



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

February 2022

Climate change is, from all accounts, a serious issue that the human race has to come to grips with. But I have to tell you, Winter 21-22 feels like a real winter. We've had what I always think of as winter weather, lots of snow, cold temperatures, beautiful blue, high skies, trees sparkling like jewels. And, honestly—if you repeat this, I'll deny it—I'm loving it. Sure, there has been lots of snow to shovel and sidewalks and driveways to clear, but there was a real sense of community when a bunch of us got together to clear the parking lot at the bookstore. And having spent the past couple of weeks at Marian's cottage with The Magnificent One, as I've taken to thinking of Mr. Prince, lugging in loads of wood to keep the wood stove going, watching the Blue Jays, the avi-an kind, have at it at the feeders...well, it's been a real winter.

A friend reminded me recently that our first round of golf last year was on the 8th of April. I suspect we might have to be a bit more patient this year; I don't see all this snow disappearing and the fairways drying up in eight weeks. And, pleasant as it has been for me at the cottage, those poor people out on the East Coast...damn winter.

JD's Picks

It was a real pleasure to see the re-issue of **FREDRIC BROWN's** first Ed & Am Hunter novel, The Fabulous Clipjoint (#1) (\$21.95). Although he was never as big or popular a writer as some of his peers, he had a very dedicated following. There were seven Ed & Am novels, written between 1947 and 1963, and Clipjoint, an Edgar Award winner, was their introduction. I had read a number of the stories in this series, a long while ago, and found this one to be eminently re-readable.

Here's the blurb: In the rough edges of 1940s Chicago, the discovery of a corpse in an alleyway isn't always enough to cause a big stir—especially when the victim is killed in the midst of a night-long bender, caught between barrooms in what appears to be a mugging gone awry. Which is why the police don't take a huge interest in finding the murderer of Wallace Hunter, a linotype operator who turns up dead after a solitary drinking adventure that led through many of the Loop's less reputable establishments. But for his teenage son, Ed, and his carny brother, Am, something about Wallace's death feels fishy, a fact that grows increasingly bothersome when it becomes clear that some of the witnesses aren't telling the whole story. In order to get to the heart of the matter, they'll need all the skills Am picked up in the circus life—skills that young Ed will have to pick up on fast. And in the process of discovering the killer, they make an-

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other discovery as well: Wallace was a much different man than the father Ed thought he knew. The book's memorable mixture of a hardboiled mystery with an urban coming of age narrative remains fresh to this day.

Another pleasant surprise was to see the re-issuing of some **E. X. FERRAR**'s Andrew Basnett's series. Something Wicked (#1) (\$23.99) is the series debut and the place to start. Between 1940 and the end of the 20th century, she wrote more than novel a year and eight of them, between 1983 and 1995, were the ones featuring Professor Andrew Basnett, no longer on the "sprightly side of 70." This is an excellent example of the traditional, little English village mystery. Be forewarned: you'll end up buying the whole series and want to try others by this writer!

Here's a blurb: Professor of botany Andrew Basnett is looking forward to retirement and to settling into the little village where he's borrowed a cottage while his flat in town is renovated. It sounds bucolic, even if the village murderess lives right up the road. But the case never came to trial, says Basnett's nephew, lender of the cottage: She had the perfect alibi. Not entirely comforted, Basnett is more unnerved when a blizzard knocks out the power and provides a dark, snowy night just like the one six years ago when someone shot Charles Hewison through the head. It doesn't help that there's been another murder and that Pauline Hewison, once again, has motive to spare.

Not sure what made me pick up **NITA PROSE**'s The Maid (\$24.95) but I'm glad I did. It turned out to be a charming read, with a refreshingly different heroine. Molly, on the spectrum, a babe in the woods, out of her depth, out of step with convention, being mocked and taken advantage of, turns out to have a lot of strength and personality. Incensed you will be at her treatment by others and fall in love with Molly and cheer her victories you will.

Here's a blurb: Molly the maid is all alone in the world. A nobody. She's used to being invisible in her job at the Regency Grand Hotel, plumping pillows and wiping away the grime, dust and secrets of the guests passing through. She's just a maid—why should anyone take notice? But Molly is thrown into the spotlight when she discovers an infamous guest, Mr Black, very dead in his bed. This isn't a mess that can be easily cleaned up. And as Molly becomes embroiled in the hunt for the truth, following the clues whispering in the hallways of the Regency Grand, she discovers a power she never knew was there. She's just a maid—but what can she see that others overlook?

And finally, another "blast from the past" is **JAMES ANDERSON**'s Affair of the Bloodstained Egg Cosy (#1) (\$16.95) The theft of the diamond necklace and the antique pistols might all be explained, but the body in the lake is particularly puzzling. 'Don't expect me to solve anything,' Inspector Wilkins announces modestly when he arrives to sort out the unpleasantness. And at a gathering that includes English aristocracy, foreign agents in disguise, a ravishing baroness, a daring jewel thief, a Texan millionaire and, of course, the redoubtable butler, it would take some intricate sleuthing to uncover who killed whom and why. For whodunnit fans who prefer their villains to be nice and refined people, the sort who quote Shakespeare and knock off their nearest and dearest between rubbers of bridge...remember selling a thousand copies of this one, way back in the early days. Published 1975. *(This has got to be one of my favourite "British country house mysteries." I enjoyed all three in this series: The Affair of the Mutilated Mink Coat and The Affair of the Thirty Nine Cufflinks, #2 and #3 respectively, (\$16.95 each).*

Marian's Picks

It's been a tough January 2022, Prince was neutered and had umbilical hernia surgery, which took over three weeks to heal. Not fun for the poor big scallywag. He had to wear a cone for all that time, and you can imagine the crashing and banging into everything at my small, stuffed cottage, knocking over all sorts of things. Not fun for Pixie. Not fun for me. Often as not, it was the two of us being crashed and banged into! The two heavy snowfalls (over 45cm in one day) made it difficult for either dog to go outside, so there was a lot of energy to be expended. (Hey Elon. Figure out how to capture all that pent up energy and heat my cottage with it.) Decided to let him recuperate at the cottage as there are no stairs and felt it'd be easier all around, but after two weeks Pix and I needed a break so traded places with JD. He got hell-on-wheels; Pixie and I went back to the safety and peace of the city to recuperate and look after the bookstore. The cone is no fun and I feel for the poor guy, but it was necessary. I suspect JD was a lot

more lenient than I was about wearing it, but he seems to have completely recovered. We are planning a ceremonial disposal of the cone sometime this summer.

Reading has been a challenge this past month as I couldn't concentrate but I did manage a few books. I flew through a couple of **BRAD THOR** titles that were sitting in the cottage: Hidden Order (#12) (\$23), and Spymaster (#17) (\$12.99). Please note that Spymaster will be re-printing at \$24.99, so if you need to read it, order it now. The last line of Spymaster was: "Run!" Lara screamed. What a way to end the book and being at the cottage did I have the next book in the series? I needed to know what happened. After digging through some boxes, I found a copy of Backlash (#18) (\$12.99 mass market paperback, \$24.99 trade paperback) but darn it, I had read it a couple of years ago. Bummer. So if you are in the mood for fast action, CIA, covert operations, then Brad is your man. The first in the series is The Lions of Lucerne (#1) (\$24.99).

CHARLES CUMMING is the writer of some very fine espionage novels and his latest, Box 88 (\$36.95), is no exception. It has garnered some terrific reviews, but I think the one from Mick Herron says it all, and, very succinctly: "BOX 88 is a wonderful spy novel; Charles Cumming's most ambitious—and his best—yet". So, I grabbed it and devoured it in between walks to the dog park with Pixie. It is going to be the first in a series and I can hardly wait for Judas 62 to arrive in North America, so I can see what happens next to Lachlan Kite. Unfortunately most of Mr. Cumming's books are unavailable, but Moroccan Girl is (\$24.50.) and we can always dig up a few more. I hope that with the success of Box 88 his publisher will reprint them. Here is the blurb:

Lachlan Kite is a member of BOX 88, an elite transatlantic black ops outfit so covert that not even MI6 and the CIA are certain of its existence — but even the best spy can't anticipate every potential threat in a world where dangerous actors lurk around every corner. At the funeral of his childhood best friend, Lachlan falls into a trap that drops him into the hands of a potentially deadly interrogation, with his pregnant wife, also abducted, being held as collateral for the information he's sworn on his own life to protect.

Thirty years earlier Lachlan, then just out of the upper-class boarding school where he was reared, was BOX 88's newest recruit. In the haze of a gap year summer, in which the study of spycraft was intertwined with a journey of self-discovery, he cut his teeth on a special assignment on the coast of France, where a friendship allowed him special access to one of Iran's most dangerous men. Today, Lachlan's nostalgia for the trip is corrupted by recollection of the deceit that accompanied it but, in order to save his family, he'll be forced to revisit those painful memories one last time.

Miss Graham's Cold War Cookbook (\$21) by **CELIA REES** was a special order for a customer but sounded so interesting, I ordered a copy for myself. It's the story of a young woman who, in post war Germany, works for the Control Commission as a civilian but in fact has been recruited as a spy for the British. Her job is to find Count Kurt von Stravenow, a doctor who conducted all sorts of nasty human experiments during the war. Some organizations want him to go on trial as a war criminal, others want him to work for them. Edith gets caught in the middle. She heads to the continent with a very interesting cover, an unassuming teacher who collects recipes, and then sends them back to England filled with coded intelligence. Quite the ingenious way to get important information back to her handlers!

For me the highlight of the book, besides being a good spy novel, was the way the "secrets" were coded onto the recipes to conceal vital information. Each chapter starts with a menu or a description of food which is eaten in the chapter, and this is the base for the coded messages. Here is a description of the plot:

World War II has just ended, and Britain has established the Control Commission for Germany, which oversees their zone of occupation. The Control Commission hires British civilians to work in Germany, rebuild the shattered nation and prosecute war crimes. Somewhat aimless, bored with her job as a provincial schoolteacher, and unwilling to live with her overbearing mother any longer, thirtysomething Edith Graham applies for a job with the Commission—but she is also recruited by her cousin, Leo, who is in the Secret Service. To them, Edith is perfect spy material...single, ordinary-looking, with a college degree in German. Cousin Leo went to Oxford with one of their most hunted war criminals, Count Kurt von Stavenow, who Edith remembers all too well from before the war. He wants her to find him.

Intrigued by the challenge, Edith heads to Germany armed with a convincing cover story: she's an unassuming Education Officer sent to help resurrect German schools. To send information back to her Secret Service handlers in London, Edith has crafted the perfect alter ego, cookbook author Stella Snelling, who writes a popular magazine cookery column. She embeds crucial intelligence within the recipes she collects. But occupied Germany is awash with other spies, collaborators, and opportunists, and as she's pulled into their world, Edith soon discovers that no one is what they seem to be. The closer she gets to uncovering von Stavenow's whereabouts--and the network of German civilians who still support him--the greater the danger.

The School of Essential Ingredients (\$22) by **ERICA BAUERMEISTER** was another special order that sounded good. It's a novel about eight people who meet once a month for a cooking class. There are no recipes just beautiful descriptions given of how to prepare and cook the dish of the night. The writing is sumptuous and, other than the killing of crabs in the first class, it was an exquisite read. The book is way more than just how to cook; it's a look at how food, cooking, flavours and friendships can change your life. Here is the blurb:

From the author of Reese Witherspoon's Book Club pick The Scent Keeper (\$12.99), comes a "heartbreakingly delicious" national bestseller about a chef, her students, and the evocative lessons that food teaches about life.

Once a month on a Monday night, eight students gather in Lillian's restaurant for a cooking class. Among them is Claire, a young woman coming to terms with her new identity as a mother; Tom, a lawyer whose life has been overturned by loss; Antonia, an Italian kitchen designer adapting to life in America; and Carl and Helen, a long-married couple whose union contains surprises the rest of the class would never suspect.

The students have come to learn the art behind Lillian's soulful dishes, but it soon becomes clear that each seeks a recipe for something beyond the kitchen. And soon they are transformed by the aromas, flavors, and textures of what they create.

And a quick mention as I've just started reading this book. It's a debut mystery from Toronto writer and librarian, **EVA JURCZYK** titled The Department of Rare Books and Special Collections (\$24.99 trade paperback, \$38.99 hardcover). The title caught my attention because, well, how could it not?, and the blurb was equally enticing: What holds more secrets in the library—the ancient books shelved in the stacks, or the people who preserve them?

Rare books, missing manuscripts, stacks, dusty books, quirky librarians...what more could you want if you love books?

This is the description of the plot: Liesl Weiss long ago learned to be content working behind the scenes in the distinguished rare books department of a large university, managing details and working behind the scenes to make the head of the department look good. But when her boss has a stroke and she's left to run things, she discovers that the library's most prized manuscript is missing.

Liesl tries to sound the alarm and inform the police about the missing priceless book, but is told repeatedly to keep quiet, to keep the doors open and the donors happy. But then a librarian unexpectedly stops showing up to work. Liesl must investigate both disappearances, unspooling her colleagues' pasts like the threads of a rare book binding as it becomes clear that someone in the department must be responsible for the theft. What Liesl discovers about the dusty manuscripts she has worked among for so long—and about the people who care for and revere them—shakes the very foundation on which she has built her life.

