



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

November 2020

What a glorious few weeks we have had in Southern Ontario this November! Temperatures around 20C, lots of brilliant sunshine, light winds, no rain, no frost overnight...just the best golfing weather. Golf is one of the few activities that is so ideally suited for this pandemic, consequently golf courses have been busy, busy, busy. Needless to say, I've been taking full advantage of this opportunity. Starting to feel like work!

COVID-19 case counts are rising in Ontario, in all of Canada actually, so now is not the time to let down your guard. Now is not the time to start treating this lightly. Although, just heard that one of the large pharmaceutical companies, Pfizer I think, is showing hugely encouraging results in their clinical trials. Perhaps there will be good news soon. Besides that *other* great news! "We Just Did—46."

Did you happen to see the news report about a train that was saved by a whale tail? Somewhere in the Netherlands, a train overshot it's station and one car went over the edge and would have fallen some distance to the ground but for a plastic whale tail sculpture that was oh-so-in-the-right-spot to catch the car and keep it propped up while authorities figured out a way to deal with it. I've seen the story mentioned in a number of places but just search for "train whale netherlands" and you'll find it. The picture is quite amazing.

In the "Another Opportunity Missed" file...sales of jigsaw puzzles are going "bonkers"—NPR as families, stuck at home for the past few months are desperately looking for any and all activities to while away the time and keep the rug rats distracted. The puzzles are in really short supply as the demand has exploded, and the supply chain is straining under the load. So, order early if you hope to have any for the holidays!

One more, then I'll stop. Have you heard of Nandi Bushell? I hadn't. Read about her in the New York Times. Look her up on YouTube. You'll be amazed.

The Merchant of Menace,

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

Postage & Handling

In a word: Actual

Hours of Business

Thursday to Saturday: 11 to 5
Sunday: Noon - 4pm
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
& Statutory Holidays: Closed

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

JD's Picks

Discovered a new Irish writer recently, although that should be Northern Irish as **GARY DONNELLY** is from Belfast and that is where his DI Owen Sheen series is set. *Blood will be Born* (#1) (\$21.95) is the series debut and *Killing in Your Name* (#2) (\$21.95), the follow up, is also available. **Adrian McKinty**, the author of the excellent Sean Duffy series, had this to say about the book: "A twisty, violent, cop thriller set in post-conflict Belfast... Brilliant. Gary Donnelly is an exciting new voice in Northern Irish noir."

A very brief synopsis: DI Owen Sheen vowed never to return to Belfast, but he needs answers about his brother's death. He is on loan from London's Met to the Police Service of Northern Ireland, although before he can dig into the past, he must babysit DC Aoife McCusker on her first murder investigation.

As the case slides into chaos, can Sheen put his personal agenda aside? And will McCusker keep her job long enough to ensure that this first case is not her last?

It might be decades since the Troubles were over, but the atrocities committed by both sides have not been forgotten. They are still very much fresh in the minds of the people who lived through those dark and turbulent times. Peace still seems very fragile and it seems that the country is still sitting on tenterhooks. This is dark and troubling read, but once I got a few chapters in, I was hooked.

And while in Belfast...one of the best reads about the Troubles was *Twelve aka Ghosts of Belfast* (\$9.99) by **STUART NEVILLE**. Released recently was his *The Traveller and Other Stories* (\$35.95) a collection of twelve stories that "traverse and blend the genres of noir, horror, and speculative fiction, and which bring the history and lore of Neville's native Northern Ireland to glittering life." The collection concluded with the novella *The Traveller*, a companion piece to *Twelve*. If you have loved *Twelve* as much as I did, then you need to read this "conclusion" to the story.

A masterpiece of the crime genre is **T. JEFFERSON PARKER's** *California Girl* (\$19.99.) This novel was published 2004 and was the winner of the Best Novel of the Year Edgar. I did not read it at the time, but as it has become available again, I finally got around to reading it. It's excellent. It's smart, clever and totally entertaining. Kinda lengthy, but I didn't want it to end.

Here's a brief synopsis: The Orange County, California, that the Becker brothers knew as boys is no more—unrecognizably altered since the afternoon in 1954 when Nick, Clay, David, and Andy rumbled with the lowlife Vonns, while five-year-old Janelle Vonn watched from the sidelines. The new decade has ushered in the era of Johnson, hippies, John Birchers, and LSD. Clay becomes a casualty of a far-off jungle war. Nick becomes a cop, Andy a reporter, David a minister. And a terrible crime touches them all in ways they could never have anticipated when the mutilated corpse of teenage beauty queen Janelle Vonn is discovered in an abandoned warehouse.

And finally for me, *Bad Axe County* (#1) (\$23) by **JOHN GALLIGAN**.

Here's a not-so-short blurb: Fifteen years ago, Heidi White's parents were shot to death on their Bad Axe County farm. The police declared it a murder-suicide and closed the case. But that night, Heidi found the one clue she knew could lead to the truth—if only the investigators would listen.

Now Heidi White is Heidi Kick, wife of local baseball legend Harley Kick and mother of three small children. She's also the interim sheriff in Bad Axe. Half the county wants Heidi elected but the other half will do anything to keep her out of law enforcement. And as a deadly ice storm makes it way to Bad Axe, tensions rise and long-buried secrets climb to the surface.

As freezing rain washes out roads and rivers flood their banks, Heidi finds herself on the trail of a missing teenaged girl. Clues lead her down twisted paths to backwoods stag parties, derelict dairy farms, and the local salvage yard—where the body of a different teenage girl has been carefully hidden for a decade.

As the storm rages on, Heidi realizes that someone is planting clues for her to find, leading her to some unpleasant truths that point to the local baseball team and a legendary game her husband pitched years ago. With a murder to solve, a missing girl to save, and a monster to bring to justice, Heidi is on the cusp of shaking her community to its core—and finding out what really happened the night her parents died.

I really liked this book. I really liked Heidi. The misogyny of this little southwest corner of Wisconsin seems like America in all its glory—though that's probably totally unfair, I suspect it's small-town anywhere—and how Heidi, with the support of a special few, deals with it, is so affirming. There is a sequel, *Dead man Dancing* (#2) (\$36) as well.

Marian's Picks

The second wave seems to upon us. What interesting times we are living through! My escape, my refuge, is the cottage with the magnificent Pixie. As soon as my work week is done, I just head to the cottage and escape. Seems less stressful that way. And, to help me get through my down time, I have my new favourite book, What Wines When (\$19.95) by **CHRIS HARROP**. I know that we have annotated this before, but it does come in handy when navigating the aisles of my little cottage country LCBO. They carry a fair number of the wines listed in the WWW and having the guide at hand makes selecting easy. I've also discovered how easy it is to order some of the wines from the LCBO website and have them delivered to my local LCBO!

I did watch a bit more television the week of the US election, mainly CNN, so haven't read as much as I should have. The wine came in handy, to calm my frayed nerves. Engrossed as I was with the political shenanigans on the telly, Pixie is very good at telling time, so no meals or walks were missed. I never forget when it's cocktail time (5pm), but I am not making as many cocktails as I normally do because I am conducting research on reasonably priced wines!

I read **ROSEMARY MCCRACKEN**'s latest offering in her Pat Tierney series, Uncharted Waters (#4) (\$19.99) and really enjoyed it. Pat is heading into uncharted waters when she decides to set up her own financial planning practice and wants to buy an existing business. Trouble starts just after the sale documents are signed and the man she bought the business from is found dead. Murdered, of course! Not a good way to start out on your own! Part of the enjoyment of reading the book for me is its setting. Most of the action takes place in and around Toronto, and I can follow the characters and say, yes! I know where that is. Her previous book, Raven Lake (#3) (\$19) was similar, as it is set mostly in cottage country, and again I felt like I knew where I was going. Pat has a complicated life, full of events and responsibilities that are similar to all of us, but throw murder into the mix and she has her hands full. Especially when the son of the dead man from whom she has just bought the practice is claiming that the business sale is not legitimate and he starts defaming her character! Twists and turns, interesting info. on how financial planners work (especially if you are thinking of using one), diverse characters, good plot... the book zipped along at a fast trot and before I knew it, I had finished it.

Murder in the Margins (\$10.99) by **MARGARET LOUDON** is the first in a new series which has everything a lover of a cosy mystery will enjoy. It's set in a quaint English village, everyone is constantly drinking tea, the main character is the writer in residence at the local bookshop and lives in a tiny cottage just down the road from the shop, the murder victim is the chairwoman of the yearly village fete! I could go on, but you get the picture! American Gothic writer Penelope Parish grabs the chance to move to England hoping it will help her with the writer's block she's facing after the success of her first novel. Solving a murder, with the help of a bunch of crazy village characters, seems to be just the cure she needs.

I've just started reading **VICKI DELANY**'s latest "Year-Round Christmas Mystery" Dying in a Winter Wonderland (#5) (\$10.99) and it's starting off a charm. Merry Wilkinson is about to open her shop, Mrs. Claus's Treasures, on Christmas Eve, the busiest day of the year in the retail business. Especially if you own a shop dedicated to Christmas in a town that is full of Christmas cheer, and I suspect a murder is coming to town! I'll be snuggling up with the book this evening, the candles lit, the fire roaring and one of Chris's recommendations at hand.

And now for something completely different. **VINCE FLYNN** wrote thirteen books featuring Mitch Rapp, a CIA covert assassin who is part of a group of clandestine operatives who work outside the normal chain of command, men who do not exist! He can take on a dozen bad guys all at once and come out on top, and I am ashamed to say that I only started reading his books about a month ago. I picked a title at random and read it, and then immediately read another one. I don't usually do that, read another book of a writer immediately after, but I couldn't resist. It's hard to say where you should start in the series; the first was published in 1999's Transfer of Power (\$23) but 2010's American Assassin (\$12.99 paperback, \$23 trade paperback) was a prequel to the series and it explains how Mitch Rapp came to be recruited into this covert CIA group. I started with 2005's Consent to Kill (#8) (\$14.99 paperback, \$23 trade paperback), which is number 8 in the series, but in hindsight, I think I should have started with an earlier title. If you want a fast moving, no holds barred, assassin, save the United States, save the world type series, then this is it. **Mr. Flynn** died in 2013 and the series is being continued by **Kyle Mills**.

Hardbacks

ANDERSON, LIN macleod INNOCENT DEAD (#15) (\$33.99) Mary McIntyre's disappearance tore the local community apart, inflicting wounds that still prove raw for those who knew her. So when the present-day discovery of a child's remains are found in a peat bog south of Glasgow, it seems the decades-old mystery may finally be solved. Called in to excavate the body, forensic scientist Rhona MacLeod uses the advances made in forensic science since Mary's vanishing to determine what really happened all those years ago—and who was responsible. One key person had been Karen Marshall who was devastated by her best friend's abduction. Questioned by the police at the time had led to a dead end and the case soon went cold. Now the news of the discovered body brings the nightmares back. But added to that, memories long-buried by Karen are returning, memories that begin to reveal her role in her friend's disappearance and perhaps even the identity of the killer.

ANDREWS, DONNA langslow GIFT OF THE MAGPIE (#28) (\$34.99) Meg's running Caerphilly's Helping Hands for the Holidays project, in which neighbors help each other with things they can't do and can't afford to have done. Her hopes for a relatively peaceful (if busy) Christmas vanish when someone murders Harvey the Hoarder, whose house the Helping Hands were decluttering. Was there any truth to the rumor that he had something valuable hidden beneath all his junk? Was one of his friends, neighbors, or relatives greedy enough to murder him for the rumored treasure? And what about the magpie that has been bringing her family bits of tinsel and costume jewelry—does the bird's latest gift hold a clue to solving the crime?

BANVILLE, JOHN strafford SNOW (#1) (\$34.99) The incomparable Booker Prize winner's next great crime novel—the story of a family whose secrets resurface when a parish priest is found murdered in their ancestral home. Detective Inspector St. John Strafford has been summoned to County Wexford to investigate a murder. A parish priest has been found dead in Ballyglass House, the family seat of the aristocratic, secretive Osborne family. The year is 1957 and the Catholic Church rules Ireland with an iron fist. Strafford—flinty, visibly Protestant and determined to identify the murderer—faces obstruction at every turn, from the heavily accumulating snow to the culture of silence in the tight-knit community he begins to investigate. As he delves further, he learns the Osbornes are not at all what they seem. And when his own deputy goes missing, Strafford must work to unravel the ever-expanding mystery before the community's secrets, like the snowfall itself, threaten to obliterate everything.

BLACK, LAURA GAIL FOR WHOM THE BOOK TOLLS (#1) (\$35.99) Trouble follows Jenna Quinn wherever she goes. Fleeing some unsavory doings in her hometown of Charlotte, Jenna accepts her uncle's gracious invitation to stay with him in small-town Hokes Folly, NC. In exchange, she'll help him out in his antiquarian bookstore. But soon after she arrives, Jenna finds her uncle's body crumpled at the base of the staircase between his apartment and the bookstore. Before the tragedy even sinks in, Jenna learns that she's inherited almost everything her uncle owned: the store and apartment, as well as his not-so-meager savings and the payout from a life insurance policy...which adds up to more than a million dollars. This is all news to Jenna—bad news, once the police get wind of her windfall. An ill wind, indeed, as a second murder cements Jenna's status as the prime suspect in both deaths. Jenna can hit the road again, taking her chances that she can elude trouble along the way. Or she can stick it out in Hokes Folly, take over the bookstore, and try to sleuth out her uncle's killer.

BROOK, ALLISON CHECKED OUT FOR MURDER (#4) (\$35.99) Daphne Marriott strolls into Clover Ridge and informs librarian Carrie Singleton that she's a psychic. But had she foreseen what fate awaited her, Daphne would have steered clear of the quaint Connecticut town. Evelyn, the library ghost, tells Carrie that there's more to Daphne than she lets on. The mysterious woman grew up in Clover Ridge with her no-good dad, who apparently met his end at the hands of Daphne's brother, Billy. Still, Daphne proves a welcome distraction when Carrie's overbearing mother hits town. Mom's much younger husband, Tom, is in a movie that's lensing locally, and she's there to keep an eye on him: Tom's costar, sultry Ilana Reingold, is also his ex-fiancée, and there's no denying the chemistry is still there. Soon after mingling with the moviemakers at a meet-and-greet, Daphne is found dead. Carrie and Evelyn investigate, assisted by bushy-tailed library cat Smoky Joe. The first in the series is Death Overdue (\$21.99).

BROOK, ALLISON haunted READ AND GONE (#2) (\$35.99) A devoted dad is as precious as diamonds, but Carrie Singleton wouldn't know since her dad Jim's been on the lam most of her life. In an unusual family reunion, she finds Jim breaking into her cottage in the middle of the night. The fun really starts when he begs her to help him recover his half of a twenty-million-dollar gem heist he pulled off with the local jeweler, Benton Parr. When she refuses, Jim takes off again. Carrie finds her father again behind bars for the recent murder of Benton Parr. Who made the connection? Unbeknownst to her, Carrie's boyfriend Dylan, an insurance investigator, has been searching for the gems. Determined to find the jewels herself, she starts examining every facet of Parr's life. Retreating to the quiet confines of the library where she works, Carrie watches as Smokey Joe, the resident cat, paws at a hole in the wall. Is he after the library's ghost Evelyn, or something shinier?

BROOK, ALLISON haunted BURIED IN THE STACKS (#3) (\$35.99) In winter, the Haunted Library is a refuge for homeless townspeople. When a group purchases a vacant house to establish a daytime haven for the homeless, Carrie offers the library as a meeting place for the Haven House committee, but quickly learns that it may be used for illegal activities. As the new Sunshine Delegate, Carrie heads to the hospital to visit her cantankerous colleague, Dorothy, who had fallen outside the local supermarket. She

tells Carrie that her husband tried to kill her—and that he murdered her Aunt Evelyn, the library's resident ghost, six years earlier. And then Dorothy is murdered—run off the road as soon as she returns to work. Evelyn implores Carrie to find her niece's killer, but that's no easy task.

CASEY, JANE kerrigan CUTTING PLACE (#9) (\$32.99 hardcover, \$23.99 trade paperback) The gripping new thriller from the Top Ten Sunday Times bestselling author, shortlisted for the Irish Crime Book Awards 2020. Everyone's heard the rumours about elite gentlemen's clubs, where the champagne flows freely, the parties are outrageous...and what goes on behind closed doors is darker than you could possibly imagine. Paige Hargreaves was a young journalist working on a story about a club for the most privileged men in London. She was on the brink of exposing a shocking scandal. Then she disappeared. DS Maeve Kerrigan must immerse herself in the club's world of wealth, luxury and ruthless behaviour to find out what happened. But Maeve is keeping secrets of her own. Will she uncover the truth? Or will time run out for Maeve first?

CHILD, LEE /ANDREW CHILD reacher SENTINEL (#25) (\$38.99) As always, Reacher has no particular place to go, and all the time in the world to get there. One morning he ends up in a town near Pleasantville, Tennessee. But there's nothing pleasant about the place. In broad daylight Reacher spots a hapless soul walking into an ambush. "It was four against one" . . . so Reacher intervenes, with his own trademark brand of conflict resolution. The man he saves is Rusty Rutherford, an unassuming IT manager, recently fired after a cyberattack locked up the town's data, records, information . . . and secrets. Rutherford wants to stay put, look innocent, and clear his name. Reacher is intrigued. There's more to the story. The bad guys who jumped Rutherford are part of something serious and deadly, involving a conspiracy, a cover-up, and murder—all centered on a mousy little guy in a coffee-stained shirt who has no idea what he's up against. Rule one: if you don't know the trouble you're in, keep Reacher by your side.

CONNOLLY, JOHN parker DIRTY SOUTH (#18) (\$37) It is 1997, and someone is slaughtering young women in Burdon County, Arkansas. But no one in the Dirty South wants to admit it. In an Arkansas jail cell sits a former NYPD detective, stricken by grief. He is mourning the death of his wife and child, and searching in vain for their killer. Obsessed with avenging his lost family, his life is about to take a shocking turn. Witness the dawning of a conscience. Witness the birth of a hunter. Witness the becoming of Charlie Parker.

DOYLE/LOVEGROVE, JAMES SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BEAST OF THE STAPLETONS (\$25.99) 1894. The monstrous Hound of the Baskervilles has been dead for five years, along with its no less monstrous owner, the naturalist Jack Stapleton. Sir Henry Baskerville is living contentedly at Baskerville Hall with his new wife Audrey and their three-year-old son Harry. Until, that is, Audrey's lifeless body is found on the moors, drained of blood. It would appear some fiendish creature is once more at large on Dartmoor and has, like its predecessor, targeted the unfortunate Baskerville family. Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson are summoned to Sir Henry's aid, and our heroes must face a marauding beast that is the very stuff of nightmares. It seems that Stapleton may not have perished in the Great Grimpen Mire after all, as Holmes believed, and is hell-bent on revenge.

