



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

December 2018

I was reading an article in the Globe recently about longevity, something called a “longevity gene” that our bodies possess and how to turn it on, and about something called the “immortal jellyfish.” This immortal fish was unwittingly discovered by Christian Sommer, a German marine-biology student in his early 20s. He was spending the summer in Rapallo, a small city on the Italian Riviera, and was conducting research on hydrozoans, small invertebrates that, depending on their stage in the life cycle, resemble either a jellyfish or a soft coral. Among these hydrozoans was one called *Turritopsis dohrnii*, now commonly called the immortal fish, It was behaving in a very peculiar manner. It refused to die. It appeared to age in reverse, growing younger and younger until it reached its earliest stage of development, at which point it began its life cycle anew. (I tried to find the article again but, no luck.) Short of being eaten... The article also mentioned that one way to turn on your longevity gene is by exercising. So, there you are, you too can live longer. A lot longer.

You could, of course, just buy a copy of How Not to Die: Discover the Foods Scientifically Proven to Prevent and Reverse Disease (\$34.99) by **MICHAEL GREGER, M.D.**, a *Marian's Pick* an issue or two back, which could also help you live longer.

It's that time of the year. We would like to thank all of you for another wonderful year of talking, reading, selling mysteries and we wish you Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Chanuka, Happy Kwanzaa and Happy Happy. Here's wishing for a short, mild winter and lots of good health and great happiness in 2019.

JD's Picks

I owe **CRAIG JOHNSON** a huge apology for having dismissed his latest Walt Longmire offering, Depth of Winter (#14) (\$37.) As always, I dropped whatever I was reading to pick it up, looking forward to the exquisite pleasure that I fully expected it to be. Read about half-way through and put it down; I mentioned the reasons why in a previous issue. But mainly because I had no recollection whatsoever of what had happened

The Merchant of Menace,

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

Postage & Handling

In a word: Actual

Hours of Business

Thursday to Saturday: 10 to 6

Sunday: Noon - 4pm

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

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

in Western Star (#13) (\$22) and was confused as to why Walt was where he was. Fast forward a few months, I re-read Western Star and then started Winter, all over again. And what did I discover? It's good to know the back story! And, Winter has to be read slowly and savoured. It is more action-packed than most of the earlier entries, so resist the temptation to whip through it, as I was doing the first time around, and let the images that the author paints for you form fully in your mind. My apologies to this great writer; this one is as great a read as any in the series.

Read Hangman (\$33.50) by **JACK HEATH** and if you are looking for another Hannibal Lecter or Dexter, this may be for you. The Australian author of several children's and YA novels has written his first novel for adults. The hero is a genius who helps the FBI solve missing persons cases...and his deal is that for every life he saves, he gets one. I won't spoil the story by saying any more. A whole lot preposterous, but there is a sequel coming and I'm going to hold judgement until I have a go at that one.

And, finally for 2019, Dead Pretty (#5) (\$22) by **DAVID MARK**. This is really a very good series that I have not pushed hard enough. A quick blurb: While a colleague struggles to solve the recent killing of a man too vile to have mourners, Aector McAvoy, Detective Sergeant of the Humberside Police's murder squad, is still haunted by the disappearance of Hannah Kelly. It's been nine months since she disappeared in the quiet English countryside, and it is becoming harder to convince himself that she is just missing instead of dead... especially when another young woman is found brutally murdered. As McAvoy looks for connections between the women, his boss Trish Pharaoh is preoccupied with troubles of her own. Reuben Hollow--a man convicted of murder with the help of perjured testimony from the Humberside Police--has just been released from prison after a high-profile wrongful conviction suit, putting Pharaoh's reputation at stake. But when her house is broken into and her children threatened, she soon learns it is not only her good name that's in danger. As the cases intertwine and Pharaoh's behaviour becomes more erratic, McAvoy must question who he can trust if he is to uncover Hannah's fate and find justice for the dead--without joining them himself.

This is an excellent series of British police procedurals. Dead Winter (#1) (\$16) is the place to start.

Marian's Picks

Another year is almost over and I want to thank you for continuing to support Sleuth. Without you we would not be here. I can't believe we've had the bookstore for 36 years. That's a long time, a lifetime, but it seems just like yesterday that JD and I walked into its first location and decided there was something special about the place. Here we are, 6 fabulous cats, 2 magnificent dogs and 4 locations later, still reading, looking out for new authors and feeling a sense of job well done when we recommend a new book or author that you flip over. Thank you.

Pixie is loving all the early snow we've been having. She loves jumping into snowbanks and piles of leaves, and when we are at the cottage, I swear she sticks her head into the snowbank because she is listening for mice and moles. She so enjoys looking for frogs when we walk in the summer but in the winter it's slumbering mice. She never hurts them or tries to catch them, she just finds joy in the search and the smells. I, on the other hand, do not care for the snow and ice, mainly because I dislike driving, so when I drive to or from the cottage, I chose my travel days and try to avoid any unpleasant weather. One good thing about the winter months is that it seems I have more time to read. I know there are 24 hours in each day regardless of the time of year, but because it gets darker so much earlier in the winter, I feel that I have more time to read. Silly, I know.

I hope all of you have a wonderful holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Keep on reading!

Yet again, **LOUISE PENNY** has written a great mystery in her latest Three Pines/Gamache series. Kingdom of the Blind (\$35.99) arrived at the end of November and, as usual, I dropped everything to read it. And just kept reading it until I was finished! Alas. Now I must wait another year to see what happens next. With each book, **Ms. Penny** takes her wonderful cast of characters into situations that have me biting my fingernails, worrying about them, wanting them to survive and thrive. Sometimes I am heartbroken, other times I'm ecstatic, but I am always engaged. I love her characters,

plots, locations, yes, I know I sound like a smitten fan, but, well, I am. I think everyone who reads her books would love to go to Three Pines, have lunch at the Bistro, stay at the Bed & Breakfast and have a chat with Ruth and Rosa, the duck. I know I would.

Here is a shortened version of the blurb for Kingdom: When a peculiar letter arrives inviting Armand Gamache to an abandoned farmhouse, the former head of the Sûreté du Québec discovers that a complete stranger has named him one of the executors of her will. Still on suspension, and frankly curious, Gamache accepts and soon learns that the other two executors are Myrna Landers, the bookseller from Three Pines, and a young builder. None of them had ever met the elderly woman. The will is so odd and includes bequests that are so wildly unlikely that Gamache and the others suspect the woman must have been delusional. But what if, Gamache begins to ask himself, she was perfectly sane?

When a body is found, the terms of the bizarre will suddenly seem less peculiar and far more menacing. But it isn't the only menace Gamache is facing. The investigation into what happened six months ago, Glass Houses (\$23.99 trade paperback, \$12.99 mass market paperback)—the events that led to his suspension—has dragged on, into the dead of winter. And while most of the opioids he allowed to slip through his hands, in order to bring down the cartels, have been retrieved, there is one devastating exception. Enough narcotic to kill thousands has disappeared into inner city Montreal. With the deadly drug about to hit the streets, Gamache races for answers.

I love mysteries set in bookstores so how could I resist the series by **VICKI DELANY** featuring Gemma Doyle, who owns the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop and Emporium, in West London on Cape Cod? Her fourth book is titled Scandal in Scarlet (\$40.50) and you will find Gemma and her friend, Jayne Wilson, the owner of the adjoining Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room, in fine form once again. To raise money in support of the West London Museum, which lost most of its priceless collection of furniture and has extensive damage to the building from a fire, the Baker Street shop owners come together to hold an afternoon auction tea to raise funds to rebuild, and Great Uncle Arthur Doyle offers a signed first edition of *The Valley of Fear*. But the auction never happens as before the gavel can fall, museum board chair Kathy Lamb is found dead in the back room of the tea shop. Gemma has no intention of getting involved in the investigation, but you can guess what happens! A cosy mystery with all the classic cosy ingredients.

The other titles in the series are Elementary She Read, Body on Baker Street and Cat of the Baskervilles (23.95 each in trade paperback). When **Ms. Delany** was in the bookstore in late November signing copies of her books, she gave a really interesting talk and one thing I never realized was that she has written over 30 mysteries, that's quite something.

Name of the Rosé (\$8.99) by **CHRISTINE BLUM** is the third book featuring Annie "Halsey" Hall and the members of the Rose Avenue Wine Club. Wouldn't you just love to sit around the pool in her backyard in Southern California, savouring the latest wine with the other ladies of the club? That's how the book starts with Halsey's best friend Sally, frozen yogurt shop owner Aimee, widow Peggy, their newest member, journalist Mary Anne and Bardot, Halsey's yellow lab, who is eyeing the pool contemplating a wonderful swim.

But the peaceful afternoon is shattered by the boom of a small plane crash at nearby Santa Monica Airport. Sometime later, a sour-faced detective shows up, holding a package of illegal drugs found on the plane—with Sally's address on it! Being suspected of drug smuggling is bad enough, but when a young mechanic who works at the airport is found murdered, the club springs into action. I must admit, one of the most enjoyable aspects of these books for me is the discussion of the wine and the food they serve with it. I just wish we could get some of those wines in Ontario. Well written and quite enjoyable...I like this series a whole bunch.

Harvest of Secrets (\$34.95) by **ELLEN CROSBY** is another mystery set in wine country; this time in Virginia. It's harvest season at Montgomery Estate Vineyard but a skull is unearthed near Lucie Montgomery's family cemetery, and the discovery of the bones coincides with the arrival of handsome, wealthy aristocrat Jean-Claude de Marniac. He's come to be the head winemaker at neighbouring La Vigne Cellars, but he's no stranger to Lucie—he was her first crush twenty years ago when she spent a summer in France.

