great friends at Oxford before Hitler came to power, they haven't seen one another since they were last in Munich together six years earlier. Now, as the future of Europe hangs in the balance, their paths are destined to cross again. When the stakes are this high, who are you willing to betray? Your friends, your family, your country or your conscience?

HENNIKUS, J. A. CHRISTMAS PERIL (\$17.50) When Edwina “Sully” Sullivan's life imploded, she left behind her job on the police force and her unfaithful husband to start a new life as the general manager of her hometown theater, the Cliffside Theater Company. For five years, she focused on budgets instead of crime and kept the Cliffside running alongside its mercurial artistic director. But when her childhood friend is suspected of killing his father, no one is looking for another culprit. So, in between keeping A Christmas Carol on budget and Scrooge sober, Sully dusts off her investiga-

tive skills to find a murderer. Her two lives collide when her ex-husband arrives on the scene to play lawyer and she's forced to confront her past in order to save her present.

HONIGFORD, CHERYL viv HOMICIDE FOR THE HOLIDAYS (#2) (\$22.50) A holiday mystery set amidst the glitz of Chicago's radio drama scene and the grime of its taverns and speakeasies. A hidden key that opens a drawer locked for the past eight years, a mysterious envelope filled with cash, and a threatening note...none of this is what rising radio star Vivian Witchell expects to find in her late father's office. But when Vivian stumbles into trouble, she hardly knows how to steer herself back to safety. With the handsome and maddeningly practical private detective Charlie Haverman at her side, Vivian spends the holiday season uncovering the details of the last weeks of her father's life, following a sinister trail of clues that leads her directly to one of the most notorious mob bosses of all time, Al Capone.

HUBER, ANNA LEE kent THIS SIDE OF MURDER (#1) (\$16.95) England, 1919. Verity Kent's grief over the loss of her husband pierces anew when she receives a cryptic letter, suggesting her beloved Sidney may have committed treason before his untimely death. Determined to dull her pain with revelry, Verity's first impulse is to dismiss the derogatory claim. But the mystery sender knows too much—including the fact that during the war, Verity worked for the Secret Service, something not even Sidney knew. Lured to Umbersea Island to attend the engagement party of one of Sidney's fellow officers, Verity mingles among the men her husband once fought beside, and discovers dark secrets—along with a murder clearly meant to conceal them.

HUGHES, MICHAEL C. connell PRODUCER'S GIRL (\$14.95) For Connell, it started as just another trip to Crack Central in South Boston. But when he caught his first glimpse of the little girl's body he let out a soft groan, "Aw no," and he made a silent vow to one of society's throwaway kids: someone's going to pay. That same day, Hollywood line producer Lenny Danko drops from the rooftop at the FilmLand buildings on the city's east side and Hollywood D-list producer Lou Lazar, sends Bobbi Stratos—Private Investigator extraordinaire and Lazar's go-to girl when disaster looms—to Boston to clean up that mess. She walks off the plane at Logan and straight into Connell's life and together they are drawn into a world of sex, lies, and secrets and into a showdown with the city's most covert and deadly drug ring.

HURWITZ, GREGG orphan x NOWHERE MAN (#2) (\$12.99) Who is the Nowhere Man? He is spoken about only in whispers. He comes to those in greatest need of his protection. There is no enemy he cannot fight. He lives by his own code. He takes no prisoners. His name is Evan Smoak. Taken from a group home when he was young, Evan was raised and trained as an Orphan, an off-the-books black box program designed to create the perfect deniable intelligence asset: An assassin. Evan was Orphan X—until he used everything he'd learned to disappear and reinvent himself as the Nowhere Man. But now, his new life has been interrupted by a surprise attack from an unlikely source. Captured, drugged, and spirited off to a remote location, Evan finds himself heavily guarded from everything he knows. His captors think they have him trapped and helpless in a virtual cage, but they do not know that they're dealing with one of the deadliest, most resourceful men on earth.

IRWIN, CHRISTOPHER RAGGED or the loveliest lies of all (\$21.95) In a feral twist on crime fiction, Cal, a mutt with a criminal past, must avenge the death of his wife and protect his pups from the inherent darkness of nature and the cold cruelty of the looming winter. Step inside this—per the blurb—"unforgettable anthropomorphic animal tale of love and revenge, as Wind in the Willow meets Fargo and Irwin's slice-of-life crime takes on a whole new realm." I think this title is on Marian's list to read as she was quite impressed with the author at Bouchercon.

