



# The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

## SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

September 2016,

There is always a first time for everything, as the saying goes. I do not recall ever getting to the end of a roll of dental floss—not once, not ever—but that’s exactly what happened the other day. It’s like those infernal Bic ball point pens. When have you ever used up all the ink in one? I’ll bet you dollars to doughnuts that well before that happens, you’ve chewed the end of the pen into shards and you’ve had to chuck it out before you stuck yourself with it, or the cartridge has fallen out and gotten lost, or most likely, you’ve lost the pen. Well, imagine my surprise when all I got was about four inches of floss. Fortunately, no lack of floss lying about—I have a dentist in the family—so my teeth won’t suffer any.

And on that same first-time-for-everything topic...I had never been to Pelee Island so when the opportunity presented itself, I took it. Rather pleasant couple of days, rented a bike and rode around the island—thumbs up; tried a couple of restaurants—thumbs down; met some fun and interesting people, an American couple from Sandusky, Ohio, and an Ontario couple from Port Stanley—thumbs up; and some rather unpleasant staff—thumbs down. If you are planning to go, have a careful look at the ferry schedule—it’s a rather poor website and almost impossible to figure it out, but start early and book a spot for the car as those are limited and tend to sell out quickly. You can also walk your own bikes on board for a nominal extra charge and save having to rent them. Bring ones with fat tires as many of the roads are not paved.

It was suggested to me that I could segue into crime novels set on islands, but when I remember that Britain and Australia are islands, I decided not to. The list would be endless!

Come meet

**Barbara Fradkin and Erika Chase (aka Linda Wiken)** at Sleuth, **Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup>** from 5:30 to 7:30pm.

**Vicki Delany and Rick Blechta**  
at Sleuth, **Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup>** from 2 to 4 pm.

## JD's Picks

The new **CRAIG JOHNSON**, *An Obvious Fact* (#12) (\$37), arrived the other day and I can tell you all you need to know in two words: Boy howdy. Maybe I’ll use two more: read it.

**JAMES SWAIN**, the award-winning author of over twenty books, fiction and non-fiction, is an avid magician who has lectured and written extensively on the subject. His novels deal with gambling, casinos, grifters, con men, hustlers, thieves...all the interesting folk that make a living ripping off casinos and scamming those with too much money. Not sure why I picked up a copy of *Take Down* (#1) (\$23.95) which was published about eighteen months ago, but maybe the review from **Michael Connelly** had something to do with it. He says “James Swain is one of my favourites. His books never fail to entertain, teach and surprise. *Take Down* is his best yet, with his knowledge and experience dripping off of every page, and a character like Billy Cunningham to lead the way. Great stuff.” And, at the end of the day, it is great stuff. Reading about all the different cons, all the

## The Merchant of Menace,

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### Postage & Handling

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### 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/e-mail, and check.**

ways to pull a fast one on the pit bosses who'll kill, literally, to protect their profits, all the different hustles, all the work and preparation that goes into making sure that you and your crew survive long enough to spend your ill-gotten gains is, well, really, great stuff. The writing is pretty simple—**Lee Child** says “No one in the world does this stuff better than Jim Swain”—but quite entertaining and I really needed to know how Billy Cunningham and his crew would make out. I didn't want to put it down and at over 400 pages... The sequel, **Bad Action** (#2) (\$23.95) was released earlier this summer.

Another lengthy read that I also did not want to put down was **ADRIAN MCKINTY**'s **Dead I Well May Be** (#1) (\$30), the first in his Michael Forsythe trilogy. No doubt, you remember my raving about this writer and his Sean Duffy series. If you have somehow forgotten, then let me just say get your hands on the first Duffy novel, **Cold Cold Ground** (#1) (\$17), and the same thing will happen to you as happened to me—I read the first four Duffys back to back. He is that good.

The Forsythe novels are different from the Duffy novels; judging by the one Forsythe novel that I've read, anyway. Longer and more lyrical, almost poetic. But, oh so worth it.

Michael Forsythe doesn't want to go to America, he doesn't want to work for Darkey, but he has to escape Belfast and, as an illegal immigrant, Darkey and New York are his only choice. Young Michael is strong and fearless and clever—just the kind of fella to be tapped by Darkey, a crime boss, to join a gang of Irish thugs struggling against the rising Dominican powers in Harlem and the Bronx. The time is pre-Giuliani New York, when crack rules the city, squatters live furiously in ruined buildings, and hundreds are murdered each month. Michael and his lads tumble through the streets, shaking down victims, drinking hard, and fighting for turf, block by bloody block. Dodgy and observant, not to mention handy with a pistol, Michael is soon anointed by Darkey as his rising star. Meanwhile Michael has very inadvisably seduced Darkey's girl, Bridget—saucy, fickle, and irresistible. Michael worries that he's being followed, that his affair with Bridget will be revealed. He's right to be anxious; when Darkey discovers the affair, he plans a very hard fall for young Michael.

**McKinty** is a terrific storyteller with a gift for dialogue and I particularly love the Irish lilt to his writing. Slower moving than the Duffy novels, you'll need to pay a bit more attention, but I think you'll love this and, like me, be champing at the bit for the next one. Which is where I'm headed now!

## Marian's Picks

Summer is almost over and I don't know whether to be relieved or sad. It has been so very hot and with no air conditioning at the cottage—with all that you might have been reading about electricity rates, they're even higher at the cottage and I feel sick when I see my bills as is, so ac is pretty much out of the question—I really feel sorry for Percy. He really feels the heat and even refuses to go for walks. The fans help keep him cool but I'd need a really, really long extension cord! With all the lovey veggies that are available during the summer I only got to can cucumbers—bread and butter pickles which were absolutely yummy—and turnips—which turned out to be quite salty, so gently, gently next time. I will be heading over to a local farmer in a week or so to pick a bushel of tomatoes and then I plan to spend a very happy day canning tomato sauce and chilli sauce. There is so much more I'd like to preserve, but it'll have to be next year.

One of the other things I did this summer was go to the Capital Theatre in Port Hope to see Mamma Mia. I love the music of Abba and I

like the stage version; I think I've seen the musical four times now. While there I noticed that the theatre is going to broadcast the Metropolitan Opera's *Don Giovanni* next month. I have not seen that opera and I thought what a great opportunity this would be to see it without having to spend a ton of money to go to the Met. I did see Giacomo Puccini's *La Bohème* at a local movie theatre a couple of years ago and it was so great. It's like having front row seats, which I could never afford at an actual live Met production. Now if you are wondering where all this leading to ...as I was going through a box of advance reading copies that I have at the cottage I noticed one titled **Sent to the Devil** (\$38.99) by **LAURA LEBOW**. Here is how the blurb for the book started off: “In 1788 Vienna, Court Poet Lorenzo Da Ponte is putting some finishing touches on the libretto for the premiere of his new opera with Mozart, “Don Giovanni.” A huge success when it debuted in Prague, the Emperor has decreed that it shall be performed in Vienna”. How could I not read it!!! Not only did I get a glimpse into how *Don Giovanni* was written, and then changed for the staging in Vienna to show off the voices of the performers, but there was a good discussion of art, music, Mozart, Dante, Casanova, the program of enlightened reform put about by Joseph II, and the war between the Turks and Austria. Lots of atmosphere, a fair amount of history and a very clever serial killer. Then I learn that the author's first book featured Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* in, surprise, surprise, **The Figaro Murders** (\$28.99), so I'm going need to read that next.

I can't begin to tell you how much I enjoyed **The Great Reckoning** (\$33.99) by **LOUISE PENNY**. A number of mystery writers have “retired” their main characters from the police force and have them pursuing other careers, as has **Ms. Penny** with Armand Gamache, but this book takes Gamache and **Ms. Penny**'s writing to another level. Gamache takes over as the head of the police academy which trains cadets to enter the Surete du Quebec. He wants to “clean up” the police force and decides to start from the bottom up. If fact, if you have read the earlier titles in the series, you know a lot of the “top guns” are no longer around. The story hinges on an old map, found stuffed into the walls of the bistro in Three Pines during some renovations. It's a strange old map and it's given to Gamache as a gift from Olivier and Gabri, owners of the Bistro. But the more the villagers and Gamache look at the map, the curiouser and curiouser it gets as no one can make heads nor tails of the symbols and their meaning and, well, that's where the mystery takes off. Combine that with the story of four young cadets in the Surete academy, a dead professor and a copy of the strange old map found with the body, Gamache, the eccentric collection of folks from Three Pines and you have, what I think, is **Ms. Penny**'s best book to date. It is so poignant and so heartbreaking. At one point in the book I had tears in my eyes. Remember Cottage Lady who used to review books for us? Well, she told me she teared up as well as she was reading it. Just a great read and you shouldn't miss it.

**Caught Bread Handed** (\$10.99) by **ELLIE ALEXANDER** is a quick cosy read chock full of cooking, baked goodies, descriptions of delectable delights, recipes, wine and, of course, the requisite murder. Jules Capshaw has returned to her hometown of Ashland, Oregon, to help her mom run Torte, their bakery cum restaurant, but when the owner of the new restaurant across the street from Torte is murdered, Jules has a hand in solving the crime. What was a bit different here is that Jules did not actively seek out the killer as often happens in these cosies; the resolution to the murder just happened around the story of the daily working of the town folk, Torte and the police. This is the fourth book in the series and even though I had read the first one, **Meet Your Baker** (#1), I found I didn't need to have read **Batter of Life and Death** (#2) or **On Thin Icing** (#3) (\$9.99 each) to figure out who was who and what was what. But you go ahead, be as persnickety as you like, and order all four! All you food lovers out there will find these enjoyable and, bonus, the recipes at the end of the book are rather interesting. I don't think I am going to be able to resist the Creamy Potato Casserole, although, me thinks there is an ingredient

missing from the printed recipe, as compared to the description in the in the story! The Lemon Olive Cake sounds pretty good as well.

**Fire in the Stars** (\$19.99) by **BARBARA FRADKIN** will make you want to be on the next plane to Newfoundland, especially if you've never had the pleasure. The descriptions of the villages, the struggles of the fishers to survive, the ocean, the scenery, the vast wilderness that is Newfoundland...well, the author should be writing for a travel magazine. We, however, are the lucky recipients, as not only do we get a fabulous travelogue but we get a great mystery in the bargain. I was a little unsure about her starting a new series with a new character and not getting another Inspector Green mystery, but, I needn't have worried. International aid worker Amanda Doucette is a winner, as is her dog Kaylee and RCMP officer Chris Tymko. What a team. As the story progresses we get a glimpse into the horrific events in Nigeria that have forever left Amanda, and her fellow aid worker Phil, scarred. Now, both back in Canada, Amanda learns that Phil and his son have disappeared, and, so, the search for him begins. Their search leads Amanda, Chris and Kaylee to the Great Northern Peninsula, a rugged landscape of Viking history, icebergs, whales, and fierce ocean storms. Elsewhere, a body gets hauled up in a fisherman's net, and evidence is mounting of an unsettling connection with Amanda's search for her friend. Excellent story telling.

Come and meet **Barbara Fradkin** at Sleuth on **Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm**. She will be signing copies of her new book and, no doubt, chatting about her book, reading from it and answering questions. **LINDA WIKEN** aka **ERIKA CHASE** will be joining her. **Linda** has just released **Toasting Up Trouble** (\$10.99) which I had *Picked* in the August 2016 newsletter and as **Erika Chase** she has released five books in her **Ashton Corners Book Club** series. It promises to be a great evening so please come out and support our Canadian Crime Writers. Stock up on some autographed copies now as they will make great stocking stuffers at Christmas.

## Hardbacks

**BENN, JAMES R billy boyle BLUE MADONNA (#11)** (\$33.95) It's late May 1944. Captain Billy Boyle is court-martialed on spurious charges of black market dealings. Stripped of his officer's rank, reduced to private, and sentenced to three months' hard labor, Billy is given an opportunity: he can avoid his punishment if he goes behind enemy lines to rescue a high-value Allied soldier. A secret chamber and tunnels, once used by escaping Huguenots in the 17th century, has since been taken over by the Allies. But this "safe house" on the outskirts of Chaumont turns out to be anything but—two downed airmen, one Canadian and the other American, have been murdered. Billy is flown in as part of a three-man team on June 5, 1944, the night before the Normandy invasion, and must solve the mystery of who is behind the murders before then leading a group escape back to England, with both the Germans and a killer hot on their heels.

**BURKE, JAMES LEE JEALOUS KIND** (\$34.99) On its surface, life in Houston is as you would expect: drive-in restaurants, souped-up cars, jukeboxes, teenagers discovering their sexuality. But beneath the glitz and superficial normalcy, a class war has begun, and it is nothing like the conventional portrayal of the decade. Against this backdrop Aaron Holland Broussard discovers the poignancy of first love and a world of violence he did not know existed. When Aaron spots the beautiful and gifted Valerie Epstein fighting with her boyfriend, Grady Harrelson, at a Galveston drive-in, he inadvertently challenges the power of the Mob and one of the richest families in Texas. He also discovers he must find the courage his father had found as an American soldier in the Great War.

**CARR, CALEB SURRENDER NEW YORK** (\$40) In the small town of Surrender in upstate New York, Dr. Jones, a psychological

profiler, and Dr. Michael Li, a trace evidence expert, teach online courses in profiling and forensic science from Jones's family farm. Once famed advisors to the New York City Police Department, Trajan and Li now work in exile, having made enemies of those in power. Protected only by farmhands and Jones's unusual "pet," the outcast pair is unexpectedly called in to consult on a disturbing case. In rural Burgoyne County, a pattern of strange deaths has emerged: adolescent boys and girls are found murdered in gruesome fashion. Senior law enforcement officials are quick to blame a serial killer, yet their efforts to apprehend this criminal are peculiarly ineffective. Jones and Li soon discover that the victims are all "throwaway children," a new state classification of young people who are neither orphans, runaways, nor homeless, but who are abandoned by their families and left to fend for themselves. Two of these throwaways, Lucas Kurtz and his older sister, Ambyr, cross paths with Jones and Li, offering information that could blow the case wide open. As the stakes grow higher, Jones and Li must not only unravel the mystery of how the throwaways died but also defend themselves and the Kurtz siblings against shadowy agents who don't want the truth to get out. Jones believes the real story leads back to the city where both he and Dr. Kreizler did their greatest work. But will Jones and Li be able to trace the case to New York before they fall victim to the murderous forces that stalk them?

**COEL, MARGARET WINTER'S CHILD** (\$36) In the midst of a blizzard, Myra and Eldon Little Shield found an abandoned baby on their doorstep and brought her inside. Five years later, no one has come back to claim the little girl now known as Mary Anne Little Shield. But now that she's old enough to start school, her foster parents fear social services will take her, a white child, away from them. Determined to adopt Mary Anne, the Little Shields hire lawyer Clint Hopkins, who wants Vicky as co-counsel on the case. But before their meeting can take place, a black truck deliberately runs Hopkins down in the street. Enlisting Father John to help investigate who would kill to stop the child's adoption, Vicky unravels a connection between the five-year-old girl and a missing alcoholic Arapaho wanted for robbery, only to uncover one of the darkest secrets in Wind River's history.

