



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

May 2022

This issue is a few days later getting e-mailed. Spring is in the air, the golf courses are open and...well, I was looking for some motivation to work on the newsletter, but, like that pair of new golf shoes I was going to give to a friend, nowhere to be seen. This is starting to look like a permanent condition, I'm afraid. (The electronic version of the May newsletter has been up on the website for about a week now and you should really check it out.)

Have you heard about the MAPLE LEAF MYSTERY CONFERENCE coming up later this month? Canada's first Virtual Mystery Conference? The Conference takes place over five days, May 24th - 28th, and y'all are invited. I'll let **Mike Martin**, author of the Sgt. Windflower Mysteries, tell you all about it. Here's the link to the page on his website which will tell you the details and how to register: <https://sgtwindflowermysteries.com/2022/03/12/maple-leaf-mystery-conference/>

Talking about Maple Leafs...when I was a hockey fan it was always the Habs. But it is nice to see the city going nuts about the success of the latest version of the Buds. After last night's thrilling fifth game, I'm on the bandwagon along with the rest of the city! GO LEAFS GO!

VANESSA WESTERMANN's new novel, Cover Art (\$24.99), will be launched virtually on June 4th, 2022 from 1 pm - 2 pm,. See *Marian's Picks* below for details.

SANDRA S.G. WONG's new psychological thriller In the Dark we Forget (\$24.99) will be launched virtually on June 21, 2022. Details to follow.

JD's Picks

WILL CARVER's PSYCHOPATHS ANONYMOUS (\$21.95) is going to be one of the raunchiest mysteries you'll likely read this month. Maeve has everything. A high-powered job, a beautiful home, a string of uncomplicated one-night encounters. She's also an addict: A functioning alcoholic with a dependence on sex and an insatiable appetite for killing men. When she can't find a support group to share her obsession, she creates her own. And Psychopaths Anonymous is born. Friends of Maeve. Now in a se-

The Merchant of Menace,

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rious relationship, Maeve wants to keep the group a secret. But not everyone in the group adheres to the rules, and when a reckless member raises suspicions with the police, Maeve's drinking spirals out of control. She needs to stop killing. She needs to close the group. But Maeve can't seem to quit the things that are bad for her, including her new man...

A scathing, violent and darkly funny book about love, connection, obsessions and sex—and the aspects of human nature we'd prefer to hide—this was a not a novel that I wanted to put down, but it's not going to be everyone's cup of tea. As she mocks the successive steps of the AA plan—those bits were actually funny, well, as funny as a bright, thinking, sexy serial killer can be—it's when she starts her PA group, the meat of the story, I suppose, that the going got a little bogged down. That's where I was longing for fewer pages and was looking for my next read, but despite all of that, I still could not put the book down.

ELLY GRIFFITHS' second DS Harbinder Kaur novel, POSTSCRIPT MURDERS (#2) (\$21), was a perfectly pleasant waste of time. As a fan of mysteries, you'll enjoy this book set in and about the mystery business. The death of a ninety-year-old woman with a heart condition should not be suspicious. Detective Sergeant Harbinder Kaur certainly sees nothing out of the ordinary when Peggy's caretaker, Nataalka, begins to re-count Peggy Smith's passing. But Nataalka had a reason to be at the police station: while clearing out Peggy's flat, she noticed an unusual number of crime novels, all dedicated to Peggy. And each psychological thriller included a mysterious postscript: PS: for PS. When a gunman breaks into the flat to steal a book and its author is found dead shortly thereafter—Detective Kaur begins to think that perhaps there is no such thing as an unsuspecting death after all. And then things escalate: from an Aberdeen literary festival to the streets of Edinburgh, writers are being targeted. DS Kaur embarks on a road trip across Europe and reckons with how exactly authors can think up such realistic crimes...Sequel to Stranger Diaries (#1) (\$24.99) which I also liked and picked.

WINSLOW, DON CITY ON FIRE (\$35.99 hardcover, \$24.99 trade paperback) is finally released. The release was postponed a time or two, but it's finally here. I'm a big fan of the author and was quite happy to hear this is the first installment of the trilogy of "City" novels. I read the book so long ago—had an advance reading copy—that I had to look up some of the reviews to remind me of the plot!

Here's the Kirkus review:

A blistering novel filled with anger and bite.

Danny Ryan is a dockworker in Providence, Rhode Island, who's "faithful like a dog" to his wife, Terri, of the rival Murphy clan, and sometimes does some less-than-legal errands for his father-in-law, John. He wants more out of his life and wants to "not owe nobody nothing," but nobody ever leaves Dogtown. One day at the beach, he sees "the goddess who came out of the sea" and who "has a voice like sex." Terri's brother Liam Murphy accidentally-on-purpose touches the woman's breast, which sets off a chain reaction of events in which bullets fly and f-bombs and their ilk swarm like cicadas on nearly every page. You know, you just don't touch a made guy's woman, and the goddess is going out with Paulie Moretti. The Providence press gleefully reports the other-side-of-the-tracks bloodletting among men who supplement their wages with hijacking trucks and boosting heroin. So Danny wants out with his wife and son, but—well, it's complicated. Chances are they'll have to live and die in Dogtown. And, oh yeah, Danny loathes his rich mother, who tries so hard to make amends for abandoning him. The characters are as vividly described as some of them are vile: One guy "never met a job he couldn't lose." John Murphy is "the king of an empire that died a long time ago. The light of a long-dead star." At the ocean, Danny observes that the "whitecaps look like the beards of sad old men." A Murphy declares, "That Ryan blood....It's cursed." But the Murphy blood isn't exactly touched by angels either. And then there are the Morettis, all of them trapped in a cycle of crime and violence, just looking for an excuse to go to war. One difference between Danny and some of the others is he's never killed anybody. Yet. Meanwhile, a planned heist might just solve some financial problems for whomever survives all the betrayals.

Plenty of pain for the characters, plenty of thrills for the reader.

Plenty of thrills, indeed. I can hardly wait for the next installment, City of Dreams, due next year, and I'll be sure to re-read Fire before diving into Dreams!

Marian's Picks

I've had a tough couple of weeks. Pixie and Prince's breeder has a new litter of puppies looking for their forever homes and I am so tempted to get another sibling for Pixie but, I know she would never ever speak to me again if I did. The puppies are so cute and, unlike Prince's litter—where your options were any colour as long as it's black and any gender as long as it's male—there is a rainbow of colours—apricots, reds, blacks—and both sexes—at least as I'm writing this. There was a creamy coloured one they called Polar, and she looked darling. I so want her. Heather Pendragon, the breeder, will deliver safely the puppies all across Canada so you need not worry that she's in PEI. From Prince's litter she delivered two to Ontario and three to BC. She's a PUPS, that's one letter better than UPS! Not that I am pushing her puppies but, those of you who met Percy (gosh, I miss him so much), Pixie and Prince know what wonderful temperaments they have. Her phone number is 604-442-2441. Her email address is heatherpendragon@me.com and she is also on Facebook, although initially FB said she couldn't be found, she certainly is there with a bunch of fabulous photos of the puppies. If you have ever thought of getting a poodle puppy now is the time.

I've read a boat load of books over the past few weeks, so many in fact that I'll just pick a few this time out.

I came late to the **ROBERT GALBRAITH** party. I started reading *Cuckoo's Calling* (#1) (\$23.50), first published in 2013, recently and couldn't put it down. Most of you know that Galbraith is the pseudonym for **J K Rowling** and since I absolutely loved all the Harry Potter books, I don't know why I didn't try her Cormoran Strike series before now. He's a private eye who has an office, right smack dab in (what I consider) the centre of London. If you've been around Covent Garden, Charring Cross, Tottenham Court Road, Denmark St., you'll know exactly where the action is. He is veteran, who lost part of his leg in Afghanistan, and flawed in character as well, but I just kept rooting for him to solve the unsolvable. I thought his "temporary solution, Girl Friday" Robin Ellacott, was a terrific character as well. It will be interesting to see how they get along in future books. I enjoyed the story so much I immediately read the second book in the series *Silkworm* (#2) (\$23.50). There are five books now, with the sixth, *The Ink Black Heart* (#6) (\$38 tentatively) due to be released in August 2022. Here is a very short description of the plot: When a troubled model falls to her death from a snow-covered Mayfair balcony, it is assumed that she has committed suicide. However, her brother has his doubts, and calls in private investigator Cormoran Strike to look into the case. Strike is a war veteran—wounded both physically and psychologically—and his life is in disarray. The case gives him a financial lifeline, but it comes at a personal cost: the more he delves into the young model's complex world, the darker things get—and the closer he gets to terrible danger.

I must warn you that *Hades* (\$10.99) by **CANDICE FOX** is a very gritty, nasty, disturbing and violent mystery. So, why did I read it? It won the Ned Kelly Award for Best Debut Crime Fiction presented by the Australian Crime Writers Association. The following year, her second mystery, *Eden* (\$25 trade paperback), won The Ned Kelly Award for Best Crime Fiction, and that is quite an accomplishment. *Hades* is a brilliant read, with a cast of truly unusual characters. I've got *Eden* (\$25) on order, it's coming in from England. The third, *Fall* (\$10.99) is also available. Ms. Fox also writes the Crimson Lake series which I suspect I'll get to in due course. That series features a team of private investigators, disgraced cop Ted Conkaffey and convicted killer Amanda Pharrell! How could I not want to investigate that series! The first, titled *Crimson Lake* (\$12.99) is also set in Australia.

Here is the blurb for *Hades*: In this award-winning crime series debut, a Sydney detective must catch a brilliant serial killer while keeping an eye on his mysterious new partner.

Sydney homicide detective Frank Bennett has a new partner—dark, beautiful, coldly efficient Eden Archer. Frank doesn't know what to make of her, or her brother Eric, who's also on the police force. Their methods are . . . unusual. But when a graveyard full of large steel toolboxes filled with body parts is found at the bottom of Sydney harbour, unusual is the least of their worries.

For Eden and Eric, the case holds chilling links to a scarred childhood—and the murderer who raised them. For Frank, each clue brings him closer to something he's not

sure he wants to face. But true evil goes beyond the bloody handiwork of a serial killer—and no one is truly innocent . . .

Flowers and Foul Play (\$21.99) by **AMANDA FLOWER** is as different as you can get from the two books I just mentioned! I've read some of her books over the years—she has quite a number of different series on the go—and Flowers and Foul Play is the first in her Magic Garden Series. It was originally published in 2018 but when I saw a copy of the trade paperback come in a couple of months ago, I thought I'd give it a go. Trouble is that I'm now told it is reprinting so you might have to start with the second, Death and Daisies (\$10.99). It's light, funny, and magical; yes, you have to suspend your disbelief but it's a great read and a thoroughly wonderful cozy, summer read.

Here is the blurb for Death and Daisies as it's readily available: Florist Fiona Knox left behind her gloomy life for a magical garden in Scotland, but a murder on her shop's opening day spells doom.

Fiona Knox thought she was pulling her life back together when she inherited her godfather's cottage in Duncreigan, Scotland—complete with a magical walled garden. But the erstwhile Tennessee flower shop owner promptly found herself puddle boot-deep in danger when she found a dead body among the glimmering blossoms. One police investigation and a handsome Chief Inspector names Neil Craig later and Fiona's life is getting back on a steady—though bewitched—track. Her sister Isla has just moved in with her, and the grand opening of her new spellbound venture, the Climbing Rose Flower Shop in Aberdeenshire, is imminent.

