



# The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

## SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

March 2018

Managed to escape South for another week of golf and libations and reading. The older of my two younger brothers, Mr. Medium—I've mentioned him, and the young one, Mr. Junior, before—was able to find four days in his busy schedule to join me in sunny, warm Sarasota and we played some golf. He is the perfect travelling partner. He loves to drive and doesn't drink. (*Sure one of you wasn't adopted? Because he sounds the exact opposite of you!—Marian.*) He's the yin to my yang. Although, not sure how complimentary we are; like brothers the world over, a little goes a long way.

It's now Marian's turn to go away for a few days and that means that I get Ms. Pixie all to myself! I'm looking forward to having the delightful girl full-time.

Who knew, but there's this thing called "hybrid publishing." Sounds like a hybrid car, and the analogy is apt. Read about it the other day and this may be of interest to you budding writers. Essentially, under the hybrid business model, authors help subsidize the publication of their book and in turn the publisher does the production, and much more importantly, the distribution and sales. The results should be a more professional-quality book than the typical self-published one and having your book shown to booksellers the world over would be invaluable. The authors make their return in the form of higher royalties as they have taken some of the risk.

I also read that Fred Bass, the owner of New York City's iconic Strand Book Store, died recently. He was 89 years old, being born on June 28, 1928 in New York's East Village. The Strand had been founded a year earlier by Bass's father and Fred started working in the store at the age of 13. The Strand was a must visit destination for anyone who loved books and Marian and I got there some years ago. I'm not sure what I was expecting, but I remember being overwhelmed by the collection of books. And rather underwhelmed by the crusty staff members that I encountered that day! No doubt, Marian would suggest that that should have made me feel right at home, kindred spirits and all. (*Took the words right out of my mouth! Marian.*) They probably get tired of answering stupid questions, all day long. Or, maybe it's just a New York thing.

### JD's Picks

Had some time waiting in airports and stuck in those uncomfortably small seats and nothing wastes a few hours quite as well as a good read.

A new author to me was **KHURRUM RAHMAN**, whose debut nov-

el, East of Hounslow (\$21.99), is excellent. Phenomenal writing. "A brilliant thriller. You'd be mad not to buy this" says Ben Aaronovitch. And, "Best thriller I've read in ages" says Stephen Leather. As my brothers like to say, "I am agreein'." The author was born in Karachi, Pakistan and moved to England when he was one. He is a west London boy and now lives in Berkshire. He is an IT nerd whose real love is writing. One of his screenplays has been optioned by a TV producer, and, of interest to us, HarperCollins have acquired world English language rights to the sequel as well. Hallelujah. Or, maybe that should be, inshallah!

Meet Jay. Small-time dealer. Accidental jihadist. The one man who can save us all? Javid—call him Jay—is a feckless dope dealer living in West London. He goes to Mosque on Friday, because that's what everyone does. He's just bought his pride and joy, a BMW, he lives with his mum and life seems sweet. But his world is about to turn upside-down. Because MI5 have been watching, and they think Jay's just the man they need for a delicate mission: infiltrate a Jihadi training camp in Islamabad. One thing's for sure: now he's East of Hounslow, Jay's life will never be the same again.

This was such good fun that I didn't want to put it down. Downed it in a couple of massive gulps. Looking forward to the sequel, although not sure how Mr. R. is going to pull that off. I know it'll be a delight no matter what the author has up his kurta sleeve.

Marian raved about **RONALD BALSON**'s latest novel, Trust (#4) (\$37.99), in the January issue and that made me grab the first in the series, Once We Were Brothers (#1) (\$23.99). This is the riveting—and I don't use that word lightly—story of Ben Solomon and his family who lived in Zamosc, Poland, in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Ben's father was a kind man, rather prominent in his Jewish community, who could be counted on to help others less well-off than himself. One boy he and the family rescued was the abandoned Otto Piatek and Ben and Otto, roughly the same age, grew up as brothers.

In Chicago of the current day, Elliot Rosenzweig, a respected civic leader and wealthy philanthropist, is attending a fundraiser when he is suddenly accosted and accused of being a former Nazi SS officer named Otto Piatek, the Butcher of Zamosc. Although the charges are denounced as preposterous, his accuser, Ben, knows he is right and wants to bring Rosenzweig to justice. Investigator Liam Taggart introduces Ben to attorney Catherine Lockhart, someone he does a lot of work for and Ben begins to chronicle the hell that was war-torn Poland and the Holocaust. He reveals his heart-breaking story passionately and meticulously and Catherine is slowly, reluctantly, reeled in to believing him and taking up his case. Two worlds, sixty years apart, converge in this awful, awesome story.

Having reminded myself of just how brilliant a writer **JOHN LAWTON** is—his most recent Inspector Troy novel, Friends and Traitors

(#8) (\$37.50) was the best book that I read in 2017—I've been filling in unread gaps of his oeuvre. One of the books that I took away with me was his Lily of the Field (#7) and I just don't have any fresh words to tell you what a fun, witty, unputdownable, engaging, entertaining, read this one was as well.

Spanning the tumultuous years 1934 to 1948, this novel follows a large, disparate but very appealing, cast of characters: Méret Voytek, a talented young cellist living in Vienna at the novel's start; Dr. Karel Szabo, a Hungarian physicist interned in a camp on the Isle of Man; the Troys, Freddie and Rod; Angus, crazy, totally unimportant Angus, but what a hoot he is, I love Angus; being just some of them. Starting in Vienna and Auschwitz and onto the deserts of New Mexico where the US is developing the atomic bomb using the corralled brain power of European scientists, and into the rubble-strewn streets of postwar London. Remarkable. Indeed.

When **TODD SCOTT's** FAR EMPTY (#1) (\$13.50) was published in hardcover almost two years ago, I picked it up because **Craig Johnson** was quoted on the jacket: "A powerful new voice in contemporary western crime fiction." **Craig** knows a thing or two about great western crime novels, so that was good enough for me. I read it, I liked it a lot, and I suggested you read it too. Well, great news, the book has finally been released in paperback, and if you didn't read it then, here's another chance. A quickie summary: Seventeen-year-old Caleb Ross is adrift in the wake of the sudden disappearance of his mother more than a year ago, and, is struggling to find his way out of the small Texas border town of Murfee. Chris Cherry is a newly minted sheriff's deputy, a high school football hero who has reluctantly returned to his hometown. When skeletal remains are discovered in the surrounding badlands, the two are inexorably drawn together as their efforts to uncover Murfee's darkest secrets lead them to the same terrifying suspect: Caleb's father and Chris's boss, the charismatic and feared Sheriff Stanford "Judge" Ross. And, even more good news...the sequel, High White Sun (#2) (\$35) is due later this month and I'm looking forward to it.

## Marian's Picks

March is starting off as a busy month. It is truly coming in as a lion. JD was away golfing, again, so it was Pixie and me minding the bookstore, looking after customers, unpacking boxes of books and, just because I wasn't busy enough, making sure I got the first draft of the newsletter done. While himself is away, chasing that stupid white ball. Normally Pix's dad takes her to the dog park in the morning—the Dads stand around shooting the breeze while the children run and chase each other—but...that was another thing for me to do. But, it's so worth it. Pix loves it there. Running, chasing, being chased, wrestling, getting mucky dirty...sometimes she comes back to the bookstore just covered in mud, more black than apricot, and I wish there was a car wash close by that I could send her through! But, mud does dry, and it's a job for the vac.

Speaking of dry...it was my turn to host the March meeting of the book club that I belong to. Our theme for this year's discussions is "nature," and, while we don't often discuss mystery books, we chose The Dry (\$20.99) by **JANE HARPER** because the presenter thought it would make for a good discussion on "Human Nature" (the murderer, the characters etc.) and also because the story is set in Australia during one of their fierce droughts, so more "nature". Truth be told, we do not dwell too long on the discussion, preferring to move on to the vittles and drinkies! As I was hosting, it was my job to prepare the main course, which made for another busy day. It's become a tradition to base the menu, for the evening, on food mentioned in the book we are discussing. More or less loosely. So, what's more Australian than meat pies, and that's what I decided to make. But vegetarian, of

course. And, pasta. Because that's where pasta come from. So, a pasta dish with eggplant and tomatoes (and sausages) was another dish that I made as it was served in the book. (Left to someone else to bring the sausage). The evening went over very well, I think, and the discussion of The Dry was a bit more lively than usual. Both JD and I had liked this debut novel and, as I mentioned in the February 2018 newsletter, so much so that I also read her second book, Force of Nature (\$33.99 hardcover, \$24.99 paperback). Both excellent. And, while I'm thinking of it, Dry won the British 2017 Gold Dagger Award for the Best Crime Novel. A phenomenal achievement for a first mystery!

**KATE QUINN**, who I've also mentioned before, did such a great job with The Alice Network (\$21), that I wanted to read more. Whereas Alice flips from World War II to World War I and back, the next book of hers that I read is set in Italy in 1492. The Serpent and the Pearl (\$18) is a book about the Borgias. Quite the family, those Borgias! But gosh darn it, I got to the end of the book but not to the end of the story! I turned the page to read the next chapter and there it was, not there! How could she do this to me? All this meant, of course, was that I needed to get my hands on the continuation of the story, The Lion and the Rose (\$18). I'll not go into great details, so here is a brief description of the story: Rome, 1492: The pope lies dying and the throne of God is left vacant, a prize awarded only to the most virtuous—or the most ruthless. The Borgia family begins its legendary rise, chronicled by an innocent girl who finds herself drawn into their dangerous web. Vivacious Giulia Farnese has floor-length golden hair and the world at her feet: beauty, wealth, and a handsome young husband. But she is stunned to discover that her glittering marriage is a sham, and she is to be given as a concubine to the ruthless, charismatic Cardinal Rodrigo Borgia: Spaniard, sensualist, candidate for Pope and passionately in love with her. Two trusted companions follow her into the Pope's shadowy harem: Leonello, a cynical bodyguard bent on bloody revenge against a mysterious killer, and Carmelina, a fiery cook with a past full of secrets. And I'm not even going to hint at the ending of the first book.

And joy, oh joy, all the books in the China series by **PETER MAY** are now available. The first one, The Firemaker (#1) (\$19.49) is in print in Canada, so it's a bit cheaper than the others, which we sneak in from the UK. The books feature Beijing detective Li Yan and American forensic pathologist Margaret Campbell and, they are terrific. The series was published between 1999 and 2004 and I devoured every one of them as they became available. If you have liked Peter May, then I think you will go mad for these. The others in the series are The Fourth Sacrifice (#2), The Killing Room (#3), Snakehead (#4), The Runner (#5) and Chinese Whispers (#6) (\$25 each).

Here is a plot description for Firemaker: Campbell is on a six-week lecture trip at the University of Public Security in Beijing. She has fled to China to escape from a broken heart and a shattered life. Li is a newly promoted detective, walking in the footsteps of an uncle who was a near legend in the Beijing police force. Li's uncle, now retired, prefers to play chess in the park and dispense his wisdom in Chinese riddles, and the young detective is forced reluctantly to turn for help to the experienced Margaret Campbell whose expertise is burn victims. On the night that a scientist is burned to death, there are two other murders in the city. It soon becomes clear that all three are linked.

## Hardbacks

**BEATON, M C macbeth** DEATH OF AN HONEST MAN (#33) (\$34) Nobody loves an honest man, or that was what police sergeant Hamish Macbeth tried to tell newcomer Paul English. Paul had moved to a house in Cnothan, a sour village on Hamish's beat. He attended church in Lochdubh. He told the minister, Mr. Wellington,

that his sermons were boring. He told tweedy Mrs. Wellington that she was too fat and in these days of increasing obesity it was her duty to show a good example. Angela Brody was told her detective stories were pap for the masses and it was time she wrote literature instead. He accused Hamish of having dyed his fiery red hair. He told Jessie Currie—who repeated all the last words of her twin sister—that she needed psychiatric help. "I speak as I find," he bragged. Voices saying, "I could kill that man," could be heard from Lochdubh to Cnothan. And someone did. Now Hamish is faced with a bewildering array of suspects. And he's lost the services of his clumsy policeman, Charlie, who has resigned from the force after Chief Inspector Blair berated Charlie one too many times, and the policeman threw Blair into the loch. Can Hamish find the killer on his own?

**BRODY, FRANCES shackleton DEATH IN THE STARS (#9)** (\$33.99) Yorkshire, 1927. Eclipse fever grips the nation, and when beloved theatre star Selina Fellini approaches trusted sleuth Kate Shackleton to accompany her to a viewing party on the grounds of Giggleswick School Chapel, Kate suspects an ulterior motive. During the eclipse, Selina's friend and co-star Billy Moffatt disappears and is later found dead in the chapel grounds. Kate can't help but dig deeper and soon learns that two other members of the theatre troupe died in similarly mysterious circumstances in the past year. With the help of Jim Sykes and Mrs. Sugden, Kate sets about investigating the deaths and whether there is a murderer in the company. When Selina's elusive husband Jarrod, who was injured in the war and is subject to violent mood swings, comes back on the scene, Kate begins to imagine something far deadlier at play, and wonders just who will be next to pay the ultimate price for fame.

**CHILDS, LAURA tea PLUM TEA CRAZY (#19)** (\$35) While viewing the harbour's Gaslights and Galleons Parade from the widow's walk of Timothy Neville's Charleston mansion, local banker Carson Lanier seemingly tumbles over a narrow railing, then plunges three stories to his death. But a tragic accident becomes something much more sinister when it's discovered that the victim was first shot with a bolt from a crossbow. At the request of the mansion owner, Theodosia investigates the tragedy and is soon neck deep in suspects. An almost ex-wife, a coworker, a real estate partner—all had motives for killing the luckless banker, but one resorted to murder to settle accounts. Includes delicious recipes and tea time tips!

**CROSS, A J hanson LITTLE DEATH (#3)** (\$43.50) This is a bit pricey, so if you'd like a copy please let us know and we will order it for you. When, a year after she went missing, the body of 19-year-old student Elizabeth Williams is discovered in a field near her college, forensic psychologist Dr. Kate Hanson and her colleagues at the Unsolved Crime Unit are faced with a seemingly impossible challenge. The badly decomposed remains are offering up few clues, and witnesses are proving either unreliable or reluctant to talk at all. With little in the way of forensic evidence, Kate realizes that if she is to have any chance of discovering who killed Elizabeth, she must find out what motivated the killer, the reason behind the murder, the why. To do that, she must look beyond what she and her colleagues are being told by those who knew Elizabeth – and into the twisted psyche of a dangerous murderer: a killer whom Kate suspects is ready to kill again.

**CROSS, A J hanson SOMETHING EVIL COMES (#4)** (\$43.50) Again, due to the price, special order only. When a body is discovered locked inside a church crypt, its throat torn out, the victim's identity is quickly established as 20-year-old Matthew Flynn, son of one of the city's leading entrepreneurs, who disappeared a year earlier. For forensic psychologist Kate Hanson, the evidence reveals careful planning but also loss of control. It makes no sense. Nor can she and her team agree as to motive. Is it drugs? Money? Sex? The only thing that's clear is that Matthew Flynn had been keeping secrets from his family and friends. Then Kate discovers that another young man is missing. And the case takes a disturbing new twist

**DEEGAN, JAMES ONCE A PILGRIM** (\$32.99 hardcover, \$21.99 trade paperback) Marian mentioned these books in the January 2018 newsletter and they are now here. Terrific read!!! John Carr has recently left the SAS, after a long and distinguished career, and is now

working for a Russian oligarch in the murky world of private security. But an incident from his past - in which three terrorists were brutally killed - suddenly comes back to haunt him. Tracked by a hit man out for revenge, John Carr is forced to step over the line to defend himself and his family. It's a cruel and violent world - and one he thought he'd left behind. But some wars never end.

**DELANY, VICKI holmes CAT OF THE BASKERVILLES (#3)** (\$38.95) "I've been waiting to tell you about this book. Ms. Delany sent me an advance reading copy months ago and now it is finally in stock. So, enjoy", says Marian. Legendary stage and movie star Sir Nigel Bellingham arrives on Cape Cod to star in a stage production of The Hound of the Baskervilles put on by the West London Theater Festival. When Sir Nigel, some of the cast, and the director visit the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop at 222 Baker Street, Gemma Doyle realizes that Sir Nigel is not at all suited to the role. He is long past his prime and an old drunk to boot. The cast, in particular the much younger actor who previously had the role, are not happy, but the show must go on. Before the play opens, Leslie Wilson, mother of Gemma's best friend Jayne, arranges a fundraising afternoon tea to be catered by Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room. The tea is a huge success, but when it's time to leave, Sir Nigel has gone missing—only to be found at the bottom of the rocky cliff, dead. Along with the dead body, Gemma finds evidence incriminating Leslie Wilson. When the police, in the presence of handsome detective Ryan Ashburton and suspicious detective Louise Estrada, focus their attention on Leslie despite the numerous other suspects, the game is once again afoot and it's again up to the highly perceptive Gemma and the ever-confused but loyal Jayne to clear Jayne's mother's name. The other two books featuring Gemma and her bookstore are Elementary She Read (\$22.95) and Body on Baker Street (\$22.95).