Not long after his arrival, Jean-Claude is found dead, and while there is no shortage of suspects who are angry or jealous, suspicion falls on Miguel Otero, an immigrant work-

er at La Vigne, who recently quarreled with Jean-Claude. When Miguel disappears, Lucie receives an ultimatum from her own employees: prove Miguel's innocence or none of the immigrant community will work for her during the harvest. Who is the skeleton found in the cemetery? What about the decades-old secret that that Lucie discovers? Wine facts and tidbits, a nifty plot, my only regret is that most of the earlier books in the series are not currently in print.

My non-mystery book for this newsletter is Tomorrow (\$33.50) by **DAMIEN DIB-BEN**. It's the story of a 217 year-old-dog looking for his lost owner. Yes, I know what you are thinking...a fantasy? What, suspend this much disbelief? I say yes, please.... it's a wonderful story. A story of adventure, love, friendship, loyalty, war, travel, despair, and heart break. The story starts in Venice, 1815, but takes us back through 200 years of history as we find out how Tomorrow (or 'my champion' as his owner calls him) and his master, gain their immortality, only to be separated from each other by a nasty, evil man. Just a wonderful read (did I say that already?) but more so if you love dogs and the bond that is formed between them and us.

Here is the blurb: A winter's night, Venice, 1815. A 217-year-old dog is searching for his lost master. So begins the journey of Tomorrow, a dog who must travel through the courts and battlefields of Europe—and through the centuries—in search of the man who granted him immortality. His adventures take him to the London Frost Fair, the strange court of King Charles I, the wars of the Spanish succession, Versailles, the golden age of Amsterdam and to nineteenth-century Venice.

His is a story of loyalty and determination, as Tomorrow befriends both animals and humans, falls in love (only once), marvels at the human ability to make music, despairs at their capacity for war and gains insight into both the strength and frailties of the human spirit. But Tomorrow's journey is also a race against time. Danger stalks his path, and in the shadows lurks an old enemy. Tomorrow must find his master before their pursuer can reach him and his master disappears forever.

Hardbacks

AARONOVITCH, BEN grant LIES SLEEPING (#7) (\$35) The seventh book of the bestselling Rivers of London urban fantasy series returns to the adventures of Peter Grant, detective and apprentice wizard, as he solves magical crimes in the city of London. The Faceless Man, wanted for multiple counts of murder, fraud, and crimes against humanity, has been unmasked and is on the run. Peter Grant now plays a key role in an unprecedented joint operation to bring him to justice.

ADAMS, ELLERY society WHISPERED WORD (#2) (\$28.95) Nora Pennington, owner of Miracle Books, believes that a well-chosen novel can bring healing and hope. But she and the other members of the Secret, Book, and Scone Society know that sometimes, practical help is needed too. Such is the case with the reed-thin girl hiding in the fiction section of Nora's store, wearing a hospital ID and a patchwork of faded bruises. She calls herself Abilene, and though Nora and her friends offer work, shelter, and a supportive ear, their guest isn't ready to divulge her secrets. But when a customer is found dead in an assumed suicide, Nora uncovers a connection that points to Abilene as either a suspect, or another target. Sequel to Secret Book and Scone Society (#1) (\$17.95), a series that Marian has loved.

ALEXANDER, TASHA ashton UNEASY LIES THE CROWN (#13) (\$36.50) The year is 1901 and the death of Britain's longest-reigning monarch has sent the entire British Empire into mourning. But for Lady Emily and her dashing husband, Colin, the grieving is cut short as another death takes center stage. A body has been found in the Tower of London, posed to look like the murdered medieval king Henry VI. When a second dead man turns up in London's exclusive Berkeley Square, his mutilated remains staged to evoke the violent demise of Edward II, it becomes evident that the mastermind behind the crimes plans to strike again.

ASKEW, CLAIRE ALL THE HIDDEN TRUTHS (\$34.99) "Raw, powerful, compassionate and deeply moving, with page-turning tension to the end. A stunning debut." Karen Robinson, *Sunday Times Crime Club*. "Splendid debut...thoughtful and well-written." *Guardian*. "You'll be gripped by the unexpected truths that emerge. Compelling." *Marie Claire*. "As scarily plausible as it is utterly captivating, this is an absorbing and unforgettable debut." *Heat*. This is a fact: Ryan Summers walked into Three Rivers College and killed thirteen women, then himself. But no one can say why. The question is one that cries out to be answered - by Ryan's mother, Moira; by Ishbel, the mother of Abigail, the first victim; and by DI Helen Birch, put in charge of the case on her first

day at her new job. But as the tabloids and the media swarm, as the families' secrets come out, as the world searches for someone to blame... the truth seems to vanish.

BROWN, RITA MAE foxhunting HOMEWARD HOUND (#11) (\$36) As winter deepens over the Blue Ridge Mountains, even the threat of snowstorms cannot derail this year's Christmas run, not as long as Sister Jane has a say in it. With spirits high and traditions strong, a glorious parade of hunters in full holiday regalia gathers on the grounds of Tattenhall Station. But a blinding blizzard brings an early end to the sport. More disturbing: A horse soon returns without its rider. Gregory Luckham, the president of a powerful energy company pushing for a pipeline through central Virginia, is the missing hunter. His presence on the hunt has been controversial to say the least, and few would bemoan his passing. A search is organized for what is presumed will be a dead, frozen body. What is discovered, however, chills everyone to the bone—and points toward murder.

BRUEN, KEN jack taylor IN THE GALWAY SILENCE (#14) (\$38.95) The author has been called “hard to resist, with his aching Irish heart, silvery tongue, and bleak noir sensibility” (*New York Times Book Review*). His prose is as characteristically sharp as his outlook in this, his latest Jack Taylor novel. After much tragedy and violence, Jack Taylor has at long last landed at contentment. Of course, he still knocks back too much Jameson and dabbles in uppers, but he has a new woman in his life, a freshly bought apartment, and little sign of trouble on the horizon. Once again, trouble comes to him, this time in the form of a wealthy Frenchman who wants Jack to investigate the double-murder of his twin sons. Jack is meanwhile roped into looking after his girlfriend's nine-year-old son, and is in for a shock with the appearance of a character out of his past. The plot is one big chess game and all of the pieces seem to be moving at the behest of one dangerously mysterious player: a vigilante called “Silence,” because he's the last thing his victims will ever hear. This is the author at his most darkly humorous, his most lovably bleak, as he shows us the meaning behind a proverb of his own design: “the Irish can abide almost anything save silence.”

CROSBY, ELLEN wine country HARVEST OF SECRETS (#9) (\$34.99) It's harvest season at Montgomery Estate Vineyard—the busiest time of year for winemakers in Atoka, Virginia. A skull is unearthed near Lucie Montgomery's family cemetery, and the discovery of the bones coincides with the arrival of handsome, wealthy aristocrat Jean-Claude de Marignac. He's come to be the head winemaker at neighboring La Vigne Cellars, but he's no stranger to Lucie—he was her first crush twenty years ago when she spent a summer in France. Not long after his arrival, Jean-Claude is found dead, and while there is no shortage of suspects who are angry or jealous of his ego and overbearing ways, suspicion falls on Miguel Otero, an immigrant worker at La Vigne, who recently quarreled with Jean-Claude. When Miguel disappears, Lucie receives an ultimatum from her own employees: prove Miguel's innocence or none of the immigrant community will work for her during the harvest.

DELANY, VICKI holmes SCANDAL IN SCARLET (#4) (\$40.50) Walking her dog Violet late one night, Gemma Doyle, owner of the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop, acts quickly when she smells smoke outside the West London Museum. Fortunately, no one is inside, but it's too late to save the museum's priceless collection of furniture, and damage to the historic house is extensive. Baker Street's shop owners come together to hold an afternoon auction tea to raise funds to rebuild, and Great Uncle Arthur Doyle offers a signed first edition of *The Valley of Fear*. But the auction never happens. Before the gavel can fall, museum board chair Kathy Lamb is found dead in the back room. Wrapped tightly around her neck is a long rope of decorative knotted tea cups—a gift item that Jayne sells at Mrs. Hudson's. Gemma's boyfriend in blue, Ryan Ashburton, arrives on the scene with Detective Louise Estrada. But the suspect list is long, and the case far from elementary. Does Kathy's killing have any relation to a mysterious death of seven years ago?

DIBBEN, DAMIAN TOMORROW (\$33.50) A winter's night, Venice, 1815. A 217-year-old dog is searching for his lost master. So begins the journey of Tomorrow, a dog who must travel through the courts and battlefields of Europe—and through the centuries—in search of the man who granted him immortality. His adventures take him to the London Frost Fair, the strange court of King Charles I, the wars of the Spanish succession, Versailles, the golden age of Amsterdam and to nineteenth-century Venice. His is a story of loyalty and determination, as Tomorrow befriends both animals and humans, falls in love (only once), marvels at the human ability to make music, despairs at their capacity for war and gains insight into both the strength and frailties of the human spirit. But Tomorrow's journey is also a race against time. Danger stalks his path, and in the shadows lurks an old enemy. Tomorrow must find his master before their pursuer can reach him and his master disappears forever. Marian loved this.