But dark, ensorcelled clouds are gathering to douse Fiona's newly sunny outlook. First, imperious parish minister Quaid MacCullen makes it undeniably clear that he would be happy to send Fiona back to Tennessee. Then, a horrific lightning storm, rife with terrible omen, threatens to tear apart the elderly cottage and sends Fi and Isla cowering under their beds. The storm passes, but then, Fi is called away from the Climbing Rose's opening soiree when Kipling, the tiny village's weak-kneed volunteer police chief, finds a dead body on the beach.

I am not a lover of short stories. I don't want a quick read, I want to get involved with the setting, the characters, and the plot. When **LYNNE MURPHY** gave me a copy of Potluck and Other Stories (\$16.99), I thought Yikes, now what do I do? But like any good bookseller, I took the collection of short stories and read a few of them. What's that saying about eating humble pie...The stories were wonderful! Light, funny and entertaining, especially the story about making "magic brownies." And a shout out to the designer of the cover, it's got a great rendition of the author on the front cover. Well done Lynne.

I love political thrillers: the intrigue, the behind-the-scenes look at government institutions and, in this case, the story is a legal thriller involving the Supreme Court of the USA. Throw in a few corrupt politicians, some nail-biting courtroom drama, a fabulous main character, enough twists and turns to keep me guessing and what you have is While Justice Sleeps (\$23). **STACEY ABRAMS** served eleven years in the Georgia House of Representatives, seven years as minority leader, and became the 2018 Democratic nominee for Georgia. This woman knows what she's doing. While Justice Sleeps is, hopefully, the first in a series. The novel features Avery Keene, a brilliant young law clerk at the Supreme Court, who finds her life upended when her boss, the legendary Justice Howard Wynn—the cantankerous swing vote on many current high-profile cases—slips into a coma. When the shocking news breaks and Avery is notified that Justice Wynn has left instructions for her to serve as his legal guardian and power of attorney, she's dropped into a touchy role she never anticipated. Avery finds that Justice Wynn had been secretly researching one of the most controversial cases before the court—a proposed merger between an American biotech company and an Indian genetics firm, which promises to unleash breathtaking results in the medical field. She also discovers that Wynn suspected a dangerously related conspiracy that infiltrates the highest power corridors of Washington.

This was an unputdownable read. More please!

I had a lot of fun reading Cover Art (\$24.95) by **VANESSA WESTERMANN**. It's the first in a new series and will make the most perfect summer read. The story is set in my cottage country, so I certainly was right there with Charley Scott, an artist who is setting up a pop-up art gallery where she and a couple of her friends can display their work.

The book reads like a charm and doesn't miss a beat. The dialogue is snappy, the character descriptions and interactions are great, and the plot develops very nicely. That I have an insider's view of some of the events and locations that are part of the story—I recognized some of the places that our heroine visits, especially the local chocolate shop—made the read all that much more fun for me. I know where I'm heading the next time I need a chocolate fix! Gin and tonic flavoured chocolate, anyone?

Cover Art is not due out until the end of May, but I couldn't wait to tell you about it. There will be a virtual launch of the book on June 4th, 2022 from 1 pm – 2 pm, use the following link to sign up: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/book-launch-cover-art-by-vanessa-westermann-tickets-336539497697> I'll be interviewing Vanessa, and I know you won't want to miss that!! Of course, autographed copies can be arranged, just place your order.

Here is a short blurb: Returning to the lakeside village of her childhood, not on vacation but as an artist, Charley Scott is determined to turn her hobby into a career. Joined by two other artists, including her childhood friend Kayla, the Cover Art Exhibit is a dream come true.

But, beneath the surface of this peaceful town, darkness lurks. There's a history. Local chocolatier, Matt Thorn, is struggling to come to terms with his father's recent death and his legacy of deception. As Matt plans to expose his father's secrets, Kayla's husband is found dead, the result of eating Matt's boutique chocolates.

The homicide investigation threatens to make Charley's pop-up gallery a failure before it even begins. Luckily, art is all about perspective and she's always had a keen eye. Can she see past the obvious and find the killer? Just a delightful read.

Hardbacks

ADAMS, ELLERY society VANISHING TYPE (#5) (\$35) Deputy Andrews pulls Nora into the sci-fi section and asks her to help him plan a wedding proposal. His bride-to-be, Hester, loves Little Women, and Nora sets to work arranging a special screening at the town's new movie theater. But right before the deputy pops the question, Nora makes an unsettling discovery—someone has mutilated all her store's copies of *The Scarlet Letter*, slicing angrily into the pages wherever Hester Prynne's name is mentioned. The coincidence disturbs Nora, who's one of the few in Miracle Springs who knows that Hester gave up a baby for adoption many years ago. Her family heaped shame on her, and Hester still feels so guilty that she hasn't even told her future husband. But when a dead man is found on a hiking trail just outside town, carrying a rare book, the members of the Secret, Book, and Scone Society unearth a connection to Hester's past. Someone is intent on bringing the past to light, and it's not just Hester's relationship at stake, but her life. . .

ALLEN, SAMANTHA JAYNE PAY DIRT ROAD (\$36.99) Winner of the 2019 Tony Hillerman Prize. Annie McIntyre has a love/hate relationship with Garnett, Texas. Recently graduated from college and home waitressing, lacking not in ambition but certainly in direction, Annie is lured into the family business—a private investigation firm—by her supposed-to-be-retired grandfather, Leroy, despite the rest of the clan's misgivings. When a waitress at the café goes missing, Annie and Leroy begin an investigation that leads them down rural routes and haunted byways, to noxious-smelling oil fields and to the glowing neon of local honky-tonks. As Annie works to uncover the truth she finds herself identifying with the victim in increasing, unsettling ways, and realizes she must confront her own past—failed romances, a disturbing experience she'd rather forget, and the trick mirror of nostalgia itself—if she wants to survive this homecoming.

ATHERTON, NANCY AUNT DIMITY AND THE ENCHANTED COTTAGE (#25) (\$35) In the twenty-fifth installment of the Aunt Dimity series, when an inscrutable newcomer arrives in Finch, Lori is determined to befriend him—and in the process discovers Finch's own heart-wrenching past.

BALDACCI, DAVID archer DREAM TOWN (#3) (\$37) It's the eve of 1953, and Aloysius Archer is in Los Angeles to ring in the New Year with an old friend, aspiring actress Liberty Callahan, when their evening is interrupted by an acquaintance of Callahan's: Eleanor Lamb, a screenwriter in dire straits. After a series of increasingly chilling events—mysterious phone calls, the same blue car loitering outside her house, and a bloody knife left in her sink—Eleanor fears that her life is in danger, and she wants to hire Archer to look into the matter. Archer suspects that Eleanor knows more

than she's saying, but before he can officially take on her case, a dead body turns up inside of Eleanor's home . . . and Eleanor herself disappears.

BANNALEC, JEAN-LUC dupin KING ARTHUR CASE (#7) (\$36.99) The forest of Broceliande, with its picturesque lakes and castles, is the last remnant of the fairy kingdom, if Breton lore is to be believed. Innumerable legends spanning thousands of years are set here, including the tale of King Arthur and the Round Table. It seems to be an appropriate destination for Commissaire Dupin and his team to take a late summer field trip. But when the body of a historian turns up, Dupin is called upon to investigate in the brutal murder case. Before too long, there are more victims. What knowledge do the assembled scientists have about the most recent archaeological digs in the area? Where do they stand on the controversial decision to turn parts of the forest into an amusement park? And why is no one willing to talk? Even Nolwenn, Dupin's unshakeable assistant, is concerned. And that means trouble. Mysterious, ingenious, and suspenseful: Dupin's seventh case takes him and his team into the very heart of Brittany.

BECKETT, SIMON colley LOST (#1) (\$32.99) Ten years ago, the disappearance of firearms police officer Jonah Colley's young son almost destroyed him. A plea for help from an old friend leads Jonah to Slaughter Quay, and the discovery of four bodies. Brutally attacked and left for dead, he is the only survivor. Under suspicion himself, he uncovers a network of secrets and lies about the people he thought he knew—forcing him to question what really happened all those years ago..

BENTLEY, DON drake HOSTILE INTENT (#3) (\$36) When a mysterious walk-in to the US embassy in Vienna claims to have critical information about a Russian intelligence operation, he raises eyebrows. But when he asks for Matt Drake by name and calls himself the Irishman, he gets the DIA's premier case officer on a one-way flight. Matt arrives to find Austria's charming capital lousy with intelligence officers, all swirling around Nolan Burke—a onetime member of the real IRA. But before Matt can debrief Nolan, the Irishman is kidnapped by a Russian direct action team. Now, Matt must find a way to repay the debt of honor he owes Nolan while stopping World War III in the process.

BROWDER, BILL FREEZING ORDER: A TRUE STORY (\$36.99) When Bill Browder's young Russian lawyer, Sergei Magnitsky, was beaten to death in a Moscow jail, Browder made it his life's mission to go after his killers and make sure they faced justice. The first step of that mission was to uncover who was behind the \$230 million tax refund scheme that Magnitsky was killed over. As Browder and his team tracked the money as it flowed out of Russia through the Baltics and Cyprus and on to Western Europe and the Americas, they were shocked to discover that Vladimir Putin himself was a beneficiary of the crime. As law enforcement agencies began freezing the money, Putin retaliated. He and his cronies set up honey traps, hired process servers to chase Browder through cities, murdered more of his Russian allies, and enlisted some of the top lawyers and politicians in America to bring him down. Putin will stop at nothing to protect his money. As this book reveals, it was the author's campaign to expose Putin's corruption that prompted Russia's intervention in the 2016 US presidential election.

BROWN, TAYLOR WINGWALKERS (\$36.99) The novel follows the adventures of Della and Zeno Marigold, a pair of Great Depression barnstormers who are funding their journey west by performing death-defying aerial stunts from town to town, and braids them with the real-life exploits of author (and thwarted fighter pilot) William Faulkner. When their paths cross during a dramatic air show, there will be unexpected consequences for all...

ESTLEMAN, LOREN D walker CUTTHROAT DOGS (#29) (\$34.99) "Someone is dead who shouldn't be, and the wrong man is in prison." Nearly twenty years ago, college freshman April Goss was found dead in her bathtub, an apparent suicide, but suspicion soon fell on her boyfriend. Dan Corbeil was convicted of her murder and sent to prison. Case closed. Or is it?

FERENCIK, ERICA GIRL IN ICE (\$36.99) From the author of *The River at Night* and *Into the Jungle* (\$22.99 each) comes a harrowing new thriller set in the unforgiving landscape of the Arctic Circle, as a brilliant linguist struggling to understand the apparent suicide of her twin brother ventures hundreds of miles north to try to communicate with a young girl who has been thawed from the ice alive.

FLOWER, AMANDA magic garden MUMS AND MAYHEM (#3) (\$35.99) World-famous fiddle player Barley McFee arrives in blustery Bellewick, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, for a grand homecoming concert organized by jeweler Bernice Brennan. Fiona Knox, owner of the Climbing Rose Flower Shop, is starting to regret volunteering to help with the concert. Bernice is an exacting taskmaster, and Fiona has enough tension dealing with her parents, who have traveled from Tennessee to visit Fi and her younger sister, Isla, and to reveal a secret about Fi's birth. But when Barley is found dead in his trailer during the concert's intermission, and his death is shockingly tied to Fiona's father, Fiona discovers there are more secrets surrounding her family than she realized.