DOYLE/RYAN, RICHARD THROUGH A GLASS STARKLY (\$62.50) After surviving an attempt on his life in Paris, Sherlock Holmes returns to London, where the Great Detective is almost immediately enlisted by his brother to secure the safety of the delegates at a top-secret peace conference. With Europe a veritable powder keg in the years before World War I, Holmes understands any misstep on his part could prove fatal and possibly plunge the continent into war. However, after pledging to do his utmost for "King and Country," Holmes suddenly finds himself overwhelmed by an onslaught of cases. An old friend requests his assistance in recovering a priceless manuscript which has gone missing from the British Museum. Accused of accepting bribes from a smuggling ring, Inspector Lestrade, who has been suspended from Scotland Yard, turns to Holmes for help. Add in a beautiful newlywed who claims her husband is trying to murder her, and it is easy to see why Watson compares the tasks confronting his friend to the Labours of Hercules.

DOYLE/SMITH, DANIEL SHERLOCK UNLOCKED: LITTLE-KNOWN FACTS ABOUT THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE (\$22.95) Consulting detective Sherlock Holmes has been fascinating generations of readers, watchers and listeners for over 130 years, since he first appeared in print in 1887. Now an internationally renowned cultural icon, his name appears on books, films, television dramas, radio plays, stage adaptations and the rest right across the world and he is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as "the most portrayed movie character" in history. With all this material readily available, one might think there's not much to find out about Sherlock, but here, Daniel Smith looks behind what we think we know about the well-known sleuth and reveals little-known facts of which every Sherlock aficionado should be aware. From the eccentric and odd characters to the bizarre plot twists, and from Conan Doyle to Moriarty, this book will appeal to Holmes' fans old and new.

DUNCAN, ELIZABETH penny ON DEADLY TIDES (#11) (\$35.99) With a picturesque black and white lighthouse, pebble beaches and stunning views of sea and mountains, the island of Anglesey off the coast of North Wales is the perfect place for an idyllic mid-summer painting holiday. And watercolour artist, businesswoman, and amateur sleuth Penny Brannigan is enjoying the retreat enormously—until she discovers the body of a New Zealand journalist on a secluded beach just as the tide is going out, threatening to take the body with it. The postmortem reveals the victim died from injuries "consistent with a fall from a great height," and the death is ruled accidental. But Penny thinks there's more to the story. Curious how the victim came to such an untimely end at this most inhospitable spot, she uncovers a link to a mysterious disappearance several years earlier.

ELDRIDGE, JIM museum MURDER AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM (#5) (\$32.95) 1895. When the newly dubbed 'Museum Detectives' are asked to investigate deliberate damage to a dinosaur

skeleton at the Natural History Museum, there is evidence that the fossil-hunting mania of the notorious Bone Wars in America may have reached their shores. But for Daniel Wilson, famed for his involvement in the Jack the Ripper case, and renowned archaeologist Abigail Fenton, events soon take a sinister turn. A museum attendant is found dead in an anteroom by none other than the infamous theatre manager Bram Stoker, who it seems may have had a personal connection with the deceased. Facing pressure both from an overseas business and local celebrity, Wilson and Fenton must rely on their talents and instincts to solve their most puzzling case yet.

FRENCH, TANA SEARCHER (\$36) Cal Hooper thought a fixer-upper in a bucolic Irish village would be the perfect escape. After twenty-five years in the Chicago police force and a bruising divorce, he just wants to build a new life in a pretty spot with a good pub where nothing much happens. But when a local kid whose brother has gone missing arm-twists him into investigating, Cal uncovers layers of darkness beneath his picturesque retreat, and starts to realize that even small towns shelter dangerous secrets.

GATES, EVA lighthouse DEATH LONG OVERDUE (#7) (\$35.99) It's summertime in the Outer Banks of North Carolina and Bertie James's college class is having their 40th anniversary reunion. The opening night reception is held at the Lighthouse Library and Lucy and her colleagues have assembled an exhibit of library artifacts showing how libraries have changed over the years. After the reception, some of the women take a walk down the boardwalk to the pier, using flashlights to illuminate the dark path, but what's scarier than the dark is finding the former director of the Lighthouse Library floating lifeless in the water. Helena Sanchez, the former director, wasn't much loved and spent the party being rude to almost everyone there. As a result, Lucy finds herself in deep water as she rocks the boat, questioning several suspects. But she'll have to batten down the hatches and fast before she's left high and dry...and right in the killer's crosshairs.

GOLDENBAUM, SALLY society CRIME OF A DIFFERENT STRIPE (#4) (\$35) While no-nonsense mother-to-be Cass Halloran tries downplaying her pregnancy and her frequent doctor's visits as an "older" mother-to-be, a softer side of the lobsterwoman emerges as she joins the Seaside Knitters in knitting an abundance of delicate hats and booties. But in contrast to the happy news, terrifying events unfold at the town's art series that puts a real chill in their New England fall. Izzy Perry's husband Sam had reservations about inviting his one-time mentor Harrison Grant to speak at the opening reception, although he never imagined the famed and charismatic photographer would rudely embarrass his hosts that evening. But when a dead body turns up along the wooded shoreline the next day, startling secrets come into focus that could undo the tight-knit community of local artists. With a mysterious murder pitting neighbors against each other, Izzy, Birdie, Nell, and a vulnerable Cass find themselves entangled in a dangerous hunt for answers.

GRISHAM, JOHN brigance TIME FOR MERCY (#3) (\$39) Jake Brigance is back! The hero of A Time to Kill, (\$12.99), one of the most popular novels of our time, returns in a courtroom drama that The New York Times says is "riveting" and "suspenseful." Clanton, Mississippi. 1990. Jake Brigance finds himself embroiled in a deeply divisive trial when the court appoints him attorney for Drew Gamble, a timid sixteen-year-old boy accused of murdering a local deputy. Many in Clanton want a swift trial and the death penalty, but Brigance digs in and discovers that there is more to the story than meets the eye. Jake's fierce commitment to saving Drew from the gas chamber puts his career, his financial security, and the safety of his family on the line.

HAINES, CAROLYN bones GARLAND OF BONES (#22) (\$34.99) Sarah Booth has traded in hosting this Christmas season for a road trip with her besties. Each little Delta town has a special Christmas activity, and Sarah Booth'sbff and detective partner, Tinkie, has arranged to rent a limo for the gang and drive to Columbus, MS, to stay in a B&B. Visions of Christmas shopping, parade floats, and romantic rendezvous are already dancing in their heads. But Christmas cheer soon turns to Christmas fear when, at one event after another, people keep getting hurt. The Christmas bells are ringing hauntingly in Columbus this year, and Sarah Booth and Tinkie—with a little help from hunky Sheriff Coleman Peters, of course—are determined to catch the wrong-doers and ensure they receive nothing but coal in their stockings.

HAMBLY, BARBARA january LADY OF PERDITION (#17) (\$42.95) April, 1840. Benjamin January knows no black person in their right mind would willingly go to the Republic of Texas but when his former pupil Selina Bellinger is kidnapped and enslaved, he has no choice. Once there he is saved from being hanged by Valentina Taggart, wife of the wealthy landowner of Rancho Perdition. After Valentina is accused of the murder of her husband, she in turn calls on Benjamin for help. To do so, he must abandon the safe haven of New Orleans, where people know he's a free man, to return to the self-proclaimed "Slaveholders' Republic". In a land still disputed between vengeful Comanche, disgruntled Mexican Tejanos, Americans who want to join the United States and those who want to keep Texas free, January must uncover what happened to Valentina's husband.

JACOBSEN, STEFFEN TROPHY (\$39.99) For Fans of **Jo Nesbø**, **Stieg Larsson**, and **Henning Mankell**, this title was a bestseller in Denmark. After the death of her industrialist father, Elizabeth Caspersen finds a compromising DVD in his safe: it seems to show two people being hunted to their death in a gruesome, well-organized manhunt. Michael Sander, a private investigator and security consultant, is hired to find out who the victims are and why Caspersen was involved. Meanwhile, police investigator Lene Jensen is investigating the death of a decorated war veteran found hanged on his wedding night. Having recently come into money, the man appears to have been driven to suicide, but the question is, why? As the two cases begin to intertwine, Lene and Michael uncover a chilling secret: the existence of a hunting club formed by Denmark's elite businessmen, where the targets are humans who are carefully selected and made to run for their lives.

LAND, JON strong STRONG AS STEEL (#10) (\$36.50) 1994: Texas Ranger Jim Strong investigates a mass murder on a dusty freight train linked to a mysterious, missing cargo for which no record exists. The Present: His daughter, fifth generation Texas Ranger Caitlin Strong, finds herself on the trail of that same cargo when skeletal remains are found near an excavation site in the Texas desert. She's also dealing with the aftermath of a massacre that claimed the lives of all the workers at a private intelligence company on her watch. These two cases are connected by a long buried secret, one that men have killed and died to protect. Caitlin and her outlaw lover Cort Wesley Masters must prove themselves to be as strong as steel to overcome a bloody tide that has been rising for centuries.

LOVESEY, PETER diamond FINISHER (#19) (\$35.95) On the 50th anniversary of the publication of his first novel, Wobble to Death (\$30) (see next annotation), the author, Mystery Writers of America Grand Master and titan of the British detective novel, returns to the subject of his very first mystery—running. Through a particularly ill-fated series of events, couch potato Maevie Kelly, an elementary school teacher whose mother always assured her “curvy” girls shouldn't waste their time trying to be fit, has been forced to sign up for the Other Half, Bath's springtime half marathon. The training is brutal, but she must disprove her mother and collect pledges for her aunt's beloved charity. What Maevie doesn't know is just how vicious some of the other runners are. Meanwhile, Detective Peter Diamond is tasked with crowd control on the raucous day of the race—and catches sight of a violent criminal he put away a decade ago, and who very much seems to be up to his old tricks now that he is paroled. Diamond's hackles are already up when he learns that one of the runners never crossed the finish line and disappeared without a trace. Was Diamond a spectator to murder?

LOVESEY, PETER WOBBLE TO DEATH (\$30) The 50th anniversary collector's edition of legendary British mystery author's debut, handsomely reissued in hardcover with an introduction from bestselling author **Jeffery Deaver**. London, 1879. Crowds have gathered at Islington's chilly Agricultural Hall to place their bets on who will become the next world champion in a six-day, 500-mile speedwalking race, the “wobble.” When one of the highly favored contenders dies under suspicious circumstances, Sergeant Cribb also has a race on his hands—to pursue a ruthless murderer. Fifty years ago, this novel launched the writing career of one of the world's greatest crime fiction writers. Since its initial publication, the author has written forty novels and six short story collections and has become one of three living writers to receive both the Mystery Writers of America Grand Master Award and the Crime Writers Association Diamond Dagger for Lifetime Achievement. Start with this one, or, if you have not read it yet read the first in the Detective Peter Diamond series: The Last Detective (\$9.99).

MEDAWAR, TONY ed. BODIES FROM THE LIBRARY 3 (\$19.99) This anthology of rare stories of crime and suspense brings together 18 tales from the Golden Age of Detective Fiction for the first time in book form, including uncollected stories by **Ngaio Marsh** and **John Dickson Carr**.

MIRI, YU TOKYO UENO STATION (\$34) Finalist for the National Book Award in Translated Literature. A surreal, devastating story of a homeless ghost who haunts one of Tokyo's busiest train stations. Kazu is dead. Born in Fukushima in 1933, the same year as the Japanese Emperor, his life is tied by a series of coincidences to the Imperial family and has been shaped at every turn by modern Japanese history. But his life story is also marked by bad luck, and now, in death, he is unable to rest, doomed to haunt the park near Ueno Station in Tokyo. Kazu's life in the city began and ended in that park; he arrived there to work as a laborer in the preparations for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and ended his days living in the vast homeless village in the park, traumatized by the destruction of the 2011 tsunami and shattered by the announcement of the 2020 Olympics. Through Kazu's eyes, we see daily life in Tokyo buzz around him and learn the intimate details of his personal story, how loss and society's inequalities and constrictions spiraled towards this ghostly fate, with moments of beauty and grace just out of reach.

MIZUSHIMA, MARGARET K9 HANGING FALLS (#6) (\$35.99) A deluge has flooded the high ground near Hanging Falls—but heavy rains aren't the only menace descending on Timber Creek. While on a scouting mission to pinpoint trail damage, officer Mattie Cobb and her K-9 partner Robo stumble upon a body floating at the edge of a lake. Robo catches human scent, which leads to an enigmatic forest-dweller who quickly becomes suspect number one. With help from veterinarian Cole Walker, Mattie identifies the victim, and discovers an odd religious cult whose dress and manners harken back to the 19th century. As the list of suspects grows, an unexpected visit from members of Mattie's long-lost family sheds new light on her childhood as they help Mattie piece together details of the fateful night when she was abducted at age two.

MOSLEY, WALTER AWKWARD BLACK MAN (\$38.95) This is a collection of seventeen of author's most accomplished short stories. Mosley presents distinct characters as they struggle to move through the world in each of these stories—heroes who are awkward, nerdy, self-defeating, self-involved, and, on the whole, odd. He overturns the stereotypes that corral black male characters and paints a subtle, powerful portrait of each of these unique individuals. In The Good News Is, a man's insecurity about his weight gives way to a serious illness and the intense loneliness that accompanies it. Deeply vulnerable, he allows himself to be taken advantage of in return for a little human comfort in a raw display of true need. Pet Fly, previously published in the *New Yorker*, follows a man working as a mailroom clerk for a big company—a solitary job for which he is overqualified—and the unforeseen repercussions he endures when he attempts to forge a connection beyond the one he has with the fly buzzing around his apartment. And Almost Alyce chronicles failed loves, family loss, alcoholism, and a Zen approach to the art of begging that proves surprisingly effective.

NESBO, JO KINGDOM (\$34) Before Roy's father died in the car crash that also killed Roy's mother, he told his teenaged son that it was his job to protect his little brother, Carl, from the world and from Carl's own impulsive nature. Roy took that job seriously, especially after the two were orphaned. But a small

part of him was happy when Carl decided that the tiny town of Os in the mountains of Norway wasn't big enough to hold him and took off to Canada to make his fortune. Which left Roy to pursue the quiet life he loved as a mechanic in the place where they grew up. Then suddenly an older Carl is back, full of big plans to develop a resort hotel on the family land, promising that not only will the brothers strike it rich, but so will the town. With him is his fierce and beautiful wife, Shannon, an architect he met on his travels, a woman who soon breaks down the lonely Roy's walls. And Carl's reappearance sparks something even more dangerous than envy in his brother's heart—it sparks fear. Carl's homecoming threatens to shake loose every carefully buried family secret.

NEVILLE, STUART TRAVELLER AND OTHER STORIES (\$35.95) Since his debut novel, the modern classic The Ghosts of Belfast (\$9.99), was published a decade ago, the author has published eight other critically acclaimed novels and achieved international recognition. Now for the first time the author offers readers a collection of his short fiction—twelve chilling stories that traverse and blend the genres of noir, horror, and speculative fiction, and which bring the history and lore of the author's native Northern Ireland to glittering life. The collection concludes with the long-awaited novella The Traveller, the companion piece to Ghosts and Collusion. Complete with a foreword from Irish crime fiction legend **John Connolly**...

NORMAN, SAMANTHA DEATH AND THE MAIDEN (\$34.99) England. 1191. After the death of her friend and patron, King Henry II, Adelia Aguilar, England's vaunted Mistress of the Art of Death, is living comfortably in retirement and training her daughter, Allie, to carry on her craft—sharing the practical knowledge of anatomy, forensics, and sleuthing that catches murderers. Allie is already a skilled healer, with a particular gift for treating animals. When a friend in Cambridgeshire falls ill, Allie is sent to Ely, where her path will cross with Lord Peverill, a young aristocrat who would be a most suitable match for the young healer. But when Allie arrives, all is chaos. A village girl has disappeared—and she's not the first. Over the past few months, several girls from the villages surrounding Ely have vanished. When the body of one of the missing is discovered, Allie manages to examine the remains before burial. The results lead her to suspect that a monstrous predator is on the loose. Will her training and her stubborn pursuit of the truth help her find the killer . . . or make her the next victim? The first in this terrific, penned by **Ari-anna Franklin**, is The Mistress of the Art of Death (\$13.50).

OSMAN, RICHARD THURSDAY MURDER CLUB (\$35) In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves The Thursday Murder Club. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case. As the bodies begin to pile up, can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer, before it's too late?

PATTERSON, JAMES THREE WOMEN DISAPPEAR (\$35) A man is murdered in his home. Sarah, his personal chef. Anna, his wife. Serena, his maid, all had access. Now all three women are missing. Eyes are on Detective Sean Walsh, whose personal connection to the case is stronger than the leads to solve it. Neither the powerful bankroll behind the deceased, mob accountant Anthony Costello, nor Walsh's vengeful superior officer can budge the investigation. Yet as Walsh continues to dig, he uncovers even more reasons the women have to stay hidden — from the law, and from each other.

PERRY, ANNE elena standish QUESTION OF BETRAYAL (#2) (\$37) Britain's secret intelligence service, MI6, has lost contact with its informant in northern Italy, just as important information about the future plans of Austria and Nazi Germany is coming to light. And young Elena Standish, to her surprise, is the only person who can recognize MI6's man—because he is her former lover. Aiden Strother betrayed Elena six years ago, throwing shame on her entire family. Now, with so much to prove, Elena heads to Trieste to track down Aiden and find out what happened to his handler, who has mysteriously cut off contact with Britain. As Elena gets word of a secret group working to put Austria in the hands of Germany, her older sister, Margot, is in Berlin to watch a childhood friend get married—to a member of the Gestapo. Margot and Elena's grandfather, the former head of MI6, is none too happy about the sisters' travels at this tumultuous time, especially when a violent event at home reminds him that even Britain is growing dangerous. The first in this new series is Death in Focus (\$23).

PERRY, ANNE xmas CHRISTMAS RESOLUTION (\$28) A smitten woman is about to marry a dangerous man—unless Detective Hooper and his new wife, Celia, can prevent it. Detective John Hooper, William Monk's right-hand man at the Thames River Police, is blissfully happy in his new marriage to Celia, the cousin of a victim in one of the river police's recent murder cases. Celia wants the same happiness for her good friend Clementine, who's just announced her engagement to Seth Marlowe, a member of her church. Christmas is nearing, and this should be extra cause for celebration, but when Marlowe begins receiving threatening letters about his first wife's death, it becomes clear that he is far from the devout man Clementine thought he was. In his rage, Marlowe accuses Celia of sending the letters, claiming she wants to ruin his engagement to Clementine. At a loss as to how to defend herself, Celia enlists Hooper to investigate the letters' claims, and what he finds makes her desperate to show Clementine the truth about her soon-to-be husband.

ROSENFELT, DAVID carpenter SILENT BITE (#22) (\$34.99) Andy Carpenter and his golden retriever, Tara, are finding that all is not calm or bright in Silent Bite, the latest Christmas mystery in this heartwarming. Lawyer Andy Carpenter can finally take a breath; he's back on dry land after a family Caribbean cruise forced on him by his wife, Laurie, to get into the Christmas spirit. Of course the family's first stop is to the Tara Foundation, the dog rescue organization that has always been Andy's true passion. But when Andy arrives, his partner, Willie Miller, needs his help. Willie's old cellmate, Tony Birch, has been arrested for murder. Andy doesn't necessarily believe in Tony, but Willie does. And Andy believes in Willie, which is why Andy decides to take the case.