DOYLE/KING, LAURIE R & LESLIE KLINGER FOR THE SAKE OF THE GAME (\$34.95) Ask a bunch of writers to come up with stories inspired by the Holmes canon and here is what they produced. Storiewy by **Peter S. Beagle, Rhys Bowen, Reed Farrel Coleman, Jamie Freveletti, Alan Gordon, Gregg Hurwitz, Toni L. P.**

Kelner, William Kotzwinkle and Joe Servello, Harley Jane Kozak, D. P. Lyle, Weston Ochse, Zoe Sharp, Duane Swierczynski, and F. Paul Wilson.

FLEMING/HOROWITZ, ANTHONY **bond FOREVER AND A DAY** (\$34.99) A spy is dead. A legend is born. This is how it all began. The prequel to Casino Royale (\$21.95) from bestselling author Anthony Horowitz.

FORSYTH, FREDERICK **FOX** (\$37) Former chief of the British Secret Intelligence Service Adrian Weston is awoken in the middle of the night by a phone call from the Prime Minister. Her news is shocking: the Pentagon, the NSA, and the CIA have been hacked simultaneously, their seemingly impenetrable firewalls breached by an unknown enemy known only as "The Fox." Even more surprisingly, the culprit is revealed to be a young British teenager, Luke Jennings. He has no agenda, no secrets, just a blisteringly brilliant mind. Extradition to the U.S. seems likely--until Weston has another idea: If Luke can do this to us, what can he do to our enemies? After conferring with both the American President and the Prime Minister, Weston is determined to use "The Fox" and his talents to the advantage of the two nations. But doing so places the boy on a geopolitical minefield. Adrian must stay one step ahead of multiple invisible enemies, all while finding a way to utilize the most powerful--and most unpredictable--weapon of all.

FOWLER, CHRISTOPHER **bryant HALL OF MIRRORS (#15)** (\$36) Hard to believe, but even positively ancient sleuths like Bryant and May of the Peculiar Crimes Unit were young once . . . or at least younger. Flashback to London 1969: mods and dolly birds, sunburst minidresses... After accidentally sinking a barge painted like the Yellow Submarine, Bryant and May are relegated to babysitting one Monty Hatton-Jones, the star prosecution witness in the trial of a disreputable developer whose prefabs are prone to collapse. The job for the demoted detectives? Keep the whistle-blower safe for one weekend. The task proves unexpectedly challenging when their unruly charge insists on attending a party at the vast estate Tavistock Hall. With falling stone gryphons, secret passageways, rumors of a mythical beast, and an all-too-real dismembered corpse, the bedeviled policemen soon find themselves with "a proper country house murder" on their hands. Trapped for the weekend, Bryant and May must sort the victims from the suspects, including a hippie heir, a blond nightclub singer, and Monty himself—and *nobody* is quite who he or she seems

FRANCIS, FELIX **CRISIS** (\$32 hardcover, \$22 trade paperback) Harrison Foster is a lawyer by training but works as a crisis manager for a London firm that specializes in such matters. Summoned to Newmarket after a fire in the Chadwick Stables slaughters six very valuable horses, including the short-priced favourite for the Derby, Harry (as he is known) finds there is far more to the 'simple' fire than initially meets the eye. For a start, human remains are found amongst the equestrian ones in the burnt-out shell. All the stable staff are accounted for, so who is the mystery victim? Harry knows very little about horses, indeed he positively dislikes them, but he is thrust unwillingly into the world of Thoroughbred racing where the standard of care of the equine stars is far higher than that of the humans who attend to them.

GOLDENBAUM, SALLY **seaside HOW TO KNIT A MURDER (#2)** (\$28.95) With her shy manner and baggy jeans, Rose Chopra becomes an unlikely superhero the night she stumbles into Izzy Perry's shop and inadvertently saves a shipment of yarn from water damage. When the Seaside Knitters help the enigmatic handywoman settle into town and find work at a popular real estate company, Rose proves she can fix just about anything—until a potential homebuyer is killed and she becomes entangled in murder.

HARRISON, METTE **wallheim NOT OF THIS FOLD (#4)** (\$33.95) Now that all five of her sons have left home, Mormon bishop's wife Linda Wallheim has quite a bit of time on her hands, most of which she spends worrying about the state of the country and how her youngest son, Samuel, who is openly gay, is faring on his mission in Boston. She has also become close with one of the women in her ward, Gwen Ferris. But Gwen is quickly losing faith in the church, and her issues with the Mormon power structure are only reinforced by her work in Draper's local "Spanish ward." The ward's members comprise both legal and undocumented immigrants who aren't always getting the community support they should be from their church. When Gabriela Gonzalez, a young mother and Gwen's friend in the Spanish Ward, is found strangled at a gas station, Gwen is paralyzed with guilt. The dead woman's last phone call was to Gwen, and her voice mail reveals that she knew she was in danger. When Gwen decides the police aren't doing enough to get justice for Gabriela, who was undocumented, she decides to find the killer herself. Linda reluctantly takes part in Gwen's vigilante sleuthing, fearing for her young friend's safety, but what the pair discovers may put them both in danger.

HIGASHINO, KEIGO **kaga NEWCOMER (#2)** (\$36.50) Detective Kyoichiro Kaga of the Tokyo Police Department has just been transferred to a new precinct in the Nihonbashi area of Tokyo. Newly arrived, but with a great deal of experience, Kaga is promptly assigned to the team investigating the murder of a woman. But the more he investigates, the greater number of potential suspects emerges. It isn't long before it seems nearly all the people living and working in the business district of Nihonbashi

have a motive for murder. To prevent the murderer from eluding justice, Kaga must unravel all the secrets surrounding a complicated life. Buried somewhere in the woman's past, in her family history, and the last few days of her life is the clue that will lead to the murderer.

HILL, SUSAN serrailer COMFORTS OF HOME (#9) (\$41 hard cover, \$25 trade paperback) His last case put Simon Serrailer in mortal danger and left him confronting a new reality. Recovering on the remote Scottish island of Taransay, his peace doesn't last long. He must take on a murder enquiry for the local police who are struggling to deal with a massive terrorist incident. It's good to be back on the job. When Simon returns to Lafferton, an arsonist is on the rampage and a woman whose daughter disappeared some years before, is haunting the police station seeking closure. She will not let it rest, and Simon is called in to do a cold-case review. At home, Simon is starting to get used to having a new brother-in-law—in the form of his Chief Constable Kieron Bright. His sister Cat has embarked on a new way of practising medicine, and his nephew Sam is trying to work out what to do with his life. Their tricky father, Richard, is living in France with a new companion. But things change, as always, and in a way which does not make Cat's Chief Constable husband very happy. Simon's personal and professional lives intertwine in more complex and devastating ways than ever before.

MACDERMID/MCDERMID, VAL pirie BROKEN GROUND (#5) (\$38.95) Six feet under in a Highland peat bog lies Alice Somerville's inheritance, buried by her grandfather at the end of World War II. But when Alice finally uncovers it, she finds an unwanted surprise—a body with a bullet hole between the eyes. Meanwhile, DCI Pirie is called in to unravel a case where nothing is quite as it seems. And as she gets closer to the truth, it becomes clear that not everyone shares her desire for justice. Or even the idea of what justice is.

MARSTON, EDWARD railway POINTS OF DANGER (#16) (\$36.99) 1861, East Anglia. Alone in a first-class carriage, the Swarbricks are robbed at gunpoint, but when the universally-admired Swarbrick fights back, the train robber takes more than money and jewellery, killing the man working to unify East Anglia's tangle of railway networks. Inspector Colbeck is brought in from London, as the only detective in Britain with enough expertise for the job. But as Swarbrick's glowing reputation begins to crumble, the line of investigation isn't clear: Is this the act of a bungling burglar, a business rival, a disgruntled son, or a jealous lover? Whoever it is, they are determined to involve Colbeck in their fight. Is the Railway Detective following the right track or will he need to switch points to bring the murderer to justice?

MARSTON, EDWARD railway CHRISTMAS RAILWAY MYSTERY (#15) (\$23.99 hardcover, \$18.99 trade paperback) December 1860. Headed for the morning shift at the Swindon Locomotive works is an army of men pouring out of terraced houses built by the GWR, a miniature town and planned community that aims to provide for its employees from cradle to grave. Unfortunately, boiler smith Kenneth Rodman is headed for the grave sooner than he'd expected, or he will be once his missing head is found. Colbeck, the Railway Detective, finds his investigation into Rodman's murder mired in contradictions. Was the victim a short-tempered brawler, or a committed Christian and chorister who aimed to better himself? On the trail of Rodman's enemy as the season starts to bite, Colbeck finds little festive cheer in the twists and turns of this peculiar case.

PARKER/LUPICA, MIKE randall BLOOD FEUD (#7) (\$36) Sunny Randall is "on" again with Richie, the ex-husband she never stopped loving and never seemed to be able to let go, despite her discomfort with his Mafia connections. When Richie is shot and nearly killed, Sunny is dragged into the thick of his family's business as she searches for answers and tries to stave off a mob war. But as the bullets start flying in Boston's mean streets, Sunny finds herself targeted by the deranged mastermind of the plot against the Burke family, whose motive may be far more personal than she could have anticipated...