FREEMAN, DIANNE FIANCEE'S GUIDE TO FIRST WIVES AND MURDER (#4) (\$35) In Dianne Freeman's lighthearted mystery series set in Victorian England, the

American-born Countess of Harleigh uncovers more deadly intrigue among the upper-crust...

GORDON, DAVID **bouncer** WILD LIFE (#4) (\$34.95) New York's criminal underworld has been shaken by the disappearance of its most successful and desirable call girls, vanishing one by one from the brothels where they're employed. As a pattern emerges, what might otherwise appear to be a choice to pursue a new life comes to resemble something more troublesome — the work of a serial kidnapper — and when a woman turns up dead, the hunt for the predator behind it all becomes even more urgent. To find the killer, our hero Joe Brady will have to plunge into the seediest fringes of Manhattan and its surrounding boroughs...

HILLERMAN, ANNE SACRED BRIDGE (#7) (\$33.50 hard cover, \$35.99 large print trade paperback) Sergeant Jim Chee's vacation to beautiful Antelope Canyon and Lake Powell has a deeper purpose. He's on a quest to unravel a sacred mystery his mentor, the Legendary Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn, stumbled across decades earlier. Chee's journey takes a deadly turn when, after a prayerful visit to the sacred Rainbow Bridge, he spots a body floating in the lake. The dead man, a Navajo with a passion for the canyon's ancient rock art, lived a life filled with many secrets. Discovering why he died and who was responsible involves Chee in an investigation that puts his own life at risk.

HILLIARD, M E **hogan** SHADOW IN THE GLASS (#2) (\$35.99) Librarian Greer Hogan is on hand to celebrate her old friend Sarah Whitaker's nuptials at the Whitaker summer home on beautiful Mirror Lake, just outside the upstate New York village of Lake Placid. But Greer has an ulterior motive—to gather information that could reopen the investigation into her husband's murder, a crime for which she believes an innocent man went to prison. Her plans come to a shuddering halt when a wedding guest goes missing and turns up dead in the lake. The guest, Brittany Miles, was an employee of the Whitaker family whom Sarah had long suspected was up to no good at work. The police have no leads, but Greer—an avid reader of crime fiction who possesses an uncanny knack for deduction—begins her own investigation.

HOUSTON, VICTORIA WOLF HOLLOW (\$35.99) It's mid-May in the tiny northwoods Wisconsin town of Loon Lake, and the fish are biting. Walleye's not the only thing on the hook, though. There are rumors that a precious vein of nickel and copper is buried on the property of wealthy Grace McDonough, and the drilling is about to begin. But not if environmentalist Pete Ferris can help it. When Grace's 24-year-old son, Noah, her brother Pete and, finally, Grace herself are found dead, police chief Lew Ferris thinks he has a serial killer on his hands. And when Lew learns that her brother had planned to file a lawsuit to prevent drilling for the sulfide mine, a key piece of the puzzle suddenly falls into place. Lew is beginning to close in on the truth. But has the killer set his bait again, angling for his biggest catch yet?

KERNICK, SIMON GOOD COP BAD COP (\$34.99) Undercover cop Chris Sketty became a hero when he almost died trying to stop the most brutal terror attack in UK history. With the suspects either dead or missing, the real motive remains a mystery. But someone is convinced Sketty is a liar, a criminal mastermind, a murderer. Blackmailed into revealing the truth, Sketty will share a twisting tale of betrayal, deception and murder...with a revelation so shocking that nothing will be the same again.

LARSEN, WARD **slaton** ASSASSIN'S EDGE (#8) (\$38.99) A U.S. spy plane crashes off the northern coast of Russia at the same time that a Mossad operative is abducted from a street in Kazakhstan. The two events seem unrelated, but as suspicions rise, the CIA calls in its premier operative, David Slaton. When wreckage from the aircraft is discovered on a remote Arctic island, Slaton and a team are sent on a clandestine mission to investigate. While they comb a frigid Russian island at the top of the world, disaster strikes yet again: a U.S. Navy destroyer sinks in the Black Sea. Evidence begins mounting that these disparate events are linked, controlled by an unseen hand. A mysterious source, code name Lazarus, provides tantalizing clues about another impending strike. Yet Lazarus has an agenda that is deeply personal, a thirst for revenge against a handful of clandestine operators. Prime among them: David Slaton.

LAWSON, MIKE REDEMPTION (\$35.50) With his reputation permanently marred by an insider trading conviction, Jamison Maddox, a young Wall Street broker, reluctantly takes a job doing research for a small company in the sleepy town of Redemption, Illinois. He's never heard of the company, or of the town, but he's out of money and options. Though Jamison notices right away that everyone in Redemption is in some way related to one another, the big city boy chalks it up to small town ways. And as for the company's seemingly extreme security practices, Jamison was planning on minding his own business anyway. Jamison doesn't realize what he's gotten into.

LUNA, LOUISA **alice vega** HIDEOUT (#3) (\$36) Alice Vega has made a career of finding the missing and vulnerable against a ticking clock, but she's never had a case like that of Zeb Williams, missing for thirty years. It was 1984, and the big Cal-Stanford football game was tied with seconds left on the clock. Zeb Williams grabbed the ball and ran the wrong way, through the marching band, off the field, and out of the stadium. He disappeared into legend, replete with Elvis-like sightings and a cult follow-

ing. Zeb's cold trail leads Vega to southern Oregon, where everyone has something to hide, and no one can cut to the truth like Alice Vega.

PARETSKY, SARA warshawski OVERBOARD (#22) (\$35.99) On her way home from an all-night surveillance job, V.I. Warshawski is led by her dogs on a mad chase that ends when they discover a badly injured teen hiding in the rocks along Lake Michigan. The girl only regains consciousness long enough to utter one enigmatic word. V.I. helps bring her to a hospital, but not long after, she vanishes before anyone can discover her identity. As V.I. attempts to find her, the detective uncovers an ugly consortium of Chicago powerbrokers and mobsters who are prepared to kill the girl. And now V.I.'s own life is in jeopardy as well. Told against the backdrop of a city emerging from its pandemic lockdown, Overboard lays bare the dark secrets and corruption buried in Chicago's neighborhoods in masterly fashion.

PERRY, ANNE daniel pitt THREE DEBTS PAID (#5) (\$37) A serial killer is roaming the streets of London, and Daniel Pitt's university chum Ian, now a member of the police, is leading the search. The murders happen on rainy nights, but Ian knows the victims must have something in common beyond the weather. He turns to Miriam fford Croft, Daniel's good friend and now officially one of the first female pathologists in London, to tap her scientific know-how to find details he and Daniel have missed. Is the "Rainy-day Slasher," as the newspapers have dubbed the killer, really just one person? Or have the investigators stumbled into a more complicated web of deceit? The answer may lie closer than anyone could have expected.

QUICK, AMANDA WHEN SHE DREAMS (#6) (\$37) 1930s Burning Cove, California, the glamorous seaside playground for Hollywood stars, mobsters, spies...Maggie Lodge, assistant to the reclusive advice columnist known only as Dear Aunt Cornelia to her readers, hires down-but-not-quite-out private eye Sam Sage to help track down the person who is blackmailing her employer. Maggie and Sam are a mismatched pair. As far as Sam is concerned, Maggie is reckless and in over her head. She is not what he had in mind for a client, but he can't afford to be choosy. Maggie, on the other hand, is convinced that Sam is badly in need of guidance and good advice. She does not hesitate to give him both. When the pair discovers someone is impersonating Aunt Cornelia at a conference on psychic dreaming and a woman dies at the conference, the door is opened to a dangerous web of blackmail and murder. Secrets from the past are revealed, leaving Maggie and Sam in the path of a ruthless killer who will stop at nothing to exact vengeance.

REICH, CHRISTOPHER riske ONCE A THIEF (#4) (\$35) Simon Riske sits in sun-dappled Napa Valley, toasting the record hundred-million-dollar sale of a rare 1963 Ferrari which he restored himself. The buyer, a sophisticated French woman, Sylvie Bettencourt, has purchased the car for an unnamed client whose anonymity she will guard at all costs. Riske enjoys her company and the flowing champagne until Sylvie's formidable Russian bodyguard storms in, claiming the vehicle is a fake. Riske is given an ultimatum. Prove the car is the real thing...or else.

RICHERS, ANTHONY empire VENGEANCE (#12) (\$34.99) After saving the Empire's richest province from a foreign army, Marcus and the men who protect him have been in hiding. Their lives will be forfeit if they are seen in Rome. But times have changed. Marcus's protector, the patrician legion commander Scaurus, has been summoned home by his mentor, a powerful senator who has decided he must act to save the empire from its debauched ruler's reign of terror. Rome is a hotbed of conspiracy and treachery: and the senator is not the only contender for power. The emperor himself plans to destroy those he mistrusts, and no-one is safe. Marcus is assigned his own, unique role in the conspiracy. He will become a gladiator once more. But this time, his only opponent will be Commodus himself...

SANDFORD, JOHN letty INVESTIGATOR (#1) (\$39) By age twenty-four, Letty Davenport has seen more action and uncovered more secrets than many law enforcement professionals. Now a recent Stanford grad with a master's in economics, she's restless and bored in a desk job for U.S. Senator Colles. Letty's ready to quit, but her skills have impressed Colles, and he offers her a carrot: feet-on-the-ground investigative work, in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security. Several oil companies in Texas have reported thefts of crude, Colles tells her. He isn't so much concerned with the oil as he is with the money: who is selling the oil, and what are they doing with the profits? Rumor has it that a fairly ugly militia group might be involved. Colles wants to know if the money is going to them, and if so, what they're planning. Letty is partnered with a DHS investigator, John Kaiser, and they head to Texas. When the case quicky turns deadly, they know they're on the track of something bigger. The militia group has set in motion an explosive plan... and the clock is ticking down.

THOMAS, WILL barker FIERCE POISON (#13) (\$36.99) Private Enquiry agent Cyrus Barker has just about seen it all—he's been attacked by assassins, his office has been bombed, and evil-doers have even nearly killed his dog. But never before has a potential client dropped dead in his office. When Roland Fitzhugh, Member of Parliament arrives to consult Barker and his partner Thomas Llewelyn, he falls to the floor,

dead, upon entering. As they soon learn, he's been poisoned with a cyanide laced raspberry tart, and the adulterated tarts also take out an entire family in the East End. Labeled the Mad Pie Man by the press, Barker and Llewelyn are hired by former Prime Minister William Gladstone to find out who has targeted the House of Commons's newest member. But before they can even begin, they find themselves the latest target of this mad poisoner—with Barker's butler poisoned with digitalis and dozens of diabolic traps discovered at their home. On the run from their unseen adversary, Barker and Llewelyn must uncover the threads that connect these seemingly random acts and stop the killer before they and their closest friends and family become the latest casualties.

THOMPSON, VICTORIA *gaslig* MURDER ON MADISON SQUARE (#25) (\$36) Former policeman Frank Malloy is frustrated when a woman requests his private detective services to implicate her wealthy husband in adultery, the only legal grounds for divorce in New York state. Although Mrs. Bing seems genuinely distressed about her marriage and desperate to end it, she refuses to tell Frank the reason she absolutely must divorce her husband and admits she has no legal grounds. Frank explains he won't manufacture evidence for her and sends her on her way. The following week, Frank and Sarah happen to be attending the first ever auto show in Madison Square Garden when they meet the woman's husband, Alfred Bing, who has invested in a company that produces one of the electric motorcars on display. A few days later, the newspapers report that millionaire Alvin Bing has been found dead, pinned beneath one of the wheels of his very own motorcar. But who was driving it? The obvious suspect is Mrs. Bing, but Frank and Sarah find that nothing is as it seems in their puzzling, dangerous search for truth.