JACOBSON, ALAN DARKNESS OF EVIL (\$27.50) Jasmine Marcks was a teenager when she discovered her father was a killer. Roscoe Lee Marcks killed fourteen people before he was finally put behind bars, turned in by Jamine. But as renowned FBI agent Karen Vail soon learns, Marcks's reign of terror isn't over yet. After writing a book about growing up as the child of a serial killer, Jasmine receives a letter—a single sheet of paper mailed from the maximum-security prison Marcks now calls home. The page hides a threatening message from a father who wants vengeance against the daughter who turned him in to the police. So, when Marcks breaks out of prison, Agent Vail calls on a legendary retired profiler to help her find the escaped convict—and keep him from making Jasmine his fifteenth victim.

JAMES, DELIA witch's cat FAMILIAR MOTIVES (#3) (\$10.99) After learning that she comes from a family of witches—and adopting a familiar named Alistair—artist Annabelle Britton has made beautiful Portsmouth, New Hampshire, her home. Together with her coven, this good witch is trying to put a stop to magic and murder most foul. When Anna takes Alistair to see local veterinarian Ramona Forsythe, they meet the most famous cat in town: Ruby the Attitude Cat, spokes-feline for a pet food brand. But then Ramona turns up dead, and Ruby goes missing. It seems like the murderer used magical means, so it's up to Anna and Alistair to catch a killer and cat-napper as only a canny cat can.

JAMES, PETER grace NEED YOU DEAD (#13) (\$12.99) Lorna Belling, desperate to escape the marriage from hell, falls for the charms of another man who promises her the earth. But, as Lorna finds, life seldom follows the plans you've made. A chance photograph on a client's mobile phone changes everything for her. When the body of a woman is found in a bath in Brighton, Detective Superintendent Roy Grace is called to the scene. At first it looks an open and shut case with a clear prime suspect. Then other scenarios begin to present themselves, each of them tantalizingly plausible, until, in a sudden turn of events, and to his utter disbelief, the case turns more sinister than Grace could ever have imagined.

JENNINGS, MAUREEN murdoch LET DARKNESS BURY THE DEAD (#8) (\$24.95) It's been over ten years since the previous Murdoch novel, Journeyman to Grief (#7) (\$19.95) was published. He returns, older and wiser. It is November 1917. The Great War is grinding on, chewing up young men by the thousands. Initially, in the loyal Dominion of Canada, people are mostly eager to support the Motherland and fight for the Empire. Men perceived as slackers or cowards are shunned. But the carnage is horrendous and with enforced conscription, the enthusiasm for war is dimming. William Murdoch is a widower, a senior detective who, thanks to the new temperance laws, spends his time tracking down bootleggers and tipplers; most unsatisfying. His wife, Amy, died giving birth to their second child, a girl who lived only a few hours more. Murdoch, racked by grief, withdrew from four-year-old, Jack. This he regrets and would dearly love to make up for his negligence. As we enter the story, Jack, now twenty-one, has returned from France after being wounded and gassed at the Battle of Passchendaele. It is soon apparent that he is deeply troubled but he's not confiding in his father. He does, however, seem to be bound by shared secrets to another wounded former soldier, Percy McKinnon. Murdoch suddenly has much more serious crimes than rum-running on his hands. The night after Jack and McKinnon arrive home, a young man is found stabbed to death in the impoverished area of Toronto known as the Ward. Soon after, Murdoch has to deal with a tragic suicide, also a young man. Two more murders follow in quick succession. The only common denominator is that all of the men were exempted from conscription. Increasingly worried that Jack knows more than he is letting on, Murdoch must solve these crimes before more innocents lose their lives. It is a solution that will give him only sorrow.

JONASSON, RAGNAR SNOWBLIND (#1) (\$9.99) A quiet fishing village in northern Iceland, where no one locks their doors. It is accessible only via a small mountain tunnel. Ari Thor is a rookie policeman on his first posting, far from his girlfriend in Reykjavik. He has a past that he's unable to leave behind. A young woman is found lying half-naked in the snow, bleeding and unconscious, and a highly esteemed elderly writer falls to his death. Ari is dragged straight into the heart of a community where he can trust no one, and secrets and lies are a way of life. Past plays tag with the present and the claustrophobic tension mounts, while Ari is thrust ever deeper into his own darkness—blinded by snow and with a killer on the loose.