Hardbacks

AUSTEN, JANE PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (\$34) Part of Penguin's beautiful hardback Clothbound Classics series, these delectable and collectible editions are bound in high-quality colourful, tactile cloth with foil stamped into the design. When Elizabeth Bennet first meets eligible bachelor Fitzwilliam Darcy, she thinks him arrogant and conceited; he is indifferent to her good looks and lively mind. When she later discovers that Darcy has involved himself in the troubled relationship between his friend Bingley

and her beloved sister Jane, she is determined to dislike him more than ever. In the sparkling comedy of manners that follows, Jane Austen shows the folly of judging by first impressions and superbly evokes the friendships, gossip and snobberies of provincial middle-class life.

BUCKLEY, FIONA **blanchard** SHADOW OF SPAIN (#20) (\$39.99) March 1588. With England in a state of high alert as King Philip of Spain amasses a vast fleet of warships ready to invade, Queen Elizabeth and her advisors seek a possible alliance with the Duke of Parma, Governor of the Netherlands. But their plans suffer a major setback when one of their most reliable spies is found murdered in the Hertfordshire countryside, shot dead by a crossbow bolt as he was transporting secret correspondence between the queen and the duke. The queen's half-sister and occasional secret agent, Ursula Stannard, is happy not to be involved for once. But when Ursula's ward Mildred elopes with the handsome yet mysterious Berend Gomez, Ursula is forced to follow the pair to Brussels, where she finds herself plunged into a hotbed of intrigue and rumour at the Duke of Parma's court, a place where no one is to be trusted. Can Ursula rescue Mildred, effect an alliance with the duke, and stay alive in the process? The future of England depends on it.

CARLISLE, KATE **bibliophile** LITTLE BLACK BOOK (#15) (\$35) San Francisco book-restoration expert Brooklyn Wainwright is on the case when a rare edition of **Daphne Du Maurier's** Rebecca (\$15.99) leads to murder in this latest installment of the New York Times bestselling Bibliophile Mystery series.

CHRISTIE, AGATHA SITTA FORD MYSTERY (\$24.99) In a remote house in the middle of Dartmoor, six shadowy figures huddle around a small table for a seance. Tension rises as the spirits spell out a chilling message: 'Captain Trevelyan... dead... murder.' Is this black magic or simply a macabre joke? The only way to be certain is to locate Captain Trevelyan. Unfortunately, his home is six miles away and, with snow drifts blocking the roads, someone will have to make the journey on foot...

CLELAND, JANE K **josie** JANE AUSTEN'S LOST LETTERS (#14) (\$36.50) Antiques appraiser Josie Prescott is in the midst of filming a segment for her new television show, Josie's Antiques, when the assistant director interrupts to let her know she has a visitor. Josie reluctantly pauses production and goes outside, where she finds an elegant older woman waiting to see her. Veronica Sutton introduces herself as an old friend of Josie's father, who had died twenty years earlier. Veronica seems fidgety, and after only a few minutes, hands Josie a brown paper-wrapped package, about the size of a shoebox, and leaves. Inside the box are two letters in transparent plastic sleeves. The first bears the salutation, "My dear Cassandra," the latter, "Dearest Fanny." Both are signed "Jane Austen." Could her father have really accidentally found two previously unknown letters by one of the world's most beloved authors—Jane Austen? Reeling, Josie tries to track down Veronica, but the woman has vanished without a trace.

COYLE, CLEO **clare cosi** HONEY ROASTED (#19) (\$36) While struggling to find a romantic (and affordable) destination for her upcoming honeymoon, coffeehouse manager Clare Cosi whips up a honey of a drink made from honey-processed coffee. Clare plans to serve her outstanding new Honey-Cinnamon Latte at her spring wedding to her longtime honey, NYPD detective Mike Quinn. The culinary world is also abuzz about the amazing honey that Clare was lucky enough to source for her shop's new latte. Produced by Madame's old friend "Queen" Bea Hastings, the rare, prize-winning nectar from Bea's rooftop hives commands a premium price, and top chefs compete for a chance to use it in their signature seasonal dishes. One night, a swarm of escaped bees blanket the Village Blend's chimney, and Clare discovers Bea's unconscious body after she seemingly fell from her high-rise rooftop-hive setup. The police want to rule it as a tragic accident or possible attempted suicide, but Clare does not believe either theory. Like Madame, she knows this Queen would never abandon her hive. To sort out this mystery, Clare investigates a world of cutthroat chefs, culinary start-ups, and competitive urban beekeepers. But can she uncover the truth without getting stung?

CUMMING, CHARLES BOX 88 (\$36.95) Lachlan Kite is a member of BOX 88, an elite transatlantic black ops outfit so covert that not even MI6 and the CIA are certain of its existence — but even the best spy can't anticipate every potential threat in a world where dangerous actors lurk around every corner. At the funeral of his childhood best friend, Lachlan falls into a trap that drops him into the hands of a potentially deadly interrogation, with his pregnant wife, also abducted, being held as collateral for the information he's sworn on his own life to protect. Thirty years earlier Lachlan, then just out of the upper-class boarding school where he was reared, was BOX 88's newest recruit. In the haze of a gap year summer, in which the study of spycraft was intertwined with a journey of self-discovery, he cut his teeth on a special assignment on the coast of France, where a friendship allowed him special access to one of Iran's most dangerous men. Today, Lachlan's nostalgia for the trip is corrupted by recollection of the deceit that accompanied it but, in order to save his family, he'll be forced to revisit those painful memories one last time. "Terrific" says Marian.

DOHERTY, PAUL **beaufort** DARK QUEEN WATCHING (#3) (\$39.99) November,

1471. With Edward of York on the English throne and her son, Henry Tudor, in exile in Brittany, the newly-widowed Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond, is alone, without protectors. All she can do is wait and watch, planning for a time when she's in a position to make her move. But new dangers are emerging. En route to England is a band of Spanish mercenaries known as the Garduna. With no allegiance to prince, prelate or people, they are a lethal fighting force, utterly ruthless and implacable killers. But who has hired them . . . and why? The discovery of the body of an unexpected visitor, found murdered in a locked room in her London townhouse, heralds the start of a series of increasingly menacing incidents which threaten Margaret and her household. Is there an enemy within? It's up to Margaret's wily clerk Christopher Urswicke to uncover the truth and ensure Margaret survives to fulfil her destiny.

FAYE, LYND SAY OBSERVATIONS BY GASLIGHT: STORIES FROM THE WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$34.95) From the author of Dust and Shadow (\$25), her now-classic novel pitting Sherlock Holmes against Jack the Ripper, and The Whole Art of Detection (\$25.50), her collection of traditional Watsonian tales. Now comes this volume of both new and previously published short stories and novellas narrated by those who knew the Great Detective. Beloved adventuress Irene Adler teams up with her former adversary in a near-deadly inquiry into a room full of eerily stopped grandfather clocks. Learn of the case that cemented the lasting friendship between Holmes and Inspector Lestrade, and of the tragic crime which haunted the Yarder into joining the police force. And witness Stanley Hopkins' first meeting with the remote logician he idolizes, who will one day become his devoted mentor. From familiar faces like landlady Mrs. Hudson to minor characters like Lomax the sub-librarian, Observations by Gaslight—entirely epistolary, told through diaries, telegrams, and even grocery lists—paints a masterful portrait of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson as you have never seen them before.

FOREMAN, JUDY CRISPR'D (\$35.99) For fans of medical thrillers, a debut featuring a killer in plain sight using a microscopic murder weapon, the cutting-edge gene-editing technology: CRISPR. Boston geneticist Dr. Saul Kramer is on the cutting edge of genetic disease research. Revered among clients at his IVF clinic, he harbors a dark secret. In addition to helping infertile couples conceive healthy babies, Dr. Kramer is obsessed, for his own dark reasons, with an alternate mission as well. In certain patients, he uses the gene editing technology CRISPR to tamper with embryos, not to improve the health of the embryos, but to replace a healthy gene with a deadly mutation. A young female journalist, Sammie Fuller, begins to suspect what he has done when three infants conceived at his clinic die mysteriously, all at about one year old. She and a molecular biologist work secretly in his MIT lab to identify any genetic defects in the deceased children and together make a chilling discovery. Thanks to Sammie's blockbuster stories, which go viral, Dr. Kramer is charged with murder and winds up in court. In the subsequent dramatic court scenes, his feisty defense lawyer stuns the world with her defense. Set in this uneasy time of genetic engineering with CRISPR technology...

HALLETT, JANICE APPEAL (\$36.99) The Fairway Players, a local theatre group, is in the midst of rehearsals when tragedy strikes the family of director Martin Hayward and his wife Helen, the play's star. Their young granddaughter has been diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, and with an experimental treatment costing a tremendous sum, their fellow castmates rally to raise the money to give her a chance at survival. But not everybody is convinced of the experimental treatment's efficacy—nor of the good intentions of those involved. As tension grows within the community, things come to a shocking head at the explosive dress rehearsal. The next day, a dead body is found, and soon, an arrest is made. In the run-up to the trial, two young lawyers sift through the material—emails, messages, letters—with a growing suspicion that a killer may be hiding in plain sight. The evidence is all there, between the lines, waiting to be uncovered. A wholly modern take on the epistolary novel...

HAMILTON, HUGO PAGES (\$37) An entirely original novel in which a book—**Joseph Roth's** masterpiece Rebellion (\$35.99)—narrates its own astonishing life story, from 1930s Germany to the present day, at the heart of a gripping mystery. One old copy of the novel Rebellion sits in Lena Knecht's tote bag, about to accompany her on a journey from New York to Berlin in search of a clue to the hand-drawn map on its last page. It is the brilliantly captivating voice of this novel—a first edition nearly burned by Nazis in May 1933—that is our narrator. Fast-paced and tightly plotted, The Pages brings together a multitude of dazzling characters, real and invented, in a sweeping story of survival, chance, and the joys and struggles of love. At its center are Roth, an Austrian Jewish author on the run, and his wife, Friederike, who falls victim to mental illness as Europe descends into war. With vivid evocations of Germany under Nazism and today, The Pages dramatically illuminates the connections between past and present as it looks at censorship, oppression, and violence.

HARROD-EAGLES, C slider DYING FALL (#23) (\$38.99) Power, money, murder . . . Investigating a seemingly accidental death leads DCI Bill Slider and his team down a

dark path. The woman lies dead at the foot of the stairs. It's obvious what happened: she tripped and fell. But PC D'Arblay, called to the dilapidated West London villa by an anonymous tip-off, can't shake the feeling that's exactly what someone wants him to think. It was the deep head wound that killed her—but her dying fall left no blood trail, so what was it she hit her head on? DCI Slider, of the Shepherd's Bush murder squad, is soon convinced D'Arblay's right. But with no motive, no murder weapon and no idea even who the victim is, Slider faces steep odds to get a result . . . while each painstaking step towards the truth brings him closer to a ruthless, evil killer.

IDE, JOE marlowe GOODBYE COAST (#1) (\$35) The seductive and relentless figure of **Raymond Chandler's** detective, Philip Marlowe, is vividly re-imagined in present-day Los Angeles. Here is a city of scheming Malibu actresses, ruthless gang members, virulent inequality, and washed-out police. This Marlowe is very much of our time: he's a quiet, lonely, and remarkably capable and confident private detective, though he lives beneath the shadow of his father, a once-decorated LAPD homicide detective, famous throughout the city, who's given in to drink after the death of Marlowe's mother. Marlowe, against his better judgement, accepts two missing person cases, the first a daughter of a faded, tyrannical Hollywood starlet, and the second, a British child stolen from his mother by his father. Steeped in the richly detailed ethnic neighborhoods of modern LA, this is a bold recreation that is viciously funny, ingeniously plotted, and surprisingly tender.

JUDD, ALAN marlowe FINE MADNESS (#1) (\$34.95) In Elizabethan England, the queen's chief spymaster, Francis Walsingham, and his team of agents must maintain the highest levels of vigilance to ward off Catholic plots and an ever-present threat of invasion from Spain. One agent in particular—a young Cambridge undergraduate of humble origins, controversial beliefs, and literary genius who goes by the name of Kit Marlowe—is relentless in his pursuit of intelligence for the Crown. When he is killed outside an inn in Deptford, his mysterious death becomes the subject of rumor and suspicion that are never satisfactorily resolved. Years later, when Thomas Phelippes, a former colleague of Marlowe's, finds himself imprisoned in the Tower of London, there is one thing that might give him his freedom back. He must give the king every detail he is able to recall about his murdered friend's life—and death. But why is King James so fascinated about Kit Marlowe—and does Phelippes know enough to secure his own redemption?