WELSH, LOUISE *rilke* SECOND CUT (#2) (\$29.95) Auctioneer Rilke has been trying to stay out of trouble, keeping his life more or less respectable. Business has been slow at Bowery Auctions, so when an old friend, Jojo, gives Rilke a tip-off for a house clearance, life seems to be looking up. The next day Jojo washes up dead. Jojo liked Grindr hook-ups and recreational drugs—is that the reason the police won't investigate? And if Rilke doesn't find out what happened to Jojo, who will? Thrilling and atmospheric...the dark side of twenty-first century Glasgow. Twenty years on from his appearance in the excellent The Cutting Room (\$17.95) Rilke is still walking a moral tightrope between good and bad, saint and sinner.

WINSLOW, DON CITY ON FIRE (\$35.99 hardcover, \$24.99 trade paperback) Two criminal empires together control all of New England. Until a beautiful woman comes between the Irish and the Italians, launching a war that will see them kill each other, destroy an alliance, and set a city on fire. Danny Ryan yearns for a more “legit” life and a place in the sun. But as the bloody conflict stacks body on body and brother turns against brother, Danny has to rise above himself. To save the friends he loves like family and the family he has sworn to protect, he becomes a leader, a ruthless strategist, and a master of a treacherous game in which the winners live and the losers die. From the gritty streets of Providence to the glittering screens of Hollywood to the golden casinos of Las Vegas, two rival crime families ignite a war that will leave only one standing. The winner will forge a dynasty.

WOOD, TREVOR *mullen* ONE WAY STREET (#2) (\$34.99 hardcover, \$17.99 trade paperback) The word on the street is that a rogue batch of Spice - the zombie drug sweeping the inner cities - is to blame, but when one of Jimmy's few close friends is caught up in the carnage, loyalty compels him to find out what's really going on. One Way Street sees the welcome return of Jimmy Mullen, the homeless, PTSD-suffering, veteran as he attempts to rebuild his life following the events in The Man on the Street (#1) (\$17.99). As his probation officer constantly reminds him: all he needs to do is keep out of trouble. Sadly for him, trouble seems to have a habit of tracking Jimmy down.

Paperbacks

ABRAMS, STACEY WHILE JUSTICE SLEEPS (\$23) Avery Keene, a brilliant young law clerk for the legendary Justice Howard Wynn, is doing her best to hold her life together—excelling in an arduous job with the court while also dealing with a troubled family. When the shocking news breaks that Justice Wynn—the cantankerous swing vote on many current high-profile cases—has slipped into a coma, Avery's life turns upside down. She is immediately notified that Justice Wynn has left instructions for her to serve as his legal guardian and power of attorney. Plunged into an explosive role she never anticipated, Avery finds that Justice Wynn had been secretly researching one of the most controversial cases before the court—a proposed merger between an American biotech company and an Indian genetics firm, which promises to unleash breathtaking results in the medical field. She also discovers that Wynn suspected a dan-

gerously related conspiracy that infiltrates the highest power corridors of Washington. As political wrangling ensues in Washington to potentially replace the ailing judge whose life and survival Avery controls, she begins to unravel a carefully constructed, chess like sequence of clues left behind by Wynn.

ACE, CATHY morgan CORPSE WITH THE IRON WILL (#10) (\$25.50) Welsh criminal psychologist and globetrotting sleuth, Cait Morgan, and her retired-cop husband Bud Anderson, are enjoying some well-deserved peace and quiet at home, in moody, mountainous British Columbia. The sudden death of a neighbor is a significant loss for them both, so Cait's honored when Gordy Krantz's "unusual" will requests that she eulogize him at his memorial. However, delving into the dead man's background becomes a pressing priority when a puzzling theft, and some surprising discoveries, put our favorite sleuths on high alert. Might someone living in their seemingly tight-knit – and certainly off-beat – rural community have wanted their neighbor dead? And if so, are more people they know at risk?

ASHLEY, MIKE FUTURE CRIMES: MYSTERIES AND DETECTION THROUGH TIME AND SPACE (\$23.95) Science fiction meets crime in this new anthology exploring one of the genre's most popular themes: mystery and detection. Pitching detectives against time paradoxes, alien intruders, AI gone bad and psychic mutation are ten stories embodying the exciting range of the sub-genre, rarely given the recognition it deserves in the literary sphere. With fascinating settings such as robot society, asteroid belt space stations, and worlds similar to our own but uncannily altered, these stories are masterpieces of satisfying setups, memorable mysteries, and timeless twists.

BARRETT, LORNA tricia DEADLY DELETION (#15) (\$11.99) Tricia Miles has just received a second marriage proposal within fifteen minutes. The first was from her friend with benefits, Marshall Chambers, and the second from her ex-lover, police chief Grant Baker. Tricia's got some serious thinking to do. She's still weighing her options when she hears the sound of an engine roaring down Main Street. It's a big white pickup truck that aims for and hits Marshall as he's walking back to his apartment. Tragically, he's killed, leaving Tricia feeling bereft and guilty. She retreats to her sister, Angelica's, apartment to wait for Baker to update her on what happened. While there, Tricia takes Angelica's dog out for a comfort call behind the building, and the same white pickup roars up the alley and just misses hitting Tricia. Still shaken by that news, Tricia returns to Haven't Got a Clue and is met by federal marshal Kirby, who tells her that Marshall had been in the Federal Witness Protection Program. Everything Marshall told Tricia was a lie—in particular, that he was a widower. Was his death an act of revenge? Tricia's on the hunt for a killer, and it seems like she might be next on the list.

BECKETT, SIMON colley LOST (#1) (\$24.99) Ten years ago, the disappearance of firearms police officer Jonah Colley's young son almost destroyed him. A plea for help from an old friend leads Jonah to Slaughter Quay, and the discovery of four bodies. Brutally attacked and left for dead, he is the only survivor. Under suspicion himself, he uncovers a network of secrets and lies about the people he thought he knew—forcing him to question what really happened all those years ago...

BEIRNE, LUKE FRANCIS FOXHUNT (\$24.95) 1949: Milne Lowell, a Canadian writer, moves to London from Montreal to edit a magazine dedicated to cultural freedom. His colleagues include Marguerite Allard, a French-Canadian anarchist, Eric Felmore, an American novelist, and Carson Ward, a British poet. Initially, the group is enthusiastic about the championship of freedom; however, uncertainty grows as unsettling encounters begin to unfold and the peripheral violence of the Cold War closes in.

BIDULKA, ANTHONY GOING TO BEAUTIFUL (\$22) International chef Jake Hardy has it all. Celebrity, thriving career, plenty of friends, a happy family and faithful dog. Until one day when a tragic accident tears it all apart. Struggling to recover, Hardy finds himself in a strange new world—a snow-swept prairie town that time forgot—a place where nothing makes sense. Cold is beautiful. Simple is complex. And doubts begin to surface about whether Jake's tragedy was truly an accident after all. As the sun sets in the Land of Living Skies, Hardy and his glamorous, seventy-eight-year-old transgender neighbour find themselves ensnared in multiple murders separated by decades. In this "love letter to life on the prairies" the author delivers a story of grief and loss that manages to burst with joy, tenderness and hope. Redolent of his earlier works, Going to Beautiful brings us unexpected, under-represented characters in settings that immediately feel familiar and beloved. Beautiful—a place where what you need may not be what you were looking for.

BLACK, JUNEAU shady hollo MIRROR LAKE (#3) (\$22) Change is afoot in Shady Hollow, with an unusually tense election shaping up between long-serving Chief of Police Theodore Meade and Vera's beau, Deputy Orville Braun. But the political tension takes a back seat when resident eccentric Dorothy Springfield becomes convinced her beloved husband, Edward, is dead, and that the rat claiming to be him is actually a fraud. While most of the town dismisses Dorothy's rants as nothing more than a delusion, Vera has her doubts. More than a few things don't add up in the Springfield household, but Vera will have to tread carefully, since, with Orville's attention on the elec-

tion, she may be more exposed than ever.

BLAKE, DEBORAH *pet rescue* CLAWS FOR SUSPICION (#3) (\$11.99) Kari Stuart is finally starting to relax into her role as the new owner of the Serenity Sanctuary and is looking forward to the various fun autumn activities in the beautiful Catskills town of Lakeview, like the annual Oktoberfest celebration. It's time for friends and quality bonding with handsome vet Angus McCoy. Until the unexpected arrival of her unpleasant ex-husband, Charlie Smith. He comes bearing a shocking revelation—the paperwork on their divorce never went through, and they are still married. Worse yet, he thinks this entitles him to half of her lottery winnings—although he'll happily take partial ownership of the sanctuary instead. Kari isn't sure if he's telling the truth, or if it's just another one of Charlie's lies. But things go from bad to worse when an unexpected death makes Kari the main suspect in a murder investigation. Will she and Queenie be able to find the real killer and keep the home they've built at the sanctuary safe, or is their string of luck finally tapped out?

BOLITHO, JANIE CAUGHT OUT IN CORNWALL (\$12.95) When Rose Trevelyan sees a young girl being carried away by someone who appears to be her father, she thinks nothing of it. Until, that is, the appearance of a frantic mother who cannot find her child. Beth Jones is only four years old, and her mother is adamant that the man Rose saw taking her away must be a stranger. Wracked with guilt for not intervening, Rose once again finds herself entangled in a criminal investigation. As time passes, it becomes clear that the chances of getting Beth back unharmed are very bleak indeed....

BRUNET, MARION VANDA (\$22.50) Set in Marseilles, this is the story of Vanda, a beautiful woman in her thirties, arms covered in tats, skin so dark that some take her for a North African. Devoted to her six-year-old son Noah, they live in a derelict shed by the beach. She had wanted to be an artist; she is now a cleaner in a psychiatric hospital. But Vanda is happy living alone, like a mama bear with her cub. "The two of them against the world", as she says. Everything changes when Simon, the father of her son, surfaces in Marseilles. He had left Vanda seven years earlier, not knowing that she was pregnant. When Simon demands custody of his son, Vanda's suppressed rage threatens to explode. The tension becomes unbearable, both parents fully capable of extreme violence.

BURNS, V M *bookstore* KILLER WORDS (#7) (\$21.95) In the seventh Mystery Bookshop novel from this Agatha Award-finalist, bookstore owner, mystery writer, and amateur sleuth Samantha Washington and her Nana Jo confront their own relationship with law enforcement when a local cop who's unjustly persecuted their family is accused of killing a person in his custody...

CAHOON, LYNN *kitchen witch* THREE TAINTED TEAS (#3) (\$11.99) Business is bubbling at Mia's catering service and cooking school, Mia's Morsels, but toil and trouble are not far behind. Mia just accepted her toughest gig yet: last-minute wedding planner for Magic Springs' own Romeo and Juliet. Though the small town is fairly accepting of magic, two families have been locked in a vicious feud spanning generations. Unfortunately for both families, they're about to become in-laws! Amethyst and Tok are excited to wed in a few weeks and somehow Mia must ensure the event is flawless. But when she goes to pick up paperwork from the couple's previous wedding planner, Mia discovers the woman murdered in an apparent attempt to stop the contentious union. Now, not only is Mia a prime suspect, as the new planner she may also be the killer's next target. Backed by her squad, her charms—literal and figurative—and a protective amulet from her Grans, it's up to Mia to save the star-crossed couple's wedding, her professional reputation...and maybe even her life!