JOYCE-HAWRYLUK, BARBARA WOUNDED (\$21) It was a routine domestic dispute. But within minutes of arriving at the dilapidated trailer, one officer is fatally shot and his partner, Constable Debrah Thomas, is left with a wound that she thought had long ago been healed. Debrah's husband, RCMP Major Crimes Investigator, Liam Thomas, tries to support her through the ordeal even though he's engrossed in a high-profile murder investigation. The couple has no way of knowing that ghosts from their pasts will resurface and intertwine, leading them into a terrifying trap set by a psychopathic predator. Set in Winnipeg.

KAVA, ALEX ryder creed RECKLESS CREED (#3) (\$13.50) Ryder Creed and FBI profiler Maggie O'Dell discover the ominous connection among a number of mysterious deaths. What they find may be the most prolific killer the United States has ever known.

KELLERMAN, FAYE KILLING SEASON (\$19.99 trade paperback, \$31.99 hardcover) See the hardcover section.

KING, STEPHEN IT (\$26.99) Special orders, but we can get you it.

KING, THOMAS dreadfulwater DREADFULWATER (#1) (\$18.99) Thumps DreadfulWater is a Cherokee ex-cop trying to make a living as a photographer in the small town of Chinook, somewhere in the northwestern United States. But he doesn't count on snapping shots of a dead body languishing in a newly completed luxury condo resort built by the local Indian band. It's a mystery that Thumps can't help getting involved in, especially when he realizes the number one suspect is Stick Merchant, anti-condo protester and wayward son of Claire Merchant, head of the tribal council and DreadfulWater's sometimes lover. Smart and savvy, blessed with a killer dry wit and a penchant for self-deprecating humour, DreadfulWater just can't manage to shed his California cop skin. Before long, he is deeply entangled in the mystery and has his work cut out for him.

KING, THOMAS dreadfulwater RED POWER MURDERS (\$18.99) Thumps DreadfulWater has never liked surprises—even the good ones are annoying. So it's no shock

that a string of seemingly random occurrences is causing Thumps some real discomfort. First Noah Ridge, the Red Power Native activist, arrives in Thumps' sleepy town of Chinook. Then the body of a retired FBI agent turns up at the local Holiday Inn. In the background hovers the ghostly presence of Lucy Kettle, second-in-charge of the Red Power movement, a tough woman in a tough place until her disappearance years ago. Now the sheriff wants Thumps to trade in his photography gig for a temporary cop beat. And it won't be over, Thumps soon realizes, until everyone's dead—or famous.

KURBJUWEIT, DIRK FEAR (\$19.95) "I had always believed my father capable of a massacre. Whenever I heard on the news that there had been a killing spree, I would hold my breath, unable to relax until it was clear that it couldn't have been him." Randolph Tiefenthaler insists he had a normal childhood, though he grew up with a father who kept thirty loaded guns in the house. A modestly successful architect with an attractive, intelligent wife, Rebecca, and two children, Randolph finds his life turned upside down when his father, a man he loves yet has always feared, is imprisoned for murder.

LEATHER, STEPHEN FOREIGNER aka chinaman (\$15.99) Jungle-skilled, silent and lethal, he had killed for the Viet Cong and then for the Americans. He had watched helpless when his two eldest daughters had been killed by Thai pirates. Now all that was behind him. Quiet, hard-working and unassuming, he was building up his South London take-away business. Until the day his wife and youngest daughter were destroyed by an IRA bomb in a Knightsbridge department store. Then, simply but persistently, he began to ask the authorities who were the men responsible, what was being done. And was turned away, fobbed off, treated as a nuisance. Which was when, denied justice, he decided on revenge. And went back to war.

LESCROART, JOHN FATAL (\$12.99) Kate loves her life. Forty-four, happily married, two wonderful children, beautiful home in San Francisco... Everything changes, however, when she and Ron attend a dinner party and meet another couple, Peter and Jill. Kate and Peter only exchange a few pleasant words but that night, in bed with her husband, Kate is suddenly overcome with a burning desire for Peter. What begins as an innocent crush soon develops into a dangerous obsession and Kate's fixation on Peter results in one intense, passionate encounter. Confident that her life can now go back to normal, Kate never considers that Peter may not be so willing to move on.

