



# *The Merchant of Menace*

The official newsletter of

## SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

January 2021

Goodbye 2020, that's enough out of you. Here's to a very different 2021.

Ontario's numbers are rising dangerously fast and, from all indications, more stringent measures are in the offing. What those might be, we'll learn in the next day or so: cur-tailing or disallowing curbside pickups and, a la Quebec, curfews, would seem to me to be likely candidates. Inexplicably, the kinds of measures that would make a real difference—contact tracing and inoculations being the principal ones—seem to be rolling out slowly. All in the fullness of time.

In the meantime, life goes on more or less unaffected for us and for Sleuth. Curbside works well enough and there is ample opportunity to chat—outside and from a distance. Publishers, with two exceptions, are operating pretty much as always, and most any book that we need is available. So, don't spare us, put us to work and order away.

A big thank you to all who created accounts on the website and have been placing orders there. If you have not yet played around on the site, I would urge you to go have a look. The "print" and "read" versions of the newsletter are not long for this world. The only version that will soon be left will be the "view" version. Please work with it, learn in, get used to it, call us if you need a hand. This will be the last year for the newsletter as you have known it. On the website is a list of recently received titles and a list of forthcoming. These lists are updated weekly and are an excellent way to keep up on what has recently arrived and what is forthcoming. The newsletter, as we currently do it, is just duplicated, unnecessary effort and we want to find ways to significantly cut back on the workload. More time for golf!

Get used to working with the website—it really is very easy to navigate and very, very good—and start searching for all your book needs. Not just crime and thrillers, but all genres. We deal with all the major publishing houses and can order ANYTHING for you. Put us to the test.

## *The Merchant of Menace,*

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

### **Postage & Handling**

In a word: Actual

### **Hours of Business**

**Under lockdown, so,  
curbside pickups  
or mail orders only  
at the moment.**

**Please check the website  
for the latest.**

## *JD's Picks*

It had been a while since I last read anything by **ANDREA CAMILLERI**. But there was a copy of The Overnight Kidnapper (#23) (\$22) at the cottage and having nothing else that looked enticing, I started it. What a pleasure that one was. This is my kind of novel; enough wit and humour to keep me unable to stop reading. Insp. Montalbano is interesting in his own right, but it's some of, well, less erudite characters who kept me turning pages. Yet again, I'm left wondering how much of what I'm reading is the author's effort or the translator's. Hopefully, it's all **Camilleri's** and the translator's job is to translate faithfully, warts, mistake and all.

Here's a brief synopsis: The day gets off to a bad start for Montalbano: while trying to break up a fight on Marinella beach, he hits the wrong man and is stopped by the Carabinieri. When he finally gets to the office, the inspector learns about a strange abduction: a woman was abducted, drugged, and then released unharmed only hours later. Within a few days, the same thing happens again. Both women are thirty years old and work in a bank.

Montalbano also has to deal with an arson case. A shop has burned down, and its owner, Marcello Di Carlo, seems to have vanished into thin air. At first this seems like a trivial case, but a third abduction—yet again of a girl who works in a bank—and the discovery of a body bring up new questions.

**CHRIS BOHJALIAN's** RED LOTUS (\$22.95) has just been released in paperback. This was a novel that I picked when it was first published, and I thought I'd point out that the paperback is now available. An excellent read.

Alexis and Austin don't have a typical "meet cute"—their first encounter involves Alexis, an emergency room doctor, suturing a bullet wound in Austin's arm. Six months later, they're on a romantic getaway in Vietnam: a bike tour on which Austin can show Alexis his passion for cycling and can pay his respects to the place where his father and uncle fought in the war. But then Austin fails to return from a solo ride. Alexis's boyfriend has vanished, the only clue left behind is a bright yellow energy gel dropped on the road. As Alexis grapples with this bewildering loss, she starts to uncover a series of strange lies that force her to wonder: Where did Austin go? Why did he really bring her to Vietnam? And how much danger has he left her in?

## *Marian's Picks*

Happy 2021, hopefully a better year than 2020! The three of us want to thank all of you who kept us so busy during these turbulent past few months. Actually, truth be told, I spent a lot of 2020 at the cottage and let himself do most of the work (*not entirely untrue—jd*) and he tells me that so many of you were so generous in your support of Sleuth. You are the best and have kept us going into 2021.

Pixie and I invited himself, the friendless one, to spend the week between Christmas and New Year with us at the cottage. This was the first time ever, the first time in thirty-nine Christmases, that we closed the store for that week. It was a time of peace and quiet, eating and partaking in holiday imbibement, including re-visiting old cocktail recipes, but more on that a little later on. No visiting family members, no getting together to celebrate the holidays with family and friends. The kind of restraint that I'm sure many of you showed. It was certainly a different Christmas.

One of the cocktails I revisited was the Scarlet O'Hara. Twenty-five or so years ago my sister and I would order this drink every time we got together. It's very simple to make: Southern Comfort, cranberry juice and a dash of lime juice. Made one (or maybe two), but, somehow, it didn't taste nearly as good as I remembered it. Maybe, likely, because my sister was not there to share it with me. But tastes also change. Some things, are perhaps best left alone. You can't go back. Here's to the coming year—good riddance 2020—and let's hope we all get our inoculation quickly. In the meantime, stay distant, stay healthy.

I read several books over the holidays, but not as many as I thought I'd read consider-

ing there was nothing to do except read or watch movies. I discovered a new writer and read some old favourites.

The Man in Milan (\$40.50) by **VITO RACANELLI** caught my attention simply because of its title. I've been to Italy a couple of times and enjoyed every minute of my time there, well, except for the last 6 mile of the Rome Marathon, but have not been to Milan. Here was my chance to "go there" so I took the book with me to the cottage and literally could not put it down. Aside from a couple of minor editing issue—annoying as they are, and, of course wonder, how many did I not catch?—but I flew thorough the book. Fast paced, action filled, witty, interesting characters, lots of killing, Italy, and, at its core, the still unsolved mystery behind Itavia Flight 870 which crashed into the Tyrrhenian Sea in 1980 killing all 81 people on board. The interplay between NYPD detectives Paul Rossi and Hamilton P. Turner is bang on delightful and entertaining, and I can hardly wait for the next book. We are left with an ending that just begs for the more, for the sequel.

Here is a summary of the story: For fans of **Daniel Silva** and **David Baldacci** comes a gripping thriller based on real world events that will have you riveted until the final page is turned. When NYPD detectives Paul Rossi and Hamilton P. Turner begin investigating the Sutton Place murder of an Italian air force pilot, the last thing they expect is that they will and find themselves sucked into the potential cover-up of the Ustica massacre, the most horrific aviation crime in Italian history, in which all 81 souls onboard perished, where Italian President Francesco Cossiga blamed a missile deployed by the French Navy for the disaster.

But as they begin investigating, Rossi, recovering from a broken marriage, and Turner, an African-American opera buff, poet, and former lawyer with ambitions to be mayor, come up against NYPD bureaucratic obstacles and stonewalling by the Italian Consulate in NYC. Lieutenant Laura Muro, the policewoman sister of the victim, comes to New York to aid the investigation, but soon the trio find themselves in the crosshairs of the Gladio, Italy's powerful, shadowy political cabal whose reach extends to the highest reaches of New York political and ruling class. From New York to Italy, Rossi, Turner, and Muro must uncover the shocking truth about one of the most notorious disasters in airline history, and how this infamous act ties to the present-day murder.

Bodies in the Library (\$10.99) by **MARTY WINGATE** is a favourite of mine that I've recommended to customers who love cosy mysteries. I loved pretty much everything about it: the setting is Bath; the main character is a woman who is curator of a library devoted to Golden Age Mysteries, which she has never read; a murder in said library; a potential love interest; I could go on.... I grabbed **Ms. Wingate's** second book in the series, Murder Is a Must (\$35), the minute it came into the store and it did not disappoint. Same "cosiness," same wit, same beautiful manor house, different murder though. If you haven't tried her give Bodies a go and then rush right into the next one.

Here is what the jacket blurb says about Murder: Hayley Burke, curator of Lady Fowling's collection of first edition mysteries, is settling into her position at the First Edition Library in Middlebank House. She's even made progress with Lady Fowling's former secretary, the ornery Miss Woolgar. The women are busily preparing for an exhibition that will showcase Lady Fowling's life and letters. Hayley knows the exhibition is a huge undertaking and decides, against her better judgement, to hire Oona Atherton, her former boss from the Jane Austen Centre to help with the planning.

Oona is known for being difficult, but all seems to be going swimmingly until she and Hayley uncover a one-page letter that alludes to a priceless edition of Murder Must Advertise (\$25.50) by **Dorothy Sayers**, signed by several Golden Age of Mystery authors. Oona feels this book could be the focal point of the exhibition and becomes obsessed with finding it.

When they find clues that appear to point to the book being somewhere in the First Edition Library, Oona is certain she's unraveled the mystery and texts Hayley the good news, but upon arriving back at Middlebank, Hayley finds her old boss dead. Did her discovery of the rare book get her killed or was it some angry shadow from her past? Hayley must read between the lines to catch a malicious murderer.

Death Long Overdue (#7) (\$35.99) by **EVA GATES** is book number seven in the Lighthouse Library Mystery series, and it too doesn't disappoint. Having a library in a lighthouse would be a treat to visit. Living in the lighthouse would be a dream, and librarian Lucy Richardson has the best of all world as she both lives and works there. There are lots of interesting and quirky characters, any one of whom could be a suspect,

an intriguing plot, a beautiful location, a cosy reader's dream!

Here is the plot: It's summertime in the Outer Banks of North Carolina and Bertie James's college class is having their 40th anniversary reunion. The opening night reception is held at the Lighthouse Library and Lucy and her colleagues have assembled an exhibit of library artifacts showing how libraries have changed over the years. After the reception, some of the women take a walk down the boardwalk to the pier, using flashlights to illuminate the dark path, but what's scarier than the dark is finding the former director of the Lighthouse Library floating lifeless in the water.

Helena Sanchez, the former director, wasn't much loved and spent the party being rude to almost everyone there. As a result, Lucy finds herself in deep water as she rocks the boat, questioning several suspects. But she'll have to batten down the hatches and fast before she's left high and dry...and right in the killer's crosshairs.

## *Hardbacks*

**BERENSON, LAURIEN** travis GAME OF DOG BONES (#25) (\$35) As Greenwich, Connecticut, slows down during a bitterly cold February, Melanie and her spunky Aunt Peg head to the city that never sleeps for the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show at Madison Square Garden. Aunt Peg can't wait to demonstrate her judging chops on national TV, even after being hounded by frustrating mishaps—all seemingly orchestrated by Victor Durbin, an ousted Paugussett Poodle Club member with a bone to pick. But the bright lights of the show ring grow dim when Victor is found murdered, and she's the one topping the suspect list . . .

**BURDETTE, LUCY** KEY LIME CRIME (#10) (\$35.99) When a fierce rivalry between key lime pie bakers leads to a pastry chef's murder, food critic Hayley Snow is fit to be tied. It's bad enough that Hayley's too-curious mother-in-law is cooking up trouble. Now, the murderer is out to take a slice out of Hayley. Can she handle the heat of a killer's kitchen?

**DOHERTY, PAUL** corbett HYMN TO MURDER (#21) (\$34.99) Spring, 1312. At Malmaison Manor, Lord Simon is concealing a dark secret—one he arrogantly assumes will never catch up with him. But someone knows about the crime he committed, and they've found a way to make him pay. And he's not alone. When he is found mysteriously slain, other deaths soon follow. When Corbett learns of Lord Simon's death, he is once more dragged into a tangled web of lies and intrigue and it's not long before secrets of his own start to surface. As the Hymn to Murder reaches its crescendo, can Corbett confront his past and live to see another day?

**DOYLE/QUACKENBUSH, ROBERT** SHERLOCK CHICK AND THE CASE OF THE NIGHT (\$23.99) Look out Sherlock Holmes, Sherlock Chick hatched from his egg with detective's hat and magnifying glass and he's on a brand-new case to find out who—or what—is causing the mysterious loud noises that are waking the farm animals every night in this adorable mystery. Who is making the loud, mysterious noises that wake up the farm animals night after night after night? Who can solve the case of the night noises? Why, Sherlock Chick, that's who! With a magnifying glass, a purple plaid hat, and his beak to the ground, our super teeny, super sleuth is ready to get cracking and solve his latest mystery! Ages 4-8!