SPOTSWOOD, STEPHEN FORTUNE FAVORS THE DEAD (\$35.95) It's 1942 and Willowjean "Will" Parker is a scrappy circus runaway whose knife-throwing skills have just saved the life of New York's best, and most unorthodox, private investigator, Lillian Pentecost. When the dapper detective summons Will a few days later, she doesn't expect to be offered a life-changing proposition: Lillian's multiple sclerosis means she can't keep up with her old case load alone, so she wants to hire Will to be her right-hand woman. In return, Will is to receive a salary, room and board, and training in Lillian's very particular art of investigation. Three years later, Will and Lillian are on the Collins case: Abigail Collins was found bludgeoned to death with a crystal ball following a big, boozy Halloween party at her home—her body slumped in the same chair where her steel magnate husband shot himself the year before. With rumors flying that Abigail was bumped off by the vengeful spirit of her husband (who else could have gotten inside the locked room?), the family has tasked the detectives with finding answers where the police have failed. But that's easier said than done in a case that involves messages from the dead, a seductive spiritualist, and Becca Collins—the beautiful daughter of the deceased, who Will quickly starts falling for.

WEAVER, ASHLEY AMES DECEPTION AT THORNECREST (#7) (\$37.99) Amory Ames is alone at her country house Thornecrest, enjoying her last few weeks of peace and quiet as she prepares for the imminent arrival of her baby. But then a woman appears on her doorstep, claiming to be another Mrs. Ames, Milo's wife. Amory's marriage has had its ups and downs in the past, but her faith in her husband has been restored, and Milo has been nothing but thrilled about becoming a father. Though the alleged second Mrs. Ames seems earnest, Amory is convinced she must be mistaken, a belief that Milo confirms upon his homecoming. However, when another unexpected visitor arrives at Thornecrest, secret identities and whirlwind romances appear to be becoming par for the course.

WOODS, STUART BARRINGTON SHAKEUP (#55) (\$37) Upon returning from a dangerous coastal adventure, Stone Barrington is looking forward to some normalcy with the leading lady in his life. But when a grisly crime arrives on his doorstep, along with some suspicious new clients eager for his help, Stone realizes peace and quiet are no longer an option.

WINSPEAR, JACQUELINE THIS TIME NEXT YEAR WE'LL BE LAUGHING (\$35.95) After sixteen novels, Jacqueline Winspear has taken the bold step of turning to memoir, revealing the hardships and joys of her family history. Both shockingly frank and deftly restrained, her story tackles the difficult, poignant, and fascinating family accounts of her paternal grandfather's shellshock; her mother's evacuation from London during the Blitz; her soft-spoken animal-loving father's torturous assignment to an explosives team during WWII; her parents' years living with Romany Gypsies; and Winspear's own childhood picking hops and fruit on farms in rural Kent, capturing her ties to the land and her dream of being a writer at its very inception.

Paperbacks

ABDULLAH, KIA TRUTH BE TOLD (\$24.99) Kamran Hadid feels invincible. He attends Hampton school, an elite all-boys boarding school in London, he comes from a wealthy family and he has a place at Oxford next year. The world is at his feet. And then a night of revelry leads to a drunken encounter, and he must ask himself a horrific question. With the help of assault counsellor Zara Kaleel, Kamran reports the incident in the hopes that will be the end of it. But it's only the beginning.

ALEXANDER, ELLIE KRAUSE BEYOND A REASONABLE STOUT (#3) (\$10.99) In the Bavarian village of Leavenworth, Washington, the tourists are gone and the local villagers prepare for the upcoming winter light festival. Soon the German-inspired shops and restaurants will be aglow and visitors will return to the northern Cascades to drink warm mulled cider and peruse the holiday markets. But the low-key vibes at Nitro are suddenly disrupted by a local political scandal: City Council member Kristopher Cooper is running for re-election on a platform of making Leavenworth dry—until, just before election night, Kristopher turns up dead. Now, with every beer-related businessperson in Leavenworth coming under suspicion.

ANDERSON, LIN MACLEOD TORCH (#2) (\$19.99) When a young homeless girl dies in the latest of a string of arson attacks, Dr Rhona Macleod is called in. But here in Edinburgh she is off her patch—the Chief Fire Investigator is hot-tempered misogynist Severino Macrae, and he doesn't like to lose face. As the attacks escalate, will their growing chemistry distract them from the murderous arsonist who seems to be infiltrating their personal lives as well as their work? Originally published in 2004.

BALDACCI, DAVID DECKER WALK THE WIRE (#6) (\$22.99) Amos Decker, the FBI consultant with a perfect memory, returns to solve a gruesome murder in a booming North Dakota oil town. When he and his FBI colleague Alex Jamison are called to London, ND, they instantly sense that the thriving fracking town is ripe for trouble. Decker and Jamison are ordered to investigate the death of a young woman named Irene Cramer, whose body was expertly autopsied and then dumped in the open — which is only the beginning of the oddities surrounding the case. London is a town replete with ruthless business owners, shady government officials, and religious outsiders, all determined to keep their secrets from coming out. When other murders occur, Decker will need all of his extraordinary memory and detective skills, and the assistance of a surprising ally, to root out a killer and the forces behind Cramer's death. . . before the boom town explodes.

BARCLAY, LINWOOD ELEVATOR PITCH (\$12.99) It all begins on a Monday, when four people board an elevator in a Manhattan office tower. Each presses a button for their floor, but the elevator proceeds, nonstop, to the top. Once there it pauses for a few seconds, but the doors don't open. Instead, the elevator begins to descend floor-by-floor. Then it plummets. Right to the bottom of the shaft. It appears to be a random accident. But on Tuesday, it happens again, in a different Manhattan skyscraper. And then Wednesday brings yet another tragic high-rise catastrophe. In only three days, one of the most vertical cities in the world—and the nation's capital of media, finance and entertainment—is plunged into chaos. Clearly, this is anything but random. Who is behind this? Why are they doing it? Are these deadly acts of sabotage somehow connected to a fingerless body found on the High Line? Two seasoned New York detectives and a straight-shooting journalist race against time to uncover the truth before the city's newest, and tallest, residential tower has its ribbon-cutting on Friday night.

BARDE-CABUCON, OLIVIER INSPECTOR OF STRANGE AND UNEXPLAINED DEATHS (\$19.95) Everyone has secrets. Especially the king. When a gruesomely mutilated body is found on the squalid streets of Paris in 1759, the Inspector of Strange and Unexplained Deaths is called to the scene. The body count soon begins to rise, and the Inspector is brought even further into a web of deceit that stretches from criminals, secret orders, revolutionaries and aristocrats to very top of society. In the murky world of the court of King Louis XV, finding out the truth will prove to be anything but straightforward.

BARTON, FIONA SUSPECT (\$12.99) When two eighteen-year-old girls go missing in Thailand, their families are thrust into the international spotlight—desperate, bereft and frantic with worry. What were the girls up to before they disappeared? Journalist Kate Waters always does everything she can to be first to the story, first with the exclusive, first to discover the truth—and this time is no exception. But she can't help thinking of her own son, whom she hasn't seen in two years, when he left home to travel. As the case of the missing girls unfolds, they will all find that even when it seems far away, danger can lie closer to home than one might think...

BATEMAN, DAISY MURDER GOES TO MARKET (\$17) If you had asked computer programmer Claudia Simcoe what she expected to come of her leaving San Francisco for the California coast to open a farm-to-table marketplace, “assembles a mismatched team to investigate a murder” would not have been her first guess. Lori Roth is one of the tenants of the market, or she had been until Claudia learned that the hands making her “hand-dyed” textiles belong to overseas factory workers. Claudia terminates Lori's lease, but her hopes that this will be the last she sees of her problem tenant are dashed when she arrives at the marketplace the next morning to find Lori dead, hit over the head with a jar of pickles and strangled with a cheese wire. The police chief thinks Claudia looks like an easy pick to be the killer, and he closes the marketplace to put the pressure on her. So, Claudia has no choice but to solve the mystery herself. Relying on the tech skills from her previous life and some help from her quirky new friends, Claudia races to save her business and herself before the killer adds her to the region's local, artisanal murders.

BATES, QUENTIN gunnhildur COLD MALICE (#7) (\$17.99) Reykjavík detective Gunnhildur Gísladóttir tries not to believe in ghosts. But when Helgi, one of her team is certain he's seen a man who had been declared dead more than fifteen years ago, she reluctantly gives him some unofficial leeway to look into it. Has the not-so-dead man returned from the grave to settle old scores, or has he just decided to take a last look around his old haunts? Either way, there are people who have nursed grudges for years, hoping for a reckoning one day. Even the rumour of his being alive and kicking is enough to spark a storm of fury and revenge, with Gunnhildur and Helgi caught up in the middle of it.

BENISON, C C christmas UNPLEASANTNESS AT THE BATTLE OF THORNFORD (\$15.95) Yes, it's expensive and yes, it's a novella...but it's a Father Christmas mystery. When a costumed, pike-spiked body turns up after a traditional historic re-enactment of the 1645 Battle of Thornford, the Reverend Tom "Father" Christmas and the villagers of Thornford Regis find themselves in a battle of their own as they deal with events from the murky, more recent past.

BERENSON, LAURIEN travis HERE COMES SANTA PAWS (#24) (\$11.99) As Melanie attempts to deck the halls in a house overrun by pampered Poodles, her event planner friend, Claire, is busy playing Santa for the wealthiest clientele on Connecticut's Gold Coast. A personal shopper gig in the affluent town of New Canaan seems like business as usual. Except Claire's stylish stint comes at a higher price than she bargains for when she stumbles over her newest customer's dead body. Named a prime suspect for murder, she begs for Melanie's help, then vanishes like cookies and milk on Christmas Eve.

BERENSON, LAURIEN travis BITE CLUB (#23) (\$10.99) Thanks to Aunt Peg and her enthusiastic dog show pals, Melanie's aptly named Bite Club reading group has book lovers all over town burying their noses in thrilling murder mysteries. But another pet project surfaces when Melanie reluctantly agrees to train a Bulldog puppy for elusive member Evan Major. Between the unusual bruise on his face and a bizarre run-in with an unknown dog show attendee, introverted Evan's penchant for trouble sends him to an early grave—while landing Melanie in the hot seat for homicide. To prove her innocence, Melanie digs into the victim's shady past and uncovers a juicy scandal that cost Evan his marriage and, possibly, his life. Melanie realizes that booking the real culprit will require gathering her suspects together at the next Bite Club meeting

BILAL, PARKER drake crane HEIGHTS (#2) (\$22.50) What starts with the gruesome discovery of a severed head on the Tube soon becomes personal for former DI Cal Drake. After one betrayal too many, Drake has abandoned the police force to become a private detective. He's joined forces with enigmatic forensic pathologist Dr Rayhana Crane, and it's not long before the case leads them to the darkest corners of the nation's capital and into dangerously close contact with an international crime circuit, a brutal local

rivalry, and a very personal quest for retribution. With the murder victim closely tied to Drake's past, his new future is about to come under threat. The first in the series is Divinities (\$20.95).

BLACKMOORE, STEPHANIE wed VEILED IN DEATH (#6) (\$11.99) When Mallory discovers some old lace at a Port Quincy antique shop, she knows it'll make a perfect headpiece. But she's barely gotten it out of the store before Helene Pierce tears it from her hands. Helene claims it's a family heirloom that went missing when her late husband died in a hit-and-run twenty-five years ago. The conflict gets more complicated when the veil is attributed to none other than famed seamstress Betsy Ross. Mallory may have a genuine museum piece on her hands, but meanwhile Independence Day is right around the corner and she has to host the town's Revolutionary War re-enactment.

BLAEDEL, SARA family secret THIRD SISTER (#3) (\$21.99) Ilka Jensen's life is in chaos following the tumultuous events of Her Father's Secret (\$12.99). The funeral home she inherited after her estranged father's death is bankrupt. Her new business partner, Artie, lies unconscious in the hospital after a savage attack by mysterious assailants, and her father's second wife is in prison. Then, just as Ilka learns a shocking revelation about her father, two menacing strangers turn up at the funeral home — dangerous men who mean to draw her further into a world of secrets, betrayal, and murder. Long-buried secrets of her father's past are more tangled and perilous than Ilka could ever imagine.

BLAKE, BETHANY owl BRUSHSTROKE WITH DEATH (#1) (\$11.99) Near the creek that runs behind her Pennsylvania house, Willow Bellamy has converted an old barn into an art school—though the place does still have some animal inhabitants, including Rembrandt, the owl who lives up in the rafters. And while it's important for any artist to have a vision, Willow can sometimes see things others can't, just like her mother and grandmother before her. Not that she would exactly call herself a witch. When some local merchants gather in the studio for a painting party, they focus their attention on a still life with flowers and an assortment of garden tools, including antique pruning shears that disappear—at the same time despised restaurant owner Evangeline Fletcher is murdered.

BLANCHARD, ALICE lockhart TRACE OF EVIL (#1) (\$22.99) Natalie Lockhart is a rookie detective in Burning Lake, New York, an isolated town known for its dark past. Tasked with uncovering the whereabouts of nine missing transients who have disappeared over the years, Natalie wrestles with the town's troubled history — and the scars left by her sister's unsolved murder years ago. Then Daisy Buckner, a beloved schoolteacher, is found dead on her kitchen floor, and a suspect immediately comes to mind. But it's not that simple. The suspect is in a coma, collapsed only hours after the teacher's death, and it turns out Daisy had secrets of her own.

BLOK, RACHAEL SCORCHED EARTH (\$20.95) Two years ago, Ben Fenton went camping for the night with his brother Leo. When Ben woke up, he was covered in blood, and his brother had gone. Days later, Ben was facing a charge of murder. Ben's girlfriend, Ana Seabrook, has always sworn he was innocent. And now, on the hottest day of a sweltering heat wave, a body has been unearthed in Ana's village. A body that might be connected to what really happened between Ben and Leo that fateful night. DCI Jansen, of St. Albans police, is sure that Ana has something to hide.

BOURBON, MELISSA MURDER IN DEVIL'S COVE (#1) (\$22.50) Every book tells two stories—one written on the pages with pen and ink, and one woven into the paper, a story of the soul. The Lane women have the gift of bibliomancy. They can read both. But Cassie Lane doesn't see this as a gift. For her, it is a curse because the book magic comes with a price, the Lane women die young and the men are lost to the sea. As soon as she's able, she leaves Laurel Point, Oregon, running from her past and her fate, ending up on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. There she meets Leo Hawthorne and lives a perfect life with him in an old Sea Captain's house. Perfect, that is, until an old book foretells the future, and the curse that has plagued the Lane women comes true for Cassie. Twenty years later, Cassie and Leo's children, twins Pippin and Grey, are back in Devil's Cove. Long forgotten secrets surface and an old crime comes to light. Now Pippin must learn how to be a bibliomancer if she is to discover the truth about her father and continue his effort to stop the curse.

BOYD, DAVID R THIRST FOR JUSTICE (\$22.95) Michael MacDougall is a talented trauma surgeon whose life in Seattle is slowly unraveling. Frustrated as an ER doctor and with his marriage in trouble, he volunteers with a medical aid charity in the Congo. Disconsolate at the lives he cannot save in the desperate conditions of the region, he is shattered by a roadside confrontation with the mercenary Mai Mai that results in unthinkable losses. Back home in Seattle, he is haunted by his experiences in Africa and what he sees as society's failure to provide humanitarian aid to those who most desperately need it. Locked in a downward spiral, he becomes obsessed with making his government listen to him and dreams up an act of terrorism to shock his nation awake.

BRADY, EILEEN dr kate SADDLED WITH MURDER (#1) (\$11.99) Veterinarian and amateur sleuth Kate Turner has her hands full trying to juggle two boyfriends, a thriving practice, and a criminal investigation. It's the Christmas season and veterinarian Kate Turner is not feeling very jolly. She's overworked, unappreciated, and dealing with two dissatisfied clients. Throw in a very complicated personal life and Kate's definitely got a case of the holiday blues. To make matters worse, Kate's ex-boyfriend, Jeremy, is mugged and robbed after they have a heated argument in the hospital parking lot. Then, two of her dissatisfied clients turn up dead. All of these events seem like coincidences, but they add up to something much more venomous.

BRENNAN, ALLISON kincaid COLD AS ICE (#17) (\$12.50) Two years ago, FBI Agent Lucy Kincaid put psychopath Elise Hansen Hunt in juvenile detention for her role in an organized crime syndicate. Now eighteen, Elise has been released with a clean slate, and plans to take her revenge by making Lucy's life hell. The plot begins with Lucy's husband Sean Rogan, who has been arrested for a murder he most certainly did not commit. Lucy is determined to prove Sean's innocence, but is warned off the case by her

boss. As she calls in reinforcements, she learns that Sean's brother Kane is missing in Mexico, her partner Nate Dunning has been arrested for possession of cocaine, and her friend Brad Donnelly has been kidnapped outside DEA headquarters. Lucy realizes that Elise doesn't have the resources or patience to execute such a devious plan. Did Elise's father orchestrate everything from prison? Or is there someone even more calculating seeking revenge on Lucy by hurting the people she loves?

BUIST, ANNE LONG SHADOW (\$23.95) Psychologist Isabel Harris has come to the outback town of Riley because her husband Dean is assessing the hospital with a view to closing it down. Isabel, mostly occupied with her toddler, will run a therapy group for new mothers. But on the first day she receives an anonymous note from one of the mothers: "The baby killer is going to strike again". Is it an attempt to warn Dean off? Or could the threat be something more sinister? As Isabel discovers more about the mothers in her group, she begins to believe the 25-year-old mystery of a baby's death may be the key to preventing another tragedy.

BURDETTE, LUCY DEATH ON THE MENU (#8) (\$10.99) Hayley Snow, fiery food critic for Key Zest magazine, has just landed a ticket to one of the most prestigious events in Key West: a high-brow three-day conference at the Harry Truman Little White House. Even though she'll be working the event helping her mother's fledgling catering business, there's plenty of spicy gossip to go around. But just before her mother's decadent flan is put to the test, Key West's most prized possession, Hemingway's Nobel prize gold medal for *The Old Man and the Sea*, is discovered stolen from its case. Unsavory suspicions point to Gabriel, a family friend and one of the new busboys working the event, who mysteriously goes missing moments later. Anxious to clear his name, Gabriel's family enlists Hayley to help find him, but right as they begin their search, his body is found stabbed to death in the storeroom.

BURDETTE, LUCY DEADLY FEAST (#9) (\$10.99) Thanksgiving is nearly here, and Key West food critic Hayley Snow has just one more assignment to put to bed for Key Zest magazine before she gets to celebrate with her family and her police officer fiancé, Nathan Bransford. Then, just days later, wedding bells will ring—if death doesn't toll first. The sweet potatoes and stuffing will have to wait when Hayley picks up a distraught phone call from her friend, Analise Smith. On the last stop of a seafood tasting tour run by Analise, one of the customers collapsed—dead. With the police on the verge of shutting down the tour—and ruining Analise's business—Hayley can hardly refuse her friend's entreaties to investigate. As if wedding jitters and family strife weren't enough for Hayley to worry about, there's crusty pastry chef Martha Hubbard, whose key lime pie may have been the murder weapon—but did she poison her own pie or was she framed?