LITTLEJOHN, EMILY gemma INHERIT THE BONES (#1) (\$23.99) Secrets and lies can't stay buried forever in Cedar Valley. In the summer, hikers and campers pack the small Colorado town's meadows and fields. And in the winter, skiers and snowboarders take over the mountains. Season by season, year after year, time passes and the lies, like the aspens and evergreens that surround the town, take root and spread deep. Now, someone has uncovered the lies, and it is his murder that continues a chain of events that began almost forty years ago. Detective Gemma Monroe's investigation takes her from the seedy grounds of a traveling circus to the powerful homes of those who would control Cedar Valley's future. Six-months pregnant, with a partner she can't trust and colleagues who know more than they're saying, Gemma tracks a killer who will stop at nothing to keep those secrets buried.

MACINTOSH, PAT cunningham LANIMER BRIDE (#11) (\$15.99) Young Mistress Audrey Madur is missing and her husband, responsible for maintaining boundaries and overseeing land use in the burgh of Lanark, is strangely reluctant to search for her. Gil Cunningham, answering the frantic appeal of Audrey's mother, finds himself searching the burgh and the lands round about, questioning family and neighbours. He uncovers disagreements, feuds, adultery and murder, and encounter once again the flamboyant French lady Olympe Archibecque, who is not at all what she seems. And then another lady goes missing . . .

MARCHETTA, MELINA TELL THE TRUTH SHAME THE DEVIL (\$20.99) When Bish Ortley, a recently suspended cop, receives word that a bus carrying his daughter has been bombed, he rushes to be by her side. A suspect has already been named—a 17-year-old girl who has since disappeared from the scene. The press has now revealed that she is the youngest member of one of London's most notorious families. Years earlier, they were implicated in an attack that left dozens dead. Has the girl decided to follow in their footsteps? To find her, Bish must earn the trust of her friends and family, including her infamous mother, now serving a life sentence in prison. But even as he delves into the deadly bus attack that claimed five lives, the ghosts of older crimes become impossible to ignore.

MARTIN, MIKE windflower TANGLED WEB (#6) (\$20) Life is good for Sgt. Windflower in Grand Bank, Newfoundland. But something's missing from the Mountie's life. Actually, a lot of things go missing, including a little girl and supplies from the new factory. It's Windflower's job to unravel the tangled web of murder, deceit and an accidental kidnapping that threatens to engulf this sleepy little town and destroy those closest to him. But there's always good food, good friends and the love of a great woman to make everything better in the end. **Walker on the Cape (#1)** (\$20) is the first in this fine series.

MEIER, LESLIE EGGNOG MURDER (\$8.99) Three Christmas time stories: Eggnog Murder by Leslie Meier, Death by Eggnog by Lee Hollis and Nogged Off by Barbara Ross.

OGILVIE, KEN HER DARK PATH (\$14.95) Sixteen years ago, Rebecca Bradley's mother was murdered. Rebecca was only eight years old. The killer has never been caught. Growing up, Rebecca vowed that one day she would track him down and make him pay. Now Rebecca is a young police woman in a remote Ontario town. She wants to become a homicide detective. Her first investigation is the cold case of a woman who vanished for 16 days and then was found dead in her own home. The brutal crime shocks the remote Canadian town of Conroy. The puzzling case has uncanny similarities to the murder of Rebecca's mother. Both victims were found strangled in their own kitchens. Can Rebecca keep her emotions together as she closes in on a killer with connections to her family and tragic past? And will she finally get justice for her mother?

PATTERSON, JAMES private GAMES (#11) (\$12.99) 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.

