



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

March 2019

I have been thinking recently that the next car I buy will have all the safety features that are now becoming common; adaptive cruise control, lane departure warning, blind spot detection, 360-degree cameras, emergency braking, yada,yada,yada. The cost of all this technology is nominal, relatively speaking, and if it saves you once, well, bonus. Shoulder checks are becoming more painful, eyes don't work quite as well as they used to, reaction times are slower. An article I read in the Globe recently, however, is making me re-consider! The article was about the cost of replacing windshields and how that is rising dramatically. Curious, I read the article. Unknown to me, and it seems to many, many others, there are "image-processing modules," yes, cameras, built into the windshields. Replacing the windshield correctly is easy enough, I suppose. But, a far more difficult, and expensive, proposition seems to be calibrating the built-in cameras correctly. This is also far more important, as, apparently, there can be some interesting unintended consequences! One owner talked about his car trying to force him into oncoming traffic when the highway went from two lanes to one, after such a replacement. He ended up putting tape over the camera to defeat that function!

Maybe I'll get a chauffeur.

I recently found myself reading an article in The Guardian titled Secondhand books: the murky world of literary plagiarism by **Alison Flood**. Very interesting.

One section that was of particular note went as follow: It has long been claimed that there are somewhere between three and 36 basic plots in all forms of storytelling. Three years ago, academics fed nearly 2,000 stories into a computer analysis and concluded that there were six "core trajectories" for all stories.

If that is the case, then why do we hard-core readers keep reading the same "core trajectories" over and over again? And, if that is the case, then how can one help plagiarizing, to some extent? A good chunk of the article is about the trials and tribulations of **A.J. Finn**, author of The Woman in the Window (\$24.99) and the "similarities" that many have pointed out between it and British author **Sarah A. Denzil's Saving April** (\$21). However it happened, and whatever the

truth, Finn, aka William Morrow book editor Daniel Mallory, has achieved remarkable success with the novel. As reported in the New York times, the novel, which pays homage to Hitchcock classics, debuted at No. 1 on the New York Times best-seller list and the competition for North American rights ended with a \$2 million, two-book winning offer from Mr. Mallory's own publishing house, William

Maureen Jennings
will be at Sleuth to launch
Heat Wave (#1) (\$24.95),
the first in her new
Paradise Café series,
featuring Charlotte Frayne,
Saturday, March 23, 3 - 5:30 pm

More details about this title, and, indeed, all of Maureen's other books, prices, reviews, covers art, etc. can be had on the website.

The Merchant of Menace,

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

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Morrow, plus deals with a record-breaking 37 international publishers and a film deal with Fox 2000.

Good for him. As Mark Twain put it in a letter to Helen Keller: “substantially all ideas are second-hand.”

JD's Picks

I'm obviously in a bit of a funk. I've started any number of books but not finished many. Two that I did...

LOUISE VOSS's *The Old You* (\$19.95) is brilliant. Someone's mind is playing tricks ... but whose? Lynn Naismith gave up the job she loved when she married Ed, the love of her life, but it was worth it for the happy years they enjoyed together. Now, ten years on, Ed has been diagnosed with early-onset dementia, and things start to happen; things more sinister than lost keys and missing words. As some memories are forgotten, others, long buried, begin to surface ... and Lynn's perfect world begins to crumble. But is it Ed's mind playing tricks, or hers...?

This one is clever and entrancing. Bit by bit, slowly, the story is revealed, peeled back like an onion and I found it hard to put down. The writing is accomplished, something I value, and the slow pace of the story is exactly what is required to keep me fixed in my chair. Or lounging on the couch. The fact that the story deals with memory, or loss thereof, whether due to dementia, illness or just general aging, is beginning to become increasingly relevant.

JOHN MCGHIE's *White Highlands* (\$17.99), though set in contemporary times, harkens back to events of the early 1950s Kenya. The brutal British colonial rule was coming to an end and the Mau Mau rebellion of the early 50s is where this story starts. I have long wanted to travel through Kenya, Mombasa in particular, as all the accounts I have heard of this part of Africa, many from family members, have always been glowing and passionate. So, when this book came to my attention, I was immediately intrigued.

Here's a brief blurb: Kenya, 1952, a colony on the edge. Settlers drink sundowners on the veranda but the servants can't be trusted. Beyond manicured lawns, in the dark of the forest, freedom is stirring. Johnny Seymour has seen too much war and seeks solace photographing East African wildlife. But when isolated white families are slaughtered by Mau Mau gangs, the British respond brutally and Johnny is reluctantly pulled into the horror. After his African driver Macharia disappears, Johnny is forced to confront shocking truths about his own country and ask how far he'll go to help a friend.

Nearly sixty years later, disgraced young barrister Sam Seymour knows nothing about her grandfather. Even his name is taboo. All she understands is that Johnny did something so awful that his only son - her father - had to be rescued from Kenya. With veteran Mau Mau fighters demanding reparations for past sins, she's been offered a chance to unpeel history and discover why.

British colonial history is full of brutality and atrocities—not that they had a monopoly on this kind of behaviour—and this little corner of the empire likely didn't suffer more than any other part. Not having read much about this “conflict,” but knowing a little bit about the Raj, I was doubly intrigued. This turned out to be a great story, well worth the time, and not just for the historic enlightenment.

Marian's Picks

I think Pixie is the only one of us who is still madly in love with winter. I have had it up to here with ice, snow and snowbanks. For her, EVERY snowbank has to be investigated, either by jumping head first into it or by trying to dig her way to its bottom. Her joy is wonderful to behold and that's the only thing that makes it still possible to put up with this infernal winter. There has been a whole lot more snow here than in the city, so lots for her to explore. All that aside, the cottage is the cottage and even if the toilet freezes—did I mention it has also been gratuitously cold there as well?—there is still the great outdoors, which is stunningly beautiful. Makes up for the cold, the snow, the wind, the upkeep, the bringing in the wood...

The move has been made but the unpacking is still not quite finished. I took a lot of “stuff” to the cottage knowing full well that there was not much room to absorb all of it, but, it was a way of dealing with the stuff that I just was not ready to let go. I donated almost everything in my two-bedroom apartment to charities but there are some things, like my champagne flutes, martini glasses and serving bowls and all my other kitchen things, which I have a passion for, that needed to come with me. I finally got a bookcase put up so I could unpack my 10 boxes of cookbooks—the essentials left over after finding homes for a few thousand cookbooks! Now I need to sort out what to do with the sheets, pillows, blankets, towels... I often have my family at the cottage—birthdays, holidays, any excuse really—there are usually nine of us and all those things are necessary but there is no linen closet and not much storage space. Himself's suggestion is to make them bring their own linens and towels, hmmm, practical, yes, but that's not very gracious. He says they only come for my cocktail hours anyway. And, well, I do admit, my cocktail hours are legendary.

MAUREEN JENNINGS will be at Sleuth on Saturday, March 23rd, 2019 to sign copies of her new book, *Heat Wave* (\$24.95). It's a wonderful read and you must come and celebrate the launch with her. No doubt, she'll tell you about the inspiration for the story and, hopefully, read a short excerpt to whet your appetite. Set in 1936 Toronto, during a record heat wave, we are introduced to Charlotte Frayne. Yes, a new character, and, fingers crossed, the first of many. Charlotte is the junior associate in a two-person private investigation firm who finds herself at the helm when her boss receives an anti-Semitic letter, rushes home and finds his wife has been assaulted and is in hospital with life threatening injuries. To add to all of this, Charlotte is asked by Hilliard Taylor, a new client, to investigate possible embezzlement at his café. He, and three other prisoners of war, started the Paradise Café to offer food to those less fortunate at a very reasonable price. What seems like two very different cases to Charlotte happen to dovetail into one as she continues her investigations.

This was just a lovely read—except for some nastiness and the assault, of course, but what would a crime novel be without some?—and I sweated along with the characters as they went about their daily routines, trying to cope with the depression and trying to keep cool. As always with Maureen's book, there is lots of accurate historical detail and that'll make you feel like you too are in Toronto of the mid-30s. That Charlotte is making a go of it in the predominantly “man's world” of the era is an added bonus. More please, Maureen.

CATHY ACE has written a stand-alone mystery titled *The Wrong Boy* (\$22.50). It came out last month but with all my moving I didn't get a chance to read it until now. With reviews like: “...a suspense-packed page turner...The ending is a stunner” (**Hallie Ephron**); “...about as cozy as a cornered snake...” (**Catrina McPherson**); “...a gem of a thriller” (**James Ziskin**); how could I not want to give this book a go? Wales, the setting for the story, is as important a “character” as any of the real ones, and that just adds a whole new,

pleasurable, dimension to the read. Bones are found on a Welsh clifftop and through the narratives of five people you begin to understand and piece together the story. Three generations of women, grandmother, mother and daughter, run the local village pub called The Dragon's Head, and they each tell the story as they see it. Then there's my favourite narrator, DI Evan Glover, the detective called out to investigate the discovery of the burnt bones, even though he is retiring a few days hence. Finally, his wife Betty, also adds her voice as she sees how her husband is struggling with his retirement and his need to still be front and centre and involved in the investigation. There are twists and turns aplenty, as you'd expect, lots of village gossip, old history...and quite the ending!