**CRIDER, BILL dan rhodes SURVIVORS WILL BE SHOT AGAIN (#23)** (\$36.99) Life is never easy for Sheriff Dan Rhodes. Even in a small Texas county, there's always something going on for a sheriff to look into, whether it's an attempted robbery, a marijuana patch guarded by an alligator, or a murder. This time the murdered man seems to be connected to a string of recent burglaries, but just how isn't easy to figure out. It takes some time and another murder before Sheriff Rhodes discovers the answers.

**DAVIES, DAVID STUART CLASSIC LOCKED ROOM MYSTERIES** (\$20.99) An intriguing collection of baffling mysteries from such masters as Conan Doyle and G. K. Chesterton. This collection of ingenious mysteries all pose the question 'howdunnit?' - 'how was the crime done?' Featuring well-known sleuths from Sherlock Holmes to Father Brown, as well as the less familiar, including Jacques Futrelle's Professor Augustus S. F. X. Van Dusen, in each story the reader is invited to play detective and is presented with a challenge: can you solve the mystery before the solution is revealed? Such stories reached their height of popularity in the Victorian and Edwardian eras; this collection, edited and introduced by David Stuart Davies, brings together stories from such masters of the genre as Edgar Allan Poe, Wilkie Collins and G. K. Chesterton.

**DETECTION CLUB SINKING ADMIRAL** (\$28.99) **The Floating Admiral** (\$10.99) was the first of the Detection Club's collaborative novels, in which twelve of its members wrote a single novel. Eighty-five years later, fourteen members of the club have once again collaborated to produce **The Sinking Admiral**.

**FREEMAN, BRIAN stride GOODBYE TO THE DEAD (#7)** (\$26.99) Detective Jonathan Stride's first wife, Cindy, died of cancer eight years ago, but her ghost hangs over Stride's relationship with current lover, and fellow detective, Serena Dial. When Serena witnesses a brutal murder outside a Duluth bar, she stumbles onto a case with roots that go all the way back to the last year of Cindy Stride's

life. At the time, Cindy and Stride were on opposite sides of a domestic murder investigation. Gorgeous, brilliant Janine Snow—a surgeon transplanted to Duluth from Texas—was the prime suspect in the shooting death of her husband. Cindy believed her friend Janine was innocent, but Stride thought all the evidence pointed to the surgeon—even though the gun was never found. Despite Cindy's attempts to help Janine, the case led to a high-profile murder trial in which Janine was convicted and sent to prison. During the current investigation, Serena finds a gun used in the murder of a woman connected to an organized crime syndicate—that gun. Two unrelated cases years apart suddenly have a mysterious connection.

**GEORGE, C B DEATH OF REX NHONGO** (\$31.50) In Zimbabwe's capital, a gun left in a taxi brings together five marriages in this novel. This is the story of five marriages and one gun. A British couple wonders at the unknowable city beyond their guarded compound while they build walls between themselves. An American suspects his new home is having an insidious effect on his 'African queen' and their young daughter. An enthusiastic young intellectual follows his wife to the city and finds only disillusion. An Intelligence Officer loses a crucial piece of evidence. It will cost him his marriage, his girlfriend, and maybe his life. An impoverished taxi driver and his wife find a gun in the cab. From this point on, all their lives are tied to the trigger. In this tender and brutal portrait of Zimbabwe, the betrayals and conspiracies of the corrupt world are nothing compared to those of marriage.

**GROSS, ANDREW ONE MAN** (\$37.99) Poland. 1944. Alfred Mendl and his family are brought on a crowded train to a Nazi concentration camp after being caught trying to flee Paris with forged papers. His family is torn away from him on arrival, his life's work burned before his eyes. To the guards, he is just another prisoner, but in fact Mendl, a renowned physicist, holds knowledge that only two people in the world possess. And the other is already at work for the Nazi war machine. Four thousand miles away, in Washington, DC, Intelligence lieutenant Nathan Blum routinely decodes messages from occupied Poland. Having escaped the Krakow ghetto as a teenager after the Nazis executed his family, Nathan longs to do more for his new country in the war. But never did he expect the proposal he receives from "Wild" Bill Donovan, head of the OSS: to sneak into the most guarded place on earth, a living hell, on a mission to find and escape with one man, the one man the Allies believe can ensure them victory in the war.

**HANNAH, SOPHIE poirot CLOSED CASKET (#2)** (\$33.50 hardcover, \$21.99 trade paperback) "What I intend to say to you will come as a shock..." With these words, Lady Athelinda Playford, one of the world's most beloved children's authors, springs a surprise on the lawyer entrusted with her will. As guests arrive for a party at her Irish mansion, Lady Playford has decided to cut off her two children without a penny and leave her vast fortune to someone else: an invalid who has only weeks to live. Among Lady Playford's visitors are two strangers: the famous Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, and Inspector Edward Catchpool of Scotland Yard. Neither knows why he has been invited, until Poirot begins to wonder if Lady Playford expects a murder. But why does she seem so determined to provoke a killer? And why, when the crime is committed despite Poirot's best efforts to stop it, does the identity of the victim make no sense at all?

**HIAASEN, CARL RAZOR GIRL** (\$35.95) When Lane Coolman's car is bashed from behind on the road to the Florida Keys, what appears to be an ordinary accident is anything but (this is Hiaasen!). Behind the wheel of the other car is Merry Mansfield, the eponymous Razor Girl, and the crash scam is only the beginning of events that spiral crazily out of control while unleashing some of the wildest characters Hiaasen has ever set loose on the page. There's Trebeaux, the owner of Sedimental Journeys, a company that steals sand from one beach to restore erosion on another. Dominick "Big Noogie" Aeola, a NYC mafia capo with a taste for tropic-wear. Buck Nance, a Wisconsin accordionist who has rebranded himself as the star of a redneck reality show called *Bayou Brethren*. A street psycho known as Blister who's more Buck Nance than Buck could ever be. Brock Richardson, a Miami product-liability lawyer who's getting

dangerously--and deformingly--hooked on the very E.D. product he's litigating against. Andrew Yancy, formerly Detective Yancy, busted down to the Key West roach patrol after accosting his then-lover's husband with a Dust Buster. Yancy believes that if he can singlehandedly solve a high-profile murder, he'll get his detective badge back. That the Razor Girl may be the key to Yancy's future will be as surprising as anything else he encounters along the way, including the giant Gambian rats that are livening up his restaurant inspections.

Yes, this is Hiaasen....

**HOLM, CHRIS RED RIGHT HAND** (\$34) When a viral video of an explosive terrorist attack on San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge reveals that a Federal witness long thought dead is still alive, the organization he'd agreed to testify against will stop at nothing to put him in the ground. FBI Special Agent Charlie Thompson is determined to protect him, but her hands are tied; the FBI's sole priority is catching the terrorists before they strike again. So Charlie calls the only person on the planet who can keep her witness safe: Michael Hendricks. Once a covert operative for the US military, Hendricks makes his living hitting hitmen... or he *did*, until the very organization hunting Charlie's witness—the Council—caught wind and targeted the people he loves. Teaming up with a young but determined tech whiz, Cameron, on the condition she leave him alone after the case, Hendricks reluctantly takes the job. Of course, finding a man desperate to stay hidden is challenging enough without deadly competition, let alone when the competition's shadowy corporate backer is tangled in the terrorist conspiracy playing out around them. And now Hendricks is determined to take the Council down, even if that means wading into the center of a terror plot whose perpetrators are not what they seem.

**INBINDER, GARY HANGED MAN** (\$34.95) Paris: July, 1890. Inspector Achille Lefebvre and his wife Adele are enjoying their stay at a seaside resort—until a body found hanging from a bridge in a public park demands the Inspector's attention. Is it suicide or murder? A twisted trail of evidence draws Inspector Lefebvre into a shadowy underworld of international intrigue, espionage, and terrorism. Time is of the essence; pressure mounts on the Sureté to get results. Achille's chief orders him to work with his former partner, Inspector Rousseau, now in charge of a special unit in the newly formed political brigade. But can Achille trust the detective who let him down in another case? Inspector Lefebvre uses innovative forensics and a network of police spies to uncover a secret alliance, a scheme involving the sale of a cutting-edge high explosive, and an assassination plot that threatens to ignite a world war.

**JOHNSON, CRAIG walt OBVIOUS FACT (#12)** (\$37) In the midst of the largest motorcycle rally in the world, a young biker is run off the road and ends up in critical condition. When Sheriff Walt Longmire and his good friend Henry Standing Bear are called to Hulett, Wyoming—the nearest town to America's first national monument, Devils Tower—to investigate, things start getting complicated. As competing biker gangs; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; a military-grade vehicle donated to the tiny local police force by a wealthy entrepreneur; and Lola, the real-life femme fatale and namesake for Henry's '59 Thunderbird (and, by extension, Walt's granddaughter) come into play, it rapidly becomes clear that there is more to get to the bottom of at this year's Sturgis Motorcycle Rally than a bike accident. After all, in the words of **Arthur Conan Doyle**, whose *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* the Bear won't stop quoting, "There is nothing more deceptive than an obvious fact."

**KELLY, STEPHEN WAGES OF DESIRE** (\$34.95) In the late summer of 1941, as the war in Europe drags on, long-buried secrets begin to surface in the Hampshire village of Winstead, when the body of a young woman – a former conscientious objector - is found shot to death in the church cemetery. The woman's only connection to Winstead seems to be that she lately had joined a group of conscripted workers who are building a prisoner of war camp on an abandoned farm near the village. But Detective Chief Inspector Thomas Lamb, who is called in to solve the case, has his doubts. The mystery deepens when workers at the farm find the remains of a child in the foundation of the old farmhouse, and a tramp who had been squatting in

the wood near the church turns up dead. Lamb soon begins to suspect that the crimes might be related to a tragic event that occurred in Winstead more than twenty years earlier, the suicide of a village woman who took her life in despair after her husband abandoned her and took their young twin sons with him. As Lamb pieces together the connections between the crimes, he draws closer to the source of evil in Winstead's past and present and, in the end, must risk his own life to uncover the truth.

**KORYTA, MICHAEL** RISE THE DARK (\$31.50) *Rise the dark*. These were the last words written in Lauren Novak's notebook before she was murdered in a strange Florida village. They've never meant anything to the police or to her husband, investigator Markus Novak. Now the man he believes killed her is out of prison, and draws Markus to the place he's avoided for so long: the lonely road where his wife was shot to death beneath the cypress trees and Spanish moss in a town called Cassadaga. In Red Lodge, Montana, a senseless act of vandalism shuts the lights off in the town where Sabrina Baldwin is still trying to adjust to a new home and mourning the loss of her brother, who was a high voltage linesman just like her husband, Jay. As the spring's final snowstorm calls Jay deeper into the mountains, chasing the destruction on the electrical grid, Sabrina is abducted by Garland Webb, the man Markus Novak believes killed his wife. Drawing them all together is a messianic villain who understands that you can never outpace your past. You can only rise against the future.

**KRUEGER, WILLIAM KENT** cor MANITOU CANYON (#15) (\$33.99) Since the violent deaths of his wife, father, and best friend all occurred in previous Novembers, Cork O'Connor has always considered it to be the cruelest of months. Yet, his daughter has chosen this dismal time of year in which to marry, and Cork is understandably uneasy. His concern comes to a head when a man camping in Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness goes missing. As the official search ends with no recovery in sight, Cork is asked by the man's family to stay on the case. Although the wedding is fast approaching and the weather looks threatening, he accepts and returns to that vast wilderness on his own. As the sky darkens and the days pass, Cork's family anxiously awaits his return. Finally, certain that something has gone terribly wrong, they fly by floatplane to the lake where the missing man was last seen. Locating Cork's campsite, they find no sign of their father. They do find blood, however. A lot of it. With an early winter storm on the horizon, it's a race against time as Cork's family struggles to uncover the mystery behind these disappearances. Little do they know, not only is Cork's life on the line, but so are the lives of hundreds of others.

**LE CARRE, JOHN** PIGEON TUNNEL (\$34.95) This is non-fiction. From his years serving in British Intelligence during the Cold War, to a career as a writer that took him from war-torn Cambodia to Beirut on the cusp of the 1982 Israeli invasion to Russia before and after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, John le Carré has always written from the heart of modern times. In this, his first memoir, le Carré is as funny as he is incisive, reading into the events he witnesses the same moral ambiguity with which he imbues his novels. Whether he's writing about the parrot at a Beirut hotel that could perfectly mimic machine gun fire or the opening bars of Beethoven's Fifth, visiting Rwanda's museums of the unburied dead in the aftermath of the genocide, celebrating New Year's Eve 1982 with Yasser Arafat and his high command, interviewing a German woman terrorist in her desert prison in the Negev, listening to the wisdoms of the great physicist, dissident, and Nobel Prize winner Andrei Sakharov, meeting with two former heads of the KGB, watching Alec Guinness prepare for his role as George Smiley in the legendary BBC TV adaptations, or describing the female aid worker who inspired the main character in The Constant Gardener, le Carré endows each happening with vividness and humor, now making us laugh out loud, now inviting us to think anew about events and people we believed we understood. Best of all, le Carré gives us a glimpse of a writer's journey over more than six decades, and his own hunt for the human spark that has given so much life and heart to his fictional characters.

**LEMAITRE, PIERRE** BLOOD WEDDING (\$32.49) Sophie

Duguet, young, successful, and happily married, thought at first she was becoming absentminded when she started misplacing her mail and forgetting where she'd parked her car the night before. But then, as her husband and colleagues pointed out with increasing frustration, she began forgetting things she'd said and done, too. And when she was detained by the police for shoplifting, a crime she didn't remember committing, the confusion and blackouts that had begun to plague her took on a more sinister cast. Her marriage started to come apart at the seams. Now Sophie is in much deeper water: the young boy she nannies is dead while in her care, a tragedy of which she has no memory. Afraid for her sanity and of what the police will do to her when the body is discovered, Sophie goes on the run, changing her identity and appearance to evade the law. Forced to lead a very different kind of life, one on the margins of society, Sophie wonders where everything went wrong. Still, with a new name and a new life, she hopes that she'll be able to put her demons to rest for good. It soon becomes clear, however, that the real nightmare has only just begun

**MACDONALD, PHILIP** NOOSE (\$18.99) Gentleman detective Anthony Gethryn is in a race against time to save an innocent man from the hangman's noose. Originally published in 1930.

**MOOSE, RUTH** dixie dew WEDDING BELL BLUES (#2) (\$36.99) Beth McKenzie, owner of the Dixie Dew Bed and Breakfast, is enjoying an exciting affair with her new love, Scott. Meanwhile, the town of Littleboro, North Carolina is abuzz with gossip about Crazy Reba's upcoming nuptials. Most brides go crazy at some point, but Littleboro's resident homeless lady has had a head start: she's beloved, indulged, and most of all, eccentric. But at almost 60, or thereabouts, her marriage seems a little peculiar. Sure, she's sporting a diamond big enough to choke a horse, but no one can tell if it's real, or just a Cracker Jack prize she pilfered from a yard sale. Crazy Reba's wedding plans go confirmedly awry when the bride-to-be is arrested for her fiancé's murder. Beth, determined to clear Reba's name, gets in over her head when a lady wrestler who threatened to kill her books a room at the Dixie Dew, and Robert Redford, her neighbour's white rabbit, disappears. Then Littleboro's First Annual Green Bean Festival gets up and running, a famous food writer becomes deathly ill, and Beth must battle through madcap mayhem to apprehend the culprit and save the day.