**GALBRAITH, ROBERT** TROUBLED BLOOD (#5) (\$57 unabridged audio, \$37 hardcover) Private Detective Cormoran Strike is visiting his family in Cornwall when he is approached by a woman asking for help finding her mother, Margot Bamborough—who went missing in mysterious circumstances in 1974. Strike has never tackled a cold case before, let alone one forty years old. But despite the slim chance of success, he is intrigued and takes it on; adding to the long list of cases that he and his partner in the agency, Robin Ellacott, are currently working on. And Robin herself is also juggling a messy divorce and unwanted male attention, as well as battling her own feelings about Strike. As Strike and Robin investigate Margot's disappearance, they come up against a fiendishly complex case with leads that include tarot cards, a psychopathic serial killer and witnesses who cannot all be trusted. And they learn that even cases decades old can prove to be deadly . . .

**GILBERT, VICTORIA** library PAST DUE FOR MURDER (#3) (\$26.99) Spring has sprung in quaint Taylorsford, Virginia, and the mayor has revived the town's long-defunct May Day celebration to boost tourism. As part of the festivities, library director Amy Webber is helping to organize a research project and presentation by a local folklore expert. All seems well at first—but spring takes on a sudden chill when a university student inexplicably vanishes during a bonfire. The local police cast a wide net to find the missing woman, but in a shocking turn of events, Amy's swoon-worthy neigh-

bor Richard Muir becomes a person of interest in the case. Not only is Richard the woman's dance instructor, he also doesn't have an alibi for the night the student vanished—or at least not one he'll divulge, even to Amy. Blessed with her innate curiosity and a librarian's gift for research, Amy may be the only one who can learn the truth.

**HAIN, PETER** RHINO CONSPIRACY (\$33.95) In the last decade more than 6,000 rhinos have been killed in South Africa. Relentless poaching for their horns has led to a catastrophic fall in black rhino numbers. Meanwhile, a corrupt South African government turns a blind eye to the international trade in rhino horn. Battling to defend the dwindling rhino population, a veteran freedom fighter is forced to break his lifetime loyalty to the ANC as he confronts corruption at the very highest level. Hell-bent on catching the poachers and exposing their trade, the veteran and his young "born free" colleague hatch a plan to install a GPS tracking device inside a replica horn in an attempt to locate its destination. The stakes are high. Can the country's ancient rhino herd be saved from extinction by state-sponsored poaching? Has Mandela's "rainbow nation" been irretrievably betrayed by political corruption and cronyism?

**HAMBLY, BARBARA** january HOUSE OF THE PATRIARCH (#18) (\$42.95) New Orleans, 1840. Freshly home from a dangerous journey, that last thing Benjamin January wants to do is leave his wife and young sons again. But when old friends Henri and Chloe Viellard ask for his help tracking down a missing girl in distant New York, he can't say no. Three weeks ago, seventeen-year-old Eve Russell boarded a steam-boat—and never got off it. Mrs Russell is adamant Eve's been kidnapped, but how could someone remove a teenager from a crowded deck in broad daylight? And why would anyone target Eve? The answer lies in New York, a hotbed of new religions and beliefs, of human circuses and freak shows . . . and of blackbirders, who'll use any opportunity to kidnap a free man of color and sell him into slavery. January's determined to uncover the truth, but will he ever be able to return to New Orleans to share it?

**KUHNS, ELEANOR** will rees DEATH IN THE GREAT DISMAL (#9) (\$43.50) September 1800, Maine. Will Rees is beseeched by Tobias, an old friend abducted by slave catchers years before, to travel south to Virginia to help transport his pregnant wife, Ruth, back north. Though he's reluctant, Will's wife Lydia convinces him to go . . . on the condition she accompanies them. Upon arriving in a small community of absconded slaves hiding within the Great Dismal Swamp, Will and Lydia are met with distrust. Tensions are high and a fight breaks out between Tobias and Scipio, a philanderer with a bounty on his head known for conning men out of money. The following day Scipio is found dead—shot in the back. Stuck within the hostile Great Dismal and with slave catchers on the prowl, Will and Lydia find themselves caught up in their most dangerous case yet.

**MACINTYRE, BEN** AGENT SONYA: MOSCOW'S MOST DARING WARTIME SPY (\$36 non-fiction) One of the last great untold spy stories of the twentieth century—the woman hidden in plain sight who set the stage for the Cold War. If you happened to be in the quiet English village of Great Rollright in 1942, you might have seen a thin, elegant woman emerging from a cottage and climbing onto her bicycle. Ursula Burton had three children and a husband named Len, who worked as a machinist nearby. She was friendly but reserved and spoke English with a very slight foreign accent. Her neighbours in the Cotswolds knew little about her. They did not know that Burton was a dedicated communist, a Soviet Colonel, and a veteran spy who had already conducted espionage operations in China, Poland, and Switzerland. They did not know that Len was also a Soviet spy, or that Burton kept a powerful radio transmitter connected to Moscow in their outhouse. They did not know that in her last espionage mission, Burton had infiltrated communist spies into a top-secret American intelligence operation parachuting anti-Nazi agents into the Third Reich. But perhaps the most remarkable thing they did not know was that when Burton hopped onto her bike and pedaled away, she was heading to a countryside rendezvous with Klaus Fuchs, the nuclear physicist working on Britain's top secret atomic weapons program. Klaus was Burton's best agent, and together they were gathering the scientific secrets that would enable the Soviet Union to build the bomb. Code-named "Sonya," she was one of the most important female spies in history.

**MORROW, BRADFORD** forgers FORGER'S DAUGHTER (#2) (\$38.95) When a scream shatters the summer night outside their country house in the Hudson Valley, reformed literary forger Will and his wife Meghan find their daughter Maisie shaken and bloodied, holding a parcel her attacker demanded she present to her father. Inside is a literary rarity the likes of which few have ever handled, and a letter laying out impossible demands regarding its future. After twenty years of living life on the straight and narrow, Will finds himself drawn back to forgery, ensnared in a plot to counterfeit the rarest book in American literature: **Edgar Allan Poe's** first, Tamerlane, of which only a dozen copies are known to have survived. Until now. Facing threats to his life and family, coerced by his former nemesis and fellow forger Henry Slader, Will must rely on the artistic skills of his older daughter Nicole to help create a flawless forgery of this Holy Grail of American letters. Sequel to Forgers (#1) (\$19.50).

**MURPHY, STACIE** DEADLY FORTUNE (\$34.95) A historical mystery in the vein of Caleb Carr's The Alienist (#1) (\$20), in which a young woman, Amelia Matthew, in Gilded Age New York, must use her special talent—a head injury leaves her with the ability to channel spirits—to unravel a deadly conspiracy.

**PAVESI, ALEX** EIGHT DETECTIVES (\$31.99 hardcover, \$24.99 trade paperback) "Dizzying, dazzling... When did you last read a genuinely original thriller? The wait is over." —A.J. Finn, author of The Woman in the Window (\$12.99). There are rules for murder mysteries. There must be a victim. A suspect. A detective. Grant McAllister, a professor of mathematics, once sat down and worked all the rules out—and wrote seven perfect detective stories to demonstrate. But that was thirty years ago. Now Grant lives in seclusion on a remote Mediterranean island, counting the rest of his days. Until Julia Hart, a brilliant, ambitious editor knocks on his door. Julia wishes to republish his book, and together they must revisit those old stories: an author hiding from his past and an editor keen to understand it. But there are things in the stories that don't add up. Inconsistencies left by Grant that a sharp-eyed editor begins to suspect are more than mistakes. They may be clues, and Julia finds herself with a mystery of her own to solve.

**PRENTISS, S A** YOU WILL NEVER KNOW (\$34.95) After a lifetime of hardship, Jessica Thornton finally has the life she's dreamed of: a new marriage to a realtor with burgeoning success. and a daughter whose athleticism has won her a scholarship to college. 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 when a high school classmate of her children is murdered, it all unravels. Where were the kids 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...

**QUINN, C S** SCARLET CODE (#2) (\$33.95) 1789. The Bastille has fallen...As Parisians pick souvenirs from the rubble, a killer stalks the lawless streets. His victims are female aristocrats. His executions use the most terrible methods of the ancient regime. English spy Attica Morgan is laying low in Paris, helping nobles escape. When her next charge falls victim to the killer's twisted machinations, Attica realises she alone can unmask him. But now it seems his deadly sights are set on her. As the city prisons empty, and a mob mobilises to storm Versailles, finding a dangerous criminal is never going to be easy. Attica's only hope is to enlist her old ally, reformed pirate Jemmy Avery, to track the killer though his revolutionary haunts. But even with a pirate and her fast knife, it seems Attica might not manage to stay alive.

**RACANELLI, VITO** MAN IN MILAN (\$40.50) When NYPD detectives Paul Rossi and Hamilton P. Turner begin investigating the Sutton Place murder of an Italian air force pilot, the last thing they expect is that they will and find themselves sucked into the potential cover-up of the Ustica massacre, the most horrific aviation crime in Italian history, in which all 81 souls onboard perished, where Italian President Francesco Cossiga blamed a missile deployed by the French Navy for the disaster. But as they begin investigating, Rossi, recovering from a broken marriage, and Turner, an African-American opera buff, poet, and former lawyer with ambitions to be mayor, come up against NYPD bureaucratic obstacles and stonewalling by the Italian Consulate in NYC. Lieutenant Laura Muro, the policewoman sister of the victim, comes to New York to aid the investigation, but soon the trio find themselves in the crosshairs of the Gladio, Italy's powerful, shadowy political cabal whose reach extends to the highest reaches of New York political and ruling class.

**ROBOTHAM, MICHAEL** haven WHEN SHE WAS GOOD (#2) (\$34.99 hardcover, \$24.99 trade paperback) She has secrets. Six years ago, Evie Cormac was found hiding in a secret room in the aftermath of a brutal murder. But nobody has ever discovered her real name or where she came from, because everybody who tries ends up dead. He needs answers. —A Forensic psychologist Cyrus Haven believes the truth will set Evie free. Ignoring her warnings, he begins to dig into her past, only to disturb a hornet's nest of corrupt and powerful people, who have been waiting to find Evie—the final witness to their crimes. Unbeknownst to him, Cyrus is leading them straight to Evie. The truth will not set her free. It will get them killed. Sequel to the Edgar-award nominated Good Girl, Bad Girl (#1) (\$17.99)

**SHELTON, PAIGE** alaska COLD WIND (#2) (\$36.50) Beth Rivers is still in Alaska. The unidentified man who kidnapped her in her home of St. Louis hasn't been found yet, so she's not ready to go back. But as October comes to a close, Benedict is feeling more and more like her new home. Beth has been working on herself: She's managed to get back to writing, and she's enjoying these beautiful months between summer and winter in Alaska. Then, everything in Benedict changes after a mudslide exposes a world that had been hidden for years. Two mud-covered, silent girls appear, a secret trapper's house is found in the wood, and, the biggest surprise, a dead and frozen woman's body in the trapper's shed. No one knows who she is, but the man who runs the

mercantile, Randy, seems to be in the middle of all the mysteries. Sequel to Thin Ice (#1) (\$10.99).

**SKELTON, DOUGLAS connolly** THUNDER BAY (#1) (\$34.99) When reporter Rebecca Connolly gets a tip that suspected murderer Roddie Drummond will be returning to the island of Stoirm, she smells a story. Though never convicted in the death of his girlfriend Mhairi fifteen years earlier, Drummond is still guilty in the eyes of many islanders, and his return for his mother's funeral is sure to stir up old resentments, hatreds, possibly even violence. Rebecca has another reason for going to Stoirm. Her own father came from there, but he never went back, and he always refused to speak of it or say what drove him away. Defying her editor, Rebecca joins forces with local photographer Chazz Wymark to dig into the mystery surrounding Mhairi's death and her unexplained last words, "Thunder Bay"—the secluded spot on the west coast of the island where, according to local lore, the souls of the dead set off into the afterlife. When a string of violent events erupts across the island, Rebecca discovers the power of secrets, and she must decide what to bury, and what to bring into the light.

**STABENOW, DANA campbell** SPOILS OF THE DEAD (#5) (\$39.95) Newenham is an ice-bound bush town with a six-bed jail, a busted ATM and a saloon that does double-duty as a courtroom. It's a wide-enough patch to warrant a state police presence, though, and Trooper Liam Campbell is it. Campbell has been exiled from Anchorage to Newenham in disgrace, busted down from sergeant to trooper in the aftermath of a mistake that cost a family of five their lives, to spend some time in the wilderness. Campbell didn't expect the job to be simple and it hasn't. From the (literally) cutthroat business of commercial fishing, to the paranoid misanthropy of the back-country prospector, to drug dealers, serial killers, and caches of forgotten war gold, he has had his hands full. Now he has a dead archaeologist, murdered at their own dig site, who claimed to be on the verge of a momentous discovery. This fifth novel was some two decades in the making; the first four, listed below, have recently been re-issued.