PENZLER, OTTO ed. BIG BOOK OF ROGUES AND VILLAINS (\$34) The best mysteries—whether detective, historical, police procedural, cozy, or comedy—have one thing in common: a memorable perpetrator. For every Sherlock Holmes or Sam Spade in noble pursuit, there's a Count Dracula, a Lester Leith, or a Jimmy Valentine. These are the rogues and villains who haunt our imaginations—and who often have more in common with their heroic counterparts than we might expect. So, here are the iconic traitors, thieves, con men, sociopaths, and killers who have crept through the mystery canon over the past 150 years, captivating and horrifying readers in equal measure. The 72 handpicked stories in this collection introduce us to the most depraved of psyches, from iconic antiheroes like **Maurice Leblanc's** Arsène Lupin and **Sax Rohmer's** Dr. Fu Manchu to contemporary delinquents like **Lawrence Block's** Ehrengraf and **Donald Westlake's** Dortmund, and include unforgettable tales by **Robert Louis Stevenson, Bram Stoker, Washington Irving, Jack London, H.G. Wells, Sinclair Lewis, O. Henry, Edgar Wallace, Leslie Charteris, Erle Stanley Gardner, Edward D. Hoch, Max Allan Collins, Loren D. Estleman...**

PERRY, SARAH ESSEX SERPENT (\$23.99) An exquisitely talented young British author makes her American debut with this rapturously acclaimed historical novel, set in late nineteenth-century England, about an intellectually minded young widow, a pious vicar, and a rumored mythical serpent that explores questions about science and religion, skepticism, and faith, independence and love. Per the blurb. Costa Book Award Finalist and the Waterstones (UK) Book of the Year, 2016.

PHILLIPS, GARY ed. OBAMA INHERITANCE 15 ss (\$28.95) In an era where the outlandish and fantastic has permeated our media 24/7, where mind-bending conspiracy theories shape our views, the writers in this collection riff on the numerous fictions spun about the 44th president of the U.S. Although Obama himself does not appear in most of these stories, contributors spin deliberately outlandish and fantastic twists on many of the dozens of screwball, bizarro conspiracy theories floated about the president during his years in office and turn them on their heads. Contributors include **Walter Mosley, Kate Flora, Robert Silverberg.**

RAMSAY, CARO anderson RAT RUN (#7) (\$35) In August 1992, a young mother and her two small sons were brutally murdered in the woods behind their home. Her neighbour Andrew Gyle was convicted of the crime and sentenced to life imprisonment. Now, twenty-three years later, a macabre discovery throws new light on the case. Could there have been a shocking miscarriage of justice? Having only just returned to work following an enforced leave of absence, DCI Colin Anderson knows he must make a success of his comeback case. But, as he and his partner, DI Costello, uncover serious discrepancies in the original investigation, it becomes clear that not everyone is telling them the truth. Meanwhile, Costello worries that Anderson is struggling to cope—and his increasingly odd behaviour causes her to begin to think the unthinkable: can she trust her own partner?

REDONDO, DOLORES salazar OFFERING TO THE STORM (#3) (\$22.99) It begins with a murdered child. It ends in a valley where nightmares are born. When Detective Inspector Amaia Salazar is called in to investigate the death of a baby girl, she finds a suspicious mark across the child's face—an ominous sign that points to murder. The baby's father was caught trying to run away with the body, whether from guilt or grief nobody can be sure. And when the girl's grandmother tells the police that the 'Inguma' was responsible—an evil demon of Basque mythology that kills people in their sleep—Amaia is forced to return to the Baztan valley for answers. Back where it

all began, in the depths of a blizzard, she comes face to face with a ghost from her past. And finally uncovers a devastating truth that has ravaged the valley for years. Sequel to The Invisible Guardian (#1) and Legacy of the Bones (#2) (\$16.99 each).\.

REILLY, LINDA FRYING SHAME (\$10.99) The town of Wrensdale is abuzz with excitement when Steeltop Foods sponsors a cooking contest to promote its new product, the Flavor Dial. With a \$25,000 prize at stake, all the contestants are on edge, including Talia Marby, owner of Fry Me A Sliver. She hopes her mini deep-fried apple pies will win her the money to pay off the renovations on her restaurant. But when Norma Ferguson wins with her flaky-top chicken stew, the tensions dial up even more. After Norma is found dead at her cooking station, the police suspect a losing contestant got a little too hot under the collar. Now it's crunch time as Talia works to catch the killer and clear her name before another cook gets burned.