**PARKER/COLEMAN, REED** FARREL stone DEBT TO PAY (#15) (\$36) All is quiet in Paradise, except for a spate of innocuous vandalism. Good thing, too, because Jesse Stone is preoccupied with the women in his life, both past and present. As his ex-wife, Jenn, is about to marry a Dallas real-estate tycoon, Jesse isn't too sure his relationship with former FBI agent Diana Evans is built to last. But those concerns get put on the back burner when a major Boston crime boss is brutally murdered. Despite all evidence to the contrary, Jesse suspects it's the work of Mr. Peepers, a psychotic assassin who has caused trouble for Jesse in the past

**PENNY, LOUISE** GREAT RECKONING (#12) (\$33.99) When an intricate old map is found stuffed into the walls of the bistro in Three Pines, it at first seems no more than a curiosity. But the closer the villagers look, the stranger it becomes. Given to Armand Gamache as a gift the first day of his new job, the map eventually leads him to shattering secrets. To an old friend and older adversary. It leads the former Chief of Homicide for the Surete du Quebec to places even he is afraid to go. But must. And there he finds four young cadets in the Surete academy, and a dead professor. And, with the body, a copy of the old, odd map. Everywhere Gamache turns, he sees Amelia Choquet, one of the cadets. Tattooed and pierced. Guarded and angry. Amelia is more likely to be found on the other side of a police line-up. And yet she is in the academy. A protégée of the murdered professor. Or was she? The focus of the investigation soon turns to Gamache himself and his mysterious relationship with Amelia, and his possible involvement in the crime. The frantic search for answers takes the investigators back to Three Pines and a stained glass window with its own horrific secrets. See Marian's Picks.

**PERRY, ANNE** monk REVENGE IN A COLD RIVER (#22) (\$37) When Commander Monk of the Thames River Police is called to investigate the drowning of an escaped prisoner, he's forced to

contend with customs officer McNab, who clearly bears a bitter grudge against him. But the reason is a mystery in itself. Monk's memory loss, a secret he guards closely, leaves him vulnerable to repercussions from his missing past, especially his exploits overseas in the tumultuous Gold Rush days of San Francisco. And now McNab, as icy and unfathomable as the steel-gray Thames itself, appears intent on using whatever damning facts he can find to his advantage to ruin Monk's future as an officer of the law. As Monk explores the possibility of a conspiracy, McNab's game of cat and mouse escalates, with veiled threats and cryptic insinuations. Snared in an unforeseen trap, a desperate Monk must turn to his wife, Hester, and friend and attorney Oliver Rathbone for help, as his life literally hangs in the balance.

**PRICE, STEVEN** BY GASLIGHT (\$36) London, 1885. In a city of fog and darkness, the notorious thief Edward Shade exists only as a ghost, a fabled con, a thief of other men's futures, a man of smoke. William Pinkerton is already famous, the son of a brutal detective, when he descends into the underworld of Victorian London in pursuit of a new lead. His father died without ever tracing Shade; William, still reeling from his loss, is determined to drag the thief out of the shadows. Adam Foole is a gentleman without a past, haunted by a love affair ten years gone. When he receives a letter from his lost beloved, he returns to London in search of her; what he learns of her fate, and its connection to the man known as Shade, will force him to confront a grief he thought long-buried. What follows is a fog-enshrouded hunt through sewers, opium dens, drawing rooms, and séance halls. Above all, it is the story of the most unlikely of bonds: between William Pinkerton, the greatest detective of his age, and Adam Foole, the one man who may hold the key to finding Edward Shade.

**RIPLEY, MIKE** campion MR. CAMPION'S FAULT (\$41) Following the death of the senior English master in a tragic road accident, Mr. Campion's son Rupert and daughter-in-law Perdita are helping out at Ash Grange School for Boys, where Perdita's godfather is headmaster. While Perdita is directing the end-of-term play, a musical version of Dr. Faustus, Rupert is tackling the school's rugby football team and both of them are finding their allotted tasks more of a challenge than they had anticipated. When the headmaster telephones Albert Campion to inform him that Rupert has been arrested, Mr. Campion heads to Yorkshire to get to the bottom of the matter. There are no secrets in the traditional mining village of Denby Ash, he's told, but on uncovering reports of a disruptive poltergeist, a firebrand trade unionist, a missing conman and a local witch, he finds that's far from being the case. And was the English master, Mr. Browne's, death really an accident?

**SCARROW, SIMON** cato BRITANNIA (#14) (\$32.99) A thrilling, action-packed adventure featuring Roman Army heroes Prefect Cato and Centurion Macro. As they tramp the hillsides of western Britannia dreaming of their eventual return to Rome, the officers face daily threats that will test their courage to the full as they fight to protect their men and the Empire.

**SMITH, LACHLAN** maxwell PANTHER'S PREY (#4) (\$35.50) After working to free his father from prison in Fox Is Framed (\$21.95), Leo has now left private practice and is working as a public defender in San Francisco. He and his co-counsel Jordan Walker are in the midst of trial, brilliantly defending Randall Rodrigues, a mentally ill homeless man whom they contend falsely confessed to the rape of a young San Francisco socialite. After their client is acquitted, Leo and Jordan fall into an intense relationship, until Jordan is found brutally raped and murdered in her apartment. Leo, the last person known to have seen her alive, is the natural suspect, and the police are eager for payback after the Rodrigues case. The story takes a shocking turn when Leo and Jordan's freshly acquitted client walks into the police station and offers to confess to Jordan's murder. Upset by the rapidity with which the authorities accept this all-too-convenient confession, Jordan's grieving father tasks Leo with investigating his daughter's death. Leo agrees, though he knows exonerating Rodrigues will likely bring suspicion back on himself. Theorizing that he may be on the trail of a serial rapist and murderer, Leo instead uncovers a massive judicial fraud leading to the steps of the federal courthouse.

**STOREY, ERIK** NOTHING SHORT OF DYING (\$35) Sixteen years. That's how long Clyde Barr has been away from Colorado's thick forests, alpine deserts, and craggy peaks, running from a past filled with haunting memories. But now he's back, having roamed across three continents as a hunter, adventurer, soldier of fortune, and most recently, unjustly imprisoned convict. And once again, his past is reaching out to claim him. By the light of a flickering campfire, Clyde receives a frantic phone call from his sister Jen. No sooner has she pleaded with him to come rescue her than the line goes dead. Clyde doesn't know how much time he has, or where Jen is located, or even who has her. All he knows is that nothing short of dying will stop him from saving her. Joining Clyde in his against-all-odds quest is a young woman named Allie whose motivations for running this gauntlet are fascinatingly complex.

**THURLO, AIMEE&DAVID** henry ROB THY NEIGHBOR (#3) (\$36.99) Charlie Henry and his friends are enjoying a cookout on a relaxing Sunday afternoon. But when a gunshot rings out in the neighbourhood, Charlie is abruptly brought back to a world he's all too familiar with. As he and best friend Gordon run to the source of the shot, they happen upon two masked intruders in their next-door neighbour's house. The men seem to be there to kidnap Sam Randall, the owner of the home, but upon the interruption from Charlie and Gordon, they abandon their mark and get away in a waiting van outside. Detective DuPree has been investigating a string of similar home invasions in the area, but this one seems out of the ordinary. Sam Randall hires Charlie and Gordon to investigate the crime, not trusting the police to keep him and his wife safe. Detective Dupree warns Charlie and Gordon not to overstep their bounds in police business, but he needs all the help he can get. The investigation reveals Ray Geiger, son of retired NYPD cop Frank Geiger, as the prime suspect. As the simple home invasion case continues to turn into something more, it is up to Charlie and Gordon to protect the Randall's and themselves as they attempt to uncover the truth.

**TODD, CHARLES** crawford SHATTERED TREE (#8) (\$31.99) At the foot of a tree shattered by shelling and gunfire, stretcher-bearers find an exhausted officer, shivering with cold and a loss of blood from several wounds. The soldier is brought to battlefield nurse Bess Crawford's aid station, where she stabilizes him and treats his injuries before he is sent to a rear hospital. The odd thing is, the officer isn't British, he's French. But in a moment of anger and stress, he shouts at Bess in German. When Bess reports the incident to Matron, her superior offers a ready explanation. The soldier is from Alsace-Lorraine, a province in the west where the tenuous border between France and Germany has continually shifted through history, most recently in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, won by the Germans. But is the wounded man Alsatian? And if he is, on which side of the war do his sympathies really lie? Of course, Matron could be right, but Bess remains uneasy and unconvinced. If he was a French soldier, what was he doing so far from his own lines . . . and so close to where the Germans are putting up a fierce, last-ditch fight? When the French officer disappears in Paris, it's up to Bess, a soldier's daughter as well as a nurse, to find out why, even at the risk of her own life.

**VARGAS, FRED** adamsberg CLIMATE OF FEAR (#9) (\$27.99) A woman is found murdered in her bathtub, and the murder made to look like a suicide. But a strange symbol found at the crime scene leads the local police to call Commissaire Adamsberg. When the symbol is found near the body of a second disguised suicide, a pattern starts to emerge: both victims were involved in a tragic incident in Iceland over 10 years ago. A group of tourists found themselves trapped on a deserted island for two weeks, surrounded by thick, impenetrable fog, and two of them didn't make it back alive. But how are the deaths linked to the local Robespierre society? And what does the mysterious symbol signify?

**VIDICH, PAUL** HONORABLE MAN (\$33) Publishers Weekly Top Ten Mysteries & Thrillers of Spring 2016. Washington D.C., 1953. The Cold War is heating up: McCarthyism, with all its fear and demagoguery, is raging in the nation's capital, and Joseph Stalin's death has left a dangerous power vacuum in the Soviet Union. The

CIA, meanwhile, is reeling from a double agent within their midst. Someone is selling secrets to the Soviets, compromising missions around the globe. Undercover agents have been assassinated, and anti-Communist plots are being cut short in ruthlessly efficient fashion. The CIA director knows any news of the traitor, whose code name is Protocol, would be a national embarrassment and compromise the entire agency. George Mueller seems to be the perfect man to help find the mole: Yale-educated; extensive experience running missions in Eastern Europe; an operative so dedicated to his job that it left his marriage in tatters. The Director trusts him. Mueller, though, has secrets of his own, and as he digs deeper into the case, making contact with a Soviet agent, suspicion begins to fall on him as well. Until Protocol is found, no one can be trusted, and everyone is at risk.

**WILLIAMS, NIGEL** WAKING UP DEAD (\$37.99) Retired bank manager George Pearmain is, apparently, dead. According to the behaviour of everyone around him, it would seem that he is no more. Not only that, but his mother has also passed away too - and on the eve of her 99th year, poor dear. Not only that, it could be that they were both murdered. He feels fine otherwise. As George's family gather for the birthday-celebration-that-never-was, he hovers around the house, watching and listening, entirely unseen. As a result, he makes all sorts of discoveries about himself, his wife Esmeralda, and his supposedly happy family. A cosy type mystery and ghost story combination!!

**WISHART, DAVID** marcus FOREIGN BODIES (#18) (\$42) *June, AD 42*. The emperor Claudius himself has requested Corvinus's help in investigating the murder of a Gallic wine merchant, stabbed to death as he was taking an afternoon nap in his summer-house at Lugdunum. Not especially happy at being dispatched to Gaul, and even less enamoured of his enforced travelling companion, the insufferable Domitius Crinas, Corvinus is increasingly frustrated as it becomes clear that the dead man's extended family and friends are hiding something from him. Unused to strange Gallic customs and facing an uphill struggle getting anyone to talk freely to a Roman, Corvinus is convinced that there's more to this murder than meets the eye but, a stranger in a strange land, how is he going to prove it?

**WOLFE, INGER** ASH hazel NIGHT BELL (#4) (\$40) This is the US edition hardcover. Special order only.

## Paperbacks

**ALEXANDER, TASHA** ashton ADVENTURESS (#10) (\$22.99) Emily and husband Colin have come to the French Riviera for what should be a joyous occasion - the engagement party of her lifelong friend Jeremy, Duke of Bainbridge, and Amity Wells, an American heiress. But the merrymaking is cut short with the shocking death of one of the party in an apparent suicide. Not convinced by the coroner's verdict, Emily must employ all of her investigative skills to discover the truth and avert another tragedy.

**BAILEY, MARTINE** PENNY HEART (\$15.99) Sentenced to death for a simple confidence trick, Mary Jebb escapes the gallows—but her reprieve is harsh: seven years in the unforgiving penal colony of Botany Bay. Yet Mary is determined not to be forgotten, sending two pennies, engraved with a promise, to the two men who sealed her fate.

**BALDACCI, DAVID** decker LAST MILE (#2) (\$20.99) Convicted murderer Melvin Mars is counting down the last hours before his execution—for the violent killing of his parents twenty years earlier—when he's granted an unexpected reprieve. Another man has confessed to the crime. Amos Decker, newly hired on an FBI special task force, takes an interest in Mars's case after discovering the striking similarities to his own life: Both men were talented football players with promising careers cut short by tragedy. Both men's families were brutally murdered. And in both cases, another suspect came forward,

years after the killing, to confess to the crime. A suspect who may or may not have been telling the truth. The confession has the potential to make Melvin Mars—guilty or not—a free man. Who wants Mars out of prison? And why now? But when a member of Decker's team disappears, it becomes clear that something much larger—and more sinister—than just one convicted criminal's life hangs in the balance. Decker will need all of his extraordinary brainpower to stop an innocent man from being executed.

**BARNES, MIKE** ADJUSTMENT LEAGUE (\$19.95) At a psychiatric hospital in the 1980s patients formed what they called *The Adjustment League* to protect themselves against the deprivations of a corrupt and abusive staff. Prompted by a mysterious summons from his past, a message from a fellow patient on a locked ward twenty years before, the hero of the novel, a man known only as “the Super”, embarks on a series of adjustments, his word for the personal interventions he conducts on behalf of the powerless to even the playing field. But what begins as a discovery of the neglect by a privileged Toronto family of their Alzheimer's-afflicted mother, opens out into much larger and more systematic crimes. The first in a new noir trilogy, *The Adjustment League* offers up a grittily gothic examination of privilege and power on the mean streets of contemporary Toronto. Working in the 6-8 week windows of what The Super calls hyper-time—the periods of near-sleepless hyper-awareness and activity which precede his own mental collapse—he tries to balance the scales of justice while seeking atonement for a crime from his own past: the maiming of his own daughter during a period of psychological distress. Part bi-polar detective, part avenging angel, The Super is a noir anti-hero.

**BAUER, BELINDA** RUBBERNECKER (\$22.95) Winner of the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year Award, an Amazon Best Book of the Month, and one of the *Guardian*'s Best Crime and Thrillers of the Year, the book is a page-turner from one of the finest voices in UK crime, about a medical student who begins to suspect that something strange is going on in his cadaver lab. 'The dead can't speak to us,' Professor Madoc had said. But that was a lie. The body Patrick Fort is examining in anatomy class is trying to tell him all kinds of things. But no one hears what he does, and no one understands when Patrick tries to tell them. Life is already strange enough for Patrick-being a medical student with Asperger's syndrome doesn't come without its challenges. And that's before he is faced with solving a possible murder, especially when no one believes a crime has even taken place. As his determination to uncover the truth grows, so do the suspicions of his classmates, teachers, even his mother wonders if Patrick is all right. Now he must stay out of danger long enough to unravel the mystery. But as Patrick learns one truth from a dead man, he discovers there have been many other lies closer to home.