**WESTERSON, JERI** SPITEFUL BONES (\$38.99) Restoring his recently inherited family home is a daunting enough task for young lawyer Nigellus Cobmartin without the addition of any unwelcome discoveries. But when workmen turning the crumbling manor house into a grand home uncover a skeleton bound, tied and hidden in the wall—and holding the precious relic that went missing from his father's estate nearly twenty years ago—Nigellus immediately calls on London tracker Crispin Guest for help. Whose bones are they, and why was the valuable relic buried with the thief? Crispin and Jack are drawn into a mystery of dark secrets, family scandal and old grudges as they attempt to find the truth behind a load of old bones.

**WILLBERG, T A** MARION LANE AND THE MIDNIGHT MURDER (\$34.99) Late one night in April 1958, a filing assistant at Miss Brickett's receives a letter of warning, detailing a name, a time, and a place. She goes to investigate but finds the room empty. At the stroke of midnight, she is murdered by a killer she can't see—her death the only sign she wasn't alone. It becomes chillingly clear that the person responsible must also work for Miss Brickett's, making everyone a suspect. Marion Lane, a first-year Inquirer-in-training, finds herself drawn ever deeper into the investigation. When her friend and colleague is framed for the crime, to clear his name she must sort through the hidden alliances at Miss Brickett's and secrets dating back to WWII. A locked-room murder mystery, with an exciting new heroine detective.

**WOODS, STUART barrington** HUSH-HUSH (#56) (\$37) Stone Barrington is settling in for some downtime in New York City when an anonymous enemy makes himself known. This nameless foe's threats hit close to home, and before Stone can retaliate, the fearsome messages turn into very real consequences. With the help of old friends—and a lovely new tech-savvy acquaintance—Stone sets out to unravel the fatal agenda. But as the web of adversaries expands, Stone realizes that no place is safe, and he'll have to flush out the mastermind before he and those closest to him are silenced for good....

## Paperbacks

**ACE, CATHY** CORPSE WITH THE CRYSTAL SKULL (\$23.99) Welsh Canadian globetrotting sleuth, and professor of criminal psychology, Cait Morgan, is supposed to be "celebrating" her fiftieth birthday in Jamaica with her ex-cop husband Bud Anderson. But when the body of the luxury estate's owner is discovered locked inside an inaccessible tower, Cait and her fellow guests must work out who might have killed him—even if his murder seems impossible. Could the death of the man who hosted parties in the 1960s attended by Ian Fleming and Noël Coward be somehow linked to treasure the legendary Captain Henry Morgan might have buried at the estate?

**ADAMS, ELLERY** society BOOK OF CANDLELIGHT (#3) (\$21.95) As the owner of Miracle Books, Nora Pennington figures all the wet weather this spring is at least good for business. The local inns are packed with stranded travelers, and among them Nora finds both new customers and a new friend, the sixty-something Sheldon, who starts helping out at the store. But a little rain turns into a lot of rain, and the Miracle River overflows its banks. Amid the wreckage of a collapsed footbridge, a body lies within the churning water. Nora and the sheriff both doubt the ruling of accidental drowning, and Nora decides it's time for the Secret, Book, and Scone Society to spring into action. When another body turns up, it becomes clearer that Danny's death can't be blamed on a natural disaster.

**ALEXANDER, ELLIE** bakeshop CHILLED TO THE CONE (#12) (\$12.50) The deep freeze has thawed in Ashland, Oregon and Torte is gearing up for a busy spring. When a surprise opportunity to launch a pop-up ice cream shop comes her way, Jules jumps at the chance to showcase Torte's signature iced drinks and cold custards. But selling the desserts of her dreams comes at a price. . .and, before she knows it, Jules's life swirls into a nightmare. One of the town's most colorful characters, a street performer known for wearing capes and a cone-shaped hat, turns up dead just as Torte 2.0 is set to open its doors. Can Jules get the scoop on what happened to "The Wizard" of Ashland before her new business venture reaches a chilling conclusion?

**ALLEN, HANIA dania gorska** FAMILY BUSINESS (#3) (\$17.99) In the north of Dundee, DI Dania Gorska is leading the search for a missing boy, with the police and volunteers combing the dramatic landscape in hope of finding the child. What they discover in a derelict hut in the hills isn't the boy, but is the remains of a body, chained to a wall. This body isn't the missing child but is identified as another young boy, Cameron Affleck, who disappeared many years before in a case that could never be solved. Dania contacts the boy's father, who still spends much time digging around the fields where his son was last seen, in hope of finding his body. Dania begins to unearth the old case, determined to discover Cameron's killer and looking for possible connections to the present-day missing child. But as she digs into the past, she realises that the Affleck family are hiding more than they let on and that there are some dark secrets that everyone wants to stay buried...

**ALLENDE, ISABEL** MAYA'S NOTEBOOK (\$21.99) Nineteen-year-old Maya Vidal grew up in a rambling old house in Berkeley with her grandmother Nini—a force of nature whose formidable strength helped her build a new life after she emigrated from Chile in 1973—and Popo, an African-American astronomer and professor whose solid, comforting presence helps calm the turbulence of Maya's adolescence. When Popo dies of cancer, Maya comes undone and turns to drugs, alcohol, and petty crime. When she becomes lost in the dangerous underworld of Las Vegas, Maya becomes caught in the crosshairs of deadly warring forces. Her one chance for survival is Nini, who helps her escape to a remote island off the coast of Chile. Here, Maya tries to make sense of the past to discover the truth about her life and her family and embarks on her greatest adventure: a journey of self-discovery and forgiveness.

**ANDERSON, LIN macleod** FOLLOW THE DEAD (#12) (\$18.99) On holiday in the Scottish Highlands, forensic scientist Dr Rhona MacLeod joins a mountain rescue team on Cairngorm summit, where a mysterious plane has crash-landed on the frozen Loch A'an. Added to that, a nearby climbing expedition has left three young people dead, with a fourth still missing. Meanwhile in Glasgow, DS McNab's raid on the Delta Club produces far more than just a massive haul of cocaine. Questioning one of the underage girls found partying with the city's elite reveals she was smuggled into Scotland via Norway, and it seems the crashed plane in the Cairngorms may be linked to the club. But before McNab can discover more, the girl is abducted. Joined by Norwegian detective Alvis Olsen, who harbours disturbing theories about how the two cases are connected with his homeland, Rhona searches for the missing link. What she uncovers is a dark underworld populated by ruthless people willing to do anything to ensure the investigation dies in the frozen wasteland of the Cairngorms.....

**ARCHER, C J** MURDER AT THE MAYFAIR HOTEL (\$22.50) December 1899. After the death of her beloved grandmother, Cleopatra Fox moves into the luxury hotel owned by her estranged uncle in the hopes of putting hardship and loneliness behind her. But the poisoning of a guest throws her new life, and the hotel, into chaos. Cleo quickly realizes no one can be trusted, not Scotland Yard and especially not the hotel's charming assistant manager. With the New Year's Eve ball approaching fast and the hotel's reputation hanging by a thread, Cleo must find the killer before the ball, and the hotel itself, are ruined. Can Cleo find the killer before the new century begins? Or will someone get away with murder?

**ARCHER, JEFFREY** NOT A PENNY MORE NOT A PENNY LESS (\$12.99) The swindle is ingenious. The conned: an Oxford don, a revered society physician, a chic French art dealer, and a charming English lord. They have one thing in common. Overnight, each novice investor lost his life's fortune to one man. The con: Harvey Metcalfe. A brilliant, self-made guru of deceit. A very dangerous individual. And now, a hunted



man. But, so will be the revenge. With nothing left to lose, four strangers are about to come together—each expert in their own field. Their plan: find Harvey, shadow him, trap him, and penny-for-penny, destroy him. From the luxurious casinos of Monte Carlo to the high-stakes windows at Ascot to the bustling streets of Wall Street to fashionable London galleries, their own ingenious game has begun. It's called revenge—and they were taught by a master. Published 1976.

**BACKMAN, FREDRIK ANXIOUS PEOPLE** (\$24.99) Viewing an apartment normally doesn't turn into a life-or-death situation, but this particular open house becomes just that when a failed bank robber bursts in and takes everyone in the apartment hostage. As the pressure mounts, the eight strangers begin slowly opening up to one another and reveal long-hidden truths. First is Zara, a wealthy bank director who has been too busy to care about anyone else until tragedy changed her life. Now, she's obsessed with visiting open houses to see how ordinary people live—and, perhaps, to set an old wrong to right. Then there's Roger and Anna-Lena, an Ikea-addicted retired couple who are on a never-ending hunt for fixer-uppers to hide the fact that they don't know how to fix their own failing marriage. Julia and Ro are a young lesbian couple and soon-to-be parents who are nervous about their chances for a successful life together since they can't agree on anything. And there's Estelle, an eighty-year-old woman who has lived long enough to be unimpressed by a masked bank robber waving a gun in her face. And despite the story she tells them all, Estelle hasn't really come to the apartment to view it for her daughter, and her husband really isn't outside parking the car. As police surround the premises and television channels broadcast the hostage situation live, the tension mounts and even deeper secrets are slowly revealed. Before long, the robber must decide which is the more terrifying prospect: going out to face the police, or staying in the apartment with this group...

**BENNETT, MARGOT MAN WHO DIDN'T FLY** (\$22) Four men were due to fly to Dublin from England. But, when disaster struck and the plane went down over the Irish sea, only three of them were on board. With the identities of the flyers scattered to the winds, the police turn to the Wade family, whose patchy account and memory of their past few days hold the key to this elusive and tense mystery. Who was the man who didn't fly? And what did he have to gain by staying on the ground? Published 1955.

**BERRY, STEVE malone WARSAW PROTOCOL (#15)** (\$12.99) A private auction is about to be held where incriminating information on the president of Poland will be offered to the highest bidder—blackmail that both the United States and Russia want, but for vastly different reasons. The price of admission to that auction is one of the seven precious relics of the Arma Christi, the weapons of Christ, so Malone is first sent to a castle in Poland to steal the Holy Lance, a thousand-year-old spear sacred to not only Christians but to the Polish people, and then on to the auction itself. But nothing goes as planned...

**BILLINGHAM, MARK thorne CRY BABY (#17)** (\$24.99) Prequel to the Thorne saga. It's 1996. Detective Sergeant Tom Thorne is a haunted man. Haunted by the moment he ignored his instinct about a suspect, by the horrific crime that followed and by the memories that come day and night, in sunshine and shadow. So when seven-year-old Kieron Coyne goes missing while playing in the woods with his best friend, Thorne vows he will not make the same mistake again. Cannot. The solitary witness. The strange neighbour. The friendly teacher. All are in Thorne's sights. This case will be the making of him . . . or the breaking.

**BLAEDEL, SARA DROWNED GIRL aka only one life** (\$11.99) It's clearly no ordinary drowning. When a young girl is pulled from the watery depths, a piece of concrete tied around her waist and two mysterious circular patches on the back of her neck, Detective Louise Rick is immediately called out to Holbaek Fjord. Her name was Samra, and when the police learn that she was a member of Holbaek's sizeable Muslim immigrant community, they immediately assume it was an honor killing. Yet her mother insists Samra had done nothing dishonorable. Louise must navigate the complex web of family and community ties in the small town's tightly knit Muslim community as she hunts a killer . . . before he strikes again.

**BLAEDEL, SARA RUNNING GIRL** (\$10.49) Louise gets a call from her son, Jonas. It's every parent's worst nightmare: A school party has ended in terrifying chaos after a group of violent teenagers forced their way into the building in search of alcohol and valuables. Dashing to the scene, Louise discovers one of the students gravely injured—struck by a car while attempting to run for help. Now the girl's distraught mother, pushed to her emotional breaking point, will do anything to make those who hurt her daughter pay. So when someone targets the gang members with a vicious attack, the girl's mother is the obvious suspect. But Louise can't shake the feeling that the case might not be as cut-and-dried as it first appears. Someone is lying—but who?

**BOHJALIAN, CHRIS RED LOTUS** (\$22.95) Alexis and Austin don't have a typical "meet cute"—their first encounter involves Alexis, an emergency room doctor, suturing a bullet wound in Austin's arm. Six months later, they're on a romantic getaway in Vietnam: a bike tour on which Austin can show Alexis his passion for cycling, and can

pay his respects to the place where his father and uncle fought in the war. But then Austin fails to return from a solo ride. Alexis's boyfriend has vanished, the only clue left behind a bright yellow energy gel dropped on the road. As Alexis grapples with this bewildering loss, she starts to uncover a series of strange lies that force her to wonder: Where did Austin go? Why did he really bring her to Vietnam? And how much danger has he left her in? Excellent.