CAMERON, CHRISTIAN HAWKWOODS SWORD (\$17.99) 1368. France, Spain and England prepare for war. In Italy, the Pope and the Visconti princes are battling for bloody supremacy. The worst years of Sir William Gold's life are about to begin. Leaving the side of his commander, Sir John Hawkwood, William embarks on a new journey that will bring him fame and favour—until a heart-breaking personal tragedy leads him to put down his sword. But men of war can't stay out of battle for long. Gold yearns to return to Italy and rejoin Hawkwood. Only now the game of the Italian Princes is changing and, as chaos descends, Gold must finally decide who he stands for...

CARVER, WILL PSYCHOPATHS ANONYMOUS (\$21.95) Maeve has everything. A high-powered job, a beautiful home, a string of uncomplicated one-night encounters. She's also an addict: A functioning alcoholic with a dependence on sex and an insatiable appetite for killing men. When she can't find a support group to share her obsession, she creates her own. And Psychopaths Anonymous is born. Friends of Maeve. Now in a serious relationship, Maeve wants to keep the group a secret. But not everyone in the group adheres to the rules, and when a reckless member raises suspicions with the police, Maeve's drinking spirals out of control. She needs to stop killing. She needs to close the group. But Maeve can't seem to quit the things that are bad for her, including her new man...

CASTILLO, LINDA *amish* FALLEN (#13) (\$12.99) When a young woman is found murdered in a Painters Mill motel, Chief of Police Kate Burkholder is shocked to dis-

cover she once knew the victim. Rachael Schwartz was a charming but troubled Amish girl who left the fold years ago and fled Painters Mill. Why was she back in town? And who would kill her so brutally? As the case heats up and long-buried secrets resurface, a killer haunts Painters Mill. Someone doesn't want Rachael's past—or the mysteries she took with her to the grave—coming to light. As Kate digs deeper, violence strikes again, this time hitting close to home. Will Kate uncover the truth and bring a murderer to justice? Or will a killer bent on protecting a terrible past stop her once and for all—and let the fallen be forgotten?

CHILD, LEE ed HOW TO WRITE A MYSTERY A HANDBOOK (\$24.99) Mystery Writers of America (MWA) is known for providing unparalleled resources on the craft, art, and business of storytelling, helping writers of all levels improve their skills for nearly a century. Now, this handbook helps authors navigate the ever-shifting publishing landscape—from pacing, plotting, the business side of publishing, to the current demand for diversity and inclusivity across all genres, and more. “Everything you wanted to know about how to plan, draft, write, revise, publish, and market a mystery”—*Kirkus Reviews*. this inclusive manual provides practical, current, easily digestible advice for new and established authors alike.

CHILD, LEE reacher BETTER OFF DEAD (#26) (\$12.99) Reacher goes where he wants, when he wants. That morning he was heading west, walking under the merciless desert sun—until he comes upon a curious scene. A Jeep has crashed into the only tree for miles around. A woman is slumped over the wheel. Dead? No, nothing is what it seems. The woman is Michaela Fenton, an army veteran turned FBI agent trying to find her twin brother. Reacher is good at finding people who don't want to be found, so he offers to help, despite feeling that Fenton is keeping secrets of her own. But a life hangs in the balance. Maybe more than one.

CLAYTON, DAVID CURSE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: The Basil Rathbone story (\$26.99) Basil Rathbone is synonymous with Sherlock Holmes. He played the Victorian sleuth in the fourteen Fox/Universal films of the 1930s and '40s, as well as on stage and radio. For many people, he is the Holmes. But playing that character placed restrictions on his career: before Holmes he was an esteemed theatre actor, appearing in Broadway plays such as *The Captive* and *The Swan*, the latter of which became his launchpad to greater stardom. But he never, ever escaped his most famous role. A look at the behind-the-camera life of a remarkable man who deserved so much more than to be relegated to just one role.

CLEEVES, ANN shetland WILD FIRE (#8) (\$19.99) On a small island, rumours can be deadly. A new English family have moved to Shetland, eager to give their autistic son a better life. But when a young nanny's body is found hanging in the barn of their home, rumours of her affair with the husband begin to spread like wild fire. With suspicion raining down on the family, DI Jimmy Perez is called in to investigate. For him it will mean returning to the islands of his on-off lover and boss Willow Reeves, who will run the case. Perez is already facing the most disturbing investigation of his career when Willow drops a bomb-shell that will change his life forever. Is he ready for what is to come?

CONAN DOYLE, ARTHUR THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (\$8.95) With a deadly phantom hound on the loose and a mysterious man living on the moors, Devon is a dangerous place to be. But Holmes and Watson must put their fears aside. The country's favourite crime-fighting duo need to unravel the strange case of Sir Charles Baskerville's murder before his nephew meets the same fate. Ages 7-11.

CONAN DOYLE, ARTHUR THE SOLITARY CYCLIST (\$8.95) When Violet Smith gets a new job, a new friend and a new home, life seems almost perfect ... until the solitary cyclist appears. He follows her every week, along the same stretch of road. Why? That's what Holmes and Watson need to work out, before this seemingly simple case turns into something far more sinister... Ages 7-11.

COSBY, S A RAZORBLADE TEARS (\$23.99) Ike Randolph has been out of jail for fifteen years, with not so much as a speeding ticket in all that time. But a Black man with cops at the door knows to be afraid. The last thing he expects to hear is that his son Isiah has been murdered, along with Isiah's white husband, Derek. Ike had never fully accepted his son but is devastated by his loss. Derek's father Buddy Lee was almost as ashamed of Derek for being gay as Derek was ashamed of his father's criminal record. Buddy Lee still has contacts in the underworld, though, and he wants to know who killed his boy. Ike and Buddy Lee, two ex-cons with little else in common other than a criminal past and a love for their dead sons, band together in their desperate desire for revenge. In their quest to do better for their sons in death than they did in life, hardened men Ike and Buddy Lee will confront their own prejudices about their sons and each other, as they rain down vengeance upon those who hurt their boys.

COSTANTINI, ROBERTO balistreri DELIVERANCE OF EVIL (#1) (\$17.99) On 11 July 1982, Elisa Sordi was beautiful. Commissario Michele Balistreri was fearless. Italy was victorious. A killer was waiting...On 9 July 2006, with Sordi's case twenty-four years cold, and Balistreri haunted by guilt and regret, Italian victory returned. And

so did Sordi's killer...But this time Michele Balistreri would be ready. This time he would fear no evil.

DOWNING, DAVID russell WEDDING STATION (#7) (\$22.95) February 27, 1933. In this stunning prequel to the John Russell espionage novels, the Reichstag parliament building in Berlin is set ablaze. It's just a month after Hitler's inauguration as Chancellor of Germany, and the Nazis use the torching to justify a campaign of terror against their political opponents. John Russell's recent separation from his wife threatens his right to reside in Germany and any meaningful relationship with his six-year-old son, Paul. He has just secured work as a crime reporter for a Berlin newspaper, and the crimes which he has to report—the gruesome murder of a rent boy, the hit-and-run death of a professional genealogist, the suspicious disappearance of a Nazi-supporting celebrity fortune-teller—are increasingly entangled in the wider nightmare engulfing Germany. Each new investigation carries the risk of Russell's falling foul of the authorities, at a time when the rule of law has completely vanished, and the Nazis are running scores of pop-up detention centers, complete with torture chambers, in every corner of Berlin.

DUNCAN, EMMELINE ground rules DOUBLE SHOT DEATH (#2) (\$21.95) At Campathon, an annual eco-friendly festival held on a farm outside of Portland, fans celebrate the Pacific Northwest's music scene in quintessential PDX style—with gourmet food carts, reusable utensils...and lots of coffee. How else to get through three days of nonstop entertainment? Sage has scored a coveted place for her Ground Rules coffee cart thanks to her new-ish boyfriend, Bax, who's friendly with Maya, one of the musicians performing. When Sage stumbles upon band manager Ian's dead body in the nearby woods—his hand still clutching one of her coffee mugs—it's clear that someone's grudge boiled over into murder. Can Sage work out who's responsible before another innocent life fades out, and the curtain falls on Campathon, and maybe her own future, for good?

ELLIOTT, LAUREN bookstore MARGIN FOR MURDER (#8) (\$11.99) Addie leaves her Greyborne Harbor bookstore, Beyond the Page Books and Curios, in the capable hands of her assistant while she travels to the neighboring town of Pen Hollow to attend a book sale at a library that is closing due to lack of funding. But the real find is a bookmobile bus, which she's excited to refit as a traveling bookstore to hit all the summer festivals. The bookmobile also holds a surprising treasure: several classic first editions and an early edition of Robert Louis Stevenson's *A Child's Garden of Verses*. But before the bookmobile can be delivered to Addie, a fatal car crash occurs. When an autopsy reveals poison in the victim's system and the first editions go missing, it's up to Addie to determine what would drive someone to murder. If she's not careful, however, she may be the next one to be dead on arrival . . .

ELLIS, KATE peterson MARRIAGE HEARSE (#10) (\$15.99) A young woman is found strangled hours before her wedding. DI Wesley Peterson discovers that Kirsten Harbourn was being pursued by an obsessed stalker and had dark secrets her fiancé knew nothing about. But Kirsten's wasn't the only wedding planned to take place that day in South Devon. A couple made their wedding vows at Morbary registry office and a few days later the groom is found dead in a seaside hotel. As Wesley examines the links between the cases, the skeleton of a young bride is discovered in a field once owned by the family of an Elizabethan playwright whose play is soon to be performed for the first time in four hundred years. Is the bloodthirsty drama a confession to the historic murder? And can it reveal anything about the recent killings Wesley must solve?

FIELDS, HELEN callanach ONE FOR SORROW (#7) (\$23.99) Edinburgh is gripped by the greatest terror it has ever known: a lone bomber is targeting victims across the city, and no one is safe. In their jobs, DCI Ava Turner and DI Luc Callanach deal with death every day. But when it becomes clear that every bomb is a trap designed to kill them too, the possibility of facing it themselves starts to feel all too real. With the body count rising daily and the bomber's methods becoming ever more horrifying, Ava and Luc must race to find out who is behind the attacks—or pay the ultimate price...

FLETCHER & MORAN MURDER SHE WROTE DEBONAIR IN DEATH (#54) (\$11.99) When Nelson Penzell, co-owner of a local art and treasure store in Cabot Cove, is murdered, the nail tech from Jessica Fletcher's favorite beauty parlor is the main suspect. After all, she's the one who ran out of the store screaming, covered in blood, and holding the murder weapon. Jessica is positive that despite the circumstances, Coreen can't possibly be guilty, and is determined to prove it. Jessica is surprised to once again be working alongside her old friend MI-6 agent Michael Haggerty to solve the case...