ROBERTSON, CRAIG winter MURDERABILIA (\$22) The first commuter train of the morning slowly rumbles away from the platform at Queen Street station. Everyone on board is sleepy, avoiding eye contact, reluctant to admit the day has begun. And then, as the train emerges from a tunnel, the screaming starts. Hanging from the bridge ahead of them is a body. Placed neatly on the ground below him are the victim's clothes. Why? Detective Inspector Narey is assigned the investigation and then just as quickly taken off it again. Tony Winter, now a journalist, must pursue the case for her. The line of questioning centers around the victim's clothes—why leave them in full view?

ROBERTSON, L. F. TWO LOST BOYS (\$19.95) Janet Moodie has spent years as a death row appeals attorney. Overworked and recently widowed, she's had her fill of hopeless cases, and is determined that this will be her last. Her client is Marion 'Andy' Hardy, convicted along with his brother Emory of the rape and murder of two women. But Emory received a life sentence while Andy got the death penalty, labeled the ring-leader despite his low IQ and Emory's dominant personality. Convinced that Andy's previous lawyers missed mitigating evidence that would have kept him off death row, Janet investigates Andy's past. She discovers a sordid and damaged upbringing, a series of errors on the part of his previous counsel, and most worrying of all, the possibility that there is far more to the murders than was first thought. Andy may be guilty, but does he deserve to die?

ROBINSON, TODD HARD BOUNCE (\$17.99) Boo Malone lost everything when he was sent to St. Gabriel's Home for Boys. There, he picked up a few key survival skills; a wee bit of an anger management problem; and his best friend for life, Junior. Now adults, they provide security for The Cellar, a Boston nightclub where the bartender Audrey doles out hugs and scoldings for her favorite misfits, and the night porter, Luke, expects them to watch their language. At last Boo has found a family. But when Boo and Junior are hired to find Cassandra, a well-to-do runaway slumming among the authority-shy street kids, Boo sees in the girl his own long-lost younger sister. And as the case deepens with evidence that Cassie is being sexually exploited, Boo's blind desire for justice begins to push his surrogate family's loyalty to the breaking point. Cassie's life depends on Boo's determination to see the case through, but that same determination just might finally drive him and Junior apart. What's looking like an easy payday is turning into a hard bounce—for everyone.

ROSENFELT, DAVID carpenter TWELVE DOGS OF CHRISTMAS (#15) (\$22.99) Defense lawyer Andy Carpenter usually tries to avoid taking on new cases at all costs. But this time, he's happy—eager, even—to take the case that's just come his way. Andy's long-time friend Martha "Pups" Boyer takes in stray puppies that the local dog rescue center can't handle, raises them until they're old enough to adopt, and then finds good homes for them. Not everyone admires the work Pups does as much as Andy does, however. With Christmas just around the corner, one of Pups's neighbors has just reported Pups to the city for having more than the legal number of pets in her home under the local zoning laws. Andy happily takes Pups's case, and he feels confident in a positive outcome. Who could punish someone for rescuing puppies, after all, especially at Christmastime? But things get a lot more complicated when Randy Hennessey, the neighbor who registered the complaint against Pups, turns up dead...

SIMENON, GEORGES MAN WHO WATCHED THE TRAINS GO BY (\$17.50) Kees Poppinga is a respectable Dutch citizen and family man—until the day he discovers his boss has bankrupted the shipping firm he works for, and something snaps. Kees used to watch the trains go by on their way to exciting destinations. Now, on some dark impulse, he boards one at random, and begins a new life of recklessness and violence, in Paris with his crooked boss's money. This chilling portrayal of a man who breaks from society and goes on the run asks who we are, and what we are capable of.

SIMON, MISTY tallie CREMAINS OF THE DAY (#1) (\$8.99) Tallulah Graver is left with next to nothing, so she turns to cleaning houses to make ends meet. As humbling as it is to tidy the mansions of the snobby socialites she used to call friends, at least she doesn't have to be around dead bodies. Until she discovers one of her employers lying in a closet with a knife sticking out of her chest. This unpleasant shock seems to be part

of a web of weird experiences: Tallie's friend Gina's shop is broken into, her ex is stunned where it hurts the most, and now she's receiving flowers from the dead woman. Granted the deliveryman is handsome, but seriously, that's enough to cast a pall over anyone's day. Now Tallie needs to dig deep to clean up this mess—before she finds herself in a grave situation.