**BOX, C J cody hoyt HIGHWAY (#2)** (\$12.99) When two sisters set out across a remote stretch of Montana road to visit their friend, little do they know it will be the last time anyone might ever hear from them again. The girls—and their car—simply vanish. Former police investigator Cody Hoyt has just lost his job and has fallen off the wagon after a long stretch of sobriety. Convinced by his son and his former rookie partner, Cassie Dewell, he begins the drive south to the girls' last known location. As Cody makes his way to the lonely stretch of Montana highway where they went missing, Cassie discovers that Gracie and Danielle Sullivan aren't the first girls who have disappeared in this area. This majestic landscape is the hunting ground for a killer whose viciousness is outmatched only by his intelligence.

**BOX, C J cody hoyt BACK OF BEYOND (#1)** (\$12.99) Cody Hoyt, although a brilliant cop, is an alcoholic struggling with two months of sobriety when his friend Hank Winters turns up dead in a remote mountain cabin. At first it looks like the suicide of a man who's fallen off the wagon, but Cody knows Hank better than that. As Cody digs deeper into the case, all roads lead to foul play. After years of bad behavior with his department, Cody is in no position to be investigating a homicide. But he will stop at nothing to find out who murdered Hank. And why...

**BROOKMYRE, CHRIS FALLEN ANGEL** (\$17.99) To new nanny Amanda, the Temple family seem to have it all: the former actress; the famous professor; their three successful grown-up children. But like any family, beneath the smiles and hugs there lurks far darker emotions. Sixteen years earlier, little Niamh Temple died while they were on holiday in Portugal. Now, as Amanda joins the family for a reunion at their seaside villa, she begins to suspect one of them might be hiding something terrible...

**BURNS, V M bookstore PLOT IS MURDER (#1)** (\$11.99) Samantha Washington has long dreamed of owning a mystery bookstore. And as she prepares for the grand opening, she's realizing another dream--penning a cozy mystery set in England between the wars. In the meantime, however, the unimaginable happens in real life. A shady realtor turns up dead in Samantha's backyard, and the police suspect her—after all, she might know a thing or two about murder. Aided by her feisty grandmother and an ensemble of enthusiastic retirees, Samantha is determined to close the case before she opens her store. But will she live to conclude her own story when the killer has a revised ending in mind?

**BURT, ALEXANDRA SHADOW GARDEN** (\$22) Donna Pryor lives in the lap of luxury. She spends her days in a beautifully appointed condo. Her every whim is catered to by a dedicated staff, and she does not want for anything.

Except, maybe, for news of her adult daughter. Or an ex-husband who takes her calls. Donna knows something is wrong, but she can't quite put her finger on it. As her life of privilege starts to feel more and more like a prison, the facade she has depended on begins to crumble. Somewhere in the ruins is the truth, and the closer Donna Pryor gets to it, the more likely it is to destroy her.

**CALDWELL, EMMIE craft fai WICKED YARN (#1)** (\$10.99) Mother's Day should be a cinch for the good folks of the Crandalsburg Craft Fair and knitting enthusiast Lia Geiger has a good feeling about this year's yield. But things quickly get knotty when Lia's daughter announces she's quit her job and Lia finds herself tangled up in the murder of her best friend's ex-husband. While Belinda's alibi quickly gets her off the hook, nasty rumors spread throughout Crandalsburg that shroud the entire fair in suspicion. Could the vendors be responsible for the murder of a man hell-bent on unraveling the fair just days before his death? Lia and her crafty group of Ninth Street Knitters must put down their needles to gather clues and save the crafting community they've grown to love.

**CARR, JACK terminal list SAVAGE SON (#3)** (\$12.99) A traitorous CIA officer has found refuge with the Russian mafia with designs on ensuring a certain former Navy SEAL sniper is put in the ground. Half a world away, James Reece is recovering from brain surgery in the Montana wilderness, slowly putting his life back together with the help of investigative journalist Katie Buranek and his longtime friend and SEAL teammate Raife Hastings. Unbeknownst to them, the Russian mafia has set their sights on Reece in a deadly game of cat and mouse.

**CAVANAGH, STEVE flynn FIFTY-FIFTY (#5)** (\$17.99) Two sisters on trial for murder. They accuse each other. Who do YOU believe? Seriously good stuff.

**CHARRIERE, HENRI PAPILLON [MOVIE TIE-IN JACKET]** (\$21.99) The author, nicknamed "Papillon," for the butterfly tattoo on his chest, was convicted in Paris in 1931 of a murder he did not commit. Sentenced to life imprisonment in the penal colony of French Guiana, he became obsessed with one goal: escape. The book is an ac-

count of the 14-year period in the author's life (1931 to 1945), beginning when he was wrongly convicted of murder in France and sentenced to a life of hard labor at the penal colony in French Guiana known as Devil's Island. He eventually escaped from the colony and settled in Venezuela, where he lived and prospered. Allegedly autobiographical and true—something long disputed—the book was first published in France to instant acclaim in 1968, more than twenty years after his final escape.

**CONNOLLY, CRESSIDA** AFTER THE PARTY (\$19.99) It is the summer of 1938 and Phyllis Forrester has returned to England after years abroad. Moving into her sister's grand country house, she soon finds herself entangled in a new world of idealistic beliefs and seemingly innocent friendships. Fevered talk of another war infiltrates their small, privileged circle, giving way to a thrilling solution: a great and charismatic leader, who will restore England to its former glory. At a party hosted by her new friends, Phyllis lets down her guard for a single moment, with devastating consequences. Years later, Phyllis, alone and embittered, recounts the dramatic events which led to her imprisonment and changed the course of her life forever.

**CONTE, CATE** cat cafe WHISKER OF A DOUBT (#4) (\$10.99) The holiday season on Daybreak Island is a mixed bag for Maddie James. On the one hand, her Christmas spirit is in the doghouse after a break-up. On the other, she's busy enough that she doesn't have to pretend to be merry. Business at her cat café is booming, and Maddie's care-taking of a feral cat colony in one of the area's wealthiest communities only helps her bottom line. But tensions between the homeowners and animal activists are escalating to catastrophic levels. . .and before long a body is found dead in a snowbank. To prove that her accused friend is innocent of the crime, Maddie will have to prowl the island for clues to the real killer before everyone on the island goes completely hysterical—and more than nine lives are lost.

**CRAIG, JAMES** carlyle THEN WE DIE (#5) (\$14.99) Inspector Carlyle gets the shock of his life when his mother announces she is divorcing his father after fifty years of marriage. But it's nothing compared to the storm that erupts when he stumbles across the execution of a wealthy businessman in a luxury London hotel room. The victim is the latest casualty in a string of murders committed by a ruthless Israeli hit squad. Going up against the deadly crew could prove fatal, but with trouble at home, Carlyle distracts himself by diving headfirst into the investigation. But as the body count rises, things begin to get personal . . .

**CROFTS, FREEMAN** WILLS french MAN OVERBOARD (#15) aka cold-blooded murder (\$17.99) In the course of a ship's passage from Belfast to Liverpool a man disappears. His body is picked up by Irish fishermen. Although the coroner's verdict is suicide, murder is suspected. Inspector French co-operates with Superintendent Rainey and Sergeant McClung once more to determine the truth. Published 1936.

**CROFTS, FREEMAN** WILLS fre LOSS OF THE JANE VOSPER (#14) (\$17.99) The Jane Vosper is plunged to the bottom of the Atlantic by a series of explosions in her hold. It is clear that something is wrong, as there is no innocent explanation of the cause. The only possibility appears to be that someone has sunk the ship for the insurance money (either for the goods on board or the ship itself). The loss of the goods will cause a problem for The Land and Sea Insurance Co. and they decide to look into matters themselves. When their private detective goes missing, Inspector French of Scotland Yard is called in and he decides that the only way to solve the missing person case is to solve the mystery of the Jane Vosper as well. But even he is baffled, until his hard work and assiduous following of the clues leads him to the correct conclusion. Published 1936.

**CROFTS, FREEMAN** WILLS fre DEATH ON THE WAY (#9) (\$17.99) Work on the widening of the Southern Railway's south coast route results in two mysterious deaths. Murder becomes apparent. As evidence is sifted through and minute detail and data analysed, tension mounts right up to the dramatic climax. Published 1932.

**DE JAGER, ANJA** meerman DEATH AT THE ORANGE LOCKS (#6) (\$24.99) After her painful divorce four years ago, Lotte Meerman has kept well away from Arjen, her ex-husband, and his new wife Nadia. So when they both visit her at central Amsterdam's police station to report Nadia's father missing, Lotte is shocked—but hides it well. Then two days later a dog walker reports the discovery of a body near the Orange Locks, built to keep the sea out of Amsterdam, and the missing man is identified as Nadia's father. Lotte wants to stay away from the investigation but his widow, Margreet, keeps searching her out as she has no idea it was her daughter who was pivotal in the marriage break-up. She wrongly identifies Lotte as a friend and tells her that Patrick had been a great husband and father, and a successful businessman. But when Lotte digs into Patrick's past, she discovers instead a failing company and a man with a history of making unwanted sexual advances to his female employees. Margreet is unaware of any of this. And the more Lotte investigates the dead man's past, the more she finds to suggest that her ex-husband is somehow involved in his death...

**DODD, CHRISTINA** alibi WRONG ALIBI (#1) (\$22.99) Eighteen-year-old Evelyn Jones lands a job in small-town Alaska, working for a man in his isolated mountain

home. But her bright hopes for the future are shattered when Donald White disappears, leaving her to face charges of theft, embezzlement—and a brutal double murder. Her protestations of innocence count for nothing. Convicted, she faces life in prison. . .until fate sends her on the run. Evie's escape leaves her scarred and in hiding, isolated from her family, working under an alias at a wilderness camp. Bent on justice, intent on recovering her life, she searches for the killer who slaughters without remorse. At last, the day comes. Donald White has returned. Evie emerges from hiding; the fugitive becomes the hunter.

**DORSEY, TIM** *serge storms* NAKED CAME THE FLORIDA MAN (#23) (\$21)

Though another devastating hurricane is raking Florida, its awesome power can't deter the Sunshine State's most loyal son, Serge A. Storms, from his latest scenic road trip: a cemetery tour. With his best bro Coleman riding shotgun, Serge hits the highway in his gold '69 Plymouth Satellite, putting pedal to the metal on a grand tour of the past. Beginning in Key West, the sunshine boys' odyssey includes a forgotten mass grave in Palm Beach County holding the remains of African Americans killed by the Great Hurricane of 1928, and the resting place of one world-famous television dolphin (RIP Flipper) from the 1960s. But one deadland—a haunted old sugar field—holds more than just the bones of those who've passed. For years, local children have whispered about a boogeyman hiding among the stalks. Could it be the same maniac known as Naked Florida Man, who's been raising hell all over the place? There are few things Serge loves more than solving a good mystery and bestowing justice on miscreants who sully his beloved home's good name. With his partner Bong Man, Florida's psycho superhero will find the truth in this hilariously violent delight—packed with history, lore, and plenty of motel antics...

**DOWNING, TODD** *rennert* VULTURES IN THE SKY (#3) (\$21.95) The journey of the Mexico City-bound Pullman seems ill-fated from the outset — what with the engine troubles and the threat of an impending railway strike — but no one aboard expects the terror that will descend upon the luxury train between Laredo and its destination. First a man dies as the vehicle passes through a dark tunnel and then, just as United States Customs Agent Hugh Rennert begins to investigate, the train comes to a screeching halt in the middle of the desert. More deaths follow as night falls, but Rennert remains calm and collected, untangling the web of motives in a desperate search for the culprit. Will he be able to unmask the killer before the voyage ends? Published 1935.

**DOYLE/FOX, MARGALIT** CONAN DOYLE FOR THE DEFENSE (\$24) A sensational Edwardian murder. A scandalous wrongful conviction. Sherlock's daddy to the rescue—a true story. After a wealthy woman was brutally murdered in her Glasgow home in 1908, the police found a convenient suspect in Oscar Slater, an immigrant Jewish cardsharp. Though he was known to be innocent, Slater was tried, convicted, and consigned to life at hard labor. Outraged by this injustice, Arthur Conan Doyle, already world renowned as the creator of Sherlock Holmes, used the methods of his most famous character to reinvestigate the case, ultimately winning Slater's freedom.