CARNAC, CAROL CROSSED SKIS (\$22.50) In Bloomsbury, London, Inspector Brook of Scotland Yard looks down at a dismal scene. The victim of a ruthless murder lies burnt beyond recognition, his possessions and papers destroyed by fire. But there is one strange, yet promising, lead—a lead which suggests the involvement of a skier. Meanwhile, piercing sunshine beams down on the sparkling snow of the Austrian Alps, where a merry group of holidaymakers are heading towards Lech am Arlberg. Eight men and eight women take to the slopes, but, as the C.I.D. scrambles to crack the perplexing case in Britain, the ski party are soon to become sixteen suspects. A riveting piece of British crime fiction that spans from foggy London to the sparkling Alps, the double narrative of this golden age mystery twists and turns with alacrity, culminating in a thrilling denouement. Originally published in 1952.

CASEY, JANE kerrigan CUTTING PLACE (#9) (\$23.99 trade paperback, \$32.99 hard cover) See the annotation in the hardcover section.

CAVANAUGH, TONY BLOOD RIVER (\$26.99) Brisbane 1999. It's hot. Stormy. Dangerous. The waters of the Brisbane River are rising. The rains won't stop. People's nerves are on edge. And then... A body is found. And then another. And another. A string of seemingly ritualised but gruesome murders. All the victims are men. Affluent. Guys with nice houses, wives and kids at private schools. All have had their throats cut. Tabloid headlines shout, *THE VAMPIRE KILLER STRIKES AGAIN!* Detective Constable Lara Ocean knows the look. The 'my-life-will-never-be-the-same-again look'. She's seen it too many times on too many faces. Telling a wife her husband won't be coming home. Ever again. Telling her the brutal way he was murdered. That's a look you never get used to. Telling a mother you need her daughter to come to the station for questioning. That's another look she doesn't want to see again. And staring into the eyes of a murderer, yet doubting you've got it right. That's the worst look of all—the one you see in the mirror. Get it right, you're a hero and the city is a safer place. Get it wrong and you destroy a life. And a killer remains free. Twenty years down the track, Lara Ocean will know the truth.

CHRISTIE, AGATHA MIDWINTER MURDER: FIRESIDE TALES FROM THE QUEEN OF MYSTERY (\$21) An all-new collection of winter-themed stories from the Queen of Mystery, just in time for the holidays—including the original version of *Christmas Adventure*, never before released in the United States! There's a chill in the air and the days are growing shorter... It's the perfect time to curl up in front of a crackling fire with these wintry whodunits from the legendary Agatha Christie. But beware of deadly snowdrifts and dangerous gifts, poisoned meals and mysterious guests. This chilling compendium of short stories—some featuring beloved detectives Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple—is an essential omnibus for Christie fans and the perfect holiday gift for mystery lovers.

CHRISTIE, AGATHA poirot MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR AT STYLES (#1) (\$12.50) In this official and fully restored edition, Hercule Poirot solves his first case in the novel that started it all, now featuring a "missing chapter" and exclusive content from the Queen of Mystery. Who poisoned the wealthy Emily Inglethorp and how did the murderer penetrate and escape from her locked bedroom? Suspects abound in the quaint village of Styles St. Mary—from the heiress's fawning new husband to her two stepsons, her volatile housekeeper, and a pretty nurse who works in a hospital dispensary. With impeccable timing, and making his unforgettable debut, the brilliant Belgian detective Hercule Poirot is on the case.

CLEMENTS, OLIVER agents EYES OF THE QUEEN (#1) (\$24.99) In this first novel of the exhilarating Agents of the Crown series, a man who will become the original MI6 agent protects England and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth I from Spain's nefarious plan to crush the Age of the Enlightenment. Only one nation can fight the black shadow that threatens this new age, and that is Britain, now ruled by a brilliant young Queen Elizabeth I. But although she may be brave and headstrong, Elizabeth knows she cannot win this war simply by force of arms. In this tense situation, Her Majesty's Secret Service is born with the charismatic John Dee at its head. A scholar, a soldier, and an alchemist, Dee is loyal only to the truth and to his Queen. And for her, the woman he's forbidden from loving, he is prepared to risk his life.

COBEN, HARLAN BOY FROM THE WOODS (\$22.99) Thirty years ago, Wilde was found as a boy living feral in the woods, with no memory of his past. Now an adult, he still doesn't know where he comes from, and another child has gone missing. No one seems to take Naomi Pine's disappearance seriously, not even her father — with one exception. Hester Crimstein, a television criminal attorney, knows through her grandson that Naomi was relentlessly bullied at school. Hester asks Wilde — with whom she shares a tragic connection — to use his unique skills to help find Naomi. Wilde can't ignore an outcast in trouble, but in order to find Naomi he must venture back into the community where he has never fit in, a place where the powerful are protected even when they harbor secrets that could destroy the lives of millions . . . secrets that Wilde must uncover before it's too late.

COCO, NANCY HAVE YOURSELF A FUDGY LITTLE CHRISTMAS (#8) (\$11.99) All Allie wants for Christmas is for renovations to be finished on the Historic McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shop so she can move back home for the holidays. But for now she's staying in her friend Frances' apartment, busily baking batches of holiday fudge. After someone leaves a mysterious note on the door to meet up, the curious fudge maker goes to the rendezvous with her Bichonpoo, Mal—only to discover a woman facedown in a snowdrift. With her dying breath, the woman gasps, "Frances." The police suspect she named her killer, but Allie knows that's impossible. She needs to wrap up this case before the trail runs cold—and give her friend the gift of freedom this Christmas season.

COLE, ALYSSA WHEN NO ONE IS WATCHING (\$21.99) Sydney Green is Brooklyn born and raised, but her beloved neighborhood seems to change every time she blinks. Condos are sprouting like weeds, FOR SALE signs are popping up overnight, and the neighbors she's known all her life are disappearing. To hold onto her community's past and present, Sydney channels her frustration into a walking tour and finds an unlikely and unwanted assistant in one of the new arrivals to the block—her neighbor Theo. But Sydney and Theo's deep dive into history quickly becomes a dizzying descent into paranoia and fear. Their neighbors may not have moved to the suburbs after all, and the push to revitalize the community may be more deadly than advertised.

COLLINS, KATE flower shop MISSING UNDER THE MISTLETOE (#20) (\$12.99) After being hired to deliver poinsettias to Churchill's department store in downtown New Chapel, feisty flower shop owner Abby Knight finds herself mixed up in the disappearance of everyone's favorite Santa Claus, Mr. Churchill himself. Promising Churchill's daughter that the legendary Christmas Eve celebration will not go on without her father, Abby must recruit her whole staff at Bloomers, and even her family, to help. But while the excitement builds and the town square fills with revelers, there is one person who must come to terms with his own holiday mystery, Abby's husband and partner, private investigator Marco Salvare.

COLLINS, KATE flower shop TULIPS TOO LATE (#21) (\$12.99) After arriving late for a tulip delivery, Bloomers Flower Shop owner Abby Knight Salvare stumbles upon a homicide in action. When her long-time friend, Sgt. Sean Reilly accidentally releases information to the press, he is forced to step away from the case, and even his position. Having nowhere else to turn and armed with a list of evidence that the detectives refuse to investigate, Sgt. Reilly enlists the help of Team Salvare, Abby and Marco, to solve this case and set things right.

CONNELLY, MICHAEL b & b NIGHT FIRE (#2) (\$12.99) Back when Harry Bosch was just a rookie homicide detective, he had an inspiring mentor who taught him to take the work personally and light the fire of relentlessness for every case. Now that mentor, John Jack Thompson, is dead, and his widow gives Bosch a murder book, one that Thompson took with him when he left the LAPD twenty years before — the unsolved killing of a troubled young man. Bosch takes the murder book to Detective Renée Ballard and asks her to help him discover what about this crime lit Thompson's fire all those years ago. As she begins her inquiries — while still working her own cases on the midnight shift — Ballard finds aspects of the initial investigation that just don't add up.

CONROY, VIVIAN stationery FOR LETTER OR WORSE (#2) (\$11.99) The scissors are sharpened and the cardstock stacked for Delta Douglas' latest workshop: a 3D cardmaking event at socialite Lena Laroy's birthday extravaganza. As co-owner of Wanted, the local stationery shop, Delta is ready to wow her guests with her one-of-a-kind crafts. But, at this party, paper isn't the only thing bent out of shape. When a threatening present is unwrapped and the guest of honor's sister-in-law is discovered dead by the trees, Delta realizes another killer is loose in her small town.

CORNWELL, BERNARD warrior WAR LORD (#13) (\$24.99) The conclusion of the series. After years fighting to reclaim his rightful home, Uhtred of Bebbanburg has returned to Northumbria. With his loyal band of warriors and a new woman by his side, his household is secure — yet Uhtred is far from safe. Beyond the walls of his impregnable fortress, a battle for power rages. To the south, King Æthelstan has unified the three kingdoms of Wessex, Mercia and East Anglia — and now eyes a bigger prize. To the north, King Constantine and other Scottish and Irish leaders seek to extend their borders and expand their dominion. Caught in the eye of the storm is Uhtred. Threatened and bribed by all sides, he faces an impossible choice: stay out of the struggle, risking his freedom, or throw himself into the cauldron of war and the most terrible battle Britain has ever experienced.

CORRIGAN, MAYA GINGERDEAD MAN (\$11.99) This holiday season Bayport, Maryland, is a dead ringer for Victorian London. Val and her grandfather are taking part in the Dickens of a Holiday festival. Val is hosting a private tea party serving the festival's costumed volunteers, who range from Dickens divas like Madame Defarge and Miss Havisham to Ebenezer Scrooge and old St. Nick himself. But one costumed reveler may have gotten the holidays mixed up. The winner of the creepiest outfit, robed in black with a gift bag covering the head—okay, Ghost of Christmas Present, Val gets it—hands out gingerbread men with white icing skeleton bones. This year's sour Santa has none of the big fellow's mirth but plenty of his appetite, and it's no secret Santa loves cookies. But when the man in red turns blue, Val and Granddad have a cookie-cutter killer to catch before the New Year. Includes delicious five-ingredient recipes!

COX BRYAN, MOLLIE GOODNIGHT MOO (#2) (\$10.99) With a foster cow in her corral and a new calf on the way, Brynn MacAlister has a lot on her plate. Especially since her micro-dairy farm is hosting the first annual cheesemakers contest at this year's summer fair. A relative newcomer, Brynn's hoping the contest becomes a tradition. But when a mysterious tractor accident looks suspiciously like murder, Brynn suspects someone is up to no-gouda. Some folks say the lead suspect was just defending his underage daughter from a suitor more mature than a vintage provolone, but Brynn isn't buying it. Especially when another dead body turns up and Brynn's top cheesemaker falls under suspicion.

COX, HELEN hartley MURDER ON THE MOORLAND (#3) (\$17.99) Kitt Hartley wakes to the news that a murder has been committed in Irendale, a village high on the wild Yorkshire moors where her boyfriend, DI Malcolm Halloran lived with his ex-wife until she, too, was murdered. The MO of the two crimes is identical, right down to the runic symbols carved into the victims' hands. Unable to leave it to the local police to solve, Kitt and Halloran travel to Irendale, where a literary mystery awaits. A line of Anglo-Saxon poetry found on the victim leads to a hiding place, and another cryptic clue. What is the connection to the murder of Halloran's wife all those years ago?

CRAVEN, M W poë CURATOR (#3) (\$24.99) It's Christmas and a serial killer is leaving displayed body parts all over Cumbria. A strange message is left at each scene: #BSC6. Called in to investigate, the National Crime Agency's Washington Poe and Tilly Bradshaw are faced with a case that makes no sense. Why were some victims anaesthetized, while others died in appalling agony? Why is their only suspect denying what they can irrefutably prove but admitting to things they weren't even aware of? And why did the victims all take the same two weeks off work three years earlier? And when a disgraced FBI agent gets in touch things take an even darker turn. Because she doesn't think Poe is dealing with a serial killer at all; she thinks he's dealing with someone far, far worse—a man who calls himself the Curator.

CRAWFORD, ISIS CATERED NEW YEAR'S EVE (#15) (\$11.99) It's been years since Bernie and Libby's parents became estranged from Ada Sinclair's side of the family, though the reasons for the rift are lost to history. The sisters, however, are intrigued when Ada makes contact and tells them about the long-ago deaths of her father and his business partner—both of which were ruled accidental. Ada thinks otherwise and has a plan. On New Year's Eve, she'll gather a group of guests and read from a diary she's found in her mother's attic that she thinks will expose the culprit. The Simmons sisters agree to provide refreshments for the bash, but when the night arrives, a guest drops dead. In the tumult, the diary disappears. When Ada is arrested for murder, she'll have to hope that Bernie and Libby can provide a resolution before the clock runs out.

DAHL, K O frank frølich SISTER (#4) (\$22.50) Suspended from duty, Detective Frølich is working as a private investigator, when his girlfriend's colleague asks for his help with a female asylum seeker, who the authorities are about to deport. She claims to have a sister in Norway, and fears that returning to her home country will mean instant death. Frølich quickly discovers the whereabouts of the young woman's sister, but things become increasingly complex when she denies having a sibling, and Frølich is threatened off the case by the police. As the body count rises, it becomes clear that the answers lie in an old investigation, and the mysterious sister, who is now on the run.

DAMS, JEANNE M martin DEATH IN THE GARDEN CITY (#22) (\$26.99) When Dorothy Martin and her ex-policeman husband Alan are asked by some good friends to look into a series of petty crimes that are perplexing the local Mounties in the picturesque Canadian city of Victoria, they immediately jump on a plane to British Columbia and settle themselves into the heart of the local community. Drinking champagne with the local businessman and would-be politician as well as cups of tea with the local recluse, they infiltrate all ranks of Victoria society. But when a young woman goes missing and a body is discovered, it would appear that the petty crimes have turned deadly.

DAY, MADDIE country store CANDY SLAIN MURDER (#8) (\$11.99) As December sweeps through South Lick, Indiana, Robbie's life seems merry and bright like the string lights glistening around town. But strange happenings signal a bumpy ride into the holidays. First a man raises eyebrows at Pans 'N Pancakes when he claiming to be the long-lost half-brother of Robbie's assistant. Then a fire destroys the home of a controversial anesthesiologist, exposing skeletal remains in his attic. Helplessly intrigued, all Robbie wants for Christmas is to stop her winter wonderland from becoming a real nightmare. With a decades-old mystery taking shape, can she run as fast as she can in pursuit of a killer who's harder to crack than a stale gingerbread man?

DENNISON, HANNAH honeychurch TIDINGS OF DEATH AT HONEYCHURCH HALL (#6) (\$17.99) It's ten days before Christmas at Honeychurch Hall and Kat Stanford has persuaded the Earl of Grenville to open the Museum Room to the villagers in an effort to raise money for rooftop repairs. For the price of a ticket visitors will be able to view an unusual display of antiques—including the legendary Bleeding Hawk of Honeychurch Hall. When an obnoxious young couple drive 200 miles from London to view the treasures it's not just Kate who is suspicious of their intentions; Mr. Chips, the estate's feisty

Jack Russell makes his feelings plain by taking a bite out of the man's trousers. But then a suit of armour inexplicably falls on the ancient butler, killing him, and when a second body is found near a quarry nearby Kat becomes entangled in a world of feuds and jealousies, finally encountering a cold-blooded killer who will stop at nothing to keep the past at bay.

DOBBYN, JOHN F knight NEON DRAGON (#1) (\$22.50) Amid the flash and din of Boston's raucous Chinese New Year's celebration, an elderly man is shot while watching the parade from his window. Anthony Bradley, the son of an African-American judge, is standing across the street at the time and is immediately arrested for the crime. Michael Knight, a young lawyer who's going places, is surprised when Judge Bradley asks him to defend his son in such a high profile and politically delicate case. Luckily, Knight finds powerful support from Lex Devlin, a senior partner at his firm. Once the foremost criminal defense attorney in Boston, Devlin has mysteriously withdrawn from defense work in recent years. As Knight and Devlin investigate and prepare their client's defense, Knight is forced to confront the murky allegations that eclipsed his mentor's career, and enter into the shadow world of gangland Chinatown.

DORSEY, CANDAS JANE ADVENTURES OF ISABEL (\$19.95) Rescued from torpor and poverty by the need to help a good friend deal with the murder of her beloved granddaughter, our downsized-social-worker protagonist and her cat, Bunnywit, are jolted into a harsh, street-wise world of sex, lies, and betrayal, to which they respond with irony, wit, intelligence (except for the cat), and tenacity. With judicious use of the Oxford comma, pop culture trivia, common mystery tropes, and a keen eye for deceit, our protagonist swaggers through the mean streets of — yes, a Canadian city! — and discovers that what seems at first to be just a grotty little street killing is actually the surface of a grandiose and glittering set of criminal schemes.

DOYLE/ADAMS, JOHN JOSEPH IMPROBABLE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$24.99) Here are the improbable adventures of Sherlock Holmes, where nothing is impossible, and nothing can be ruled out. These twenty-eight tales of mystery and the imagination detail Holmes's further exploits, as told by many of today's greatest storytellers, including: **Stephen King, Anne Perry, Anthony Burgess, Neil Gaiman, Naomi Novik, Stephen Baxter, Tanith Lee, Michael Moorcock**, and many more. These cases will take you from the familiar quarters at 221B Baker Street to strange alternate realities; from the gaslit streets of London to the far future.

DOYLE/BOUCHER, ANTHONY TCOT BAKER STREET IRREGULARS (\$21.95) For the die-hard Sherlock Holmes fans that comprise the Baker Street Irregulars — some of them famous authors and widely-respected critics — there's something particularly infuriating about unfaithful adaptations of Arthur Conan Doyle's immortal works. So when they get word that a Hollywood studio has plans to produce a tough, hard-boiled interpretation of the Great Detective, written by an author who has expressed disdain not only the group and its members, but for the source material as well, they immediately express their concern, threatening the picture with a campaign of boycotts and smears. Recognizing the influence wielded by the group, the studio invites a selection of members to visit the set, hoping to placate their complaints. But as soon as they arrive, things start to get strange, first with a series of ominous warnings, each one referencing one of Holmes's famous cases, and soon thereafter, with murder. Originally published in 1940.

DOYLE/KASKA, KATHLEEN SHERLOCK HOLMES QUIZ BOOK: FUN FACTS, TRIVIA AND MORRE (\$34.99) The Sherlock Holmes Quiz Book, a comprehensive collection of fun and challenging trivia about everyone's favorite detective.

DOYLE/LOVEGROVE, JAMES ethulhu SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CHRISTMAS DEMON (#4) (\$21.95) It is 1890, and in the days before Christmas Sherlock Holmes and Dr John Watson are visited at Baker Street by a new client. Eve Allerthorpe—eldest daughter of a grand but somewhat eccentric Yorkshire-based dynasty—is greatly distressed, as she believes she is being haunted by a demonic Christmas spirit. Her late mother told her terrifying tales of the sinister Black Thurrick, and Eve is sure that she has seen the creature from her bedroom window. What is more, she has begun to receive mysterious parcels of birch twigs, the Black Thurrick's calling card. Eve stands to inherit a fortune if she is sound in mind, but it seems that something—or someone—is threatening her sanity. Holmes and Watson travel to the Allerthorpe family seat at Fellscar Keep to investigate, but soon discover that there is more to the case than at first appeared.