**BENN, JAMES R** billy boyle WHITE GHOST (#10) (\$19.95) 1943: In the midst of the brutal, hard-fought Solomon Islands campaign between the Allies and the Japanese forces, Lieutenant Billy Boyle receives an odd assignment: he's sent by the powerful Kennedy family to investigate a murder in which PT skipper (and future president) Jack Kennedy has been implicated. The victim is a native coast-watcher, an allied intelligence operative, whom Kennedy discovered on the island of Tulagi with his head bashed in. That's Kennedy's story, anyhow. Kennedy was recovering in the Navy hospital on the island after the sinking of his PT-109 motor torpedo boat. The military hasn't decided yet whether to make him a hero for surviving the attack, or have him court-martialed for losing the boat, and the last thing the Kennedy clan wants is a murder charge hanging over his head. Billy knows firsthand that he shouldn't trust Jack: the man is a charmer, a womanizer, and, when it suits his needs, a liar. But would he kill someone in cold blood? And if so, why? The first murder is followed by two more, and to find the killer, Billy must sort through a tangled, shifting web of motives and identities, even as combat rages all around him. Have you ever read the series by **GRAEME KENT**, set in the Solomon Islands of the 1960s featuring Sister Conchita and Sgt. Kalla? An excellent series, but I'm reminded of it because One Blood (#2) (\$14.95) dealt with the PT-109 story as well.

**BOOTH, STEPHEN** SECRETS OF DEATH (#16) (\$23.99 trade paperback, \$32.99 hardcover) Residents of the Peak District are used to tourists descending on its soaring hills and brooding valleys. However, this summer brings a different kind of visitor to the idyllic landscape, leaving behind bodies and secrets. A series of suicides throughout the Peaks throws Detective Inspector Ben Cooper and his team in Derbyshire's E Division into a race against time to find a connection to these seemingly random acts with no way of predicting where the next body will turn up. Meanwhile, in Nottingham Detective Sergeant Diane Fry finds a key witness has vanished. But what are the mysterious Secrets of Death?

And is there one victim whose fate wasn't suicide at all?

**BRANDON, JOHN G** SCREAM IN SOHO (\$18.99) 'For a scream in the early hours of the morning in Soho, even from a female throat, to stop dead in his tracks a hard-boiled constable, it had to be something entirely out of the ordinary.' Soho during the blackouts of the Second World War. When a piercing scream rends the air and a bloodied knife is found, Detective Inspector McCarthy is soon on the scene. He must move through the dark, seedy Soho underworld, peopled by Italian gangsters, cross-dressing German spies and glamorous Austrian aristocrats, as he attempts to unravel the connection between the mysterious Madame Rohner and the theft of secret anti-aircraft defence plans. This evocative and suspenseful London novel from the golden age of British detective fiction is now republished for the first time since the 1950s, with an introduction by the award-winning crime novelist Martin Edwards. A British Library Crime Classic.

**BUCKLEY, JULIA** lilah CHEDDAR OFF DEAD (#2) (\$10.99) The Christmas holidays are one of Lilah's favourite times of the year, filled with friends, family, and, of course, tons of food orders for her covered dish clients. But Lilah's Yuletide cheer ends when she sees a most Grinch-like crime: the murder of a Santa in a school parking lot. It turns out the deceased Kris Kringle was a complicated tangle of naughty and nice, with a long list of people who might have wanted him dead. And whoever did the deed wants to make sure that Lilah keeps quiet. Now, Lilah will have to team up with her former fling, Detective Jay Parker, to unwrap the mysteries of a deadly Christmas killer and stay alive long enough to ring in the New Year. The first in the series is The Big Chili (\$10.49).

**BURKE, JAMES LEE** hackberr HOUSE OF THE RISING SUN (#4) (\$12.99) After a violent encounter that leaves four Mexican soldiers dead, Texas Ranger Hackberry Holland escapes the country in possession of a stolen artifact believed to be the mythic cup of Christ, earning the ire of a bloodthirsty Austrian arms dealer who places Hack's son, Ishmael, squarely in the cross hairs of a plot to recapture his prize. On the journey from revolutionary Mexico in 1918 to the saloons of San Antonio during the Hole in the Wall Gang's reign, we meet three extraordinary women: the Danish immigrant who is Ishmael's mother and Hackberry's one true love; a brothel madam descended from the Crusader knight who brought the Shroud of Turin back from the Holy Land; and a onetime lover of the Sundance Kid, whose wiles rival those of Lady Macbeth. In her own way, each woman will aid Hack in his quest to reconcile with Ishmael, to vanquish their enemies, and to return the Grail to its rightful place.

**CALONEGO, BERNADETTE** STORMY COVE (\$22.95) As a globe-trotting freelance photographer based in Vancouver, British Columbia, Lori Finning has seen just about everything. But when she lands an assignment on the barren, snow-swept island of Newfoundland, she finds herself in harsh and unfamiliar territory.

During the long, dreary winters in the isolated fishing community of Stormy Cove, gossiping is the primary pastime. So Lori is surprised when she learns of a crime the locals have spent twenty years *not* talking about: the strange, unsolved murder of a teenage girl. As she delves deeper into the village's past, she'll discover dark family secrets, unexplained crimes, and an undeniable attraction to Noah, a taciturn local fisherman who just might hold all the answers.

**CASARETT, DAVID** MURDER AT THE HOUSE OF ROOSTER HAPPINESS (\$20.99) Meet Ladarat Patalung - the first and only nurse detective in Thailand. Two nights ago, a young woman brought her husband into the emergency room of the Sriphat Hospital in Thai-

land, where he passed away. A guard thinks she remembers her coming in before, but with a different husband—one who also died.

Ladarat Patalung, for one, would have been happier without a serial murderer—if there is one—loose in her hospital. Then again, she never expected to be a detective in the first place. And now, Ladarat has no choice but to investigate...

**CASS, LAURIE** bookmobile CAT WITH A CLUE (#5) (\$10.99) Early one morning while shelving books in the library, Minnie stumbles upon a dead body. Authorities identify the woman as an out-of-towner visiting Chilson for her great-aunt's funeral. What she was doing in the library after hours is anyone's guess but Minnie and Eddie are determined to save the library's reputation and catch a killer. As rumours about the victim circulate through Chilson, the police are in a bind over a streak of baffling break-ins. Luckily, Minnie and Eddie are traveling the county in their bookmobile, and they'll stop at nothing to find the spineless killer before the final page is turned on someone else.

**CASTLE, RICHARD** heat DRIVING HEAT (#7) (\$10.99) In the seventh novel of the popular Nikki Heat series, the NYPD's top homicide detective has been promoted to captain just in time to face a thrilling case with a very personal twist. Captain Heat's fiancé, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Jameson Rook, is deep in an investigation. Professionally for Heat, Rook's meddling in the case compromises her new job. Privately, it becomes an early test of their engagement when Rook becomes a distraction at best, and an obstacle at worst, as their parallel lives not only cross, but collide.

**CHANDLER, JESSIE** BLOOD MONEY MURDER (\$21.99) Secrets. It all begins with secrets. A long-held secret is about to implode with potentially catastrophic results. It's St. Paddy's Day, and Shay O'Hanlon is finishing her shift at the Rabbit Hole, anticipating the grand reopening of her father's bar, the Leprechaun. Two suspicious-looking strangers show up at the Hole demanding to speak to Eddy Quartermaine, the closest person Shay has to a mother. That visit sparks a firestorm spanning twenty-five years in a deadly mix of love gone wrong, stolen money, murder, and betrayal. Will Shay and her sister Lisa pay the ultimate price for Eddy's sins, or will Eddy confront her twenty-five year secret head-on before time runs out?

**CLARE, ALYS** BLOOD OF THE SOUTH (#6) (\$27) When apprentice healer Lassair encounters a veiled noblewoman on the quay at Cambridge one morning, set on by an angry mob, she assumes involvement with her will be brief. She has no idea that the woman, alone but for her infant child, brings both mystery and peril. Then a devastating flood hits the fens, and among the wreckage and debris washed up at Aelf Fen is a body; Lassair, in the company of a sheriff's officer, wonders if she is dealing with murder. Meanwhile, in the south, Lassair's partner Rollo is moving with relief towards the conclusion of his mission for King William in the Holy Land. But then disaster strikes, and, with the mighty forces of an emperor on his heels, abruptly he turns from hunter to hunted. In order to escape alive, he risks help from a stranger, and embarks on a voyage that turns out to be far more dangerous than he could ever have imagined.

**CLARKE, RICHARD** A STING OF THE DRONE (\$11.99) In Washington, the Kill Committee gathers in the White House's Situation Room to pick the next targets for the U.S. drone program. At an airbase near Las Vegas, a team of pilots, military personnel and intelligence officers execute the committee's orders, finding the men who have been deemed a threat to national security and sentenced to death. On the other side of the world, in the mountains where the drones hunt their prey, someone has decided to fight back. And not just against the unmanned planes, but against the Americans at home who control them.

**CLEEVES, ANN** vera GLASS ROOM (#5) (\$18.99) A reissue.

**CLEEVES, ANN** vera MOTH CATCHER (#7) (\$18.99) Life seems perfect in Valley Farm, a quiet community in Northumberland. Then a shocking discovery shatters the silence. The owners of a big country house have employed a house-sitter, a young ecologist named Patrick, to look after the place while they're away. But Patrick is found dead by the side of the lane into the valley.. DI Vera Stanhope arrives on the scene, with her detectives Holly and Joe. When they

look around the attic of the big house, where Patrick has a flat, she finds the body of a second man. All the two victims have in common is a fascination with moths, catching these beautiful, rare creatures. Those who live in the Valley Farm development have secrets too: Annie and Sam's daughter is due to be released from prison any day; Nigel watches, silently, every day, from his window. As Vera is drawn into the claustrophobic world of this increasingly strange community, she realizes that there may be deadly secrets trapped here.

**COEL, MARGARET** wind river MAN WHO FELL FROM THE SKY (#19) (\$10.99) When Robert Walking Bear's body is found in the Wind River mountains, his death appears to be accidental, except for the fact that he had been hunting for Butch Cassidy's buried loot with a map he had gotten from his grandfather, a map believed to have been drawn by the leader of the Hole in the Wall gang himself. It isn't long before rumours circulate that Robert was murdered by his own cousins to get the map and find the treasure themselves. Despite there being no evidence of foul play, the gossip gains credibility when both Arapaho attorney Vicky Holden and Father John O'Malley are contacted by an anonymous Arapaho claiming to have witnessed Robert's killing. When one of Robert's cousins falls prey to another deadly accident, Vicky and Father John are convinced the victim is the witness who confided in them, and the hunt for the killer is on in earnest before more die in search of Cassidy's cache.

**CONNOLLY, JOHN parker** EVERY DEAD THING (#1), DARK HOLLOW (#2), KILLING KIND (#3), WHITE ROAD (#4) and BLACK ANGEL (#5) (\$21 each) Recent reissues of the first five Charlie Parker mysteries.

**CORRIS, PETER cliff hardy** GUN CONTROL (#40) (\$19.95) Is Sydney gun city? It certainly seems so when Cliff Hardy is hired by entrepreneur and one-time pistol-shooting champion Timothy Greenhall to investigate the violent death of his troubled son. Soon Hardy is pitched into a world of crooked cops—former members of the Gun Control Unit—outlaw bikers and honest police trying to quietly clean the stables. Two more murders raise the stakes and relationships are stretched to breaking point. Hardy hooks up with a determined policewoman and forms an unlikely alliance with a charismatic biker chief. Uncovering the tangled conspiracy behind the murders takes Hardy to the Blue Mountains and Camden, to plush legal chambers and a confrontation in an inner-west park—all against the roar of 750cc engines.

**COYLE, CLEO clare cosi** DEAD TO THE LAST DROP (#15) (\$10.99) Clare's Washington visit is off to a graceful start, when she lands a housesitting job in a Georgetown mansion and is invited to work on the Smithsonian's salute to coffee in America. Unfortunately, her new Village Blend DC is struggling—until its second floor Jazz Space attracts a high-profile fan in the daughter of the President. But as Clare's stock rises, she learns a stark lesson: Washington can be murder.

First a State Department employee suspiciously collapses in her coffeehouse. Then the President's daughter goes missing. After another deadly twist, Clare is on the run with her NYPD detective boyfriend. Branded an enemy of the state, she must uncover the truth before her life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness come to a bitter end.

**CROSS, MASON blake** TIME TO KILL (#3) (\$22.99) It's been five years since Carter Blake parted ways with top-secret government operation Winterlong. They brokered a deal at the time: he'd keep quiet about what they were doing, and in return he'd be left alone. But news that one of Blake's old allies, a man who agreed the same deal, is dead means only one thing, something has changed and Winterlong is coming for him. Emma Faraday, newly appointed head of the secret unit, is determined to tie up loose ends. And Blake is a very loose end. He's been evading them for years, but finally they've picked up his trace. Blake may be the best there is at tracking down people who don't want to be found, but Winterlong taught him everything he knows. If there's anyone who can find him and kill him, it's them. It's time for Carter Blake to up his game.

**CROWLEY, SINEAD** CAN ANYBODY HELP ME? (\$14.99) It was crazy really, she had never met the woman, had no idea of her real name but she thought of her as a friend. Or, at least, the closest

thing she had to a friend in Dublin. Struggling with a new baby, Yvonne turns to netmammy, an online forum for mothers, for support. Drawn into a world of new friends, she spends increasing amounts of time online and volunteers more and more information about herself. When one of her new friends goes offline, Yvonne thinks something is wrong, but dismisses her fears. After all, does she really know this woman? But when the body of a young woman with striking similarities to Yvonne's missing friend is found, Yvonne realizes that they're all in terrifying danger. Can she persuade Sergeant Claire Boyle, herself about to go on maternity leave, to take her fears seriously?

**DANIELS, ROBERT sturgis** ONCE SHADOWS FALL (#1) (\$21.95) After years of paying her dues on the force, Beth Sturgis has earned her place as a detective for the Robbery-Homicide division of the Atlanta PD. Now, she's heading up a major manhunt for a potential serial killer who's working his way inward from the outskirts of the city. The copycat elements in the first crime scene lead Sturgis to retired FBI agent Jack Kale, who was responsible for apprehending and nearly killing the murderer known as the Scarecrow, the same Scarecrow who appears to be this new killer's terrible inspiration. A reclusive single father and university professor, Kale is trying to keep the demons at bay through therapy and avoidance. That is, until Sturgis shows up asking for his help. Against his better judgment, Kale is drawn into the most dangerous cat and mouse game of his life.