In the February 2019 newsletter I told you that a customer had come in and ordered The Paris Key (\$20) by JULIET BLACKWELL and that's when I became aware of her stand-alone novels. There are three in total and after I read The Paris Key, I read the other two, Letters from Paris and The Lost Carousel of Provence (\$20 each). While none of these titles is what I would consider a mystery in the sense of the type of books we normally sell, there are mysterious elements in each: hidden photos, intriguing letters, missing people, decades old secrets, a centuries old carving in one book and a famous (lost?) carousel in the other. But, most importantly, all three books are just plain lovely reads. I couldn't resist reading them and worked my way through them all, one right after the other. They are charming stories, set in Paris and Provence, mainly, historical in parts, romantic in other parts...just the perfect read to curl up with at the cottage with the snow falling, the fire roaring and Pixie by my side.

There is a plot description of The Paris Key in the February newsletter and here is a plot description of the other two books.

Letters from Paris (\$20): After surviving the accident that took her mother's life, Claire Broussard has worked hard to escape her small Louisiana hometown. But these days she feels something is lacking. Abruptly leaving her lucrative job in Chicago, Claire returns home to care for her ailing grandmother. There, she unearths a beautiful piece of artwork that her great-grandfather sent home from Paris after World War II.

At her grandmother's urging, Claire travels to Paris to track down the century-old mask-making atelier where the object, known only as "L'Inconnue"—or The Unknown Woman—was created. Under the watchful eye of a surly mask-maker, Claire discovers a cache of letters that offers insight into the life of the Belle Epoque woman immortalized in the work of art. As Claire explores the unknown woman's tragic fate, she begins to unravel deeply buried secrets in her own life.

Lost Carousel of Provence (\$20): Long, lonely years have passed for the crumbling Château Clement, nestled well beyond the rolling lavender fields and popular tourist attractions of Provence. Once a bustling and dignified ancestral estate, now all that remains is the chateau's gruff, elderly owner and the softly whispered secrets of generations buried and forgotten.

But time has a way of exposing history's dark stains, and when American photographer Cady Drake finds herself drawn to the chateau and its antique carousel, she longs to explore the relic's shadowy origins beyond the small scope of her freelance assignment. As Cady digs deeper into the past, unearthing century-old photographs of the Clement carousel and its creators, she might be the one person who can bring the past to light and reunite a family torn apart.

JD did all the work on this newsletter as I was busy continuing to organize the cottage—wonder how long I can keep dragging out this

pretext!—but as I was giving it the once over, I noted a few new arrivals that I had Picked when they originally came out in hardcover and now I see they are available in trade paperback, so here's a reminder. As the titles are annotated further on, I'll just mention the titles and that I had loved them both: Paris by the Book (\$22) by LIAM CALLANAN tells the story of a missing person, a grieving family, and a curious clue: a half-finished manuscript set in Paris and Skyjack (\$17.99) by K J HOWE, the second book featuring international kidnap expert Thea Paris. This one is the sequel to The Freedom Broker (\$20.49) and both are terrific, action packed reads! Greatly enjoyed all three.

And, last but not least, Spook in the Stacks (\$23.95) by EVA GATES (aka Vicki Delany) has also just arrived but I haven't had a chance to read it yet. It's the fourth in the Brodie Island Lighthouse Library series and I've read the first three and looking forward to this one. Stay tuned.

Hardbacks

BENN, JAMES R billy boyle SOLEMN GRAVES (#13) (\$33.95) July, 1944, a full month after D-Day. Billy, Kaz, and Big Mike are assigned to investigate a murder close to the front lines in Normandy. An American officer has been found dead in a manor house serving as an advance headquarters outside the town of Trévières. Major Jerome was far from his own unit, arrived unexpectedly, and was murdered in the dark of night. The investigation is shrouded in secrecy, due to the highly confidential nature of the American unit headquartered nearby in the Norman hedgerow country: the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops, aka, the Ghost Army. This vague name covers a thousand-man unit with a unique mission within the US Army: to impersonate other US Army units by creating deceptions using radio traffic, dummy inflatable vehicles, and sound effects, causing the enemy to think they are facing large formations. Not even the units adjacent to their positions know what they are doing. But there are German spies and informants everywhere, and Billy must tread carefully, unmasking the murder while safeguarding the secret of the Ghost Army—a secret which, if discovered, could turn the tide of war decisively against the Allies.

BERRY, STEVE malone MALTA EXCHANGE (#14) (\$37.99) The latest in the Cotton Malone series involves the Knights of Malta, a papal conclave and lost documents that could change history. A deadly race for the Vatican's oldest secret fuels Malone's latest thriller. The pope is dead. A conclave to select his replacement is about to begin. Cardinals are beginning to arrive at the Vatican, but one has fled Rome for Malta in search of a document that dates back to the 4th century and Constantine the Great.

BLAEDEL, SARA family secret HER FATHERS SECRET (#2) (\$34) After suddenly inheriting a funeral home from her father—who she hadn't heard from in decades—Ilka Jensen has impulsively abandoned her quiet life in Denmark to visit the small town in rural Wisconsin where her father lived. There, she's devastated to discover her father's second family: a stepmother and two half-sisters she never knew existed. And who aren't the least bit welcoming, despite Ilka's efforts to reach out. Then a local woman is killed, seemingly the unfortunate victim of a home invasion turned violent. But when Ilka learns that the woman knew her father, it becomes increasingly clear that she may not have been a completely random victim after all. The more Ilka digs into her father's past, the more deeply entangled she becomes in a family drama that has spanned decades and claimed more than one life—and she may be the next victim...

CUMMING, CHARLES MOROCCAN GIRL aka man between (\$36.50) Renowned author Kit Carradine is approached by an MI6 officer with a seemingly straightforward assignment: to track down a mysterious woman hiding somewhere in the exotic, perilous city of Marrakesh. But when Carradine learns the woman is a dangerous fu-

gitive with ties to international terrorism, the glamour of being a spy is soon tainted by fear and betrayal.

FINCH, CHARLES lenox VANISHING MAN (#2) (\$34.99) The second in the prequels trilogy to the Lenox saga. London, 1853: Having earned some renown by solving a case that baffled Scotland Yard, young Charles Lenox is called upon by the Duke of Dorset, one of England's most revered noblemen, for help. A painting of the Duke's great-grandfather has been stolen from his private study. But the Duke's concern is not for his ancestor's portrait: hiding in plain sight nearby is another painting of infinitely more value, one that holds the key to one of the country's most famous and best-kept secrets. Dorset believes the thieves took the wrong painting and may return when they realize their error

GREANEY, MARK MISSION CRITICAL (#8) (\$36) Court Gentry's flight on a CIA transport plane is interrupted when a security team brings a hooded man aboard. They want to kick Gentry off the flight but are overruled by CIA headquarters. The mystery man is being transported to England where a joint CIA/MI6 team will interrogate him about a mole in Langley. When they land in an isolated airbase in the U.K., they are attacked by a hostile force who kidnaps the prisoner. Only Gentry escapes. His handlers send him after the attackers, but what can one operative do against a trained team of assassins? A lot, when that operative is the Gray Man.

GRIFFITHS, ELLY STRANGER DIARIES (\$35) Clare Cassidy is no stranger to murder. A high school English teacher specializing in the Gothic writer R. M. Holland, she teaches a course on it every year. But when one of Clare's colleagues and closest friends is found dead, with a line from R. M. Holland's most famous story, "The Stranger," left by her body, Clare is horrified to see her life collide with the storylines of her favorite literature. To make matters worse, the police suspect the killer is someone Clare knows. To make matters worse, one day she that someone has written in an old diary of hers: Hallo Clare. You don't know me. Clare becomes more certain than ever: "The Stranger" has come to terrifying life. But can the ending be rewritten in time?

KHAN, AUSMA ZEHNAT DEADLY DIVIDE (#5) (\$36.50) In the aftermath of a mass shooting at a mosque in Quebec, the local police apprehend Amadou Duchon—a young Muslim man at the scene helping the wounded—but release Etienne Roy, the local priest who was found with a weapon in his hands. The shooting looks like a hate crime, but detectives Esa Khattak and Rachel Getty sense there is more to the story. Sent to liaise with a community in the grip of fear, they find themselves in fraught new territory, fueled by the panic and suspicion exploited by a right-wing radio host. As Rachel and Esa grapple to stop tensions shutting the case down entirely, all the time, someone is pointing Esa in another direction, a shadowy presence who anticipates his every move.

LAWSON, MIKE HOUSE ARREST (\$37.50) As the fixer for Congressman John Mahoney in Washington, D.C., Joe DeMarco has had to bend and break the law more than a few times. But when Representative Lyle Canton, House Majority Whip, is found shot dead in his office in the U.S. Capitol and DeMarco is arrested for the murder, DeMarco knows he's been framed. Locked up in the Alexandria Jail awaiting trial, he calls on his enigmatic friend Emma, an ex-DIA agent, to search for the true killer.