PENNY, LOUISE KINGDOM OF THE BLIND (#14) (\$37.99) When a peculiar letter arrives inviting Armand Gamache to an abandoned farmhouse, the former head of the Sûreté du Québec discovers that a complete stranger has named him one of the executors of her will. Still on suspension, and frankly curious, Gamache accepts and soon learns that the other two executors are Myrna Landers, the bookseller from Three Pines, and a young builder. None of them had ever met the elderly woman and the will is so odd and includes bequests that are so wildly unlikely that Gamache and the others suspect the woman must have been delusional. But what if, Gamache begins to ask himself, she was perfectly sane? When a body is found, the terms of the bizarre will suddenly seem less peculiar and far more menacing. But it isn't the only menace Gamache is facing. The investigation into what happened six months ago—the events that led to his suspension—has dragged on, into the dead of winter. And while most of the opioids he allowed to slip through his hands, in order to bring down the cartels, have been retrieved, there is one devastating exception. Enough narcotic to kill thousands has disap-

peared into inner city Montreal. With the deadly drug about to hit the streets, Gamache races for answers.

RIMINGTON, STELLA carlyle MOSCOW SLEEPERS (#10) (\$36) A Russian immigrant lies dying in a hospice in upstate Vermont. When a stranger visits, claiming to be a childhood friend, the FBI is alerted and news quickly travels to MI5 in London. Liz Carlyle and her colleague Peggy Kinsolving are already knee-deep in conspiracies, and as they unravel the events that landed the man in the hospital, Liz learns of a network of Russians and their plot to undermine the German government. Liz and Peggy set out to locate and stop this insidious network, traveling the world from Montreal to Moscow.

ROBB, CANDACE clifford MURDERED PEACE (#3) (\$21.95) It is deep winter in York, 1400, It is rumored that the Epiphany Uprising, meant to relieve the realm of the Henry the usurper and return King Richard to the throne has, instead, spelled his doom. As long as Richard lives, he is a threat to Henry. So, too, the nobles behind the plot. The ringleaders have been caught, some slaughtered as they fled west by folk loyal to Henry, and the king's men now search the towns for survivors. A perilous time made worse for Kate Clifford by the disappearance of Berend, her cook and confidante, shortly after Christmas. Her niece saw his departure in a dream—he said he was honor bound to leave. Honor bound—to a former lord? One of the nobles who led the uprising? Is he alive? She is hardly consoled when Berend reappears, wounded, secretive, denying any connection to the uprising, but refusing to explain himself. When he is accused of brutally murdering a spice seller in the city, Kate discovers a chest of jewels in his possession. Some of the jewels belong to her old friend Lady Margery, wanted by the king for her husband's part in the uprising. For the sake of their long friendship, and the love she and her wards bear for him, Kate wants to believe his innocence. So, too, does Sir Elric. And he has the powerful backing of the Earl of Westmoreland. All she need do is confide in him. If only she trusted her heart.

ROBOTHAM, MICHAEL oloughlin OTHER WIFE (#9) (\$32.99) Childhood sweethearts William and Mary have been married for sixty years. William is a celebrated surgeon, Mary a devoted wife. Both have a strong sense of right and wrong. This is what their son, Joe O'Loughlin, has always believed. But when Joe is summoned to the hospital with news that his father has been brutally attacked, his world is turned upside down. Who is the strange woman crying at William's bedside, covered in his blood - a friend, a mistress, a fantasist or a killer? Against the advice of the police, Joe launches his own investigation. As he learns more, he discovers sides to his father he never knew - and is forcibly reminded that the truth comes at a price.

SETTERFIELD, DIANE ONCE UPON A RIVER (\$34) On a dark, misty night in the small English village of Radcot, locals gather at the Swan Inn to cap their day with drinks and lore. The 600-year-old pub is a famed hub for storytellers, but the patrons cannot know that their evening will be stranger than any tale they could weave. Into the inn bursts a mysterious man, sopping and bloodied and carrying an unconscious four-year-old girl. But before he can explain who he and the child are, and how they came to be injured, he collapses. Upriver, two families are searching desperately for their missing daughters. Alice Armstrong has been missing for twenty-four hours, ever since her mother's suicide. And Amelia Vaughan vanished without a trace two years prior. When the families learn of the lost little girl at the Swan Inn, each wonders if their child has at last been found. But identifying the child may not be as easy as it seems. By the author of The Thirteenth Tale (\$19.95), one of Marian's favourites.

Paperbacks

ARLIDGE, M J helen grace DOWN TO THE WOODS (#8) (\$25) DI Helen Grace must face down a new nightmare. The arrow-ridden victims hang from the New Forest's ancient oaks, like pieces of strange fruit. Why are helpless holidaymakers being targeted in peak camping season? And what do their murders signify? Is a psychopath stalking the forest? Is there an occult element to the killings? Could the murders even be an offering to the Forest itself? Helen must walk into the darkness to discover the truth behind her most challenging, most macabre case yet.

ATKINS, ACE quinn FALLEN (#7) (\$12.99) Mississippi sheriff Quinn Colson had to admit he admired the bank robbers. A new bank was hit almost every week, and the robbers rushed in and out with such skill and precision it reminded him of raids he'd led back in Afghanistan and Iraq when he was an Army Ranger. In fact, it reminded him so much of the techniques in the Ranger Handbook that he couldn't help wondering if the outlaws were former Rangers themselves. And that was definitely going to be a problem. If he stood any chance of catching them, he was going to need the help of old al-

lies, new enemies, and a lot of luck. The enemies, he had plenty of. It was the allies and the luck that were going to be in woefully short supply.

BAGLEY, DESMOND LANDSLIDE (\$16.99) An action thriller by this classic adventure writer. This one, first published in 1967, is set in British Columbia.

BARTLETT, LORRAINE artisa YULE BE DEAD (#5) (\$10.99) It's Christmastime, but not everyone is jolly--especially not Vonne Barnett. Her dead body has been found in Victoria Square. Katie Bonner, the manager of Artisan's Alley, happens to be at the tea shop Vonne's mother, Francine, owns when the news is delivered. Vonne left a trail of men behind her so the suspects are many--but the clues are few. A broken teacup leads Katie to one of the suspects, but before she can investigate, she's attacked. Katie may be closing in on a murderer, but time is ticking because the murderer is definitely closing in on her.

BLAEDEL, SARA SILENT WOMEN aka call me princess (\$12.99) An online flirtation can have horrific consequences, as Detective Louise Rick discovers when she is called to an idyllic Copenhagen neighborhood where a young woman has been left bound and gagged after a profoundly brutal rape attack. Susanne Hansson met her rapist on a popular dating website. But the man is hiding behind a labyrinth of false pseudonyms, and neither Susanne--nor the police--have been able to trace his true identity. With the internet as his playground, the rapist will almost certainly strike again if Louise can't unmask him before it's too late. Incredible suspense and a diabolical series of twists take Sara Blaedel's wildly popular series to new heights.

BLAKE, BETHANY lucky MIDWINTER'S TAIL (#4) (\$8.99) Professional pet sitter Daphne Templeton loves the holidays in Sylvan Creek, Pennsylvania. And nothing gets her into the spirit more than the town's annual Bark the Halls Ball. The whole community will be there to wag their tails, especially this year's special guest--Celeste "CeeCee" French, founder of a national chain of pet care franchises, who's returning home to announce plans for a bright new flagship store. But not everyone's celebrating CeeCee's homecoming. Daphne's friend Moxie Bloom, owner of Spa and Paw, a unique salon for people and their pets, has plenty to growl about. So, when CeeCee is found face down under Sylvan Creek's town Christmas tree, stabbed with a distinctive pair of professional-grade pet shears, suspicion lands squarely on Moxie. Despite Daphne's promises to Detective Jonathan Black, she quickly reprises her role as amateur sleuth. Aply assisted by her basset hound sidekick, Socrates, she must hurry to prove her friend's innocence before a killer barks again . . . Includes recipes for homemade pet treats!

BLUM, CHRISTINE E rose NAME OF THE ROSÉ (#3) (\$8.99) Annie "Halsey" Hall could get used to this--sitting around the pool in her backyard in Southern California, savoring the latest wine flights with the ladies of the Rose Avenue Wine Club: her best friend Sally, frozen yogurt shop owner Aimee, widow Peggy, and their newest member, journalist Mary Anne. Even Bardot, Halsey's yellow lab, is in attendance, eyeing the pool as if contemplating a dive. But the peaceful pleasure of the afternoon is soon shattered by the boom of a small plane crash at nearby Santa Monica Airport. Sometime later, a sour-faced detective shows up, holding a package of illegal drugs found on the plane--with Sally's address on it! Being suspected of drug smuggling is bad enough, but when a young mechanic who works at the airport is found murdered, the club springs into action. To get their investigation off the ground, they're going to have to wing it, but they're determined to unmask a killer . . .

BOLTON, S J SACRIFICE (\$14.99) Tora Hamilton is an outsider at her new home on the rocky, wind-swept Shetland Islands, a hundred miles from the northeastern tip of Scotland. Though her husband grew up here, it's the first time he's been back in twenty years. Digging in the peat on their new property, Tora unearths a human body, at first glance a centuries-old bog body, interesting but not uncommon. But realizing that the body is in fact much newer, that the woman's heart has been cut out and that she was killed within a few days of bearing a child, Tora, herself an obstetrician, becomes obsessed with finding out what happened to her--even when the police, her colleagues and eventually her husband warn her against getting involved. Reading town records and researching local lore, Tora discovers a disturbing link to ancient Shetland legend and uncovers a collection of deep, dark secrets---the kind of secrets worth killing for. First published 2008.