**DEIGHTON, LEN MAMISTA** (\$10.99) Lots of reissues of Deighton's novels, including all nine installments of the Game Set Match (available at \$17.99 each) trilogy, so this might be good time to fill in the gaps: SPY HOOK (#4), SPY LINE (#5), SPY SINKER (#6), FAITH (#7), HOPE (#8) (\$16.99 each) and CHARITY (#9) (\$17.99). **DISILVERIO, LAURA** read READAHOOLICS AND THE GOTHIC GALA (#3) (\$10.99) One sleuthing book club finds themselves in the midst of a gothic-esque mystery as they read Du Maurier's Rebecca (\$15.99) in the latest from the author of The Readaholics and the Falcon Fiasco (\$9.99) and The Readaholics and the Poirot Puzzle (\$10.49). Amy-Faye Johnson has her hands full coordinating the Celebration of Gothic Novels in Heaven, Colorado. The festivities start off smoothly, but the weekend is soon cursed with large egos, old resentments, and uninvited guests. Matters become truly grave when a dead body is found at the gothic-themed costume party. The out-of-town authors claim not to know the victim, but Amy-Faye has doubts. With skeletons turning up in all of the suspects' closets, Amy-Faye and the Readaholics must tap into their knowledge of gothic literature to find a killer who lurks in the shadows.

**DOHERTY, PAUL athelstan** HERALD OF HELL (#15) (\$26.99) May, 1381. The Great Revolt draws ever nearer. The Upright Men openly roam the streets of London, waiting for the violence to begin. Their mysterious envoy, the Herald of Hell, appears at night all over the city, striking terror into the hearts of those who oppose them. But who is he? When his chancery clerk is found hanged in a notorious Southwark brothel, the ruthless Thibault, John of Gaunt's Master of Secrets, summons Brother Athelstan to investigate. Did Amaury Whitfield really kill himself following a visit from the terrifying Herald of Hell? Athelstan is unconvinced. In the dead man's possession was a manuscript containing a great secret which he had been striving to decipher. If he could only unlock the cipher and interpret the messages being carried to the so-called Herald of Hell, Athelstan would be one step closer to catching the killer. But can he crack the code before the Great Revolt begins?

**DOYLE, ARTHUR CONAN** HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (\$7)

**DUGONI, ROBERT crosswhite** HER FINAL BREATH (#2) (\$22.95) Homicide detective Tracy Crosswhite has returned to the police force after the sensational retrial of her sister's killer. Still scarred from that ordeal, Tracy is pulled into an investigation that threatens to end her career, if not her life. A serial killer known as the Cowboy is killing young women in cheap motels in North Seattle. Even after a stalker leaves a menacing message for Crosswhite, suggesting the killer or a copycat could be targeting her personally, she is charged with bringing the murderer to justice. With clues scarce and more vic-

tims dying, Tracy realizes the key to solving the murders may lie in a decade-old homicide investigation that others, including her captain, Johnny Nolasco, would prefer to keep buried. With the Cowboy on the hunt, can Tracy find the evidence to stop him, or will she become his next victim? The first in the series is [My Sister's Grave](#) (\$22.95). **DUGONI, ROBERT** [crosswhite IN THE CLEARING \(#3\)](#) (\$22.95) Detective Tracy Crosswhite has a skill, and a soft spot, for tackling unsolved crimes. Having lost her own sister to murder at a young age, Tracy has dedicated her career to bringing justice and closure to the families and friends of victims of crime. So when Jenny, a former police academy classmate and protégé, asks Tracy to help solve a cold case that involves the suspicious suicide of a Native American high school girl forty years earlier, Tracy agrees. Following up on evidence Jenny's detective father collected when he was the investigating deputy, Tracy probes one small town's memory and finds dark, well-concealed secrets hidden within the community's fabric. Can Tracy uphold the promise she's made to the dead girl's family and deliver the truth of what happened to their daughter? Or will she become the next victim? The first in the series is [My Sister's Grave](#) (\$22.95).

**EMERSON, KATHY LYNN eliza** [MURDER IN THE MERCHANT'S HALL \(#2\)](#) (\$26.99) When Lina Walkenden is found clutching a bloody knife over the dead body of her brother-in-law and guardian, there's only one person she can turn to for help: her childhood friend Rosamond Jaffrey. Rosamond vows to do all she can to prove Lina's innocence, but when it transpires Lina was being forced into a marriage against her will and was instead besotted by her fiancé's charming yet unscrupulous nephew, her motives for murder seem overwhelming. In desperation, Rosamond seeks out the help of the Queen's spymaster himself, Sir Francis Walsingham – but when she overhears a conversation at the French Embassy, it seems Lina's plight is irrelevant in the face of potential treason. Rosamond must do all she can to save her friend and keep herself and her family safe from a desperate killer.

**EMERSON, KATHY LYNN eliza** [MURDER IN THE QUEEN'S WARDROBE \(#1\)](#) (\$25.95) London, 1582: Mistress Rosamond Jaffrey, a talented and well-educated woman of independent means, is recruited by Queen Elizabeth I's spymaster, Sir Francis Walsingham, to be lady-in-waiting to Lady Mary, a cousin of the queen. With her talent in languages and knowledge of ciphers and codes, she will be integral to the spymaster as an intelligence gatherer, being able to get close to Lady Mary just at the time when she is being courted by Russia's Ivan the Terrible. However, there are some nobles at court who will do anything they can to thwart such an alliance; and Rosamond soon realizes the extent of the danger, when a prominent official is murdered and then an attempt is made on both her and Lady Mary's lives. In her quest to protect her ward, and her estranged husband, Rosamond must put herself in mortal peril.

**FITZEK, SEBASTIAN** [NIGHTWALKER](#) (\$15.99) As a young man, Leon Nader suffered from insomnia. As a nightwalker, he even turned to violence during his nocturnal excursions and had psychiatric treatment for his condition. Eventually, he was convinced he had been cured—but one day, years later, Leon's wife disappears from their flat under mysterious circumstances. Could it be that his illness has broken out again? In order to find out how he behaves in his sleep, Leon fits a movement activated camera to his forehead—and when he looks at the video the next morning he makes a discovery that bursts the borders of his imagination. His nocturnal personality goes through a door that is totally unknown to him and descends into the darkness....

**FITZGERALD, CONOR** [BITTER REMEDY: A COMMISSARIO ALEC BLUME](#) (\$25) Commissario Alec Blume, on leave for health problems and fleeing his partner, Caterina, and their newborn daughter, retreats to a villa somewhere in central Italy, where he enrolls in a natural remedies class conducted by a young woman named Silvana. But rather than finding comfort, Blume becomes increasingly ill, and ill at ease, in his new environment and immediately makes an enemy of Niki, Silvana's ambiguous fiancé. Then a Romanian girl who works in Niki's nightclub comes to Blume and asks for his help

in finding her friend, Alina, who has disappeared. And Blume, isolated and sick, unadvisedly delves into the dark histories of the people around him.

**FLETCHER, JESSICA** [MURDER, SHE WROTE: THE GHOST AND MRS FLETCHER](#) (\$10.99) Jessica's friend, Eve Simpson, has recently taken on the task of selling one of Cabot Cove's oldest properties—the Spencer Percy House. Its current occupant, Cliff Cooper, is convinced he's about to die and wants the house sold so he can give the proceeds to his grandson. But Eve's got quite a challenge on her hands. Not only is the building in deplorable physical condition, it is also rumoured to be haunted. When Cliff's deadly premonition becomes a reality, some people aren't sure he died of natural causes. Now, as Jessica tries to get to the bottom of Cliff Cooper's death, a medium hired by Eve attempts to rid the house of the alleged apparition. But if Jessica isn't careful, she may be the one who joins the ranks of the dearly departed.

**FOX, MAE** [THREADS OF DECEIT \(#1\)](#) (\$9.99) Former antiquities bounty hunter, Julie Ellis, is on the run, trying to stay one stiletto step ahead of her past. She accepts a position as manager of the Quilt Haus Inn in Missouri wine country, thinking it the perfect place to keep a low profile and start a new, less-dangerous career. It is—until Daniel Franklin walks through the door and asks for a room. Daniel claims he's come to Straussberg in search of a famous sunken ship that he believes is buried in a nearby farm field. Julie finds the handsome historian's story odd at best, but when a dead body is discovered at the proposed dig site, it becomes clear somebody else believes the theory and doesn't want the ship or its secrets exposed. Who in the town would possibly care about the old shipwreck? As frightening things start to happen at the inn—all seemingly connected to the hunt for the missing ship—Julie and her quilting friends must unearth the truth before someone else is buried. The first in a new mystery series—for quilters and mystery lovers alike! Includes a free quilting pattern inspired by the story.

**FRADKIN, BARBARA doucette** [FIRE IN THE STARS \(#1\)](#) (\$19.99) After surviving a horrific trauma in Nigeria, international aid worker Amanda Doucette returns to Canada to rebuild her life and her shaken ideals. There, the once-passionate, adventurous woman needs all her strength and ingenuity when a friend and fellow survivor goes missing along with his son. A trained first-aid and crisis responder, Doucette, always accompanied by her beloved dog Kaylee, joins forces with RCMP officer Chris Tymko to discover the truth about the disappearance. Their search leads them to the Great Northern Peninsula, a rugged landscape of Viking history, icebergs, whales, and fierce ocean storms. Elsewhere, a body gets hauled up in a fisherman's net, and evidence is mounting of an unsettling connection with Amanda's search for her friend. Come and meet **Ms. Fradkin**, along with **Erika Chase** aka **Linda Wiken** at the Sleuth bookstore on **Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup> from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.**

**FRANCIS, FELIX** [FRONT RUNNER: A DICK FRANCIS NOVEL](#) (\$16.99). Jefferson Hinkley is back. In his role as an undercover investigator for the British Horseracing Authority, Jeff is approached by the multi-time champion jockey, Dave Swinton, to discuss the delicate matter of losing races on purpose. Little does Jeff realise that the call would result in an attempt on his life, locked in a sauna with the temperature well above boiling point. Dave Swinton is then found dead, burnt beyond recognition in his car at a deserted beauty spot. The police think it's a suicide but Jeff is not so sure. He starts to investigate the possible races that Swinton could have intentionally lost but discovers instead that others are out to prevent him from doing so, at any cost.

**GALE, IAIN keane** [KEANE'S CHALLENGE \(#2\)](#) (\$15.99) French troops led by one of Napoleon's best generals are massing on the border. Wellington's outnumbered force and his unreliable Spanish allies need to pick off the smaller French units if they are to stand their ground. For that they need information: accurate intelligence on numbers, arms and whereabouts. That's where Captain Keane and his company of reformed scouting officers are invaluable tools—despite being unpopular with the regular soldiers. But it soon becomes apparent that someone high up in Wellington's headquarters is a spy for the

French. Only someone able to travel widely outside the camp, someone privy to battle plans, could be the double agent—and Keane's enemies within the army are quick to point the finger. Keane must defend his crew against their accusers—or root out the traitor himself. **GRIFFITHS, ELLY** **MAGIC MEN ZIG ZAG GIRL (#1)** (\$21.50) Brighton, 1950. A girl is found cut into three pieces. Detective Inspector Edgar Stephens is convinced the killer is mimicking a famous magic trick—the Zig Zag Girl. The inventor of the trick, Max Mephisto, is an old war friend of Edgar's. They served in a special ops troop called the Magic Men that used stage tricks to confound the enemy. Max still performs, touring seaside towns with ventriloquists, swordswallowers, and dancing girls. When Edgar asks for his help with the case, he tells him to identify the victim quickly; it takes a special sidekick to do the Zig Zag Girl—words that haunt Max when he learns the dead girl is Ethel, one of his best assistants to date. Another death, another magic trick, and still no killer. But when Edgar receives a letter warning of another "trick" on the way—the Wolf Trap—he knows the Magic Men are in the killer's sights

**HAMILTON, VICTORIA** **MUFFIN MUCH ADO ABOUT MUFFIN (#4)** (\$10.99) Opera singer Roma Toscano may have a crippling case of stage fright, but she certainly is stirring up drama in Autumn Vale, New York, as she prepares for an upcoming performance at Merry's Wynter Castle. With her flamboyant style and flirtatious personality, Roma attracts fans as well as critics, including the town's postmistress, and Merry's bitter foe, Minnie Urqhart. But Roma and Minnie's heated rivalry goes cold after Merry discovers Minnie dead at the post office. While every clue seems to be another ingredient in the investigation of Roma, Merry thinks the case is half-baked, and she's eager to get her mitts on the real killer.

**HANNAH, SOPHIE** **POIROIT CLOSED CASKET (#2)** (\$21.99 trade paperback, \$33.50 hardcover) See hardcover section for annotation.

**HE, JIAHONG** **JUN HANGING DEVILS (#1)** (\$15.95) Early 1990s China: Newly returned from the US, lawyer Hong Jun has just set up practice in a fledgling legal system when his first case walks through the door. Ten years ago a local beauty was killed on a state-owned farm in China's frozen northeast, and the police rushed to pin the crime on a likely culprit. Was the right man put away for the crime? In his struggle to uncover the truth, Hong Jun ruffles more than a few feathers. As many race to cash in on China's glittering future, he is forced to challenge those who put personal ambition above the rule of law—and those who will do anything to hide the sins of the past. In the finest tradition of international crime fiction, this one is inspired by real events.

**HERRON, MICK** **LIST: A NOVELLA** (\$7.99) Oh why couldn't this have been a full length novel! But it's better than having nothing new from the **Slow Horses** writer. Dieter Hess, an aged spy, is dead, and John Bachelor, his MI5 handler, is in deep, deep trouble. Death has revealed that the deceased had been keeping a secret second bank account—and there's only ever one reason a spy has a secret second bank account. The question of whether he was a double agent must be resolved, and its answer may undo an entire career's worth of spy secrets.

**HEWSON, DAVID** **KILLING (#3)** (\$18.99) A family in turmoil. A country in crisis. All debts must be settled. Detective Inspector for homicide, Sarah Lund, is contacted by old flame Mathias Borch from National Intelligence. Borch fears that what first appeared to be a random killing at the docks is the beginning of an assassination attempt on Prime Minister Troels Hartmann. The murder draws attention towards the shipping and oil giant, Zeeland, run by billionaire Robert Zeuthen. When Zeuthen's 9-year-old daughter, Emilie, is kidnapped the investigation takes on a different dimension as it soon becomes clear that her disappearance is linked to the murder of a young girl in Jutland some years earlier. Hartmann is in the middle of an election campaign, made all the more turbulent because of the mounting financial crisis. He needs Zeeland's backing. Lund needs to make sense of the clues left by Emilie's perpetrator before it's too late. And can she finally face the demons that have long haunted her?

**HOLM, CHRIS** **KILLING KIND** (\$19.49) A hitman who only kills other hitmen winds up a target himself. Michael Hendricks kills

people for money. That aside, he's not so bad a guy. Once a covert operative for a false-flag unit of the US military, Hendricks was presumed dead after a mission in Afghanistan went sideways. He left behind his old life, and beloved fiancée, and set out on a path of redemption or perhaps one of willful self-destruction. Now Hendricks makes his living as a hitman entrepreneur of sorts, he only hits other hitmen. For ten times the price on your head, he'll make sure whoever's coming to kill you winds up in the ground instead. Not a bad way for a guy with his skill-set to make a living—but a great way to make himself a target. Nominated for all sorts of awards and was a *Boston Globe* Best Books of 2015.