JURCZYK, EVA DEPARTMENT OF RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS (\$38.99 hardcover, \$24.99 trade paperback) Liesl Weiss long ago learned to be content working behind the scenes in the distinguished rare books department of a large university, managing details and working behind the scenes to make the head of the department look good. But when her boss has a stroke and she's left to run things, she discovers that the library's most prized manuscript is missing. Liesl tries to sound the alarm and inform the police about the missing priceless book, but is told repeatedly to keep quiet, to keep the doors open and the donors happy. But then a librarian unexpectedly stops showing up to work. Liesl must investigate both disappearances, unspooling her colleagues' pasts like the threads of a rare book binding as it becomes clear that someone in the department must be responsible for the theft. What Liesl discovers about the dusty manuscripts she has worked among for so long—and about the people who care for and revere them—shakes the very foundation on which she has built her life.

KING, THOMAS dreadfulwater DEEP HOUSE (#6) (\$36.99 hardcover, \$24.99 trade paperback) For the first time since the pandemic, Thumps DreadfulWater has finally found some peace in small-town Chinook. Sure, his beloved cat is still missing and his relationship with Claire is more than uncertain, but at least he can relax in the comfort of his home. And now that local businesses are starting to open their doors again, everything can go back to normal. But when Thumps unintentionally discovers a body at the bottom of a treacherous canyon, he becomes entangled once again in an inexplicable mystery. As more puzzling details come to the surface, Thumps begins to question whom he can truly trust—especially when an unexpected visitor walks back into his life.

LOVESEY, PETER READER I BURIED THEM AND OTHER STORIES (\$36.95) More than fifty years ago, Peter Lovesey published a short story in an anthology. That short story caught the eye of the great **Ruth Rendell**, whose praise ignited Lovesey's lifelong passion for short form crime fiction. On the occasion of his hundredth short story, the author has assembled this devilishly clever collection, eighteen yarns of mystery, melancholy, and mischief, inhabiting such deadly settings as a theater, a monastery, and the book publishing industry. The collection includes that first story that launched his story-writing career as well as three exclusive new stories. In addition, his fans will delight in a personal essay by the author about the historical inspirations—and in an appearance by the irascible Bath detective Peter Diamond, who has, in the author's words, “bulldozed his way” into this volume.

MILNE, A A RED HOUSE MYSTERY (\$22.50) Known more for his series of Winnie

-the-Pooh stories and poems for children, the author also wrote novels and plays for adults, including this, his only whodunnit. The novel was highly successful upon publication and is noted for its use of an amateur sleuth as well as its intricate, puzzle-like plot. Despite earning the ire of **Raymond Chandler**, the novel was reprinted in the U.S. and in Britain numerous times. At his house in the English countryside, Mark Ablett hosts a small party of diverse guests including a widow and her young daughter, a retired military officer, an actress, and a young socialite named Bill Beverley. During this party, Mark's brother Robert unexpectedly returns home from Australia, where he has been for some time. Shortly after this long-awaited homecoming, Robert is found dead of a gunshot wound to the head, and, amidst the chaos, Mark suddenly disappears. Having arrived late to the party, Tony Gillingham, with the help of his friend Bill Beverley, endeavors to investigate the mysterious events of the evening. Aided, or at least tolerated, by an uninterested police force, Gillingham does his best as an amateur detective to gather evidence leading not only to the identity of Robert's murderer, but to the discovery of Mark's whereabouts. An innovative whodunnit filled with humorous quips, twists and turns, and a puzzle with which even the most seasoned reader of mysteries will struggle.

PARKER, ROBERT B *spenser* BYE BYE BABY (#49) (\$37) Carolina Garcia-Ramirez is a rising star in national politics, taking on the establishment with her progressive agenda. Tough, outspoken, and driven, the young congresswoman has ignited a new conversation in Boston about race, poverty, health care, and the environment. Now facing her second campaign, she finds herself not only fighting a tight primary with an old guard challenger but also contending with numerous death threats coming from hundreds of suspects. When her chief of staff reaches out to Spenser for security and help finding the culprits of what he believes to be the most credible threats, Garcia-Ramirez is less than thrilled. Since her first grassroots run, she's used to the antipathy and intimidation women of color often face when seeking power. To her, it's all noise. But it turns out an FBI agent disagrees, warning Spenser that Garcia-Ramirez might be in real danger this time. It doesn't take long for Spenser to cross paths with an extremist group called The Minutemen, led by a wealthy Harvard grad named Bishop Graves. Although Graves is a social media sensation, pushing an agenda of white supremacy and toxic masculinity, he denies he's behind the attacks. As the primary nears and threats become a deadly plot, it's up to Spenser, Hawk, and a surprise trusted ally to ensure the congresswoman is safe. This is Spenser doing what he does best, living by a personal code and moral compass that can't ever be broken.

PARKER, T JEFFERSON THOUSAND STEPS (\$36.99) Laguna Beach, California, 1968. The Age of Aquarius is in full swing. Timothy Leary is a rock star. LSD is God. Folks from all over are flocking to Laguna, seeking peace, love, and enlightenment. Matt Anthony is just trying get by. Matt is sixteen, broke, and never sure where his next meal is coming from. Mom's a stoner, his deadbeat dad is a no-show, his brother's fighting in Nam . . . and his big sister Jazz has just gone missing. The cops figure she's just another runaway hippie chick, enjoying a summer of love, but Matt doesn't believe it. Not after another missing girl turns up dead on the beach. All Matt really wants to do is get his driver's license and ask out the girl he's been crushing on since fourth grade, yet it's up to him to find his sister. But in a town where the cops don't trust the hippies and the hippies don't trust the cops, uncovering what's really happened to Jazz is going to force him to grow up fast. If it's not already too late.

PETRIE, NICK *ash* RUNAWAY (#7) (\$36) War veteran Peter Ash is driving through northern Nebraska when he encounters a young pregnant woman alone on a gravel road, her car dead. Peter offers her a lift, but what begins as an act of kindness soon turns into a deadly cat-and-mouse chase across the lonely highways with the woman's vicious ex-cop husband hot on their trail. The pregnant woman has seen something she was never meant to see . . . but protecting her might prove to be more than Peter can handle. In order to save the woman and himself, Peter must use everything he has learned during his time as a Marine, including his knowledge of human nature, in order to escape a ruthless killer with instincts and skills that match—and perhaps exceed—Peter's own.

SPOTSWOOD, STEPHEN *pentecost* MURDER UNDER HER SKIN (#2) (\$36) New York, 1946: The last time Will Parker let a case get personal—Fortune Favors the Dead (#1) (\$22)—she walked away with a broken face, a bruised ego, and the solemn promise never again to let her heart get in the way of her job. But she called Hart and Halloway's Travelling Circus and Sideshow home for five years, and Ruby Donner, the circus's tattooed ingenue, was her friend and someone's put a knife in her back. To make matters worse the prime suspect is Valentin Kalishenko, the man who taught Will everything she knows about putting a knife where it needs to go. To suss out the real killer and keep Kalishenko from a date with the electric chair, Will and Ms. Pentecost join the circus in sleepy Stoppard, Virginia, where the locals like their cocktails mild, the past buried, and big-city detectives not at all. The two swiftly find themselves lost in a funhouse of lies as Will begins to realize that her former circus compatriots aren't

playing it straight, and that her murdered friend might have been hiding a lot of secrets beneath all that ink. Dodging fistfights, firebombs, and flying lead, Will puts a lot more than her heart on the line in the search of the truth. Can she find it before someone stops her ticker for good?

STEVENSON, ROBERT LOUIS STRANGE CASE OF DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE (\$14.99) The classic tale of Victorian horror. The personalities of the pleasant Dr. Jekyll and the violent Mr. Hyde vie for control over a single body. This gothic horror novel is presented alongside five short stories by the author and this elegantly designed jacketed hardcover edition features a new introduction by English scholar and professor Allen Grove and a timeline of the life and times of Robert Louis Stevenson.

SYKES, S D somershill GOOD DEATH (#5) (\$32.99) In 1349, Oswald, the third son of the de Lacy family, was an eighteen-year-old novice monk at Kintham Abbey. Sent to collect herbs from the forest, Oswald comes across a terrified village girl. Frenzied with fear, she runs headlong into a swollen river. Oswald pulls her broken and bruised body from the water and returns her to the local village, only to discover that several other women have disappeared. A heinous killer is at work, but because all of the missing women come from impoverished families without influence, nobody seems to care. Oswald vows to find this killer himself—but as plague approaches, his beloved tutor Brother Peter insists they must stay inside the monastery. He turns instead to the women of the village for help, and particularly the enigmatic and beautiful Maud Woodstock—a woman who provokes strong emotions in Oswald. As he closes in on the killer, Oswald makes a discovery that is so utterly shocking that it threatens to destroy him and his family. Even as plague rages across England and death is at every door, Oswald must kill or be killed. And the discovery will be a secret that haunts him for the rest of his life.

TODD, CHARLES rutledge GAME OF FEAR (#24) (\$35.99) Spring, 1921. Scotland Yard sends Inspector Ian Rutledge to the sea-battered village of Walmer on the coast of Essex, where amongst the salt flats and a military airfield lies Benton Abbey, a grand manor with a storied past. The lady of the house may prove his most bewildering witness yet. She claims she saw a violent murder—but there is no body, no blood. She also insists she recognized the killer: Captain Nelson. Only it could not have been Nelson because he died during the war. Everyone in the village believes that Lady Benton's losses have turned her mind—she is, after all, a grieving widow and mother—but the woman Rutledge interviews is rational and self-possessed. And then there is Captain Nelson: what really happened to him in the war? The more Rutledge delves into this baffling case, the more suspicious tragedies he uncovers. The Abbey and the airfield hold their secrets tightly. Until Rutledge arrives, and a new trail of death follows...

VIDICH, PAUL MATCHMAKER (\$34.95) Berlin, 1989. Protests across East Germany threaten the Iron Curtain and Communism is the ill man of Europe. Anne Simpson, an American who works as a translator at the Joint Operations Refugee Committee, thinks she is in a normal marriage with a charming East German. But then her husband disappears, and the CIA and Western German intelligence arrive at her door. Nothing about her marriage is as it seems. She had been targeted by the Matchmaker—a high level East German counterintelligence officer—who runs a network of Stasi agents. These agents are his "Romeos" who marry vulnerable women in West Berlin to provide them with cover as they report back to the Matchmaker. Anne has been married to a spy, and now he has disappeared, and is presumably dead. The CIA are desperate to find the Matchmaker because of his close ties to the KGB. They believe he can establish the truth about a high-ranking Soviet defector. They need Anne because she's the only person who has seen his face—from a photograph that her husband mistakenly left out in his office—and she is the CIA's best chance to identify him before the Matchmaker escapes to Moscow. Time is running out as the Berlin Wall falls and chaos engulfs East Germany. But what if Anne's husband is not dead? And what if Anne has her own motives for finding the Matchmaker to deliver a different type of justice?

WILLBERG, T A lane MARION LANE AND THE DEADLY ROSE (#2) (\$34.99) It's 1959 and a new killer haunts the streets of London, having baffled Scotland Yard. The newspapers call him The Florist because of the rose he brands on his victims. The police have turned yet again to the Inquirers at Miss Brickett's for assistance, and second-year Marion Lane is assigned the case. But she's already dealing with a mystery of her own, having received an unsigned letter warning her that one of the three new recruits should not be trusted. She dismisses the letter at first, focusing on The Florist case, but her informer seems to be one step ahead, predicting what will happen before it does. But when a fellow second-year Inquirer is murdered, Marion takes matters into her own hands and must come face-to-face with her informer—who predicted the murder—to find out everything they know. Until then, no one at Miss Brickett's is safe and everyone is a suspect.

XIAOLONG QIU dee SHADOW OF THE EMPIRE (#1) (\$39.99) Judge Dee Renjie, Empress Wu's newly appointed Imperial Circuit Supervisor for the Tang Empire, is visiting provinces surrounding the grand capital of Chang'an. One night a knife is

thrown through his window with a cryptic note attached: 'A high-flying dragon will have something to regret!' Minutes after the ominous warning appears, Judge Dee is approached by an emissary of Internal Minister Wu, Empress Wu's nephew. Minister Wu wants Judge Dee to investigate a high-profile murder supposedly committed by the well-known poetess and courtesan, Xuanji, who locals believe is possessed by the spirit of a black fox. Why is Minister Wu interested in Xuanji? Despite Xuanji confessing to the murder, is there more to the case than first appears? With the mysterious warning and a fierce power struggle playing out at the imperial court, Judge Dee knows he must tread carefully...

WRIGHT, JENNIFER *SHE KILLS ME: THE TRUE STORIES OF HISTORY'S DEADLIEST WOMEN* (\$24.99) In every tragic story, men are expected to be the killers. There are countless studies and works of art made about male violence. However, when women are featured in stories about murder, they are rarely portrayed as predators. They're the prey. This common dynamic is one of the reasons that women are so enthralled by female murderers. They do the things that women aren't supposed to do and live the lives that women aren't supposed to want: lives that are impulsive and angry and messy and inconvenient. Maybe we feel bad about loving them, but we eat it up just the same. Residing squarely in the middle of a Venn diagram of feminism and true crime, this tells the story of 40 women who murdered out of necessity, fear, revenge, and even for pleasure.