BRADFORD, LAURA amish JUST PLAIN MURDER (#6) (\$10.99) Jakob and Claire have been enjoying more time together in lovely Heavenly, PA. With Claire's help, the detective is making slow progress reconnecting with the members of his Amish family who shunned him when he left to pursue a career in law enforcement. Jakob's mentor, Russ Granger, the long-retired police chief who inspired him to become a cop, is back in town. Claire has always wanted to meet the man who changed the course of Jakob's life. But not long after he arrives in Heavenly, Russ is murdered. Jakob can only imagine that his old friend must have been killed by someone outside of the Amish community. He and Claire soon find that things are not as they seem--and

that Russ may have stumbled into something sinister before he was killed. The answers they uncover are closer to home and more shocking than they ever expected.

BRIDGE, KATHLEEN hamptons GHOSTAL LIVING (#3) (\$10.99) The first Sag Harbor Antiquarian Book and Ephemera Fair is right around the corner, and interior designer Meg Barrett has her hands full decorating rooms at the Bibliophile Bed & Breakfast for wealthy rare book collector Franklin Hollingsworth. Rumor has it, Hollingsworth is in possession of an unpublished manuscript written by F. Scott Fitzgerald. When the Fitzgerald manuscript's authenticator is found dead at the bottom of a cliff, Meg suspects a killer is on the loose. Rare books start disappearing from the B & B and Meg sees a connection between the stolen books and the deceased authenticator. With the fair looming, she finds herself caught up in catching a killer and thief before another victim is booked for death.

BROWN, RITA MAE foxhunting LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE (#9) (\$20) Sister Jane and the Jefferson Hunt Club have traveled from Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains to the Bluegrass State of Kentucky to ride with the members of the Woodford Hounds—in the teeth of foul weather. Sister knows better than anyone that an ill wind blows no good. After the hunt, Sister Jane and her boyfriend, Gray Lorillard, head to a sumptuous party on a nearby estate, also home to a historic equine graveyard. The revelry is interrupted by jarring news: The discovery of grisly remains in the cemetery that are decidedly not equine. Now Sister and her hounds are on the case, digging up clues to an old murder that links three well-connected Southern families.

BRUEN, KEN jack taylor GHOSTS OF GALWAY (#13) (\$23.95) As well-versed in politics, pop culture, and crime fiction as he is ill-fated in life, Jack Taylor is recovering from a failed suicide attempt. In need of money, Jack has been hired as a night-shift security guard. But his Ukrainian boss has Jack in mind for some unexpected off-the-books work—getting his hands on what some claim to be the first true book of heresy, *The Red Book*, which is currently in the possession of a rogue priest hiding out in Galway. Despite Jack's distaste for priests of any stripe, the money is too good to turn down. Em, the woman-of-many-guises who has had a vise on Jack's heart and mind for the past two years, reappears and turns out to be entangled with the story of the same blasphemous book. As the novel twists toward a violent end, Jack is increasingly plagued by ghosts—by the disposable and disposed of in a city filled with as much darkness as the deepest corners of Jack's own mind.

BURNS, V M bookstore NOVEL ART OF MURDER (#3) (\$17.95) The small town of North Harbor, Michigan, is just not big enough for the two of them: flamboyantphony Maria Romanov and feisty Nana Jo. The insufferable Maria claims she's descended from Russian royalty and even had a fling with King Edward VIII back in the day. She's not just a lousy liar, she's a bad actress, so when she nabs the lead in the Shady Acres Senior Follies—a part Nana Jo plays every year in their retirement village production—Nana Jo blows a gasket and reads her the riot act in front of everyone. Of course, when Maria is silenced with a bullet to the head, Nana Jo lands the leading role on the suspects list. Sam's been writing her newest mystery, set in England between the wars, with her intrepid heroine Lady Daphne drawn into murder and scandal in the household of Winston Churchill. But now she has to prove that Nana Jo's been framed. With help from her grandmother's posse of rambunctious retirees, Sam shines a spotlight on Maria's secrets, hoping to draw the real killer out of the shadows . . .

CAHOON, LYNN cat SLAY IN CHARACTER (#4) (\$8.99) Cat and the members of her writers' retreat have just arrived in Outlaw, Colorado, an "Old West" tourist town complete with inhabitants dressed up as famous figures from history. But this authentic slice of Americana takes a murderous turn when a college student masquerading as a 19th-century saloon girl becomes history herself. Was she the intended target? Or did she take a hit meant for someone else? With a cast of suspects to choose from—including some notorious gunslingers and the sleazy town founders—Cat must unhorse the real culprit before a real-life ghost story is given a killer twist . . .

CHANEY, JOANN WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW (\$22.50) A series of murders brings Denver to its knees in this wonderfully voice-driven, dark, wry, and wholly original page-turning debut. "Striking...In this perverse first novel, the exploits of a murderer are viewed from three perspectives: that of his wife, who still loves him; that of a journalist, who made her career because of him; and that of a police detective who is still obsessed with him."—*New York Times Book Review* (Best and Latest in Crime Fiction)

CONNELLY, MICHAEL BRASS VERDICT (\$19.50) Things are finally looking up for defense attorney Mickey Haller. After two years of wrong turns, Haller is back in the courtroom. When Hollywood lawyer Jerry Vincent is murdered, Haller inherits his biggest case yet: the defense of Walter Elliott, a prominent studio executive accused of murdering his wife and her lover. But as Haller prepares for the case that could launch him into the big time, he learns that Vincent's killer may be coming for him next. Enter Harry Bosch. Determined to find Vincent's killer, he is not opposed to using Haller as bait. But as danger mounts and the stakes rise, these two loners realize their only choice is to work together. First published in 2008. Excellent.

DEAVER, JEFFERY W rhyme CUTTING EDGE (#14) (\$20.99) In the early hours of a quiet, weekend morning in Manhattan's Diamond District, a brutal triple murder shocks the city. Lincoln Rhyme and Amelia Sachs quickly take the case. Curiously, the killer has left behind a half-million dollars' worth of gems at the murder scene, a jewelry store on 47th street. As more crimes follow, it becomes clear that the killer's target is not gems but engaged couples themselves.

DEMILLE, NELSON CUBAN AFFAIR (\$12.99) Daniel "Mac" Graham MacCormick seems to have a pretty good life. At age thirty-five he's living in Key West, owner of a forty-two-foot charter fishing boat The Maine. But after serving five years in the Army and purchasing a boat with a big bank loan, Mac's finances are more than a little shaky. One day, Mac is sitting in the famous Green Parrot Bar, contemplating his life, and waiting for Carlos, a hotshot Miami lawyer heavily involved with anti-Castro groups. Carlos wants to hire Mac and The Maine for a ten-day fishing tournament to Cuba at the standard rate, but Mac suspects there is more to this and turns it down. The price then goes up to two million dollars, and Mac agrees to hear the deal...

DOYLE, ARTHUR CONAN sherlock STUDY IN SCARLET (\$17.50) The first Sherlock Holmes mystery. Classics Illustrated tells this wonderful tale in colorful comic strip form, providing an excellent introduction for younger readers. Also includes theme discussions and study questions.

DOYLE, SIR ARTHUR CONAN LOST WORLD (\$15) When the reporter Edward Malone is sent to interview the formidable Professor Challenger about his accounts of strange prehistoric beasts on a remote plateau in South America, he expects to be given short shrift by the researcher, notorious for man handling nosy enquirers. But Challenger, impressed by the young journalist's thirst for adventure, invites Malone along on his next expedition, plunging him into a mysterious and dangerous world populated by dinosaurs and murderous ape men. Having already written seminal works of detective fiction, the author became a pioneer of early science fiction with this novel, which helped establish the genre and has inspired, since its first publication in 1912, countless stories, novels and films.

DYER-SEELEY, KATE rose ci VIOLET TENDENCIES (#2) (\$8.99) Britta Johnston and her aunt Elin are delighted that their Portland floral boutique is part of the city's Rose Festival, which draws thousands to the Pacific Northwest for dragon boat races, fireworks, and other attractions—capped off by a big parade. They're building a float that's sure to rock the judge's boat . . . until a gang of angry protestors shows up. The group, who call themselves Dark Fusion, are decidedly not into flower power, and they want to take down the system . . . including the upcoming extravaganza. Then their leader is strangled with a garland of violets—and Britta finds the body. With tensions running high and so much at stake, there are plenty of suspects, from the Grand Marshal to a longtime volunteer to a former Rose Queen. But before Britta and Elin can stem the violence, the case is going to get even more explosive . . .

EASTMAN, DAWN leclair UNNATURAL CAUSES (#1) (\$23.95) Katie LeClair has finally settled down as the new doctor in Baxter, MI. Katie quickly gets to work in building a life for herself in Baxter, and beyond reviving her love life, she also finds a pair of business partners in a team of father and son family practitioners. But that idyllic dream is immediately shattered when one of her patients is found dead. That wouldn't be the worst thing, except the death is ruled a suicide, and as evidence has it, the suicide was a result of the medication Katie had prescribed. But she doesn't remember writing it. When a closer investigation reveals it was murder, Katie is catapulted into an off-the-books investigation that leads her down a dark path of past secrets. But someone is willing to kill to keep part of the town's history in the shadows, and Katie must race to find out who before it's too late.

FORESTER, C S hornblower HAPPY RETURN (#1), SHIP OF THE LINE (#2), FLYING COLOURS (#3) and COMMODORE (#4) (\$19.99 each.) Reissues of the first four entries in the Hornblower saga. The first three were written in the late 1930s, the fourth in 1945.