DOYLE/RENNISON, NICK SHERLOCKS SISTERS STORIES FROM THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE FEMALE DETECTIVE (\$26.95) Sherlock Holmes was the most famous detective to stride through the pages of late Victorian and Edwardian fiction, but he was not the only one. He had plenty of rivals. Some of the most memorable of these were women: they were "Sherlock's Sisters." This anthology gathers together 15 stories written by women or featuring female detectives. They include Dorcas Dene, Lady Molly of Scotland Yard, Hagar the Gypsy, Judith Lee and Madelyn Mack.

DOYLE/SPRINGER, NANCY enola ENOLA HOLMES (#1) TCOT MISSING MARQUESS (\$10.99) When Enola Holmes, sister to the detective Sherlock Holmes, discovers her mother has disappeared, she quickly embarks on a journey to London in search of her. But nothing can prepare her for what awaits. Because when she arrives, she finds herself involved in the kidnapping of a young marquess, fleeing murderous villains, and trying to elude her shrewd older brothers—all while attempting to piece together clues to her mother's strange disappearance. Amid all the mayhem, will Enola be able to decode the necessary clues and find her mother?

DOYLE/SPRINGER, NANCY enola ENOLA HOLMES (#2) TCOT LEFT-HANDED LADY (\$10.99) Enola Holmes is being hunted by the world's most famous detective—her own brother, Sherlock Holmes. But while she is on the run in the world's biggest, darkest, dirtiest city, she discovers a hidden cache of charcoal drawings and feels as if she is a soul mate to the girl who drew them. But that girl, Lady Cecily,

has disappeared without a trace. Braving the midnight streets, Enola must unravel the clues to find this left-handed lady, but in order to save her, Enola risks revealing more than she should. Will she be able to keep her identity a secret and find Lady Cecily, or will the one thing she is trying to save—her freedom—be lost forever?

DOYLE/SPRINGER, NANCY enola ENOLA HOLMES (#4) TCOT PECULIAR PINK FAN (\$8.50) Enola is thrown into a tailspin when she receives a desperate message from her old friend, Lady Cecily. Enola knows she must help her friend before it's too late—but she doesn't know how! This complicated case has Enola hunting down clues all over London until she finally discovers the awful truth: Lady Cecily is being held prisoner! Enola must risk her own freedom and join forces with her brother, the famed Sherlock Holmes, to free Cecily. Can Enola trust her brother, and can they save Cecily in time?

DOYLE/SPRINGER, NANCY enola ENOLA HOLMES (#5) TCOT CRYPTIC CRINOLINE (\$8.50) Enola Holmes's landlady, Mrs. Tupper, is the closest thing Enola has to family these days, besides her occasional run-ins with her brother Sherlock. Even though Mrs. Tupper is nearly deaf and can barely cook, she's an endearing presence as Enola longs for her absent mother. So imagine her horror when Enola comes home to find Mrs. Tupper kidnapped! Who would take her, and why? And what does Florence Nightingale have to do with it? From the master of mystery Nancy Springer, here's another absorbing adventure for our award-winning, unstoppable heroine, Enola Holmes.

EATON, J C sophie BROADCAST 4 MURDER (#7) (\$11.99) Phee's mother Harriet is going to be a star! At least, that's how the Sun City West retiree describes her chance to host a live radio program of her book club's Booked 4 Murder Mystery Hour on Arizona's KSCW. But instead of chatting about charming cozies, Harriet ends up screaming bloody murder over the airwaves after discovering the body of Howard Buell, the station's programming director, in a closet, with a pair of sewing shears shoved into his chest. The number one suspect is Howard's ex-girlfriend Sylvia Strattlemeyer who believed she was going to host a sewing talk show before Harriet was offered the spot. But not only do the fingerprints found on the scissors not match Sylvia's, they belong to a woman who passed away twenty years ago at the age of ninety-seven.

ECCLES, MARJORIE HEIRS AND ASSIGNS (\$26.99) November, 1928. Family and friends have gathered at the Shropshire country home of Penrose Llewellyn to celebrate the retired wealthy businessman's 60th birthday. But the morning after what should have been a convivial supper party, their host is found dead in his bed – and the circumstances look decidedly suspicious. As he questions the victim's nearest and dearest, DI Reardon discovers there are several longstanding secrets lurking amongst the Llewellyn clan – and he is convinced that not everyone is telling him the truth, or at least not the whole truth. Those who stand to inherit most from Pen Llewellyn's will – if it can be found – are under the strongest suspicion, and among them hides a ruthless killer. Originally published in 2015.

EKBACK, CECILIA HISTORIANS (\$22.99) It is 1943 and Sweden's neutrality in the war is under pressure. Laura Dahlgren, a bright young historian who is the right hand of the chief negotiator with Germany, is privy to ongoing discussions about the transport of German soldiers to occupied Norway and German access to Swedish iron ore. When her former best friend and fellow classmate, Britta, is discovered tortured and murdered, Laura is determined to find her killer. In the Swedish government, the secretary to the unpopular minister of foreign affairs, Jens Regnell, is sent Britta's PhD thesis on Scandinavian supremacy without understanding why, just as he is becoming increasingly worried that his boss is secretly negotiating with the Reich without informing the government. In Lapland, near the iron mine, Sami are mysteriously disappearing. Taneli, a young Sami boy, decides to investigate after his sister suddenly goes missing. Together these three people will uncover a conspiracy that could topple their government and destroy their country's identity—a conspiracy that others are desperate to contain at any cost necessary.

ELDRIDGE, JIM MUSEUM MURDER AT THE MANCHESTER MUSEUM (#4) (\$16.95) 1895. Former Scotland Yard detective Daniel Wilson, famous for working the notorious Jack the Ripper case, and his archaeologist sidekick Abigail Fenton are summoned to investigate the murder of a young woman at the Manchester Museum. Though staff remember the woman as a recent and regular visitor, no one appears to know her and she has no possessions from which to identify her. When the pair arrive, the case turns more deadly when the body of a second woman is discovered hidden in the depths of the museum. Seeking help from a local journalist, Daniel hopes to unravel this mystery, but the journey to the truth is fraught with obstacles and the mistakes of the past will not be forgotten.

ELLIOTT, LAUREN BOOKSTORE PAGE MARKED FOR MURDER (#5) (\$11.99) January isn't the season for the seaside, but the big Fire and Ice festival is keeping bookstore owner Addie busy. Amid the plans for a fireworks display and an ice-carving competition, she's also dog sitting for a friend in the hospital. When Addie goes to her friend's house to gather supplies, she notices an interesting item on the nightstand which belongs to her shop assistant, Paige: a very valuable copy of the beloved children's book *The Secret Garden*. But Addie's blood runs cold when she finds something else: a dead body behind the bakery next door to her shop. Martha, the bakery owner, has no alibi—and has been seen in a heated argument with the victim. And the next thing Addie knows, that first edition has gone missing. Is there a connection between the body and the treasured tome?

ENGBERG, KATRINE TENANT (\$19.99) When a young woman is discovered brutally murdered in her own apartment with an intricate pattern of lines carved into her face, Copenhagen police detectives Jeppe Korner and Anette Werner are assigned to the case. In short order, they establish a link between the victim, Julie Stender, and her landlady, Esther de Laurenti, who's a bit too fond of drink and the host of raucous dinner parties with her artist friends. Esther also turns out to be a budding novelist—and when Julie turns up as a murder victim in the still-unfinished mystery she's writing, the link between fiction and real life grows both more urgent and more dangerous.

ENGER, THOMAS **blix** DEATH DESERVED (#1) (\$20.95) Oslo, 2018. Former long-distance runner Sonja Nordstrøm never shows at the launch of her controversial autobiography, *Always Number One*. When celebrity blogger Emma Ramm visits Nordstrøm's home later that day, she finds the door unlocked and signs of a struggle inside. A bib with the number 'one' has been pinned to the TV. Police officer Alexander Blix is appointed to head up the missing-persons investigation, but he still bears the emotional scars of a hostage situation nineteen years earlier, when he killed the father of a five-year-old girl. Traces of Nordstrøm soon show up at different locations, but the appearance of the clues appear to be carefully calculated ... evidence of a bigger picture that he's just not seeing.

ERICKSON, ALEX **bookstore** DEATH BY FRENCH ROAST (#8) (\$11.99) Krissy's helping a friend clean out her late mother's house when she learns that although the deceased died peacefully at an advanced age, her brother did not. In fact, Wade was killed more than thirty years ago, and the case was never closed. What surprises Krissy even more is that she has a personal connection to the story—her friend Rita was seeing Wade at the time, scandalizing the town with the couple's large age difference. With an older Rita now part of Krissy's writing group—and another member with police experience—she starts digging up gossip, talking to the victim's local coffee klatsch, and trying to find real clues amid the old rumors.

EVANOVICH, JANET **plum** FORTUNE AND GLORY (#27) aka Tantalizing Twenty-Seven (\$24.99) When Stephanie's beloved Grandma Mazur's new husband died on their wedding night, the only thing he left her was a beat-up old easy chair and the keys to a life-changing fortune. But as Stephanie and Grandma Mazur search for Jimmy Rosolli's treasure, they discover that they're not the only ones on the hunt. Two dangerous enemies from the past stand in their way—along with a new adversary who's even more formidable: Gabriela Rose, a dark-eyed beauty from Little Havana with a taste for designer clothes. She's also a soldier of fortune, a gourmet cook, an expert in firearms and mixed martial arts—and someone who's about to give Stephanie a real run for her money. Stephanie may be in over her head, but she's got two things that Gabriela doesn't: an unbreakable bond with her family and a stubborn streak that will never let her quit. As she searches for the treasure and fights to protect her Grandma Mazur, her own deepest feelings will be tested—as she could finally be forced to choose between Joe Morelli and Ranger.

FARROW, SHARON **berry** HOLLYBERRY HOMICIDE (#5) (\$11.99) Considering her name, Marlee Jacob is an obvious choice for the role of Jacob Marley in Oriole Point's production of *A Christmas Carol*. It's just sad that the role has opened up because of the death of the elderly actor who'd originally been cast. But Marlee, the proprietor of The Berry Basket, will do her best to keep spirits high—that is, until clues start mounting that there's danger behind the scenes. There are accidents on set, the tree in the village square topples over, and worst of all, a body is found with a sprig of holly draped over it. If Marlee can't wrap up the case, she may not have a berry merry Christmas. Includes Berry Recipes!

FELLOWES, JESSICA **mitford** MITFORD SCANDAL (#3) (\$24.50) The year is 1928, and after the death of a maid at a glamorous society party, fortune heir Bryan Guinness seizes life and proposes to eighteen-year-old Diana, most beautiful of the six Mitford sisters. The maid's death is ruled an accident, and the newlyweds put it behind them to begin a whirlwind life zipping between London's Mayfair, chic Paris and hedonistic Berlin. Accompanying Diana as her lady's maid is Louisa Cannon, as well as a coterie of friends, family and hangers on, from Nancy Mitford to Evelyn Waugh. When a second victim is found in Paris in 1931, Louisa begins to see links with the death of the maid. Now she must convince the Mitford sisters that a murderer could be within their midst . . . all while shadows darken across Europe, and within the heart of Diana Mitford herself.

FERGUSON, WILL FINDER (\$24.99) The world is filled with wonders, lost objects—all real—all still out there, waiting to be found: the missing Fabergé eggs of the Romanov dynasty, worth millions; the last reel of Alfred Hitchcock's first film; Buddy Holly's iconic glasses; Muhammad Ali's Olympic gold medal. How can such cherished objects simply vanish? Where are they hiding? And who on earth might be compelled to uncover them? Will Ferguson takes readers on a heroic, imaginative journey across continents, from the seas of southern Japan, to the arid Australian Outback, to the city of Christchurch, New Zealand, after the earthquake. Prepare to meet Gaddy Rhodes, a brittle Interpol agent obsessed with tracking "The Finder"—a shadowy figure she believes is collecting lost objects; Thomas Rafferty, a burnt-out travel writer whose path crosses that of The Finder, to devastating effect; and Tamsin Greene, a swaggering war photographer who is hiding secrets of her own.

FLETCHER, JESSICA MURDER, SHE WROTE: THE MURDER OF TWELVE (\$10.99) Still staying at the Hill House hotel while her beloved home is being rebuilt, Jessica Fletcher finds herself sharing the space for a weekend with a dozen members of a wedding party who have gathered there for a rehearsal dinner. The families of the bride and groom can't stand each other but have agreed to put aside years of long-simmering tension to celebrate the nuptials. Unfortunately, weather forecasters underestimated the severity of a storm that turns into a historic blizzard that dumps nearly five feet of snow on Cabot Cove, leaving everyone stranded. But the hotel guests have bigger things to worry about than bad weather conditions and potential cold feet, because a murderer has shown up uninvited—one who has vowed to take them down one by one.

FLYNN, VINCE/KYLE **MILLS** **mitch rapp** TOTAL POWER (#19) (\$24.99) When Mitch Rapp captures ISIS's top technology expert, he reveals that he was on his way to meet a man who claims to have the ability to bring down America's power grid. Rapp is determined to eliminate this shadowy figure, but the CIA's trap fails. The Agency is still trying to determine what went wrong when ISIS operatives help this cyber terrorist do what he said he could—plunge the country into darkness. With no concept of how this unprecedented act was accomplished, the task of getting the power back on could take months. Per-

haps even years. Rapp and his team embark on a desperate search for the only people who know how to repair the damage—the ones responsible.

FRENCH, NICCI HOUSE OF CORRECTION (\$21) When a body is discovered in Okeham, England, Tabitha is shocked to find herself being placed in handcuffs. It must be a mistake. She'd only recently moved back to her childhood hometown, not even getting a chance to reacquaint herself with the neighbors. How could she possibly be a murder suspect? She knows she's not. As Tabitha is shepherded through the system, her entire life is picked apart and scrutinized—her history of depression and medications, her decision to move back to a town she supposedly hated . . . and of course, her past relationship with the victim, her former teacher. But most unsettling, Tabitha's own memories of that day are a complete blur. From the isolation of the correctional facility, Tabitha dissects every piece of evidence, every testimony she can get her hands on, matching them against her own recollections. But as dark, long-buried memories from her childhood come to light, Tabitha begins to question if she knows what kind of person she is after all.

GARDNER, LISA warren WHEN YOU SEE ME (#11) (\$12.99) FBI Special Agent Kimberly Quincy and Sergeant Detective D D Warren have built a task force to follow the digital bread crumbs left behind by deceased serial kidnapper Jacob Ness. When a disturbing piece of evidence is discovered in the hills of Georgia, they bring Flora Dane and true-crime savant Keith Edgar to a small town where something seems to be deeply wrong. What at first looks like a Gothic eeriness soon hardens into something much more sinister . . . and they discover that for all the evil Jacob committed while alive, his worst secret is still to be revealed.

GENTILL, SULARI sinclair HOUSE DIVIDED (#1) aka a few right thinking men (\$18.99) Rowland Sinclair doesn't fit with his family. His conservative older brother, Wilfred, thinks he's reckless, a black sheep; his aging mother thinks he's her son who was killed in the war. Only his namesake Uncle Rowly, a kindred spirit, understands him—and now he's been brutally murdered in his own home. The police are literally clueless, and so Rowly takes it upon himself to investigate the crime. In order to root out the guilty party, he uses his wealth and family influence to infiltrate the upper echelons of both the old and the new guard, playing both against the middle in a desperate and risky attempt to find justice for his uncle. Originally published in 2010.

GILMAN, DAVID NIGHT FLIGHT TO PARIS (\$20.95) It is 1943 and for agents of the Special Operations Executive, a mission to Nazi-occupied Paris is a death sentence. So why has unlikely spy Harry Mitchell volunteered to return to the city he fled two years ago? The French capital is at war with itself. Informers, gangsters, collaborators and Resistance factions are as ready to slit each other's throats as they are the Germans'. The occupiers are no better: the Gestapo and Abwehr—military intelligence—are locked in their own lethal battle for dominance. Mitchell knows the risks but he has a reason to put his life on the line: his family are still in Paris and have fallen into the hands of the Gestapo.

GOLDENBAUM, SALLY society MURDEROUS TANGLE (#3) (\$21.95) While the Seaside Knitters get ready to showcase their new Danish-inspired event, locals can't stop talking about Tess Bean, a bright-eyed environmental activist with a way of charming both animals and humans alike—especially Birdie's granddaughter, and Izzy's old Irish setter. Except not everyone is a fan of Tess and her strong opinions, especially after she starts questioning the “clean” practices of small-business owners. When a popular bar owner whom Tess publicly calls out is found dead from a fall off his club's deck, Tess soon tops the list of suspects. But in addition to a murderer walking their streets, the knitters are grappling with an unusual wave of local thefts.

GRIMES, MARTHA jury OLD SUCCESS (#25) (\$23.95) When the body of a French woman washes up on a wild inlet off the Cornish coast, Brian Macalvie, divisional commander with the Devon-Cornwall police is called in. Who could have killed this beautiful tourist, the only visible footprints nearby belonging to the two little girls who found her? While Macalvie stands in the Scilly Islands, Inspector Richard Jury—twenty miles away on Land's End—is at The Old Success pub, sharing a drink with the legendary former CID detective Tom Brownell, a man renowned for solving every case he undertook. Except one. In the days following the mysterious slaying of the Parisian tourist, two other murders take place: first, a man is shot on a Northamptonshire estate, then a holy duster turns up murdered at Exeter Cathedral in Devon. Macalvie, Jury and Brownell set out to discover whether these three killings, though very different in execution, are connected.

HAIG, MATT MIDNIGHT LIBRARY (\$21.99) Between life and death there is a library. When Nora Seed finds herself in the Midnight Library, she has a chance to make things right. Up until now, her life has been full of misery and regret. She feels she has let everyone down, including herself. But things are about to change. The books in the Midnight Library enable Nora to live as if she had done things differently. With the help of an old friend, she can now undo every one of her regrets as she tries to work out her perfect life. But things aren't always what she imagined they'd be, and soon her choices place the library and herself in extreme danger. Before time runs out, she must answer the ultimate question: what is the best way to live?

HALL, TARQUIN vish puri TCOT REINCARNATED CLIENT (#5) (\$26.99) When a young woman comes forward claiming to be the reincarnation of Riya Kaur, a wife and mother who vanished during the bloody 1984 anti-Sikh riots, Puri is dismissive. He's busy enough dealing with an irate matrimonial client whose daughter is complaining about her groom's thunderous snoring. Puri's indomitable Mummy-ji however is adamant the client is genuine. How else could she so accurately describe under hypnosis Riya Kaur's life and final hours? Driven by a sense of duty—the original case was his late father's—Puri manages to acquire the police file only to find that someone powerful has orchestrated a cover-up.

HARPER, JANE LOST MAN (\$12.99) Brothers Nathan and Bub Bright meet for the first time in months at the remote fence line separating their cattle ranches in the lonely outback. Their third brother, Cameron, lies dead at their feet. In an isolated belt of Australia, their homes a three-hour drive apart, the brothers were one another's nearest neighbors. Cameron was the middle child, the one who ran the family homestead. But something made him head out alone under the unrelenting sun. Nathan, Bub and Nathan's son return to Cameron's ranch and to those left behind by his passing: his wife, his daughters, and his mother, as well as their long-time employee and two recently hired seasonal workers. While they grieve Cameron's loss, suspicion starts to take hold, and Nathan is forced to examine secrets the family would rather leave in the past. Because if someone forced Cameron to his death, the isolation of the outback leaves few suspects.