**DOYLE/QUACKENBUSH, ROBERT** SHERLOCK CHICK'S FIRST CASE

(\$10.99) Look out Sherlock Holmes, Sherlock Chick hatched from his egg with a detective's hat and magnifying glass, and he's on the case... Within moments of his birth, Sherlock Chick lived up to the name he'd just been given. His parents pointed out the fact that their feed bin was empty and they didn't know who might have taken their corn. Sherlock follows the trail of corn, questioning animals along the way, until he finds the corn and the culprits. Will Sherlock Chick be able to get that corn back where it belongs?

**DOYLE/JAKUBOWSKI** BOOK OF EXTRAORDINARY NEW SH STORIES

(\$27.95) An anthology of new stories featuring Holmes, Watson, Moriarty and all the others.

**ELLORY, R J** THREE BULLETS (\$17.99) It was the shot heard around the world. On 22nd November 1963, John F. Kennedy's presidential motorcade rode through Dealey Plaza. He and his wife Jackie greeted the crowds on a glorious Friday afternoon in Dallas, Texas. But what if it missed? Mitch Newman is a photojournalist based out of Washington, D.C. His phone *never* rings. When it does, a voice he hasn't heard in years will tell him his former fiancée Jean has taken her own life. Jean was an investigative reporter working the case of a lifetime. Somewhere in the shreds of her investigation is the truth behind her murder. But who would believe it? For Mitch, piecing together the clues will become a dangerous obsession: one that will lead him to the dark heart of his country—and into the crossfire of a conspiracy...

**ENGBERG, KATRINE** *copenhagen* BUTTERFLY HOUSE (\$22) Detectives Jeppe Kørner and Anette Werner from the bestseller The Tenant (#1) (\$22)—which bestselling author **Kathy Reichs** heralded as a “stunning debut”—return in this compulsively readable thriller as they race to solve a series of sordid murders linked to some of the most vulnerable patients in a Danish hospital.

**FELLOWES, JESSICA** *mitford* MITFORD MURDERS (#1) (\$22.50) It's 1920, and Louisa Cannon dreams of escaping her life of poverty in London. Louisa's salvation is a

position within the Mitford household at Asthall Manor, in the Oxfordshire countryside. There she will become nursemaid, chaperone and confidante to the Mitford sisters, especially sixteen-year-old Nancy, an acerbic, bright young woman in love with stories. But then a nurse—Florence Nightingale Shore, goddaughter of her famous namesake—is killed on a train in broad daylight, and Louisa and Nancy find themselves entangled in the crimes of a murderer who will do anything to hide their secret. Based on an unsolved crime.

**FLYNN, VINCE mitch rapp** AMERICAN ASSASSIN (#1) (\$23) Mitch Rapp was a gifted college athlete without a care in the world...and then tragedy struck. Terrorists attacked innocent American citizens, and Rapp's girlfriend was among the murdered. Two hundred and seventy souls perished on that cold December night, and thousands of family and friends were left searching for comfort. Mitch Rapp was one of them, but he was not interested in comfort. Now he wants retribution. A series of novels that Marian has recently discovered and championed—think she's read eight in the series!—and this is the series debut. Knock yourself out.

**FRADKIN, BARBARA doucette** ANCIENT DEAD (#4) (\$19.99) Photographer Todd Ellison is engrossed in a photo shoot deep in Alberta's dinosaur country when he stumbles upon human bones buried in the sand of a remote coulee. Not far away, while driving through the Alberta prairie, Amanda Doucette glimpses an abandoned farmhouse that reminds her of an old photograph hanging on her aunt's wall. Who is the cocky young cowboy in the photo? Could it be connected to Amanda's uncle, who went missing in Alberta thirty years ago? As Amanda starts to make connections between his disappearance and the body in the coulee, she discovers more questions than answers. To make matters worse, a mysterious person will stop at nothing to get her to abandon the investigation.

**GALBRAITH, ROBERT strike** CUCKOO'S CALLING (#1) (\$13.49) Published under a pseudonym, **J. K. Rowling's** brilliant debut mystery introduces Detective Cormoran Strike as he investigates a supermodel's suicide. Published 2013, now the basis of Strike, the BBC crime drama series.

**GIORDANO, MARIO poldi** AUNTIE POLDI AND THE HANDSOME ANTONIO (#3) (\$17.99) All the beloved, irascible Auntie Poldi wanted from her Sicilian retirement was time to enjoy sunshine, a free-flowing supply of wine, and a sultry romance with Chief Inspector Montana. But then her idyll is rudely disrupted by the last person she wants to see on her doorstep—John Owenya, detective inspector with the Tanzanian Ministry of Home Affairs, who is also her estranged, lying cheat of a husband. Not only is John's sudden reappearance putting a kink in Poldi's dreamy love affair with Vi to Montana, but his presence also comes with a plea for help—and unwanted clashes with Mafia. Where is John's half-brother? What is the ten-million-dollar 'it' that John's brother was last seen with that has both the Sicilian and Tanzanian mobs in a frenzy?

**GREENWOOD, KERRY UNNATURAL HABITS** (\$22.95) Melbourne, Australia. It's 1929, and girls are going missing. Little, pretty golden-haired girls. And they're not just pretty. Three of them are pregnant, poor girls from the harsh confines of the Magdalene Laundry. People are getting nervous. Polly Kettle, a pushy, self-important girl reporter with ambition and no sense of self preservation, decides to investigate and promptly goes missing herself. It's time for Phryne and Dot to put a stop to this and find Polly Kettle before something quite irreparable happens to all of the missing girls. It's all piracy and dark cellars, convents and plots, murder and mystery...and decidedly raven-haired Phryne finally finds out if it's true that blondes have more fun.

**GREGORY, SUSANNA bartholomew** SANCTUARY MURDERS (#24) (\$17.99) In 1360 Edward III issues a call to arms, as sporadic attacks by the French threaten to turn into a full-blown invasion. In Cambridge, fear of the enemy is magnified by the belief that foreign agents are lurking in the area. Tension runs ever higher as rumours and ignorance fan the flames of suspicion amid preparations for war. And then the first murder occurs—of a French scholar living in the town. Amidst this atmosphere of swelling distrust, physician Matthew Bartholomew is called upon to investigate mysterious deaths in a nearby hospital. He quickly realises that there is something odd about the inmates and their keepers...

**HALL, MATTHEW cooper** CORONER (#1) (\$19.99) When lawyer Jenny Cooper is appointed Severn Vale District Coroner, she's hoping for a quiet life and space to recover from a traumatic divorce, but the office she inherits from the recently deceased Harry Marshall contains neglected files hiding dark secrets and a trail of buried evidence. Could the tragic death in custody of a young boy be linked to the apparent suicide of a teenage prostitute and the fate of Marshall himself? Jenny's curiosity is piqued. Why was Marshall behaving so strangely before he died? What injustice was he planning to uncover? And what caused his abrupt change of heart?

**HAMILTON, IAN tung** FORTUNE (#3) (\$19.95) A new novel featuring fan-favourite Uncle Chow Tung, who is called upon to end a violent turf war between rival gangs and stop a new organized-crime bureau of the Hong Kong Police from eliminating the triad societies once and for all. Set in Hong Kong of 1995, two years before

Hong Kong is to be returned to the People's Republic of China.

**HARMEL, KRISTIN** WINEMAKER'S WIFE (\$22.99) The author of the "engrossing" (People) international bestseller The Room on Rue Amélie (\$22) returns with a moving story set amid the champagne vineyards of France during the darkest days of World War II.

**HARPER, KAREN** alaska UNDER THE ALASKAN ICE (#2) (\$12.99) The truth always surfaces. When a small bush plane smashes through the ice at Falls Lake Lodge, it's a chilling reminder of everything Megan Metzler has lost. Three years ago, Meg's pilot husband died in a similar crash, a tragedy Meg and her young son, Chip, have struggled to move on from. Still, Meg does everything she can to assist when Commander Bryce Saylor arrives to investigate, even as working alongside the handsome pilot stirs up painful memories—and an attraction that catches them both off guard. Bryce knows time is of the essence as he plunges into the frigid water in search of clues. But when vital evidence is destroyed, it soon becomes clear this downed plane was no accident. With someone tracking them from the woods, Meg and Bryce must race to unravel a mystery as indomitable as the Alaskan wilderness, or they might be the next victims to crash and burn...

**HARRIS, OLIVER** kane SHADOW INTELLIGENCE (#1) (\$17.99) There is a dark side to MI6 that needs men like Elliot Kane—mercurial, inquisitive, free floating. He's spent fifteen years managing events overseas that never make the papers, deniable and deeply effective. Kane is a ghost in his own life, picking up and dropping personalities as each new cover story comes into play. But when a woman he loves, Joanna Lake, vanishes without a trace in Kazakhstan, he is forced centre stage. Drawn ever deeper into a realm of deception, Kane moves from merely infiltrating events to steering them. Unable to trust anyone, hunted by his own colleagues, and with the life of someone he loves at stake, Kane needs to work out who is driving events, and why...

**HARRIS, ROBERT** FEAR INDEX (\$16.99) Meet Alex Hoffmann: among the secretive inner circle of the ultra-rich, he is something of a legend. Based in Geneva, he has developed a revolutionary system that has the power to manipulate financial markets. Generating billions of dollars, it is a system that thrives on panic - and feeds on fear. And then, in the early hours of one morning, while he lies asleep, a sinister intruder breaches the elaborate security of his lakeside home. So begins a waking nightmare of paranoia and violence as Hoffmann attempts—with increasing desperation—to discover who is trying to destroy him—before it's too late ...

**HARRIS, SHERRY** garage ABSENCE OF ALICE (#9) (\$11.99) Bargain hunter extraordinaire Sarah Winston's latest client, Alice Krandle, is sure she has a fortune in antiques on her hands. She's already gotten a generous offer for the whole lot before her garage sale has even begun, but she thinks she can earn more with Sarah's expert help. The problem is that while Sarah's sorting through items from decades past, her landlady, Stella, faces a clear and present danger. Stella's kidnapper has contacted Sarah with a set of instructions, and "Don't call the police" is at the top of the list. But they didn't say anything about Sarah's friend Harriet—who happens to be a former F.B.I. hostage negotiator...

**HAWKINS, JENNIFER** corgi TO FETCH A FELON (#1) (\$10.99) Emma leaves London and her life in high finance behind her and moves to an idyllic village in Cornwall, with its cobblestone streets and twisting byways. She plans to open a village tea shop and bake the recipes handed down to her from her beloved grandmother, and of course there'll be plenty of space for her talking corgi, Oliver, to explore. Yes...talking. Emma has always been able to understand Oliver, even though no one else can. As soon as Emma arrives in the village she discovers that the curmudgeonly owner of the building she wants to rent for her shop hates dogs and gets off on the wrong foot with Oliver. Although some might turn tail and run, Emma is determined to win her over. But when she delivers some of her homemade scones as a peace offering, she finds the woman dead. Together, Emma and Oliver will need to unleash their detective skills to catch a killer.

**HOWARTH, PAUL** ONLY KILLERS AND THIEVES (\$22.99) A debut, bringing to vivid life a colonial Australia that bears a striking resemblance to the American Wild West in its formative years. It is 1885, and a crippling drought threatens to ruin the McBride family. Their land is parched, their cattle starving. When the rain finally comes, it is a miracle that renews their hope for survival. But returning home from an afternoon swimming at a remote waterhole filled by the downpour, fourteen-year-old Tommy and sixteen-year-old Billy meet with a shocking tragedy. Thirsting for vengeance against the man they believe has wronged them—their former Aboriginal stockman—the distraught brothers turn to the ruthless and cunning John Sullivan, the wealthiest landowner in the region and their father's former employer. Sullivan gathers a posse led by the dangerous and fascinating Inspector Edmund Noone and his Queensland Native Police, an infamous arm of British colonial power charged with the "dispersal" of indigenous Australians to "protect" white settler rights. As they ride across the barren outback in pursuit, their harsh and horrifying journey will have a dev-

astating impact on Tommy, tormenting him for the rest of his life—and will hold enduring consequences for a young country struggling to come into its own.

**JAMES, PETER DENIAL** (\$17.99) Introducing policeman Glenn Branson... When actress Gloria Lamark takes her own life, her devoted son, Thomas, is heart-broken. Something must be wrong with a world in which such a tragedy is allowed to happen. How could her high-profile, media-star psychiatrist have failed to save such a special person, whom Thomas loved in such a very special way? Dr Tennent has a lesson to learn—a very painful one. Meanwhile, Michael Tennent is caught up in the first flush of love—but has no idea how dangerous romance can be. For both Michael and Thomas will do anything for the women they love . . .