Paperbacks

ALEXANDER, ELLIE *bakeshop BAKE, BORROW, AND STEAL (#14)* (\$12.99) As the autumnal hues of November fall over the Shakespearean hamlet of Ashland, Oregon, Jules and her team at Torte are working on their biggest event ever. They've been invited to create chocolate showpieces for the gala opening of a new exhibit, Shakespeare's Lost Pages at SOMA. The museum, located on the campus of Southern Oregon University, is getting ready to unveil the Bard's lost manuscript, Double Falsehood, which is being touted as the greatest artistic discovery of modern times. In addition to molding luscious, silky chocolate into magnificent structures, Torte will be serving an authentic Elizabethan feast straight from the pages of a sixteenth century cookbook featuring Lardy cakes, Frangipane tarts, and jellies with chestnut cream. Jules has underestimated the amount of work required to pull off such a culinary feat. And, right before the unveiling, news quickly begins to spread that Shakespeare's lost manuscript is missing. Not only that, but the security guard tasked with keeping the priceless artifact safe has been killed. Is this a case of a heist gone terribly wrong? Or could it be that a killer is lurking in the museum archives?

ALLEN, HANIA *ICE HOTEL* (\$17.99) Maggie Stewart travels with friends Liz and Harry to the Ice Hotel, a surreal building in Swedish Lapland constructed from ice cut from the nearby river. During the day, it is a museum housing ice sculptures, but at night it becomes a novelty hotel. Shortly after their arrival, the holiday turns into a nightmare. A near-miss snowmobile accident is followed by the discovery of the frozen body of one of the hotel's American guests. Maggie is shocked to learn that this was no accident: the American was drugged and pushed out of his sleeping bag to freeze to death in the room. As the body count rises and Maggie finds herself in mortal danger, she realizes that the only person she can trust is Thomas Hallengren, the detective leading the case. But can he uncover the killer's identity before the Ice Hotel and other buildings—the Ice Chapel and Ice Theatre—melt back into the river, taking the clues with them?

ANDERSON, JAMES wilkins *AFFAIR OF THE BLOODSTAINED EGG COSY (#1)* (\$16.95) The theft of the diamond necklace and the antique pistols might all be explained, but the body in the lake is particularly puzzling. 'Don't expect me to solve anything,' Inspector Wilkins announces modestly when he arrives to sort out the unpleasantness. And at a gathering that includes English aristocracy, foreign agents in disguise, a ravishing baroness, a daring jewel thief, a Texan millionaire and, of course, the redoubtable butler, it would take some intricate sleuthing to uncover who killed whom and why. For whodunnit fans who prefer their villains to be nice and refined people, the sort who quote Shakespeare and knock off their nearest and dearest between rubbers of bridge, *The Affair of the Bloodstained Egg Cosy* is a delectable treat. Published 1975. A delight.

ANDERSON, JAMES wilkins *AFFAIR OF THE MUTILATED MINK (#2)* (\$16.95) The Earl of Burford cannot believe his luck. Rex Ransom, his favourite film star, and a hot-shot producer want to film their next feature at Alderley, the family's seventeenth-century country estate. Somewhat less enthusiastic are the Countess and poor Merryweather, the family's butler, who suddenly find themselves hosting the incoming Holly-

wood crowd. And that's before there's a murder in the dead of night...Paying homage to Golden Age crime fiction in which even the red herrings are impeccably turned out, *The Affair of the Mutilated Mink* is a must-read for armchair sleuths. Published 1981. **ANDERSON, JAMES wilkins** *AFFAIR OF THE THIRTY-NINE CUFFLINKS (#3)* (\$16.95) Lord Burford had some serious misgivings about hosting yet another house party at Alderley. After all, the previous two could, at best, be described as disastrous. But with family members travelling down for the funeral of an elderly relative, the Earl really had no choice but to offer accommodation. It did not take long for things to go wrong even before a body was found...For readers who want the twist in the tale to be as elegant as a well-tied cravat, it would be criminal to miss *The Affair of the Thirty-Nine Cufflinks*. Published 2003.

BERENSON, ALEX POWER COUPLE (\$25.99) Rebecca and Brian Unsworth appear to have it all. A nice house in the suburbs of Washington, DC. Two well-behaved, healthy teenage children. Important government jobs—Rebecca working in counterterrorism for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Brian serving as a coder for the National Security Agency. Their lives stand to improve even more as Brian, in his off-hours, has just developed and sold a highly profitable app. However, the Unsworths' marriage isn't as perfect as it seems. After two decades together, they've drifted apart, talking little and having sex even less. Seeking to revive their strained relationship, they decide for their twentieth wedding anniversary to take their two kids, Kira and Tony, on a European getaway. They have a blast...until one night in Barcelona when Kira doesn't come home from a dance club. She's gone. Abducted. Bad luck? Or, something far more nefarious?

BLOCK, LAWRENCE *LUCKY AT CARDS* (\$7.99) On the mend after getting run out of Chicago, professional cardsharp Bill Maynard is hungry for some action—but not nearly as hungry as Joyce Rogers, the tantalizing wife of Bill's latest mark. Together they hatch an ingenious scheme to get rid of her husband. But in life as in poker, the other player sometimes has an ace up his sleeve...Published 1964.

BOX, C J pickett *DARK SKY (#21)* (\$12.99) The governor of Wyoming gives Joe the thankless assignment of taking a tech baron on an elk-hunting trip. Unbeknownst to them, as they trek farther into the wilderness, a manhunter is hot on their heels. Finding himself without a weapon, a horse, or a way to communicate, Joe must rely on his wits and his knowledge of the outdoors to protect himself and his charge. Meanwhile, when Joe's closest friend, Nate Romanowski, and his own daughter Sheridan learn of the threat to his life, they follow him into the woods to try and rescue him before it's too late.

BRIGHT, VERITY lady swift *DEATH ON A WINTER'S DAY (#8)* (\$22) inter, 1921. Lady Eleanor Swift, amateur sleuth and reluctant lady of the manor, has been invited to spend Christmas in Scotland, at the beautiful castle of her dear friends Baron and Baroness Ashley. Even her favourite companion, master of mischief Gladstone the bulldog, is coming along to share a slice of turkey. As snow begins to fall outside, the rather mismatched group are cozy by the roaring fire, sharing a tippie over a plate of Mrs Trotman's famous mince pies. But after what was supposed to be a fun party game, Mr. Eugene Randall is found dead at the feast. A somewhat unpopular business associate of the Baron's from across the pond, it seems Mr. Randall has certainly upset somebody. Was it what he said about Scottish whisky? The killer must be in the castle... and when the Baron is arrested, Baroness Ashley begs Eleanor to investigate. Determined not to let her friend down, Eleanor sets about questioning the remaining partygoers.

BRIGHT, VERITY lady swift *LESSON IN MURDER (#7)* (\$20) Autumn, 1921. Lady Eleanor Swift is invited to her old school, St Mary's, as a guest speaker. Her favourite teacher, Mrs Wadsworth, has asked that Eleanor talk about her intrepid travels around the globe—travelling the Silk Road by bicycle, crossing the Himalayas and even befriending the Maharaja of India. But in the circumstances, perhaps it would have been a good idea to talk about her career as a daring detective...Because no sooner has Eleanor brushed up on her times tables than she is greeted by terrible news: Mrs Wadsworth has been murdered. Eleanor is utterly devastated but she owes it to her dearest teacher to find out who killed her and why. So, alongside Gladstone the bulldog, it's best paw forward to track down a villain.

BROWN, FREDRIC ed & am *FABULOUS CLIPJOINT (#1)* (\$21.95) In the rough edges of 1940s Chicago, the discovery of a corpse in an alleyway isn't always enough to cause a big stir—especially when the victim is killed in the midst of a night-long bender, caught between barrooms in what appears to be a mugging gone awry. Which is why the police don't take a huge interest in finding the murderer of Wallace Hunter, a linotype operator who turns up dead after a solitary drinking adventure that led through many of the Loop's less reputable establishments. But for his teenage son, Ed, and his carny brother, Am, something about Wallace's death feels fishy, a fact that grows increasingly bothersome when it becomes clear that some of the witnesses aren't telling the whole story. In order to get to the heart of the matter, they'll need all the skills Am picked up in the circus life—skills that young Ed will have to pick up on fast. And in

the process of discovering the killer, they make another discovery as well: Wallace was a much different man than the father Ed thought he knew. This Edgar Award-winning novel is the first of seven Ed & Am Hunter novels. The book's memorable mixture of a hardboiled mystery with an urban coming of age narrative remains fresh to this day.

CARR, JOHN DICKSON fell EIGHT OF SWORDS (#3) (\$21.95) In a house in the English countryside, a man has just turned up dead, surrounded by a crime scene that seems, at first glance, to be fairly straightforward. He's found with a bullet through the head in an unlocked room, and all signs point to a recent strange visitor as the perpetrator. The body is even accompanied by an ostentatious clue, presumably left by the killer: The tarot card of The Eight of Swords, an allusion, perhaps, to justice. But when Dr. Gideon Fell arrives at the house to investigate, he finds that certain aspects of the murder scene don't quite add up—and that every new piece of evidence introduces a new problem instead of a new solution. Add to that the suggestion of a poltergeist on the property, the appearance of American gangsters, and the constant interruptions of two dabbling amateur sleuths adjacent to the case, and you have a situation puzzling enough to push Fell's powers of deduction to their limits. But will Fell be able to cut through their distractions and get to the heart of the matter, before more murders take place? Re-issued for the first time in years...an early Carr novel that highlights many of the qualities that made him such a successful writer, including his baffling plots, his twisty investigations, and his memorable characters. It is the third installment in the Dr. Gideon Fell series, which can be read in any order. Published 1934.

CASTLE, ANNA bacon MURDER BY MISRULE (#1) (\$29.99) Brilliant Francis Bacon is at a loss—and in danger. Bacon must put down his books and investigate the murder of a fellow barrister at Gray's Inn in order to regain the queen's favor. He recruits his unwanted protégé, Thomas Clarady, to do the tiresome legwork. The son of a wealthy privateer, Tom will gladly do anything to climb the Elizabethan social ladder. The first clues point to a Catholic conspirator, but other motives for murder quickly emerge. Rival barristers contend for the victim's legal honors and wealthy clients. Highly placed courtiers are implicated as the investigation reaches from Whitehall to the London streets. Bacon does the thinking; Clarady does the fencing. Everyone has something up his pinked and padded sleeve. Even Bacon is at a loss—and in danger—until he sees through the disguises of the season of Misrule. The first of eight novels. First published 2014. “A laugh-out-loud mystery that will delight fans of the genre”—*Kirkus* said at the time.

CHILDS, LAURA tea HAUNTED HIBISCUS (#22) (\$11.99) It is the week before Halloween and Theodosia Browning, proprietor of the Indigo Tea Shop, and her tea sommelier, Drayton, are ghosting through the dusk of a cool Charleston evening on their way to the old Bouchard Mansion. Known as the Gray Ghost, this dilapidated place was recently bequeathed to the Heritage Society, and tonight heralds the grand opening of their literary and historical themed haunted house. But amid a parade of characters dressed as Edgar Allan Poe, Lady Macbeth, and the Headless Horseman, a body is suddenly tossed from the third-floor tower room and left to dangle at the end of a rope. Police come screaming in and Theodosia's boyfriend, Detective Pete Riley, is doing his best to investigate, but it's going to take Theodosia to sort things out.

CLARE, ALYS taverner INDIGO GHOSTS (#3) (\$26.99) October 1604. Former ship's surgeon turned country physician Gabriel Taverner is surprised to receive an urgent summons from his old naval captain. Now docked in Plymouth harbour, having recently returned from the Caribbean, Captain Colt believes his ship is haunted by an evil spirit, and has asked Gabriel to investigate. Dismissive of the crew's wild talk of mysterious blue-skinned ghosts, Gabriel is convinced there must be a rational explanation behind the mass hallucinations. But matters take a disturbing turn when he and the captain discover a body hidden behind one of the bulkheads. Calling on the help of his old friend, Coroner Theophilus Davey, piece by piece Gabriel uncovers a terrifying tale of treachery, dark magic, unimaginable cruelty—and cold-blooded murder.

CLEEVE, ANN vera CROW TRAP (#1) (\$25) Three very different women come together to complete an environmental survey on the Northumberland countryside. Three women who, in some way or another, know the meaning of betrayal...For team leader Rachael Lambert the project is the perfect opportunity to rebuild her confidence after a double-betrayal by her lover and boss, Peter Kemp. Botanist Anne Preece, on the other hand, sees it as a chance to indulge in a little deception of her own. And then there is Grace Fulwell, a strange, uncommunicative young woman with plenty of her own secrets to hide...When Rachael arrives at the cottage, however, she is horrified to discover the body of her friend Bella Furness. Bella, it appears, has committed suicide—a verdict Rachael finds impossible to accept. Only when the next death occurs does a fourth woman enter the picture—the unconventional Detective Inspector Vera Stanhope, who must piece together the truth from these women's tangled lives in *The Crow Trap*. The first Vera investigation, published 1999.