**DOWNIE, RUTH medicus MEMENTO MORI (#8)** (\$37) A scandal is threatening to engulf the popular spa town of Aquae Sulis (modern-day Bath). The wife of Ruso's best friend, Valens, has been found dead in the sacred hot spring, stabbed through the heart. Fearing the wrath of the goddess and the ruin of the tourist trade, the temple officials are keen to cover up what's happened. But the dead woman's father is demanding justice, and he's accusing Valens of murder. If Valens turns up to face trial, he will risk execution. If he doesn't, he'll lose his children. Ruso and Tilla do their best to help but it's difficult to get anyone—even Valens himself—to reveal what really happened. Could Ruso's friend really be guilty as charged?

**ELLIOTT, LEXIE FRENCH GIRL** (\$35) They were six university students from Oxford—friends and sometimes more than friends—spending an idyllic week together in a French farmhouse. It was supposed to be the perfect summer getaway...until they met Severine, the girl next door. For Kate Channing, Severine was an unwelcome presence, her inscrutable beauty undermining the close-knit group's loyalties amid the already simmering tensions. And after a huge altercation on the last night of the holiday, Kate knew nothing would ever be the same. There are some things you can't forgive. And there are some people you can't forget...like Severine, who was never seen again. Now, a decade later, the case is reopened when Severine's body is found in the well behind the farmhouse. Questioned along with her friends, Kate stands to lose everything she's worked so hard to achieve as suspicion mounts around her. Desperate to resolve her own shifting memories and fearful she will be forever bound to the woman whose presence still haunts her, Kate finds herself buried under layers of deception with no one to set her free...

**FINCH, CHARLES lenox WOMAN IN THE WATER (#0)** (\$36.99) London, 1850: A young Charles Lenox struggles to make a name for himself as a detective...without a single case. Scotland Yard refuses to take him seriously and his friends deride him for attempting a profession at all. But when an anonymous writer sends a letter to the paper claiming to have committed the perfect crime—and promising to kill again—Lenox is convinced that this is his chance to prove himself. The writer's first victim is a young woman whose body is found in a naval trunk, caught up in the rushes of a small islets in the middle of the Thames. With few clues to go on, Lenox endeavors to solve the crime before another innocent life is lost. When the killer's sights are

turned toward those whom Lenox holds most dear, the stakes are raised, and Lenox is trapped in a desperate game of cat and mouse. **GOENAWAN, CLARISSA RAINBIRDS** (\$30) Set in a fictional town outside Tokyo, this debut novel has garnered some fantastic reviews. Ren Ishida has nearly completed his graduate degree at Keio University when he receives news of his sister's violent death. Keiko was stabbed one rainy night on her way home, and there are no leads. Ren heads to Akakawa to conclude his sister's affairs, failing to understand why she chose to turn her back on the family and Tokyo for this desolate place years ago. But then Ren is offered Keiko's newly vacant teaching position at a prestigious local cram school and her bizarre former arrangement of free lodging at a wealthy politician's mansion in exchange for reading to the man's ailing wife. He accepts both, abandoning Tokyo and his crumbling relationship there in order to better understand his sister's life and what took place the night of her death. As Ren comes to know the eccentric local figures, from the enigmatic politician who's boarding him to his fellow teachers and a rebellious, captivating young female student, he delves into his shared childhood with Keiko and what followed. Haunted in his dreams by a young girl who is desperately trying to tell him something, Ren realizes that Keiko Ishida kept many secrets, even from him.

**GREANEY, MARK AGENT IN PLACE** (#7) (\$36) Fresh off his first mission back with the CIA, Court Gentry secures what seems like a cut-and-dried contract job: A group of expats in Paris hires him to kidnap the mistress of Syrian dictator Ahmed Azzam to get intel that could destabilize Azzam's regime. Court delivers Bianca Medina to the rebels, but his job doesn't end there. She soon reveals that she has given birth to a son, the only heir to Azzam's rule--and a potent threat to the Syrian president's powerful wife. Now, to get Bianca's cooperation, Court must bring her son out of Syria alive. With the clock ticking on Bianca's life, he goes off the grid in a free-fire zone in the Middle East--and winds up in the right place at the right time to take a shot at bringing one of the most brutal dictatorships on earth to a close.

**HART, JOHN HUSH** (\$36.50) It's been ten years since the events that changed Johnny Merrimon's life and rocked his hometown to the core (The Last Child (\$11.99)). Since then, Johnny has fought to maintain his privacy, but books have been written of his exploits; the fascination remains. Living alone on six thousand acres of once-sacred land, Johnny's only connection to normal life is his old friend, Jack. They're not boys anymore, but the bonds remain. What they shared. What they lost. But Jack sees danger in the wild places Johnny calls home; he senses darkness and hunger, an intractable intent. Johnny will discuss none of it, but there are the things he knows, the things he can do. A lesser friend might accept such abilities as a gift, but Jack has felt what moves in the swamp: the cold of it, the unspeakable fear. Including Melanie. Yet now her attacker might be the key to her salvation . . . or her undoing.

**JACOBS, NOVA LAST EQUATION OF ISAAC SEVERY** (\$34) A literary mystery about a struggling bookseller whose recently deceased grandfather, a famed mathematician, left behind a dangerous equation for her to track down—and protect—before others can get their hands on it. Just days after mathematician and family patriarch Isaac Severy dies of an apparent suicide, his adopted granddaughter Hazel, owner of a struggling Seattle bookstore, receives a letter from him by mail. In it, Isaac alludes to a secretive organization that is after his final bombshell equation, and he charges Hazel with safely delivering it to a trusted colleague. But first, she must find where the equation is hidden. While in Los Angeles for Isaac's funeral, Hazel realizes she's not the only one searching for his life's work, and that the equation's implications have potentially disastrous consequences for the extended Severy family, a group of dysfunctional geniuses unmoored by the sudden death of their patriarch. As agents of an enigmatic company shadow Isaac's favorite son—a theoretical physicist—and a long-lost cousin mysteriously reappears in Los Angeles, the equation slips further from Hazel's grasp. She must unravel a series of maddening clues hidden by Isaac inside one of her favorite novels, drawing her ever closer to his mathematical treasure. But when her efforts fall short, she is forced to enlist the help of those

with questionable motives.

**JAMES, MIRANDA librarian CLAWS FOR CONCERN** (#9) (\$35) Charlie Harris is busy enjoying his new grandson when a mysterious man with a connection to Charlie's family starts visiting the library, bringing with him troubling questions about an unsolved murder. Charlie may be a proud new grandfather, but he and Diesel still have work to do at Athena College and the small Mississippi town's public library. He's too busy to deal with true-crime writer Jack Pemberton, who wants Charlie as the subject of his latest book--and who won't take no for an answer. A more appealing proposition for Charlie is spending time helping a kind, elderly man navigate the library's genealogical database. But he's shocked when he learns that the visitor's search is focused on a member of his own family: his late aunt's husband. Charlie befriends the man and considers inviting him to stay in his home, but he's soon given reason to question that notion. Jack is certain that Charlie's new houseguest was involved in a shocking homicide that took place years ago in a small town near Athena. As this cold case heats up, Charlie and Diesel have to uncover a killer who may already be too close to home.

**KELLERMAN, JONATHAN delaware NIGHT MOVES** (#34) (\$38.99) Even with all his years of experience, LAPD homicide detective Milo Sturgis knows there are crimes his skill and savvy cannot solve alone. That's when he calls on brilliant psychologist Alex Delaware to read between the lines, where the darkest motives lurk. And if ever the good doctor's insight is needed, it's at the scene of a murder as baffling as it is brutal. There's no spilled blood, no evidence of a struggle, and, thanks to the victim's missing face and hands, no immediate means of identification. And no telling why the disfigured corpse of a stranger has appeared in an upscale L.A. family's home. Chet Corvin, his wife, and their two teenage children are certain the John Doe is unknown to them. Despite that, their cooperation seems guarded. And that's more than Milo and Alex can elicit from the Corvins' creepy next-door neighbour—a notorious cartoonist with a warped sense of humor and a seriously antisocial attitude. As the investigation ensues, it becomes clear that this well-to-do suburban enclave has its share of curious eyes, suspicious minds, and loose lips. And as Milo tightens the screws on potential persons of interest—and Alex tries to breach the barriers that guard their deepest secrets—a strangling web of corrupted love, cold-blooded greed, and shattered trust is exposed. Though the grass may be greener on these privileged streets, there's enough dirt below the surface to bury a multitude of sins. Including the deadliest.

**KNOX, JOSEPH waits SIRENS** (#1) (\$36) The mission is suicide. Infiltrating the inner circle of enigmatic criminal Zain Carver is dangerous enough. Pulling it off while also rescuing Isabelle Rossiter, a runaway politician's daughter, from Zain's influence? Impossible. That's why Aidan Waits is the perfect man for the job. Disgraced, emotionally damaged, and despised by his superiors. In other words, completely expendable. But Aidan is a born survivor. And as he works his way deep into Zain's shadowy world, he finds that nothing is as it seems. Zain is a mesmerizing, Gatsby-esque figure who lures young women into his orbit—women who have a bad habit of turning up dead. But is Zain really responsible? And will Isabelle be next? Before long, Aidan finds himself in over his head, cut loose by his superiors, and dangerously attracted to the wrong woman. How can he save the girl if he can't even save himself?

**LAWSON, MIKE joe demarco HOUSE WITNESS** (#12) (\$37.50) Minority Leader of the House and DeMarco's long-time employer John Mahoney has kept more than one secret from his wife over the years, but none so explosive as this: He has a son, and that son has just been shot dead in a bar in Manhattan. Mahoney immediately dispatches DeMarco to New York to assist prosecutor Justine Porter, but with five bystanders willing to testify against the killer—rich-boy Toby Rosenthal—the case seems like a slam-dunk. That is, until Porter begins to suspect that someone is interfering with those witnesses, and that this may be connected to a pattern of cases across the country. Is there someone who is getting witnesses out of the way when the fate of a wealthy defendant is on the line? With the help of Porter's intern, as outrageously smart as she is young, DeMarco becomes

determined to follow that question through to its violent resolution in what turns out to be this series' most unexpected plot yet.

**LESCROART, JOHN T** hardy POISON (#17) (\$35.99) Dismas Hardy is looking forward to easing into retirement and reconnecting with his family after recovering from two glancing gunshot wounds courtesy of a recent client. But this plan is cut short when, against his wife's wishes, he is pulled back into the courtroom by the murder of Grant Wagner, the steely owner of a successful family business. The prime suspect is Wagner's bookkeeper, Abby Jarvis, a former client of Hardy's who had been receiving large sums of cash under-the-table from the company—but she insists that she's innocent and Dismas wants to believe her. As he prepares for trial, Dismas probes deeply into the Wagner clan's history, discovering dark secrets, jealous siblings, gold-digging girlfriends, startling betrayals, and menacing blackmailers. Suspense builds as the trial date looms, and the closer Dismas gets to the Wagners, the clearer it becomes that he has a large target painted on his back.

**LIPPMAN, LAURA** SUNBURN (\$33.50) One is playing a long game. But which one? They meet at a local tavern in the small town of Belleville, Delaware. Polly is set on heading west. Adam says he's also passing through. Yet she stays and he stays—drawn to this mysterious redhead whose quiet stillness both unnerves and excites him. Over the course of a punishing summer, Polly and Adam abandon themselves to a steamy, inexorable affair. Still, each holds something back from the other—dangerous, even lethal, secrets. Then someone dies. Was it an accident, or part of a plan? By now, Adam and Polly are so ensnared in each other's lives and lies that neither one knows how to get away—or even if they want to. Is their love strong enough to withstand the truth, or will it ultimately destroy them? Something—or someone—has to give. Which one will it be?

**MACDERMID/MCDERMID, VAL** tony hill INSIDIOUS INTENT (#10) (\$125) We have one copy of the UK First Edition. Tony Hill and Carol Jordan are on the hunt for a serial killer who victimizes women at weddings without a date—and forces the duo to confront their most haunting moral dilemma so far. In the north of England, single women are beginning to disappear from weddings. A pattern soon becomes clear: Someone is crashing the festivities and luring the women away—only to leave the victims' bodies in their own burned-out cars in remote locations. Tony and Carol are called upon to investigate—but this may be the toughest case they've ever had to face. Meanwhile, Detective Sergeant Paula McIntyre and her partner Elinor must deal with a cruel cyber-blackmailer targeting their teenage ward, Torin.

**MACKAY/MCKAY, SINCLAIR** MILE END MURDER: THE CASE CONAN DOYLE COULDN'T SOLVE (\$36) This is non-fiction and special order only. In 1860, a 70-year-old widow turned landlady named Mary Emsley was found dead in her own home, killed by a blow to the back of her head. What followed was a murder case that gripped the nation, a veritable locked room mystery which baffled even legendary Sherlock Holmes author, Arthur Conan Doyle. With an abundance of suspects, from disgruntled step children concerned about their inheritance and a spurned admirer repeatedly rejected by the widow, to a trusted employee, former police officer and spy, the case led to a public trial dominated by surprise revelations and shock witnesses, before culminating with one of the final public executions at Newgate. This is the case Conan Doyle couldn't solve and, after confounding the best detectives for years, has finally been solved by author Sinclair McKay. Discover 'whodunit' as the real murderer is revealed for the first time exclusively in this captivating study of a murder case in the nineteenth century, a story never told before.

**MAMET, DAVID** CHICAGO (\$33.50) A big-shouldered, big-trouble thriller set in mobbed-up 1920s Chicago—a city where some people knew too much, and where everyone should have known better—by the Oscar-nominated screenwriter of *The Untouchables* and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright of *Glengarry Glen Ross*. Mike Hodge—veteran of the Great War, big shot of the *Chicago Tribune*, medium fry—probably shouldn't have fallen in love with Annie Walsh. Then, again, maybe the man who killed Annie Walsh should

have known better than to trifle with Mike Hodge. In Chicago, David Mamet has created a bracing, kaleidoscopic page-turner that roars through the Windy City's underground on its way to a thunderclap of a conclusion. Here is not only his first novel in more than two decades, but the book he has been building to for his whole career. Mixing some of his most brilliant fictional creations with actual figures of the era, suffused with trademark "Mamet Speak," richness of voice, pace, and brio, and exploring—as no other writer can—questions of honour, deceit, revenge, and devotion, *Chicago* is that rarest of literary creations: a book that combines spectacular elegance of craft with a kinetic wallop as fierce as the February wind gusting off Lake Michigan.

**MATTHEWS, JASON** nash KREMLIN'S CANDIDATE (#3) (\$34.99) In the final installment of the Red Sparrow Trilogy, Russian counterintelligence chief Dominika Egorova and her lover, CIA agent Nate Nash, must find a Russian agent about to be appointed to a very high office in the US government. The novel opens with Russian president Vladimir Putin planning the covert assassination of a high-ranking US official with the intention of replacing him with a mole whom Russian intelligence has cultivated for more than fifteen years. Catching wind of this plot, Dominika, Nate, and their CIA colleagues must unmask the traitor before he or she is able to reveal that Dominika has been spying for years on behalf of the CIA. Any leak, any misstep, will expose her as a CIA asset and result in a one-way trip to a Moscow execution cellar. Along the way, we travel far and wide, Moscow; Washington, DC; Hong Kong; New York; the Sudan; and Turkey, and are introduced to two cold-blooded killers: Iosip Blokhin, a brilliant Spetsnaz military officer, and Grace Gao, ravishing Chinese spy, master of Kundalini yoga, and Beijing-trained seductress. Ultimately, the lines of danger converge on the spectacular billion-dollar presidential palace on the Black Sea during a power weekend with Putin's inner circle. Does Nate sacrifice himself to save Dominika? Does she forfeit herself to protect Nate? Do they go down together? The other two in the trilogy are Red Sparrow and Palace of Treason (\$12.99 each).