**JAMES, PETER POSSESSION** (\$17.99) Fabian Hightower has been killed in a car crash. At least, that is what a policeman is asking Alex, his mother to believe. But Alex knows she saw him that morning—at a time when he must have been dead. When the funeral is over Alex tries hard to forget her bizarre experience. But her mind seems to be playing strange tricks on her, turning her grief into horror. When she turns to a medium her worst fears are realised. Fabian has unfinished business, and he is determined to come back. But why? Whatever the answer, something terrifies the medium so much she refuses to return. Alex longs to turn to others for support. But there is a secret about Fabian that only she knows—a secret she must never share...

**JEWELL, LISA INVISIBLE GIRL** (\$24.99) Owen Pick's life is falling apart. In his thirties, a virgin, and living in his aunt's spare bedroom, he has just been suspended from his job as a geography teacher after accusations of sexual misconduct, which he strongly denies. Searching for professional advice online, he is inadvertently sucked into the dark world of incel—involuntary celibate—forums, where he meets the charismatic, mysterious, and sinister Bryn.

**JOY, NAOMI LIARS** (\$19.95) Two women. One deadly secret. A rivalry that could destroy them. Ava Wells is perfect. She has the boyfriend, the career, the looks. But one night changes everything and her life suddenly isn't so seamless. Jade Fernleigh is ambitious. She's worked hard to get where she is. And she's not about to let Ava take the job she rightly deserves. Both women share a secret that could destroy them, but who will crumble first?

**KHAN, VASEEM ganesh BAD DAY AT THE VULTURE CLUB (#5)** (\$17.99) The Parsees are among the oldest, most secretive and most influential communities in the city: respected, envied and sometimes feared. When prominent industrialist Cyrus Zorabian is murdered on holy ground, his body dumped inside a Tower of Silence—where the Parsee dead are consumed by vultures—the police dismiss it as a random killing. But his daughter is unconvinced. Inspector Chopra—and let's not forget his elephant sidekick—uneasy at entering this world of power and privilege, is soon plagued by doubts about the case. But murder is murder. And in Mumbai, wealth and corruption go in hand in hand, inextricably linking the lives of both high and low...

**KING, THOMAS GREEN GRASS, RUNNING WATER** (\$19.99) Strong, sassy women and hard-luck, hard-headed men, all searching for the middle ground between Native American tradition and the modern world, perform an elaborate dance of approach and avoidance in this magical, rollicking tale. Alberta, Eli, Lionel and others are coming to the Blackfoot reservation for the Sun Dance. There they will encounter four Indian elders and their companion, the trickster Coyote—and nothing in the small town of Blossom will be the same again... By the author of the DrinkWater series.

**KING, THOMAS TRUTH AND BRIGHT WATER** (\$19.95) The tale of two young cousins and one long summer. Tecumseh and Lum live in Truth, a small American town, and Bright Water, the reserve across the border and over the river. Family is the only reason most of the people stay in the towns, and yet old secrets and new mysteries keep pulling the more nomadic residents back to the fold.

**KLEIN, LIBBY MIDNIGHT SNACKS ARE MURDER (#2)** (\$8.99) Between trying to get her gluten-free baking business off the ground and helping her aunt remodel her old Victorian into the Butterfly House Bed and Breakfast in Cape May, New Jersey, Poppy is ready to call, “Mayday!” And now Aunt Ginny—who's a handful wide-awake—is sleepwalking on her new sleeping pill prescription and helping herself to neighbors' snacks and knickknacks. Even more alarming, a local humanitarian who worked with troubled teens is found murdered, and the police suspect the “Snack Bandit.” Other than a bad case of midnight munchies and some mild knickknack kleptomania, Aunt Ginny is harmless. Someone's trying to frame her. Poppy will need to work tirelessly to uncover the killer and put the case to rest—before Aunt Ginny has to trade in her B & B for a bunk bed behind bars...

**KUTSCHER, VOLKER MARCH FALLEN** (\$19.50) 1933: A homeless veteran is found dead under railway arches in Berlin; apparently killed by an army dagger. Gereon Rath is brought onto the case just as the Reichstag mysteriously burns down. Unsettled by the Nazis' tightening grip; he and Charlotte Ritter must also contend with their political colleagues. The new Germany is frightening; but police work must go on even among book-burning and marching; rising paranoia and fear.

**LE CARRE, JOHN smiley** HONOURABLE SCHOOLBOY (#6) (\$18) and TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY (#5) (\$25.50) The recent passing of the author has revived interest in his novels and these are two new editions to whet your appetite.

**LEHANE, DENNIS** MYSTIC RIVER (\$21) When they were children, Sean Devine, Jimmy Marcus, and Dave Boyle were friends. But then a strange car pulled up to their street. One boy got into the car, two did not, and something terrible happened—something that ended their friendship and changed all three boys forever. Twenty-five years later, Sean is a homicide detective. Jimmy is an ex-con who owns a corner store. And Dave is trying to hold his marriage together and keep his demons at bay—demons that urge him to do terrible things. When Jimmy's daughter is found murdered, Sean is assigned to the case. His investigation brings him into conflict with Jimmy, who finds his old criminal impulses tempt him to solve the crime with brutal justice. And then there is Dave, who came home the night Jimmy's daughter died covered in someone else's blood. Originally published in 2001.

**LITTLE, ELIZABETH** PRETTY AS A PICTURE (\$22) Marissa Dahl, a shy but successful film editor, travels to a small island off the coast of Delaware to work with the legendary—and legendarily demanding—director Tony Rees on a feature film. Whatever the script is, her job is the same. She'll spend her days in the editing room, doing what she does best: turning pictures into stories. But she soon discovers that on this set, nothing is as it's supposed to be—or as it seems. There are rumors of accidents and indiscretions, of burgeoning scandals and perilous schemes. Half the crew has been fired. The other half wants to quit. Even the actors have figured out something is wrong. And no one seems to know what happened to the editor she was hired to replace. Then she meets the intrepid and incorrigible teenage girls who are determined to solve the real-life murder that is the movie's central subject, and before long, Marissa is drawn into the investigation herself.

**MACBRIDE, STUART** TWELVE DAYS OF WINTER ss (\$12.99) A collection of interlinked tales of crime and retribution laced with dark humour, set around the festive season.

**MACDERMID/ MCDERMID, VAL pirie** DISTANT ECHO (#1) (\$41.99) Four in the morning, mid-December, and snow blankets St. Andrews School. Student Alex Gilbery and his three best friends are staggering home from a party when they stumble upon the body of a young woman. Rosie Duff has been raped, stabbed and left for dead in the ancient Pictish cemetery. The only suspects are the four young students stained with her blood. Twenty-five years later, police mount a cold case review. Among the unsolved murders they're examining is that of Rosie Duff. But someone else has his own idea of justice. One of the original quartet dies in a suspicious house fire and soon after, a second is killed. Alex fears the worst. Someone is taking revenge for Rosie Duff. And it might just save his life if he can uncover who really killed Rosie all those years ago. Originally published in 2003.

**MACEACHERN, JOHN A** HAT TRICK MURDERS (\$34) When a future NHL Hockey Star is charged with the murder of three Cornell students, Jack Souster will stop at nothing to prove his best friend's innocence. But when Jack's own life is endangered, he discovers himself the loathed target of a New York City crime family, a powerhouse financial corporation, and possibly the leader of the largest country in the free world. With his own life on the line, Jack must now uncover the shocking truth behind the murders and rally the spirit of a nation to save his friend from death row. Set in 1965.

**MACEACHERN, JOHN A** BLOOD OF ART (\$30) When young, Appalachian born, Tom Adams, finds an American masterpiece between the walls of an old farmhouse, he is renovating in Riverport Massachusetts, he takes it to America's foremost public art gallery: the Creighton American Gallery of American Impressionism, for an appraisal. What he finds is the murdered corpse of America's favourite philanthropist and gallery founder, Robert Creighton. Tom is immediately taken in for questioning and charged with the murder and his found work of art is stolen while he is at the police station. Meanwhile, Maunders, a disfigured and slightly handicapped loner living in a second floor, one room flat in the Lower East Side of Manhattan finds himself fencing stolen fine art for the New York Mafia to the most wealthy and powerful leaders of the world. Some of these works also find their way into the collections of the most unscrupulous senior members of the U.S. administration.

**MACINTYRE, BEN** SPY AMONG FRIENDS (\$27) Who was Kim Philby? Those closest to him—like his fellow MI6 officer and best friend since childhood, Nicholas Elliott, and the CIA's head of counterintelligence, James Jesus Angleton—knew him as a loyal confidant and an unshakeable patriot. Philby was a brilliant and charming man who rose to head Britain's counterintelligence against the Soviet Union. Together with Elliott and Angleton he stood on the front lines of the Cold War, holding Communism at bay. But he was secretly betraying them both: He was working for the Russians the entire time. Every word uttered in confidence to Philby by his colleagues in the West made its way to Moscow, leading countless missions to their doom and subverting



American and British attempts to subdue the Soviet threat. So how was this cunning double-agent finally exposed? Based on personal papers and never-before-seen British intelligence files, and with an afterword by **John le Carre**.

**MACLEOD, TORQUIL** sundstrom MOURNING IN MALMO (#7) (\$22.50) Shortly after Inspector Anita Sundstrom's mother died, Anita is called to an apartment where an 80-year-old man with dementia has tried to kill his wife. The case sparks off a renewed interest in the death of her father, who was lost in the 1994 Estonia ferry disaster. Coupled with an investigation into the murder of a prominent member of Malmo's Pakistani community, she finds herself entering very dangerous waters.

**MACRAE, MOLLY** bookshop THISTLES AND THIEVES (#3) (\$22.95) Out for a bicycle ride in the hills beyond Inversgail, Janet Marsh discovers the body of Dr. Malcolm Murray. The elderly Murray and his own bicycle went off the road and down a steep slope—he's sprawled in the burn at the bottom, his damaged bike in a patch of thistles on the bank. Janet calls the Police Scotland emergency number. Tire tracks at the side of the narrow road suggest a vehicle might have been involved. But if it was an accident, the driver hasn't come forward. And if it wasn't an accident. . . . But who would want the well-loved, retired doctor dead? And when a box of vintage first editions is left on the doorstep of Yon Bonnie Books, the police are more than a little suspicious. Are the Yon Bonnie women as good with burglar tools as they are with books—and at finding bodies

**MACY, MEG** teddy bear WEDDING BEAR BLUES (#4) (\$21.95) In the fourth shamelessly adorable Teddy Bear Mystery, teddy bear shop manager and amateur sleuth Sasha Silverman vows to find out who killed the best man in a Valentine's Day wedding when a heartless, ice-pick wielding killer ruins the big day...

**MARK, DAVID** BURYING GROUND (\$21.95) Cumbria, 1967. Grieving the loss of her son, Cordelia Hemlock is in a village graveyard when lightning strikes a tumble-down tomb—and gives her a glimpse of a new corpse that doesn't belong among the crumbling bones. But when the body vanishes, the authorities refuse to believe some hysterical outsider. Cordelia persuades Felicity Goose, the only other person to have seen the corpse, to join her investigation. But the villagers don't take kindly to their interference. There are those who believe the village's secrets should remain buried . . . whatever the cost.

**MASTERTON, GRAHAM** LAST DROP OF BLOOD (\$20.95) In the driver's seat of a Jaguar, on a country road, a good man burns. Justice Garrett Quinn should have been at a sentencing. He was one of the good ones, fighting for order in a lawless world. In a burned-out car, on the outskirts of Cork, DS Katie Maguire finds what's left of him. But this is only the beginning. The judge's death sparks a gang war fought with bullets and bombs, and civilians are caught in the crossfire. As the city spirals deeper into violence, Ireland's most fearless detective must find the courage to fight for her hometown one last time. Katie Maguire is no stranger to sacrifice—but she has lost so much already. Facing new horrors each day, Katie must decide: can she do her duty when she has nothing left to give?

**MEIER, LESLIE** lucy stone VALENTINE CANDY MURDER (#5, #18) (\$11.99) Two of the author's most popular Lucy Stone holiday mysteries—Valentine Murder and Chocolate Covered Murder—into one paperback volume! It's Valentine's Day in Tinker's Cove, Maine, but when it comes to foul play, Pennysaver reporter Lucy Stone can't sugar coat the truth...

**MESDAMES OF MAYHEM** GRAVE DIAGNOSIS (\$21) Thirty-five stories by 18 Mesdames and Monsieurs of Mayhem. Edited by **Donna Carrick**.