FREEMAN, DIANNE LADY'S GUIDE TO MISCHIEF AND MURDER (#3) (\$21.95) Needing a venue for her sister Lily's imminent wedding, away from prying eyes, Frances Wynn, the American-born Countess of Harleigh has the perfect choice: Risings, her beloved George Hazleton's family estate in Hampshire. But the bucolic setting harbors a menace, and it's not simply the arrival of Frances' socially ambitious

mother. Above and below stairs, mysterious accidents befall guests and staff alike. Before long, Frances suspects these "accidents" are deliberate, and fears that the intended victim is Lily's fiancé, Leo. Frances' mother is unimpressed by Lily's groom-to-be and would much prefer that Lily find an aristocratic husband, just as Frances did. But now that Frances has found happiness with George—a man who loves her for much more than her dowry—she heartily approves of Lily's choice. If she can just keep the couple safe from villains and meddling mamas.

GORDON, DAVID **bouncer** AGAINST THE LAW (#3) (\$22.95) Joe is an ex-Special Forces operative with a bad case of PTSD and some substance abuse issues, trying to rebuild a simple life as a strip club bouncer living with his grandmother in Queens. But this simple life is constantly complicated by the fact that, at the invitation of a childhood friend, now a Mafia boss, Joe also moonlights as a fixer for the most powerful crime families in town. In his newest assignment, Joe is sent to take out a shadowy figure named Zahir, the faceless name behind White Angel, a powerful new brand of heroin invading the mob's territories and threatening their sales. Soon the Five Boroughs are on the verge of an all-out drug war, pitting Joe and the crime world's most infamous talents against a ruthless clan of professional killers. Joe's only chance to calm the violence is to intercept the newest shipment of Zahir's product—if his skills as a master thief prove up to the task.

GRANGER, ANN **cotswold** MATTER OF MURDER (#7) (\$17.99) Two years ago, Miff Ferguson chose to opt out of the rat race. Since then, he's been living rough and happily so. That is until now. For, as the first signs of winter approach, everything changes. While looking for shelter, Miff stumbles across the dead body of a young woman inside a dilapidated warehouse. Quickly realising he's not alone, and what's worse he's been spotted, Miff becomes embroiled in a game of cat-and-mouse with a killer that forces him to abandon his life on the streets and take refuge with his aunt and uncle in the village of Weston St Ambrose. But, despite his best efforts to lie low, trouble seems to follow him and when another dead body is discovered at a local farm, it's clear Miff is not free from danger. With the clock ticking, Inspector Jess Campbell and Superintendent Ian Carter must join forces once again with the team of police at Bamford to piece together the puzzle before another innocent life is lost...

GRAY, CLAUDIA MURDER OF MR WICKHAM (\$22.95) ...a summer house party turns into a thrilling whodunit when Mr. Wickham, one of literature's most notorious rakes, finally gets what's coming to him in this brilliantly imagined murder mystery featuring **Jane Austen's** leading literary couples: Elizabeth and Fitzwilliam Darcy, Marianne and Colonel Brandon, Anne and Captain Wentworth, and Fanny and Edmund Bertram.

GRIFFITHS, ELLY **kaur** POSTSCRIPT MURDERS (#2) (\$21) The death of a ninety-year-old woman with a heart condition should not be suspicious. Detective Sergeant Harbinder Kaur certainly sees nothing out of the ordinary when Peggy's caretaker, Natalka, begins to recount Peggy Smith's passing. But Natalka had a reason to be at the police station: while clearing out Peggy's flat, she noticed an unusual number of crime novels, all dedicated to Peggy. And each psychological thriller included a mysterious postscript: PS: for PS. When a gunman breaks into the flat to steal a book and its author is found dead shortly thereafter—Detective Kaur begins to think that perhaps there is no such thing as an unsuspecting death after all. And then things escalate: from an Aberdeen literary festival to the streets of Edinburgh, writers are being targeted. DS Kaur embarks on a road trip across Europe and reckons with how exactly authors can think up such realistic crimes... Sequel to Stranger Diaries (#1) (\$24.99).

HAMILTON, KAREN LAST WIFE (\$23.99) Nina and Marie were best friends—until Nina was diagnosed with a terminal illness. Before she died, Nina asked Marie to fulfill her final wishes. But her mistake was in thinking Marie was someone she could trust. What Nina didn't know was that Marie always wanted her beautiful life, and that Marie has an agenda of her own. She'll do anything to get what she wants. Marie thinks she can keep her promise to her friend's family on her own terms. But what she doesn't know is that Nina was hiding explosive secrets of her own...

HARRIS, JOHN NORMAN **june** WEIRD WORLD OF WES BEATTIE (#1) (\$22.50) Wes Beattie, the hapless young son of a stuffy Toronto family is on trial for murder, and his explanations of what actually happened are entirely too fanciful to convince anyone. But Sidney "Gargoyle" Grant, a disreputable young lawyer, is irritated by the rush to condemnation, and resolves to untangle the truth. A delightful trip Toronto of the 60s.

HARRISON, CORA **reverend** DEATH OF A PROMINENT CITIZEN (#7) (\$26.99) Wealthy widow Charlotte Hendrick had always promised that her riches would be divided equally between her seven closest relatives when she died. Now she has changed her mind and summoned her nearest and dearest, including her cousin, the Reverend Mother, to her substantial home on Bachelor's Quay to inform them of her decision. As Mrs Hendrick's relatives desperately make their case to retain a share of her wealth, riots break out on the quays outside as the flood waters rise... The following morning, a

body is discovered in the master bedroom, its throat cut. Could there be a connection to the riots of the night before—or does the killer lie closer to home? In her efforts to uncover the truth, the Reverend Mother unearths a tale of greed, cruelty, forbidden passion ... and cold-blooded malice.

HART, JOHN UNWILLING (\$23.99)

HILLERMAN, ANNE SACRED BRIDGE (#7) (\$35.99 large print trade paperback, \$33.50 hard cover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

HUBER, ANNA LEE darby PERILOUS PERSPECTIVE (#10) (\$23) Argyll, Scotland. July 1832. After a trying few months in Edinburgh, Kiera and her husband and investigative partner, Sebastian Gage, are eager to escape to the Highlands with their three-month-old child. Kiera is overjoyed for her cousin Rye and her detractor-turned-friend Charlotte who are being wed in a private ceremony at the estate of Rye's great-uncle, the Marquess of Barbreck, in what seems to be the perfect wedding party. But when Kiera is invited to peruse Barbreck's extensive art collection, she is disturbed to discover that one of his most priceless paintings seems to be a forgery. The marquess's furious reaction when she dares to mention it leaves her shaken and the entire house shocked. When death soon follows, is it related to the reveal? A warning?

JOHNSON, WAYNE RED CANOE (\$23.95) Buck, government name Michael Fine-day, Ojibwe name Miskwa' doden (Red Deer) is on the brink of suicide. He has just been served divorce papers by his wife Naomi, who is fed up with his savior complex and the danger it often attracts to their door. Living on the border of Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community reservation, Buck makes a living as a boatbuilder and carpenter. He spends his days alone, trying to win the trust of a feral cat...until a semi-feral girl shows up, fascinated by the canoe Buck is building. Buck senses Lucy is in trouble and doesn't hesitate to come to her defense. On the foundation of their shared Ojibwe heritage, they trace Lucy's problems to a ring that extends farther than either of them ever imagined, while building a bond even sturdier than Buck's canoe.

KALLA, DANIEL DARKNESS IN THE LIGHT (\$24.99) After Brianna O'Brien takes her own life, Dr. David Spears blames himself. Though he understands suicides can be a tragic occurrence in psychiatric practice, this loss hits him particularly hard. With Brianna, he's convinced he missed crucial warning signs. When David suspects Brianna's friend, Amka Obed—whom he's also been treating virtually—is in crisis, he flies to the remote Arctic community of Utqiagvik, Alaska, only to discover that she has disappeared. Is it the new antidepressant he recently prescribed both Amka and Brianna? Or is it something more ordinary?

KEARSLEY, SUSANNA VANISHED DAYS (\$24.99) Autumn, 1707. Old enemies from the Highlands to the Borders are finding common ground as they join to protest the new Union with England, the French are preparing to launch an invasion to carry the young exiled Jacobite king back to Scotland to reclaim his throne, and, in Edinburgh, the streets are filled with discontent and danger. When a young widow, Lily Aitcheson, comes forward to collect her lost husband's wages, former soldier Adam Williamson is assigned to investigate her petition and the veracity of her claim. As Lily tells her story, Adam has only days to discover if she's being honest, or if his own feelings are making him blind to the truth. But sinister figures lurk in the background—is Adam being used as a pawn in an increasingly treacherous game?

KRISTJANSSON, SNORRI COUNCIL (#2) (\$17.99) Helga Finnsdottir left her foster parents, the old Viking chieftain Unnthor Reginson and his knowing wife Hildigunnur, to see the world, but she stopped in Uppsala when she fell in love. Now she's established herself as a local healer and herb-woman on the outskirts of town, and life is good—until King Eirik the Victorious calls a trade council and hairy northerners and southern Swedes alike descend on the town. Unfortunately for Helga, one delegation is headed by a very determined young woman who has her own agenda and will let nothing—and no one—get in her way. But the last time Helga saw Jorunn Unthorsdottir, her foster-sister was being cast out by their father for killing their brother Bjorn and trying to pin the blame on Helga. So perhaps it's no great surprise when one of the delegates is murdered, or that Helga's soon tagged as the lead suspect. It doesn't take her long to clear her own name, but that only leads suspicion to fall on to her man.

LACKBERG, CAMILLA adelhei SILVER TEARS (#2) (\$12.99) Faye Adelheim deserves the life she has. After fleeing from a violent marriage, she has built her business into a global brand and is living in a beautiful villa in Italy with her daughter. Or so she thought. Her life is turned upside down when her murderous ex-husband escapes from prison. Faye has no choice but to return home to confront him. Faye will do anything to keep her family safe. But when the dark secrets of her childhood come back to haunt her, she will have to battle like never before to stop her deepest fears from coming true...

LEGAT, ANNA shires AT DEATH'S DOOR (#2) (\$17.99) When Maggie Kaye and Sam Dee join the Bishops Well archaeological dig, they are as surprised as everyone else to unearth a body that was buried there less than fifty years ago. It can't possibly be the remains of an ancient Celt. Maggie, with her usual flair—and psychic intuition—is

convinced that there is more to this discovery than meets the eye. And some Bishops residents seem to know a lot more about the case than they are willing to let on. But nobody is as shocked as Maggie when a face from the past—a face she thought she'd never see again—appears in the village, and long-hidden secrets begin to surface.

LEITCH, WILL HOW LUCKY (\$21) Daniel leads a rich life in the university town of Athens, Georgia. He's got a couple close friends, a steady paycheck working for a regional airline, and of course, for a few glorious days each Fall, college football tailgates. He considers himself to be a mostly lucky guy—despite the fact that he's suffered from a debilitating disease since he was a small child, one that has left him unable to speak or to move without a wheelchair. Largely confined to his home, Daniel spends the hours he's not online communicating with irate air travelers observing his neighborhood from his front porch. One young woman passes by so frequently that spotting her out the window has almost become part of his daily routine. Until the day he's almost sure he sees her being kidnapped...

LLOYD, CHRIS UNWANTED DEAD (\$17.99) Paris, Friday 14th June 1940. The day the Nazis march into Paris, making headlines around the globe. Paris police detective Eddie Giral—a survivor of the last World War—watches helplessly on as his world changes forever. But there is something he still has control over. Finding whoever is responsible for the murder of four refugees. The unwanted dead, who no one wants to claim. To do so, he must tread carefully between the Occupation and the Resistance, between truth and lies, between the man he is and the man he was. All the while becoming whoever he must be to survive in this new and terrible order descending on his home...