**MOSLEY, WALTER** DOWN THE RIVER UNTO THE SEA (\$35) Joe King Oliver was one of the NYPD's finest investigators, until, dispatched to arrest a well-heeled car thief, he is framed for assault by his enemies within the NYPD, a charge which lands him in solitary at Rikers Island. A decade later, King is a private detective, running his agency with the help of his teenage daughter, Aja-Denise. Broken by the brutality he suffered and committed in equal measure while behind bars, his work and his daughter are the only light in his solitary life. When he receives a card in the mail from the woman who admits she was paid to frame him those years ago, King realizes that he has no choice but to take his own case: figuring out who on the force wanted him disposed of—and why. Running in parallel with King's own quest for justice is the case of a Black radical journalist accused of killing two on-duty police officers who had been abusing their badges to traffic in drugs and women within the city's poorest neighbourhoods. Joined by Melquarth Frost, a brilliant sociopath, our hero must beat dirty cops and dirtier bankers, craven lawyers, and above all keep his daughter far from the underworld in which he works. All the while, two lives hang in the balance: King's client's, and King's own.

**O'CONNOR, CARLENE** MURDER IN AN IRISH CHURCH-YARD (#3) (\$27.95) It's official! Siobhán is now Garda O'Sullivan, and her five siblings couldn't be prouder. While brother James runs Naomi's Bistro, Siobhán is doing her part to keep the village safe. Of course, Kilbane is pretty quiet compared to a place like Dublin, where Macdara Flannery has gone to be a detective sergeant. Then one night the local priest summons Siobhán to the church cemetery. There's a dead man in the graveyard—aboveground. He lies shot on a blanket of freshly fallen snow, hand stretched out toward a nearby headstone. He's a stranger, but the priest has heard talk of an American tourist in town, searching for his Irish ancestor. A detective sergeant is dispatched from Dublin to assist with the case, and as fate would have it, it's Macdara. After his parting, things are awkward between them, but they have to work together. They learn the victim was from Dublin—

Dublin, Ohio, that is. And when his family members are located and told of his murder, the plot thickens. Siobhán begins to dig for a motive among the gnarled roots of the family tree. But as long-buried secrets are unearthed, she and Macdara will need to stay two steps ahead of the killer or end up with more than one foot in the grave. The first two are [Murder in an Irish Village](#) and [Murder at an Irish Wedding](#) (\$8.99 each).

**PARKS, BRAD** [CLOSER THAN YOU KNOW](#) (\$37) It was a lesson she learned the hard way growing up in the constant upheaval of foster care. But now that she's survived into adulthood--with a loving husband, a steady job, and a beautiful baby boy named Alex--she thought that turmoil was behind her. Until one Tuesday evening when she goes to pick up Alex from childcare only to discover he's been removed by Social Services. And no one will say why. It's a terrifying scenario for any parent, but doubly so for Melanie, who knows the unintended horrors of what everyone coldly calls "the system." Her nightmare mushrooms when she arrives home to learn her house has been raided by sheriff's deputies, who have found enough cocaine to send Melanie to prison for years. The evidence against her is overwhelming, and if Melanie can't prove her innocence, she'll lose Alex forever. Meanwhile, assistant commonwealth's attorney Amy Kaye--who has been assigned Melanie's case--has her own troubles. She's been dogged by a cold case no one wants her to pursue: a serial rapist who has avoided detection by wearing a mask and whispering his commands. Over the years, he has victimized dozens of women.

**PATTERSON & FOX** [harriet FIFTY FIFTY \(#2\)](#) (\$36.50) What are the changes that convicted killer Sam Blue is innocent of the serial murders of three young women? Determined to clear his name, no matter the cost to her career, Detective Harriet Blue accepts a risky reassignment to a remote town where a diary found on the roadside reveals a murderous plan. And the first killing, shortly after her arrival, suggests that the clock is already ticking. Meanwhile, back in the city, a young woman holds the key to crack Harriet's brother's case wide open. If only she could escape the madmen holding her hostage.

**SANDERS, BEN** [marshall MARSHALLS LAW \(#2\)](#) (\$36.99) Ex-undercover cop Marshall Grade is hiding out in California when he learns that federal agent Lucas Cohen has survived a kidnapping. Cohen was Marshall's ticket into witness protection, and his captors have a simple question: where's Marshall now? Marshall's undercover work gave him a long list of enemies, and the enemy in this case is a corrupt businessman named Dexter Vine. Vine's almost broke, in debt to people even worse than himself, and he wants to settle old scores while he has time. He's hired Ludo Coltrane—a nonchalant psychopath and part-time bar manager—to find Marshall at any cost. Ludo's no stranger to killing, but his associate, the cash-strapped ex-con Perry Rhodes, may prove more of a liability than an asset. The question to be answered in Marshall's Law is: what has Marshall done to make Dexter want him dead? And are the contacts from his old life—ex-colleague Lana, and the heroin dealer Henry Lee—prepared to help him, or will they just sell him out? It seems that the first book in this series, [American Blood](#) is out of print at the moment.

**SANDERS, BEN** [STAKES](#) (\$33.99) Rip-offs are a dangerous game, but heist man Miles Keller thinks he's found a good strategy: rob rich New York criminals and then retire early, before word's out about his true identity. New town, new name, no worries. Retirement can't come soon enough, though. The NYPD is investigating him for the shooting of a hitman named Jack Deen, who was targeting Lucy Gates—a former police informant and Miles's ex-lover. Miles thinks shooting hitmen counts as altruism, but a murder charge would make life difficult. He's ready to go to ground, but then Nina Stone reappears in his life. Nina is a fellow heist professional and the estranged wife of LA crime boss Charles Stone. Miles last saw her five years ago, and since then her life has grown more complicated: her husband wants her back, and he's dispatched his go-to gun thug to play repo man. Complicating matters is the fact that the gun thug in question is Bobby Deen, cousin of the dead Jack Deen—and Bobby wants vengeance. The stakes couldn't be higher, but Nina has an offer that could be lucrative. Maybe Miles can stick around a while longer...

**SAYLOR, STEVEN** [gordianus THRONE OF CAESAR \(#12\)](#)

(\$36.50) Julius Caesar, appointed dictator for life by the Roman Senate, has pardoned his remaining enemies and rewarded his friends. Now Caesar is preparing to leave Rome with his legions to wage a war of conquest against the Parthian Empire. But he has a few more things to do before he goes. Gordianus the Finder, after decades of investigating crimes and murders involving the powerful, has been raised to Equestrian rank and has firmly and finally decided to retire. But on the morning of March 10th, he's first summoned to meet with Cicero and then with Caesar himself. Both have the same request of Gordianus—keep your ear to the ground, ask around, and find out if there are any conspiracies against Caesar's life. And Caesar has one other matter of vital importance to discuss. Gordianus's adopted son Meto has long been one of Caesar's closest confidants. To honour Meto, Caesar plans to bestow on Gordianus an honour which will change not only his life but the destiny of his entire family. It will happen when the Senate next convenes on the 15th of March. Gordianus must dust off his old skills and see what plots against Julius Caesar, if any, he can uncover. But more than one conspiracy is afoot. The Ides of March is fast approaching and at least one murder is inevitable.

**SHARPE, TESS** [BARBED WIRE HEART](#) (\$34) Harley McKenna is the only child of North County's biggest criminal. Duke McKenna's run more guns, cooked more meth, and killed more men than anyone around. Harley's been working for him since she was sixteen--collecting debts, sweet-talking her way out of trouble, and dreading the day he'd deem her ready to rule the rural drug empire he's built. Her time's run out. The Springfields, her family's biggest rivals, are moving in. Years ago, they were responsible for her mother's death, and now they're coming for Duke's only weak spot: his daughter. With a bloody turf war threatening to consume North County, Harley is forced to confront the truth: that her father's violent world will destroy her. Duke's raised her to be deadly--he never counted on her being disloyal. But if Harley wants to survive and protect the people she loves, she's got to take out Duke's operation and the Springfields. Blowing up meth labs is dangerous business, and getting caught will be the end of her, but Harley has one advantage: She is her father's daughter. And McKennas always win.

**SMITH, BRAD** [RETURN OF KID COOPER](#) (\$35.99) The year is 1910. Nate Cooper is an old-school cowboy who has spent nearly thirty years in a Montana prison of a wrongful life sentence for a false murder conviction. Nate's moral compass is true and unwavering: he does all the wrong things for all the right reasons. Upon his release he learns that the turn of the century has brought great change--none of it good. Horses are being replaced by the motorcar, his girlfriend has long ago married his best friend, his nemesis is running for Governor, and the Blackfoot Indians (the people he went to prison trying to defend) are still being betrayed by ranchers. So some things haven't changed. Nate is one of them. He returns to his Northern Montana ranching town a free man and stirs up the pot of controversy immediately--seeking justice, evading hired guns, brawling in saloons, righting past wrongs, and ferreting out--with the help of a young newspaper reporter and the woman he used to love--a fraudulent boundary adjustment robbing the Blackfoot (again) of their territory. Along the way, he ruffles feathers all the way to the State House, and before the storm he brings is over, he and the friends of his youth will all pay a shockingly high price for justice.

**WILSON, ANDREW** [christie DIFFERENT KIND OF EVIL \(#2\)](#) (\$35) Two months after the events of [A Talent for Murder](#) (\$22.00), during which Agatha Christie "disappeared," the famed mystery writer's remarkable talent for detection has captured the attention of British Special Agent Davison. Now, at his behest, she is traveling to the beautiful Canary Islands to investigate the strange and gruesome death of Douglas Greene, an agent of the British Secret Intelligence Service. As she embarks on a glamorous cruise ship to her destination, she suddenly hears a scream. Rushing over to the stern of the liner, she witnesses a woman fling herself over the side of the ship to her death. After this shocking experience, she makes it to the Grand Hotel in a lush valley on the islands. There, she meets a diverse and fascinating cast of characters, including two men who are suspected

to be involved in the murder of Douglas Greene: an occultist similar to Aleister Crowley; and the secretary to a prominent scholar, who may also be a Communist spy. But Agatha soon realizes that nothing is what it seems here and she is surprised to learn that the apparent suicide of the young woman on the ocean liner is related to the murder of Douglas Greene. Now she has to unmask a different kind of evil in this sinister and thrilling mystery.

**WINKLER, MARK** MY NAME IS NATHAN LUCIUS (\$31.95) How far would you go for your best friend? If she begged you to, would you kill her? Nathan Lucius, 31, is an ad salesman at a Cape Town newspaper. Disaffected, hard-drinking and plagued by black-outs, Nathan lives alone and has only one true friend, a woman named Madge. But Madge is dying slowly of cancer, and when she asks Nathan to end her pain, she sets off a shocking string of events.

## Paperbacks

**ABBOTT, JEFF** BLAME (\$19.49) Two years ago, Jane Norton crashed her car on a lonely road, killing her friend David and leaving her with amnesia. At first, everyone was sympathetic. Then they found Jane's note: I wish we were dead together. From that day the town turned against her. But even now Jane is filled with questions: Why were they on that road? Why was she with David? Did she really want to die? Most of all, she must find out who has just written her an anonymous message: I know what really happened. I know what you don't remember.

**ACE, CATHY** wise enquiry CASE OF THE CURIOUS COOK (#3) (\$26.99) Henry Devereaux Twyst, eighteenth Duke of Chellingworth, is terribly worried about some water damage to the priceless books in his lower library, so retains the services of a local book restorer to tackle much-needed repairs. The antiquarian also runs the Crooks and Cooks bookshop with his daughter – local TV celebrity chef, The Curious Cook. When the book restorer mentions some strange shenanigans going on at the book shop, Dowager Duchess Althea brings the case to her colleagues at the WISE Enquiries Agency. As the WISE women try to unravel one puzzle from their base at stately Chellingworth Hall, they then get embroiled in another when they come across a valuable book of miniatures which seems to be the work of a local famous artist, murdered by her own brother. Are the cases linked and why do both mysteries lead to a nearby old folks' home? The WISE women are on the case – and nothing will get in their way...Or will it?

**ALBERT, SUSAN W** china LAST CHANCE OLIVE RANCH (#25) (\$10.99) A killer McQuaid put away years ago has busted out of Huntsville Prison and appears to be headed for Pecan Springs. China wants to stay by her husband's side and keep him from harm, but McQuaid insists that she get out of town and go to the Last Chance Olive Ranch, where she's agreed to teach a workshop on herbs. The owner, Maddie Haskell, has her own troubles. She inherited the ranch and olive oil business from the late matriarch, Eliza Butler, but Eliza's nephew is contesting the will. While China throws herself into helping Maddie, McQuaid's plan to stop the convict backfires. And now McQuaid's life is not the only one at stake--and this time may really be his last chance.

**ALEXANDER, TASHA** ashton COUNTERFEIT HEIRESS (#9) (\$9.99) After an odd encounter at a grand masquerade ball, Lady Emily becomes embroiled in the murder investigation of one of the guests, a sometime actress trying to pass herself off as the mysterious heiress and world traveler Estella Lamar. Each small discovery, however, leads to more questions. Was the intended victim Miss Lamar or the imposter? And who would want either of them dead? As Emily and Colin try to make sense of all this, a larger puzzle begins to emerge: No one has actually seen Estella Lamar in years, since her only contact has been through letters and the occasional blurry news photograph. Is she even alive? Emily and Colin's investigation of this double mystery takes them from London to Paris, where, along with their friend Cecile, they must scour the darkest corners of the city in

search of the truth.

**BALDACCI, DAVID** decker FIX (#3) (\$12.99) Amos Decker witnesses a murder just outside FBI headquarters. A man shoots a woman execution-style on a crowded sidewalk, then turns the gun on himself. Even with Decker's extraordinary powers of observation and deduction, the killing is baffling. Decker and his team can find absolutely no connection between the shooter--a family man with a successful consulting business--and his victim, a schoolteacher. Nor is there a hint of any possible motive for the attack. Enter Harper Brown. An agent of the Defense Intelligence Agency, she orders Decker to back off the case. The murder is part of an open DIA investigation, one so classified that Decker and his team aren't cleared for it. But they learn that the DIA believes solving the murder is now a matter of urgent national security. Critical information may have been leaked to a hostile government--or worse, an international terrorist group--and an attack may be imminent. Decker's never been one to follow the rules, especially with the stakes so high. Forced into an uneasy alliance with Agent Brown, Decker remains laser focused on only one goal: solving the case before it's too late.

**BALEN, NOEL** MINCED, MARINATED AND MURDERED (\$25) A routine assignment in Lyon, France's traditional capital of gourmet food, turns bitter for food writer Laure Grenadier when a beloved chef is found murdered. A wave of panic follows with a second death, and Laure sets out to find the truth. As she reviews the city's traditional bistros, interviews the town's best chefs and local food producers, and shares stories and culinary lore with her photographer Paco Alvarez, she uncovers secrets and rivalries. But will she find the murderer before the city loses more of its master chefs? Laure's passion for food and deep knowledge of culinary history combine with a reporter's natural curiosity and a particular Parisian chic, turning her into a natural sleuth in a city where food is so much more than a meal. Paco's photographer's eye brings the details to life, while murder and mayhem spice up the mix.

**BARTON, FIONA** THE CHILD (\$16.95) As an old house is demolished in a gentrifying section of London, a workman discovers a tiny skeleton, buried for years. For journalist Kate Waters, it's a story that deserves attention. She cobbles together a piece for her newspaper, but at a loss for answers, she can only pose a question: Who is the Building Site Baby? As Kate investigates, she unearths connections to a crime that rocked the city decades earlier: A newborn baby was stolen from the maternity ward in a local hospital and was never found. Her heartbroken parents were left devastated by the loss. But there is more to the story, and Kate is drawn, house by house, into the pasts of the people who once lived in this neighbourhood that has given up its greatest mystery. And she soon finds herself the keeper of unexpected secrets that erupt in the lives of three women—and torn between what she can and cannot tell.

**BEATON, M C** macbeth DEATH OF A GHOST (#32) (\$10.49) When Police Sergeant Hamish Macbeth hears reports of a haunted castle near Drim, he assumes the eerie noises and lights reported by the villagers are just local teenagers going there to smoke pot or, worse, inject themselves with drugs. Still, Hamish decides that he and his policeman, Charlie "Clumsy" Carson, will spend the night at the ruined castle to get to the bottom of the rumours once and for all. There's no sign of any ghost...but then Charlie disappears through the floor. It turns out he's fallen into the cellar. And what Hamish and Charlie find there is worse than a ghost: a dead body propped against the wall. Waiting for help to arrive, Hamish and Charlie leave the castle just for a moment--to eat bacon baps--but when they return, the body is nowhere to be seen. It's clear something strange--and deadly--is going on at the castle, and Hamish must get to the bottom of it before the "ghost" can strike again.