MAY, PETER MAN WITH NO FACE (\$32.49) First published in 1981 as Hidden Faces. Two men on their way to Brussels from the UK: Neil Bannerman, an iconoclastic journalist for Scotland's Daily Standard whose irate editor wants him out of the way, and Kale—a professional assassin. Expecting to find only a difficult, dreary political investigation in Belgium, Bannerman has barely settled in when tragedy strikes. His host, a fellow journalist, along with a British Cabinet minister, are discovered dead in the minister's elegant Brussels townhouse. It appears that they have shot each other. But the dead journalist's young autistic daughter, Tania, was hidden in a closet during the killings, and when she draws a chilling picture of a third party—a man with no face—Bannerman suddenly finds himself a reluctant participant in a desperate murder investigation.

O'CONNOR, CARLENE MURDER IN AN IRISH PUB (#4) (\$35) When competing card sharps stir up Siobhán O'Sullivan's quiet Irish village, a poker tournament turns into a game of Hangman . . .

QUINN, KATE HUNTRESS (\$33.50 hardcover, \$22.99 trade paperback) From the author of bestselling novel, and a Marian's Pick, The Alice Network (\$21), comes another fascinating historical novel about a battle-haunted English journalist and a Russian female bomber pilot who join forces to track the Huntress, a Nazi war criminal gone to ground in America. "Excellent", says Marian.

TURSTEN, HELENE nystrom HUNTING GAME (#1) (\$33.95) The first installment in a new series featuring the strong, smart Detective Inspector Embla Nyström. Twenty-eight-year-old Embla Nyström has been plagued by chronic nightmares and racing thoughts ever since she can remember. She has learned to channel most of her anxious energy into her position as Detective Inspector in the mobile unit in Gothenburg, Sweden, and into sports. A talented hunter and prizewinning Nordic welterweight, she is glad to be taking a vacation from her high-stress job to attend the annual moose hunt with her family and friends. But when Embla arrives at her uncle's cabin in rural Dalsland, she sees an unfamiliar face has joined the group: Peter, enigmatic, attractive, newly divorced, and the group's thirteenth member. A bad omen, for sure!

WINSLOW, DON keller BORDER (#3) (\$35.99 hardcover, \$24.99 trade paperback) What do you do when there are no borders? When the lines you thought existed simply vanish? How do you plant your feet to make a stand when you no longer know what side you're on? The war has come home. For over forty years, Art Keller has been on the front lines of America's longest conflict: The War on Drugs. His obsession to defeat the world's most powerful, wealthy, and lethal kingpin—the godfather of the Sinaloa Cartel, Adán Barrera—has left him bloody and scarred, cost him the people he loves, even taken a piece of his soul. Now Keller is elevated to the highest ranks of the DEA, only to find that in destroying one monster he has created thirty more that are wreaking even more chaos and suffering in his beloved Mexico. But not just there. Barrera's final legacy is the heroin epidemic scourging America. Throwing himself into the gap to stem the deadly flow, Keller finds himself surrounded by enemies—men who want to kill him, politicians who want to destroy him, and worse, the unimaginable—an incoming administration that's in bed with the very drug traffickers that Keller is trying to bring down. Art Keller is at war with not only the cartels, but with his own government. And the long fight has taught him more than he ever imagined. Now, he learns the final lesson—there are no borders. Sequel to Power of the Dog (#1) (\$22.95) and Cartel (#2) (\$12.99).

Paperbacks

ACE, CATHY WRONG BOY (\$22.50) Perched on a Welsh clifftop, the ancient, picturesque hamlet of Rhosddraig has its peaceful façade ripped apart when human remains are discovered under a pile of stones. The village pub, The Dragon's Head, run by three generations of women, becomes the focal point for those interested in the grisly find, and it's where layers of deceit are peeled away to expose old secrets, and deep wounds. The police need to establish who died, how, and why, but DI Evan Glover knows he can't be involved in the investigation, because he's just two days away from retirement. However, as the case develops in unexpected ways, it becomes irrevocably woven into his life, and the lives of local families, leading to disturbing revelations – and deadly consequences.

ACE, CATHY wise enquiries CASE OF THE UNSUITABLE SUITOR (\$26.99) When the village's prodigal son, Huw Hughes, returns and sets his cap at Annie Parker, village publican Tudor begs Annie's colleagues at the WISE Enquiries Agency to unearth the truth behind Huw having been widowed three times. With Christine enjoying a break at her family's Irish estate—where she and the brooding Alexander face a surprisingly dangerous case of theft—Mavis and

Carol have to work with dowager duchess Althea Twyst to ensure their unsuspecting friend Annie's safety, and possibly the lives of more villagers.

ALEXANDER, REBECCA sage BABY'S BONES (#1) (\$11.99) Archaeologist Sage Westerfield has been called in to excavate an ancient well, and, expects to find little more than soil and the odd piece of pottery. The disturbing discovery of a woman's skeleton along with that of a baby—which shows signs of violence—makes it clear that she has stumbled onto an historical murder mystery. Heavily pregnant herself by her ex-boyfriend, a married man, Sage feels drawn to investigating the circumstances surrounding the tiny bones. When the wife of the owner of Banstock Manor shows her the account of Vincent Garland, the steward of the estate in the 1580s, Sage learns of a destructive love triangle between an embroideress, an alchemist, and the Lord of the Manor's daughter. Yet there is more to the case than a four-hundred-year-old mystery. There's a modern-day connection, as well.

BAKER, BLYTHE SUBTLE MURDER (\$18.99) When Rose Beekingham sets sail for England in the summer of 1926, she brings more than souvenirs from her years in India. She carries the memory of a family tragedy and a secret so terrible it could destroy the new life she hopes to build in London. But Rose isn't the only passenger aboard the RMS Star of India with something to hide. Halfway across the Arabian Sea, death strikes, and a murderer begins a deadly game only Rose can hope to end. With a mysterious Frenchman haunting her steps, can Rose outrun her past? And can she stay alive long enough to decipher the clues left by a taunting killer? Or will murder call again before the first port?

BAKER, BREE seaside NO GOOD TEA GOES UNPUNISHED (#2) (\$11.50) Catering her childhood friend's beachfront wedding was a dream come true for Everly Swan—and, with hundreds of guests in attendance, great exposure for her new iced tea shop and café. But when the well-to-do groom is found floating face down in the surf, the locals of Charm, North Carolina, turn their suspicions to his new bride. Could she have been so desperate to lay her hands on his fortune that she arranged for his murder before they even set off on their honeymoon? Sequel to Live and Let Chai (#1) (\$10.99).

BALDACCI, DAVID decker FALLEN (#4) (\$12.99) Something sinister is going on in Baronville. The rust belt town has seen four bizarre murders in the space of two weeks. Cryptic clues left at the scenes—obscure bible verses, odd symbols—have the police stumped. Amos Decker and his FBI colleague Alex Jamison are in Baronville visiting Alex's sister and her family. It's a bleak place: a former mill and mining town with a crumbling economy and rampant opioid addiction. Decker has only been there a few hours when he stumbles on a horrific double murder scene. Then the next killing hits sickeningly close to home. And with the lives of people he cares about suddenly hanging in the balance, Decker begins to realize that the recent string of deaths may be only one small piece of a much larger scheme—with consequences that will reach far beyond Baronville.

BELLOTTO, TONY BELLINI AND THE SPHINX (\$23.95) The author, a Brazilian rock musician, says he modeled his PI, Remo Bellini, on Raymond Chandler's Philip Marlowe. Set in Sao Paulo. PI Bellini investigates the disappearance of several women connected to the underworld and the related murder of a famed surgeon.

BLACKWELL, JULIET LETTERS FROM PARIS (\$20) From the author of The Paris Key (\$20). After surviving the accident that took her mother's life, Claire Broussard has worked hard to escape her small Louisiana hometown. But these days she feels something is lacking. Abruptly leaving her lucrative job in Chicago, Claire returns home to care for her ailing grandmother. There, she unearths a beautiful piece of artwork that her great-grandfather sent home from Paris after World War II. At her grandmother's urging, Claire travels to Paris to track down the century-old mask-making atelier where the object, known only as "L'Inconnue"—or The Unknown Woman—was created. Under the watchful eye of a surly mask-maker, Claire discovers a cache of letters that offers insight into the life of the Belle Epoque woman immortalized in the work of art. As Claire explores

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BLANCHARD, ALICE BREATH AFTER DROWNING (\$11.99) Child psychiatrist Kate Wolfe's world comes crashing down when one of her young patients commits suicide, so when a troubled girl is left at the hospital ward, she doubts her ability to help. But the girl knows things about Kate's past, things she shouldn't know, forcing Kate to face the murky evidence surrounding her own sister's murder sixteen years before. A murder for which a man is about to be executed. Unearthing secrets about her own family, and forced to face both her difficult relationship with her distant father and the possibility that her mother might also have met a violent end, the shocking final twist brings Kate face to face with her deepest fear.