FRANCIS, FELIX CRISIS (\$22 trade paperback, \$32 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

FREMANTLE, E C POISON BED (\$27.99) Autumn 1615. A scandal pervades the Jacobean court. A popular, much admired couple is imprisoned for murder. She is young and captivating. Rescued from an abusive marriage, she is determined to make a new life with her second husband . . . Whatever the cost. He has risen from nothing to become one of the country's most powerful men. But to get to the top, you cannot help making enemies. Now, a man is dead. And someone must pay with their life. Who has the most to lose? Who is willing to commit murder?

GODDARD, ROBERT maxted PANIC ROOM (#4) (\$16.99) High on a Cornish cliff sits a vast uninhabited mansion. Uninhabited except for Blake, a young woman of mysterious background, currently acting as house sitter. The house has a panic room. Cunningly concealed, steel lined, impregnable – and apparently closed from within. Even Blake doesn't know it's there. She's too busy being on the run from life, from a story

she thinks she's escaped. But her remote existence is going to be threatened when people come looking for the house's owner, rogue pharma entrepreneur, Jack Harkness. Soon people with questionable motives will be asking Blake the sort of questions she can't – or won't – want to answer. Will the panic room give up its secrets?

GRAFTON, SUE Y IS FOR YESTERDAY (#25) (\$12.99) Y begins in 1979, when four teenage boys from an elite private school sexually assault a fourteen-year-old classmate--and film the attack. Not long after, the tape goes missing and the suspected thief, a fellow classmate, is murdered. In the investigation that follows, one boy turns state's evidence and two of his peers are convicted. But the ringleader escapes without a trace. Now it's 1989 and one of the perpetrators, Fritz McCabe, has been released from prison. Moody, unrepentant, and angry, he is a virtual prisoner of his ever-watchful parents--until a copy of the missing tape arrives with a ransom demand. That's when the McCabes call Kinsey Millhone for help. As she is drawn into their family drama, she keeps a watchful eye on Fritz. But he's not the only one being haunted by the past. A vicious sociopath with a grudge against Millhone may be leaving traces of himself for her to find...

GREANEY, MARK AGENT IN PLACE (#7) (\$12.99) Fresh off his first mission back with the CIA, Court Gentry secures what seems like a cut-and-dried contract job: A group of expats in Paris hires him to kidnap the mistress of Syrian dictator Ahmed Azzam to get intel that could destabilize Azzam's regime. Court delivers Bianca Medina to the rebels, but his job doesn't end there. She soon reveals that she has given birth to a son, the only heir to Azzam's rule--and a potent threat to the Syrian president's powerful wife. Now, to get Bianca's cooperation, Court must bring her son out of Syria alive. With the clock ticking on Bianca's life, he goes off the grid in a free-fire zone in the Middle East--and winds up in the right place at the right time to take a shot at bringing one of the most brutal dictatorships on earth to a close...

GRIBBLE, LEONARD ARSENAL STADIUM MYSTERY (\$20) The 1939 Arsenal side is firing on all cylinders and celebrating a string of victories. They appear unstoppable, but the Trojans – a side of amateurs who are on a winning streak of their own – may be about to silence the Gunners. Moments into the second half the whistle blows, but not for a goal or penalty. One of the Trojans has collapsed on the pitch. By the end of the day, he is dead. Featuring the actual Arsenal squad of 1939... Inspector Anthony Slade enters the world of professional football to investigate a case of deadly foul play on and off the pitch. Introduction by Martin Edwards.

HALL, OAKLEY SO MANY DOORS (\$13.50) It begins on Death Row, with a condemned man refusing the services of the lawyer assigned to defend him. It begins with a beautiful woman dead, murdered -- Vassilia Caroline Baird, known to all simply as V. That's where this novel begins. But the story it tells begins years earlier, on a struggling farm in the shadow of the Great Depression and among the brawling "cat skimmers" of Southern California, driving graders and bulldozers to tame the American West. Unpublished for more than half a century... from the author of the Warlock (\$24.95) which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

HAMILTON, IAN GODDESS OF YANTAI (#11) (\$19.95) Ava travels to Beijing for the premiere of her secret lover Pang Fai's latest film, Mao's Daughter. After the screening, a distraught Fai tells Ava that she is being blackmailed by senior officials of the China Movie Syndicate. The Syndicate seeks sexual favours in return for their continued support of Fai's career and films. When Fai resists, the threats become increasingly violent and far-reaching, including the release of scandalous videos of the young Fai that could end her career entirely.

Working alongside Fai and several of her friends, Ava delves deep into the seedy world of the Chinese film industry in an attempt to liberate her lover from the grasp of the Syndicate. But can Ava save Fai from her memories?

HENSHAW, MARK red cell LAST MAN IN TEHRAN (#4) (\$22) Agent Kyra Stryker must work to save the CIA from being torn apart by a mole at the highest echelons, with the help of recently retired analyst, Jonathan Burke. When a dirty bomb goes off in an Israeli port, Israel's feared intelligence service—the Mossad—unleashes their most deadly assassins across the globe. They suspect that Iran supplied the radioactive material used in the attack, and Israel will protect the homeland by any means necessary. Meanwhile at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, Kyra Stryker is just settling in to her new position: chief of the Red Cell, the CIA's special ops think tank. Soon after the attack on Israel, the CIA discovers evidence that a mole in Langley is helping Mossad wage its covert war. The FBI launches a counterintelligence investigation led by an ambitious special agent, who quickly identifies a suspect.

HERRON, MICK THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED (\$19.95) Twenty-six-year-old Maggie Barnes is someone you would never look at twice. Living alone in a month-to-month sublet in the huge city of London, with no family but an estranged sister, no boyfriend or partner, and not much in the way of friends, Maggie is just the kind of person who could vanish from the face of the earth without anyone taking notice. Or just the kind of person MI5 needs to infiltrate the establishment and thwart an international plot

that puts all of Britain at risk. Now one young woman has the chance to be a hero—if she can think quickly enough to stay alive.

HILL, SUSAN serrailer COMFORTS OF HOME (#9) (\$25 trade paperback, \$41 hard cover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

HURWITZ, GREGG orphan x HELLBENT (#3) (\$12.99) His name is Evan Smoak. Taken from a group home at age twelve, he was raised and trained as an off-the-books government assassin: Orphan X. After breaking with the Orphan Program, Evan disappeared and reinvented himself as the Nowhere Man, a man spoken about only in whispers and dedicated to helping the truly desperate. Now, the person in need of help is Jack Johns, the man who raised and trained him, and the only father Evan has ever known. Secret government forces are busy trying to scrub the remaining assets and traces of the Orphan Program and they have finally tracked down Jack. With little time remaining, and an elusive new enemy on his trail, Jack gives Evan his last assignment: to find and protect his last protégé and recruit for the program—or die trying. . .

ISMAIL, BARBARA mak chik SPIRIT PLAY (#2) (\$22.50) The second mystery in this series set in the Kelantan province of Malaysia and featuring Mak Chik ("Auntie") Maryam as the sleuth. Here, one of Maryam's market-trading friends dies shortly after an exorcism ceremony, and while the village generally believes she was killed by sorcery, Mak Chik Maryam decides to look into the matter herself. Sequel to Shadow Play (#1) (\$22.50).

JECKS, MICHAEL puttock NO LAW IN THE LAND (#27) (\$10.99) King Edward II is furious when he learns that his wife Queen Isabella has defied him and remains in France with their son. As the unfortunate messengers of this unhappy news, Sir Baldwin de Furnhill, Keeper of the King's Peace, and his friend, bailiff Simon Puttock, are instantly dismissed from court. Returning to their homes in Devon, the pair are shocked to find that outlaws now hold sway in the land and the chaos escalates as the bodies of two clerics are found among a party of travellers...

KERRIGAN, GENE LITTLE CRIMINALS (\$25.50) Frankie Crowe is not one of the great criminal masterminds. A smalltime thug, he thinks--to the extent he can--that kidnapping one of Dublin's newly rich businessmen just may be the low-risk fast track to the status and money he knows he deserves. When the local crime boss refuses him permission to make the snatch, he shoots the boss and commences with his plan--such as it is. After a somewhat haphazard selection, Frankie's crew of casually vicious miscreants kidnap the wife of a moderately prosperous lawyer rather than the spouse of the wealthy banker Frankie thought he had chosen. From that point forward, no one, from Inspector John Grace to that pillar of Dublin gangland Jo-Jo Mackendrick, can predict the next twist in a scheme that has gone from wrong to bad to worse. Excellent writer. A favourite of hisself.

KNOX, JOSEPH waits SIRENS (#1) (\$22) Infiltrating the inner circle of enigmatic criminal Zain Carver is dangerous enough. Pulling it off while also rescuing Isabelle Rossiter, a runaway politician's daughter, from Zain's influence? Impossible. That's why Aidan Waits is the perfect man for the job. Disgraced, emotionally damaged, and despised by his superiors. In other words, completely expendable. But Aidan is a born survivor. And as he works his way deep into Zain's shadowy world, he finds that nothing is as it seems. Zain is a mesmerizing, Gatsby-esque figure who lures young women into his orbit—women who have a bad habit of turning up dead. But is Zain really responsible? And will Isabelle be next? Before long, Aidan finds himself in over his head, cut loose by his superiors, and dangerously attracted to the wrong woman. How can he save the girl if he can't even save himself?