HARRIS, THOMAS CARI MORA (\$22.99) Twenty-five million dollars in cartel gold lies hidden beneath a mansion on the Miami Beach waterfront. Ruthless men have tracked it for years. Leading the pack is Hans-Peter Schneider. Driven by unspeakable appetites, he makes a living fleshing out the violent fantasies of other, richer men. Cari Mora, caretaker of the house, has escaped from the violence in her native country. She stays in Miami on a wobbly Temporary Protected Status, subject to the iron whim of ICE. She works at many jobs to survive. Beautiful, marked by war, Cari catches the eye of Hans-Peter as he closes in on the treasure. But Cari Mora has surprising skills, and her will to survive has been tested before.

HARRISON, CORA reverend BEYOND ABSOLUTION (#3) (\$26.99) Ireland. 1925. Pierced through to the brain, the dead body of the priest was found wedged into the small, dark confessional cubicle. Loved by all, Father Dominic had lent a listening ear to sinners of all kinds, but who knelt behind the metal grid and inserted a deadly weapon into that listening ear? The Reverend Mother Aquinas can do nothing for Father Dominic, but for the sake of his brother, her old friend Father Lawrence, she is determined to find out who killed him, and why. Originally published 2017.

HARRISON, CORA reverend MURDER AT THE QUEEN'S OLD CASTLE (#6) (\$26.99) Despite its regal name, the Queen's Old Castle is nothing but a low-grade department store, housed within the decrepit walls of what was once a medieval castle, built at the harbour entrance to Cork city. On her first visit for fifty years, the Reverend Mother is struck by how little has changed – apart, that is, from the strange smell of gas ... But when the store's owner staggers from his office and topples over the railings to his death, Mother Aquinas is once again drawn into a baffling murder investigation where suspects are all too plentiful. Originally published 2018.

HAUTY, CHRIS chill DEEP STATE (#1) (\$12.99) Recently elected President Richard Monroe—populist, controversial, and divisive—is at the center of an increasingly polarized Washington, DC. Never has the partisan drama been so tense or the paranoia so rampant. In the midst of contentious political turf wars, the White House chief of staff is found dead in his house and West Wing intern and ex-Army grunt Hayley Chill is positive that it's not from natural causes. Determined to find the truth, Hayley uncovers shocking evidence that a wide-ranging conspiracy is running beneath the surface of DC in an effort to undermine the rule of law—and democracy itself.

HENRY, JULIA DIGGING UP THE REMAINS (\$10.99) Between hosting a haunted house on her lawn, serving on the town's 400th Anniversary Planning Committee, and prepping for the Fall Festival's 10k fundraiser, Lilly's hands are full. She doesn't have time for prickly newspaper reporter Tyler Crane, who's been creeping around town, looking for dirt on Goosebush's most notable families . . . until he's found dead on the race route moments before the start. An unfortunate accident? Lilly and her Garden Squad are determined to root out the autumnal assassin before the Fall Festival flops.

HODDER, MARK SEXTON BLAKE VERSUS THE MASTER CROOKS (#2) (\$15.99) A new breed of villain has risen, possessed of extraordinary intellect and violence. Only the brilliant mind and courage of Sexton Blake, scourge of the criminal world, can stop them, in these three classic stories, collected together in one volume for the first time. From the streets of London to the catacombs of Paris, join Blake as he pits his wits against bank robbers, impostors and kidnappers, duels with swords, and pursues his foes by any means necessary.

HOLLIS, LEE maya sandra MURDER AT THE PTA (#1) (\$11.99) Someone is trying to turn Portland High into a school for scandal with a gossipy website called Dirty Laundry. The latest target of ruinous rumors is newly elected PTA president Sandra Wallage. After a heated meeting with outraged parents, Sandra runs into fellow school mom and private investigator Maya Kendrick, who's discovered the person behind the website. But when the women storm into the venomous gossip columnist's office they find a lifeless body—along with a confession. Although the police rule the death a suicide, Maya suspects an injured party hung the Dirty Laundry creator out to dry. Maya already has a PI partner—but she's pregnant, and sonograms and stakeouts tend to conflict. So when Sandra volunteers for a crash course in sleuthing, Maya accepts the help.

HOROWITZ, ANTHONY MOONFLOWER MURDERS (#2) (\$24.99) Farlingaye Hall is a beautiful hotel in Suffolk on the east coast of England. Unfortunately, it is also the site of the brutal murder of Frank Parris, a retired advertising executive. Stefan Codrescu, a Romanian maintenance man, is arrested after police discover blood spatter on his clothes and bed linen. He is found guilty and sentenced to eight years in prison. It appears to be an open-and-shut case, but there is more to it than meets the eye. Alan Conway, the late author of the fictional Magpie Murders, knew Frank Parris and once visited Farlingaye Hall. Also, the third book in Conway's detective series, Atticus Pund Takes the Cake, was based on the hotel. Cecily Treherne, the daughter of Farlingaye Hall's owner, has read the book and believes the proof of Stefan's innocence can be found in its pages. But now . . . Cecily Treherne has disappeared. So Conway's former editor, Susan Ryeland, leaves her own hotel in Crete and travels to Suffolk to investigate

the murder and Treherne's disappearance. The first in the series is the excellent Magpie Murders (\$18.99).

HUANG, S L NULL SET (#2) (\$12.50) Math-genius mercenary Cas Russell has decided to Fight Crime (tm). After all, with her extraordinary mathematical ability, she can neuter bombs or out-shoot an army. And the recent outbreak of violence in the world's cities is Cas's fault—she's the one who crushed the organization of telepaths keeping the world's worst offenders under control. But Cas's own power also has a history, one she can't remember—or control. One that's creeping into her mind and fracturing her sanity...just when she's gotten herself on the hit list of every crime lord on the West Coast. And her best, only, sociopathic friend. Cas won't be able to save the world. She might not even be able to save herself. The first in the series is Zero Sum Game (\$12.50).

JARDINE, QUINTIN skinner BAD FIRE (#31) (\$17.99) Nine years ago, divorcee Marcia Brown took her own life. A pillar of the community, she had been accused of theft, and it's assumed that she was unable to live with the shame. Now her former husband wants the case reopened. Marcia was framed, he says, to prevent her exposing a scandal. He wants justice for Marcia. And Alex Skinner, Solicitor Advocate, and daughter of retired Chief Constable Sir Robert Skinner, has taken on the brief, aided by her investigator Carrie McDaniels. When tragedy strikes and his daughter comes under threat, Skinner steps in.

JONASSON, RAGNAR ari thor WHITEOUT (#5) (\$23.99) Two days before Christmas, a young woman is found dead beneath the cliffs of the deserted Icelandic village of Kálfshamavík. Did she jump, or did something more sinister take place beneath the lighthouse and the abandoned old house on the remote rocky outcrop? With winter closing in and the snow falling relentlessly, Ari Thór Arason discovers that the victim's mother and young sister also lost their lives in this same spot, 25 years earlier. As the dark history and its secrets of the village are unveiled, and the death toll begins to rise, the Siglufjordur detectives must race against the clock to find the killer, before another tragedy takes place.

KALTEIS, DIETRICH CRADLE OF THE DEEP (\$19.95) Wanting to free herself from her boyfriend, aging gangster "Maddog" Palmieri, Bobbi Ricci concocts a misguided plan with Denny, Maddog's ex-driver, a guy who's bent on getting even with the gangster for the humiliating way in which he was sacked. Helping themselves to the gangster's secret money stash, along with his Cadillac, Bobbi and Denny slip out of town, expecting to lay low for a while before enjoying the spoils. Realizing he's been betrayed, an enraged Maddog calls in stone-cold killer Lee Trane. As Trane picks up their trail, plans quickly change for Bobbi and Denny, who now find themselves on a wild chase of misadventure through northern British Columbia and into Alaska.

KELLERMAN, JONATHAN delaware MUSEUM OF DESIRE (#35) (\$12.99) LAPD Lieutenant Milo Sturgis has solved a lot of murder cases. On many of them—the ones he calls "different"—he taps the brain of brilliant psychologist Dr. Alex Delaware. But neither Alex nor Milo are prepared for what they find on an early morning call to a deserted mansion in Bel Air. This one's beyond different. This is predation, premeditation, and cruelty on a whole new level. Four people have been slaughtered and left displayed bizarrely and horrifically in a stretch limousine. Confounding the investigation, none of the victims seems to have any connection to any other, and a variety of methods have been used to dispatch them.

KELLY, DIANE paw BENDING THE PAW (#9) (\$10.99) A bloodbath is a shocking new challenge for Megan and Brigit when Detective Audrey Jackson calls them to the scene of what could only be a brutal murder. But the one thing the nightmarish scene is missing is a victim. The frantic homeowner's husband is gone, seemingly without a trace—and so is the money he was holding. Has a vicious killer committed what might just be the perfect crime? Meanwhile, it's hailing cats and dogs all over Fort Worth, and roofing contractors have descended on the city in droves. With plenty of damage and continuing storms, work delays are building up like so much runoff, but Megan is suspicious that one roofer may be a scam artist. Determined to leash every lawbreaker she and her K-9 partner find, Megan is building a case for prosecution, all while Brigit has her nose to the ground for a murderer.

KELLY, JIM nighthawk NIGHT RAIDS (#3) (\$16.95) A lone German bomber crosses the east coast of Britain on a moonless night in the long, hot summer of 1940. The pilot picks up the silver thread of a river and, following it to his target, drops his bomb over Cambridge's rail yards. The shell falls short of its mark and lands in a neighbourhood of terraced streets on the edge of the city's medieval centre. DI Eden Brooke is first on the scene and discovers the body of an elderly woman, Nora Wylde, in a house on Elm Street, two fingers on her left hand severed, in what looks like a brutal attempt by looters to steal her rings. When the next day Nora's teenage granddaughter Peggy, a munitions worker, is reported missing, Brooke realises there is more to the situation than meets the eye.

KILMER, NICHOLAS taylor DIRTY LINEN (#4) (\$27.99) This time the cache is an improbable portfolio of erotica purchased clandestinely at a seaside auction, and protecting it leaves collector Clayton Reed mired deep in the seamy underbelly of a Fall River brothel! The pictures may illuminate the dark side of a major artist. Shades of Degas and Toulouse-Lautrec. Reed and his scholarly man Friday, Fred Taylor, provide the best mystery tandem this side of Nero Wolfe and Archie, matching wits with a well-etched, mixed cast of villains from both country-club and peagee.

KILMER, NICHOLAS taylor PARADISE FOR FOOLS (#8) (\$27.99) The young woman in the hair salon raises her shirt in a brief gesture to show a friend a work in progress—a riot of stunning tattoos. From his accidental vantage point in the barber's chair, Fred Taylor knows that those images—weird insects, beasts, and naked human figures—could only come from something amazing: a hitherto unknown painting of rare and significant value. And the girls don't have a clue. Fred knows such a painting needs to be found. His inquiries lead him from the salon to the illegal tattoo parlor of an unlicensed genius. Fred is met everywhere by ignorance and denial. Anyone who must have seen the painting denies that it exists,

despite the vivid proof increasingly laid bare on the canvas of the hairdresser's skin. Fred's employer, the collector Clayton Reed, is out of the country. So Fred, left to his own devices, is free to follow the trail, despite the distractions presented by the intriguing librarian Molly Riley.

KILMER, NICHOLAS *taylor* BUTTERFLY IN FLAME (#7) (\$27.99) Stillton Academy on the coast north of Boston is in trouble. The academy's days are numbered unless extraordinary help arrives. Worse, a Stillton instructor has purportedly disappeared with a female first-year student, daughter of the Academy's only significant donor. Two of the trustees travel to Boston where they ask wealthy, intensely secretive art collector Clayton Reed for the services of his employee, Fred Taylor. Fred goes undercover as a member of the faculty and soon discovers conflicting motives and designs among faculty and students, as well as a board of trustees whose interest in the long term survival of the operation seems lazy, misguided or—perhaps—a good deal more sinister.

KRISTJANSSON, SNORRI *helg* KIN (#1) (\$17.99) 970: For the first time since Helga was adopted, her family will be gathered in one place. But her siblings are coming with darkness in their hearts. Everyone knows their father, the Viking warlord Unnthor Reginsson, has a great chest of gold hidden somewhere on his land—and each of his heirs is determined to find it. Then one morning Helga is awakened by screams. Blood has been shed. Kin has been slain. All the clues point to one person—who cannot possibly be the murderer, at least in Helga's eyes. But if she's going to save an innocent from the axe, she's got to solve the mystery – fast.

LA PLANTE, LYNDA *warr* BURIED (#1) (\$22) Jack Warr is a young DC with the Metropolitan Police. Charming but aimless, Jack can't seem to find his place in the world—until he's drawn into an investigation that turns his life upside down. In the aftermath of a fire at a derelict cottage, a badly charred body is discovered, along with the burnt remnants of millions of stolen, untraceable bank notes—the hidden legacy of Dolly Rawlins and her gang of Widows. Jack's assignment to the case coincides with an investigation into his own past. As he searches for the truth about his identity, Jack finds himself increasingly drawn into a murky underworld of corruption and crime. Those millions have not been forgotten—and Jack will stop at nothing to find the truth.

LAMBERT, ANN *leduc* DOGS OF WINTER (#2) (\$19.95) A howling snowstorm envelops Montreal, and the body of a young woman is discovered in its wake. The only clue to her identity is the photograph in her pocket, and on it, the phone number of Detective Inspector Romeo Leduc. Meanwhile, Marie and Romeo are busy navigating their deepening relationship, and a student at Marie's college is the victim of a terrible assault. While Romeo begins to think that the dead woman may be linked to violence against several homeless people in the city, the search for justice in both cases is thwarted by societal apathy and ignorance, even as the killer is stalking the frigid streets of Montreal, preying on and terrorizing its most vulnerable citizens.

LAU, JAMIE MARINA PINK MOUNTAIN ON LOCUST ISLAND (\$25.50) Fifteen-year-old Monk drifts through a monotonous existence in a grimy Chinatown apartment with her “grumpy brown couch” of a dad, until she meets high school senior Santa Coy. For a moment, it looks like he might be her boyfriend. But when Monk's dad becomes obsessed with Santa Coy's artwork, Monk finds herself shunted to the sidelines as her father and the object of her affections begin to hatch a scheme of their own. To keep up, Monk must navigate combustible cocktail of odd assignments, peculiar places, and murky underworld connections.

LAURAIN, ANTOINE READER'S ROOM (\$23.95) When the manuscript of a debut crime novel arrives at a Parisian publishing house, everyone in the readers' room is convinced it's something special. And the committee for France's highest literary honour, the Prix Goncourt, agrees. But when the shortlist is announced, there's a problem for editor Violaine Lepage: she has no idea of the author's identity. As the police begin to investigate a series of murders strangely reminiscent of those recounted in the book, Violaine is not the only one looking for answers. And, suffering memory blanks following an aeroplane accident, she's beginning to wonder what role she might play in the story.

LAURENS, STEPHANIE LADY OSBALDESTONE'S CHRISTMAS INTRIGUE (#4) (\$25.50) A story set in a long-ago country-village Christmas, featuring a grandmother, her grandchildren, her unwed son, a determined not-so-young lady, foreign diplomats, undercover guards, and agents of Napoleon!

LEESON, GAYLE DESIGNS ON MURDER (#1) (\$25.99) Tucker is excited about opening her fashion design studio in Shops On Main, a charming old building in historic Abingdon, Virginia. She didn't realize a ghost came with the property! But soon Maxine "Max" Englebright, a young woman who died in 1930, isn't the only dead person at the retail complex. Mark Tinsley, a web designer with a know-it-all attitude who also rented space at Shops On Main, is shot in his office. Amanda is afraid that one of her new "friends" and fellow small business owners is his killer, and Max is encouraging her to solve Mark's murder a la Nancy Drew. Easy for Max to want to investigate—the ghostly fashionista can't end up the killer's next victim!

LEESON, GAYLE PERILS AND LACE (#2) (\$25.99) Budding retro fashion designer and entrepreneur Amanda Tucker is thrilled about making costumes for Winter Garden High School's production of Beauty and the Beast. But when the play's director Sandra Kelly is poisoned, Amanda realizes there's a murderer in their midst. She's determined to keep herself and the students safe, so when her ghostly fashionista friend Max suggests they investigate, Amanda rolls up her sleeves and prepares to follow the deadly pattern

LEONARD, PETER *givens* RAYLAN GOES TO DETROIT (#4) (\$26.95) After an altercation with his superiors in Harlan County, Kentucky, Deputy US Marshal, Raylan Givens is offered two choices. He can either retire or finish his career on the fugitive task force in the crime-ridden precincts of Detroit. Acting on a tip, Raylan and his new partner, deputy marshal Bobby Torres arrest Jose Rindo, a destructive

and violent criminal. Rindo is also being pursued by the FBI who arrive shortly after he is in custody. Raylan bumps heads with a beautiful FBI agent named Nora Sanchez, who wants Rindo for the murder of a one of their own. When Rindo, escapes from the county jail and is arrested in Ohio, Raylan and FBI Special Agent Sanchez drive south to pick up the fugitive and bring him back to stand trial.

LINDSAY, JEFF riley wolfe JUST WATCH ME (#1) (\$23) In this series launch, Riley aims for an extraordinary target in a heist that will make history. Riley will try to steal the Crown Jewels of Iran. Yes, these jewels are worth billions, but the true attraction for grabbing them comes down to one simple fact: it can't be done. Stealing these jewels is absolutely impossible. The collection is guarded by space-age electronics and two teams of heavily armed mercenaries. No one could even think of getting past the airtight security and hope to get away alive, let alone with even a single diamond from the Imperial Collection. No one but Riley Wolfe. He's always liked a challenge. But this challenge may be more than even he can handle. Aside from the impenetrable security, Riley is also pursued by a brilliant and relentless cop who is barely a step behind him.

LOGAN, ELIZABETH alaskan MOUSSE AND MURDER (#1) (\$10.99) When Chef Charlotte "Charlie" Cooke was offered the chance to leave San Francisco and return home to Elkview, Alaska, and take over her mother's diner, she didn't even consider saying no. For the past year, she's built a comfortable existence, spending her days making sure the restaurant runs smoothly and that her cat, Eggs Benedict, is appropriately pampered. But soon life at the diner starts feeling a little one-note. Determined to bring fresh life and flavors to the Bear Claw Diner, Charlie starts planning changes to the menu, which has grown stale over the years. But her plans are fried when her head chef, Oliver turns up dead after a bitter and public fight over Charlie's ideas—leaving Charlie as the prime suspect.

LOUDON, MARGARET open book MURDER IN THE MARGINS (#1) (\$10.99) Penelope Parish has hit a streak of bad luck, including a severe case of writer's block that is threatening her sophomore book. Hoping a writer in residence position at The Open Book bookstore in Upper Chumley-on-Stoke, England, will shake the cobwebs loose, Pen, as she's affectionately known, packs her typewriter and heads across the pond. Unfortunately, life in Chumley is far from quiet and when the chairwoman of the local Worthington Fest is found dead, fingers are pointed at Charlotte Davenport, an American romance novelist and the future Duchess of Worthington. Charlotte turns to the one person who might be her ally for help: fellow American Pen. Teaming up with bookstore owner Mabel Morris and her new friend Figgy, Pen sets out to learn the truth and find the tricks that will help her finish her novel.