BOYLE, GERRY macmorrow DAMAGED GOODS (#9) (\$25) Jack McMorrow, his social worker wife, Roxanne, and their young daughter, Sophie, become the target of satanist Harland Wilton after Roxanne's inquiry into child abuse prompts the removal of Harland's two boys from his custody. At the same time, freelance journalist Jack pursues a story about a mysterious and troubled woman that prompts Roxanne to grow concerned about Jack blurring his professional and personal lives. As dangers converge, it will take a heroic act to save Jack, Roxanne and Sophie. The question is: who will put their life on the line at the moment of truth?

CALLANAN, LIAM PARIS BY THE BOOK (\$22) When eccentric novelist Robert Eady abruptly vanishes, he leaves behind his wife, Leah, their daughters, and, hidden in an unexpected spot, plane tickets to Paris. Hoping to uncover clues—and her husband—Leah sets off for France with her girls. Upon their arrival, she discovers an unfinished manuscript, one Robert had been writing without her knowledge . . . and that he had set in Paris. The Eady girls follow the path of the manuscript to a small, floundering English-language bookstore whose weary proprietor is eager to sell. Leah finds herself accepting the offer on the spot. As the family settles into their new Parisian life, they trace the literary paths of some beloved Parisian classics, including Madeline and The Red Balloon, hoping more clues arise. But a series of startling discoveries forces Leah to consider that she may not be ready for what solving this mystery might do to her family—and the Paris she thought she knew.

CAMPBELL, MELODIE GODDAUGHTER DOES VEGAS (\$15) A Rapid Reads. Gina Gallo is a mob goddaughter who doesn't want to be one. She's left her loopy family behind to elope with Pete to Vegas. Except that eloping may be a mortal sin in an Italian family. Between that and some weird deliveries and suitors, Gina's nerves are frayed. Vegas is full of great acts, but one impersonation is real: Gina has a crime-committing double whose activities are making Gina front-page news. Gina has to track down this fiendish fraud before the police catch up with her. And, of course, cousin Nico is along for the ride.

CHILDS, LAURA tea PLUM TEA CRAZY (#19) (\$10.99) While viewing the harbor'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 al-

most ex-wife, a coworker, a real estate partner—all had motives for killing the luckless banker, but one resorted to murder to settle accounts.

CHURCH PETER CRACKERJACK (\$25.50) Young, bright and sexy, Carla Vitale has been handpicked to run Supertech, Africa's leading independent Engineering firm. Then one Friday afternoon in Cape Town, her dream is shattered. Her boss and mentor, Nial Townley, disappears, his luxury vehicle is found in a crevice at the bottom of Chapman's Peak and \$USD 20m is missing from the Supertech's overseas accounts. Three months later and the police are no closer to solving the riddle. No job, no car, no phone, Carla turns to the one person she believes can help: software hacker turned day-trader, Daniel Le Fleur. But Le Fleur's maintaining a low profile in Bantry Bay and he's in no mood to ruin the serendipity.

CLARK, MARY HIGGINS I'VE GOT MY EYES ON YOU

(\$11.99) After a party when her parents are away, eighteen-year-old Kerry Dowling is found fully dressed at the bottom of the family pool. The immediate suspect is her boyfriend, who had a bitter argument with her at the party. Then there is a twenty-year-old neighbor who was angry because she didn't invite him to the party. Or is there another suspect who has not yet been seen on the radar? Kerry's older sister Aline, a twenty-eight-year-old guidance counselor, is determined to assist the prosecutor's office in learning the truth. She does not realize that now she is putting her own life in danger...

DALBUONO, NADIA scamarco AMERICAN (#2) (\$23.95) As autumn sets in, the queues outside the soup kitchens of Rome are lengthening, and the people are taking to the piazzas, increasingly frustrated by the deepening economic crisis. When Detective Leone Scamarco is called to an apparent suicide on the Ponte Sant'Angelo, a stone's throw from Vatican City, the dead man's expensive suit suggests yet another businessman fallen on hard times. But Scamarco is immediately troubled by similarities with the 1982 murder of Roberto Calvi, dubbed 'God's Banker' because of his work for the Vatican Bank. When, days later, a cardinal with links to the bank is killed, and the CIA send a couple of heavies to warn him off the case, Scamarco knows he's onto something big. As disturbing connections between 9/11, America's dirty wars, Vatican corruption, the Mafia, and Italy's violence against its own people begin to emerge in this tightly plotted mystery full of political intrigue, Scamarco is forced to deal with responsibilities far above his pay grade. Sequel to *Few* (#1) (\$23.95).

DAVIS, LINDSEY flavia PANDORA'S BOY (#6) (\$15.99) On the Quirinal Hill, a young girl named Clodia has died, apparently poisoned with a love potion. Only one person could have supplied such a thing: a local witch who goes by the name of Pandora, whose trade in herbal beauty products is hiding something far more sinister. The supposedly sweet air of the Quirinal is masking the stench of loose morality, casual betrayal and even gangland conflict and, when a friend of her own is murdered, Albia determines to expose as much of this local sickness as she can—beginning with the truth about Clodia's death.

DE MARIAFFI, ELISABETH HYSTERIA (\$18.99) Heike Lerner's life looks perfect from the outside: she's settled into an easy routine of caring for her young son, Daniel, and spends her days wandering the woods near their summer house, while her nights are filled with clinking glasses and charming conversation. It all helps to keep her mind at ease—or at least that's what her husband, Eric, tells her. But lately, Heike's noticed there are some things out of place: a mysterious cabin set back in the trees and a strange little girl who surfaces alone at the pond one day, then disappears—while at home Eric is becoming increasingly more controlling. Something sinister that Heike cannot quite put her finger on is lingering just beneath the surface of this idyllic life. It's possible Heike's worries are all in her head, but when the unthinkable happens—Daniel vanishes while she and Eric are at a party one night—she can no longer deny that something is very wrong. Desperate to find her son, Heike will try anything, but Eric insists on a calm that feels so cold she wonders if she can trust him at all. Could Eric be involved in Daniel's disappearance?

EASTLAND, SAM ELEGANT LIE (\$22.50) The year is 1949. In the bombed-out ruins of Cologne, Hanno Dasch is king. Director of

the most successful blackmarket operation in post-war Germany, Dasch has kept his clients supplied with goods so extravagant and rare that they were almost impossible to find even at the height of Germany's conquests. How does he manage it? None of this has escaped the attention of Allied Intelligence, who, fearing the growing threat of Stalin's KGB and that Dasch will soon expand his business to include dealings with Russia, and invite the further meddling of Russian agents in the west, sets in motion an undercover operation to infiltrate and, ultimately, destroy Dasch's empire. A disgraced American Army officer, Nathan Carter, is recruited.

FLEMING, JOAN nuri bey WHEN I GROW RICH (#1) (\$22.50) Turkish philosopher and scholar Nuri Bey lives for his books and longs to study at Oxford. His dream is unattainable without the help of his rich patron, Madame Miasma, so when she asks Bey to deliver a parcel to a friend of hers, he readily agrees. The simple-sounding favor leads to Bey's unwitting participation in a fateful string of events, from an airport shootout with members of an international drug smuggling ring to his sudden and unexpected involvement with a rootless British teenager. This atmospheric tale of murder and suspense unfolds in Istanbul, which provides a vivid backdrop of minarets, mosques, and the Bosphorus, the dark and winding waterway that bisects the city. Winner of the 1962 Gold Dagger award from the British Crime Writers' Association, it colorfully portrays the differences between British and Turkish sensibilities in the 1960s. The story reflects a society at the crossroads of Europe and Asia that's caught between a proud sultanic past and a compelling modern future.

FORESTER, C S hornblower LORD HORNBLLOWER (#5) and HORNBLLOWER IN THE WEST INDIES (#9) (\$19.99 each) First published in 1946 and 1957, respectively.

GATES, EVA lighthouse SPOOK IN THE STACKS (#4) (\$23.95) Wealthy businessman Jay Ruddle is considering donating his extensive collection of North Carolina historical documents to the Bodie Island Lighthouse Library, but the competition for the collection is fierce. Unfortunately, while the library is hosting a lecture on ghostly legends, Jay becomes one of the dearly departed in the rare books section. Now, it's up to Lucy Richardson and her fellow librarians to bone up on their detective skills and discover who is responsible for this wicked Halloween homicide.

GOLDBERG, PAUL CHATEAU (\$25) The author takes us behind the scenes of a Florida condo board election, delivering a wild spin on Miami Beach, petty crime, Jewish identity, and life in Trump's America. Guaranteed that you will never look at condo boards, crime, kleptocracy, vodka, Fascism, or Florida the same way again.

GRAHAM, CAROLINE barnaby DEATH OF A HOLLOW MAN (#2) (\$15.99) Backstage nerves are fraying, and revenge is on its way. As Causton Amateur Dramatic Society prepares for the opening night of *Amadeus*, offstage Esslyn Carmichael suspects his wife is having an affair with another cast member. And where better to settle scores than the stage? Chief Inspector Tom Barnaby expects an evening of entertainment, attending only to show support for his wife. But when someone turns Esslyn's final grand gesture into a gruesome coup de theatre, Barnaby's investigation suddenly begins. Sequel to *Killings at Badger's Drift* (#1) (\$15.99), the books on which *Midsomer Murders* series is based.