COLE, STEPHANIE school EVIL UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN (#3) (\$11.99) When a wealthy New York philanthropist pays top dollar for a private, four-day ziti work-

shop, Nell Valenti wants everyone at the Orlandini cooking school focused on the task at hand. But complications abound when Nell's boyfriend Pete Orlandini rushes to Rome for an unexpected business trip, Chef Orlandini is more preoccupied with a potential spot on an American cooking show than preparing for the workshop, and an uninvited woman sneaks into the villa to inspect Pete's olive grove. The last disturbance proves deadly, and when the woman's body is found in the grove, Nell must investigate before her hopes for the workshop, like the olives, are crushed. Nell now has another item on her checklist—keep the Orlandinis out of trouble and the wealthy ziti-lovers happy while she looks into the stranger's past. When Nell discovers that for one of the Orlandinis, at least, the murder victim was not such a stranger after all, she'll learn that when a detective goes digging in Italy, she'd better be ready for truffle.

COOKMAN, LESLEY sarjeant MURDER AFTER MIDNIGHT (#22) (\$17.99)

When a woman's body is found on the local golf course after an illicit New Year's party, news quickly spreads, and Libby Sarjeant finds herself being tracked down by locals desperate to share information about the victim, Jackie Stapleton. But things are never that simple in Libby's world. Whilst everyone had an opinion on Jackie, it seems nobody really knew much about her. Libby's chum DCI Connell is being more tight-lipped than usual, and even with her friend Fran Wolfe's help, discovering a motive for the killing is frustratingly difficult. Is the murder linked to some distinctly dodgy dealing, a dispute with the local golf club, or something far more sinister—a ghost from Libby's past?

COSIMANO, ELLE finlay FINLAY DONOVAN IS KILLING IT (#1) (\$23.99) Finlay Donovan is killing it . . . except, she's really not. She's a stressed-out single-mom of two and struggling novelist, Finlay's life is in chaos: the new book she promised her literary agent isn't written, her ex-husband fired the nanny without telling her, and this morning she had to send her four-year-old to school with hair duct-taped to her head after an incident with scissors. When Finlay is overheard discussing the plot of her new suspense novel with her agent over lunch, she's mistaken for a contract killer, and inadvertently accepts an offer to dispose of a problem husband in order to make ends meet . . . Soon, Finlay discovers that crime in real life is a lot more difficult than its fictional counterpart, as she becomes tangled in a real-life murder investigation. Fast-paced, deliciously witty, and wholeheartedly authentic in depicting the frustrations and triumphs of motherhood in all its messiness, hilarity, and heartfelt moment . . .

COSIMANO, ELLE finlay FINLAY DONOVAN KNOCKS 'EM DEAD (#2)

(\$23.99) Finlay Donovan is—once again—struggling to finish her next novel and keep her head above water as a single mother of two. On the bright side, she has her live-in nanny and confidant Vero to rely on, and the only dead body she's dealt with lately is that of her daughter's pet goldfish. On the not-so-bright side, someone out there wants her ex-husband, Steven, out of the picture. Permanently. Whatever else Steven may be, he's a good father, but saving him will send her down a rabbit hole of hit-women disguised as soccer moms, and a little bit more involvement with the Russian mob than she'd like. Meanwhile, Vero's keeping secrets, and Detective Nick Anthony seems determined to get back into her life. He may be a hot cop, but Finlay's first priority is preventing her family from sleeping with the fishes... and if that means bending a few laws then so be it. With her next book's deadline looming and an ex-husband to keep alive, Finlay is quickly coming to the end of her rope. She can only hope there isn't a noose at the end of it.

COX, HELEN hartley WITCH HUNT IN WHITBY (#5) (\$17.99) A serial killer is loose in Yorkshire, and has claimed three victims in three months. Thirteen days before each murder, a large purple V is painted on the front door of the victim's house. The victims, all of whom have some association with the occult, are found drained of blood with two red marks on their neck. When Ruby Barnett comes home one evening to find a large purple V on her front door, it becomes clear she is the so-called Vampire Killer's next victim. Private Investigators Kitt Hartley and Grace Edwards have just thirteen days to solve the mystery and save Ruby's life. The clock is ticking . . .

COX, HELEN hartley BODY IN THE BOOKSHOP (#2) (\$17.99) Librarian Kitt Hartley and her friend Evie Bowes thought their life had gone back to normal after the shocking events of Murder by the Minster (#1) (\$17.99). Then DI Malcolm Halloran breaks some bad news: DS Charlotte Banks has been suspended from duty, on suspicion of assaulting the suspect in the burglary of a local bookshop. Evie wants justice for Charlotte, who she is sure was not the attacker, and how could any self-respecting librarian turn down the chance to find missing rare books? The two friends team up once again to investigate the rarefied world of York's bookshops and antiques dealers and find out just who has framed their friend. But Kitt and Evie will soon learn that there are some books people will kill for—will this story have a happy ending?

DALTON, MORAY hugh collie ONE BY ONE THEY DISAPPEARED (#1) (\$24) Elbert J. Pakenham of New York City is among just nine survivors of the sinking of the Coptic—not counting his black cat Jehosaphat. The benevolent Mr. Pakenham has made his fellow survivors joint beneficiaries in his will, his nephew having recently

passed away. But it seems that someone is unwilling to share the fortune, as the heirs start to die under mysterious circumstances... Then Mr. Pakenham himself disappears, and Inspector Collier of Scotland Yard suspects dirty work. When a trap is laid that seriously wounds his best friend at the Yard, Superintendent Trask, Collier is certain his suspicions are correct. Into his net are drawn a charming young woman, Corinna Lacy, and her cousin and trustee, Wilfred Stark; a landed gentleman of dubious reputation, Gilbert Freyne, and his sister-in-law, Gladys; an Italian nobleman of ancient lineage and depleted estate, Count Olivieri; and a Bohemian English artist, Edgar Mallory. But Collier will need some unexpected feline assistance before the case is solved. First published 1929. Quite a number of the entries in this series have been recently reprinted, so if you like this one we'll get you the rest!

DAVIS, LINDSEY *flavia* GROVE OF THE CAESARS (#8) (\$17.99) At the feet of her adoptive father, renowned private informer Marcus Didius Falco, Flavia Albia learned a number of important rules. First and foremost—always keep one's distance from the palace, nothing good comes from that direction. But right behind it—murder is the business of the Vigiles, best to leave them to it. Having broken the first rule more often than she'd like, it's no surprise to anyone when she finds herself breaking the second one. The public gardens named after the Caesars is a place nice girls are warned away from and when a series of bodies are uncovered, it seems that a serial killer has been haunting the grove for years. The case is assigned to one Julius Karus, a cohort of the Vigiles, but Albia is convinced that nothing will come of his efforts. Out of sympathy for the dead women and their grieving relatives, Albia decides to work with the vile Karus and bring the serial killer to justice.

DEAN, ABIGAIL GIRL A (\$23) Lex Gracie doesn't want to think about her family. She doesn't want to think about growing up in her parents' House of Horrors. And she doesn't want to think about her identity as Girl A: the girl who escaped, the eldest sister who freed her older brother and four younger siblings. It's been easy enough to avoid her parents--her father never made it out of the House of Horrors he created, and her mother spent the rest of her life behind bars. But when her mother dies in prison and leaves Lex and her siblings the family home, she can't run from her past any longer. Together with her sister, Evie, Lex intends to turn the home into a force for good. But first she must come to terms with her siblings—and with the childhood they shared.

DOHERTY, GORDON *rise* SONS OF ROME (#1) (\$21.95) As twilight descends on the 3rd century AD, the Roman Empire is but a shadow of its former self. Decades of usurping emperors, splinter kingdoms, and savage wars have left the people beleaguered, the armies weary, and the future uncertain. And into this chaos Emperor Diocletian steps, reforming the succession to allow for not one emperor to rule the world, but four. Meanwhile, two boys share a chance meeting in the great city of Treverorum as Diocletian's dream is announced to the imperial court. Throughout the years that follow, they share heartbreak and glory as that dream sours and the empire endures an era of tyranny and dread. Their lives are inextricably linked, their destinies ever-converging as they rise through Rome's savage stations, to the zenith of empire. For Constantine and Maxentius, the purple robes beckon...

DONNELLY, GARY *sheen* NEVER ASK THE DEAD (#3) (\$16.95) DI Owen Sheen and DC Aoife McCusker are working for the Serious Historic Offences Team in Belfast, although the hands-on approach of the chief constable and the political agendas at play are a struggle to manage. A cryptic message from a retired, and now missing, cop preys on Sheen's mind. Tucker Rodgers claims his friend has been killed and now someone is coming for him. Sheen and McCusker's search for Tucker and the truth places them in the path of the most notorious IRA double agent of the Troubles, as well as someone else with an old score to settle ...with

DOYLE, ARTHUR CONAN SHERLOCK HOLMES HIS GREATEST CASES (\$60) This handsome five-volume boxset brings together a selection of Sherlock Holmes's greatest cases, presented in a decorative slipcase and featuring striking contemporary cover-designs. This brilliant collection is the perfect introduction to Sherlock Holmes—without doubt the greatest detective of all time. Includes two novellas, A Study in Scarlet & The Sign of the Four along with Adventures, Memoirs, Return and His Last Bow.

DOYLE/ MILLER, TIMOTHY STRANGE CASE OF THE DUTCH PAINTER (\$19) Paris, 1890. When Sherlock Holmes finds himself chasing an art dealer through the streets of Paris, he's certain he's smoked out one of the principals of a cunning forgery ring responsible for the theft of some of the Louvre's greatest masterpieces. But for once, Holmes is dead wrong. He doesn't know that the dealer, Theo Van Gogh, is rushing to the side of his brother, who lies dying of a gunshot wound in Auvers. He doesn't know that the dealer's brother is a penniless misfit artist named Vincent, known to few and mourned by even fewer. Officialdom pronounces the death a suicide, but a few minutes at the scene convinces Holmes it was murder. And he's bulldog-determined to discover why a penniless painter who harmed no one had to be killed—and who killed him. Who could profit from Vincent's death? How is the murder entwined with his own forgery investigation? Holmes must retrace the last months of Vin-

cent's life, testing his mettle against men like the brutal Paul Gauguin and the secretive Toulouse-Lautrec, all the while searching for the girl Olympia, whom Vincent named with his dying breath. She can provide the truth, but can anyone provide the proof? From the madhouse of St. Remy to the rooftops of Paris, Holmes hunts a killer—while the killer hunts him.

DUNFORD, CAROLINE martins DEATH AT THE RACES (#14) (\$17.99) It is early 1914, the world is on the brink of war and newly-weds Bertram and Euphemia Stapleford have just returned from their honeymoon. But Euphemia's duty lies with her King and country and she is ordered to accompany spymaster Fitzroy as his navigator in an unofficial car rally across Europe. Their task is to collect top-secret information at a dead drop en route from Hamburg to Monaco. Masquerading as Fitzroy's younger brother, Euphemia endures the most terrifying journey of her life. Before the race has even begun Fitzroy's life is put in danger and further violent attempts to sabotage their mission soon follow. When British double agent Otto begs them to help prevent the assassination of one of the Kaiser's relatives, they don't know who to trust. For it is impossible to tell who is actively hostile, as opposed to merely competitive, in a race in which so many lives are at stake.

DUNFORD, CAROLINE martins DEATH IN THE HOSPITAL (#15) (\$17.99) It is August 1914 and war has been declared. Spymaster Fitzroy returns from France with a team of highly trained spotters wounded and unfit for duty. While Euphemia's husband, Bertram, is away undertaking Fitzroy's next mission, Euphemia and Merry go undercover as nurses in the hospital where Fitzroy's four surviving scouts are being treated. It is feared one of them is a traitor and Euphemia must identify him before it is too late...At the hospital, Euphemia encounters a black-market racketeer, the impenetrable high security Ward D, and an old familiar face who believes some deaths on his ward are a result of foul play. Uncovering far more than she'd bargained for, Euphemia will need all her strength, wit and ingenuity to survive unscathed ...

DUNFORD, CAROLINE martins DEATH ON STAGE (#16) (\$17.99) It is 1914 and war is underway. A group of French actors has become trapped in Britain and some of them are seeking political asylum, among these is a mathematician with whom Euphemia's friend, Mary, has been corresponding. He joined the troupe with the express intention of making it to Britain and to Mary before the war began. Euphemia's new commander sends her undercover to the theatre where the company is finishing its run, and he instructs Fitzroy to remain on medical leave. But Fitzroy has never been one to obey orders. Meanwhile, Euphemia's husband, Bertram, lies critically ill in hospital and Euphemia must employ all her strength to stay focussed on her mission. With actors and agents playing roles both on and off stage, the toughest challenge is knowing who to trust...

DUNFORD, CAROLINE stapleford HOPE FOR THE INNOCENT (#1) (\$17.99) It is 1939 and World War II is looming...

Oswald Mosley has awoken fascist sympathies among the British aristocracy and, in London, socialites are gathering for the start of the Season. Enter astute, Oxford graduate Hope Stapleford, whose quick wit, love of books and keen observations set her apart from her peers. Her rebellious friend, Bernadette, has persuaded her to take part in the Season, and Hope expects little more than a round of dull engagements and dreary introductions. But when an innocent, young debutante goes missing from their very first house party, feared to have been kidnapped or worse, Hope's curiosity is piqued. With Bernie and their new acquaintance, the amiable rogue Harvey, Hope soon finds herself thrust into a web of political intrigue that threatens the very heart of the nation...