LUNDRIGAN, NICOLE UNTHINKABLE THING (\$22.95) A tragedy brings a young boy into the home of a "perfect" family—one whose dark secrets begin closing in, until a horrifying moment changes everything.

MACELWAIN/MCELWAIN, JULIE MURDER IN TIME (\$11.99) When talented FBI agent Kendra Donovan stumbles back in time to find herself in a nineteenth century English castle—and under threat from a vicious serial killer—she races to solve the case before it takes her life—200 years before she was even born.

MACILVANNEY/MCILVANNEY, LIAM mccormack HERETIC (\$25.50) Set in 1976, seven years after the murders recounted in The Quaker (\$19.95)...Detective Duncan McCormack has returned to Glasgow after a stint with the Metropolitan Police in London. The reason for his return is left a lurking mystery throughout. He is investigating a series of murders that seem at first to be the result of random bouts of violence among Glasgow's poor and destitute. McCormack, however, has insight into Glasgow's underground that many of his colleagues don't. He has a secret of his own that he guards carefully but that takes him places and introduces him to people that prove essential to his investigations. The Quaker was named the Scottish Crime Fiction Book of the Year and a Washington Post Best Book of the Year. The Guardian called it "a solidly crafted and satisfying detective story."

MACKINLAY, JENN cupcake STRAWBERRIED ALIVE (#14) (\$11.99) Life is smooth as buttercream at the Fairy Tale Cupcakes bakery, and newlyweds Mel and Joe are stopping to smell the flours. But things start to crumble one night when an unknown gunman takes a shot at Mel. Though the bullets miss their mark, the cupcake crew goes on high alert to figure out who would want to kill a small-town baker, and why. When more business owners are attacked, things turn fatal, and locals begin to wonder if the killer could be one of their own. Every shop owner in town starts to fear it's only a matter of time before they too become victims of the mystery murderer. Despite the cupcake crew's superb baking skills, it will be anything but a piece of cake to catch the killer, as they try to prevent anyone else from being berried.

MACTIERNAN/MCTIERNAN, DERVLA MURDER RULE (\$24.99) They think I'm a young, idealistic law student, that I'm passionate about reforming a corrupt and brutal system. They think I'm working hard to impress them. They think I'm here to save an innocent man on death row. They're wrong. I'm going to bury him.

MAHMOOD, IMRAN YOU DONT KNOW ME (\$19.99) An unnamed defendant stands accused of murder. Just before the Closing Speeches, the young man sacks his lawyer, and decides to give his own defence speech. He tells us that his barrister told him to leave some things out. Sometimes, the truth can be too difficult to explain, or believe. But he thinks that if he's going to go down for life, he might as well go down telling the truth. There are eight pieces of evidence against him. As he talks us through them one by one, his life is in our hands. We, the reader—member of the jury—must keep an open mind till we hear the end of his story. His defence raises many questions...but at the end of the speeches, only one matters: Did he do it?

MARCH, NEV MURDER IN OLD BOMBAY (\$23.99) In 1892, Bombay is the center of British India. Nearby, Captain Jim Agnihotri lies in Poona military hospital recovering from a skirmish on the wild northern frontier, with little to do but re-read the tales of his idol, Sherlock Holmes, and browse the daily papers. The case that catches Captain Jim's attention is being called the crime of the century: Two women fell from the

busy university's clock tower in broad daylight. Moved by Adi, the widower of one of the victims — his certainty that his wife and sister did not commit suicide—Captain Jim approaches the Parsee family and is hired to investigate what happened that terrible afternoon. But in a land of divided loyalties, asking questions is dangerous. Captain Jim's investigation disturbs the shadows that seem to follow the Framji family and triggers an ominous chain of events. And when lively Lady Diana Framji joins the hunt for her sisters' attackers, Captain Jim's heart isn't safe, either. Based on a true story, and set against the vibrant backdrop of colonial India...

MARK, DAVID macavoy DARKNESS FALLS (#0) (\$21.95) Detective Sergeant Aector McAvoy is the outsider who must confront his darkest fears while hunting a killer that nobody else believes in. In a landscape at once tender and brutal, McAvoy must tread the path between the darkness and the light, before facing an enemy who will brand him for life. Set in Hull, 2011, Darkness Falls invites readers to see where it all began for Aector McAvoy...

MARTIN, FAITH ryder/loved FATAL AFFAIR (#6) (\$18.99) She was dressed in a long white gown, embroidered with tiny flowers. Her body was wrapped in colourful ribbons that floated in the breeze. But underneath the swathe of golden hair, a string of darkly smudged bruises ringed her neck.

MULLEN, THOMAS darktown MIDNIGHT ATLANTA (#3) (\$17.99) Atlanta, 1956. When Arthur Bishop, editor of Atlanta's leading black newspaper, is killed in his office, cop-turned-journalist Tommy Smith finds himself in the crosshairs of the racist cops he's been trying to avoid. To clear his name, he needs to learn more about the dangerous story Bishop had been working on. Meanwhile, Smith's ex-partner Lucius Boggs and white sergeant Joe McInnis—the only white cop in the black precinct—find themselves caught between meddling federal agents, racist detectives, and Communist activists as they try to solve the murder. With a young Rev. Martin Luther King Jr making headlines of his own, and tensions in the city growing, Boggs and Smith find themselves back on the same side in a hunt for the truth that will put them both at risk.

MURPHY, LYNNE POTLUCK AND OTHER STORIES (\$16.99) The stories in this collection will entertain and intrigue you. The senior citizens in the Golden Elders Condo, who find a new meaning for the term "taking potluck"; Simba, the cat in The Lion King, who must free himself from tyranny; and Kirsty Graham, in the novella, A Damaged Heart, who overcomes an unloved childhood, almost against her own will.

NICIEZA, FABIAN SUBURBAN DICKS (\$23) Andie Stern thought she'd solved her final homicide. Once a budding FBI profiler, she gave up her career to raise her four (soon to be five) children in West Windsor, New Jersey. But one day, between soccer games, recitals, and trips to the local pool, a very pregnant Andie pulls into a gas station—and stumbles across a murder scene. An attendant has been killed, and the local cops are in over their heads. Suddenly, Andie is obsessed with the case, and back on the trail of a killer, this time with kids in tow.

PERRY, ANNE daniel pitt DEATH WITH A DOUBLE EDGE (\$23) When junior barrister Daniel Pitt is summoned to the scene of a murder in the London district known as Mile End, he knows only that the victim is a senior barrister from the same firm. To Daniel's relief, it is not his close friend Toby Kitteridge, but the question remains: What was this respected colleague doing in such a rough part of the city? The firm's head, Marcus fford Croft, may know more than he admits, but fford Croft's memory is not what it used to be, and his daughter, Miriam—Daniel's sometime sidekick—isn't in the country to offer her usual help. And so Daniel and Toby must investigate on their own, lest the police uncover something that may cast a suspicious light on the firm.

PERRY, CAROL J salem TIL DEATH (#12) (\$11.99) Lee and Detective Sergeant Pete Mondello are finally tying the knot—and Lee is tying up loose ends before the big day. It'll be an adjustment moving out of Aunt Ibbey's house, but the couple will stay nearby—after all, they have to share custody of O'Ryan, their clairvoyant cat. And Aunt Ibbey will be renting out Lee's old apartment...though she's getting some bad vibes from her current prospective tenant. After the celebration, complete with a cake made by the station magician, there should be time to relax—but the Maine island happens to be near the site of the crash that long ago killed Lee's parents, a mystery she's never been able to solve. Soon she'll be putting wedding gifts aside and turning to her psychic gifts instead, to wrap up crimes both past and present...

PLEITER, ALLIE riverbank KNIT OR DYE TRYING (#2) (\$11.99) Lee and Detective Sergeant Pete Mondello are finally tying the knot—and Lee is tying up loose ends before the big day. It'll be an adjustment moving out of Aunt Ibbey's house, but the couple will stay nearby—after all, they have to share custody of O'Ryan, their clairvoyant cat. And Aunt Ibbey will be renting out Lee's old apartment...though she's getting some bad vibes from her current prospective tenant. After the celebration, complete with a cake made by the station magician, there should be time to relax—but the Maine island happens to be near the site of the crash that long ago killed Lee's parents, a mystery she's never been able to solve. Soon she'll be putting wedding gifts aside and turning to her psychic gifts instead, to wrap up crimes both past and present...

REICHS, KATHY tempe BONE CODE (#20) (\$12.99) On the way to hurricane-ravaged Isle of Palms, a barrier island off the South Carolina coast, Tempe receives a call from the Charleston coroner. The storm has tossed ashore a medical waste container. Inside are two decomposed bodies wrapped in plastic sheeting and bound with electrical wire. Tempe recognizes many details as identical to those of an unsolved case she handled in Quebec years earlier. With a growing sense of foreboding, she travels to Montreal to gather evidence. Meanwhile, health authorities in South Carolina become increasingly alarmed as a human flesh-eating contagion spreads. So focused is Tempe on identifying the container victims that, initially, she doesn't register how their murders and the pestilence may be related. But she does recognize one unsettling fact. Someone is protecting a dark secret—and is willing to do anything to keep it hidden.

ROBERTS, NORA HIDEAWAY (\$12.99) Caitlyn Sullivan had come from a long line of Hollywood royalty, stretching back to her Irish immigrant great-grandfather. At nine, she was already a star—yet still an innocent child who loved to play hide and seek with her cousins at the family home in Big Sur. It was during one of those games that she was kidnapped. She escapes. To help her recuperate her family sends her to western Ireland for a few years. She's safe and well protected but there's a restlessness growing in her soul. Finally, she would return to Los Angeles, gathering the courage to act again and get past the trauma that had derailed her life. What she didn't yet know was that two seeds had been planted that long-ago night—one of a great love, and one of a terrible vengeance...

ROBERTS, NORA inn LAST BOYFRIEND (#2) (\$10.99) ...the story of a shared past, a fresh start, and a lifetime of love in the second novel in the Inn BoonsBoro Trilogy.

ROBERTS, NORA inn PERFECT HOPE (#3) (\$11.99) ...completes the Inn BoonsBoro trilogy with a novel of starting over and star-crossed love.

ROBOTHAM, MICHAEL LIFE OR DEATH (\$17.99) Why would a man escape from prison the day before he's due to be released? Audie Palmer has spent a decade in prison for an armed robbery in which four people died, including two of the gang. Seven million dollars has never been recovered and everybody believes that Audie knows where the money is. For ten years he has been beaten, stabbed, throttled and threatened almost daily by prison guards, inmates and criminal gangs, who all want to answer this same question, but suddenly Audie vanishes, the day before he's due to be released. Everybody wants to find Audie, but he's not running. Instead he's trying to save a life . . . and not just his own.