**MICHAUD, MARTIN** lessard WITHOUT BLOOD (#2) (\$21.99) A senior administrator is stabbed to death in his office at the Montreal General Hospital. In the east end of the city, a dead man is found in the trunk of a stolen BMW. A young woman is hospitalized after an apparent hit and run, but despite her doctor's objections, she refuses treatment and sets off on a desperate search for the man who helped her. Montreal police detective Victor Lessard and his team of investigators work to find the common thread linking these seemingly unrelated cases. It quickly becomes apparent that there's no time to lose: a ruthless hunter has come to town, he's spotted his prey, and he's waiting for the right moment to close in for the kill. Sequel to Never Forget (#1) (\$21.99.)

**MINIER, BERNARD** servaz NIGHT (#4) (\$17.99) Three clues that suggest a serial killer has returned. . . . Detective Kirsten Nigaard believes the signs point to none other than Julian Hirtmann, a serial murderer on the run. She turns to Toulouse cop Martin Servaz, who has a painful personal history with Hirtmann. Servaz hunted the elusive killer for many years until the trail went cold. Now they have a chance to bring him to justice at last. But soon the pair find themselves in a terrifying cat-and-mouse chase, not knowing who is chasing whom, and which of them might pay the ultimate price.

**MORGAN-BENTLEY, ROBIN** WRECKAGE (\$17.99) Things will never be the same again...Ben is driving on the motorway, on his usual commute to the school where he works. A day like any other, except for Adam, who in a last despairing act jumps in front of Ben's car, and in killing himself, turns the teacher's world upside down.

Wracked with guilt and desperate to clear his conscience, Ben develops a friendship with Alice, Adam's widow, and her 7-year-old son Max. But as he tries to escape the trauma of the wreckage, could Ben go too far in trying to make amends?

**NADEL, BARBARA hakim BRIGHT SHINY THINGS (#5)** (\$16.95) A friend from the past asks for private investigator Lee Arnold's help in tracing his son: Fayyad al'Barri was last thought to be in Syria having embraced radical Islam. But a cryptic message has prompted his family to believe Fayyad has had a change of heart and is searching for a way back home. With fellow investigator Mumtaz Hakim's help, they might be able to establish contact. From the bright lights of the Western world, to shady boxing clubs and murky online jihadist recruitment, and while violence erupts close to home, Mumtaz and Lee are on an unknown path into the mind of a terrorist, journeying closer to danger than they ever imagined.

**PAVESI, ALEX EIGHTH DETECTIVE** (\$24.95 trade paperback, \$31.99 hardcover) See Hardcover section for an annotation,

**PERRY, THOMAS SMALL TOWN** (\$23.95) Twelve conspirators meticulously plan to throw open all the gates to the prison that contains them, so that more than a thousand convicts may escape and pour into the nearby small town. The newly freed prisoners rape, murder, and destroy the town—burning down homes and businesses. An immense search ensues, but the twelve who plotted it all get away. After two years, all efforts by the local and federal police agencies have been in vain. The mayor and city attorney meet, and Leah Hawkins, a six-foot, two-inch former star basketball player and resident good cop, is placed on sabbatical so that she can tour the country learning advanced police procedures. The sabbatical is merely a ruse, however, as her real job is to track the infamous twelve. And kill them. Leah's mission takes her across the country, from Florida to New York, from California to an anti-government settlement deep in the Ozarks. Soon, the surviving fugitives realize what she is up to, and a race to kill or be killed ensues.

**PRESSEY, ROSE craft fair MURDER CAN HAUNT YOUR HANDIWORK (#3)** (\$11.99) Rising up against the beautiful backdrop of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Biltmore Estate is a magnificent mansion in Asheville, North Carolina, built as a summer home for George Washington Vanderbilt II—yes, of those Vanderbilts—during the Gilded Age. Nowadays, it's the site of an annual craft fair. Unfortunately, it's also about to become a crime scene...

**QUIRK, MATTHEW HOUR OF THE ASSASSIN** (\$12.99) As a Secret Service agent, Nick Averose spent a decade protecting the most powerful men and women in America and developed a unique gift: the ability to think like an assassin. Now, he uses that skill in a little-known but crucial job. As a "red teamer," he poses as a threat, testing the security around our highest officials to find vulnerabilities—before our enemies can. He is a mock killer, capable of slipping past even the best defenses. His latest assignment is to assess the security surrounding the former CIA director at his DC area home. But soon after he breaches the man's study, the home's inner sanctum, Nick finds himself entangled in a vicious crime that will shake Washington to its foundations—as all the evidence points to Nick. Nick knows he's the perfect scapegoat. But who is framing him, and why? "Terrific" says Marian.

**RICHERS, MARNIE BACKLASH** (\$17.99) When Private Investigator Beverley Saunders is tasked with going undercover, she relishes the chance to disguise herself as a cleaner in order to get close to Manchester bad boy Anthony Anthony, aka 2Tone. Anthony's neighbours are suspicious of his wealth and sick of his anti-social behaviour, and Bev's just the woman they need to find out what's going on behind closed doors. As Bev begins to infiltrate Anthony's world, she soon realises she's in danger—and this time, she might be too far in to get out. Alongside her sidekick Doc, Bev must fight to discover the truth—but when people begin to die, she has to ask herself—is exposing Anthony worth risking her own life?

**RIPLEY, MIKE champion MR. CAMPION'S SEANCE (#7)** (\$26.99) 1946, London. The eagerly anticipated new detective novel from Albert Campion's godsibling, best-selling author Evadne Childe, is proving to be another runaway success. Unfortunately, it has also caught the attention of Superintendent Stanislaus Oates for reasons that go beyond its superior plotting. The crime at the heart of *The Bottle Party Murder* bears a number of striking similarities to a very real, recent and unsolved murder at the Grafton Club in Soho. Evadne wrote the book before the murder occurred, yet predicts it remarkably accurately—is it just a weird coincidence, is Evadne getting her information from 'the other side', or is something more sinister afoot? The repercussions of this extraordinary and complex case will reach out over the next fifteen years, drawing in three of Mr. Campion's favourite policemen—Oates, Yeo and Luke—before finally coming to its violent conclusion in 1962.

**RIPLEY, MIKE champion MR. CAMPION'S VISIT (#6)** (\$26.95) Suffolk, 1970. Albert Campion is back in Black Dudley, once the scene of murder and mayhem but now home to the brand-new University of Suffolk Coastal. Appointed to the role of the university's Visitor, Campion finds he has a curiously vague remit, but his initial visit to

the concrete campus takes an unexpected turn when the body of charismatic Chilean professor Pascual Perez-Catalan, a rising star and genius scientist in the field of geo-chemistry, is fished out of the ornamental lake. It seems Pascual was unpopular among his fellow academics and lecturers, his trail-blazing research taking up most of the university's new computing capacity...and he was also a keen ladies man. Drawn into another puzzling murder, Campion must negotiate internal politics, seething jealousy and resentment, blackmail, betrayal and a phantom trumpeter as he searches for a ruthless killer.

**ROBB, J D** SHADOWS IN DEATH (#51) (\$11.99) While Eve examines a fresh body in Washington Square Park, her husband, Roarke, spots a man among the onlookers he's known since his younger days on the streets of Dublin. A man who claims to be his half brother. A man who kills for a living—and who burns with hatred for him. Eve is quick to suspect that the victim's spouse—resentful over his wife's affair and poised to inherit her fortune—would have happily paid an assassin to do his dirty work. Roarke is just as quick to warn her that if Lorcan Cobbe is the hitman, she needs to be careful. Law enforcement agencies worldwide have pursued this cold-hearted killer for years, to no avail. And his lazy smirk when he looked Roarke's way indicates that he will target anyone who matters to Roarke...and is confident he'll get away with it. Eve is desperate to protect Roarke. Roarke is desperate to protect Eve. And together, they're determined to find Cobbe before he finds them—even if it takes them across the Atlantic, far outside Eve's usual jurisdiction...

**ROBOTHAM, MANDY** BERLIN GIRL (\$24.99) Berlin, 1938: It's the height of summer, and Germany is on the brink of war. When fledgling reporter Georgie Young is posted to Berlin, alongside fellow Londoner Max Spender, she knows they are entering the eye of the storm. Arriving to a city swathed in red flags and crawling with Nazis, Georgie feels helpless, witnessing innocent people being torn from their homes. As tensions rise, she realises she and Max have to act—even if it means putting their lives on the line. But when she digs deeper, Georgie begins to uncover the unspeakable truth about Hitler's Germany—and the pair are pulled into a world darker than she could ever have imagined...

**ROBOTHAM, MANDY** SECRET MESSENGER (\$22.99) Venice, 1943. The world is at war, and Stella Jilani is leading a double life. By day she works in the lion's den as a typist for the Reich; by night, she risks her life as a messenger for the Italian resistance. Against all odds, Stella must impart Nazi secrets, smuggle essential supplies and produce an underground newspaper on her beloved typewriter. But when German commander General Breugal becomes suspicious, it seems he will stop at nothing to find the mole, and Stella knows her future could be in jeopardy. Fast forward to London, 2017. Years later, Luisa Belmont finds a mysterious old typewriter in her attic. Determined to find out who it belonged to, Luisa delves into the past and uncovers a story of fierce love, unimaginable sacrifice and, ultimately, the worst kind of betrayal...

**ROBOTHAM, MICHAEL** haven WHEN SHE WAS GOOD (#2) (\$24.99 trade paperback, \$34.99 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

**ROBOTHAM, MICHAEL** haven GOOD GIRL BAD GIRL (#1) (\$17.99) Six years ago, Evie Cormac was discovered, filthy and half-starved, hiding in a secret room in the aftermath of a shocking crime. Now approaching adulthood, Evie is damaged, self-destructive and has never revealed her true identity. Forensic psychologist Cyrus Haven, a man haunted by his own past, is investigating the death of champion figure-skater Jodie Sheehan. When Cyrus is called upon to assess Evie, she threatens to disrupt the case and destroy his ordered life. Because Evie has a unique and dangerous gift—she knows when someone is lying. And nobody is telling the truth.

**ROSETT, SARA** MURDER ON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR (\$21) Olive and Jasper have never been closer—except in one area. Jasper is still reticent about his frequent disappearances from polite society. With the holidays approaching and no paying client on the books, Olive decides to shadow Jasper when he's unexpectedly called away. Her search brings her to Holly Hill Lodge where an eclectic group has gathered to celebrate an old-fashioned English Christmas. When the butler goes missing, Olive and Jasper must work together to solve the Christmas crime—as well as the secret Jasper hides.

**ROSLUND-HELLSTROM** grens THREE HOURS (#7) (\$15.99) Stockholm, Sweden: Seventy-three refugees have been found dead, suffocated in a container at Varta harbor. Niamey, Niger: Ewert Grens arrives in a city he's never heard of, in search of a man he never thought he would see again. Piet Hoffmann has again got himself in too deep, infiltrating a West African trafficking ring. He thinks he has two weeks to extricate himself, but will learn that his life, and that of countless defenseless people, now hangs on his actions during three desperate hours.

**SANDERS, ANGELA** josie way BAIT AND WITCH (#1) (\$11.99) Josie Way loved working among the Library of Congress's leather-scented stacks—until she uncovered corruption and made herself a target. As Wilfred, Oregon's new librarian, Josie can stay undercover until the case goes to court. But life in this little town isn't as subdued as she expected. The library, housed in a Victorian mansion, is slated to be bulldozed. Still

digesting the news that her safe haven is about to become scrap lumber, Josie discovers a body in the woods...Almost as shocking, Josie learns that she's descended from a long line of witches—and her powers have suddenly sprung to life. With help from a spoiled alley cat who just may be her familiar, Josie's thumbing through a catalog of suspects, hoping she can conjure a way to save her library—and her life...

**SCHULTZ, EMILY LITTLE THREATS (\$22)** In the summer of 1993, twin sisters Kennedy and Carter Wynn are embracing the grunge era and testing every limit in their privileged Richmond suburb. But Kennedy's teenage rebellion goes too far when, after a night of partying in the woods, her best friend, Haley, is murdered, and suspicion quickly falls upon Kennedy. She can't remember anything about the night in question, and this, along with the damning testimony from a college boy who both Kennedy and Haley loved, is enough to force Kennedy to enter a guilty plea. In 2008, Kennedy is released into a world that has moved on without her. Carter has grown distant as she questions Kennedy's innocence, and begins a relationship with someone who could drive the sisters apart forever. The twins' father, Gerry, is eager to protect the family's secrets and fragile bonds. But Kennedy's return brings the tragedy back to the surface, along with a whole new wave of media. When a crime show host comes to town asking questions, believing the murder wasn't as simple as it seemed, murky memories of Haley's death come to light. As new suspects emerge and the suburban woods finally give up their secrets, two families may be destroyed again.