EVANOVICH, JANET plum TWO FOR THE DOUGH (#2) (\$12.99) Stephanie Plum, New Jersey's "fugitive apprehension" agent (a.k.a. bounty hunter), in her second adventure, published 1996, sequel to massively successful One for the Money (#1) (\$12.99). Stephanie's back, armed with attitude—not to mention stun guns, defense sprays, killer flashlights, and her trusty .38, Stephanie is after a new bail jumper, Kenny Mancuso, a boy from Trenton's burg. He's fresh out of the army, suspiciously wealthy, and he's just shot his best friend.

EVANS, VIC MURDER IN THE WELSH HILLS (\$17.99) In the majestic mountains of North Wales, retired MI5 agent Huw Cecil is reluctantly drawn back into a world of espionage and murder. While visiting his childhood home of Llangollen, Cecil becomes embroiled in a dangerous mission to obtain top-secret information that could lead to the total collapse of the NATO Alliance. But when his Russian contact is brutally killed, Huw knows that he is the next target. In a deadly game of cat and mouse, with no one left to trust, Cecil enlists the help of Lottie Williams-Parry, a local woman who is struggling to overcome her own dark secrets, and together they take on dark forces and evil assassins in a bid to outwit their enemies and expose the shocking truth..

FERRARS, E X basnett OTHER DEVIL'S NAME (#4) (\$23.99) Andrew Basnett may be retired from academia, but that doesn't seem to have stopped his former colleagues from dumping problems in his lap. This time around it's the peppery Constance Camm, whose neighbors keep disappearing. Miss Camm and her sister, Mollie, might

be tempted to shrug things off, were it not for a frightening letter. "I know where you buried the body," says the letter, but...to which disappeared neighbor does the letter refer? And why was it sent to Mollie, who hasn't been burying anything? Spurred by a desire to help a friend (and—admit it!—by his own curiosity), Professor Bassett starts poking around. But his efforts uncover more than one village skeleton, and they may call up more than anyone has bargained for. Published 1986. One more chance to enjoy this sparkling series.

FERRARS, E X virginia FROG IN THE THROAT (#2) (\$22.50) Virginia's trouble is that whenever something awful happens, it is far too easy to imagine that her husband, Felix, is behind it somehow. She doesn't want to believe this; after all, even if they haven't lived together for ages, at one time she was terribly fond of him. He's quite charming, he dresses well, he knows wine...he would have been a perfectly satisfactory husband if he weren't such an utter cad! He lies, you see. He lies the way other people brush hair off their foreheads, all the time and without even noticing they're doing it. Virginia has even managed to tell herself that this is a useful trait, that because Felix is such a scoundrel, he has a special genius for sniffing out other people's lies, and this makes him a good detective. And perhaps he is, but there's no denying that when awful things happen, Felix is often nearby. The latest awfulness is a local writer shot dead on the eve of her engagement—and right on time, Felix has turned up, like a charming, well-dressed, bad penny. Published 1980.

FINCH, CHARLES lenox EXTRAVAGANT DEATH (#14) (\$23.99) London, 1878. With faith in Scotland Yard shattered after a damning corruption investigation, Charles Lenox's detective agency is rapidly expanding. The gentleman sleuth has all the work he can handle, two children, and an intriguing new murder case. But when Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli offers him the opportunity to undertake a diplomatic mission for the Queen, Lenox welcomes the chance to satisfy an unfulfilled yearning: to travel to America. Arriving in New York, he begins to receive introductions into both its old Knickerbocker society and its new robber baron splendor. Then, a shock: the death of the season's most beautiful debutante, who appears to have thrown herself from a cliff. Or was it murder? Lenox's reputation has preceded him to the States, and he is summoned to a magnificent Newport mansion to investigate the mysterious death. What ensues is a fiendish game of cat and mouse.

FLUKE, JOANNE swensen TRIPLE CHOCOLATE CHEESECAKE MURDER (#27) (\$12.99) Spring has sprung in Lake Eden, Minnesota, but Hannah Swensen doesn't have time to stop and smell the roses—not with hot cross buns to make, treats to bake, and a sister to exonerate...Hannah's up to her ears with Easter orders rushing in at The Cookie Jar, plus a festive meal to prepare for a dinner party at her mother's penthouse. But everything comes crashing to a halt when Hannah receives a panicked call from her sister Andrea—Mayor Richard Bascomb has been murdered...and Andrea is the prime suspect. Even with his reputation for being a bully, Mayor Bascomb had been unusually testy in the days leading up to his death, leaving Hannah to wonder if he knew he was in danger. There are plenty of suspects to sift through for sure. And as orders pile up at The Cookie Jar—and children line up for Easter egg hunts—Hannah must spring into investigation mode and identify the real killer...before another murder happens!

FOLEY, LUCY GUEST LIST (\$22) On an island off the coast of Ireland, guests gather to celebrate two people joining their lives together as one. The groom: handsome and charming, a rising television star. The bride: smart and ambitious, a magazine publisher. It's a wedding for a magazine, or for a celebrity: the designer dress, the remote location, the luxe party favors, the boutique whiskey. The cell phone service may be spotty and the waves may be rough, but every detail has been expertly planned and will be expertly executed. But perfection is for plans, and people are all too human. As the champagne is popped and the festivities begin, resentments and petty jealousies begin to mingle with the reminiscences and well wishes. The groomsmen begin the drinking game from their school days. The bridesmaid not-so-accidentally ruins her dress. The bride's oldest (male) friend gives an uncomfortably caring toast. And then someone turns up dead. Who didn't wish the happy couple well? And perhaps more important, why?

FREEMAN, BRIAN shelby URSULINA (#2) (\$28.50) In this prequel to his Edgar Award finalist and New York Times bestseller The Deep, Deep Snow (\$25.50), the author takes us on Rebecca's dark journey to reveal the truth about the Ursulina... a journey that ultimately leads to an excruciating choice that will change her life forever. The mythical beast goes by many names. Bigfoot. Sasquatch. Yeti. In Black Wolf County, he's called... the Ursulina. But to Deputy Rebecca Colder, the beast is no myth. A serial killer has taken on the identity of the monster—and with each body left behind, there's a chilling message written in blood: I am the Ursulina.

GREGORY, SUSANNA chaloner CLERKENWELL AFFAIR (#14) (\$17.99) In the spring of 1666 everyone's first reaction to a sudden death at the palace of White Hall is that the plague has struck, but the killing of Thomas Chiffinch was by design, not dis-

ease. Chiffinch was holder of two influential posts—Keeper of the Closet and Keeper of the Jewels—and rival courtiers have made no secret of their wish to succeed to those offices. To Thomas Chaloner, ordered to undertake the investigation, such avarice gives a whole host of suspects an ample motive for murder.

GRIFFIN, MARK wakefield WHEN ANGELS SLEEP (#2) (\$17.99) On a cold winter's morning, the body of a young boy is discovered in Epping Forest. The body is pristine and peaceful, his head resting gently on a pillow, an angel pendant clenched in his small fist. It is a murder as carefully planned as it is brutal, and there's one person DI Bishop needs back on his team to help solve such a calculated crime. Holly Wakefield, criminal psychologist for the Met Police, is better than anyone Bishop knows at getting inside the brains of psychopaths. But with the body count rising, it's going to take all their strength and resolve to stop the serial killer before any more angels are put to their rest.

HALL, TRACI scottish shire MURDER AT A SCOTTISH SOCIAL (#3) (\$21.95) Opening her shop Cashmere Crush and making a new home for herself, her son Brody, Gramps, and their black Scottish terrier Wallace in the beautiful Scottish village of Nairn is a dream come true. So Paislee is happy to give back by donating a luxurious cashmere sweater for an auction to raise money for the Nairn Food Bank. She's less happy to make the acquaintance of a clique of competitive moms at the charity event, who treat a baking contest like it's life or death. It turns out to be the latter for Queen Bee Kristen Buchanan when a peanut-laced shortbread cookie triggers her fatal nut allergy. Who would poison Kristen? How about half the town? But when Paislee's pal Blaise is suspected, the sweater-selling sleuth leaps into action to unravel the mystery. Along with gruff but handsome DI Mack Zeffer, she has to sort through a batch of suspects without becoming this cookie-cutter killer's next target...

HART, CAROLYN bailey ruth GHOST UPS HER GAME (#9) (\$26.99) After a busy morning dispatching emissaries from Heaven's Department of Good Intentions to those in need, Bailey Ruth Raeburn is feeling flush with success. So when an urgent call for help comes through from her old hometown, she can't resist taking on the mission herself. After all, what could go wrong? With the shouted warning of her boss, Wiggins—"Irregular! Problematic!"—ringing in her ears, she arrives to face a shocking scene: Professor Iris Gallagher leaning over the corpse of her colleague Matt Lambert, the murder weapon clutched in her hand. Bailey Ruth is only sent to help the innocent, but things are looking very black for Iris. With Wiggins breathing down her neck, and her old friend Police Chief Sam Cobb casting doubt on her every theory, Bailey Ruth must uncover the truth—or this could be the last trip to earth she's ever allowed to make

HAWKSWOOD, SARAH bradecot WOLF AT THE DOOR (#9) (\$16.95) All Hallow's Eve, 1144. The savaged body of Durand Wuduward, the solitary and unpopular keeper of the King's Forest of Feckenham, is discovered beside his hearth, his corpse rendered barely identifiable by sharp teeth. Whispers of a wolf on the prowl grow louder and Sheriff William de Beauchamp's men, Hugh Bradecote, Serjeant Catchpoll and young Walkelin, are tasked with cutting through the clamour. They must uncover who killed Durand and why, while beset by superstitious villagers, raids upon manors and further grim deaths. Out of the shadows of the forest, where will the wolf's fangs strike next?

HILL, REGINALD dalziel DEATH COMES FOR THE FAT MAN aka death of dalziel (#20) (\$25) Caught in the blast of a huge explosion, Detective Superintendent Andy Dalziel lies on a hospital bed, with only a life support system and his indomitable will between him and the Great Beyond. Meanwhile, his colleague, Chief Inspector Peter Pascoe, is determined to find those responsible. Ignoring his own injuries, the advice of his friends, and the pleas of his wife, Pascoe follows a winding trail to the Templars, a mysterious group that believes the only way to fight terrorism is through terror. Where the arm of the law cannot reach, their work begins. Soon Pascoe comes to suspect that they may have support and sympathy in high places, from men ready to accept the death of a policeman or of any other innocent bystander as regrettable but unavoidable collateral damage. From the streets of Manchester to the Yorkshire countryside, Pascoe searches for the truth. And above it all, like a huge zeppelin threatening to break from its moorings, hovers the disembodied spirit of Andy Dalziel. Published 2007.

HURCOM, SAM bexley LETTERS FROM THE DEAD (#2) (\$17.99) 1905. A year after 'the affair' in Dinas Powys, Thomas Bexley has become a drunkard and recluse, haunted by terrible visions of the dead. But when news of a spate of extraordinary kidnappings reaches him, Thomas is shocked to learn that his dear friend and former mentor, Professor Elijah Hawthorn, is the lead suspect. Discovering a plea for help from Hawthorn claiming to have unearthed a gruesome conspiracy at the heart of the Metropolitan Police, Thomas embarks on a journey to prove Hawthorn's innocence. But wherever Thomas goes, he is followed by the dead, and as the mystery of Hawthorn's disappearance deepens, so too does Thomas's apparent insanity...How can Thomas be certain of the truth when he can't trust anybody around him, not even himself...?

HURWITZ, GREGG orphan x PRODIGAL SON (#6) (\$12.99) As a boy, Evan

Smoak was pulled out of a foster home and trained in an off-the-books operation known as the Orphan Program. He was a government assassin, perhaps the best, known to a few insiders as Orphan X. He eventually broke with the Program and adopted a new name—The Nowhere Man—and a new mission, helping the most desperate in their times of trouble. But the highest power in the country has made him a tempting offer—in exchange for an unofficial pardon, he must stop his clandestine activities as The Nowhere Man. Now Evan has to do the one thing he's least equipped to do—live a normal life. But then he gets a call for help from the one person he never expected. A woman claiming to have given him up for adoption, a woman he never knew—his mother. Her unlikely request: help Andrew Duran—a man whose life has gone off the rails, who was in the wrong place at the wrong time, bringing him to the deadly attention of very powerful figures. Now a brutal brother & sister assassination team are after him and with no one to turn to, and no safe place to hide, Evan is Duran's only option. But when the hidden cabal catches on to what Evan is doing, everything he's fought for is on the line—including his own life.

JAMES, PETER grace NOT DEAD YET (#8) (\$19.99) or LA producer Larry Brooker, this is the movie that could bring the fortune that has so long eluded him. For rock superstar, Gaia, desperate to be taken seriously as an actor, this is the role that could get her an Oscar nomination. For the City of Brighton and Hove, the publicity value of a major Hollywood movie being filmed on location, about the city's greatest love story—between King George IV and Maria Fitzherbert—is incalculable. For Detective Superintendent Roy Grace of Sussex CID, it is a nightmare unfolding in front of his eyes. An obsessed stalker is after Gaia. One attempt on her life is made days before she leaves her Bel Air home to fly to Brighton. Now, he has been warned, the stalker may be at large in his city, waiting, watching, planning. Published 2012.