**BECKETT, SIMON** RESTLESS DEAD (\$16.99) Once one of the country's most respected forensics experts, Dr. David Hunter is facing an uncertain professional – and personal – future. So when he gets a call from Essex police, he's eager for the chance to assist them. A badly decomposed body has been found in a desolate area of tidal mudflats and saltmarsh called the Backwaters. Under pressure to close the case, the police want Hunter to help with the recovery and

identification. It's thought the remains are those of Leo Villiers, the son of a prominent businessman who vanished weeks ago. To complicate matters, it was rumoured that Villiers was having an affair with a local woman. And she too is missing. But Hunter has his doubts about the identity. He knows the condition of the unrecognizable body could hide a multitude of sins. Then more remains are discovered – and these remote wetlands begin to give up their secrets

**BINGHAM, HARRY griffiths DEEPEST GRAVE (#6)** (\$15.99) DS Fiona Griffiths is bored. It's been months since she had a good corpse. Then she gets news; not just of a murder, but of a decapitation, and one committed with an antique sword no less. All that, and a murder scene laid out like a gruesome crossword clue. Gaynor Charteris was an archaeologist excavating a nearby iron-age site. Genial, respected, well-liked, it was hard to see why anyone would want to kill her. But as Fiona starts to investigate, she finds evidence of a crime that seems to have its origins in King Arthur's greatest battle - a crime so bizarre that getting her superiors to take it seriously is going to be her toughest job. Especially since the crime hasn't yet been committed.

**BOX, C J pickett OPEN SEASON (#1)** (\$22) This is the first novel in the series, originally published in 2001. Joe Pickett is the new game warden in Twelve Sleep, Wyoming, a town where nearly everyone hunts and the game warden—especially one like Joe who won't take bribes or look the other way—is far from popular. When he finds a local hunting outfitter dead, splayed out on the woodpile behind his state-owned home, he takes it personally. There had to be a reason that the outfitter, with whom he's had run-ins before, chose his backyard, his woodpile to die in. Even after the "outfitter murders," as they have been dubbed by the local press after the discovery of the two more bodies, are solved, Joe continues to investigate, uneasy with the easy explanation offered by the local police. As Joe digs deeper into the murders, he soon discovers that the outfitter brought more than death to his backdoor: he brought Joe an endangered species, thought to be extinct, which is now living in his woodpile. But if word of the existence of this endangered species gets out, it will destroy any chance of InterWest, a multi-national natural gas company, building an oil pipeline that would bring the company billions of dollars across Wyoming, through the mountains and forests of Twelve Sleep. The closer Joe comes to the truth behind the outfitter murders, the endangered species and InterWest, the closer he comes to losing everything he holds dear.

**BRETT, SIMON pargeter MRS. PARGETER'S PUBLIC RELATIONS (#8)** (\$26.95) It is her characteristic generosity rather than her love of animals that finds Mrs Pargeter supporting her friend, Jasmine Angold, at a charity reception for PhiloPussies, whose worthy aim is to rehabilitate stray cats from the Greek island of Atmos into caring English homes. But the evening is to have unexpected consequences. At the event, Mrs P is taken aback to meet a woman who claims to be the sister of her late husband, the much-missed Mr. Pargeter. This surprising encounter leads to unwelcome digging into past secrets, the discovery of a body in Epping Forest, an eventful trip to Greece - and unexpected danger for Mrs. Pargeter. In the course of her investigations, she learns the true nature of charity and the dubious skills by which Public Relations can make evil look good.

**BRUCE, ALISON goodhew CRY IN THE NIGHT (#5) aka the backs** (\$14.99) When her sister was murdered, Jane Osborne left Cambridge and swore she'd never return. But now, Detective Gary Goodhew has stumbled onto a case that will drag Jane kicking and screaming through her painful past. A car set on fire, a man tied to a tree, a convicted murderer on parole. All of these things are connected, and only Gary Goodhew can figure out how.

**BRUCE, ALISON goodhew PROMISE (#6)** (\$15.99) In a single night, Kyle Phipps's life is derailed. His relationship is over, he is denied access to his young son and everything important to him is at risk. His thoughts stumble between fear and revenge. Kyle Phipps has a choice to make. Meanwhile, after the tragic end to a previous case, DC Gary Goodhew finds himself questioning his reasons for returning to work until the badly beaten body of a homeless man is found on Market Hill. Having known the homeless man for several years

Goodhew feels compelled to be part of the investigation - but routine lines of enquiry soon take a dark and unexpected turn. Suddenly the Cambridge back streets hold deadly secrets for Goodhew and the only person who has the answers is planning one final, desperate act.

**COBEN, HARLAN DON'T LET GO** (\$22) Suburban New Jersey Detective Napoleon "Nap" Dumas hasn't been the same since senior year of high school, when his twin brother Leo and Leo's girlfriend Diana were found dead on the railroad tracks—and Maura, the girl Nap considered the love of his life, broke up with him and disappeared without explanation. For fifteen years, Nap has been searching, both for Maura and for the real reason behind his brother's death. And now, it looks as though he may finally find what he's been looking for. When Maura's fingerprints turn up in the rental car of a suspected murderer, Nap embarks on a quest for answers that only leads to more questions—about the woman he loved, about the childhood friends he thought he knew, about the abandoned military base near where he grew up, and mostly about Leo and Diana—whose deaths are darker and far more sinister than Nap ever dared imagine.

**COLE, MARTINA BETRAYAL** (\$15.99) Aiden O'Hara has been head of the family since he was a kid, and he's going to keep it that way. Jade Dixon watches his back. Mother of his son, she's the one who makes him invincible. But Jade's been in the game a lot longer than Aiden. She knows no one's indestructible. And when you're at the top, that's when you've got to watch the hardest. Especially the ones closest to you.

**COLLINS, MAX comics STRIP FOR MURDER (#2)** (\$15) Colourful characters with murderous motives populate this illustrated mystery, which unfolds during the Broadway season of 1953. Former striptease artist Maggie Starr continues "stripping" by distributing comic strips through her late husband's newspaper syndicate. When the heated rivalry between a pair of her cartoonists ends in homicide, Maggie and her stepson, Jack, turn detective. Together they seek the killer among a rogues' gallery of loan sharks, jealous husbands, bitter artists, and other suspects.

**COULTER, CATHERINE fbi ENIGMA (#21)** (\$22) Kara Moody's perfect pregnancy turns into a nightmare when her newborn son is nowhere to be found in her Georgetown hospital. FBI agents Savich and Sherlock think they're investigating an abduction, but soon discover their case is tangled in a web of medical mystery that could make immortality possible. Liam Hennessy, notorious thief and one of the FBI's most wanted, has escaped into the deep woods of the Appalachians—and when he wants to be hidden, few can find the Manta Ray. Special agents Jack Cabot and Cam Wittier are sent to find him, but they find something else entirely. A FBI team running out of time. As each agent tirelessly pursues their prey, the clock is ticking. The odds grow ever slimmer that Kara Moody will ever see her baby again. Savich and his team will have to go way beyond the ordinary if they are to solve the cases of a lifetime.

**COYLE, CLEO clare cosi DEAD COLD BREW (#16)** (\$10.99) After everything Clare and her NYPD detective boyfriend have been through, they deserve a little bit of happily ever after. But while Mike's marriage proposal to Clare is steeped in perfection, the celebration of their engagement is not long lived. First, a grim-faced attorney interrupts their party with a mysterious letter bequeathing a hidden treasure to Clare's daughter. Next, the world-famous jeweler who designed Clare's ring is found poisoned in his shop. Both events appear to be connected to a cold case murder involving a sunken ship, an Italian curse, a charming jewel thief, and a shocking family secret. With deadly trouble brewing, Clare must track down clues in some of New York's most secret places before an old vendetta produces fresh corpses. With recipes to die for, including how to make cold-brew coffee at home!

**CUMMING, CHARLES DIVIDED SPY** (\$22.50) Thomas Kell thought he was done with spying. A former MI6 officer, he devoted his life to the Service, but it has left him with nothing but grief and a simmering anger against the Kremlin. Then Kell is offered an unexpected chance at revenge. Taking the law into his own hands, he embarks on a mission to recruit a top Russian spy who is in possession of a terrifying secret. As Kell tracks his man from Moscow to Lon-



don, he finds himself in a high stakes game of cat and mouse in which it becomes increasingly difficult to know who is playing whom. As the mission reaches boiling point, the threat of a catastrophic terrorist attack looms over Britain. Kell is faced with an impossible choice. Loyalty to MI6—or to his own conscience?

**CUTLER, JUDITH cowan** HEAD START (#1) (\$18.99) Jane Cowan's abusive ex-husband has always tracked her down whichever town she lives in, whichever job she takes, whichever name she uses. However, now he is in prison for a long stretch, she feels brave enough to accept a promotion: she is to be headteacher of the Wrayford Primary School in Gloucestershire. While facing everyday battles from a lack of resources to teachers who are set in their ways, Jane encounters a persistent intruder on the school grounds. When the intruder turns violent, Jane herself is under suspicion. This time she will not be the prey but the pursuer. She finds unlikely allies in her quest for the truth, and finds personal reserves of strength she never imagined she had.

**DAHL, JULIA roberts** CONVICTION (#3) (\$22.50) In the summer of 1992, a year after riots exploded between black and Jewish neighbours in Crown Heights, a black family is brutally murdered in their Brooklyn home. A teenager is quickly convicted, and the justice system moves on. Twenty-two years later, journalist Rebekah Roberts gets a letter: I didn't do it. Frustrated with her work at the city's sleaziest tabloid, Rebekah starts to dig. But witnesses are missing, memories faded, and almost no one wants to talk about that grim, violent time in New York City—not even Saul Katz, a former cop and her source in Brooklyn's insular Hasidic community. So she goes it alone. And as she gets closer to the truth of that night, Rebekah finds herself in the path of a killer with two decades of secrets to protect.

**DAVIS, KRISTA pen & ink** COLOR ME MURDER (#1) (\$13.95) Includes A Front and Back Cover for You to Colour! By day, Florrie Fox manages Color Me Read bookstore in Georgetown, Washington D.C. By night, she creates her own intricately detailed coloring books for adults, filling the pages with objects that catch her eye. There's plenty of inspiration in her new apartment—a beautiful carriage house belonging to Professor John Maxwell, Florrie's boss. He offers the property to Florrie rent-free with one condition—she must move in immediately to prevent his covetous sister and nephew from trying to claim it. When the professor's nephew, Delbert, arrives, he proves just as sketchy as Florrie feared. But the following morning, Delbert has vanished. It's not until she visits the third floor of the store that Florrie makes a tragic discovery—there's a trap door in the landing, and a dead Delbert inside. The esteemed Professor Maxwell is an obvious suspect, but Florrie is certain this case isn't so black and white. Doodling clues, she begins to consider other colourful characters on the scene, all with a motive for murder. With a killer drawing closer, Florrie will need to think outside the lines . . . before death makes his mark again.

**DAZIERI, SANDRONE caselli** KILL THE ANGEL (#2) (\$22) Translated from the Italian. When a high-speed train from Milan draws into the station in Rome with a carriage full of dead bodies, preliminary investigations are placed in the hands of Deputy Police Commissioner Colomba Caselli. And after the police receive a message claiming responsibility for the killings and announcing more murders to come, they turn their attention to a small group of Islamic extremists. But Dante Torre, the victim of a childhood abduction with extraordinary powers of observation, believes authorities are being misdirected. For him the Islamic link is a smokescreen concealing the actions of a killer who has been committing murders all over the world for years: a woman who calls herself Gilitinè, after the mythological Lithuanian goddess of death. As a child during the final years of the Cold War, Gilitinè was imprisoned in a concentration camp behind the Iron Curtain known as "The Box." Now, she is driven by revenge. After further carnage in Berlin, Gilitinè's murderous plans escalate to macabre heights in Venice, where Dante and Colomba must stop her before the waters of the Venetian Lagoon turn blood red. And then comes an incredible surprise.

**DAZIERI, SANDRONE caselli** KILL THE FATHER (#1) (\$11.99) When a woman is beheaded in a park outside Rome and her six-year-

old son goes missing, the police arrest the woman's husband and await his confession. But the city's Chief of Major Crimes has his doubts and assigns two of Italy's top analytical minds to the case: Deputy Captain Colomba Caselli, a fierce, warrior-like detective still reeling from a horrific mass killing she survived, and Dante Torre, a man who spent his childhood trapped inside a concrete silo. Fed through the gloved hand of a masked kidnapper who called himself "the Father," Dante emerged from his ordeal with crippling claustrophobia but, also, with an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. All evidence suggests that the Father is back at work and wants a reunion with Dante. But when Colomba and Dante begin unraveling the truth, they find themselves wanted for murder. Now Dante and Colomba must travel down a number of dark tunnels, both literal and figurative, as they confront the question that may solve it all: what lies beneath the water in a remote Italian quarry? And what might that revelation mean for ten children who have recently gone missing? Translated from the Italian. "I've taken this book to read and will report back next newsletter. It sounds very interesting", says Marian.

**DEAVER, JEFFERY W rhyme** COFFIN DANCER (#2) (\$11.99) Originally published in 1998. Detective Lincoln Rhyme, the foremost criminalist in the NYPD, is on the hunt for an elusive murderer known as the Coffin Dancer. He's a brilliant hit man who changes his appearance faster than he adds to his trail of victims, only one of whom has lived long enough to offer a clue: the assassin has an eerie tattoo on his arm of the Grim Reaper waltzing in front of a casket. Rhyme, paralyzed from a line-of-duty accident, is certain he's seen this killer before, and his suspicion of an earlier encounter fuels a bitter taste for vengeance. When the chameleon-like assassin targets three federal witnesses for death, the stakes reach a new high. Now Rhyme's brainpower and his protégée Detective Amelia Sachs's legwork are the only tools they have to track the cunning murderer through a darkly painted New York City—and they have only forty-eight hours before the Coffin Dancer strikes again.

**DEEGAN, JAMES** ONCE A PILGRIM (\$21.99 trade paperback, \$32.99 hardcover) Excellent, says Marian, who mentioned these books in the January 2018 newsletter and they are now here. Terrific read!!! John Carr has recently left the SAS, after a long and distinguished career, and is now working for a Russian oligarch in the murky world of private security. But an incident from his past - in which three terrorists were brutally killed - suddenly comes back to haunt him. Tracked by a hit man out for revenge, John Carr is forced to step over the line to defend himself and his family. It's a cruel and violent world - and one he thought he'd left behind. But some wars never end.

**DOYLE, ARTHUR CONAN** ADVENTURES & MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. (\$8.99) You sure can't beat the price of this edition, and it has the original illustrations from The Strand Magazine drawn by Sidney Paget!

**DOYLE/MACALPINE/MCALPINE, GORDON** HOLMES ENTANGLED (\$15) Sherlock Holmes, now in his seventies, retired from investigations and peaceably disguised as a professor at Cambridge, is shaken when a modestly successful author in his late-sixties named Arthur Conan Doyle calls upon him at the university. Notable for historical adventure stories, science fiction, and a three-volume history of the Boer War (but no detective tales), this writer somehow knows of the false professor's true identity and pleads for investigative assistance. Someone is trying to kill him. Who? Why? Good questions, but what intrigues Holmes most is how the "middling scribbler" ascertained Holmes's identity in the first place, despite the detective's perfect disguise. Holmes takes the case.

**DOYLE/SALMON, ANDREW** SHERLOCK HOLMES CONGRESSION OF PALLBEARERS (#3) (\$15) London, October—1894 A pair of cryptic messages lead Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson to a destroyed photographer's studio and into an assassination attempt. Their only clue to unravel the mystery is a damaged photograph plate bearing a post-mortem portrait of a dead shipping magnate and his grieving widow. With no time to lose, the game is again afoot—with death and destruction threatening to explode from the looming shadows of a war to end all wars. Plunging into a boiling cauldron of in-

ternational intrigue, Holmes and Watson, joined again by the redoubtable Eby Stokes, are in for the fight of their lives—a fight where brains must match brawn to turn a deadly tide...

**EDWARDS, MARTIN FOREIGN BODIES** (\$20 or \$25) You can pay the extra for the edition we brought in from the UK if you want. Same content. Edited and introduced by MARTIN EDWARDS. Today, translated crime fiction is in vogue – but this was not always the case. A century before Scandi noir, writers across Europe and beyond were publishing detective stories of high quality. Often these did not appear in English and they have been known only by a small number of experts. This is the first ever collection of classic crime in translation from the golden age of the genre in the 20th century. Many of these stories are exceptionally rare, and several have been translated for the first time to appear in this volume.