**HOLMES, JULIANNE** **TIME CLOCK AND DAGGER (#2)** (\$10.99) Expert clockmaker Ruth has three days to pull off four events—including the grand reopening of Cog & Sprocket, the clock shop she inherited from her grandfather—so she doesn't have time for Beckett Green's nonsense. The competitive owner of a new bookstore, Green seems determined to put other businesses *out of business* by also carrying their specialty items. He's trying to steal Ruth's new watchmaker, Mark Pine, not to mention block her plans to renovate the town clock tower. Ruth is already all wound up when she's alarmed to discover Mark's dead body. As the denizens of Orchard each chime in as to who they think the murderer is, Ruth needs to watch her back as she investigates on her own. Despite the danger, Ruth won't stop until the killer is behind bars and serving time. The first in the series is **Just Killing Time** (\$10.49) which Marian really enjoyed reading.

**HONIGFORD, CHERYL** **DARKNESS KNOWS** (\$22.50) Chicago, 1938. Late one night before the ten o'clock show, the body of a prominent radio actress is found in the station's lounge. All the evidence points to murder—and one young, up-and-coming radio actress, Vivian Witchell, as the next victim. But Vivian isn't the type to leave her fate in the hands of others, she's used to stealing the show. Alongside charming private detective Charlie Haverman, Vivian is thrust into a world of clues and motives, suspects and secrets. And with so much on the line, Vivian finds her detective work doesn't end when the on-air light goes out.

**HOUSEHOLD, GEOFFREY** **ROGUE MALE** (\$17.95) 1930-something: a professional hunter is passing through an unnamed Central European country that is in the thrall of a vicious dictator. The hunter wonders whether he can penetrate undetected into the dictator's private compound. He does. He has the potential target in his sights and is wondering whether to pull the trigger when security catches up with him. Imprisoned, tortured, doomed to a painful death, the hunter makes an extraordinary and harrowing escape, fleeing through enemy territory to the safety of his native England. But that safety is delusive: his pursuers will not be diverted from their revenge by national borders; the British government cannot protect him without seeming to endorse his deed. The hunter must flee society, and he goes literally underground, like a fox to its earth. The hunter has become the hunted. Originally published in 1939.

**HUMPHREYS, C C** **PLAGUE (#1)** (\$17.95) **WINNER 2015 — Arthur Ellis Award for Best Crime Novel.** London, 1665. A serial killer stalks his prey, scalpel in his hand and God's vengeance in his heart. Five years after his restoration to the throne, Charles II leads his citizens by example, enjoying every excess. Londoners have slipped the shackles of puritanism and now flock to the cockpits, brothels and, especially, the theatres, where for the first time women are allowed to perform alongside the men. But not everyone is swept up in the excitement. Some see this liberated age as the new Babylon, and murder victims pile up in the streets, making no distinction in class between a royalist member of parliament and a Cheapside whore. But they have a few things in common: the victims are found with gemstones in their mouths. And they have not just been murdered; they've been sacrificed. Now the plague is returning to the city with full force, attacking indiscriminately and murder has found a new friend.

**HUMPHREYS, C C** **FIRE (#2)** (\$17.95) Fires don't start by themselves. They need someone to light them. What are friends for? As the Great Plague of London loosens its grip at last, Charles II's court

moves back to the city, the theatres reopen and a new year arrives. 1666. It cannot be more terrible than the previous year, surely? But it can. For many will strive to make it so; to finally rid London of the curse that brought the plague upon it. A wholesale cleansing is required if society is to be born again. What's more it seems that a serial killer who stalked hand in hand with the Plague might not be dead after all. Together with actress Sarah Chalker, highwayman William Coke and thief-taker Pitman come together as one, yet again, determined to stop the brutal murder of London's rich and poor once and for all. But another threat is on the way. It hasn't rained in five months. London is a tinderbox--politically, sexually and religiously. The Great Fire of London is about to ignite. And the final confrontation between Coke, Pitman and Sarah Chalker and their murderous adversary will be decided against a background of apocalypse.

**INDRIDASON, ARNALDUR reyk OBLIVION (#11) aka into oblivion** (\$18.99) A woman swims in a remote, milky-blue lagoon. Steam rises from the water and as it clears, a body is revealed in the ghostly light. Miles away, a vast aircraft hangar rises behind the perimeter fence of the US military base. A sickening thud is heard as a man's body falls from a high platform. Many years before, a school-girl went missing. The world has forgotten her. But Detective Erlendur has not. Erlendur is a newly promoted detective with a battered body, a rogue CIA operative and America's troublesome presence in Iceland to contend with. In his spare time, he investigates a cold case. He is only starting out but he is already up to his neck.

**JAMES, MIRANDA southern DIGGING UP THE DIRT (#3)** (\$10.99) An'gel and Dickce Ducote, busy with plans for the Athena Garden Club's spring tour of grand old homes, are having trouble getting the other club members to help. The rest of the group is all a-flutter now that dashing and still-eligible Hadley Partridge is back to restore his family mansion. But the idle chatter soon turns deadly serious when a body turns up on the Partridge estate after a storm. The remains might belong to Hadley's long-lost sister-in-law, Callie, who everyone thought ran off with Hadley years ago. And if it's not Callie, who could it be? As the Ducotes begin uncovering secrets, they discover that more than one person in Athena would kill to be Mrs. Partridge. Now An'gel and Dickce will need to get their hands dirty if they hope to reveal a killer's deep-buried motives before someone else's name is mud.

**JAMES, PETER TWIST OF THE KNIFE (Short Stories)** (\$18.99) In Peter James' collection of short stories we first come to meet Brighton's finest detective, Roy Grace, and read the tale that went on to inspire James' hugely successful novel, *Dead Simple*. James exposes the Achilles heel of each of his characters, and makes us question how well we can trust ourselves, and one another. Each tale carries a twist that will haunt readers for days after they turn the final page. Combining every twisted tale from the ebook bestsellers *Short Shockers One* and *Short Shockers Two*, with a never-seen-before collection of new material, *A Twist of the Knife* shows Peter James as the undisputed grand master of storytellers with this sometimes funny, often haunting, but always shocking collection.

**JUNGSTEDT, MARI canary is DARKER SKY (#1)** (\$21.95) As dawn breaks on the Canary Islands, a fisherman discovers a woman lying dead on the rocks nearby, her body arranged like a piece of art. To solve the case, Chief Inspector Diego Quintana gets unexpected help from Swedish journalist Sara Moberg, who runs the Scandinavian newspaper on the island, as well as from handsome former investigator Kristian Wede. But not even that can stop the killer from striking again. As the death toll rises, the mood darkens, and Sara and Kristian race to find the killer before another tourist falls prey. But who is the culprit—an island local with a grudge against the tourists, a visitor on the run from trouble in her home country, the womanizing local yoga instructor, or the person they least suspect?

**KENT, CHRISTOBEL LOVING HUSBAND** (\$22.99) Can you ever truly know the one you love? Fran Hall and her husband Nathan live in a farmhouse on the edge of the Fens with their two children. One February night, when Fran is woken by her baby, she finds the bed empty beside her and Nathan gone. Searching the house for him she makes a devastating discovery. As Fran finds herself under in-

tense police scrutiny, she and her two small children become more isolated as she starts to doubt whether or not she really knew Nathan. Was he really the loving husband that Fran had trusted him to be? As police suspicion grows the questions for Fran begin to mount. Is there something that she is hiding from them—something that she has kept hidden from everyone, including her husband?

**KESSLER, KATE harte IT TAKES ONE (#1)** (\$17.99) Criminal psychologist Audrey Harte is returning home after seven years. Less than 24 hours later, her best friend is murdered. Audrey is both the prime suspect and the only person who can solve the case...the first in a new series where a criminal psychologist uses her own dark past to help law enforcement catch dangerous killers.

**LAPENA, SHARI COUPLE NEXT DOOR** (\$24.95) Anne and Marco Conti seem to have it all—a loving relationship, a wonderful home, and their beautiful baby, Cora. But one night when they are at a dinner party next door, a terrible crime is committed. Suspicion immediately focuses on the parents. But the truth is a much more complicated story. Inside the curtained house, an unsettling account of what actually happened unfolds. Detective Rasbach knows that the panicked couple is hiding something. Both Anne and Marco soon discover that the other is keeping secrets, secrets they've kept for years. What follows is the nerve-racking unraveling of a family.

**LEMAITRE, PIERRE GREAT SWINDLE** (\$17.99) The year is 1918, the war on the Western Front all but over. An ambitious officer, Lieutenant Henry D'Aulnay-Pradelle, sends two soldiers over the top and then surreptitiously shoots them in the back to incite his men to attack the German lines. When another of D'Aulnay-Pradelle's soldiers, Albert Maillard, reaches the bodies and discovers how they died, the lieutenant shoves him into a shell hole to silence him. Albert is rescued by fellow soldier, the artist Edouard Péricourt, who takes a bullet in the face. The war ends and both men recover, but Edouard is permanently disfigured, and fakes his death to prevent his family from seeing him as a cripple. In gratitude for Edouard's rescue, Albert becomes the injured man's companion and caregiver. Finding that the postwar gratitude for the soldiers' service is nothing more than lip-service to an empty idea, the two men scramble to survive, ultimately devising a scam to take money for never-to-be-built war memorials from small towns. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Pradelle has married Edouard's sister Madeline and is running a scam of his own that involves the exhumation of war victims. The interwoven lives of these three men create a tapestry of the human condition as seen through the lens of war, revealing brutality and compassion, heroism and cowardice, in equal measure. Winner of the Prix Goncourt and author of the three Commandant Camille Verhoeven series.

**LESCROART, JOHN T hardy FALL** (\$12.99) Late one night, a seventeen-year-old African American foster child Tanya Morgan falls from the overpass above San Francisco's Stockton tunnel, landing on the windshield of a car driving on the street below. She is killed instantly. But did she fall or was she pushed? Homicide has recently been accused of dragging its feet in identifying suspects in cases where the victims are African American so the case becomes front-page news by the end of the investigation's first day. Rushing to produce a convictable suspect, inspectors focus their attention on a naive and idealistic young man named Greg Treadway. Greg is a middle school teacher with the Teach for America program and a volunteer as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for foster children, where his client is Tanya's twin brother Shawn. At first, the only thing connecting him to Tanya's death is the fact that they shared a meal earlier that night. But soon enough, elements of that story seem to fall apart and lawyer Dismas Hardy's daughter Rebecca finds herself drawn into the defense of young man who is perhaps not all that he had originally appeared to be.

**MACKINTY/MCKINTY, ADRIAN HIDDEN RIVER** (\$26.95) Hard on the heels of *Dead I Well May Be* (#1 in Michael Forsythe series) (\$30)—which Booklist named "one of the top ten crime fiction debuts of the year" comes this one. Alexander Lawson is a former detective for Northern Ireland's police force and a rising star at cracking difficult cases. After he is assigned to the force's dangerous, corruption-ridden drug squad, he becomes addicted to heroin—under unusu-

al circumstances. Forced to resign in disgrace, Alex is twenty-four and still entrapped by the needle when he learns that his high school love, beautiful Victoria Patawasti, has been murdered in drought-scorched Denver, Colorado. Victoria's family begs Alex to investigate the case, and he seizes the opportunity to fly to America for a chance at redemption. From the author of the excellent Sean Duffy series.

**MANZINI, ANTONIO schiavon** ADAMS RIB (#2) (\$18.50) Six months after being exiled from his beloved Rome, chronicled in Black Run (#1) (\$18.50), Deputy Police Chief Rocco Schiavone has settled into a routine in the cold, quiet, chronically backward alpine town of Aosta: an espresso at home, breakfast in the piazza, and a morning joint in his office. A little self-medication helps Rocco deal with the morons that almost exclusively comprise the local force. Especially on a day like today. It's his girlfriend's birthday (if you could call her that; in his mind, Rocco's only faithful to his late wife), he has no gift—and he's about to stumble upon a corpse. It begins when a maid reports a burglary in Aosta. But there's no sign of forced entry, and after Rocco picks the lock, he notices something off about the carefully ransacked rooms. That's when he finds the body: a woman, the maid's employer, left hanging after a grisly suicide. Or is it? Rocco's intuition tells him the scene has been staged. In other words, it's murder—a pain in the ass of the highest order.

**MARSTON, EDWARD railway** TIMETABLE OF DEATH (#12) (\$18.99) 1859. St Mary's Church, Spondon. A little girl playing hide-and-seek jumps into a freshly-dug grave to find a dead man already occupying it. It is the body of Cedric Norton, a senior director of the Midland Railway. Inspector Colbeck and Sergeant Leeming travel to Derbyshire to investigate.

**MARWOOD, ALEX DARKEST SECRET** (\$22) Twelve years ago, Mila Jackson's three-year-old half-sister Coco disappeared during their father's fiftieth birthday party. Her identical twin Ruby was left behind as the only witness. The girls' father, Sean, was wealthy and influential, as were the friends gathered at their seaside vacation home for the weekend's debauchery. The case ignited a media frenzy and forever changed the lives of everyone involved. Now, Sean Jackson is dead, and the people who were present that terrible night must gather once more for a funeral that will reveal that the secrets of the past can never stay hidden.

**MOSBY, STEVE I KNOW WHO DID IT** (\$15.99) Charlie Matheson died two years ago in a car accident. So how is a woman bearing a startling resemblance to her claiming to be back from the dead? Detective Mark Nelson is called in to investigate and hear her terrifying account of what she's been through in the afterlife. Every year Detective David Groves receives a birthday card for his son, even though he buried him years ago. His son's murder took everything from him, apart from his belief in the law, even though the killers were never found. This year, though, the card bears a different message: I know who did it. Uncovering the facts will lead them all on a dark journey, where they must face their own wrongs as well as those done to those they love. It will take them to a place where justice is a game, and punishments are severe. Nelson and Groves know the answers lie with the kind of people you want to turn and run from. But if they're to get to the truth, first they'll have to go through hell.

**NADEL, BARBARA hakim** ENOUGH ROPE (#4) (\$15.99) Private investigator and ex-soldier Lee Arnold and superintendent Paul Venus are by no means friends, but when Venus' son Harry is kidnapped and ransom demands arrive from an address in Arnold's patch in east London, the superintendent doesn't know who else to turn to. Arnold and his partner Mumtaz Hakim soon find themselves chasing leads into several of the East End's uneasily coexisting communities. Mumtaz uncovers a link to one of the area's powerful Bangladeshi families, whose property empire has always seemed suspicious, while Arnold suspects the involvement of more old-fashioned East End gangsters, and wonders if some of the nastier rumours about Venus himself might be true. And neither Mumtaz nor Lee like the look of the children of the super-rich, arriving in droves in the trendy parts of Hoxton and Shoreditch and living in luxury just a stone's throw from grinding urban poverty. The truth, however, is stranger and more dangerous than either Arnold or Hakim imagine.

**NICKSON, CHRIS markham** NEW EASTGATE SWING (#2) (\$19.95) Leeds, 1957: When enquiry agent Dan Markham and his new partner, retired Detective Sergeant Baker, take on a missing persons case, what appears to be a simple case soon turns into a murder investigation when a body is recovered from the River Aire. The investigation takes a deadly turn as the pair try and track down a Russian assassin and Markham finds himself dragged into the heart of a Cold War—in Leeds.