MACCRACKEN, ROSEMARY pat UNCHARTED WATERS (#4) (\$19.99) It's Pat Tierney's chance to run her own business, the way she wants to run a business. Without anyone breathing down her neck. She's done her homework, and she's found a small financial planning practice that looks like a good fit. Its purchase means taking out a large loan to finance the deal, and she has no idea whether the clients she will acquire will stay with her. It's risky, but she's willing to proceed. The one thing she hasn't factored in is a murder. Dean Monaghan, the business's vendor, is found stabbed to death in his office shortly after the sale document is signed. Attempting to maintain her business's good reputation, Pat searches for Dean's killer—and the reason why he was killed. When Dean's son, Lukas, tries to put her out of business, Pat finds herself living her worst nightmare. She's ventured into uncharted waters that are teeming with sharks.

MACDERMID/MCDERMID, VAL tony hill HOW THE DEAD SPEAK (#11) (\$23.95) With Tony behind bars and Carol finally out of road as a cop, he's finding unexpected outlets for his talents in jail and she's joined forces with a small informal group of lawyers and forensics experts looking into suspected miscarriages of justice. But they're doing it without each other; being in the same room at visiting hour is too painful to contemplate. Meanwhile, construction is suddenly halted on the redevelopment of an orphanage after dozens of skeletons are found buried in the grounds. Forensic examination reveals they date from between twenty and forty years ago, when the nuns were running their repressive regime. But then a different set of skeletons are discovered in a far corner, young men from as recent as ten years ago. When newly promoted DI Paula McIntyre discovers that one of the male skeletons is that of a killer who is supposedly alive and behind bars—and the subject of one of Carol's miscarriage investigations—it brings Tony and Carol irresistibly into each other's orbit once again.

MACINTOSH, FIONA hawksworth BEAUTIFUL DEATH (#2) (\$20.95) DCI Jack Hawksworth is back, working on a high-profile case breaking in London. A calculating serial killer is on the loose, committing the most gruesome of murders as he "trophies" the faces of his victims. With each new atrocity, the public and police force are getting more desperate for results. Hawk pulls together a strong and experienced taskforce, who soon find themselves caught up in a murky world of illegal immigrants and human organ trading. As he struggles to find any sort of link between the victims, Jack identifies something unique about the most recent corpse, and things suddenly get very personal. From the seedy underbelly of London's back streets and New Scotland Yard to the dangerous frontiers of modern medicine...

MACINTOSH, FIONA hawksworth BYE BYE BABY (#1) (\$20.95) A spate of seemingly unconnected murders in southern England prompt a high-profile taskforce to be formed and led by DCI Jack Hawksworth, one of the Force's new rising stars who combines modern methods with old-school instincts. The victims appear as disparate as their style of death; the only link that Hawk and his team can pull together is that the murdered are all men of an identical age. The taskforce has nothing but cold cases of decades past to comb through in the hope that they might find a clue to who is behind the savagery.

MACLEAN, ALISTAIR BREAKHEART PASS (\$18.99) The crowded troop train on its way to relieve Fort Humboldt wound through the desolate snowscape of Nevada, among the sombre pines, precipitous ravines and taxing gradients of one of the loneliest stretches of railroad in the West. But this was no ordi-

nary mission, for in the year 1873 the Fort was not beset by an enemy who could be met in battle. This was a different and more dangerous enemy...Published 1974.

MACLEAN, ALISTAIR GOLDEN GATE (\$18.99) In keeping with his style, the action starts immediately, grasping your interest and holding it throughout. He builds his characters with an amazing talent, leaving your imagination just enough room...This book will entertain you while leaving you wondering what if! Published 1976.

MARGOLIN, PHILLIP HEARTSTONE (\$12.99) They were young, popular, the perfect couple—an all-American boy and a beautiful cheerleader. But the youthful passion that led them to Lookout Park that terrible evening would prove fatal. For Richie Walters the end came swiftly, as death descended upon him in a savage orgy of horrific violence. Elaine Murray would live long enough to learn just how lucky her boyfriend had been . . . Two brutal slayings have rocked a stunned city. But the murders are merely the nightmare's beginning, flinging open a terrifying Pandora's box of sordid secrets and dark revelations more deadly than the bloodlust that lives in the rock-hard heart of a killer.

MARGOLIN, PHILLIP lockwood REASONABLE DOUBT (#3) (\$12.99) Criminal defense attorney and former MMA fighter Robin Lockwood does not believe in magic. Behind every good illusion is a good explanation—unless you consider the work of Robert Chesterfield, that is. One of her firm's former clients, Chesterfield is a career magician who was linked to a series of suspicious deaths. Even though he walked free, Robin can't help but wonder whether he was as innocent as he appeared. Now, decades later, the mystery surrounding Chesterfield has taken a dark turn. When he stages his greatest-ever trick, called the Chamber of Death, Chesterfield himself turns up dead at the end. With dozens of witnesses—and no one with any idea of how it was orchestrated—Robin finds herself at loose ends as she tries to untangle this twisted case...and learn the truth about Chesterfield, once and for all.

MARTIN, MIKE windflower PERFECT STORM (#10) (\$22) Sgt Windflower is back, untangling a mystery, this one bringing the meth crisis and biker gangs to the quiet Newfoundland town of Grand Bank.

MEDAWAR, TONY BODIES FROM THE LIBRARY 1 (\$17.99) This anthology of rare stories of crime and suspense brings together 16 tales by masters of the Golden Age of Detective Fiction for the first time in book form, including a newly discovered **Agatha Christie** crime story that has not been seen since 1922.

MEIER, LESLIE lucy stone HOLIDAY MURDER (\$11.99) For Lucy Stone, Christmas in Tinker's Cove, Maine, isn't just about the gift of giving. Sometimes it's also about solving a crime or two...A collection of two novella, Mistletoe Murder, the first Lucy Stone mystery and Christmas Cookie Murder.

MEIER, LESLIE lucy stone GOBBLE, GOBBLE MURDER (#7 & #24) (\$17.50) For Lucy Stone, Thanksgiving in Tinker's Cove, Maine, is more than just gathering friends and family in gratitude. It's also about catching a killer or two...A collection of two novellas, Gobble, Gobble Murder, and Turkey Day Murder.

MEYER, DEON griessel WOMAN IN THE BLUE CLOAK (\$22.50) Early on a May morning in the depth of South Africa's winter, a woman's naked body, washed in bleach, is discovered on a stone wall beside the N2 highway at the top of Sir Lowry's Pass, some thirty-five miles from Cape Town. The local investigation stalls, so the case is referred to Captain Benny Griessel and his colorful partner Vaughn Cupido. The woman proves to be Alicia Lewis, an expert in old Dutch Masters paintings specializing in the recovery of valuable lost art. Discovering the two men she had contacted before coming to South Africa reveals what she was seeking: rare painting by Carel Fabritius, Rembrandt's finest student, not seen since it disappeared from Delft in 1654. But how Lewis died, why, and at whose hand shocks even the two veteran detectives.

MINA, DENISE morrow RED ROAD (#4) (\$25) DI Alex Morrow is a witness in the case of Michael Brown—a vicious, nasty arms dealer, more brutal and damaged than most of the criminals she meets. During the trial, while he is held in custody, Brown's fingerprints are found at the scene of a murder in the Red Road flats. It was impossible that he could have been there and it's a mystery that Morrow just can't let go. Meanwhile, a privileged Scottish lawyer sits in a castle on Mull, waiting for an assassin to kill him. He has sold out his own father, something that will bring the wrath of the powerful down upon him.

MOREIRA, PETER spracklin HITMAN ON HAIGHT STREET (#2) (\$25) As SFPD Detective Jimmy Spracklin hunts a serial killer at a 1968 music festival in Haight-Ashbury, he has to protect his daughter Marie from both the killer and the police. Spracklin is already being hounded by Internal Affairs officers when the headless body of a hippie heiress is found in Golden Gate Park. Now he must solve the high-profile murder while fighting off the IA probe, which is targeting not only Spracklin but also Marie. One misstep could result in Marie facing a murder charge.

MORELLI, LAURA NIGHT PORTRAIT (\$21) Milan, 1492: When a 16-year old beauty becomes the mistress of the Duke of Milan, she must fight for her place in the palace—and against those who want her out. Soon, she finds herself sitting before Leonardo da Vinci, who wants to ensure his own place in the ducal palace by painting his most ambitious portrait to date. Munich, World War II: After a modest conservator unwittingly places a priceless Italian Renaissance portrait into the hands of a high-ranking Nazi leader, she risks her life to recover it, working with an American soldier, part of the famed Monuments Men team, to get it back. Two women, separated by 500 years, are swept up in the tide of history as one painting stands at the center of their quests for their own destinies.

MOSLEY, WALTER easy DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS (#1) (\$23) The year is 1948, the town is Los Angeles. Easy Rawlins, a black war veteran, has just been fired from his job at a defense factory plant. Drinking in his friend's bar, he's wondering how he'll manage to make ends meet, when a white man in a linen suit approaches him and offers him good money if Easy will simply locate Miss Daphne Money, a

missing blonde beauty known to frequent black jazz clubs. Easy has no idea that by taking this job, his life is about to change forever. The 30th Anniversary edition, one of my all-time favourite novels, with a new introduction from the author.

MOYES, PATRICIA tibbett NIGHT FERRY TO DEATH (#17) (\$22.50) Henry and Emmy Tibbett have been traveling and are now headed back to England, on the ferry out of Harwich. It's a trip Emmy has been looking forward to, but her excitement flags when it becomes clear that the cabins are all spoken for; she and Henry will have to bed down in the "sleeping lounge" with a motley collection of their fellow travelers. By morning, one traveler has lost both his life and his fortune in Dutch diamonds. That's bad enough, but a few days later, when Emmy's unpacking at home, she makes a discovery that puts both Tibbetts in real danger. It will take their combined analytical skills to get them free of that terrible boat ride.

MUKHERJEE, ABIR wyndham DEATH IN THE EAST (#4) (\$19.99) 1905, London. As a young constable, Sam Wyndham is on his usual East London beat when he comes across an old flame, Bessie Drummond, attacked in the streets. The next day, when Bessie is found brutally beaten in her own room, locked from the inside, Wyndham promises to get to the bottom of her murder. But the case will cost the young constable more than he ever imagined. Fast forward to 1922, India. Leaving Calcutta, Captain Sam Wyndham heads for the hills of Assam, to the ashram of a sainted monk where he hopes to conquer his opium addiction. But when he arrives, he sees a ghost from his life in London—a man thought to be long dead, a man Wyndham hoped he would never see again. Wyndham knows he must call his friend and colleague Sergeant Banerjee for help. He is certain this figure from his past isn't here by coincidence. He is here for revenge.

MUNIER, PAULA mercy elvis BLIND SEARCH (#2) (\$10.99) Former Army MP Mercy Carr and her retired bomb-sniffing dog Elvis are back in this sequel to A Borrowing of Bones (#1) (\$10.99). It's October, hunting season in the Green Mountains—and the Vermont wilderness has never been more beautiful or more dangerous. Especially for nine-year-old Henry, who's lost in the woods. Again. Only this time he sees something terrible. When a young woman is found shot through the heart with a fatal arrow, Mercy thinks that something is murder. But Henry, a math genius whose autism often silences him when he should speak up most, is not talking. Now there's a murderer hiding among the hunters in the forest—and Mercy and Elvis must team up with their crime-solving friends, game warden Troy Warner and search-and-rescue dog Susie Bear, to find the killer—before the killer finds Henry. Inspired by the true search-and-rescue case of an autistic boy who got lost in the Vermont wilderness.

MURPHY, CATIE driver DEATH ON THE GREEN (#2) (\$11.99) Life has been non-stop excitement for American Army veteran Megan Malone ever since she moved to Ireland and became a driver for Dublin's Leprechaun Limousine Service. She's solved a murder and adopted two lovable Jack Russell puppies. Currently, she's driving world-class champion golfer Martin Walsh, and he's invited her to join him while he plays in a tournament at a prestigious Irish locale. Unfortunately, there's a surprise waiting for her on the course—a body floating in a water hazard. Everyone loved golfer Lou MacDonald, yet he clearly teed off someone enough to be murdered. Martin seems to be the only one with a motive. However, he also has an alibi: Megan and hundreds of his fans were watching him play. Now, with a clubhouse at a historical lodge full of secrets and a dashing Irish detective by her side, Megan must hurry to uncover the links to the truth before the real killer takes a swing at someone else . . .

OSWALD, JAMES maclean GATHERING DARK (#8) (\$25.99) A truck driver loses control in central Edinburgh, ploughing into a crowded bus stop and spilling his vehicle's toxic load. The consequences are devastating. DI Tony McLean witnesses the carnage. Taking control of the investigation, he soon realises there is much that is deeply amiss—and everyone involved seems to have something to hide. But as McLean struggles to uncover who caused the tragedy, a greater crisis develops: the new Chief Superintendent's son is missing, last seen in the area of the crash...

OSWALD, JAMES maclean COLD AS THE GRAVE (#9) (\$25) Her mummified body is hidden in the dark corner of a basement room, a room which seems to have been left untouched for decades. A room which feels as cold as the grave. As a rowdy demonstration makes its slow and vocal way along Edinburgh's Royal Mile, Detective Chief Inspector Tony McLean's team are on stand-by for any trouble. The newly promoted McLean is distracted, inexplicably drawn to a dead-end mews street...and a door, slightly ajar, which leads to this poor girl's final resting place. But how long has she been there, in her sleep of death? The answers are far from what McLean or anyone else could expect. The truth far more chilling than a simple cold case...

OTTOLENGUI, RODRIGUES FINAL PROOF (\$21.99) Detective Jack Barnes is good at his job—no nonsense and thorough, his dogged nature makes him the best at what he does. Mr. Robert Leroy Mitchel is entirely different: a gentleman and an amateur sleuth, Mitchel is confident in his ability to find answers where the professionals cannot. But by choice or circumstance the two are thrown together in pursuit of the truth. Sometimes partners, often competitors, these dueling detectives tackle a slew of unsolvable cases in Gilded Age New York: a body washed up in the river after its cremation, the disappearance of a priceless emerald that leaves a trail of death in its wake, and an IOU demanding a man's life, to name a few. A long-neglected master of detective stories, the author was a gifted dentist and lover of mysteries whose work established forensic dentistry as a science and emphasized the value of evidence. Twelve stories.

PARKER&COLEMAN stone BITTEREST PILL (#18) (\$12.99) When a popular high school cheerleader dies of a suspected heroin overdose, it becomes clear that the opioid epidemic has spread even to the idyllic town of Paradise. It will be up to Police Chief Jesse Stone to unravel the supply chain and unmask the criminals behind it, and the investigation has a clear epicenter: Paradise High School. Home of

the town's best and brightest future leaders and its most vulnerable down-and-out teens, it's a rich and bottomless market for dealers out of Boston looking to expand into the suburbs. But when it comes to drugs, the very people Jesse is trying to protect are often those with the most to lose. As he digs deeper into the case, he finds himself battling self-interested administrators, reluctant teachers, distrustful schoolkids, and overprotective parents . . . and at the end of the line are the true bad guys, the ones with a lucrative business they'd kill to protect.

PARKER&ATKINS spenser ANGEL EYES (#8) (#49) (\$12.99) Gabby Leggett left her Boston family with dreams of making it big as a model/actress in Hollywood. Two years later, she disappears from her apartment. Her family, former boyfriend, and friends—and the police—have no idea where she is and no leads. Leggett's mother hires Spenser to find her, with the help of his former apprentice, Zebulon Sixkill, now an L.A. private eye. Spenser barely has time to unpack before the trail leads to a powerful movie studio boss, the Armenian Mob, and a shadowy empowerment group some say might be a dangerous cult. It's soon clear that Spenser and Sixkill may be outgunned this time, and series favorites Chollo and Bobby Horse ride to the rescue to provide backup. From the mansions of Beverly Hills to the lawless streets of a small California town, Spenser will need to watch his step. In Hollywood, all that glitters isn't gold. And not all those who wander are lost.

PATRICK, JONELLE LAST TEA BOWL THIEF (\$17) Modern-day Japan. Robin Swann's life in Tokyo is grinding to a halt. She's stuck in a dead-end job testing antiquities for an auction house, but her true love is poetry, not pottery. Her stalled dissertation sits on her laptop, unopened in months, and she has no one to confide in but her goldfish. On the other side of town, Nori Okuda sells rice bowls and tea cups to Tokyo restaurants, as her family has done for generations. But with her grandmother in the hospital and the shop next door stealing their best customers, the family business is foundering. If her luck doesn't change—and soon—everything she's worked so hard to build will collapse around her ears. The two women have nothing in common, until they learn that both their futures depend on possessing a cultural treasure that went missing before they were born. The past sets the stage for the hunt, while the elusive tea bowl leads Nori and Robin to secrets that make them question everything they believe. As they close in on the prize, it becomes clear that they will have to choose between seizing their dreams or righting the terrible wrong that has been poisoning the legacy of the tea bowl for centuries.

PATTERSON, JAMES womens 19TH CHRISTMAS (#19) (\$22.99) As the holidays approach, Detective Lindsay Boxer and her friends in the Women's Murder Club have much to celebrate. Crime is down. The medical examiner's office is quiet. Even the courts are showing some Christmas spirit. And the news cycle is so slow that journalist Cindy Thomas is on assignment to tell a story about the true meaning of the season for San Francisco. Then a fearsome criminal known only as "Loman" seizes control of the headlines. Solving crimes never happens on schedule, but as this criminal mastermind unleashes credible threats by the hour, the month of December is upended for the Women's Murder Club. Avoiding tragedy is the only holiday miracle they seek.

PAYNE, JOHNNY CONFESSIONS OF A GENTLEMAN KILLER (\$22.95) I ask you: How do you reconcile a man who is capable of deep, tender love (because I've felt it), a man, who—by public standards—is a health reformer, assistant to the future British Prime Minister, and the son-in-law of a wealthy industrialist, but who, when the moment overtakes him, kills women? I don't know what to make of it myself, but that's me. I've been told I have a philosopher's mind, that I'm ambitious and can do anything I set my mind to—but sometimes my sadomasochistic tendencies get the better of me. I don't venture judgement—on myself or anyone else. I'll leave that up to you. My name is Kilcairn, and these are my confessions.

PERRY, ANNE elena standish DEATH IN FOCUS (#1) (\$23) On vacation from London on the beautiful Italian coast, twenty-eight-year-old Elena Standish and her older sister, Margot, have finally been able to move on from the lasting trauma of the Great War, in which the newly married Margot lost her husband and the sisters their beloved brother. Touring with her camera in hand, Elena has found new inspiration in the striking Italian landscape, and she's met an equally striking man named Ian. When Ian has to leave unexpectedly, Elena—usually the more practical of the sisters—finds she's not ready to part from him, and the two share a spontaneous train trip home to England. But a shocking sequence of events disrupts their itinerary, forcing Elena to personally deliver a message to Berlin on Ian's behalf, one that could change the fate of Europe.