GRANGER, ANN cotswold UNFINISHED MURDER (#6) (\$15.99) Mitchell and Markby come out of retirement to crack a cold case...As young children, Josh Browning and his sister, Dilys, stumbled across a dead body while playing on the outskirts of their Cotswold village. Terrified by what they'd seen, neither of them told a soul. Now, twenty years later, Josh finds the dead woman's charm bracelet among his sister's possessions. Who better to tell than his trusted friend, the man he gardens for, retired Superintendent Alan Markby? As Markby listens to Josh's confession, alarm bells start to ring. The dates and details tie in with a missing person case that was never solved. Joining forces with Superintendent Ian Carter, who also investigated the original case, and Inspector Jess Campbell, from the region where the missing girl was last seen, Markby delves into the unsolved mystery. Together, they are determined to catch a clever killer who almost got away with murder...

GREENAWAY, RM bc blues FLIGHTS AND FALLS (#4)

(\$17.99) A single-vehicle crash on the Sea to Sky Highway is blamed on the notorious stretch of road — but when bad things start happening to the good people who stopped to help the victim, North Vancouver RCMP Constable Dave Leith starts to wonder if something darker is at play.

HAINES, CAROLYN bones CHARMED BONES (#18) (\$10.50)

Zinnia, Mississippi is rife with quirky characters, but the arrival of three sister witches—and their intention to open a Wiccan boarding school—sets the small town on its ear. And bodies begin to accumulate as a result. Faith, Hope, and Charity Harrington are sexy and smart. They're setting up their boarding school in an old dairy—a piece of property with tremendous development potential. And they're standing in the way of “progress,” according to some in the town. Are the sisters witches, criminals... or victims? Do they truly have magical powers, as they claim? Sarah Booth and Tinkie must find the answer before people are harmed.

HALL, MATTHEW cooper LIFE TO KILL (#7) (\$18.99) The last British combat soldiers in the Helmand province of Afghanistan are counting the minutes until their departure home to Highcliffe: a small town in the south of England. For their families, it spells the end of an agonizing six month wait. But in the final hours, disaster strikes. Nineteen-year-old Private Pete 'Skippy' Lyons is taken hostage in the night and the patrol sent out to locate him is ambushed. One killed, two injured. And one still missing in action. Their loved ones are left desperate for answers the Army is reluctant to provide. Their only hope lies with Coroner Jenny Cooper, who must take on the full might of the military to stop the truth being buried along with the boy soldiers. But in a town filled with secrets and rumours, it's not only the Army that has something to hide.

HAMMER, LOTTE & SOREN GIRL IN THE ICE (#2) aka price for every (\$10.49) When a young boy discovers the body of a woman beneath a thick sheet of ice in a South London park, Detective Erika Foster is called in to lead the murder investigation. The victim, a beautiful young socialite, appeared to have the perfect life. Yet when Erika begins to dig deeper, she starts to connect the dots between the murder and the killings of three prostitutes, all found strangled, hands bound and dumped in water around London. What dark secrets is the girl in the ice hiding? As Erika inches closer to uncovering the truth, the killer is closing in on Erika.

HANNAH, SOPHIE NEXT TO DIE (\$23.99) A psychopath the police have dubbed “Billy Dead Mates” is targeting pairs of best friends, and killing them one by one. Before they die, each victim is given a small white book. For months, detectives have failed to catch Billy, or figure out what the white books symbolize and why the killer leaves them behind. The police are on edge; the public in a panic. Then a woman, scared by what she's seen on the news, comes forward. What she reveals shocks the investigators and adds another troubling layer to an already complex case.

HARPER, JANE LOST MAN (\$24.99) Brothers Nathan and Bub Bright meet for the first time in months at the remote fence line separating their cattle ranches in the lonely outback. Their third brother, Cameron, lies dead at their feet. In an isolated belt of Australia, their homes a three-hour drive apart, the brothers were one another's nearest neighbors. Cameron was the middle child, the one who ran the family homestead. But something made him head out alone under the unrelenting sun. Nathan, Bub and Nathan's son return to Cameron's ranch and to those left behind by his passing: his wife, his daughters, and his mother, as well as their long-time employee and two recently hired seasonal workers.

HARRIS, C S st. cyr WHY KILL THE INNOCENT (#13) (\$22) London, 1814. As a cruel winter holds the city in its icy grip, the bloody body of a beautiful young musician is found half-buried in a snowdrift. Jane Ambrose's ties to Princess Charlotte, the only child of the Prince Regent and heir presumptive to the throne, panic the palace, which moves quickly to shut down any investigation into the death of the talented pianist. But Sebastian St. Cyr, Viscount Devlin, and his wife Hero refuse to allow Jane's murderer to escape justice.

HART, JOHN HUSH (\$22.50) It's been ten years since the events that changed Johnny Merrimon's life and rocked his hometown to the core. 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.

HEABERLIN, JULIA BLACK-EYED SUSANS (\$22) As a sixteen-year-old, Tessa Cartwright was found in a Texas field, barely alive amid a scattering of bones, with only fragments of memory as to how she got there. Ever since, the press has pursued her as the lone surviving “Black-Eyed Susan,” the nickname given to the murder victims because of the yellow carpet of wildflowers that flourished above their shared grave. Tessa's testimony about those tragic hours put a man on death row. Now, almost two decades later, Tessa is an artist and single mother. In the desolate cold of February, she is shocked to discover a freshly planted patch of black-eyed susans—a summertime bloom—just outside her bedroom window. Terrified at the implications—that she sent the wrong man to prison and the real killer remains at large—Tessa turns to the lawyers working to exonerate the man awaiting execution. But the flowers alone are not proof enough, and she is asked to undergo hypnosis to retrieve lost memories...

HENAFF, SOPHIE AWKWARD SQUAD (\$19.49) Was the old lady murdered seven years ago really just the victim of a botched robbery? Who was behind the dead sailor discovered in the Seine with three gunshot wounds? And why does there seem to be a curious link with a ferry that was shipwrecked off the Florida coast many years previously? Suspended from her job as a promising police officer for firing “one bullet too many,” Anne Capestan is expecting the worst when she is summoned to HQ to learn her fate. Instead, she is told that she will head up a new police squad, working on solving long-abandoned cold cases. Though relieved to still have a job, Capestan is not overjoyed by the prospect of her new role—and even less so when she meets her new team: a crowd of misfits, troublemakers, and problem cases, none of whom are fit for purpose and yet none of whom can be fired.

HEYER, GEORGETTE hannasyde THEY FOUND HIM DEAD (#3) (\$21.50) First published 1937.

HILL, SUZETTE rosie SHOT IN SOUTHWOLD (#4) (\$18.99) 1960. Lady Fawcett is eager to vet her daughter Amy's current beau, aspiring film director Bartholomew Hackle who is shooting his first major project in Southwold. While Amy is unable to accompany her mother, Rosy Gilchrist is strong-armed into another visit. On the set of The Suffolk Seagull nobody really knows what is going on—least of all Felix Smythe whose bit part is constantly changing thanks to Hackle, much to Felix's chagrin. But the unambiguous death by gunshot of a female cast member brings a drama to proceedings lacking in the film itself, and Lady Fawcett, Rosy, Felix and even Cedric Dillworthy are once again at the centre of a murder mystery in which further victims may face the cut.

HORST, JORN LIER wisting HUNTING DOGS (#3) (\$28.95) Winner of The Glass Key (top Nordic novel 2013) and winner of The Golden Revolver (top Norwegian crime novel 2012). Seventeen years ago, William Wisting led the investigation into one of Norway's most widely publicized criminal cases, when the young Cecilia Linde was killed. Now it is discovered that evidence was planted, and the wrong man convicted. Wisting is suspended and the media smell blood. William Wisting has spent his life hunting criminals, but now it is he who is hunted. To discover what really happened he must work alone and under cover, assisted only by his journalist daughter Line. Then another young woman disappears.

HOWE, K J thea paris SKYJACK (#2) (\$17.99) International kidnap expert Thea Paris is escorting two former child soldiers on a plane from an orphanage in Kanzi, Africa, to adoptive parents in London when the Boeing Business Jet is hijacked and forced to make an emergency landing in the remote Libyan desert. When the dust settles on a tense negotiation, Thea finds herself at the beck and call of a

ruthless criminal who will stop at nothing to crush his rivals, even if it means forcing her to break international law. Revealing a deadly conspiracy that connects the dark postwar legacy of World War II to the present, this case will bring all parties to an explosive conclusion that will decide the fate of millions across Europe and the Middle East. Sequel to Freedom Broker (#1) (\$20.49).

HUNTER, CARA fawley IN THE DARK (#2) (\$22) A woman and child are found locked in a basement, barely alive, and unidentifiable: the woman can't speak, there are no missing persons reports that match their profile, and the confused, elderly man who owns the house claims he has never seen them before. The inhabitants of the quiet street are in shock—how could this happen right under their noses? But Detective Inspector Adam Fawley knows nothing is impossible. And no one is as innocent as they seem. As the police grow desperate for a lead, Fawley stumbles across a breakthrough, a link to a case he worked years before about another young woman and child gone missing, never solved. When he realizes the missing woman's house is directly adjacent to the house in this case, he thinks he might have found the connection that could bring justice for both women. But there's something not quite right about the little boy from the basement, and the truth will send shockwaves through the force that Fawley never could have anticipated.