SCARLETT, ROGER CAT'S PAW (\$21.95) Martin Greenough's walled-off mansion is the last remaining holdout in the Boston parkland known as the Fenway—and the fact that it eluded condemnation by the city is a testament to the elderly bachelor's great wealth. Childless and nearing the end of his life, he surrounds himself with only his cat, his servants, and a friend, Mrs. Warden—to say nothing of the circle of extended family members whose lives he both subsidizes and rules from afar, the nieces and nephews who all seem to be more fond of Uncle Mart's money than they are of his character. On the eve of his birthday, Greenough requests the presence of his heirs at his home, insisting that he has something important to discuss. Before that discussion can take place, though, the man is murdered in his study. In one way or another nearly everyone there would benefit by his death, and none gathered seem terribly upset by it, so finding the culprit is no easy task for Inspector Kane of the Boston PD. But as he untangles the threads and unburies dark family secrets, the discovery of a bizarre clue might hold the key to solving the crime. A classical "closed circle" mystery...

SEYMOUR, GERALD CROCODILE HUNTER (\$17.99) At MI5 they call Jonas Merrick 'the eternal flame', because he never goes out. Never goes undercover, or on surveillance, or kicking down doors. If he's studying a map, he's probably planning his caravan holiday. But what the hot-shots fail to notice in Jonas is a steely concentration, a ruthless ability to find the enemy who hides in plain sight like a submerged crocodile, waiting for prey. Cameron Jilkes, a young man from a broken background, trained as a Jihadi in the harshest theatre of war. Coming ashore near Dover, he plans to live unnoticed, before unleashing a terrifying strike. And this time, Jonas Merrick must go out—to hunt the crocodile himself.

SIGER, JEFFREY ONE LAST CHANCE (#12) (\$22.99) When Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis's longtime assistant, Maggie, returns to her ancestral home on Ikaria for her 104-year-old grandmother's funeral, she quickly realizes not only was Yiayia likely murdered, but that a series of other long-lived Ikariots had recently died under the same suspicious circumstances. Back in Athens, Andreas and his chief detective Yianni pursue a smuggling and protection ring embedded in the Greek DEA, and its possible involvement in the assassination of an undercover cop. But then Maggie and Yianni uncover a connection between their respective leads in the elder-killings on Ikaria and the DEA corruption case, and they realize that there are international intrigues far more dangerous at play than anyone had imagined.

STARR, MEL singleton MASTER WYCLIFFE'S SUMMONS (#14) (\$16.95) Schol-

ar Richard Sabyn, a particularly obnoxious fellow, was believed to have been struck by lightning. However, Master Wycliffe believes otherwise and calls upon Sir Hugh de Singleton for help. Sir Hugh shares Wycliffe's suspicions and launches a private investigation, learning that it might indeed be possible to make it look as though a man has died from a lightning strike. But who would go to all that effort, and why? When fellow scholar Simon Duby dies, it raises even more questions and suspicions. What is the connection between the two men? Sir Hugh believes a bronze pot, a bucket of urine, and a small quantity of charcoal and brimstone may hold the answer. During a bleak 1375, can he survive the insidious plague and several attempts on his life as he continues his quest for truth?

STEN, CAMILLA RESTING PLACE (\$24.99) Eleanor lives with prosopagnosia, the inability to recognize a familiar person's face. It causes stress. Acute anxiety. It can make you question what you think you know. When Eleanor walked in on the scene of her capriciously cruel grandmother, Vivianne's, murder, she came face to face with the killer—a maddening expression that means nothing to someone like her. With each passing day, the horror of having come so close to a murderer—and not knowing if they'd be back—overtakes both her dreams and her waking moments, thwarting her perception of reality. Then a lawyer calls. Vivianne has left her a house—a looming estate tucked away in the Swedish woods. The place her grandfather died, suddenly. A place that has housed a chilling past for over fifty years. Eleanor. Her steadfast boyfriend, Sebastian. Her reckless aunt, Veronika. The lawyer. All will go to this house of secrets, looking for answers. But as they get closer to uncovering the truth, they'll wish they had never come to disturb what rests there.

STOCKWIN, JULIAN THUNDERER (#24) (\$24.99) With Bonaparte held to a stalemate in Europe, the race to empire is now resumed. Britain's ambitions turn to the Spice Islands, the Dutch East Indies, where Admiral Pellew has been sent to confront the enemy's vastly rich holdings in these tropical islands. Captain Sir Thomas Kydd joins reinforcements to snatch these for the British Crown. The two colonial masters of India and the East Indies face each other in mortal striving for the region—there can be only one victor to hold all the spoils. The colonial genius, Stamford Raffles, believes Britain should strike at the very centre of Dutch spice production, the Moluccas, rather than the fortresses one by one but is fiercely opposed. Kydd, allying himself to this cause, conspires to lead a tiny force to a triumphant conclusion—however the Dutch, stung by this loss, claim vengeance from the French. A battle for Java and an empire in the East stretches Kydd and Tyger's company to their very limits.

STUART DAVIES, DAVID FURTHER ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES – REVENGE FROM THE GRAVE (\$19.95) When Professor James Moriarty plunged over the Reichenbach Falls the world believed that Sherlock Holmes was also dead. Three years later, Holmes has returned—but so, too, has a deadly threat. With Moriarty's criminal empire still very much alive, Holmes and Watson are forced to ask themselves if their greatest foe really did perish...

THOMAS, WILL barker DANCE WITH DEATH (#12) (\$23.99) In June of 1893, the future Nicholas II travels to London for a royal wedding, bringing with him his private security force and his ballerina mistress, Mathilde Kchessinska. Rumored to be the target of a professional assassin known only as La Sylphide, and the subject of conspiracies against his life by his own family who covet his future throne, Nicholas is protected by not only private security, but the professional forces of both England and Russia. All of these measures prove inadequate when Prince George of England is attacked by an armed anarchist who mistakes him for Nicholas. As a result, Barker and Llewelyn are brought in to help track down the assassin and others who might conspire against the life of the tsesarevich. The investigations lead them down several paths, including Llewelyn's old nemesis, the assassin Sofia Ilyanova. With Barker and Llewelyn both surviving separate attempts on their lives, the race is on to find both the culprit and the assassin they hired. Taking them through high society (including a masked ball at Kensington Palace) and low, chasing down motives both personal and political, Barker and Llewelyn must solve the case of their life before the crime of the century is committed.

THOROGOOD, ROBERT MARLOW MURDER CLUB (\$24.99) Meet Judith: a seventy-seven-year-old whiskey drinking, crossword puzzle author living her best life in a dilapidated mansion on the outskirts of Marlow. Nothing ever happens in Marlow. That is, until Judith hears her neighbor shot while skinny-dipping in the Thames. The local police don't believe her story. It's an open and shut case, of course. Ha! Stefan can't be left for dead like that. Judith investigates and picks up a crew of sidekicks: Suzie the dogwalker and Becks the vicar's wife. Together, they are the Marlow Murder Club. When another body turns up, they realize they have a real-life serial killer on their hands. And the puzzle they set out to solve has become a trap from which they might never escape...

WALSH, ALICE DEATH ON DARBY'S ISLAND (\$21.95) Nothing exciting ever happens on Darby's Island, Newfoundland. That is until one summer afternoon in 1975 when a Chevy towing a trailer drives off the ferry. The Great Prospero, Hypnotist and

Magician is printed in large red letters across the side. People on the island are thrilled that the renowned Prospero is going to perform at the community hall. However, after the hypnotist suggests his subjects are seagulls, Jake Pickford, with arms flapping, leaves the building and does not return to the stage. That same evening, the archbishop is found stabbed to death on the beach. Hours later, Jake becomes the number-one suspect. The only problem: he can't remember anything. As RCMP officer Blanche Ste Croix conducts interviews and proceeds with the investigation, she uncovers secrets, coverups, and no shortage of suspects. Even the archbishop has his share of skeletons in his closet. But when the truth comes to light, it is more sinister than anyone could have imagined.

WEAVER, ASHLEY mcdonnell PECULIAR COMBINATION (#1) (\$23.99) Electra McDonnell and her family earn their living outside the law. Breaking into the homes of the rich and picking the locks on their safes may not be condoned by British law enforcement, but with World War II in full swing, Uncle Mick's locksmith business just can't pay the bills anymore. So when Uncle Mick receives a tip about a safe full of jewels in an empty house, he and Ellie can't resist. All is going as planned—until the pair is caught red-handed. But instead of arresting them, government official Major Ramsey has an offer: either Ellie agrees to help him break into a safe and retrieve blueprints crucial to the British war effort, or he turns her over to the police. Ellie doesn't care for the major's imperious manner, but she has no choice. However, when they break into the house, they find the safe open and empty, and a German spy dead on the floor. Soon, Ellie and Major Ramsey are forced to put aside their differences to unmask the double agent and stop Allied plans from falling into enemy hands.

WELSH, LOUISE rilke CUTTING ROOM (#1) (\$17.95) Rilke, an auctioneer, comes upon a hidden collection of violent erotic photographs. He feels compelled to unearth more about the deceased owner who coveted them. What follows is a journey of discovery, decadence and deviousness, steered in part by Rilke's gay promiscuity and inquisitive nature. Published 2002, to rave reviews.

WINSLOW, DON CITY ON FIRE (\$24.99 trade paperback, \$35.99 hardcover) See the hardcovers section for an annotation.

WOODS, STUART barrington CLASS ACT (#58) (\$12.99) After a rocky jaunt in Maine, Stone Barrington is settling back in New York City when an old client reaches out for help with a delicate matter. A feud they thought was put to rest long ago has reemerged with a vengeance, and reputations—and money—are now on the line. As Stone sets out to unravel a tangled web of crime and secrets, his mission becomes even more complicated when he makes an irresistible new acquaintance. In both the underbelly and upper echelons of New York, everyone has something to hide—and if Stone has learned anything, it's that history has a way of repeating itself...

WRIGHT, JUNE mother paul FACULTY OF MURDER (#2) (\$20.95) Mother Paul, our beloved nun-detective, returns to her sleuthing ways after she takes up a new position as warden of a student hall of residence at the University of Melbourne. No sooner has Judith Mornane arrived on campus than she startles her fellow residents by announcing her intention to discover the murderer of her sister, who disappeared from the same dorm a year earlier. The ever-curious Mother Paul is drawn to investigate what happened to Judith's sister—did she simply run off for reasons best known to herself, as the police concluded, or could it be she really was murdered? Was her disappearance perhaps linked to a tragedy that happened at around the same time—the accidental drowning (in her bathtub) of the wife of one of the college's professors? Was that drowning in fact as accidental as the official investigation suggested? Mother Paul believes the two events are connected somehow, and a further tragedy, the faked-suicide death of one of her student charges, convinces her that a particularly cruel and clever murderer is still at work within the college. She is not above a little subterfuge in the interest of discovering the truth and moves her colleagues, the students, and even the police around like so many figures on a chessboard until finally, amid high drama, the murderer is revealed.

XIAOLONG, QIU INSPECTOR CHEN AND THE PRIVATE KITCHEN MURDER (#12) (\$26.99) No longer a chief inspector, Chen Cao finds himself as director of the Shanghai Judicial System Reform Office. To outsiders it's a promotion, but Chen knows he's being removed from the spotlight as he's immediately placed on involuntary 'convalescence leave' to stop him interfering with any cases. However, with various high-profile crimes making headlines and fears escalating over vigilante reprisals, Chen's superiors know he must at least appear active. One case revolves around Min Lihau, a mingyuan, who runs a 'private kitchen' for powerful figures in Shanghai. Min's accused of murdering her assistant, yet Chen is struck by its similarities to a historic case involving the famous Judge Dee. When an acquaintance of his is murdered in connection with Min, Chen knows he can't stand idly by . . . but he must act in secret, under the cover of writing a Judge Dee novel.