JAMES, PETER grace DEAD MAN'S TIME (#9) (\$19.99) Published 2013. The past haunts Detective Superintendent Roy Grace in his new case—and in his private life. A vicious robbery at a secluded Brighton mansion leaves its elderly occupant fighting for her life. Millions of pounds' worth of valuables have been stolen. Within days, Grace is racing against the clock, following a murderous trail that leads him from the shady antiques world of England, across Europe and all the way back to the New York waterfront's gang struggles of 1922, chasing a killer driven by the force of one man's greed and another man's fury.

JARDINE, QUINTIN skinner ROOTS OF EVIL (#32) (\$17.99) When struggling ex-copper Terry Coats was discovered in bed with an air hostess, his excuse that he was 'going undercover' cut no ice with the force—or his wife. But now he's been brutally killed on Hogmanay night, it seems there may have been more to his plea. Dragged from the New Year celebrations, Special Constable Sir Bob Skinner is shocked to find Coats' body alongside that of Griff Montell: his erstwhile protégé, and former lover of Skinner's own daughter, Alex. Could there be some dark truth under Coats' cock-and-bull story, after all? As the secrets start unravelling, Skinner realises he has gravely underestimated someone close to him - and the effects will cost him, and those he loves, dear . . .

JURCZYK, EVA DEPARTMENT OF RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS (\$24.99 trade paperback, \$38.99 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

KELLERMAN, FAYE decker SERPENT'S TOOTH (#10) (\$11.99) A man walks into a trendy Los Angeles restaurant—a disgruntled ex-employee with an automatic weapon—and seconds later, thirteen people are dead and thirty-two more have been wounded. It is a heinous act of mass slaughter that haunts Homicide Detective Peter Decker. Though eyewitnesses saw only the lone gunman—who apparently took his own life after his bloody work was done—evidence suggests more than one weapon was fired. It is a disturbing inconsistency that sends Decker racing headlong into a sordid, labyrinthine world of Southern California money and power, on an investigation that threatens to destroy his reputation and his career. Published 1997.

KEPLER, LARS linna MIRROR MAN (#8) (\$22.95) Seventeen-year-old Jenny is abducted in broad daylight and taken to a dilapidated, isolated house where she is chained and caged along with several other girls. Their captor is unpredictable, and as wily as he is cruel: he foils every one of their desperate attempts to escape . . . and once caught, they rarely survive their punishment. Five years later, Jenny is found dead in a public park, and the police are scrambling to find a lead among the scant evidence. But Detective Joona Linna realizes that this murder has an eerie connection to a death that was declared a suicide years before. When Mia, a seventeen-year-old orphan, goes missing, it becomes clear to Joona that they are dealing with a serial killer—whose murderous rampage has just begun. As the police close in on the killer, Mia and her fellow captives are plunged into ever greater danger, and Joona finds himself in a seemingly impossible race against time to save their young lives.

KERNICK, SIMON KILL A STRANGER (\$17.99) They took your fiancée. They framed you for murder. You're given one chance to save her. To clear your name. You

must kill someone for them. They give you the time and place. The weapon. The target. You have less than 24 hours. You only know that no-one can be trusted...and nothing is what it seems.

KHAN, VASEEM wadis DYING DAY (#2) (\$26.99) For over a century, one of the world's great treasures, a six-hundred-year-old copy of Dante's *The Divine Comedy*, has been safely housed at Bombay's Asiatic Society. But when it vanishes, together with the man charged with its care, British scholar and war hero, John Healy, the case lands on Inspector Persis Wadia's desk. Uncovering a series of complex riddles written in verse, Persis—together with English forensic scientist Archie Blackfinch—is soon on the trail. But then they discover the first body. As the death toll mounts it becomes evident that someone else is also pursuing this priceless artefact and will stop at nothing to possess it . . . Harking back to an era of darkness, this second thriller in the Malabar House series pits Persis, once again, against her peers, a changing India, and an evil of limitless intent.

KING, THOMAS dreadfulwate DEEP HOUSE (#6) (\$24.99 trade paperback, \$36.99 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

KUKAFKA, DANYA NOTES ON AN EXECUTION (\$23.99) Ansel Packer is scheduled to die in twelve hours. He knows what he's done, and now awaits execution, the same chilling fate he forced on those girls, years ago. But Ansel doesn't want to die; he wants to be celebrated, understood. Through a kaleidoscope of women—a mother, a sister, a homicide detective—we learn the story of Ansel's life. We meet his mother, Lavender, a seventeen-year-old girl pushed to desperation; Hazel, twin sister to Ansel's wife, inseparable since birth, forced to watch helplessly as her sister's relationship threatens to devour them all; and finally, Saffy, the detective hot on his trail, who has devoted herself to bringing bad men to justice but struggles to see her own life clearly. As the clock ticks down, these three women sift through the choices that culminate in tragedy, exploring the rippling fissures that such destruction inevitably leaves in its wake. Blending breathtaking suspense with astonishing empathy, *Notes on an Execution* presents a chilling portrait of womanhood as it simultaneously unravels the familiar narrative of the American serial killer, interrogating our system of justice and our cultural obsession with crime stories, asking readers to consider the false promise of looking for meaning in the psyches of violent men.

LEGAT, ANNA shires DEATH COMES TO BISHOPS WELL (#1) (\$17.99) When Sam Dee moves to the beautiful Wiltshire village of Bishops Well, he expects a quiet life of country walks and pub lunches. OK, so his new neighbour, Maggie Kaye, is a little peculiar, but she's very nice—and his old pal Richard Ruta lives just down the road. But when Richard throws one of his famous parties, things take a sinister turn. Sam, Maggie and the rest of the guests are dumbfounded when Richard falls down dead. A horrible tragedy—or a cunningly planned murder? With a village full of suspects—and plenty of dark secrets—just who exactly would want to bump off their host? Is there a connection to another mysterious death, nearly twenty years before? Armed with her local knowledge, Maggie—with Sam's reluctant but indispensable help—is soon on the case. But when the body count starts to rise, will sleepy Bishops Well ever be the same again?

MACLAIN/MCLAIN, PAULA PARIS WIFE (\$17.95) No twentieth-century American writer has captured the popular imagination as much as Ernest Hemingway. This novel tells his story from a unique point of view—that of his first wife, Hadley. Through her eyes and voice, we experience Paris of the Lost Generation and meet fascinating characters such as Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, and Gerald and Sara Murphy. The city and its inhabitants provide a vivid backdrop to this engrossing and wrenching story of love and betrayal that is made all the more poignant knowing that, in the end, Hemingway would write of his first wife, "I wish I had died before I loved anyone but her."

MACLEAN, S G seeker BLACK FRIAR (#2) (\$17.99) London, 1655, and Cromwell's regime is under threat from all sides. Damian Seeker, Captain of Cromwell's Guard, is all too aware of the danger facing Cromwell. Parliament resents his control of the Army while the Army resents his absolute power. In the east end of London, a group of religious fanatics plots rebellion. In the midst of all this, a stonemason uncovers a perfectly preserved body dressed in the robes of a Dominican friar, bricked up in a wall in the crumbling Black Friars. Ill-informed rumours and speculation abound, but Seeker instantly recognises the dead man. What he must discover is why he met such a hideous end, and what his connection was to the children who have started to disappear from around the city. Unravelling these mysteries is challenging enough, and made still harder by the activities of dissenters at home, Royalist plotters abroad and individuals who are not what they seem...

MACLEAN, S G seeker DESTROYING ANGEL (#3) (\$17.99) Captain Damian Seeker has gone north. Charged with preparing the way for the rule of the major-generals, he is now under the command of Colonel Robert Lilburne at York. But when Lilburne orders him to a small village on the North York moors with details of the strin-

gent new anti-Royalist laws, Seeker finds that what should be a routine visit will reveal a plot to rival anything in scheming London. An invitation to dinner at the house of local businessman Matthew Pullan lifts the lid on the bubbling cauldron of grudges and resentment that is Faithly village. The local constable, drunk on the tiny bit of power he holds, using it to avenge old resentments. The hated lord of the manor, the last of a staunchly Royalist family who has managed to avoid suspicion of treachery—for now. The vicar on trial for his job and his home, accused of ungodly acts. And the Pullans themselves, proudly Puritan but disillusioned with Cromwell's government, respected and despised in Faithly in equal measure. The man for whom this unlikely gathering was organised—The Trier, the enforcer of Puritan morality for the local villages—hasn't shown up. And by the end of the night, one of those gathered around Matthew Pullan's table will be fatally poisoned. Seeker must find out the motive behind the death—mushroom misidentification, petty revenge, or part of a larger plot against Cromwell's government in the north? But who in Faithly, if anyone, can he trust? And when the most painful part of his past reappears after eleven years, will the Seeker meet his match?

MARSTON, EDWARD domesday ELEPHANTS OF NORWICH (#11) (\$16.95) It is the juiciest piece of gossip the citizens of Norwich have heard for a long time. The two golden elephants that robber baron Richard de Fontenel was using to lure the beautiful Adelaide into marriage have been stolen. Also missing is de Fontenel's steward Hermer. Desperate to try and ignore this growing crisis are Domesday Commissioners Ralph Delchard and Gervase Bret, who are keen to resolve a land dispute involving de Fontenel and Mauger - a man also trying to woo Adelaide. De Fontenel, however, refuses to co-operate until the thief is found. But is Hermer the steward really missing or has something more sinister happened? In Ralph and Gervase's most baffling case yet, nothing is what it seems and no one is free from suspicion...

MARSTON, EDWARD domesday OWLS OF GLOUCESTER (#10) (\$16.95) The ordered calm of Gloucester Abbey is shattered by the murder of one of its monks. The Abbot, ill-equipped to deal with such a heinous crime, is stunned by the Sheriff's belief that one of the monks is guilty. This is the confusion that greets the two Domesday Commissioners, Ralph Delchard and Gervase Bret, as they are welcomed into the town. Eager to resolve the mystery, they begin their own investigations but find the killing is merely a sign of a sinister presence which threatens the whole community and which must be stopped.

MORRIS, VERA anglican SHIP OF DEATH (#4) (\$17.99) At Rooks Wood Farm, Rosalind Breen's twin sons grieve her death. Daniel shoulders the burdens of running the farm and caring for his brother, Caleb, who's shunned for his strange appearance. Meanwhile, Minsmere Bird Reserve is suffering a spate of vandalism and senior partners of the Anglican Detective Agency, Frank Diamond and Laurel Bowman, are enlisted to find the culprits. But shortly after taking the case, Laurel discovers the body of a young man dumped in one of the meres and the detectives are caught up in a murder enquiry. All evidence points to one suspect, but can the Anglian Detective Agency catch the killer? Or will it take another death for the truth to be finally set free?

MOSLEY, WALTER easy BLOOD GROVE (#15) (\$22.99) It is 1969, and flames can be seen on the horizon, protest wafts like smoke though the thick air, and Easy Rawlins, the Black private detective whose small agency finally has its own office, gets a visit from a white Vietnam veteran. The young man comes to Easy with a story that makes little sense. He and his lover, a beautiful young woman, were attacked in a citrus grove at the city's outskirts. He may have killed a man, and the woman and his dog are now missing. Inclined to turn down what sounds like nothing but trouble, Easy takes the case when he realizes how damaged the young vet is from his war experiences—the bond between veterans superseding all other considerations. The veteran is not Easy's only unlooked-for trouble. Easy's adopted daughter Feather's white uncle shows up uninvited, raising questions and unsettling the life Easy has long forged for the now young woman. Where Feather sees a family reunion, Easy suspects something else, something that will break his heart.

O'CONNOR, CARLENE irish MURDER IN AN IRISH BOOKSHOP (#7) (\$11.99) Between training the new town garda and trying to set a wedding date with her fiancé, Macdara Flannery, Siobhán is feeling a bit overwhelmed. But an author event at the new bookstore featuring Irish writers taking up residency in Kilbane offers a welcome distraction. One author, Deirdre Walsh, spends more time complaining about the unfairness of the publishing industry and megastar bestselling authors like Nessa Lamb instead of her own body of work. After the evening ends in a battle of words, Deirdre's body is found the next day in the back of the store—with pages torn from Nessa's books stuffed in her mouth. Now, Siobhán must uncover which of Kilbane's literary guests took Deirdre's criticisms so personally they engaged in foul play...

PENNY, LOUISE gamache BRUTAL TELLING (#5) (\$25) Chaos is coming, old son. With those words the peace of Three Pines is shattered. Everybody goes to Olivier's Bistro—including a stranger whose murdered body is found on the floor.

When Chief Inspector Gamache is called to investigate, he is dismayed to discover that Olivier's story is full of holes. Why are his fingerprints all over the cabin that's uncovered deep in the wilderness, with priceless antiques and the dead man's blood? And what other secrets and layers of lies are buried in the seemingly idyllic village?