IVAR, KATJA EVIL THINGS (\$22.50) (#1) Lapland, 1952. Hella Mauzer was the first ever woman Inspector in the Helsinki Homicide Unit. But her superiors deemed her too 'emotional' for the job and had her reassigned. Now, two years later, she is working in Lapland for the Ivalo police department. When a man disappears from a remote village on the Soviet border, Hella jumps at the chance to investigate. Her boss is skeptical; after all, people disappear in the snows of Finland all the time. Then a body is found. But the small village is harbouring a second crime. A crime whose evil is of another magnitude...

JAMES, RUSSELL PLAYING CARD KILLER (\$18.95) Brian Sheridan may be losing his mind. Asleep, he's plagued by dreams of murder, women strangled with a red velvet rope then left with a playing card tucked in the corpse. While awake, he's hallucinating that he's being stalked by a man painted like a skeleton. It's getting hard to know what's real. He hopes all this is driven by his cold turkey withdrawal from a lifetime of anti-anxiety medications. But when one of his nightmare's victims shows up on the news, dead, Brian fears he himself may be the unwitting killer...

JELINEK, ELFRIEDE GREED (\$17.95) From the Nobel Prize-winning author...the story of Kurt Janisch, an ambitious but frustrated country policeman, and the lonely woman he seduces. Set amid the mountains and small towns of southern Austria, the investigation of a dead girl's body in a lake leads to the discovery of more than a single crime. In her "signature" style, the author chronicles the exploitative nature of relations between men and women, and the cruelties of everyday life.

JOHN, D B STAR OF THE NORTH (\$22) 1998, when a Korean American teenager is kidnapped from a South Korean beach by North Korean operatives. Twelve years later, her brilliant twin sister, Jenna, is still searching for her, and ends up on the radar of the CIA. When evidence that her sister may still be alive in North Korea comes to light, Jenna will do anything possible to rescue her—including undertaking a daring mission into the heart of the regime. Her story is masterfully braided together with two other narrative threads. In one, a North Korean peasant woman finds a forbidden international aid balloon and uses the valuables inside to launch a dangerously lucrative black-market business. In the other, a high-ranking North Korean official discovers, to his horror, that he may be descended from a traitor, a fact that could mean his death if it is revealed. As the novel progresses, these narrative strands converge and connect in surprising ways, ultimately building to an explosive and unforgettable climax.

JONASSON, RAGNAR ari thor RUPTURE (#4) (\$22.50) Young policeman Ari Thór tries to solve a 50-year-old murder when new evidence surfaces. But the case proves difficult in a town where no one wants to know the truth, where secrets are a way of life. He's assisted by Ísrún, a news reporter in Reykjavik who is investigating an in-

creasingly chilling case of her own. Things take a sinister turn when a child goes missing in broad daylight. With a stalker on the loose, and the town in quarantine, the past might just come back to haunt them.

KASHIAN, TINA kebab kitch ONE FETA IN THE GRAVE (#3) (\$10.99) With a sand castle contest and live music, Ocean Crest bids a bittersweet farewell to tourist season. Summer will return next year ... but Archie Kincaid won't. The full-of-himself store owner has been fatally shot, soon after a screaming match with Lucy's best friend. Katie's far from the only suspect, though, since Archie had some bitter rivals—as well as some relationships no one knew about. It's up to Lucy to look into some seedy characters and solve the case before the wrong person gets skewered ...

KELLERMAN&KELLERMAN clay MEASURE OF DARKNESS (#2) (\$12.99) Former star basketball player Clay Edison is busy. He's solved a decades-old crime and redeemed an innocent man, earning himself a suspension in the process. Things are getting serious with his girlfriend. Plus, his brother's fresh out of prison, bringing with him a whole new set of complications. Then the phone rings in the dead of night. A wild party in a gentrifying East Bay neighborhood. A heated argument that spills into the street. Gunshots. Chaos. For Clay and his fellow coroners, it's the start of a long night and the first of many to come. The victims keep piling up. What begins as a community tragedy soon becomes lurid fodder for social media. Then the smoke clears and the real mystery emerges—one victim's death doesn't match the others. Brutalized and abandoned, stripped of ID, and left to die: She is Jane Doe, a human question mark. And it falls to Clay to give her a name and a voice.

KENT, SERENA penelope DEATH IN PROVENCE (#1) (\$23.99) It's love at first sight when Penelope Kite sees Le Chant d'Eau—the Song of Water—the stone farmhouse tucked high in the hills above the Luberon valley, complete with a garden, swimming pool, and sweeping mountain vistas. For years, Penelope put her unfaithful ex-husband and her ungrateful stepchildren first. Now, she's going to start living for herself. Though her dream house needs major renovations, Penelope impulsively buys the property and moves to St. Merlot. But Penelope's daydreams of an adventurous life in Provence don't include finding a corpse floating face down in her swimming pool. The discovery of the dead man plunges her headlong into a Provençal stew of intrigue and lingering resentments simmering beneath the deceptively sunny village. Having worked in the forensics office, Penelope knows a thing or two about murder investigations...

LOTEMPIO, T C cat rescue DEATH BY A WHISKER (#1) (\$23.95) Getting used to life back home in Deer Park, North Carolina, Sydney McCall and her right-hand tabby, Toby, are helping her sister Kat run the local animal shelter. Syd and Kat are all excited about the prospect of the shelter's newest fundraiser: shopping channel queen Ulla Townsend. Shelter admin Maggie Shayne vehemently refuses to have anything to do with the woman, but the fundraiser ensues as planned. That is, until Ulla turns up dead in the middle of the event. The cause of death is determined to be an allergic reaction, but Syd and Toby are sniffing out something fishy.

MACALLISTER, GREER WOMAN 99 (\$24.99) When Charlotte Smith's wealthy parents commit her beloved sister Phoebe to the infamous Goldengrove Asylum, Charlotte knows there's more to the story than madness. She risks everything and follows her sister inside, surrendering her real identity as a privileged young lady of San Francisco society to become a nameless inmate, Woman 99. The longer she stays, the more she realizes that many of the women of Goldengrove aren't insane, merely inconvenient—and that her search for the truth threatens to dig up secrets that some very powerful people would do anything to keep. A historical thriller rich in detail, deception, and revelation, Woman 99 honours the fierce women of the past, born into a world that denied them power but underestimate their strength.

MATTHEWS, OLIVIA sister lou ALIBIS & ANGELS (#3) (\$10.99) With the Lenten season fast approaching, Sister Louise "Lou" LaSalle looks forward to a final day of indulgence before giving up her favorite sweets. But one Briar Coast resident won't get the chance to repent. Opal Lorrie, the mayor's director of finance, was

just found in the parking lot of the Board of Ed—with a broken neck. The sheriff's deputies are calling the apparent slip-and-fall a freak accident. But Opal was driving her boss's car and wearing her boss's red wool coat and the mayor has been receiving threatening letters...

MICHAELIDES, ALEX SILENT PATIENT (\$24.99) Alicia Berenson's life is seemingly perfect. A famous painter married to an in-demand fashion photographer, she lives in a grand house with big windows overlooking a park in one of London's most desirable areas. One evening her husband Gabriel returns home late from a fashion shoot, and Alicia shoots him five times in the face, and then never speaks another word. Alicia's refusal to talk, or give any kind of explanation, turns a domestic tragedy into something far grander, a mystery that captures the public imagination and casts Alicia into notoriety. The price of her art skyrockets, and she, the silent patient, is hidden away from the tabloids and spotlight at the Grove, a secure forensic unit in North London. Theo Faber is a criminal psychotherapist who has waited a long time for the opportunity to work with Alicia. His determination to get her to talk and unravel the mystery of why she shot her husband takes him down a twisting path into his own motivations—a search for the truth that threatens to consume him....

MONTEFIORE, SIMON SEBAG SASHENKA (#1) (\$25) Winter 1916: St. Petersburg, Russia, is on the brink of revolution. Outside the Smolny Institute for Noble Girls, an English governess is waiting for her young charge to be released from school. But so are the Tsar's secret police...Beautiful and headstrong, Sashenka Zeitlin is just sixteen. As her mother parties with Rasputin and their dissolute friends, Sashenka slips into the frozen night to play her part in a dangerous game of conspiracy and seduction. Twenty years on, Sashenka is married to a powerful, rising Red leader with whom she has two children. Around her people are disappearing, while in the secret world of the elite her own family is safe. But she's about to embark on a forbidden love affair that will have devastating consequences. Sashenka's story lies hidden for half a century, until a young historian goes deep into Stalin's private archives and uncovers a heartbreaking tale of betrayal and redemption, savage cruelty and unexpected heroism—and one woman forced to make an unbearable choice.