**EKBACK, CECILIA MIDNIGHT SUN** (\$18.99) Sweden, 1856. The minister of justice has received a disturbing message. There's been a massacre on one of Lapland's mountains: a priest, a law enforcement officer and a local settler have been slaughtered by one of the indigenous Sami people. The murderer is in custody, but he refuses to talk. The minister dispatches his geologist son-in-law, Magnus, to investigate, as there is another reason to visit Blackåsen: it is a mountain with many secrets, a mountain whose rich mineral deposits have never been exploited. But Magnus does not journey alone. The minister's daughter, Lovisa, in disgrace, is sent with him. The two unlikely companions venture out of the sweltering city to the wild landscape of Sweden's far north under the strange, insomnia-inducing light of the midnight sun. There, the shocking truth they discover about the murders and what lies behind them will be matched only by what they discover about themselves.

**FAYE, LYNDISAY WHOLE ART OF DETECTION** (\$24.50) A collection of fifteen stories featuring Sherlock Holmes, one of the most enduring characters in crime fiction, from the acclaimed author of the Sherlockian novel Dust and Shadow (\$18.99) and the Timothy Wilde trilogy

**FIELDING, JOY BAD DAUGHTER** (\$24) A voice mail from her estranged sister, Melanie, sends Robin's heart racing and her mind spiraling in a full-blown panic attack. Melanie's message is dire: Their father, his second wife, and his twelve-year-old stepdaughter have been shot--likely in a home invasion--and lie in the hospital in critical condition. It's been more than five years since Robin turned her back on her father when he married her best friend. Five years since she said goodbye to her hometown of Red Bluff, California, and became a therapist. More than two years since Robin and Melanie have spoken. Yet even with all that distance and time and acrimony, the past is always with Robin. Now she must return to the family she left behind. As she attempts to mend fences while her father clings to life, Robin begins to wonder if there is more to the tragedy than a botched burglary attempt. It seems that everyone--Robin's mercurial sister, her less-than-communicative nephew, her absent brother, and even Tara, her father's wife--has something to hide. And someone may have put them all in grave danger.

**FIELDS, HELEN callanach PERFECT DEATH (#3)** (\$21.99) There's no easy way to die...Unknown to DI Luc Callanach and the newly promoted DCI Ava Turner, a serial killer has Edinburgh firmly in his grip. The killer is taking his victims in the coldest, most calculating way possible - engineering slow and painful deaths by poison, with his victims entirely unaware of the drugs flooding their bloodstream until it's too late. But how do you catch a killer who hides in the shadows? A killer whose pleasure comes from watching pain from afar? Faced with their most difficult case yet, Callanach and Turner soon realise they face a seemingly impossible task.

**FLOWER, AMANDA amish shop LETHAL LICORICE (#2)** (\$8.99) Harvest, Ohio, is a long way from New York City, where Bailey King left a coveted job as a head chocolatier to take over Swissmen Sweets, her Amish grandparents' candy shop. Now, while caring for her recently widowed grandmother, she plans to honour her grandfather's memory by entering the annual Amish Confectionery Competition. But between lavender blueberry fudge and chocolate cherry ganache truffles, Bailey may have bitten off more than she can

chew when the search for a missing pot-bellied pig turns up a body suffering from sugar overload—the fatal kind. A candy maker from a neighbouring town who wanted Englisher Bailey disqualified for being an outsider, Josephine Weaver died from an allergy to an essential licorice ingredient. The suspects include: Josephine's niece, a young woman going through her *rumspringa*, or running around time, and Bailey herself. Now it falls to Bailey, who's sweet on the local sheriff's deputy, to clear their names and entice a killer with a cast-iron stomach for cold-blooded murder. Recipe Included!

**FOX, CANDICE CRIMSON LAKE** (\$22.50) Six minutes in the wrong place at the wrong time—that's all it took to ruin Sydney detective Ted Conkaffey's life. Accused but not convicted of a brutal abduction, Ted is now a free man—and public enemy number one. Maintaining his innocence, he flees north to keep a low profile amidst the steamy, croc-infested wetlands of Crimson Lake. There, Ted's lawyer introduces him to eccentric private investigator Amanda Pharell, herself a convicted murderer. Not entirely convinced Amanda is a cold-blooded killer, Ted agrees to help with her investigation, a case full of deception and obsession, while secretly digging into her troubled past. The residents of Crimson Lake are watching the pair's every move . . . and the town offers no place to hide. Ms. Fox has won Australia's Ned Kelly Award twice.

**FRANCIS, FELIX PULSE** (\$22) Chris Rankin is a doctor, a specialist in Emergency Medicine at Cheltenham Hospital, but a doctor who also has health problems. A smartly dressed man has been found unconscious at the local racecourse and is rushed to the hospital, where he subsequently dies. But who is he? Where does he come from? He had no form of identification on him, and no one claims the body. Doctor Reynolds is intrigued by the nameless dead man, obsessed even, and starts asking questions. However, someone doesn't want the questions answered and will go to any lengths to prevent it, including attempting murder. But no one else believes that someone tried to kill Chris, leaving the doctor no option but to discover who the nameless man is and why he died, preferably before following him into an early grave.

**GAIND, ARJUN sikander DEATH AT THE DURBAR (#2)** (\$23.95) December, 1911. All of India is in a tizzy. A vast tent city has sprung up outside the old walled enclave of Mughal Delhi, where the British are hosting a grand Durbar to celebrate the coronation of the new King, George V. From across India, all the Maharajas and Nawabs have gathered at the Viceroy of India's command to pay homage and swear loyalty to the King Emperor, the first monarch of England to travel out to India personally. Maharaja Sikander Singh of Rajpore is growing increasingly bored, cooling his heels at the Majestic Hotel as he awaits George V's arrival. Just as his frustration is about to peak, a pair of British officers shoulders in. They insist that he accompany them to the British Encampment. Irked, but his curiosity piqued, Sikander agrees. To his surprise, they take him to the King Emperor's quarters where Sikander's old school friend, Malik Umar Hayat Khan, the Durbar herald, awaits, there he finds the cause for his extraordinary summons - an exquisite nautch-girl, hanged until dead. Employing techniques he has learned from studying Eugene Vidocq and Sherlock Holmes, Sikander examines the scene and demonstrates the girl was not a suicide, but murdered. And, he is to complete his investigation before George V arrives.

**GAYLIN, ALISON IF I DIE TONIGHT** (\$21) Late one night in the quiet Hudson Valley town of Havenkill, a distraught woman stumbles into the police station—and lives are changed forever. Aimee En, once a darling of the '80s pop music scene, claims that a teenage boy stole her car, then ran over another young man who'd rushed to help. As Liam Miller's life hangs in the balance, the events of that fateful night begin to come into focus. But is everything as it seems? The case quickly consumes social media, transforming Liam, a local high school football star, into a folk hero, and the suspect, a high school outcast named Wade Reed, into a depraved would-be killer. But is Wade really guilty? And if he isn't, why won't he talk? The story is told from many different viewpoints: Wade's mother Jackie, his younger brother Connor, Aimee En and Pearl Maze, a young police officer with a tragic past.

**GOSS, THEODORA** STRANGE CASE OF THE ALCHEMIST'S DAUGHTER (\$22.99) Mary Jekyll, alone and penniless following her parents' death, is curious about the secrets of her father's mysterious past. One clue in particular hints that Edward Hyde, her father's former friend and a murderer, may be nearby, and there is a reward for information leading to his capture, a reward that would solve all of her immediate financial woes. But her hunt leads her to Hyde's daughter, Diana, a feral child left to be raised by nuns. With the assistance of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, Mary continues her search for the elusive Hyde, and soon befriends more women, all of whom have been created through terrifying experimentation: Beatrice Rappaccini, Catherin Moreau, and Justine Frankenstein. When their investigations lead them to the discovery of a secret society of immoral and power-crazed scientists, the horrors of their past return. Now it is up to the monsters to finally triumph over the monstrous.

**GRAHAM, CAROLINE barnaby** DEATH IN DISGUISE (#3) (\$15.99) Originally published in 1992. To the distaste of the Compton Dando villagers, the big house has been taken over by a group of New Age eccentrics. And when the first death is reported, no one is surprised . . . or disappointed. The Coroner rules it an accident. But only weeks later, there's another death. And this time, it is murder. Detective Chief Inspector Barnaby is called to the scene immediately, and there'll be no escape until he has sifted through the world of psychics, cult leaders and horrifying deaths to get to the cause of it all.

**GRAHAM, CAROLINE barnaby** WRITTEN IN BLOOD (#4) (\$15.99) Originally published in 1994. Despite the fierce, and seemingly personal, objections of secretary Gerald Hadleigh, members of the Midsomer Worthy Writers' Circle press ahead and invite bestselling author Max Jennings to talk to their group. Besides, it's not as though he'll say yes. . . . So when Jennings turns up to their meeting, they are completely over-awed by his presence. But before the evening is over, Gerald has been brutally murdered. Summoned to investigate, Detective Chief Inspector Tom Barnaby discovers that Gerald's life was as much of a mystery to his neighbours as his violent death. The key to the killing must surely be their illustrious guest speaker, a face from Gerald's past. But Jennings is nowhere to be found.

**GRANGER, ANN cotswold** ROOTED IN EVIL (#5) (\$15.99) When the body of a man, with his brains blown out, is found in a Cotswold wood it looks like suicide. But looks can be deceptive and it doesn't take long for the police to identify that there's more to the case than meets the eye. People's stories don't add up and when Superintendent Ian Carter and Inspector Jess Campbell start probing it becomes clear that the dead man had ruffled more than a few feathers in this close-knit community. His stepsister had been bailing him out of his financial troubles - much against her husband's wishes - but, with his money worries still mounting, the victim had become a desperate man. As Jess and Ian dig deeper and deeper into the case, a cover-up is exposed, and bitter resentment rises to the surface to reveal a killer.

**GREGORY, PHILIPPA tudor** LAST TUDOR (\$22.99) Jane Grey was queen of England for nine days. Her father and his allies crowned her instead of the dead king's half-sister Mary Tudor, who quickly mustered an army, claimed her throne, and locked Jane in the Tower of London. When Jane refused to betray her Protestant faith, Mary sent her to the executioner's block, where Jane transformed her father's greedy power-grab into tragic martyrdom. "Learn you to die," was the advice Jane wrote to her younger sister Katherine, who has no intention of dying. She intends to enjoy her beauty and her youth and fall in love. But she is heir to the insecure and infertile Queen Mary and then to her sister Queen Elizabeth, who will never allow Katherine to marry and produce a Tudor son. When Katherine's pregnancy betrays her secret marriage, she faces imprisonment in the Tower, only yards from her sister's scaffold. "Farewell, my sister," writes Katherine to the youngest Grey sister, Mary. A beautiful dwarf, disregarded by the court, Mary keeps family secrets, especially her own, while avoiding Elizabeth's suspicious glare. After seeing her sisters defy their queens, Mary is acutely aware of her own danger, but determined to command her own life. What will happen when the last Tudor defies her ruthless and unforgiving cousin Queen Elizabeth?

**GRISHAM, JOHN CAMINO ISLAND** (\$12.99) A gang of thieves stage a daring heist from a vault deep below Princeton University's Firestone Library. Their loot is priceless, impossible to resist. Bruce Cable owns a popular bookstore in the sleepy resort town of Santa Rosa on Camino Island in Florida. He makes his real money, though, as a prominent dealer in rare books. Very few people know that he occasionally dabbles in unsavory ventures. Mercer Mann is a young novelist with a severe case of writer's block who has recently been laid off from her teaching position. She is approached by an elegant, mysterious woman working for an even more mysterious company. A generous monetary offer convinces Mercer to go undercover and infiltrate Cable's circle of literary friends, to get close to the ringleader, to discover his secrets. But soon Mercer learns far too much, and there's trouble in paradise—as only John Grisham can deliver it.

**GUNN, ALASTAIR hawkins** COLD CHRISTMAS (#4) (\$16.99) In the small village of Cold Christmas there's a church that faces the wrong way . . . What has it to do with the three dead men found in a London flat? DCI Antonia Hawkins has a killer to catch. Only she can't predict what is waiting for her at the end of the chase. Nobody remembers the young men entering the abandoned London flat a few weeks ago. Nobody cares if they left. Until the unbearable smell of decay. DCI Antonia Hawkins is called in to view the dead men; three, lying neat in a row. There's no damage to the bodies, no obvious cause of death. Is this a suicide pact? Or is that just how it's meant to look? If there is a link between the three very different men then Hawkins needs to find it, and fast. Because unless she does, more are going to die. And they might not all be strangers.

**HAINES, CAROLYN bones** STICKS AND BONES (#17) (\$10.50) Private investigator Sarah Booth Delaney and her friends are celebrating New Year's Eve at the party of the year, a smashing Winter Garden party at the Prince Albert Hotel. It's a dazzling success . . . until Frangelica "Sister" McFee walks through the door. Sarah Booth knew Sister in college, before Sister became a bestselling author and moved to New York, and fame and fortune don't seem to have tempered her arrogance and cruelty. Sister's latest book is a memoir about the death of her mother and brother many years ago. Now a film about the book is in the works, and a film crew has descended upon Zinnia, Mississippi, to tell the complete tale. When the film crew realizes there may be more to the story behind the scenes—and between the covers of Sister's book—they hire Sarah Booth to find out what really happened all those years ago. But soon Sarah Booth realizes that someone is desperate to keep a long-buried secret . . . and will do whatever it takes to make sure no skeletons come out of the closet.

**HAMILL, PETE** KILLING FOR CHRIST (\$22.95) This is the 50<sup>th</sup>-anniversary edition of Mr. Hamill's debut novel. The man in priest's garb gets out of the elevator at the top floor, leaving the gate ajar. He removes the rifle from under his habit and opens the breech. It's loaded. He closes it and steps to the edge of the roof. St. Peter's Square is spread out before him like a great, colorful lake. There are more people than he has ever seen before. Now the target arrives. The man on top of the building sights down the rifle at the small figure below. His finger is ready on the trigger, ready to gun down His Holiness, the Vicar of Christ.

**HARPER, JORDAN** SHE RIDES SHOTGUN (\$21) A debut novel. Eleven-year-old Polly McClusky is shy, too old for the teddy bear she carries with her everywhere, when she is unexpectedly reunited with her father, Nate, fresh out of jail and driving a stolen car. He takes her from the front of her school into a world of robbery, violence, and the constant threat of death. And he does it to save her life. Nate made dangerous enemies in prison—a gang called Aryan Steel has put out a bounty on his head, counting on its members on the outside to finish him off. They've already murdered his ex-wife, Polly's mother. And Polly is their next target. Nate and Polly's lives soon become a series of narrow misses, of evading the bad guys and the police, of sleepless nights in motels. Out on the lam, Polly is forced to grow up early: with barely any time to mourn her mother, she must learn how to take a punch and pull off a drug-house heist. She finds herself transforming from a shy little girl into a true fighter. Nate, in turn, learns what it's like to love fiercely and unconditionally—a love he's never quite

felt before. But can their powerful bond transcend the dangerous existence he's carved out for them? Will they ever be able to live an honest life, free of fear?

**HARRIS, C S st. cyr** WHERE THE DEAD LIE (#12) (\$22) London, 1813. One of the city's many homeless children, Benji Thatcher was abducted and murdered--and his younger sister is still missing. Few in authority care about a street urchin's fate, but Sebastian St. Cyr, Viscount Devlin, refuses to let this killer go unpunished. Uncovering a disturbing pattern of missing children, Sebastian is drawn into a shadowy, sadistic world. As he follows a grim trail that leads from the writings of the debauched Marquis de Sade to the city's most notorious brothels, he comes to a horrifying realization: Someone from society's upper echelon is preying upon the city's most vulnerable. And though dark, powerful forces are moving against him, Sebastian will risk his reputation and his life to keep more innocents from harm.

**HARRIS, SHERRY garage** I KNOW WHAT YOU BID LAST SUMMER (#5) (\$8.99) When it comes to running a successful garage sale, Sarah Winston believes in doing her homework. She also believes in giving back. But when she agrees to manage an athletic equipment swap, she doesn't bargain on an uncharitable killer. The day of the event, the school superintendent is found dead in the gymnasium. Suddenly the murder suspects are the school board members—including the husband of a very difficult client who's hired Sarah to run a high-end sale and demands she do her bidding. In between tagging and haggling, Sarah studies the clues to see who wanted to teach the superintendent a lesson. But as she closes in on the truth, the killer intends to give her a crash course on minding her own business

**HARRISON, COLIN** YOU BELONG TO ME (\$22) Paul Reeves is an immigration lawyer whose true obsession is collecting maps of New York City, an art form made all the more precious by an increasingly digital world. One day, he abandons work to attend an auction with his neighbour, Jennifer Mehrzad, the beautiful young wife of an ambitious Iranian financier, hoping to acquire an unusual map. Midway through the auction, though, a handsome man in fatigues turns up, and Jennifer abandons Paul without a word, leaving him so distracted he almost misses his chance at the map he's long coveted. The man's appearance triggers increasingly unfortunate incidents, as the people surrounding Jennifer—including her jealous husband, who is eyeing a career in politics—attempt to figure out who the mysterious stranger is. But Jennifer isn't talking. Despite Paul's growing concerns, when he is informed that one of the world's rarest maps is up for sale, all his thoughts turn to securing it. But will the illicit goings-on across the hall interfere with the biggest deal of his life?