PERRY, CAROL J MURDER TAKE TWO (\$10.99) As a Salem, Massachusetts, native, WICH-TV field reporter and amateur sleuth Lee Barrett is well versed in the region's lore. So when the murder of revered local professor Samuel Bond resembles a killing from almost two centuries ago, everyone is on edge. Especially assistant professor Cody McGinnis. Not only did Cody have differences with Bond, he even taught a course on the historic murder. And when his fingerprints and ladder are found at the crime scene, the police are certain of his guilt. Cody's family, however, believes otherwise and asks Lee for assistance. Now, with the help of her clairvoyant cat, O'Ryan, her tech-savvy librarian aunt and housemate Ibby, and Pete Mondello, her handsome detective beau, Lee will delve deeper than ever into Salem's past—and into her own psychic gifts—to find the real killer—before someone else is history . . .

PERRY, S W shelby ANGEL'S MARK (#1) (\$20.95) London, 1590: Queen Elizabeth I's control over her kingdom is wavering. Amidst a tumultuous backdrop of Spanish plotters, Catholic heretics and foreign wars threatening the country's fragile stability, the body of a small boy is found in the City of London, with strange marks that no one can explain. When idealistic physician Nicholas Shelby finds another body displaying the same marks only days later, he becomes convinced that a killer is at work, preying on the weak and destitute of London. Determined to find out who is behind these terrible murders, Nicholas is joined in his investigations by Bianca, a mysterious tavern keeper. As more bodies are discovered, the

pair find themselves caught in the middle of a sinister plot. With the killer still at large, and Bianca in terrible danger, Nicholas's choice seems impossible—to save Bianca, or save himself.

PERRY, S W shelby SERPENT'S MARK (#2) (\$20.95) London, 1591: Nicholas Shelby, physician and reluctant spy, returns to his old haunts on London's lawless Bankside. But, when spymaster Robert Cecil asks him to investigate the dubious practices of a mysterious doctor from Switzerland, Nicholas is soon embroiled in a conspiracy that threatens not just the life of an innocent young patient, but the overthrow of Queen Elizabeth herself. With fellow healer and mistress of the Jackdaw tavern, Bianca Merton, again at his side, Nicholas is drawn into a sinister world of zealots, charlatans, and dangerous fanatics.

PORTER, HENRY samson WHITE HOT SILENCE (#2) (\$23.95) On a deserted road in Calabria, Greek aid worker Anastasia Cristakos is driving alone to visit one of the new refugee centers funded by billionaire Denis Hisami whom she has recently married. She slows down to greet two African migrants she recognizes. Too late she realizes they are not her friends. This is an ambush. Anastasia has been abducted and held hostage because Hisami has explosive information that his enemies have killed for and will kill for again. But Hisami can do nothing to save his wife. His time as a commander with the Kurdish Peshmerga has caught up with him. The US authorities have seized his passport and jailed him for possible terrorist activities in the past. For all his wealth, he is powerless. Only one man can help him. Paul Samson, former MI6 agent and a genius at tracking missing persons.

PRESTON & CHILD nora OLD BONES (#1) (\$12.99) Nora Kelly, a young curator at the Santa Fe Institute of Archaeology, is approached by historian Clive Benton with a once-in-a-lifetime proposal: to lead a team in search of the so-called "Lost Camp" of the tragic Donner Party. This was a group of pioneers who earned a terrible place in American history when they became snow-bound in the California mountains in 1847, their fate unknown until the first skeletonized survivors stumbled out of the wilderness, raving about starvation, murder-and cannibalism. The long-sought diary of one of the victims, which has an enigmatic description of the Lost Camp has been located and Nora agrees to lead an expedition, to locate and excavate it-to reveal its long-buried secrets. Once in the mountains, however, they learn that discovering the camp is only the first step in a mounting journey of fear.

QUEEN, ELLERY EGYPTIAN CROSS MYSTERY (\$21.95) "Crucifixion on Christmas Day." That's what the newspapers report when a small-town schoolteacher is discovered dead, beheaded, and tied to a T-shaped cross on December 25th. It's a murder bizarre enough to pique Ellery Queen's interest — and intriguing enough to lure him to the West Virginia village where it occurred to take a closer look. But when he arrives, Queen is met with too few clues and too little evidence to produce a satisfactory verdict, even for a master sleuth such as himself, and so returns home to New York defeated. Published 1932.

RANKIN, IAN WESTWIND (\$17.99) The "lost" novel from the author of the Rebus novels. After his friend suspects something strange going on at the satellite facility where they both work—and then goes missing—Martin Hepton doesn't believe the official line of "long-term sick leave" ...Refusing to stop asking questions, he leaves his old life behind, aware that someone is shadowing his every move. But why? The only hope he has is his ex-girlfriend Jill Watson—the only journalist who will believe his story. But neither of them can believe the puzzle they're piecing together—or just how shocking the secret is that everybody wants to stay hidden...

RAY, ELKA toby wong KILLER COIN (#2) (\$17) A wealthy socialite goes missing... a battered body is found in her abandoned cabin...At the center of it all lies the witty and down-to-earth divorce lawyer, Toby Wong. How did she manage to get wrapped up in all of this...again? All Toby wanted was to settle into island life and start working on her own love story—torn between the wealthy and charismatic Josh Barton, and the adorable and dependable detective Colin Destin. But Toby's romantic prospects take the back burner when her mom's best friend, Daphne Dane, disappears. Toby soon discovers that Daphne's latest boyfriend is both an alleged conman and the cheating husband of her newest client. Could he be behind Daphne's disappearance? What about Daphne's children, vying for their aging mother's money?

RAY, ELKA toby wong DIVORCE IS MURDER (#1) (\$17) Shortly after returning to her sleepy hometown on Vancouver Island, Chinese-Canadian divorce lawyer Toby Wong runs into Josh Barton, who broke her heart as a teen at summer camp. Now a wealthy entrepreneur, Josh wants to divorce Tonya, the mean girl who made Toby's life hell all those years ago. Not long after Toby takes Josh's case, Tonya is found murdered. Josh is the prime suspect. Together with her fortune-teller mom and her pregnant best friend, Toby sets out to clear Josh, whom she still has a guilty crush on. While he seems equally smitten, can Toby trust him? The handsome cop charged with finding Tonya's killer doesn't think so. Since Tonya stayed in touch with everyone from that lousy summer camp, Toby keeps running into ex-campers she'd rather forget. Could one of Tonya's catty friends be her killer? Are Toby's old insecurities making her paranoid? Only too late does she realize that she really is in danger.

REYNOLDS, ROD BLOOD RED CITY (\$20.95) When crusading journalist Lydia Wright is sent a video of an apparent murder on a London train, she thinks she's found the story to revive her career. But she can't find a victim, much less the killers, and the only witness has disappeared. Wary she's fallen for fake news, she begins to doubt her instincts—until a sinister call suggests that she's not the only one interested in the crime.

ROBERTS, NORA MONTANA SKY (\$10.99) When Jack Mercy died, he left behind a ranch worth nearly twenty million dollars. Now his three daughters—each born of a different mother, and each unknown by the others—are gathered to hear the reading of the will. But the women are shocked to learn that before any of them can inherit, they must live together on the ranch for one year. For Tess, a screenwriter who just wants to collect her cash and get back to Hollywood, it's a nightmare. For Lily, on the run from her abusive ex-husband, it's a refuge. And for Willa—who grew up on the ranch—it's an intrusion into her rightful home. They are sisters...and strangers. Now they face a challenge: to put their bitterness

aside and live like a family. To protect each other from danger—and unite against an enemy who threatens to destroy them all...

ROBERTS, NORA BIRTHRIGHT (\$10.99) When five-thousand-year-old human bones are found at a construction site in the small town of Woodsboro, the news draws archaeologist Callie Dunbrook out of her sabbatical and into a whirlwind of adventure, danger, and romance. While overseeing the dig, she must try to make sense of a cloud of death and misfortune that hangs over the project—fueling rumors that the site is cursed. She must cope with the presence of her irritating—but irresistible—ex-husband, Jake. And when a stranger claims to know a secret about her privileged Boston childhood, she must question her own past as well...

ROBINSON, PETER banks MANY RIVERS TO CROSS (#26) (\$21) A skinny young boy is found dead—his body carelessly stuffed into a wheelie bin. Detective Superintendent Alan Banks and his team are called to investigate. Who is the boy, and where did he come from? Was his body discarded, or left as a warning to someone? He looks Middle Eastern, but no one on the East Side Estate has seen him before. As the local press seize upon an illegal immigrant angle, and the national media cover the story of another stabbing, there is a less newsworthy death: a middle-aged heroin addict found dead of an overdose in another estate, scheduled for redevelopment. Banks finds the threads of each case seem to be connected to the other, and to the dark side of organized crime in Eastvale. Does another thread link to his friend Zelda, who is coming to terms with her own dark past? The truth may be more complex—or much simpler—than it seems . . .

ROBINSON, PETER banks PIECE OF MY HEART (#16) (\$21) A new edition of the author's outstanding sixteenth novel in the acclaimed Inspector Banks series. Richly textured with the music and conflicting mores of 1960s Britain, the story weaves between two eras as it explores just how dangerously things can go awry when one generation is estranged from the next, when fathers no longer understand their daughters. Published 2005.

ROSENFELT, DAVID carpenter DACHSHUND THROUGH THE SNOW (#20) (\$22.99) Lawyer Andy Carpenter and his wife, Laurie, have started a new Christmas tradition. Their local pet store has a Christmas tree, where instead of ornaments there are wishes from those in need. One poignant wish leads Andy to a child named Danny, whose selfless plea strikes a chord. Danny asked Santa for a coat for his mother, a sweater for his dachshund, Murphy, and for the safe return of his missing father. It turns out Danny's father doesn't want to be found, he's on the run after just being arrested for a murder that took place fourteen years ago—a murder that Danny's mother swears he didn't commit.

SALLIS, JAMES SARAH JANE (\$20.95) Sarah Jane Pullman is a cop with a complicated past. From her small-town chicken-farming roots through her runaway adolescence, court-ordered Army stint, ill-advised marriage and years slinging scrambled eggs over greasy spoon griddles, Sarah Jane unfolds her life story, a parable about memory, atonement, and finding shape in chaos. Her life takes an unexpected turn when she is named the de facto sheriff of a rural town, investigating the mysterious disappearance of the sheriff whose shoes she's filling—and the even more mysterious realities of the life he was hiding from his own colleagues and closest friends. This kaleidoscopic character study sparkles in every dark and bright detail—a virtuoso work by a master of both and the tender aspects of human nature.

SEECK, MAX niemi WITCH HUNTER (#1) (\$23) A bestselling author's wife has been found dead in a gorgeous black evening gown, sitting at the head of an empty dining table. Her most chilling feature—her face is frozen in a ghastly smile. At first it seems as though a deranged psychopath is re-enacting the gruesome murders from the Witch Hunt trilogy, bestsellers written by the victim's husband. But investigator Jessica Niemi soon realizes she's not looking for a single killer but rather for dozens of believers in a sinister form of witchcraft who know her every move and are always one step ahead. As the bodies start piling up, Jessica knows they won't stop until they get what they want. And when her dark past comes to light, Jessica finds herself battling her own demons while desperately trying to catch a coven of killers before they claim their next victim.

SHELTON, PAIGE alaska THIN ICE (#1) (\$10.99) Beth Rivers, known to the world by her pen name Elizabeth Fairchild, has just escaped after being kidnapped by a crazed super-fan. Having thrown herself from his speeding van, Beth suffered a severe head injury and memory loss. Now, scarred and still healing, she disappears to the remote town of Benedict, Alaska—the only place Beth can be sure that no one will find her. But when she arrives, she learns that a woman named Linda Rafferty has been found dead in what looks like a suicide. Yet no one in the close-knit community quite believes that Linda killed herself, including the sheriff. While Beth waits for her own attacker to be apprehended in the lower forty-eight, she takes it upon herself to investigate Linda's death and write about it in the Benedict town newspaper. As rumors of murder spread, suspicion falls upon the felons staying at a local halfway house—and on Beth herself. As she fights to clear her name, and bring Linda's killer to justice, Beth is left with more questions than answers. . .and finds that the investigation is stirring up old memories that are better left forgotten.

SIGURDARDOTTIR, YRSA huldar GALLOWS ROCK (#4) (\$24.99) On a jagged, bleak lava field just outside Reykjavik stands the Gallows Rock. Once a place of execution, it is now a tourist attraction. Until this morning, when a man was found hanging from it...The nail embedded in his chest proves it wasn't suicide. But when the police go to his flat, a further puzzle awaits: a four-year-old boy has been left there. He doesn't seem to have any link with the victim, his parents cannot be found, and his drawings show he witnessed something terrible. As detective Huldar hunts the killer, and child psychologist Freyja looks for the boy's parents, the mystery unfolds: a story of violence, entitlement, and revenge.

SMITH, ALEXANDER MCCALL botswana TO THE LAND OF LONG LOST FRIENDS (#20) (\$19.95) Mma Ramotswa reconnects with an old friend who has been having problems with her daughter.

Though Precious feels compelled to lend a hand, she discovers that getting tangled up in family matters is always a delicate affair. The young woman appears to be involved with a charismatic preacher. But are his ministrations entirely of a Godly nature?

SMITH, MARTIN CRUZ arkady SIBERIAN DILEMMA (#9) (\$23) Journalist Tatiana Petrovna is on the move. Arkady Renko, iconic Moscow investigator and Tatiana's part-time lover, hasn't seen her since she left on assignment over a month ago. When she doesn't arrive on her scheduled train, he's positive something is wrong. No one else thinks Renko should be worried—Tatiana is known to disappear during deep assignments—but he knows her enemies all too well and the criminal lengths they'll go to keep her quiet. Renko embarks on a dangerous journey to find Tatiana and bring her back.

STARRETT, VINCENT GREAT HOTEL MURDER (\$21.95) When a New York banker is discovered dead from an apparent morphine overdose in a Chicago hotel, the circumstances surrounding his untimely end are suspicious to say the least. The dead man had switched rooms the night before with a stranger he met and drank with in the hotel bar. And before that, he'd registered under a fake name at the hotel, told his drinking companion a fake story about his visit to the Windy City, and seemingly made no effort to contact the actress, performing in a local show, to whom he was married. All of which is more than enough to raise eyebrows among those who discovered the body. Enter theatre critic and amateur sleuth Riley Blackwood, a friend of the hotel's owner, who endeavors to untangle this puzzling tale as discreetly as possible.

SWANSON, DENISE cheftogo WINNER CAKE ALL (#3) (\$11.99) In the small town of Normalton, IL, there aren't a lot of opportunities for small business owner Dani Sloan to cater big-ticket events. But that's about to change—a client named Yvette Joubert is marrying Franklin Whittaker, the richest guy around, and they want Dani to cater their engagement party! The swanky event is the perfect opportunity to put Dani on the map for wealthier clients. But when a storm hits the party after guests arrive, it becomes clear that more than the dinner is ruined: Yvette is found dead beneath the marquee.

SWANSON, PETER BEFORE SHE KNEW HIM (\$12.99) Hen and her husband Lloyd have settled into a quiet life in a new house outside of Boston, Massachusetts. Hen (short for Henrietta) is an illustrator and works out of a studio nearby and has found the right meds to control her bipolar disorder. Finally, she's found some stability and peace. But when they meet the neighbors next door, that calm begins to erode as she spots a familiar object displayed on the husband's office shelf. The sports trophy looks exactly like one that went missing from the home of a young man who was killed two years ago. Could her neighbor, Matthew, be a killer?

TAYLOR, BRAD logan HUNTER KILLER (#14) (\$12.99) Pike Logan tracks highly-trained Russian assassins to Brazil in this "blistering, action-packed thriller."

TOPE, REBECCA cotswolds SECRETS IN THE COTSWOLDS (#17) (\$16.95) Thea Slocombe is struggling to entertain her stepchildren through the long summer holiday while her husband Drew works, so she keenly accepts a new job house-sitting in Barnsley, near Bibury. However, her commission proves to be far from relaxing when she stumbles across a woman hiding among some bushes. The woman's story is thin and incoherent, but Thea agrees to offer her sanctuary for the night. When her guest is found dead the next morning Thea turns to the police for help, but their preoccupation with a major animal trafficking investigation means she is effectively on her own. As she digs deeper into the deceased's background, she discovers a tangled web of lies, secrets and at least three very likely suspects ...

TURSTEN, HELENE nystrom WINTER GRAVE (#2) (\$20.95) When a little girl disappears a few weeks before Christmas, suspicion falls on the last person she was seen with: the teenage loner who gave her a ride home after school. Complicating the matter is the fact that detectives can hardly get a word out of him. When a second child disappears and a police officer is found dead, tensions in the small town of Strömstad reach an all-time high. Meanwhile, 28-year-old Detective Inspector Embla Nyström has just returned to work and is still recovering from her recent brush with a killer, which left her unable to get back in the ring to defend her title of Nordic light welterweight champion. As she hunts for the missing children, Embla can't help but think of the case that has been haunting her for years: the disappearance of her childhood best friend. Could the incidents be linked?

VARGAS, FRED adamsberg THIS POISON WILL REMAIN (#9) (\$19.99) After three elderly men are bitten by spiders, everyone assumes that their deaths are tragic accidents. But at police headquarters in Paris, Inspector Adamsberg begins to suspect that the case is far more complex than first appears. It isn't long before Adamsberg is investigating a series of rumours and allegations that take him to the south of France. Decades ago, at La Miséricorde orphanage, shocking events took place involving the same species of spider: the recluse. For Adamsberg, these haunting crimes hold the key to proving that the three men were targeted by an ingenious serial killer. His team, however, is not convinced. He must put his reputation on the line to trace the murderer before the death toll rises...

WEES, FRANCES SHELLEY I AM NOT GUILTY (\$14.95) Helen Graham has been acquitted in the murder of her wealthy husband, Alberta oil baron Steven Graham, but the eyes of the public continue to view her with suspicion. Worried for her future, and that of her young son, she sets out to find the true killer. The trail leads to the apartment of another woman—and revelations about her dead husband's secret life—then continues to a growing bedroom community in suburban Toronto. What the widow doesn't realize is that she is not alone in her pursuit of the murderer or how ready that murderer is to kill again. Set in and around post-war Toronto...

WOODS, STUART barrington TREASON (#52) (\$12.99) Upon returning to New York City after a whirlwind British excursion, Stone Barrington is notified of a delicate situation within the country's administration. A close friend requires his expertise and subtlety to eradicate a destructive presence in a classified agency—only it soon becomes clear that this renegade was sent by a rival Stone has encoun-

tered before. From the City of Light to the rocky Maine coastline, Stone will need to summon all his wit and daring to halt the audacious plots threatening to reveal confidential intel and catch the evasive traitor at last. This enemy may be equipped with unlimited resources and devious schemes, but if Stone remains vigilant, justice may finally prevail...

ZAIID, MALIA QUALITY OF MERCY (\$25.48) After years spent away, Lady Evelyn is at long last back in her home city of London and she has returned with a rather controversial plan. The Carlisle Detective Agency is born, and it does not take long for the bodies... ahem, cases, to start piling up. With her friend and assistant Hugh, Evelyn embarks on the quest to solve the crimes.