LEMAITRE, PIERRE THREE DAYS AND A LIFE (\$17.99) In 1999, in the small provincial town of Beauval, France, twelve-year-old Antoine Courtin accidentally kills a young neighbor boy in the woods near his home. Panicked, he conceals the body and to his relief--and ongoing shame--he is never suspected of any connection to the child's disappearance. But the boy's death continues to haunt him, shaping his life in unseen ways. More than a decade later, Antoine is living in Paris, now a young doctor with a fiancée and a promising future. On a rare trip home to the town he hates and fears, Antoine thoughtlessly sleeps with a beautiful young woman from his past. She shows up pregnant at his doorstep in Paris a few months later, insisting that they marry. Meanwhile, the newly discovered body of Antoine's childhood victim means that the case has been reopened, and all of his old fears rush back. With the gravitational pull of his hometown strengthening its grip, Antoine may finally be forced to confront his past. Is he prepared to do what he must to keep his darkest secrets buried?

LETHEM, JONATHAN FERAL DETECTIVE (\$24.99) Phoebe Siegler first meets Charles Heist in a shabby trailer on the eastern edge of Los Angeles. She's looking for her friend's missing daughter, Arabella, and hires Heist to help. A laconic loner who keeps his pet opossum in a desk drawer, Heist intrigues the sarcastic and garrulous Phoebe. Reluctantly, he agrees to help. The unlikely pair navigate the enclaves of desert-dwelling vagabonds and find that Arabella is in serious trouble—caught in the middle

of a violent standoff that only Heist, mysteriously, can end. Phoebe's trip to the desert was always going to be strange, but it was never supposed to be dangerous.

MACDERMID/MCDERMID, VAL tony hill INSIDIOUS INTENT (#10) (\$23.95)

In the north of England, single women are beginning to disappear from weddings. A wedding crasher is luring the women away—only to torch the victims' bodies in their own cars in remote locations, leaving behind no personal clues or forensic traces. It is the first official case for Carol's elite Regional Major Incident Team—and maybe the toughest case she and Tony have ever had to face. It all “comes together in an ending that hits like a bomb blast,” *The Globe and Mail* raved. “Don't miss this one and save it for the day when you want to read straight through.”

MACGHE/MCGHIE, JOHN WHITE HIGHLANDS (\$17.99) Kenya, 1952, a colony on the edge. Settlers drink sundowners on the veranda but the servants can't be trusted. Beyond manicured lawns, in the dark of the forest, freedom is stirring. Johnny Seymour has seen too much war and seeks solace photographing East African wildlife. But when isolated white families are slaughtered by Mau Mau gangs, the British respond brutally and Johnny is reluctantly pulled into the horror. After his African driver Macharia disappears, Johnny is forced to confront shocking truths about his own country and ask how far he'll go to help a friend. Nearly sixty years later, disgraced young barrister Sam Seymour knows nothing about her grandfather. Even his name is taboo. All she understands is that Johnny did something so awful that his only son--her father--had to be rescued from Kenya. With veteran Mau Mau fighters demanding reparations for past sins, she's been offered a chance to unpeel history and discover why. A startlingly original novel set in both the present day and Kenya in the 1950s during the Mau Mau uprising--one of the least known and darkest episodes in British colonial history.

MASSEY, SUJATA mistry WIDOWS OF MALABAR HILL (#1) (\$19.95) Perveen Mistry, the daughter of a respected Zoroastrian family, has just joined her father's law firm, becoming one of the first female lawyers in India.

Mistry Law has been appointed to execute the will of Mr. Omar Farid, a wealthy Muslim mill owner who has left three widows behind. But as Perveen examines the paperwork, she notices something strange: all three of the wives have signed over their full inheritance to a charity. What will they live on? Perveen is suspicious, especially since one of the widows has signed her form with an X—meaning she probably couldn't even read the document. The Farid widows live in full purdah—in strict seclusion, never leaving the women's quarters or speaking to any men. Are they being taken advantage of by an unscrupulous guardian? Perveen tries to investigate, and realizes her instincts were correct when tensions escalate to murder. Now it is her responsibility to figure out what really happened on Malabar Hill, and to ensure that no innocent women or children are in further danger. Inspired in part by the woman who made history as India's first female attorney.

MEJIA, MINDY EVERYTHING YOU WANT ME TO BE (\$12.99) Hattie Hoffman has spent her whole life playing many parts: the good student, the good daughter, the good girlfriend. But Hattie wants something more, something bigger, and ultimately something that turns out to be exceedingly dangerous. When she's found brutally stabbed to death, the tragedy rips right through the fabric of her small-town community. It soon comes to light that Hattie was engaged in a highly compromising and potentially explosive secret online relationship. The question is: Did anyone else know? And to what lengths might they have gone to end it? Hattie's boyfriend seems distraught over her death, but had he fallen so deeply in love with her that she had become an obsession? Or did Hattie's impulsive, daredevil nature simply put her in the wrong place at the wrong time, leading her to a violent death at the hands of a stranger? Does love lead to self-discovery—or destruction?

MISHIMA, YUKIO FROLIC OF THE BEASTS (\$21) Set in rural Japan shortly after World War II, Frolic tells the story of a strange and utterly absorbing love triangle between a former university student, Kōji; his would-be mentor, the eminent literary critic Ippei Kusakado; and Ippei's beautiful, enigmatic wife, Yūko. When brought face-to-face with one of Ippei's many marital indiscretions, Kōji finds his growing desire for Yūko compels him to action in a way that changes all three of their lives profoundly. Originally published in 1961, now newly translated.

MONTALBAN, MANUEL VAZQUEZ SOUTHERN SEAS (#2) (\$14.95) In search of the spirit of Paul Gauguin, Stuart Pedrell—eccentric Barcelona businessman, construction magnate, dreamer, and patron of poets and painters—disappeared not long after announcing plans to travel to the South Pacific. A year later he is found stabbed to death at a construction site in Barcelona. Gourmand gumshoe Pepe Carvalho is hired by Pedrell's wife to find out what happened. Carvalho, a jaded former communist, must travel through circles of the old anti-Franco left wing on the trail of the killer. But with little appetite for politics, Carvalho also leads us on a tour through literature, cuisine, and the criminal underbelly of Barcelona in a typically brilliant twist on the genre by a Spanish master.

MONTEFIORE, SIMON SEBAG RED SKY AT NOON (#3) (\$22.95) Imprisoned in the Gulags for a crime he did not commit, Benya Golden joins a penal battalion made up of Cossacks and convicts to fight the Nazis. He enrolls in the Russian cavalry, and on a hot summer day in July 1942, he and his band of brothers are sent on a suicide mission behind enemy lines—but is there a traitor among them? The only thing Benya can truly trust is his horse, Silver Socks, and that he will find no mercy in onslaught of Hitler's troops as they push East.

MOYES, PATRICIA tibbett CURIOUS AFFAIR OF THE THIRD DOG (#11)

(\$22.50) There were three dogs and now one is missing. Emmy Tibbett's sister Jane, a stalwart of the animal-rights movement, and the other locals are a lot more concerned with the fact that one of their number has recently been hauled off to prison for the minor crime of having killed someone while drunk. Enter Henry Tibbett to solve the crime. Originally published in 1973. 'Such a terrific series' says Marian.

PATTERSON, JAMES private PRINCESS (#14) (\$12.99) Private, the best investigation unit in the world, has agents who are the smartest, fastest, and most technologically advanced in the world—and they always uncover the truth. No wonder the most influential men and women on the planet seek their help on a daily basis. But there's only one client who can make its founder, Jack Morgan, drop everything and fly to London at full speed: Princess Caroline, third in line to the British throne. She needs Morgan to find a friend who has mysteriously disappeared, a woman named Sophie Edwards. Though Princess Caroline insists it's just a missing-persons case, Morgan knows she's hiding something. The closer he gets to uncovering the truth, the more he realizes there are powerful people who will stop at nothing to keep Sophie from being found.

POE, EDGAR ALLAN TALES OF MYSTERY AND TERROR (\$7.99) Thirteen stories of horror, suspense and the supernatural, including The Pit and the Pendulum, The Fall of the House of Usher and The Black Cat.

PRESTON & CHILD pendergast CITY OF ENDLESS NIGHT (#17) (\$12.99) When Grace Ozmian, the beautiful and reckless daughter of a wealthy tech billionaire, first goes missing, the NYPD assumes she has simply sped off on another wild adventure. Until the young woman's body is discovered in an abandoned warehouse in Queens, the head nowhere to be found. Lieutenant CDS Vincent D'Agosta quickly takes the lead. He knows his investigation will attract fierce scrutiny, so D'Agosta is delighted when FBI Special Agent A.X.L. Pendergast shows up at the crime scene assigned to the case. But neither Pendergast nor D'Agosta are prepared for what lies ahead.

ROBB, CANDACE archer APOTHECARY ROSE (#1) (\$22) In the year of our Lord 1363, two suspicious deaths in the infirmary of St. Mary's Abbey catch the attention of the powerful John Thoresby, Lord Chancellor of England and Archbishop of York. One victim is a pilgrim, while the second is Thoresby's ne'er-do-well ward, both apparently poisoned by a physic supplied by Master Apothecary Nicholas Wilton. In the wake of these deaths, the archbishop dispatches one-eyed spy Owen Archer to York to find the murderer. Under the guise of a disillusioned soldier keen to make a fresh start, Owen insinuates himself into Wilton's apothecary as an apprentice. But he finds Wilton bedridden, with the shop being run by his lovely, enigmatic young wife, Lucie. As Owen unravels a tangled history of scandal and tragedy, he discovers at its center a desperate, forbidden love twisted over time into obsession. And the woman he has come to love is his prime suspect. This captivating and suspenseful tale of life, love, and death in medieval England was first published in 1993 and another nine followed over the next fifteen years. An excellent series, now back in print. A series that Marian particularly liked.