**HART, JOHN** LAST CHILD (\$11.99) Thirteen-year-old Johnny Merrimon had the perfect life: a warm home and loving parents; a twin sister, Alyssa, with whom he shared an irreplaceable bond. He knew nothing of loss, until the day Alyssa vanished from the side of a lonely street. Now, a year later, Johnny finds himself isolated and alone, failed by the people he'd been taught since birth to trust. No one else believes that Alyssa is still alive, but Johnny is certain that she is—confident in a way that he can never fully explain. Determined to find his sister, Johnny risks everything to explore the dark side of his hometown. It is a desperate, terrifying search, but Johnny is not as alone as he might think. Detective Clyde Hunt has never stopped looking for Alyssa either, and he has a soft spot for Johnny. He watches over the boy and tries to keep him safe, but when Johnny uncovers a dangerous lead and vows to follow it, Hunt has no choice but to intervene. Then a second child goes missing. Undeterred by Hunt's threats or his mother's pleas, Johnny enlists the help of his last friend, and together they plunge into the wild, to a forgotten place with a history of violence that goes back more than a hundred years. There, they meet a giant of a man, an escaped convict on his own tragic quest. What they learn from him will shatter every notion Johnny had about the fate of his sister; it will lead them to another far place, to a truth that will test both boys to the limit.

**HENDERSON, JENNIFER MORAG** JOSEPHINE TEY, A LIFE (\$32) Nonfiction. Josephine Tey was the pen-name of Elizabeth MacKintosh (1896-1952). Born in Inverness, MacKintosh lived sev-

eral 'lives': best known as Golden Age of Crime Fiction writer 'Josephine Tey', she was also successful novelist and playwright 'Gordon Daviot'. At one point, she had plays performed simultaneously in the West End in London and on Broadway, and even wrote for Hollywood - all from her home in the north of Scotland. Foreword by Val McDermid. "One of the great achievements of this biography is Ms. Henderson's demonstration that her subject led a deeper romantic life than had been supposed.... Reveals the moving story of Elizabeth MacKintosh's life with tact and superior investigative tenacity."-The Wall Street Journal.

**HILTON, MATT grey villere** PAINTED SKINS (#2) (\$26.99) PI Tess Grey and her partner Nicolas 'Po' Villere have been hired by Margaret Norris to find her granddaughter, Jasmine Reed, who has been missing for sixteen days. But if Tess is to have any chance of finding Jazz, she needs to know the truth about the young woman's troubled past. What is it that Margaret Norris isn't telling her? Tess and Po aren't the only ones looking for Jazz. With shady local businessman Daryl Bruin and his henchman John Trojak also on her trail, as well as a mysterious - and violent - stranger, Tess prays, for Jasmine's sake, that she and Po find her first. But it's only when Tess uncovers a link to several other missing girls that she begins to make headway in the investigation - and finds herself in a desperate race against time to track down Jazz before it's too late.

**HOFFMAN, CARA** RUNNING (\$22) Running follows the lives of three friends and lovers: queer English poet Milo Rollack, prep school dropout Jasper Lethe, and seventeen-year-old Bridey Sullivan, an American with a fascination for fire. Barely out of childhood, squatting in a crumbling hotel on the outskirts of Athens in the late 1980s, the three slip in and out of homelessness, heavy drinking, and underground jobs. While working as runners for the hotel—convincing tourists to stay there for a commission and free board—they are befriended by an IRA fugitive and become inextricably linked to an act of terrorism that will mark each of them for life. Bridey, the consummate survivor, abandons Jasper and Milo, planning to return when the dust has settled. But no one has fared well in her absence. And then a mysterious death drives her to seek an impossible absolution that will take her from the streets of the red-light district to the remote island cliff houses of the southern Mediterranean. Twenty-five years later, Milo, now a successful writer and professor in Manhattan, struggles to live ethically in a world he knows is corrupt, coping with a secret that makes him a stranger to those closest to him.

**HOGG, JAMES** PRIVATE MEMOIRS AND CONFESSIONS OF A JUSTIFIED SINNER (\$20.50) It is Scotland in the early eighteenth century. Fear and superstition grip the land. Robert Wringhim, a boy of strict Calvinist upbringing, is corrupted by a shadowy figure who calls himself Gil-Martin. Under his influence Robert commits a series of murders which he regards as 'justified' by God under the tenets of his faith. Is this stranger a figment of Robert's imagination, or the devil himself? Introduced by Ian Rankin.

**HOWELL, DOROTHY haley** POCKETBOOKS AND PISTOLS (#9) (\$8.99) Haley Randolph isn't exactly a model sales clerk at Holt's Department Store. But when the corporate office acquires a high-end boutique chain and extends a juicy discount to employees, the fashionista will do anything—maybe even a little hard work—to clinch a Mystique handbag, the season's absolute must-have, at a heart-stopping price. But when Haley discovers former Holt's employee Asha McLean shot dead behind the store during orientation training, it turns out there's more to die for than hot designer deals. Haley can't fathom why anyone would harm Asha—until she learns that her former coworker was seriously shady. Upon closer inspection, Asha's duplicitous lifestyle not only earned lots of cash, but plenty of mortal enemies. As authorities question her innocence and business wanes, Haley's desperate to sack the murderer and save Holt's in time. Otherwise, instead of rocking a Mystique, Haley might end up full of holes—or worse, locked away in a very unflattering shade of orange . . .

**HUBER, ANNA LEE darby** BRUSH WITH SHADOWS (#6) (\$22) A great series. July 1831. It's been fifteen years since Sebastian Gage

has set foot in Langstone Manor. Though he has shared little with his wife, Lady Kiera Darby, about his past, she knows that he planned never to return to the place of so many unhappy childhood memories. But when an urgent letter from his grandfather reaches them in Dublin, Ireland, and begs Gage to visit, Kiera convinces him to go. All is not well at Langstone Manor. Gage's grandfather, the Viscount Tavistock, is gravely ill, and Gage's cousin Alfred has suddenly vanished. He wandered out into the moors and never returned. The Viscount is convinced someone or something other than the natural hazards of the moors is to blame for Alfred's disappearance. And when Alfred's brother Rory goes missing, Kiera and Gage must concede he may be right. Now, they must face the ghosts of Gage's past, discover the truth behind the local superstitions, and see beyond the tricks being played by their very own eyes to expose what has happened to Gage's family before the moors claim yet another victim.

**HUNTER, CARA** CLOSE TO HOME (\$22) When eight-year-old Daisy Mason vanishes from her family's Oxford home during a costume party, Detective Inspector Adam Fawley knows that nine times out of ten, the offender is someone close to home. And Daisy's family is certainly strange—her mother is obsessed with keeping up appearances, while her father is cold and defensive under questioning. And then there's Daisy's little brother, so withdrawn and uncommunicative. DI Fawley works against the clock to find any trace of the little girl, but it's as if she disappeared into thin air—no one saw anything; no one knows anything. But everyone has an opinion, and everyone, it seems, has a secret to conceal.

**INGELMAN-SUNDBERG, CATHAR** LITTLE OLD LADY BEHAVING BADLY (#3) (\$17.99) Nothing can stop the League of Pensioners. They have a plan, and it's going to need money. Lots of money. Sure, another bank robbery could finance their endeavour, but they're going to need a lot more than a few million dollars for what they have in mind. So Martha and her friends set out to catch the biggest financial fish in the sea: venture capitalists. In their hunt for big bucks, the gang plans to cheat billionaires out of their luxury yachts in the south of France's sun-bleached Saint-Tropez. But with the police hot on their heels—not to mention a couple of ruthless ex-cons—how will this wily group of walker-equipped conspirators ever accomplish their dangerous mission?

**JAMES, PETER** grace DEAD SIMPLE (#1) (\$9.99) A reissue of the first Roy Grace mystery, set in Brighton, UK. Originally published in 2005. It was meant to be a harmless stag-night prank. A few hours later Michael Harrison has disappeared, and his friends are dead. With only three days to the wedding, Detective Superintendent Roy Grace - a man haunted by the shadow of his own missing wife - is contacted by Michael's beautiful, distraught fiancée, Ashley Harper. Grace discovers that the one man who ought to know Michael Harrison's whereabouts is saying nothing. But then he has a lot more to gain than anyone realizes, for one man's disaster is another man's fortune.

**KANON, JOSEPH** DEFECTORS (\$23) In 1949, Frank Weeks, agent of the newly formed CIA, was exposed as a Communist spy and fled the country to vanish behind the Iron Curtain. Now, twelve years later, he has written his memoirs, a KGB-approved project almost certain to be an international bestseller, and has asked his brother Simon, a publisher, to come to Moscow to edit the manuscript. It's a reunion Simon both dreads and longs for. The book is sure to be filled with mischief and misinformation; Frank's motives suspect, the CIA hostile. But the chance to see Frank, his adored older brother, proves irresistible. And at first Frank is still Frank—the same charm, the same jokes, the same bond of affection that transcends ideology. Then Simon begins to glimpse another Frank, capable of treachery and actively working for “the service.” He finds himself dragged into the middle of Frank's new scheme, caught between the KGB and the CIA in a fatal cat and mouse game that only one of the brothers is likely to survive.

**KASHIAN, TINA** kebab kitch HUMMUS AND HOMICIDE (#1) (\$8.99) When Lucy Berberian quits her Philadelphia law firm and heads home to Ocean Crest, she knows what she's getting—the scent of funnel cake, the sight of the wooden roller coaster, and the tastes of

her family's Mediterranean restaurant. But murder wasn't on the menu. Things are slow in the off-season in this Jersey Shore town, but Lucy doesn't mind. She doesn't even mind waitressing at the Kebab Kitchen. Her parents have put in a new hummus bar, with every flavor from lemon to roasted red pepper. It's fun to see their calico cat again, and to catch up with her old BFF, who's married to a cop now. She could do without Heather Banks, though. The Gucci-toting ex-cheerleader is still as nasty as she was back in high school and unfortunately, she's just taken over as the local health inspector. Just minutes after eating at the Kebab Kitchen—where she's tallied up a whole list of bogus violations—she falls down dead in the street. Word on the grapevine is it's homicide, and Lucy's the number one suspect. Recipes included!

**KOCH, EMILY** IF I DIE BEFORE I WAKE (\$27.99) A debut novel. Everyone believes Alex is in a coma, unlikely to ever wake up. As his family debate withdrawing life support, and his friends talk about how his girlfriend Bea needs to move on, he can only listen. But Alex soon begins to suspect that the accident that put him here wasn't really an accident. Even worse, the perpetrator is still out there and Alex is not the only one in danger. As he goes over a series of clues from his past, Alex must use his remaining senses to solve the mystery of who tried to kill him, and try to protect those he loves, before they decide to let him go.

**LACKBERG, CAMILLA** hedstrom GIRL IN THE WOODS (#10) (\$22.99) When a four-year-old girl disappears in the woods just outside Fjällbacka, the community is horror-struck. Thirty years ago, a young girl went missing from the exact same spot, and was later discovered, murdered. Back then, two teenage girls were found guilty of the killing. Could it really be a coincidence that one of the girls - now a world-famous actress - has just returned to Fjällbacka? Detective Patrik Hedström starts investigating, with his wife, bestselling crime writer Erica Falck, by his side. But as Patrik and Erica dig deeper, the truth becomes ever murkier, because it seems that everyone in the tight-knit community is hiding something. And soon, the residents must confront the fact that they could be harbouring a murderer in their midst

**LANE, KELLY** olive grove DIPPED TO DEATH (#3) (\$10.99) On a sizzling-hot September day, Eva Knox's ex-boyfriend, Dudley Dexter Codman the Third, along with a bunch of his corporate cronies from Boston, arrive at Eva's family's guest inn and olive farm, Knox Plantation. Maps and binoculars in hand, the New Englanders claim they're on a bird-watching holiday. Only, Eva knows that her ex doesn't know the first thing about birds. Nor does he care. Eva can't fathom why he'd show up after all these years in her off-the-beaten-path hometown--nearly 1,200 miles from Boston. When Dudley's body is found drowned in the pond, Eva starts fishing for answers. But she doesn't have much time after authorities determine that her ex was poisoned by one of Eva's family's olive oils. She'll have to find the real killer before her family is caught for murder.

**LANSDALE, JOE R** hap leonard RUSTY PUPPY (#10) (\$20.99) While Hap, a former 60s activist and self-proclaimed white trash rebel, is recovering from a life-threatening stab wound, Louise Elton comes into Hap and Leonard's PI office to tell him that the police have killed her son, Jamar. Months earlier, a bully cop pulled over and sexually harassed Jamar's sister, Charm. The officer followed Charm over the course of the next couple of months, leading Jamar to videotape and take notes on the cop and his partner. The next thing Louise hears, Jamar got in a fight and is killed in the projects by local hoods. It doesn't add up: he was a straight A student, destined for better things, until he began to ask too many questions about the racist police force. Leonard, a tough black gay Vietnam vet and Republican, joins Hap in the investigation, and they stumble upon the racial divides that have shaped their Eastern Texas town. But if anyone can navigate these pitfalls and bring the killers to justice, it's Hap and Leonard.

**LAZAR, ZACHARY** VENGEANCE (\$24.50) Zachary Lazar's novel was inspired by a passion play, The Life of Jesus Christ, he witnessed at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. As someone who writes “fiction, nonfiction, sometimes a hybrid of both,” the nar-

rator of Vengeance, a character much like Lazar himself, tries to accurately view a world he knows is “beyond the limits of my small understanding.” In particular, he tries to unravel the truth behind the supposed crime of an inmate he meets and befriends, Kendrick King, who is serving a life sentence at Angola for murder. As the narrator attempts to sort out what happened in King’s life—paying visits to his devoted mother, his estranged young daughter and her mother, his girlfriend, his brother, and his cousin—the writer’s own sense of identity begins to feel more and more like a fiction. He is one of the “free people” while Kendrick, who studies theology and philosophy, will never get his only wish, expressed plainly as “I just need to get out of here.” The dichotomy between their lives forces the narrator to confront the violence in his own past, and also to reexamine American notions of guilt and penance, racial bias, and the inherent perversity of punitive justice.

**LESCROART, JOHN FALL** (\$22) On a cool night in May, a teenage foster child named Anlya Paulson plummets to her death from a San Francisco overpass. But did she fall...or was she pushed? Homicide inspectors focus their attention on a likeable but naïve middle school teacher and volunteer foster care advocate. At first, his only connection to Anlya’s death is the meal they shared earlier that night. But soon his story falls apart, and Rebecca Hardy, now an associate at her father’s law firm, is drawn into his defense. As the case rushes toward trial, Dismas and Rebecca battle an aggressive prosecutor, a disinterested police force, and their own client, who isn’t faring well in jail. When a dying woman’s last words cast a surprising new light on the evidence and problems develop with a key witness, the father-daughter duo begins to glimpse the intricate web that connects the young victim to the city’s complex political and judicial machine. Proving their case in court, however, will be harder, as Rebecca comes to realize that a trial doesn’t always end with the truth.

**LLOYD, AMY INNOCENT WIFE** (\$22.99) Twenty years ago, Dennis Danson was arrested and imprisoned for the brutal murder of a young girl. Now he’s the subject of a true-crime documentary that’s whipping up a frenzy online to uncover the truth and free a man who has been wrongly convicted. A thousand miles away in England, Samantha is obsessed with Dennis’s case. She exchanges letters with him and is quickly won over by his apparent charm and kindness to her. Soon she has left her old life behind to marry him and campaign for his release. When the campaign is successful, and Dennis is freed, however, Sam begins to discover new details that suggest he may not be quite so innocent after all. But how do you confront your husband when you don’t want to know the truth?

**MACGOWN/MCGOWN, JILL lloyd SCENE OF CRIME (#11)** (\$21) Originally published in 2001. Real-life crime has engulfed the domestic life of the Riverside Theatre players. For starters, there’s the violent death of Estelle Bignall, the beautiful, neurotic wife of a well-to-do doctor (and aspiring resident playwright). In truth, suicide seemed more Estelle’s line—especially during the Christmas holidays—but a thief saved her the trouble, stealing all the presents and leaving her bound, gagged, and suffocated. Instinct tells Detective Chief Inspectors Lloyd and Judy Hill that Estelle’s murder is far more complicated. At the crime scene there are too many footprints, too many fingerprints, too much conflicting evidence—and too many suspects: an elusive burglar, a sinister next-door neighbor, the victim’s secret lover, a scared kid with fresh bruises on his face. But which of them was desperate enough to commit murder?