**SMITH, FIONA VEITCH ART FIASCO (#5) (\$17.95)** It's 1924 and Poppy Denby is heading up to Northumberland to celebrate her father's sixtieth birthday. She stops off in Newcastle en route to visit her Aunt Dot, who has temporarily relocated from London to renovate a house she's inherited. One of Aunt Dot's guests is the world-renowned artist, Agnes Robson, who is staging an exhibition at the Laing Art Gallery. Reluctantly, Poppy is roped in to help when the artist's press liaison man falls ill. She soon discovers that the local press has dug up some dirt on Agnes relating to the tragic death of a young art teacher in Ashington Colliery, twenty-seven years earlier. As she tries to suppress the story, Poppy begins to suspect that the teacher might have been murdered and that the killer may still be on the loose...

**SMITH, KAREN ROSE daisy MURDER WITH OOLONG TEA (#6) (\$11.99)** The faculty of Willow Creek High School are having a get-together after the spring concert with refreshments provided, courtesy of Daisy's Tea Garden. Oolong tea and chocolate biscuits are just what the staff needs to help them unwind from Althea Higgins' demanding curriculum. Her lessons on such controversial subjects as school uniforms and under qualified substitute teachers are earning her an F from her colleagues. But a failing grade was preferable to Althea falling victim to foul play. Daisy was there when her body was discovered in the school swimming pool, murdered by strangulation. Althea was certainly a strict, opinionated taskmaster, unliked by both teachers and students, but would any of them actually want to kill her? As Daisy starts asking questions, she gets a real education in Althea's history, discovering more than enough enemies with more than enough motives to cancel her classes permanently...

**STABENOW, DANA campbell FIRE AND ICE (#1) (\$20.95)** Alaska State Trooper Liam Campbell, demoted and reassigned to the remote Bush town of Newenham, literally steps off the plane into a murder scene. Dealing with death is never simple, but when the woman leaning over the body proves to be Liam's old flame, it's evident that his new job is about to become much more complicated. From Newenham's cast of eccentric—and sometimes hair-trigger—residents, to the intricate ballet of fishing boats rushing against time to net their limit, the author captures the contagious spirit of melancholy madness that pervades America's last frontier. Published 1998.

**STABENOW, DANA campbell SO SURE OF DEATH (#2) (\$20.95)** Liam Campbell has lost more than most men lose in a lifetime: his wife and young son are dead and his career is in a deep freeze since five people died on his watch. Demoted from sergeant to trooper, exiled to Newenham, he lives on a leaky gillnetter moored in Bristol Bay, brooding on how to rekindle his relationship with bush pilot Wyant Chouinard, who broke his heart long ago. Then word arrives that a fishing boat is adrift, victim of a fire. Flying out with Trooper Diana Prince, his new assistant and pilot, Liam arrives to find the horribly burned bodies of a family of local fishers and their crew. A terrible accident, or a cover-up of something worse? Published 1999.

**STABENOW, DANA campbell NOTHING GOLD CAN STAY (#3) (\$20.95)** Alaska State Trooper Liam Campbell, newly promoted to corporal, is slowly making a home for himself in the remote town of Newenham. Between DUIs and domestic disputes, life is relatively tranquil, until Campbell's girlfriend, Bush pilot Wyant Chouinard, delivers a shipment of mail to a remote post office, where she finds the postmistress murdered. The hunt is on for a killer who seems to have vanished into the Bush... until another victim is found. Published 2000.

**STABENOW, DANA campbell BETTER TO REST (#4) (\$20.95)** A party of hunters stumbles upon a desiccated human hand, a feisty grandmother meets an untimely death in her own kitchen, and the broken remains of a World War II-era transport plane

emerge from the face of a calving glacier. It's all in a day's work for Sergeant Liam Campbell of the Alaska State Troopers. Published 2002.

**STABENOW, DANA shugak** NO FIXED LINE (#22) (\$20.95) New Year's Eve, in the middle of a blizzard that has cut Alaska off from the outside world, and there are reports of a plane down in the Quilak mountains.

**STEADMAN, CATHERINE** MR. NOBODY (\$23) When a man is found on a British beach, drifting in and out of consciousness, with no identification and unable to speak, interest in him is sparked immediately. From the hospital staff who find themselves inexplicably drawn to him, to international medical experts who are baffled by him, to the national press who call him Mr. Nobody, everyone wants answers. Who is this man? And what happened to him? Neuropsychiatrist Dr. Emma Lewis is asked to assess the patient in a small town deep in the English countryside. This is her field of expertise, this is the chance she's been waiting for, and this case could make her name known across the world. But therein lies the danger. Emma left this same town fourteen years ago and has taken great pains to cover all traces of her past since then.

**STEWART, AMY kopp sisters** DEAR MISS KOPP (#6) (\$22.99) The U.S. has finally entered World War I and Constance is chasing down suspected German saboteurs and spies for the Bureau of Investigation while Fleurette is traveling across the country entertaining troops with song and dance. Meanwhile, at an undisclosed location in France, Norma is overseeing her thwarted pigeon project for the Army Signal Corps. When Aggie, a nurse at the American field hospital, is accused of stealing essential medical supplies, the intrepid Norma is on the case to find the true culprit. The indomitable Kopp sisters—separated for the first time in their lives—correspond with news of their days. The world has irrevocably changed—will the sisters be content to return to the New Jersey farm when the war is over?

**TAPPER, JAKE** HELLFIRE CLUB (\$22.49) Charlie Marder is an unlikely Congressman. Thrust into office by his family ties after his predecessor died mysteriously, Charlie is struggling to navigate the dangerous waters of 1950s Washington, DC, alongside his young wife Margaret, a zoologist with ambitions of her own. Amid the swirl of glamorous and powerful political leaders and deal makers, a mysterious fatal car accident thrusts Charlie and Margaret into an underworld of backroom deals, secret societies, and a plot that could change the course of history. When Charlie discovers a conspiracy that reaches the highest levels of governance, he has to fight not only for his principles and his newfound political career...but for his life.

**THOMAS, WILL barker** LETHAL PURSUIT (#11) (\$9.99) London, 1892—Private enquiry agents Cyrus Barker and Thomas Lewelyn receive in the mail an unexplained key stamped with the letter Q. Barker, recognizing it for what it is, uses the key to unlock an anonymous door in the alleyway, which opens to an underground tunnel leading to Downing Street. The Prime Minister has a small task for Cyrus Barker. A Foreign Office agent stole a satchel in Eastern Europe but was then himself murdered at Charing Cross. The satchel contains a document desperately wanted by the German government, but while the agent was killed, the satchel remains in English hands. With a cold war brewing between England and Germany, it's in England's interest to return the document contained in the satchel to its original owners and keep it out of German hands. The document is an unnamed first century gospel; the original owner is the Vatican. And the German government isn't the only group trying to get possession of it. With secret societies, government assassins, political groups, and shadowy figures of all sorts doing everything they can—attacks, murders, counter-attacks, and even massive street battles—to acquire the satchel and its contents, this small task might be beyond even the prodigious talents of Cyrus Barker.

**THORNTON, SARAH** LAPSE (\$23.95) All it took was a momentary lapse to bring Clementine Jones' world crashing down. Once a high-flying lawyer, she's suddenly living like a hermit in a small-town and coaching the local football club. She's supposed to be lying low, but here she is, with her team on the cusp of their first final in 50 years—and the whole town is counting on her. Suddenly, her star-player quits on the eve of the finals. Townspeople are asking questions, and Clem soon discovers she's not the only one with secrets. And as tension builds, the dark violence just below the town's surface threatens to erupt and soon there'll be nowhere left for Clem to hide. Lapse signals the arrival of a new female lead, whose background in corporate law leads her to ask the hard questions...

**TODD, CHARLES rutledge** DIVIDED LOYALTY (#22) (\$21) A woman has been murdered at the foot of a megalith shaped like a great shrouded figure. Chief Inspector Brian Leslie, one of the Yard's best men, is sent to investigate the site in Avebury, a village set inside a prehistoric stone circle not far from Stonehenge. In spite of his efforts, Leslie is not able to identify her, much less discover how she got to Avebury—or why she died there. Her killer has simply left no trace. Several weeks later, when Ian Rutledge has returned from successfully concluding a similar case with an unidentified victim, he is asked to take a second look at Leslie's inquiry. But Rutledge suspects Chief Superintendent Markham simply wants him to fail.

**UNGER, LISA** CONFESSIONS ON THE 7:45 (\$24.99) Selena Murphy is commuting home on the train when she strikes up a conversation with a beautiful stranger in the next seat. The woman introduces herself as Martha and soon confesses that she's been stuck in an affair with her boss. Selena, in turn, confesses that she suspects her husband is sleeping with the nanny. When the train arrives at Selena's station, the women part ways, presumably never to meet again. Then the nanny disappears. As Selena is pulled into the mystery of what happened, and as the fractures in her marriage grow deeper, she begins to wonder, who was Martha really? But she is hardly prepared for what she'll discover...

**WINAWER, MELODIE** SCRIBE OF SIENA (\$22.99) Accomplished neurosurgeon Beatrice Trovato knows that her deep empathy for her patients is starting to impede her work. So, when her beloved brother passes away, she welcomes the unexpected trip to the Tuscan city of Siena to resolve his estate, even as she wrestles with grief. But as she delves deeper into her brother's affairs, she discovers intrigue she never imagined—a 700-year-old conspiracy to decimate the city. As Beatrice explores the evidence further, she uncovers the journal and paintings of the fourteenth-century artist Gabriele Accorsi. But when she finds a startling image of her own face, she is suddenly transported to the year 1347. She awakens in a Siena unfamiliar to her, one that will soon be hit by the Plague. Yet when Beatrice meets Accorsi, something unexpected happens: she falls in love—not only with Gabriele, but also with the beauty and cadence of medieval life. As the Plague and the ruthless hands behind its trajectory threaten not only her survival but also Siena's very existence, Beatrice must decide in which century she belongs. A novel that Marian just loved.

**WOODS, STUART teddy fay** BOMBSHELL (#4) (\$12.99) Teddy Fay is back in Hollywood and caught in two tricky situations. First, a rising star at Centurion becomes the target of malicious gossip, and Teddy must find and neutralize the source before the situation gets out of hand—or becomes violent. At the same time, Teddy finds himself targeted by a criminal thug bearing a grudge. It's a lot of knives to juggle, even for a former CIA-operative-turned-movie-producer accustomed to hazardous working conditions. This time Teddy will need to leverage every bit of his undercover skills and fearless daring to stay one step ahead of his foes . . . or he'll find himself one foot in the grave.

**XIAOLONG, QIU** HOLD YOUR BREATH, CHINA (#10) (\$26.99) Chief Inspector Chen and Detective Yu Guangming are brought into a serial murder case when the Homicide squad proves incapable of solving it. But before Chen can make a start, he is called away by a high-ranking Party member for a special assignment: to infiltrate a group of environmental activists meeting to discuss the pollution levels in the country and how to prompt the government into action. Chen knows it will be a far from simple task, especially when he discovers the leader of the group is a woman from his past. Meanwhile, Yu is left to investigate a serial murder case on his own. Both Chen and Yu face pressure from those above to resolve the cases in a satisfactory way . . . even if that means innocents face the punishment.

**ZUR, YIGAL naor** PASSPORT TO DEATH (#2) (\$22) Dotan Naor, an Israeli private investigator, ousted from Shin Bet—Israel's internal security service—goes to Thailand to find Sigal Bardon, a beautiful young girl from a wealthy Israeli family. Sigal has disappeared in Bangkok—completely. Dotan has connections in Thailand and he's familiar with Bangkok's dark side—the narrow alleys with bars and hookers, trenches of stagnant water, hotel rooms with illicit activity. This is where he intends to start his search. But when the passport of the missing Israeli girl ends up in his hands during his first taxi ride in the city, he's suspicious that someone is playing him. But who? And why? As Dotan searches for Sigal, police corruption blocks his every path while he delves deeper. Every lead he pursues draws him closer and closer to a black hole in his “own” past—one intertwined with his pursuit of Sigal—one that leads him to Reuven—and the haunting failure that led to the dismissal of both of them from Shin Bet. The wound between Dotan and Reuven is raw and deep, but Dotan realizes it must be healed in order to save Sigal.