MONTEFIORE, SIMON SEBAG ONE NIGHT IN WINTER (#2) (\$25) As Moscow celebrates the motherland's glorious victory over the Nazis, shots ring out on the crowded streets. On a nearby bridge, a teenage boy and girl—dressed in traditional nineteenth-century costumes—lie dead. But this is no ordinary tragedy, because these are no ordinary teenagers. As the son and daughter of high-ranking Soviet officials, they attend the most elite school in Moscow. Was it an accident, or murder? Is it a conspiracy against Stalin, or one of his own terrifying intrigues? On Stalin's instructions, a ruthless investigation begins into what becomes known as the Children's Case. Youth across the city are arrested and forced to testify against their friends and their parents. As families are ripped apart, all kinds of secrets come spilling out. Trapped at the center of this witch-hunt are two pairs of illicit lovers, who learn that matters of the heart exact a terrible price. Inspired by a true story.

MOSLEY, WALTER DOWN THE RIVER UNTO THE SEA (\$20.99) 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 neighborhoods. 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.

NADEL, BARBARA IKMEN INCORRUPTIBLE (#20) (\$15.99) In the backstreets of Istanbul, a young woman's body is found. Dumped in a dustbin and covered in cut flowers, she is the victim of a frenzied and vicious stabbing. Inspector Ikmen discovers that the woman was well known in Istanbul. Newspapers had been calling her the blessed woman; cured of cancer in a Christian miracle and a proclaimed messenger of the Virgin Mary. These controversial claims had made her fierce enemies in the predominantly Islamic community and she had unwittingly stirred up divisions amongst the Christians of the city. But as Ikmen digs further into the case he uncovers powerful hatred and dark secrets lurking within her family. And to find the truth he must delve into a toxic world of fear, concealment and lies. The question is: was this a killing in the name of faith or does the answer lie somewhere else?

NATT OCH DAG, NIKLAS WOLF AND THE WATCHMAN (\$23) Named Best Debut Novel of 2017 by the Swedish Academy of Crime Writers. It is 1793. Four years after the storming of the Bastille in France and more than a year after the death of King Gustav III of Sweden, paranoia and whispered conspiracies are Stockholm's daily bread. A promise of violence crackles in the air as ordinary citizens feel increasingly vulnerable to the whims of those in power. When Mickel Cardell, a crippled ex-soldier and former night watchman, finds a mutilated body floating in the city's malodorous lake, he feels compelled to give the unidentifiable man a proper burial. For Cecil Winge, a brilliant lawyer turned consulting detective to the Stockholm police, a body with no arms, legs, or eyes is a formidable puzzle and one last chance to set things right before he loses his battle to consumption. Together, Winge and Cardell scour Stockholm to discover the body's identity, encountering the sordid underbelly of the city's elite.

NEBENZAL, HAROLD CAFE BERLIN (\$25.50) In the years between Germany's defeat in World War I and the reign of the Nazis, the underground clubs and cabarets of Berlin pulsed with the frenetic energy of rebellion. Suspended on the precipice of global catastrophe, a young counterculture emerged in the Weimar capital, where—if only for a moment—races and religions mixed, jazz music resounded, and liquor flowed in abundance. This is the backdrop to this tale of love and the universal human yearning to be free, even under the yoke of totalitarianism. First published in 1991

PARIS, B A BEHIND CLOSED DOORS (\$12.99) Everyone knows a couple like Jack and Grace. He has looks and wealth; she has charm and elegance. He's a dedicated attorney who has never lost a case; she is a flawless homemaker, a masterful gardener and cook, and dotes on her disabled younger sister. Though they are still newlyweds, they seem to have it all. You might not want to like them, but you do. You're hopelessly charmed by the ease and comfort of their home, by the graciousness of the dinner parties they throw. You'd like to get to know Grace better. But it's difficult, because you realize Jack and Grace are inseparable. Some might call this true love. Others might wonder why Grace never answers the phone. Or why she can never meet for coffee, even though she doesn't work. How she can cook such elaborate meals but remain so slim. Or why she never seems to take anything with her when she leaves the house, not even a pen. Or why there are such high-security metal shutters on all the downstairs windows. Some might wonder what's really going on once the dinner party is over, and the front door has closed.

PERRY, CAROL J SALEM FINAL EXAM (#8) (\$10.99) Life at the house on Winter Street is abuzz with preparations for Aunt Ibbey's 45th high school reunion, and Lee Barrett is happy to pitch in, tracking down addresses and licking envelopes. But as a field reporter for Salem's WICH-TV, her priority is to be on top of the town's latest news before anyone else. When the local police dredge up a vintage sports car containing human remains, Lee is thrilled to be the first reporter on the scene. Once she learns the car is connected to the cold case her boyfriend Pete happens to be working on, her powers of investigation are quickly alerted. But it's her Aunt Ibbey's emotional reaction to Lee's TV report that puts her on the case. With the help of

O’Ryan, her psychic feline sidekick, she’ll have to unravel a tangled past of secrets and promises to stop a killer from making history again . . .

PRESTON & CHILD PHARAOH KEY (#5) (\$11.99) Effective Engineering Solutions has been inexplicably shut down and, fresh off a diagnosis that gives him only months to live, Gideon Crew is contacted by one of his coworkers at EES, Manuel Garza, who tells him the two have mere hours to collect their belongings before the office closes forever. After years of dedicated service and several high-risk missions, theirs seems like the most ignoble of terminations—until Gideon and Garza happen upon an incredible discovery: after centuries of silence, a code-breaking machine at EES has cracked the long-awaited translation of a centuries-old stone tablet, the Phaistos Disc, that dates back to an otherwise completely unknown, ancient civilization. The mysteries of the message itself hint at incredible treasures, and perhaps even a world-altering secret. No one remains at EES to take on this most remarkable mission but Gideon and Garza. The two agree to solve the mystery of the disc's message and split the spoils: the perfect parting gift their employer doesn't know he has given. What lies at the end of the trail may save Gideon's life-or bring it to a sudden, shocking close. As Gideon and Garza soon discover, some missions are more dangerous than others. But as Gideon has proved again and again, there's no such thing as too great a risk when you're living on borrowed time.

PYPER, ANDREW HEMCOMING (\$24.99) After the death of their absentee father, Aaron and Bridge Quinlan travel to a vast rain-forest property in the Pacific Northwest to hear the reading of his will. There, they meet up with their mother and troubled sister, Franny, and are shocked to discover the will's terms: in order to claim their inheritance, they must all remain at the estate for thirty days without any contact with the outside world. Despite their concerns, they agree. The Quinlans soon come to learn their family has more secrets than they ever imagined—revelations that at first inspire curiosity, then fear. Why does Bridge have faint memories of the estate? Why did their father want them to be sequestered there together? And what is out there they feel pulling them into the dark heart of the woods?

QUINN, KATE HUNTRESS (\$22.99 trade paperback, \$33.50 hardcover) See hardcover section for an annotation.

RANDALL, SHARI DRAWN AND BUTTERED (#3) (\$10.50) The third book in a series set at the Lazy Mermaid Lobster Shack in coastal New England. Business has slowed to a snail's pace—until a monster lobster claws his way onto the scene. . .

ROSTLUND, BRITTA WAITING FOR MONSIEUR BELLIVIER (\$15.99) Fans of Alexander McCall Smith, as well as readers who enjoy quirky characters and richly drawn settings, should find plenty to appreciate in this novel about secret lives and second chances—*Publishers Weekly*.

SACCOMANNO, GUILLERMO 77 (\$22.50) Buenos Aires, 1977. In the darkest days of the Videla dictatorship, Gomez, a gay high-school literature teacher, tries to keep a low profile as one-by-one, his friends and students begin to disappear. When Esteban, one of Gomez's favorite students, is taken away in a classroom raid, Gomez realizes that no one is safe anymore, and that asking too many questions can have lethal consequences. His life gradually becomes a paranoid, insomniac nightmare that not even his nightly forays into bars and bathhouses in search of anonymous sex can relieve. Things get even more complicated when he takes in two dissidents, putting his life at risk—especially since he's been having an affair with a homophobic, sadistic cop with ties to the military government. Told mostly in flashbacks thirty years later, 77 is rich in descriptive detail, dream sequences, and even elements of the occult, which build into a haunting novel about absence and the clash between morality and survival when living under a dictatorship.

SAGER, RILEY FINAL GIRLS (\$12.99) The only survivor of a massacre is anointed a “Final Girls” by the media, and there are three of them. They try to rebuild their lives but it's a long, arduous process. When, Lisa, one of the three is found dead in the bathtub, Quincy, our Final Girl, is approached by Sam, the third one. Blowing

through Quincy's life like a whirlwind, Sam seems intent on making Quincy relive the past, with increasingly dire consequences, all of which makes Quincy question why Sam is really seeking her out. And when new details about Lisa's death come to light, Quincy's life becomes a race against time as she tries to unravel Sam's truths from her lies, evade the police and hungry reporters, and, most crucially, remember what really happened when her friends were massacred at Pine Cottage, before what was started ten years ago is finished. Winner of the 2018 International Thriller Writers Award for best hardcover novel.