**MACKENZIE, A J romney BODY IN THE ICE (#2)** (\$16.95) Christmas Day, Kent, 1796: on the frozen fields of Romney Marsh stands New Hall; silent, lifeless, deserted. In its grounds lies an unexpected Christmas offering: a corpse, frozen into the ice of a horse pond. It falls to the Reverend Hardcastle, justice of the peace in St. Mary in the Marsh, to investigate. But with the victim’s identity unknown, no murder weapon, and no known motive, it seems like an impossible task. Working along with his trusted friend, Amelia Chaytor, and new arrival Captain Edward Austen, Hardcastle soon discovers there is more to the mystery than there first appeared. With the arrival of an American family torn apart by war and desperate to reclaim their ancestral home and a French spy returning to the scene

of his crimes, ancient loyalties and new vengeance combine to make Hardcastle and Mrs. Chaytor’s attempts to discover the secret of New Hall all the more dangerous.

**MALLIET, G M max WICKED AUTUMN (#1)** (\$9.99) "Hugely funny, exquisitely well written, a tongue-in-cheek village mystery to be savored. G.M. Malliet's arch tone and wry humor make her a writer to be treasured." Says Julia Spencer-Fleming, author of the Claire Fergusson series. This is the first of seven Max Tudor novels and now re-issued at a very friendly price. Great time to get started on the series!

**MATTHEWS, JASON nash RED SPARROW (#1)** (\$12.99) A reissue to tie into the movie release. A terrific read. In contemporary Russia, state intelligence officer Dominika Egorova has been drafted to become a “Sparrow”—a spy trained in the art of seduction to siphon out information from their marks. She’s been assigned to Nathaniel Nash, a CIA officer who handles the organization’s most sensitive penetration of Russian intelligence. The two young intelligence officers, trained in their respective spy schools, collide in a charged atmosphere of tradecraft, deception and, inevitably, a forbidden spiral of carnal attraction that threatens their careers and the security of America’s valuable mole in Moscow.

**MAY, PETER china CHINESE WHISPERS (#6)** (\$25) An expensive British import. Li Yan, the head of Beijing's crime squad, is charged with providing a quick result on the case of the Beijing Ripper. The results of an autopsy on one of the victims sends shockwaves through the investigation, and then Li begins to receive personal letters from the killer

**MAY, PETER china RUNNER (#5)** (\$25) An expensive British import. Originally published in 2003. If you haven’t read any books in this terrific series, the first, *The Firemaker* (\$19.49), has just been released in North America. A top Chinese swimmer kills himself on the eve of an international event. An Olympic weightlifter dies in the arms of his Beijing mistress. But the suicide was murder and both men's deaths are connected to a sinister series of killings. Beijing detective Li Yan finds himself in charge of what could be his last investigation for the Chinese police. Li's only hope of a breakthrough is a champion runner, the sole member of the athletics team who seems willing to talk. But she will only talk to American pathologist Margaret Campbell - and now, the runner has disappeared. As Li's enemies take their chance to destroy his career, and shadowy figures seem hell-bent on victory at any cost, finding the missing runner seems to be the only way to save his job and the lives of more young athletes.

**MILLER, DEREK B GIRL IN GREEN** (\$21) 1991. One hundred miles from the Kuwaiti border, Thomas Benton meets Arwood Hobbes. Benton is a British journalist who is starting an ambitious career reporting from war zones, resulting in the estrangement of his wife and daughter; Arwood is a naive small-town American private bored out of his skull waiting for something—anything—to happen. Desert Storm is over, peace has been declared, but as they argue about whether it makes sense to cross the nearest border in search of an ice cream, they become embroiled in a horrific attack in which a young local girl in a green dress is killed as they are trying to protect her. The two men walk away into their respective lives. But something has cracked for them both. Twenty-two years later, in another place, in another war, they meet again as changed men. From the author of the superb novel, *Norwegian by Night* (\$22.50).

**MOFINA, RICK LAST SEEN** (\$11.99) Cal Hudson knows the world can be an ugly place. As a reporter for a big Chicago newspaper, Cal has journeyed into society’s darkest corners to expose the vilest crimes. But the world he and his devoted wife, Faith, share with their son is much nicer. They have made sure of it, creating a tranquil haven in suburban River Ridge to protect the person most precious to them. Until the unthinkable happens, and nine-year-old Gage vanishes. In a split second at a local carnival, the Hudsons’ storybook world begins unraveling. A frantic search starts to uncover splinters in their carefully crafted facade, revealing buried secrets that cast just as much suspicion on Cal and Faith as any ill-meaning stranger, and proving that the line between love and violence can disappear as suddenly as a child on a chaotic midway.

**MOSSE, KATE** TAXIDERMIST'S DAUGHTER (\$15.99) 1912. A Sussex churchyard. Villagers gather on the night when the ghosts of those who will not survive the coming year are thought to walk. And in the shadows, a woman lies dead. As the flood waters rise, Connie Gifford is marooned in a decaying house with her increasingly tormented father. He drinks to escape the past, but an accident has robbed her of her most significant childhood memories. Until the disturbance at the church awakens fragments of those vanished years.

**OULD, CHRIS faroe** FIRE PIT (#3) (\$19.95) In the wake of a dying man's apparent suicide, the skeleton of a young woman is discovered on a windswept hillside. Detective Hjalti Hentze suspects that it is the body of a Norwegian woman reported missing forty years earlier, while a commune occupied the land, and whose death may be linked to the abduction and rape of a local Faroese girl. Meanwhile British DI Jan Reyna is pursuing his investigation into his mother's suicide. But as he learns more about her final days, links between the two cases start to appear: a conspiracy of murder and abuse spanning four decades. And as Hentze puts the same pieces together, he realizes that Reyna is willing to go further than ever before to learn the truth.

**PENROSE, ANDREA wrexford** MURDER ON BLACK SWAN LANE (#1) (\$17.95) In Regency London, an unconventional scientist and a fearless female artist form an unlikely alliance to expose a cold-hearted killer... The Earl of Wrexford possesses a brilliant scientific mind, but boredom and pride lead him to reckless behavior. So when pompous, pious Reverend Josiah Holworthy publicly condemns him for debauchery, Wrexford unsheathes his rapier-sharp wit and strikes back. As their war of words escalates, London's most popular satirical cartoonist, A.J. Quill, skewers them both. But then the clergyman is found slain in a church—his face burned by chemicals, his throat slashed ear to ear—and Wrexford finds himself the chief suspect. An artist in her own right, Charlotte Sloane has secretly slipped into the persona of her late husband, using his nom de plume, A.J. Quill. When Wrexford discovers her true identity, she fears it will be her undoing. But he has a proposal—use her sources to unveil the clergyman's clandestine involvement in questionable scientific practices, and, unmask the real murderer. Soon Lord Wrexford and the mysterious Mrs. Sloane plunge into a dangerous shadow world hidden among London's intellectual enclaves to trap a cunning adversary—before they fall victim to the next experiment in villainy...

**PETRIE, NICHOLAS ash** DRIFTER (#1) (\$22) This is the trade paperback edition of the first book in the series. The mass market paperback is \$11.99. Peter Ash came home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with only one souvenir: what he calls his "white static," the buzzing claustrophobia due to post-traumatic stress that has driven him to spend a year roaming in nature, sleeping under the stars. But when a friend from the Marines commits suicide, Ash returns to civilization to help the man's widow with some home repairs. Under her dilapidated porch, he finds more than he bargained for: the largest, ugliest, meanest dog he's ever encountered...and a Samsonite suitcase stuffed with cash and explosives. As Ash begins to investigate this unexpected discovery, he finds himself at the center of a plot that is far larger than he could have imagined...and it may lead straight back to the world he thought he'd left for good.

**POWELL, LAURA** UNFORGOTTEN (\$22) This debut novel "with a slight Broadchurch feel" (Sunday Herald) explores the devastating repercussions of a long-ago crime as it delves into forbidden relationships, the emotional bond between mothers and daughters, and the dark consequences of harboring secrets... It is the summer of 1956, and fifteen-year-old Betty Broadbent has never left the Cornish fishing village of St. Steele or ventured far beyond the walls of the Hotel Eden, the slightly ramshackle boarding house run by her moody, unpredictable mother. But Betty's world is upended when a string of brutal murders brings London's press corps flooding into the village, many of whom find lodging at the Hotel Eden. She is instantly transfixed by one of the reporters, the mysterious and strangely aloof Mr. Gallagher—and he, fully twice her age, seems equally transfixed by her. The unlikely relationship that blooms between Betty and Mr. Gallagher is as overlaid with longing and desire as it is with impropriety and even menace. And as the shocking death toll rises, both Betty

and Mr. Gallagher are forced to make a devastating choice, one that will shape their own lives—and the life of an innocent man—forever.

**QUEEN, ELLERY** DOOR BETWEEN (\$22.50) Originally published in 1937. Raised in Japan by American expatriates, Karen Leith now lives a reclusive life in New York, known chiefly for her highly regarded novels, of which the latest has won a major American literary award. When she is found on the floor behind her desk, surrounded by blood, it looks like foul play. But the only possible suspect is Leith's future daughter-in-law, Eva, who has recently become engaged. Eva swears by her innocence, even though she was the last to hear Leith alive and the first to find her dead. Eva was waiting outside Leith's office to share the happy news and maintains that no one entered through that door, while the room's other possible exit was locked. The only one who can help her clear her name is mystery writer Ellery Queen, an acquaintance of the victim through New York's literary circles. Queen intends to unravel the locked-room mystery, but with no murder weapon and too many incriminating fingerprints, this case just might be one even he can't solve.

**QUINN, KATE borgias** SERPENT AND THE PEARL (#1) (\$18) I read this book, got to the end, and it just finished right in the middle of what I thought of as a "cliffhanger event". So, I immediately had to order the second one, which is listed next, to see what happened. (*Marian*). Rome, 1492. The Holy City is drenched with blood and teeming with secrets. A pope lies dying and the throne of God is left vacant, a prize awarded only to the most virtuous—or the most ruthless. The Borgia family begins its legendary rise, chronicled by an innocent girl who finds herself drawn into their dangerous web. Vivacious Giulia Farnese has floor-length golden hair and the world at her feet: beauty, wealth, and a handsome young husband. But she is stunned to discover that her glittering marriage is a sham, and she is to be given as a concubine to the ruthless, charismatic Cardinal Borgia: Spaniard, sensualist, candidate for Pope—who is passionately in love with her. Two trusted companions will follow her into the Pope's shadowy harem: Leonello, a cynical bodyguard bent on bloody revenge against a mysterious killer, and Carmelina, a fiery cook with a past full of secrets. But as corruption thickens in the Vatican and the enemies begin to circle, Giulia and her friends will need all their wits to survive in the world of the Borgias.

**QUINN, KATE borgias** LION AND THE ROSE (#2) (\$18) As the cherished concubine of the Borgia Pope Alexander VI, Giulia Farnese has Rome at her feet. But after narrowly escaping a sinister captor, she realizes that the danger she faces is far from over—and now, it threatens from within. The Holy City of Rome is still under Alexander's thrall, but enemies of the Borgias are starting to circle. In need of trusted allies, Giulia turns to her sharp-tongued bodyguard, Leonello, and her fiery cook and confidante, Carmelina. Caught in the deadly world of the Renaissance's most notorious family, Giulia, Leonello, and Carmelina must decide if they will flee the dangerous dream of power. But as the shadows of murder and corruption rise through the Vatican, they must learn who to trust when every face wears a mask.

**QUINN, KATE rome** MISTRESS OF ROME (#1) (\$17) Thea is a slave girl from Judaea, purchased as a toy for the spiteful heiress Lepida Pollia. Now she has infuriated her mistress by capturing the attention of Rome's newest and most savage gladiator—and though his love brings Thea the first happiness of her life, their affair ends quickly when a jealous Lepida tears them apart. Remaking herself as a singer for Rome's aristocrats, Thea unwittingly attracts another admirer: the charismatic Emperor of Rome. But the passions of an all-powerful man come with a heavy price, and Thea finds herself fighting for both her soul and her sanity. Many have tried to destroy the Emperor: a vengeful gladiator, an upright senator, a tormented soldier, a Vestal Virgin. But in the end, the life of Domitian lies in the hands of one woman: the Emperor's mistress.

**RANDALL, SHARI** CURSES BOILED AGAIN (#1) (\$10.50) Allie Larkin was living her dream as a ballet dancer when a bad fall put her out of business. Now she's back home in Mystic Bay to heal a broken ankle while also helping her dear Aunt Gully get her Lazy Mermaid Lobster Shack off the ground. Nothing would help Gully more than

winning the local food festival's Best Lobster Roll contest. The competition is sure to be killer—especially after one of the contest judges dies after eating a roll from one of Gully's biggest rivals. Soon, all eyes fall on Gully as the prime suspect. Allie may only have one good leg to stand on, but she's not going to let her aunt go down for a crime she never could have cooked up. Can Allie, along with her devoted crew of friends, family, and customers, find a way to trap the killer and claw herself out of this hard-boiled murder case?

**RHYS, RACHEL** DANGEROUS CROSSING (\$24.99) 1939: Europe is on the brink of war when young Lily Shepherd boards an ocean liner in Essex, bound for Australia. She is ready to start anew, leaving behind the shadows in her past. The passage proves magical, complete with live music, cocktails, and fancy-dress balls. With stops at exotic locations along the way—Naples, Cairo, Ceylon—the voyage shows Lily places she'd only ever dreamed of and enables her to make friends with those above her social station, people who would ordinarily never give her the time of day. She even allows herself to hope that a man she couldn't possibly have a future with outside the cocoon of the ship might return her feelings. But Lily soon realizes that she's not the only one hiding secrets. Her newfound friends—the toxic wealthy couple Eliza and Max; Cambridge graduate Edward; Jewish refugee Maria; fascist George—are also running away from their pasts. As the glamour of the voyage fades, the stage is set for something sinister to occur. By the time the ship docks, two passengers are dead, war has been declared, and Lily's life will be changed irrevocably.

**RICKMAN, PHIL watkins** ALL OF A WINTERS NIGHT (#14) (\$16.95) It begins in the fog, with a bleak village funeral. In the early hours of the following morning, Merrily Watkins and her daughter Jane are made aware that Aidan Lloyd, son of a wealthy farmer, will not be resting in peace. A rural tradition is displaying its sinister side as an old feud reignites. It's already a fraught time for Merrily, her future threatened by a bishop committed to restricting her role as deliverance consultant, or diocesan exorcist. Suddenly there are events she can't talk about as she and Jane find themselves potentially on the wrong side of the law. Meanwhile, DI Frannie Bliss, investigating a shooting, must confront the growth of organized crime which is contaminating the countryside. On the Welsh border, the old ways are at war with the modern world. As the days shorten and the fog gives way to ice and snow, Merrily Watkins is drawn into a conflict which centres on one of Britain's most famous medieval churches, its walls laden with ancient symbolism.

**ROBERTSON, CRAIG winter** PHOTOGRAPHER (#7) (\$22.99) It's 2:00 a.m. in Glasgow. DI Rachel Narey and her team of cops are standing outside the door of a violent rapist. At her word, the officers break down the door and charge into the flat. They find the man, Robert Broome, cowering in a corner of his bedroom, pleading not to be arrested, begging to be left alone. Once he is arrested, Narey's team searches the flat. In a hidden recess under the carpet, they find photographs—hundreds of them. All of women, and most without being aware the photos were taken—on the street, in playgrounds, in shopping centers. Narey studies them, seeing the same faces repeated. She suddenly realizes that Broome is a repeat offender, and the scale of what he might have done terrifies her. But even with Broome in custody, these women are still somehow being hunted and killed. The clock is ticking, the police are way behind, and the stakes have just gotten higher.

**ROYAL, PRISCILLA medieval** WILD JUSTICE (#14) (\$23.95) It is Spring 1282. England is at war again with Wales. As Baron Hugh of Wynethorpe, a veteran of fighting in Outremer, prepares to join his King's army, he begs his sister, Prioress Eleanor, a favor. On her journey home to Tyndal Prior in Norfolk, she is to carry a gift of rents from the Wynethorpe estates to Prioress Amicia, and none other. Eleanor agrees. When she gets there though, she learns that Amicia has been imprisoned, convicted of murder.