SARGEANT, RACHEL PERFECT NEIGHBOURS (\$16.99) The perfect neighbours tell the perfect lies... When Helen moves into an exciting new neighbourhood, she finds herself in a web of evil with no escape.

SCHWARTZ, STEPHEN JAY HOLLYWOOD VS THE AUTHOR (\$26.95) It's no secret that authors have a love-hate relationship with Hollywood. The oft-repeated cliché that "the book was better than the movie" holds true for more reasons than the average reader will ever know. When asked about selling their book rights to Hollywood authors like to joke that they drive their manuscripts to the border of Arizona and California and toss them over the fence, driving back the way they came at breakneck speed. This is probably because Hollywood just doesn't "get it." Its vision for the film or TV series rarely seems to match the vision of the author. And for those rare individuals who've had the fortune of sitting across the desk from one of the myriad, interchangeable development execs praising the brilliance of their work while ticking off a never-ending list of notes for the rewrite, the pros of pitching their work to Hollywood rarely outweigh the cons. This is a collection of non-fiction anecdotes by authors who've had the pleasure of experiencing the development room firsthand—some who have successfully managed to straddle the two worlds, seeing their works morph into the kinds of feature films and TV shows that make them proud, and others who stepped blindsided into that room after selling their first or second novels. All the stories in this collection illustrate the great divide between the world of literature and the big or small

screen. They underscore the insanity of every crazy thing you've ever heard about Hollywood.

SHERRATT, MEL allendale HUSH HUSH (#1) (\$16.99) One of *Marian's Picks* in the November newsletter. A killer is on the loose, attacking people in places they feel most safe: their workplaces, their homes. It's up to DS Grace Allendale to stop the murders and prove herself to her new team. All clues lead to local crime family the Steeles, but that's where things get complicated. Because the Steeles aren't just any family, they're Grace's family. Two brothers and two sisters connected by the violent father only Grace and her mother escaped. To catch the killer, Grace will have to choose between her team and her blood. But who do you trust, when both sides are out to get you?

SIMENON, GEORGES MAIGRET'S SECRET (\$17.50) At one of his friends' frequent dinner parties, Maigret shares the story of a case from a few years back that haunts him to this day, in which a man named Adrien Josset was found guilty and was executed for the murder of his wife, Christine. Adrien had been a weak-willed, mild-mannered man, but Christine, who was much wealthier than he, had used her connections to land him an influential position in an important career. Maigret had interviewed Adrien only once when the examining magistrate took over the case and successfully moved to have him executed. But though all the clues pointed to Adrien's guilt, Maigret remained unconvinced, and years later, he still doubts the murderer's true identity.

SMITH, KAREN ROSE de luca CUT TO THE CHAISE (#8) (\$8.99) With her wedding day mere weeks away, home stager Caprice De Luca is busy arranging every last detail for the reception at Rambling Vines Winery—a stylish venue she redecorated two years earlier. But the closer the bride-to-be gets to saying, “I do,” the more a celebration at Rambling Vines seems like a terrible mistake. As financial mishaps and unhappy customers put the winery in the red, an unidentified criminal plots to sour the business's already ailing reputation. Worst of all, a romance from co-owner Michelle Dodd's past could leave a permanent stain on Caprice's best friend's current love life. When Michelle's aloof husband is found stabbed to death on a chaise lounge in the tasting room, Caprice vows to name the calculating culprit and set things right before her dream nuptials dissolve into a deadly nightmare . . .

SMITH, WILBUR COURTNEY'S WAR (\$24.99) Paris, 1939. Torn apart by war, Saffron Courtney and Gerhard von Meerbach are thousands of miles apart, both struggling for their lives. Gerhard - despite his objections to the Nazi regime - is fighting for the Fatherland, hoping to one day have the opportunity to rid Germany of Hitler and his cronies. But as his unit is thrown into the hellish attrition of the Battle of Stalingrad, he knows his chances of survival are dwindling by the day. Meanwhile Saffron - recruited by the Special Operations Executive and sent to occupied Belgium to discover how the Nazis have infiltrated SOE's network - soon finds herself being hunted by Germany's most ruthless spymaster. Confronted by evil beyond their worst imaginings, the lovers must each make the hardest choice of all: sacrifice themselves, or do whatever they can to survive, hoping that one day they will be reunited.

THOMSON, LESLEY stella DEATH CHAMBER (#6) (\$22.50) Queen's Jubilee, 1977: Cassie Baker sees her boyfriend kissing another girl at the village disco. Upset, she heads home alone and is never seen again. Millennium Eve, 1999: DCI Paul Mercer finds Cassie's remains in a field. Now he must prove the man who led him there is guilty. When Mercer's daughter asks Stella Darnell for help solving the murder, Stella see echoes of herself. Another detective's daughter. With her sidekick sleuth, Jack, Stella moves to Winchcombe, where DCI Mercer and his prime suspect have been playing cat and mouse for the past 18 years.

THORNLEY, SCOTT VANTAGE POINT (#4) (\$19.95) Two bodies have been found in the master bedroom of a mansion in Dundurn's old-money neighbourhood under the mountain. Howard Terry and his son Matthew have both been shot twice in the chest. Under Matthew's body is a doll with blood red cotton wadding spilling out of its head. Nearby, a female mannequin in a nightshirt lies on its back with two bullet holes in the chest. On the other side of town, a body is discovered below the Devil's Punch Bowl waterfall. Leaning against an enormous rock is a man in a cotton nightshirt wearing a papier mâché donkey's head. Two rounds in the chest. Something about the way the bodies have been arranged triggers a memory in MacNeice of an image he saw years before . . .

TODD, CHARLES rutledge GATE KEEPER (#20) (\$19.99) Hours after his sister's wedding, a restless Ian Rutledge drives aimlessly, haunted by the past, and narrowly misses a motorcar stopped in the middle of a desolate road. Standing beside the vehicle is a woman with blood on her hands and a dead man at her feet. She swears she didn't kill Stephen Wentworth. A stranger stepped out in front of their motorcar, and without warning, fired a single shot before vanishing into the night. But there is no trace of him. And the shaken woman insists it all happened so quickly, she never saw the man's face. Although he is a witness after the fact, Rutledge persuades the Yard to give him the inquiry, since he's on the scene. But is he seeking justice—or fleeing painful memories in London?

TUROW, SCOTT TESTIMONY (\$12.99) At the age of fifty, Bill ten Boom has walked out on everything he once thought was important: Kindle County, his law career, even his wife. Still, when he is tapped by the International Criminal Court--an organization that prosecutes crimes against humanity--he is compelled by a mystifying case. Over ten years ago, in the chaos following the Bosnian war, a Roma refugee camp vanished overnight. Now a witness has finally stepped forward: Ferko Rincic claims that armed men marched the camp's 400 residents to a cave and then set off an avalanche with a hand grenade, burying them alive. Only Ferko survived. Boom's task is to investigate Ferko's claims, taking him from the Court's base in Holland, to Bosnian villages, to secret meetings in Washington, DC, as he sorts through the alliances and treacheries of those involved: a disgraced US major general, members of the US military, the brutal former leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Ferko's seductive barrister, and of course, Ferko himself, on whose testimony the entire case rests--and who may know more than he's telling.

WILKINSON, ELLEN DIVISION BELL MYSTERY (\$20) A financier is found shot in the House of Commons. Suspecting foul play, Robert West, a parliamentary private secretary, takes on the role of amateur sleuth. Used to turning a blind eye to covert dealings, West must now uncover the shocking secret behind the man's demise, amid distractions from the press and the dead man's enigmatic daughter. Originally published in 1932, this was the only mystery novel to be written by the author, one of the first women to be elected to Parliament. She offers a unique insider's perspective of political scandal, replete with sharp satire.

WISHART, DAVID marcus FOREIGN BODIES (#18) (\$25.99) June, AD 42. The emperor Claudius himself has requested Corvinus's help in investigating the murder of a Gallic wine merchant, stabbed to death as he was taking an afternoon nap in his summer-house at Lugdunum. Not especially happy at being dispatched to Gaul, and even less enamoured of his enforced travelling companion, the insufferable Domitius Crinas, Corvinus is increasingly frustrated as it becomes clear that the dead man's extended family and friends are hiding something from him. Unused to strange Gallic customs and facing an uphill struggle getting anyone to talk freely to a Roman, Corvinus is convinced that there's more to this murder than meets the eye – but, a stranger in a strange land, how is he going to prove it?

WOODS, STUART barrington SHOOT FIRST (#45) (\$12.99) Stone Barrington is enjoying a round of golf in Key West when the game is violently interrupted--and it seems as if the target of the disturbance may have been one of his playing companions, the brilliant businesswoman behind a software startup on the cutting edge of technology. Soon, it becomes clear that this incident is only the first thrust in a deadly scheme to push the beautiful young woman out of the way and put her company's valuable secrets up for grabs. From the sun-soaked Florida shores to an idyllic English country retreat, Stone embarks on a quest to protect his lovely new companion while searching for the mastermind behind the plot against her. But he may find that her enemy is far more resourceful--and dangerous--than he could have anticipated.