SMITH, WILBUR courtney TIGER'S PREY (\$24.99) Tom Courtney, one of four sons of master mariner Sir Hal Courtney, once again sets sail on a treacherous journey that will take him across the vast reaches of the ocean and pit him against dangerous enemies in exotic destinations. But just as the winds propel his sails, passion drives his heart. Turning his ship towards the unknown, Tom Courtney will ultimately find his destiny—and lay the future for the Courtney family.

SNOEKSTRA, ANNA LITTLE SECRETS (\$19.99) An arsonist is on the loose in Colmstock, Australia, most recently burning down the town's courthouse and killing a young boy who was trapped inside. In the weeks after the courthouse fire, precise porcelain replicas of Colmstock's daughters begin turning up on doorsteps, terrifying parents and testing the limits of the town's already fractured police force. This may be the story that aspiring journalist Rose Blakey needs.

SOKOLOFF, ALEXANDRA HUNGER MOON (#5) (\$22.95) Special Agent Matthew Roarke has abandoned his rogue search for serial killer Cara Lindstrom. He's returned to the FBI to head a task force to rid society of its worst predators. But as the skeletal symbols of Santa Muerte, "Lady Death," mysteriously appear at universities nationwide, threatening death to rapists, Roarke's team is pressured to investigate. When a frat boy goes missing in Santa Barbara, Roarke realizes a bloodbath is coming—desperate teenagers are about to mete out personal, cold-blooded justice. Hiding from the law, avenging angel Cara Lindstrom is on her own ruthless quest. She plans to stay as far away from Roarke as possible—until an old enemy comes after both her and the FBI, forcing her back into Roarke's orbit. This time, the huntress has become the hunted....

STRINGER, JAY HOW TO KILL FRIENDS AND IMPLICATE PEOPLE (#2) (\$23.95) Fergus Fletcher is a hit man. For five thousand pounds, he'll kill anyone you want. For seven, he'll frame someone else. Pretending to kill someone is a first, but Alex Pennan has stolen from the mob and needs to fake his own death. Fergus is looking for love. So is Sam Ireland, a private investigator and part-time bike messenger. But she's got her hands on a very important package and is in a world of trouble with the mob. Joe Pepper, pillar of society and corrupt gangland fixer, will stop at nothing—nothing at all—to intercept the package and protect his reputation. Can Alex stay dead while his widow dances on his grave? Can Joe save himself before his stomach ulcer explodes? Can Fergus and Sam make it to a second date before Joe hires him to kill her? Welcome to Glasgow. It's a love story.

STRINGER, JAY WAYS TO DIE IN GLASGOW (#1) (\$22.95) A violent drunk with a broken heart, Mackie looks for love in all the wrong places. When two hit men catch him with his pants down, he barely makes it out alive. Worse still, his ex-gangster uncle, Rab, has vanished, leaving him an empty house and a dead dog. Reluctant PI Sam Ireland is hired by hotshot lawyers to track Rab but is getting nothing except blank stares and slammed doors. As she scours the dive bars, the dregs of Glasgow start to take notice.

TREMEL, JOYCE brew ROOM WITH A BREW (#3) (\$10.99) It's Oktoberfest in Pittsburgh, and brewpub owner Maxine "Max" O'Hara is prepping for a busy month at the Allegheny Brew House. To create the perfect atmosphere for the boozy celebration, Max hires an oompah band. But when one of the members from the band turns up dead, it's up to Max to solve the murder before the festivities are ruined. Adding to the brewing trouble, Candy, Max's friend, is acting suspicious... Secrets from her past are fermenting under the surface, and Max must uncover the truth to prove her friend's innocence. To make matters worse, Jake's snooty ex-fiancée shows up in town for an art gallery opening, and she'll be nothing but a barrel of trouble for Max.

WAIT, LEA needlepoint THREAD THE HALLS (#6) (\$8.99) This Yuletide season, there's no time for Angie Curtis and Patrick West to linger under the mistletoe. Patrick's being needled by his mother—movie star Skye West—to set the stage for a perfect white Christmas as she brings her costar, screenwriters, and director home for the holidays. With his mother's long list of wishes, Patrick's becoming unraveled. To help, the Mainely Needlepointers offer to decorate Skye's Victorian mansion and create needlepoint pillows as gifts for the guests. But not long after the celebrity celebrants invade Haven Harbor, an unscripted tragedy occurs. Then some questionable Christmas cookies make Patrick sick. Before Santa arrives at the town pier on a lobster boat, Angie and the Needlepointers need to trim down the naughty list, catch a cold-hearted killer, and wrap up the case . . .