**SANSOM, IAN guides** ESSEX POISON (#4) (\$17.99) October 1937. Swanton Morley, the People's Professor, sets off to Essex to continue his history of England, The County Guides. Morley's daughter, Miriam, continues to cause chaos, and his assistant, Stephen Sef-

ton, continues to slide deeper into depression and despair. Morley is an honorary guest at the Colchester Oyster Festival. But when the mayor dies suddenly at the civic reception, suspicion falls on his fellow councillors. Is it a case of food poisoning? Or could it be...murder?

**SAYERS, DOROTHY wimsey** IN THE TEETH OF THE EVIDENCE (#14) (\$15.99) All that was left of the garage was a heap of charred and smouldering beams. In the driving seat of the burnt-out car were the remains of a body. An accident, said the police. An accident, said the widow. She had been warning her husband about the danger of the car for months. Murder, said the famous detective Lord Peter Wimsey - and proceeded to track down the killer. Originally published in 1939.

**SCHLINK, BERNHARD** WOMAN ON THE STAIRS (\$22.95) In a museum far from home, a lawyer stumbles across a painting of a woman he once knew, Irene. Decades before, he had become entangled in her affairs when he was called on to settle a dispute between her husband, who had commissioned the portrait, and the painter of the work—who was also her lover. When, ultimately, the lawyer fell in love with her himself and risked everything for her, she mysteriously disappeared—along with the painting. Now, face to face with the portrait once again, the lawyer must reconcile his past and present selves. When he eventually locates Irene, he is forced to confront the truth of his love—and the reality that his life has been irrevocably changed.

**SCOTT, J TODD cherry** FAR EMPTY (#1) (\$13.50) Seventeen-year-old Caleb Ross is adrift in the wake of the sudden disappearance of his mother more than a year ago, and is struggling to find his way out of the small Texas border town of Murfee. Chris Cherry is a newly minted sheriff's deputy, a high school football hero who has reluctantly returned to his hometown. When skeletal remains are discovered in the surrounding badlands, the two are inexorably drawn together as their efforts to uncover Murfee's darkest secrets lead them to the same terrifying suspect: Caleb's father and Chris's boss, the charismatic and feared Sheriff Stanford "Judge" Ross. Written by a long-time federal agent who knows the region, it's a debut novel that you won't soon forget.

**SCOTTLINE, LISA** ONE PERFECT LIE (\$22.50) On paper, Chris Brennan looks perfect. He's applying for a job as a high school government teacher, he's ready to step in as an assistant baseball coach, and his references are impeccable. But everything about Chris Brennan is a lie. Why is he there? What does he want? And what is he willing to do to get it?

**SEYMOUR, GERALD** JERICHO'S WAR (\$10.99) In a moment of nerve shredding suspense that will affect many thousands of lives, a handful of men and women will converge on a barren stretch of Yemeni desert. Each of them will need spirit, courage and immense luck to survive the next forty-eight hours. Corrie Rankin is already a legend at MI6 when he is called back with little regard for the horrors of his recent past. Corrie is sent to take advantage of a chance to take down a high value player in the war against Al Qaeda - and, a chance for the Brits to succeed without begging help from the Americans. The sniper and his spotter who will go with Corrie are less than top team, but the best that can be found if the mission is to stay 'deniable'. And once the three misfits are in-country, they must rely on intelligence brought to them by a young British Jihadi - on the ground and close to the target - and now turned. And, close to him, is an archaeologist digging in the ruins of the Queen of Sheba' civilisation who will be their cut-out contact point. The mission is the brain-child of an apparently old, fat fool in a striped cricket blazer, a sweating figure of fun among the ex-pat community across the border in Muscat. This is Jericho ... not as old or fat or foolish as he appears, nor as harmless.

**SIMENON, GEORGES** MAIGRET AND THE MINISTER (\$17.50) A public project has collapsed and resulted in the death of 128 children after a report warning officials about the unsafe structure was disregarded. Now, that report has resurfaced, along with allegations that several politicians and contractors involved with the project may have suppressed its findings to avoid a scandal. Maigret must enter the shifty world of politics, dodged by members of the security po-



lice wherever he goes. In an unfamiliar world of decadent diplomatic officials, fanatic followers of political parties, and suspicious staff in politicians' entourages, Maigret grimly sticks to what he knows best: finding the perpetrators of criminal acts.

**SPILLANE, MICKEY & MAX ALLAN COLLINS WILL TO KILL** (\$10.99) Taking a midnight stroll along the Hudson River, Mike Hammer gets more than he bargained for: a partial corpse on an ice floe. The body is that of a butler who spent the last years of his life working for a millionaire—also now deceased—and his notoriously privileged children. Were both master and servant murdered? Captain Pat Chambers thinks so. But to prove it Hammer must travel to upstate New York to investigate the dead man's family, all of whom have a motive for murder, and one of whom who has a taste for it.

**STARR, MEL DEEDS OF DARKNESS (#10)** (\$22.50) Many medieval scholars discontinued their university studies before completing their degree. Some lacked funds; others became bored with a scholar's life. Occasionally these young men formed lawless bands, robbing and raping and creating chaos. They were called goliards. Master Hugh learns that the Bampton coroner, an old friend, has been slain while traveling to Oxford. As he seeks the killer (or killers) he discovers a band of goliards in the area between Oxford and Bampton. But how to apprehend these youths? They have protectors far above Hugh's station. He must deal with the claims of justice on the one hand and the power of great men to protect their henchmen on the other.

**STEVENS, CHEVY NEVER LET YOU GO** (\$20.99) Eleven years ago, Lindsey Nash escaped into the night with her young daughter and left an abusive relationship. Her ex-husband, Andrew, was sent to jail and Lindsey started over with a new life. Now, Lindsey is older and wiser, with her own business and a teenage daughter who needs her more than ever. When Andrew is finally released from prison, Lindsey believes she has cut all ties and left the past behind her. But she gets the sense that someone is watching her, tracking her every move. Her new boyfriend is threatened. Her home is invaded, and her daughter is shadowed. Lindsey is convinced it's her ex-husband, even though he claims he's a different person. But has he really changed? Is the one who wants her dead closer to home than she thought?

**SWANSON, PETER HER EVERY FEAR** (\$19.99) Cousins Kate Priddy and Corbin Dell temporarily swap apartments, her London one for his in Boston. But soon after her arrival at Corbin's grand apartment on Beacon Hill, Kate makes a shocking discovery: his next-door neighbor, a young woman named Audrey Marshall, has been murdered. When the police question her about Corbin, a shaken Kate has few answers, and many questions of her own—curiosity that intensifies when she meets Alan Cherney, a handsome, quiet tenant who lives across the courtyard, in the apartment facing Audrey's. Alan saw Corbin surreptitiously come and go from Audrey's place, yet he's denied knowing her. Then, Kate runs into a tearful man claiming to be the dead woman's old boyfriend, who insists Corbin did the deed the night that he left for London. Could Corbin be a killer? And what about Alan?

**TOYNE, SIMON creed BOY WHO SAW (#2)** (\$12.50) Solomon Creed has no recollection of who he is, or where he comes from. The only solid clue to his identity is a label stitched in his jacket that reads: "This suit was made to treasure for Mr. Solomon Creed." The jacket fits perfectly, and so does the name, but there is a second name on the label, the name of the tailor who made the suit and an address in southern France. Solomon heads to France in search of this man, hoping to discover more about who he is. But instead of answers he finds a bloody corpse, the Star of David carved into his chest and the words "Finishing what was begun" daubed in blood on the wall. When the police discover Solomon at the crime scene they suspect he is the murderer and lock him up. Solomon must escape to clear his name and solve the mystery of why the last remaining survivors of a notorious Nazi death camp are being hunted down and murdered. Only by saving these survivors from evil can Solomon hope to piece together the truth about a decades-old conspiracy as well as discover the key to his own identity.

**TUROW, SCOTT TESTIMONY** (\$20.99) At the age of fifty, Bill Ten Boom has walked out on everything he once thought was important: Kindle County, his law career, even his wife. Still, when he is tapped by the International Criminal Court—an organization that prosecutes crimes against humanity—he is compelled by a mystifying case. Over ten years ago, in the chaos following the Bosnian war, a Roma refugee camp vanished overnight. Now a witness has finally stepped forward: Ferko Rincic claims that armed men marched the camp's 400 residents to a cave and then set off an avalanche with a hand grenade, burying them alive. Only Ferko survived. Boom's task is to investigate Ferko's claims, taking him from the Court's base in Holland, to Bosnian villages, to secret meetings in Washington, DC, as he sorts through the alliances and treacheries of those involved: a disgraced US major general, members of the U.S. military, the brutal former leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Ferko's seductive barrister, and of course, Ferko himself, on whose testimony the entire case rests—and who may know more than he's telling.

**VERDAN, NICOLAS GREEK WALL** (\$21.50) A severed head is found on the Greek border near a wall planned to stop Middle Eastern immigrants crossing from Turkey. Intelligence Agent Evangelos wants the truth about the murder, human trafficking into Greece, and about the corruption surrounding the wall's construction. It is a mystery novel and a political thriller but more importantly it evokes the problems of the West incarnated in Greece: isolationism, fear of immigration, economic collapse, and corruption. While dark, it is also poetic and paints an indelible portrait of Athens, with its mixed fragrances of eucalyptus, freshly baked bread, and cigarette smoke.

**WARE, RUTH IN A DARK DARK WOOD** (\$12.99) Leonora (Lee to some, Nora to others) is a reclusive writer, but when an old friend unexpectedly invites her to a weekend away in an eerie glass house, she reluctantly agrees to make the trip. But a haunting realization creeps in to the party: they are not alone in the woods. Forty-eight hours later, Nora wakes up in a hospital bed with the knowledge that someone is dead. Wondering not "what happened?" but "what have I done?" she tries to piece together the events of the past weekend. In order to uncover secrets and reveal motives, Nora must revisit parts of herself that she'd rather leave buried where they belong: in the past.

**WELSH, KAITE WAGES OF SIN** (\$21.95) Sarah Gilchrist has fled London and a troubled past to join the University of Edinburgh's medical school in 1892, the first year it admits women. She is determined to become a doctor despite the misgivings of her family and society, but Sarah quickly finds plenty of barriers at school itself: professors who refuse to teach their new pupils, male students determined to force out their female counterparts, and—perhaps worst of all—her female peers who will do anything to avoid being associated with a fallen woman. But when Lucy, one of Sarah's patients, turns up in the university dissecting room as a battered corpse, Sarah finds herself drawn into a murky underworld of bribery, brothels, and body snatchers. Painfully aware of just how little separates her own life from that of her former patient's, Sarah is determined to find out what happened to Lucy and bring those responsible for her death to justice. But as she searches for answers in Edinburgh's dank alleyways, bawdy houses and fight clubs, Sarah comes closer and closer to uncovering one of Edinburgh's most lucrative trades, and, in doing so, puts her own life at risk...

**WESTLAKE, DONALD E HELP I AM BEING HELD PRISONER** (\$13.50) Originally published in 1974. It isn't easy going to jail for a practical joke. Of course, this particular joke left 20 cars wrecked on the highway and two politicians' careers in tatters - so jail is where Harold Kunt landed. Now he's just trying to keep a low profile in the Big House. He wants no part of his fellow inmates' plan to use an escape tunnel to rob two banks. But it's too late; he's in it up to his neck. And that neck may just wind up in a noose.

**WHITE, RANDY WAYNE ford MANGROVE LIGHTNING (#21)** (\$13.50) Doc Ford has been involved in many strange cases. This may be one of the strangest. A legendary charter captain and guide named Tootsie Barlow has come to him, muttering about a curse. The members of his extended family have suffered a bizarre series of attacks, and Barlow is convinced it has something to do with a multiple

murder in 1925, in which his family had a shameful part. Ford doesn't believe in curses, but as he and his friend Tomlinson begin to investigate, following the trail of the attacks from Key Largo to Tallahassee, they, too, suffer a series of near-fatal mishaps. Is it really a curse? Or just a crime spree? The answer lies in solving a near-hundred-year-old murder...and probing the mind of a madman.

**WIEBE, SAM wakeland** CUT YOU DOWN (#2) (\$24) Vancouver PI Dave Wakeland returns, hot on the trail of a missing college student who may or may not have stolen half a million dollars. What starts as a straightforward runaway case soon gives way to a tangled mess of dirty money, betrayal, and murder, pitting the resourceful but over-his-head detective against suburban gangsters, a corrupt cop, and a contract killer with a fondness for blades--one of which seems destined for Wakeland's throat. The first is Invisible Dead (\$24.95).

**WIKEN, LINDA dinner club** MARINATING IN MURDER (#3) (\$10.99) The Culinary Capers Dinner Club is planning a fall picnic for their next meeting. What could be better than sharing delicious food with friends under a beautiful autumn sky? But when club member Alison Malkovich opens the back of her SUV to load in the picnic supplies, she finds a dead body. To make things worse, it's the body of her ex-husband, and now she's the prime suspect. Because Alison is a police officer, she is suspended and warned not to do any investigating of her own. That's not about to stop J.J. and the Culinary Capers gang though. They know that Alison is innocent, and after all, they do have some experience solving crimes.

**WILCOX, JOHN fonthill** DUST CLOUDS OF WAR (#12) (\$18.99) 1914. Simon Fonthill, a fit 59-year-old, is visiting his farm in Northern Rhodesia when the Great War breaks out. With him, as always, is his wife Alice, but also his old comrade and former batman, 352 Jenkins, holidaying with them after the marriage of his two step-daughters in South Africa. Fonthill immediately cables his old boss Kitchener, the newly appointed Minister for War in the British Cabinet, offering his services in the fight against the Kaiser's Germany. However, he is instructed to remain in Africa in case of warfare in German East Africa. When war does break out, Fonthill proves his worth.

**WINSLOW, DON malone** FORCE (\$21) All Denny Malone wants is to be a good cop. He is "the King of Manhattan North," a highly decorated NYPD detective sergeant and the real leader of "Da Force." Malone and his crew are the smartest, the toughest, the quickest, the bravest, and the baddest, an elite special unit given unrestricted authority to wage war on gangs, drugs and guns. Every day and every night for the eighteen years he's spent on the Job, Malone has served on the front lines, witnessing the hurt, the dead, the victims, the perps.

He's done whatever it takes to serve and protect in a city built by ambition and corruption, where no one is clean—including Malone himself. What only a few know is that Denny Malone is dirty: he and his partners have stolen millions of dollars in drugs and cash in the wake of the biggest heroin bust in the city's history. Now Malone is caught in a trap and being squeezed by the Feds, and he must walk the thin line between betraying his brothers and partners, the Job, his family, and the woman he loves, trying to survive, body and soul, while the city teeters on the brink of a racial conflagration that could destroy them all.

**WINSPEAR, JACQUELINE dobbs** IN THIS GRAVE HOUR (#13) (\$19.99) Sunday September 3rd, 1939. At the moment Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain broadcasts to the nation Britain's declaration of war with Germany, a senior Secret Service agent breaks into Maisie Dobbs' flat to await her return. Dr. Francesca Thomas has an urgent assignment for Maisie: to find the killer of a man who escaped occupied Belgium as a boy, some twenty-three years earlier during the Great War. In a London shadowed by barrage balloons, bomb shelters and the threat of invasion, within days another former Belgian refugee is found murdered. Maisie delves into the killings.

**WISHART, DAVID marcus** SOLID CITIZENS (#15) (\$26.95) December, AD39. While enjoying the Winter Festival holiday at his adopted daughter's home in the Alban Hills, Marcus Corvinus discovers that an outwardly respectable pillar of the community, local politician Quintus Caesius has been discovered beaten to death at the rear entrance of the town brothel. Questioning those who knew the victim, Corvinus is dismayed to find Bovillae a place of small town secrets, bitter feuds, malicious gossip and deadly rivalry: a world away from the sophistication of Rome. As he is to discover, there are several suspects with reason to bear Caesius a grudge. But who would hate him enough to kill him? And what would a supposedly solid citizen be doing visiting the local brothel?

**WOODS, STUART barrington** INDECENT EXPOSURE (#42) (\$13.50) As an eligible bachelor, man-about-town, and mover in the highest social echelons, Stone Barrington has always been the subject of interest and gossip. But when he's unwittingly thrust into the limelight, he finds himself scrambling to take cover. Before too long, Stone's fending off pesky nuisances left and right, and making personal arrangements so surreptitiously it would take a covert operative to unearth them. Unfortunately, Stone finds that these efforts only increase the persistence of the most troublesome pests...and when he runs afoul of a particularly tenacious lady, he'll be struggling to protect not just his reputation but his life.