**NORTH, GIL cluff** METHODS OF SERGEANT CLUFF (#2) (\$19.50) It is a wet and windy night in the town of Gunnarshaw, on the edge of the Yorkshire moors. The body of young Jane Trundle, assistant in the chemist's shop, is discovered lying face down on the cobblestones. Sergeant Caleb Cluff is not a man of many words, and neither does he play by the rules. He may exasperate his superiors, but he has the loyal support of his constable and he is the only CID man in the division. The case is his. Life in Gunnarshaw is tough, with its people caught up in a rigid network of social conventions. But as Cluff's investigation deepens, Gunnarshaw's veneer of hard-working respectability starts to crumble. Sparse, tense, and moodily evoking the unforgiving landscape, this British Library Crime Classic novel keeps the reader guessing to the end. Originally published in 1961.

**NORTH, GIL cluff** SERGEANT CLUFF STANDS FIRM (#1) (\$19.50) Amy Snowden, in middle age, has long since settled into a lonely life in the Yorkshire town of Gunnarshaw, until, to her neighbours' surprise, she suddenly marries a much younger man. Months later, Amy is found dead, apparently by her own hand, and her husband, Wright, has disappeared. Sergeant Caleb Cluff, silent, watchful, a man at home in the bleak moorland landscape of Gunnarshaw, must find the truth about the couple's unlikely marriage, and solve the riddle of Amy's death. A British Library Crime Classic originally published in 1960.

**NUGENT, LIZ UNRAVELLING OLIVER** (\$16.99) A debut novel of psychological suspense, this is a study of the making of a sociopath in the tradition of **Barbara Vine** and **Patricia Highsmith**. Oliver Ryan is a handsome and charismatic success story. He lives in the suburbs with his wife, Alice, who illustrates his award-winning children's books and gives him her unstinting devotion. Their life together is one of enviable privilege and ease—enviable until, one evening after supper, Oliver attacks Alice and beats her into a coma. In the aftermath, as everyone tries to make sense of his astonishing act of savagery, Oliver tells his story. So do those whose paths he has crossed over five decades. What unfolds is a story of shame, envy, breath-taking deception and masterful manipulation. Only Oliver knows the lengths to which he has had to go to get the life to which he felt entitled. But even he is in for a shock when the past catches up with him.

**PARKER/COLEMAN stone** DEVIL WINS (#14) (\$13.50) In the wake of a huge storm, three bodies are discovered in the rubble of an abandoned factory building in an industrial part of Paradise known as The Swap. One body, a man's, wrapped in a blue tarp, is only hours old. But found within feet of that body are the skeletal remains of two teenage girls who had gone missing during a Fourth of July celebration twenty-five years earlier. Not only does that crime predate Jesse Stone's arrival in Paradise, but the dead girls were close friends of Jesse's right hand, Officer Molly Crane. And things become even more complicated when one of the dead girls' mothers returns to Paradise to bury her daughter and is promptly murdered. It's up to police chief Jesse Stone to pull away the veil of the past to see how all these murders are connected. Written by Reed Farrel Coleman.

**PARKS, CARRIE STUART** WHEN DEATH DRAWS NEAR (\$19.99) Forensic artist Gwen Marcey is between jobs when she accepts temporary work in Pikeville, Kentucky—a small town facing big-city crime. But before Gwen can finish her first drawing of the serial rapist who is on the loose, the latest witness vanishes. Just like all the others. Gwen suspects a connection between the rapist and the “accidental” deaths that are happening around town, but the local sheriff has little interest in her theories. When her digitally-obsessed teenage daughter joins her, Gwen turns her attention to a second assignment: going undercover in a serpent-handling church. She could

get a handsome reward for uncovering illegal activity—a reward she desperately needs, as it seems her breast cancer has returned. But snakes aren't the only ones ready to kill. Can Gwen uncover the truth—and convince anyone to believe her—before she becomes a victim herself?

**PASOLINI, PIER PAOLO** STREET KIDS (\$24) Pasolini's The Street Kids was heavily censored, criticized by professional critics, and lambasted by much of the general public upon its publication. But like many innovative works of art its undeniable force eventually led to it being universally acknowledged as a masterpiece. It is a moving tribute to an entire class of people in danger of being forgotten by art, by institutions, and by society at large. The book tells the story of Riccetto, a poor urchin who lives on the outskirts of Rome. Readers meet him at his first communion in 1944 during the German occupation of Italy. In the years that follow, drifting ever further from family and friends, Riccetto moves from petty theft to more elaborate cons and finally to prostitution. He is arrested and jailed after trying to steal some iron in order to buy his fiancée an engagement ring. Pasolini's message of rebellion and transgression is as important today as it was in the 1960s and 1970s. **Mr. Pasolini** was assassinated in 1975.

**PATTERSON, JAMES bennett** ALERT (#8) (\$11.99) New Yorkers aren't easily intimidated, but someone is doing their best to scare them, badly. Why? After two inexplicable high-tech attacks, the city that never sleeps is on edge. Detective Michael Bennett, along with his old pal, the FBI's Emily Parker, have to catch the shadowy criminals who claim responsibility—but they're as good at concealing their identities as they are at wreaking havoc. In the wake of a shocking assassination, Bennett begins to suspect that these mysterious events are just the prelude to the biggest threat of all. Soon, he's racing against the clock, and against the most destructive enemy he's faced yet, to save his beloved city—before everyone's worst nightmare becomes a reality.

**PATTERSON, JAMES private** PRIVATE PARIS (#10) (\$20.99) When Jack Morgan stops by Private's Paris office, he envisions a quick hello during an otherwise relaxing trip filled with fine food and sightseeing. But Jack is quickly pressed into duty after a call from his client Sherman Wilkerson, asking Jack to track down his young granddaughter who is on the run from a brutal drug dealer. Before Jack can locate her, several members of France's cultural elite are found dead—murdered in stunning, symbolic fashion. The only link between the crimes is a mysterious graffiti tag. As religious and ethnic tensions simmer in the City of Lights, only Jack and his Private team can connect the dots before the smoldering powder keg explodes

**POWELL, E M fifth knight** LORD OF IRELAND (#3) (\$22.95) John is a prince without prospect of a crown. As the youngest son of Henry II, he has long borne the hated nickname "Lackland." When warring tribes and an ambitious Anglo-Norman lord threaten Henry's reign in Ireland, John believes his time has finally come. Henry is dispatching him there with a mighty force to impose order. Yet it is a thwarted young man who arrives on the troubled isle. John has not been granted its kingship, he is merely the Lord of Ireland, destined never to escape his father's shadow. Unknown to John, Henry has also sent his right-hand man, Sir Benedict Palmer, to root out the traitors he fears are working to steal the land from him.

But Palmer is horrified when John disregards Henry's orders and embarks on a campaign of bloodshed that could destroy the kingdom. Now Palmer has to battle the increasingly powerful Lord of Ireland. Power, in John's hands, is a murderous force and he is only just beginning to wield it. And yes Jack Z, you do have the first two titles in this series.

**PUTNAM, JONATHAN lincoln** THESE HONORED DEAD (#1) (\$22.95) Joshua Speed, the enterprising second son of a wealthy plantation owner, has struck off on his own. But before long, he makes a surprising and crucial new acquaintance, a freshly minted lawyer by the name of Abraham Lincoln. When an orphaned girl from a neighbouring town is found murdered and suspicion falls on her aunt, Speed makes it his mission to clear her good name. Of course, he'll need the legal expertise of his unusual new friend. Together, Lincoln

and Speed fight to bring justice to their small town. But as more bodies are discovered and the investigation starts to come apart at the seams, there's one question on everyone's lips: does Lincoln have what it takes to crack his first murder case?

Inspired by actual events.

**RAGAN, T R faith** FURIOUS (\$22.95) Faith McMann comes home to a nightmare: her husband is killed and her son and daughter are taken. Although the intruders leave her for dead, she survives. Crippling grief and fear for her children make life unbearable. Until her anguish turns to anger and she trades victimhood for vengeance. Frustrated with the law's efforts, she takes action to rescue her children and wreaks havoc on the brutal criminals who tore them from her. With her family and newfound allies at her side, Faith descends into the hellish underworld of human trafficking, determined to make those who prey on the innocent pray for mercy. The forces she's up against have already proven that their ruthlessness knows no bounds. And there's nothing they won't do to turn Faith's crusade into a suicide mission. But they're about to learn that nothing is more dangerous than a mother fighting for her children, especially one who's earned the nickname Furious.

**REES, MATT verrazzano** DAMASCUS THREAT (#1) (\$22.95) A former Middle East foreign correspondent, Matt Rees is an expert on the war on terror. With his new ICE Thriller series, he opens the door to a part of United States Homeland Security that has rarely been explored before. ICE Special Agent Dominic Verrazzano's vigilance pays off when he uncovers a plot to launch a chemical attack in New York, but he doesn't know what the target is or how deep the conspiracy goes. The only woman who could have answered his questions is murdered just before she reaches him. In her last moments, she manages to send him a single clue. It will have to be enough. Her tip leads him to Syria, where he must negotiate the treacherous alleys of the casbah in the midst of civil war to track the weapon before it's too late, unless it's already too late.

**RHODES, KATE** BLOOD SYMMETRY (#6) (\$24.99) Clare Riordan and her son Mikey are abducted from Clapham Common early one morning. Hours later, the boy is found wandering disorientated. Soon after, a pack of Clare's blood is left on a doorstep in the heart of the City of London. Alice Quentin is brought in to help the traumatised child uncover his memories—which might lead them to his mother's captors. But she swiftly realises Clare is not the first victim... nor will she be the last. The killers are driven by a desire for revenge... and in the end, it will all come down to blood.

**RICKMAN, PHIL watkins** FRIENDS OF THE DUSK (#14) (\$17.95) When autumn storms blast Hereford, centuries-old human bones are found among the roots of a tree blown down on the city's Castle Green. But why have they been stolen? At the nearby Cathedral, another storm is building around a modernizing bishop who believes that if the Church is to survive it must phase out irrelevant archaic practices. Not good news for Merrily Watkins, consultant on the paranormal or, as it used to be known, diocesan exorcist. Especially as she's now presented with the job at its most medieval. In the moody countryside on the edge of Wales, a rambling 12th-century house is thought to be haunted. Although its new owners don't believe in ghosts, they do believe in spiritual darkness and the need for an exorcism. But their approach to Merrily is oblique and guarded. No one can be told—least of all, the new bishop. Merrily's discovery of the house's links with the medieval legend of a man who resisted mortality threatens to expose the hidden history of a more modern cult and its trail of insidious abuse—a trail that may not be closed.

**ROCHESTER, JULIA** HOUSE AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD (\$18.99) longlisted for the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction and shortlisted for the Desmond Elliot Prize 2016. Part mystery, part psychological drama. When I was eighteen, my father fell off a cliff. It was a stupid way to die. John Venton's drunken fall from a Devon cliff leaves his family with an embarrassing ghost. His twin children, Morwenna and Corwin, flee in separate directions to take up their adult lives. Their mother, enraged by years of unhappy marriage, embraces merry widowhood. Only their grandfather finds solace in the crumbling family house, endlessly painting their story onto a large

canvas map. His brightly coloured map, with its tiny pictures of shipwrecks, forgotten houses, saints and devils, is a work of his imagination, a collection of local myths and histories. But it holds a secret. As the twins are drawn grudgingly back to the house, they discover that their father's absence is part of the map's mysterious pull.

**ROSS, ANN B julia** MISS JULIA HITS THE ROAD (#4) (\$23) Miss Julia becomes increasingly concerned about her gentleman friend, Sam, who has suddenly started wearing cowboy boots, sending her flowers, and writing bad poetry. And when he shows up on a Harley-Davidson Road King and asks her to hop on, she's convinced he's lost his mind. Meanwhile, her invaluable housekeeper, Lillian, has been evicted from her home by her greedy landlord. Deciding that Lillian's need is greater than her own fear (not to mention loss of dignity), Miss Julia takes Sam up on his offer and sets off on a motorcycle Poker Run to raise some fast cash. She's ready to risk life and limb in Sam's sidecar to save Lillian's home from the bulldozer, but will Miss Julia's scheme work?

**ROSS, ANN B julia** MISS JULIA MEETS HER MATCH (#5) (\$22) Miss Julia must come to terms with her most ardent admirer of all: longtime beau Sam Murdoch, who wants to tie the knot. While it's hard to resist Sam's charm, Miss Julia isn't about to give up her independence so easily. After all, there are plenty of other matters that require her attention, including a Holy Land theme park to be built on her property, a possible affair between the mayor and the preacher's secretary, and the arrival of her housekeeper Lillian's five-year-old pistol of a great-granddaughter. In the midst of all the commotion, can her cool-as-a-cucumber head help her heart make the decision of a lifetime?

**ROSS, ANN B julia** MISS JULIA STANDS HER GROUND (#7) (\$17.50) Miss Julia faces her most daunting challenge yet. Hazel Marie's troublemaking uncle, Brother Vernon Puckett, has just swept into town and questioned Little Lloyd's paternity. Suddenly Miss Julia's late husband's estate is up for grabs, and it's up to her to prove that the boy's claim is legitimate. In another hilarious and heartwarming caper, Ann B. Ross proves that a little spunk and Southern charm go a long way.

**ROSS, ANN B julia** MISS JULIA THROWS A WEDDING (#3) (\$18.50) Miss Julia is feeling a little wistful when Hazel Marie, once her late husband's paramour and now her best friend, prepares to move out and live in sin with that marriage-shy Mr. Pickens. Suddenly, to Miss Julia's delight, a wedding is in the offing: Handsome Deputy Coleman Bates and attorney Binkie Enloe announce their plans to run down to the courthouse and tie the knot. But Miss Julia insists they have a real wedding ceremony and vows to make it happen. When a missing preacher, a crowd of uninvited guests, and a queasy bride threaten the happy event, Miss Julia is there to restore order, confirming her undying motto: if you want something done right, you have to do it yourself.

**ROSS, ANN B julia** MISS JULIAS SCHOOL OF BEAUTY (#6) (\$17) Miss Julia, now Mrs. Sam Murdoch, returns from her whirlwind elopement, only to find herself roped into Hazel Marie's scheme to raise money by throwing a beauty pageant. Though it all seems a tad distasteful, it's nothing compared to the revelation that Pigeon Forge, the marriage mill across the state line that wedded Julia and Sam, might not be legitimate. And a flustered Julia can't help wondering whether she and Sam can keep up appearances before the town finds out they might be living in sin.

**ROTHSCHILD, HANNAH** IMPROBABILITY OF LOVE (\$22) Finalist for the Baileys Women's Prize. Annie McDee, thirty-one, lives in a shabby London flat, works as a chef, and is struggling to get by. Reeling from a sudden breakup, she's taken on an unsuitable new lover and finds herself rummaging through a secondhand shop to buy him a birthday gift. A dusty, anonymous old painting catches her eye. After spending her meager savings on the artwork, Annie prepares an exquisite birthday dinner for two, only to be stood up. The painting becomes hers, and Annie begins to suspect that it may be more valuable than she'd thought. Soon she finds herself pursued by parties who would do anything to possess her picture: an exiled Russian oligarch, an avaricious sheikha, an unscrupulous art dealer. In her search for

the painting's identity, Annie will unwittingly discover some of the darkest secrets of European history and the possibility of falling in love again.

**RUSSELL, LEIGH steel** KILLER PLAN (#7) (\$22.50) Caroline's husband is killed, but she can't turn to the police without implicating herself in his murder. When one of her 10-year-old twins is kidnapped, the desperate mother is forced to resort to drastic measures to get him back. As time runs out, and a second body is discovered, Geraldine realises she has a secret that might just help solve the case. But the truth could destroy her career. Faced with the unenviable decision of protecting herself or the widow she barely knows, Geraldine must grapple with her conscience and do the right thing before the death count mounts any further.