WALLACE, AURALEE otter lake RING IN THE YEAR WITH MURDER (#4) (\$10.99) This New Year's Eve, Erica's resolution is to have a great night—even if it kills her. She is, after all, at the party to end all parties: a Great Gatsby-themed gala sure

to be the talk of Otter Lake, New Hampshire. With her perfectly finger-waved hair, borrowed pearls, and scarlet flapper dress, Erica is determined to be unflappable, despite the presence of her ex, Sheriff Grady Forrester, and his hot date, a bubbly blonde who has a hard time holding her drink. Literally. . . In a plot twist as bizarre as a game of Clue, Grady's girlfriend almost drops dead after her drink is poisoned. Who put the killer ingredient in her appletini? Suddenly the tables have turned and the sheriff has become the prime suspect. Now Erica has until midnight to clear the man she still loves—and in so doing just maybe win him back. That's if the killer doesn't pop the cork again... and turn a New Year's smooch into a kiss of death

WEISS, KIRSTEN pie town QUICHE AND THE DEAD (#1) (\$8.99) Owing her own business seemed like pie in the sky to Valentine Harris when she moved to the coastal California town of San Nicholas, expecting to start a new life with her fiancé. Five months—and a broken engagement—later, at least her dream of opening a pie shop has become a reality. But when one of her regulars keels over at the counter while eating a quiche, Val feels like she's living a nightmare. After the police determine the customer was poisoned, business at Pie Town drops faster than a fallen crust. Convinced they're both suspects, Val's flaky, seventy-something pie crust maker Charlene drags her boss into some amateur sleuthing. At first Val dismisses Charlene's half-baked hypotheses, but before long the ladies uncover some shady dealings hidden in fog-bound San Nicholas. Now Val must expose the truth—before a crummy killer tries to shut her pie hole.

WHISHAW, IONA winslow AN OLD COLD GRAVE (#3) (\$18.95) It's early spring of 1947 in idyllic King's Cove, and the Hughes ladies, mere et filles, are gardening and sorting through the jars of food that have been put up for the winter. But while cleaning up after the roof of their root cellar has caved in slightly, they are horrified to discover a small skeletal hand embedded in the mess. Panicked, they call Lane Winslow, the ex-British secret service agent, and, not without some misgivings about the state of their tense relationship, Lane calls Inspector Darling. Before long the police crew discover the body of a young child buried almost 40 years before. Who is the child, and why has it not been buried in the local cemetery? Inspector Darling, already busy dealing with a teenage girl who has gone on a destructive rampage at a local mill, asks Lane for help in unearthing the long-forgotten secrets of the early life of the tiny town, and the identity of the long-forgotten child.

WILKSHIRE, NICK foreign MOSCOW CODE (#2) (\$15.99) Ottawa bureaucrat-turned-diplomat Charlie Hillier is back. Having barely survived his first posting in Havana, Charlie is eager to put what he learned there to good use. And it isn't long before he's thrust into a fresh case — a technical writer from Toronto in a Moscow jail on dubious drug charges. Charlie has barely put a dent in the brick wall that is the Russian legal system when the jailed man turns up dead, the official explanation: suicide. And just when evidence to the contrary is discovered, the body is “accidentally” cremated by the authorities.

ZAHRADNIK, RICH BLACK SAIL (\$23.95) On the eve of the U.S. Bicentennial, newsman Coleridge Taylor is covering Operation Sail. New York Harbor is teeming with tall ships from all over the world. Enjoying the spectacle as he is, Taylor still wants to cover real stories, not fluff, and gritty New York City still has plenty of those in July of 1976. One surfaces right in front of him when a housewife is fished out of the harbor wearing bricks of heroin, inferior stuff users have been rejecting for China White, peddled by the Chinatown gangs. Convinced he's stumbled upon a drug war between the Italian Mafia and a Chinese tong, Taylor is on fire once more. But as he blazes forward, flanked by his new girlfriend, ex-cop Samantha Callahan, his precious story grows ever more twisted and deadly. In his reckless search for the truth, he rattles New York's major drug cartels. If he solves the mystery, he may end up like his victim—in a watery grave.