SCOTTOLINE, LISA AFTER ANNA (\$23.50) Things are working out well for Dr. Noah Alderman, a widower, and his young son. Newly re-married, to Maggie, he and his son are happy. Until, that is, Maggie's daughter, Anna, re-enters their lives. Anna turns out to be a gorgeous seventeen-year-old who balks at living under their rules, though Maggie, ecstatic to have her daughter back, ignores the red flags that hint at the trouble brewing in a once-perfect marriage and home. Events take a heartbreaking turn when Anna is murdered and Noah is accused and tried for the heinous crime. Maggie must face not only the devastation of losing her daughter, but the realization that Anna's murder may have been at the hands of a husband she loves. In the wake of this tragedy, new information drives Maggie to search for the truth, leading her to discover something darker than she could have ever imagined.

SHARPE, TESS BARBED WIRE HEART (\$16.99) 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, 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. And they're coming for Duke's only weak spot: his daughter. 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 both 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.

SILVA, DANIEL allon OTHER WOMAN (#18) (\$21) In an isolated village in the mountains of Andalusia, a mysterious Frenchwoman begins work on a dangerous memoir. It is the story of a man she once loved in the Beirut of old, and a child taken from her in treason's name. The woman is the keeper of the Kremlin's most closely guarded secret. Long ago, the KGB inserted a mole into the heart of the West—a mole who stands on the doorstep of ultimate power. Only one man can unravel the conspiracy: Gabriel Allon, the legendary art restorer and assassin who serves as the chief of Israel's vaunted secret intelligence service. Gabriel has battled the dark forces of the new Russia before, at great personal cost. Now he and the Russians will engage in a final epic showdown, with the fate of the postwar global order hanging in the balance.

STARR, MEL PRINCE EDWARD'S WARRANT (#11) (\$20) Master Hugh won the Black Prince's favour when he helped to ease the Prince's illness. Now, in the autumn of 1372, the prince is suffering a relapse and sends to Bampton for Master Hugh to attend him. While at dinner in Kennington Palace, Sir Giles, the knight who escorted Hugh to London, is stricken and dies. Poison! Sir Giles is not popular, and there are many who would gladly see the fellow done away with... except for Prince Edward. The Black Prince feels a debt to the slain man because of his heroic behaviour at the Battle of Crecy, where the knight stood firm with the prince when the fight seemed of uncertain outcome. Despite caring little for Sir Giles, Master Hugh must once again place himself in jeopardy and seek to uncover the perpetrator of the crime...

TOPE, REBECCA cotswolds COTSWOLD ORDEAL (#2) (\$18.99) Thea Osborne and her spaniel Hepzibah embark on their second house-sitting commission with few worries. Despite her first disastrous venture, in which she became drawn into a murder case (Cotswold Killing (#1) (\$18.99)), Thea is convinced that lightning will not strike twice, and arrives at idyllic Frampton Mansell with re-

newed enthusiasm. However, it seems she is jinxed: within days of her arrival she finds a body hanging from the rafters of one of the barns. But was it suicide...or murder? First published 2005.

WEISS, KIRSTEN pie town PIE HARD (#3) (\$10.99) Business at the bakery may have slowed down, but Val Harris isn't about to eat humble pie—not until a reality cooking show decides to whip the struggling Pie Town into shape. If Val can tolerate criticism from an abrasive pastry chef during filming, the free publicity might turn the unusual opportunity into the sweetest deal she didn't know she needed. Except no one in San Nicholas has an appetite for dessert once murder steals the spotlight. When the show's bossy producer gets pushed to her death, Val and her flaky, septuagenarian pie crust expert, Charlene, follow crumbs in hopes of finding the killer.

WHITE, RANDY WAYNE ford CARIBBEAN RIM (#25) (\$12.99) Marine biologist Doc Ford has been known to help his friends out of jams occasionally, but he's never faced a situation like this. His old pal Carl Fitzpatrick has been chasing sunken wrecks most of his life, but now he's run afoul of the Florida Division of Historical Resources. Its director, Leonard Nickelby, despises amateur archaeologists, which is bad enough, but now he and his young "assistant" have disappeared—along with Fitzpatrick's impounded cache of rare Spanish coins and the list of uncharted wreck sites Fitz spent decades putting together. Some of Fitz's own explorations have been a little...dicey, so he can't go to the authorities. Doc is his only hope. But greed makes people do terrible things: rob, cheat, even kill. With stakes this high, there's no way the thieves will go quietly—and Doc's just put himself in their crosshairs.

WIEBE, SAM VANCOUVER NOIR (\$23.95) A collection of stories set in or inspired by Vancouver. Contributors include **Nathan Ripley**, **Sheena Kamal**, and the collection's editor, **Sam Wiebe**.

WILSON, GLENIS radcliffe DEAD CERTAINTY (#1) (\$26.95) Recuperating after a serious accident, not knowing if he'll ever ride again, champion jump jockey and racing columnist Harry Radcliffe accepts a commission to ghost-write the autobiography of retiring racehorse trainer Elspeth Maudsley. But as he begins to research her family history, it becomes increasingly clear to Harry that there are things Elspeth isn't telling him about her past. What's more, a series of threatening incidents, escalating in menace and intensity, begins to convince Harry that someone is determined to stop him writing this book—whatever it takes. And Harry is about to uncover secrets in his own family's past too. Secrets that will shake him to his core and ensure that he can never feel certain about anything again.

WINSLOW, DON keller BORDER (#3) (\$24.99 trade paperback, \$35.99 hardcover) See hardcover section for an annotation.

WINSPEAR, JACQUELINE dobbs TO DIE BUT ONCE (#14) (\$21) During the months following Britain's declaration of war on Germany, Maisie Dobbs investigates the disappearance of a young apprentice working on a hush-hush government contract. As news of the plight of thousands of soldiers stranded on the beaches of France is gradually revealed to the general public, and the threat of invasion rises, another young man beloved by Maisie makes a terrible decision that will change his life forever. Maisie's investigation leads her from the countryside of rural Hampshire to the web of wartime opportunism exploited by one of the London underworld's most powerful men, in a case that serves as a reminder of the inextricable link be-

tween money and war. Yet when a final confrontation approaches, she must acknowledge the potential cost to her future—and the risk of destroying a dream she wants very much to become reality.

WOODS, STUART barrington TURBULENCE (#46) (\$12.99) Stone Barrington and several friends are vacationing in Florida when an extreme weather event puts a damper on their trip. Even worse, the hurricane-force winds blow a powerful, noxious politician straight onto Stone's doorstep. Though they part ways before long, Stone soon learns that he hasn't seen the last of his new acquaintance. It turns out that this official has some shady associates who may have destructive plans afoot, and Stone needs an entrée to the inside to figure out their scheme. With the fate of nations at stake, Stone must summon all of his fearless daring to put an end to the audacious plot...but this time he might be in over his head.

YOKOYAMA, HIDEO SEVENTEEN (\$17.99) 1985. Kazumasa Yuuki, a seasoned reporter at the North Kanto Times, runs a daily gauntlet against the power struggles and office politics that plague its newsroom. But when an air disaster of unprecedented scale occurs on the paper's doorstep, its staff are united by an unimaginable horror, and a once-in-a-lifetime scoop. Seventeen years later, Yuuki remembers the adrenaline-fueled, emotionally charged seven days that changed his and his colleagues' lives. He does so while making good on a promise he made that fateful week—one that holds the key to its last unsolved mystery, and represents Yuuki's final, unconquered fear.

YOUNG, HESTER cates GATES OF EVANGELINE (#1) (\$22) When New York journalist and recently bereaved mother Charlotte "Charlie" Cates begins to experience vivid dreams about children in danger, she's sure that she's lost her mind. Yet these are not the nightmares of a grieving parent. They are warnings that will help Charlie and the children she sees, if only she can make sense of them. After a little boy in a boat appears in Charlie's dreams, asking for her help, she finds herself entangled in a world-famous thirty-year-old missing-child case that has never ceased to haunt Louisiana's prestigious Deveau family. Armed with an invitation to Evangeline, the family's sprawling estate, Charlie heads south, where new friendships and an unlikely romance with the estate's landscape architect—the warm and handsome Noah Palmer—bring much-needed healing. But as she uncovers long-buried secrets of love, money, betrayal, and murder, the facts begin to implicate those she most wants to trust—and her visions reveal an evil closer than she could have imagined.

YOUNG, HESTER cates SHIMMERING ROAD (#2) (\$22) As she nervously awaits the birth of her daughter, journalist Charlie Cates has better things to do than pine for the woman who abandoned her decades earlier. Yet when her estranged mother turns up dead in Arizona with a sister Charlie never knew she had, Charlie must confront her own painful family history...and face the child left behind. A child who speaks to Charlie in her dreams. A child who was present on the night of the murders. A child with no one else to turn to. Led by her mysterious gift—a supernatural ability to connect to both the future and the past through dreams and visions—Charlie travels to Tucson and soon unearths new clues about the unsolved double homicide. The search for answers will take her on a hair-raising journey across the Mexican border, from the resort town of Rocky Point to the impoverished border town of Nogales. But time is running out.