**SATTERTHWAIT, WALTER lizz** MISS LIZZIE (#1) (\$35) Thirty years after the murders for which the nation still holds her responsible, Lizzie Borden is spending the summer on the Massachusetts shore, when a similar murder occurs, forcing her to clear her name once and for all. Marian really liked this. Originally published in 1989.

**SCOTTOLINE, LISA r & d** CORRUPTED (#3) (\$22.99) Bennie Rosato, the founder of the Rosato & DiNunzio law firm, hides her big heart beneath her tough-as-nails exterior and she doesn't like to fail. Now, a case from her past shows her how differently things might have turned out. Thirteen years ago, Bennie Rosato took on Jason Lefkavick, a twelve-year-old boy who was sent to a juvenile detention center after fighting a class bully. Bennie couldn't free Jason, and to this day it's the case that haunts her. Jason has grown up in and out of juvenile prison, and his adulthood hasn't been any easier. Bennie no longer represents those accused of murder, but when Jason is indicted for killing the same bully he fought with as a kid, she sees no choice but to represent him. She doesn't know whether or not to believe his claims of innocence, but she knows she owes him for past failures-of the law, of the juvenile justice system, and of herself. Forced to relive the darkest period of her life, Bennie will do everything in her power to get the truth and justice.

**SEDGWICK, MARCUS** MISTER MEMORY (\$24.99) In Paris in the year 1899, Marcel Després is arrested for the murder of his wife and transferred to the famous Salpêtrière asylum. And there the story might have stopped. But the doctor assigned to his care soon realises this is no ordinary patient: Marcel Després, Mister Memory, is a man who cannot forget. And the policeman assigned to his case soon realises that something else is at stake: for why else would the criminal have been hurried off to hospital, and why are his superiors so keen for the whole affair to be closed? This crime involves something bigger and stranger than a lovers' fight—something with links to the highest and lowest establishments in France. The policeman and the doctor between them must unravel the mystery... but the answers lie inside Marcel's head. And how can he tell what is significant when he remembers every detail of every moment of his entire life?

**SIGURDARDOTTIR, YRSA** UNDESIRED (\$15.99) Aldis is working in a juvenile detention centre in rural Iceland. She witnesses something deeply disturbing in the middle of the night; soon afterwards, two of the boys at the centre are dead. Decades later, single father Odinn is looking into alleged abuse at the centre following the unexplained death of the colleague who was previously running the investigation. The more he finds out, though, the more it seems the odd events of the 1970s are linked to the accident that killed his ex-wife. Was her death something more sinister?

**SPANN, SUSAN hiro** NINJAS DAUGHTER (#4) (\$17) Autumn, 1565: When an actor's daughter is murdered on the banks of Kyoto's Kamo River, master ninja Hiro Hattori and Portuguese Jesuit Father Mateo are the victim's only hope for justice. As political tensions rise in the wake of the shogun's recent death, and rival warlords threaten war, the Kyoto police forbid an investigation of the killing, to keep the peace—but Hiro has a personal connection to the girl, and must avenge her. The secret investigation leads Hiro and Father Mateo deep into the exclusive world of Kyoto's theater guilds, where they quickly learn that nothing, and no one, is as it seems. With only a mysterious golden coin to guide them, the investigators uncover a for-

bidden love affair, a missing mask, and a dangerous link to corruption within the Kyoto police department that leaves Hiro and Father Mateo running for their lives.

**STAINCLIFFE, CATH HALF THE WORLD AWAY (\$15.99)**

Newly graduated photography student Lori Maddox spends the year after university travelling and visits China where she finds work as a private English tutor. Back in Manchester, her parents Jo and Tom, who separated when Lori was a toddler, follow her adventures on her blog, 'Lori In The Orient'. Suddenly communication stops and when the silence persists a frantic Jo and Tom report her missing. It is impossible to find out anything from 5,000 miles away so they travel out to Chengdu, a city in the south-western province of Sichuan, to search for their daughter. Landing in a totally unfamiliar country, with no knowledge of the customs or language, and receiving scant help from the local authorities, Jo and Tom are forced to turn detective, following in their daughter's footsteps, tracing the people she mentioned in her posts, interviewing her friends, colleagues and students. It's an unbearably difficult challenge and, as the days pass, the fear that Lori is lost for good grows ever larger.

**STEINER, SUSIE MISSING PRESUMED (\$22.99)** At thirty-nine, Manon Bradshaw is a devoted and respected member of the Cambridgeshire police force, and though she loves her job, what she longs for is a personal life. Single and distant from her family, she wants a husband and children of her own. One night, after yet another disastrous internet date, she turns on her police radio to help herself fall asleep and receives an alert that sends her to a puzzling crime scene. Edith Hind, a beautiful graduate student at Cambridge University and daughter of the surgeon to the Royal Family, has been missing for nearly twenty-four hours. Her home offers few clues: a smattering of blood in the kitchen, her keys and phone left behind, the front door ajar but showing no signs of forced entry. Manon instantly knows that this case will be big, and that every second is crucial to finding Edith alive. The investigation starts with Edith's loved ones: her attentive boyfriend, her reserved best friend, her patrician parents. As the search widens and press coverage reaches a frenzied pitch, secrets begin to emerge about Edith's tangled love life and her erratic behavior leading up to her disappearance. With no clear leads, Manon summons every last bit of her skill and intuition to close the case, and what she discovers will have shocking consequences not just for Edith's family but for Manon herself.

**SUTER, MARTIN CHEF (\$17.95)** As the financial crisis tightens its grip on Europe, the gilded world of Zurich's leading restaurant, Chez Huwyler, seems immune to plunging stock markets and collapsing banks. But behind the scenes, even the rarefied world of haute cuisine is feeling the bite and so Maravan, a Tamil dishwasher and undiscovered culinary genius, and Andrea, a stunningly beautiful waitress, find themselves out of work and needing to find another way to survive. After Maravan seduces Andrea by cooking her a dinner that fuses the aphrodisiac recipes of his ancestors with the necromancy of molecular gastronomy, Andrea hits upon a business idea: romantic catering for couples. But even culinary magic can't ward off recession and when their new company begins to struggle, they are forced to enter into a much more unsavory business, plunging them deep into an underworld where murder and sex feed otherwise unquenchable thirsts. Filled with culinary exploits and sexual adventures, and includes 16 recipes.

**SWAIN, JAMES cunningham BAD ACTION (#2) (\$23.95)** Con artist Billy Cunningham is no stranger to the casinos of Las Vegas, he's ripped off every single one. But his latest scam, a year in the making, promises his crew their biggest payday yet. Billy has thought of everything down to the last detail or so he thinks. He hasn't counted on the father-son team of contract killers looking to cash in on Billy's head. Or his old flame, Maggie Flynn, out for payback for her broken heart. If Billy and his team can pass themselves off as high rollers for a week straight, living it up in Vegas's most exclusive suites and box seats, they'll get their chance to make their VIP status permanent. It's the biggest scam of their lives if they live.

**SWAIN, JAMES cunningham TAKE DOWN (#1) (\$23.95)** There are hundreds of casinos in Las Vegas, and Billy Cunningham knows

how to rip off every one. His scams are a thing of beauty, so perfectly orchestrated that onlookers believe he and his crew are winning fair and square. In a town where bosses will kill to protect their profits, Billy can't afford to make mistakes, but even the best-laid plans can go wrong. Desperate to keep his team out of jail, Billy agrees to help stop a legendary family of thieves from taking down a casino. But he has no intention of breaking the cheater's code: never rat out your own kind. He's running his own con on the casino's psycho owner and his vicious, violent wife. Throw in a murderous drug dealer, a vengeful gaming agent, and the girl Billy's never forgotten, and this scam artist is playing for sky-high stakes: a cool eight million, and the chance to live long enough to spend it.

**SWEENEY, LEANN cats in tr CAT THE COLLECTOR AND THE KILLER (#8) (\$10.99)** Jillian Hart and police chief Tom Stewart are enjoying peaceful, newly wedded bliss in Mercy, South Carolina, until a woman is found wandering the streets one night. She's in her night clothes, disoriented, and carrying a kitten in a tote bag. A search of the woman's house reveals many more cats, a maze of cardboard boxes and a dead man. Although the evidence suggests the frail woman is the killer, Jillian doesn't believe she's capable of such a crime. The dead man had many enemies in town, which means finding the real murderer may prove to be its own cat and mouse game.

**THOMSON, E S BELOVED POISON (\$22.99)** Ramshackle and crumbling, trapped in the past and resisting the future, St Saviour's Infirmary awaits demolition. Within its stinking wards and cramped corridors, the doctors bicker and fight. Ambition, jealousy and hatred seethe beneath the veneer of professional courtesy. Always an outsider, and with a secret of her own to hide, apothecary Jem Flockhart observes everything, but says nothing. And then six tiny coffins are uncovered, inside each a handful of dried flowers and a bundle of mouldering rags. When Jem comes across these strange relics hidden inside the infirmary's old chapel, her quest to understand their meaning prisms open a long-forgotten past - with fatal consequences. In a trail that leads from the bloody world of the operating theatre and the dissecting table to the notorious squalor of Newgate and the gallows, Jem's adversary proves to be both powerful and ruthless. As St Saviour's destruction draws near, the dead are unearthed from their graves whilst the living are forced to make impossible choices. And murder is the price to be paid for the secrets to be kept.

**TRAN, VU DRAGONFISH (\$21.95)** Robert, an Oakland cop, still can't let go of Suzy, the enigmatic Vietnamese wife who left him two years ago. Now she's disappeared from her new husband, Sonny, a violent Vietnamese smuggler and gambler who's blackmailing Robert into finding her for him. As he pursues her through the sleek and seamy gambling dens of Las Vegas, shadowed by Sonny's sadistic son, "Junior," and assisted by unexpected and reluctant allies, Robert learns more about his ex-wife than he ever did during their marriage. He finds himself chasing the ghosts of her past, one that reaches back to a refugee camp in Malaysia after the fall of Saigon, as his investigation soon uncovers the existence of an elusive packet of her secret letters to someone she left behind long ago. Although Robert starts illuminating the dark corners of Suzy's life, the legacy of her sins threatens to immolate them all.

**VALLERE, DIANE material SILK STALKINGS (#3) (\$10.99)** The time has come for San Ladrón, California's annual Miss Tangorli beauty pageant, and Poly has agreed to use Material Girl's inventory of shimmery silks to create embellished gowns fit for a crown. But when millionaire Harvey Halliwell, the man who revived the city's citrus trade with his imported tangorli tree, is found dead days before the pageant contestants are announced, something sour takes over the town.

To make matters worse, her friend, mechanic Charlie Brooks, is soon caught up in the crime, having been seen in the company of the case's prime suspect. Now Poly's on a mission to squeeze out the truth. But as she searches for a pattern, the killer seems intent on cutting up the evidence.

**VARGAS, FRED adamsberg CLIMATE OF FEAR (#9) (\$25)** A woman is found murdered in her bathtub, and the murder made to look like a suicide. But a strange symbol found at the crime scene

leads the local police to call Commissaire Adamsberg. When the symbol is found near the body of a second disguised suicide, a pattern starts to emerge: both victims were involved in a tragic incident in Iceland over 10 years ago. A group of tourists found themselves trapped on a deserted island for two weeks, surrounded by thick, impenetrable fog, and two of them didn't make it back alive. But how are the deaths linked to the local Robespierre society? And what does the mysterious symbol signify?

**VIETS, ELAINE richman BRAIN STORM (#1)** (\$22.95) The ultra-wealthy families of Chouteau Forest may look down on a woman like death investigator Angela Richman, but they also rely on her. When a horrific car crash kills a Forest teenager, Angela is among the first on the scene. Her investigation is hardly underway, however, when she suffers a series of crippling strokes. Misdiagnosed by the resident neurologist, Dr. Gravois, and mended by gauche yet brilliant neurosurgeon Dr. Jeb Travis Tritt, Angela faces a harrowing recovery. It's a drug-addled, hallucinating Angela who learns that Dr. Gravois has been murdered and the chief suspect is the surgeon who saved her life. Angela doesn't believe it, but can she trust her instincts? Her brain trauma brings doubts that she'll ever recover her investigative skills. But she's determined to save Dr. Tritt from a death-row sentence, even if her progress is thwarted at every turn by a powerful and insular community poised to protect its own.

**WALKER, MARTIN bruno PATRIARCH (#8) aka dying season** (\$22) Bruno Courrèges is thrilled when he receives an invitation to the lavish birthday celebration of his childhood hero, World War II flying ace Marco "the Patriarch" Desaix. But when the party ends in the death of one of Marco's longtime friends, Gilbert, it turns into another day on the job for St. Denis's chief of police. All signs point to a tragic accident, but Bruno isn't so sure, for there is more to the Desaix family's lives and loyalties than meets the eye. There's Victor, the Patriarch's son and Gilbert's sometimes rival, and Victor's seductive wife, Madeleine, whose roving eye intrigues Bruno even more than her fierce political ambitions. Not to mention the Patriarch himself. Did his postwar Soviet ties intersect too closely with Gilbert's career in Cold War intelligence? As Bruno's entanglement with the Desaix family becomes more complicated, his inquiries into Gilbert's life will become a deadly threat to his own.

**WELSH, LOUISE trilogy DEATH IS A WELCOME GUEST (#2)** (\$15.99) Magnus McFall was a comic on the brink of his big break when the world came to an end. Now, like other survivors of "the Sweats," the mysterious plague that has decimated the planet, he is a man on the run. Thrown into unwilling partnership with an escaped convict named Jeb, Magnus flees the eerie desolation of depopulated London to make the long journey north, clinging to hope that the sickness has not reached his family in Scotland. Traveling through a familiar landscape now fraught with danger, Magnus finds himself a stranger in a world ruled by men like Jeb—hard-hearted, practical men quick to make life-or-death decisions. In a world rewritten with a harsh code of justice, and a new set of rules where people barter for their existence with food and weapons, survival is the bottom line. But when Magnus and Jeb stumble across a murder during their journey, they will have to decide whether finding the truth about a single death can weigh in the balance against the need to survive. Sequel to Lovely Way to Burn (#1) (\$15.99).

**XIAOLONG, QIU SHANGHAI REDEMPTION (#9)** (\$22.99) For years, Chen Cao managed to balance the interests of the Communist Party and the promises made by his job. He was both a Chief Inspector of Special Investigations of the Shanghai Police Department and the deputy party secretary of the bureau. He was considered a potential rising star in the Party until, after one too many controversial cases that embarrassed powerful elements in the Party, Chen Cao found himself neutralized. Under the guise of a major promotion, a new position with a substantial title but no power, he's stripped of his job duties and isolated. That's still not enough, as it becomes increasingly clear that someone is attempting to set him up for public disgrace and possibly worse. Chen Cao is technically in charge of the corruption case of a Red Prince, a powerful, high Party figure who embodies the ruthless ambition, greed, and corruption that is increas-

ingly evident in the new China. This Red Prince has the kind of connections and power to deflect any attempts to bring him to justice. Now, with no power, few allies, and with his own reputation on the line, the former Inspector Chen is facing the most dangerous investigation of his life.