Gamache follows a trail of clues and treasures—from first editions of Charlotte's Web and Jane Eyre to a spiderweb with a word mysteriously woven in it—into the woods and across the continent, before returning to Three Pines to confront the truth and the final, brutal telling. Published 2009.

PENNY, LOUISE **gamache** FATAL GRACE (#2) aka dead cold (\$26.99) Welcome to winter in Three Pines, a picturesque village in Quebec, where the villagers are preparing for a traditional country Christmas, and someone is preparing for murder. No one liked CC de Poitiers. Not her quiet husband, not her spineless lover, not her pathetic daughter—and certainly none of the residents of Three Pines. CC de Poitiers managed to alienate everyone, right up until the moment of her death. When Chief Inspector Armand Gamache, of the Sûreté du Québec, is called to investigate, he quickly realizes he's dealing with someone quite extraordinary. CC de Poitiers was electrocuted in the middle of a frozen lake, in front of the entire village, as she watched the annual curling tournament. And yet no one saw anything. Who could have been insane enough to try such a macabre method of murder—or brilliant enough to succeed? With his trademark compassion and courage, Gamache digs beneath the idyllic surface of village life to find the dangerous secrets long buried there. For a Quebec winter is not only staggeringly beautiful but deadly, and the people of Three Pines know better than to reveal too much of themselves. But other dangers are becoming clear to Gamache. As a bitter wind blows into the village, something even more chilling is coming for Gamache himself. Published 2006.

POBI, ROBERT **lucas page** UNDER PRESSURE (#2) (\$24.99) On a beautiful October evening, New York City's iconic Guggenheim Museum is closed for a tech company's private gala. Until an explosion rocks the night, instantly killing 702 people, including every single attendee—yet the damage to the building itself was minimal. An explosion of that precision was no accident and, in response, the FBI mobilizes its entire team—but the sheer number of victims strains their resources. Were all 702 victims in the wrong place at the wrong time, or was there only one target and 701 unlucky bystanders? That many victim files is a staggering amount of data to sort through and Brett Kehoe, Special Agent in Charge of Manhattan, decides that he can't do this without more computational power. Dr. Lucas Page, astrophysicist, university professor, and former FBI agent, is uniquely gifted for the task at hand—he can visualize a crime scene as if he was a bystander and can break down any set of data at a glance. Even though Page wants nothing to do with the FBI, with his city under attack and his family at risk, he steps in to find a killer in a haystack before they strike again. The excellent sequel to the equally excellent City of Windows (\$24.50).

PRENTISS, S A YOU WILL NEVER KNOW (\$22.95) After a lifetime of hardship, Jessica Thornton finally has the life she's dreamed of: a new marriage to a realtor with burgeoning success; a daughter whose athleticism has won her a scholarship to college; and a freshly-secured grant from her bank to finally complete her own higher education. Her life today is a complete reversal from the not-too-distant past, when the death of her first husband left her penniless and desperate to provide for her then-newborn child. But after the murder of her children's high school classmate, a series of disturbances brings Jessica to question whether her dreams ever actually came true, or whether they've just been delusions all along... In the days after the murder, suspicion creeps in at every corner, beginning with Jessica's daughter and stepson, who won't tell her where they were on that fateful night. Then she discovers that her husband's business is failing, not growing, and that the stories he's told of meetings with high-powered investors were nothing more than lies. And when a private investigator comes to look into the death of her first husband, her last foundation of truth slips suddenly away.

RICHES, ANTHONY **bale** NEMESIS (#1) (\$22.95) Mickey Bale is an elite close protection officer. That's why the Met police has given him the toughest job of all: guarding the Minister of Defence at a moment when Chinese-British relations have hit a deadly boiling point. And when Mickey's life isn't on the line for his work, he's taking his chances waging war on a powerful London gang family. Their dealer supplied a lethal ecstasy pill to his sister, and Mickey is determined to take them down, one at a time. But will he get away with it – or will his colleagues in the force realise that the man on an underworld killing spree is one of their own?

ROBB, J D FORGOTTEN IN DEATH (#53) (\$12.99) The body was left in a dumpster like so much trash, the victim a woman of no fixed address, known for offering paper flowers in return for spare change—and for keeping the cops informed of any infractions she witnessed on the street. But the notebook where she scribbled her intel on litterers and other such offenders is nowhere to be found. Then Eve is summoned away to a nearby building site to view more remains—in this case decades old, adorned with gold jewelry and fine clothing—unearthed by recent construction work. She isn't happy

when she realizes that the scene of the crime belongs to her husband, Roarke—not that it should surprise her, since the Irish billionaire owns a good chunk of New York. Now Eve must enter a complex world of real estate development, family history, shady deals, and shocking secrets to find justice for two women whose lives were thrown away...

ROSETT, SARA **high society** MURDER AT THE MANSIONS (#7) (\$20.99) London, February, 1924. Discreet sleuth for the high society set, Olive Belgrave is delighted with her new flat at South Regent Mansions where she's made several friends, including the modern career woman, Minerva, who draws a popular cartoon about a flapper for a London newspaper. But then Minerva comes to Olive for help after catching a glimpse of a disturbing sight—a dead body. At least, that's what Minerva thought she saw, but there's not a dead body anywhere in the posh building, and the residents are continuing with their lives as they normally do. Is Minerva seeing things? Is she barmy? Or is there a more sinister explanation?

RYAN, SOFIE **second chance** TOTALLY PAWSTRUCK (#9) (\$11.99) Although Sarah Grayson is often tending to the contained chaos of her delightful secondhand store in North Harbor, Maine, plus dealing with the quirky personality of her rescue cat, Elvis, she still takes an occasional night off. But her evening out comes to an abrupt end when Sarah discovers Stella Hall, a member of the library board, standing over a body in the street. Although Stella admits that she and the victim had fought about several things including library funding, she is adamant that she is innocent and the real killer is on the loose. Sarah is eager to help, but even with the assistance of Charlotte's Angels, the senior citizen detectives who rent out part of her shop, there is still a vast amount of circumstantial evidence linking Stella to the crime. The odds may be stacked against them, but Sarah and Elvis, along with the Angels, will work hard to check out the suspects and catch a killer.

SCOTTOLINE, LISA ETERNAL (\$23) Elisabetta, Marco, and Sandro grow up as the best of friends despite their differences. Elisabetta is a feisty beauty who dreams of becoming a novelist; Marco the brash and athletic son in a family of professional cyclists; and Sandro a Jewish mathematics prodigy, kind-hearted and thoughtful, the son of a lawyer and a doctor. Their friendship blossoms to love, with both Sandro and Marco hoping to win Elisabetta's heart. But in the autumn of 1937, all of that begins to change as Mussolini asserts his power, aligning Italy's Fascists with Hitler's Nazis and altering the very laws that govern Rome. In time, everything that the three hold dear—their families, their homes, and their connection to one another—is tested in ways they never could have imagined. Mussolini was only the beginning. The Nazis invade Rome, and with their occupation come new atrocities against the city's Jews, culminating in a final, horrific betrayal. Against this backdrop, the intertwined fates of Elisabetta, Marco, Sandro, and their families will be decided, in a heartbreaking story of both the best and the worst that the world has to offer.

SCOTTOLINE, LISA **rosato** DEVIL'S CORNER (\$21) Assistant U.S. Attorney Vicki Allegretti goes to meet a confidential informant and finds herself facing a loaded 9 mm Glock semiautomatic weapon, wielded by a panicky teenager. Violence is the last thing this neophyte lawyer expects. The case is easy, the kind given to new ADAs to help them cut their teeth. Yet almost before she has time to react, her partner is dead, shot in the chest. From that high-octane introduction to her job, Vicki vows to continue with the case, protect her informant, and find the shadowy figure behind the death of her partner. This decision will take her to the depths of the federal detention center's "bowl," to a row house on the street where she grew up, and to the posh suburbs where her parents now live.

SCRIBNER, ALAN **severus** SHIPWRECK CONSPIRACY (#8) (\$20.50) 171 CE, during the reign of Marcus Aurelius. Marcus Severus is happily retired in his villa in the Alban Hills when he and his family come to Rome for a visit. While there Severus visits the Court of the Urban Prefect and attends the final day of a sensational trial. A merchant ship, the Andromeda, was deliberately beached in the middle of the night at a place where a gang of robbers was already waiting to seize the ship's extremely valuable cargo of silk from the country in the far East known as Seres or Thina. Crew or passengers who got in the way were randomly murdered and the Captain of the Andromeda was now on trial for the shipwreck, the robbery and the murders. But there is a major problem. The Captain claimed he had been knocked unconscious during the robbery and confessed only under excruciating torture. And the question of the corroboration required by Roman law of a confession extracted by torture was in doubt. Without corroboration, the burden of proof, which in Roman law is on the prosecution, could not be met and the Captain should have been acquitted, not convicted. Severus is intrigued and gets himself appointed a Special Judge to investigate the case.

SHARP, ZOE **fox** FOX FIVE RELOADED ss (\$17.95) This short story collection follows ex-Special Forces soldier turned bodyguard, Charlotte 'Charlie' Fox, from a disused viaduct in Lancashire, via the wilds of Dartmoor, swanky Long Island, and a spa hotel in the Catskill Mountains, to the war-torn Middle East. Danger and thrills go along for the ride.

SMITH, MICHAEL FARRIS NICK (\$22.99) Before Nick Carraway moved to West Egg and into Gatsby's periphery, he was at the center of a very different story—one taking place along the trenches and deep within the tunnels of World War I. Floundering in the wake of the destruction he witnessed firsthand, Nick delays his return home, hoping to escape the questions he cannot answer about the horrors of war. Instead, he embarks on a transcontinental redemptive journey that takes him from a whirlwind Paris romance—doomed from the very beginning—to the dizzying frenzy of New Orleans, rife with its own flavor of debauchery and violence. An epic portrait of a truly singular era and a sweeping, romantic story of self-discovery, this rich and imaginative novel breathes new life into a character that many know but few have pondered deeply. Charged with enough alcohol, heartbreak, and profound yearning to paralyze even the heartiest of golden age scribes, Nick reveals the man behind the narrator who has captivated readers for decades.

STABENOW, DANA eye isis DISAPPEARANCE OF A SCRIBE (#2) (\$32.95) Two Alexandrian fishermen come across a horrifying sight—the body of a skeleton floating upright at the bottom of the sea, anchored in place by a cement weight around his feet. In Alexandria's rough-and-tumble construction trade they call that 'being fitted with a pair of Rhakotis sandals' and what's worse, he's the second such victim in two years. Queen Cleopatra is busy rebuilding her city after the Alexandrian War and these murders are not to be allowed to interfere with this primary task, so she charges Tetisheri, her new Eye of Isis, with the task of finding out who these men were, when they were murdered, and, above all, why. Sequel to Death of an Eye (#1) (\$20.95).

SULLIVAN, TIM cross DENTIST (#1) (\$22.95) DS George Cross can be rude, difficult, and awkward with people. But his unfailing logic and dogged pursuit of the truth means his conviction rate is the best on the force. So when his police colleagues dismiss the death of a man as a squabble among Bristol's homeless community, Detective Sergeant George Cross is not convinced. Who was the unknown man whose weather-beaten body is discovered on Clifton Downs? Did the tragedy that led to a life on the streets also lead to his death? As he delves into the dead man's past, Cross becomes convinced that to catch this killer, he needs to solve a cold case murder from years before. A murder that someone has got away with for fifteen years...

TAYLOR, MARSALI lynch DEATH FROM A SHETLAND CLIFF (#8) (\$17.99) As summer draws to a close in Shetland, indomitable sailor Cass Lynch is preparing to look after eccentric, outspoken Tamar, who is returning from hospital following a fall. Recuperation should involve a peaceful week in Tamar's isolated cottage but, on arriving at the house, Cass finds there has been a break-in . . . curiously, only some old papers are disturbed. Then the body of a man is found in a cove close-by and while it looks to be an accident at first glance, suspicions are quickly aroused—and soon the police have a murder on their hands. At the same time, Cass begins to suspect Tamar knows more than she's letting on about her family's ties to the local laird. As the family start to gather, secrets won't stay buried for long . . .

VIDICH, PAUL MERCENARY (\$22.99) Moscow, 1985. The Soviet Union and its communist regime are in the last stages of decline but remain opaque to the rest of the world—and still very dangerous. In this ever-shifting landscape, a senior KGB officer—code name GAMBIT—has approached the CIA Moscow Station chief with top secret military weapons intelligence and asked to be exfiltrated. GAMBIT demands that his handler be a former CIA officer, Alex Garin, a former KGB officer who defected to the American side. The CIA had never successfully exfiltrated a KGB officer from Moscow, and the top brass do not trust Garin. But they have no other options: GAMBIT's secrets could be the deciding factor in the Cold War. Garin is able to gain the trust of GAMBIT, but remains an enigma. Is he a mercenary acting in self-interest or are there deeper secrets from his past that would explain where his loyalties truly lie? As the date nears for GAMBIT's exfiltration, and with the walls closing in on both of them, Garin begins a relationship with a Russian agent and sets into motion a plan that could compromise everything.