



# The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

## SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

September 2021

I've spent the last week at Marian's cottage, babysitting the new addition and his older, and far more wonderful, sister. Not that he won't turn out to be equally wonderful, but, at the moment, he, the unnamed one, is very much a work in progress. It's been a fabulous few days—I see why Herself loves it so much here—and I've done precious little, but read a bit, water the plants, watch the Solheim Cup—ladies, US vs. Europe, excellent golf—and the FedEx Cup—laddies, also excellent golf. I have a couple of hours to finish this, get it up on the website and off to the printer before the start of the third and final day of the ladies singles matches and I plan on spending the afternoon watching. I particularly enjoy watching women's golf as it's a game I can relate to, where the men, well, as some wag once noted, it's a game with which I'm not familiar. I usually need two whacks to get as far as their drives. Besides, I'm in love with Sweden's Madelene Sagström, now that Michelle Wie is no longer golfing.

### JD's Picks

**DON WINSLOW** is an amazing writer and his most recent offering, Broken (\$22.99) is not to be missed. I know, I know, everybody wants full length novels, not novellas, nor short stories, and I get it, but if you pass up this collection of six novellas, I will not like you very much. I mean it. Besides, dollars to doughnuts, each of these six gems is likely longer than anything **Robert B. Parker** ever wrote, on a word-for-word basis, and you couldn't wait to read his new one! The San Diego Zoo, dedicated to **Mr. Elmore Leonard**, is the funniest 60-page story you'll have the good fortune to read. Remember Neal Carey, the English lit grad student, the protagonist in the first five books that **Winslow** wrote, way back in the early 90's? Neal's been MIA since—why they have never been re-printed is the crime of the century if you ask me—but Prof. Neal Carey, Univ. of California, San Diego, makes a delightful appearance in Sunset. That one is dedicated to **Mr. Raymond Chandler**. Remember Boone Daniels from The Dawn Patrol (#1) \$22.95)? He's here as well. And, the gang from Savages (\$25), Ben, Chon and O, makes an appearance in Paradise.

This is a delight. I'm planning on re-reading these, something I rarely do.

Canadian **ELAINE MURPHY**'s debut novel Look What You Made Me Do (\$22.99) was an interesting twist on the serial killer novel! Carrie Lawrence has been helping—she'd say coerced, blackmailed, entrapped—her sister to hide her victims. After a decade, countless bodies and lies later, Carrie would like to be safe, boring, and not trekking through the woods at night with a dead body wrapped in a carpet. Her sister, Becca, on the other hand just wants to continue getting away with murder. She's gotten away with murder for a decade and has help hiding the evidence—what more could a girl want? And then, when thirteen bodies are discovered in their small town, the sisters are shocked. Carrie thought she knew of all of Becca's victims and Becca swears she's not responsible for these thirteen. The town must have another serial killer!

Here's what *Publishers Weekly* had to say: Over the last 10 years in Brampton, Maine, 28-year-old Carrie Lawrence, the narrator of **Murphy**'s unsettling, blackly humorous debut, has reluctantly helped her serial killer sister, 30-year-old Becca, bury 12 bodies. Sociopath Becca, who has been a serial killer since her teens, keeps Carrie in line by saying she has planted DNA on each of her victims that will implicate Carrie. Life hasn't been great for Carrie, who both loves and fears her sister, but at least she knows her enemy. Then the police unearth a dozen bodies in a Brampton park, each missing a foot, and the sisters realize there's another serial killer in town, whom the press dubs Footloose. Becca and Carrie wind up matching wits with Footloose, who has his eye on the sisters, in a deadly contest that Becca thinks is fun but terrifies Carrie. Who will survive remains far from clear as the action builds to a series of unexpected twists. Murphy sensitively explores the bonds of sisterhood amid all the murder and mayhem. Those looking for an offbeat serial killer thriller will have fun.

Fun, boy howdy!

**JANE CASEY**'s The Killing Kind (\$24.99) is another standalone from the author of the Maeve Kerrigan novels. Where I have enjoyed many in the Kerrigan series, this one was uneven. The psychological aspects were well drawn but my tongue was sore from being planted so firmly in my cheek. It was also unnecessarily long. The books has

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been getting glowing reviews, as you would expect, but here's what **Natasha Cooper**, author of barrister Trish Maguire series, had to say in *LiteraryReview*: **Jane Casey** has moved on from her Maeve Kerrigan series to produce a stand-alone novel with a junior barrister as the first-person narrator. Three years before the novel opens, Ingrid Lewis was defending a man on a charge of stalking and having to use her skills to destroy the woman who claimed she was his victim. Since then he has turned his attentions to Ingrid herself, and the restraining order she won against him has run out. The novel moves back and forth between 2015 and 2019, covering more of her cases in convincing detail and raising issues of vulnerability, trust, risk and responsibility. When the plot moves away from the courtroom drama, it balloons into a less plausible melodrama in which bodies pile up, but the questions it asks are relevant and interesting. The hardest is: just how badly, stupidly and cruelly can you behave while still believing yourself to be a victim?

And, finally, a customer asked me about **C M ELLIOT's Sibanda and the Rainbird (#1)** (\$17.99), the first of three novels featuring DI Jabulani Sibanda, and as I couldn't really say much about it, I decided to remedy that by taking it to the cottage. Besides, a very good friend is originally from Zim, as he calls it, and I figured this might be an easy way to learn a little about his place of birth. Briefly, when a gruesomely vulture-mutilated corpse is found in the National Park near Thunduluka Lodge, Zimbabwe, Sibanda—a hard-boiled, bush-loving, instinctive crime fighter—is on the case. A little Sherlock Holmes, a little Precious Ramotswe, and you have an enjoyable afternoon ahead of you.

## Marian's Picks

I feel like a walking zombie. It's the effort of ensuring that New Puppy gets to go outside at least hourly during the day and usually twice during the night. He is crated at night and has been waking up consistently around 2 am and 5 am. He's been very good and, except for his first night in Toronto, he has been at the cottage the entire time. So much easier to house train by just opening the door to the garden instead of having to carry him up and down stairs in Toronto. It's been seven days and Pixie is still in a funk about him. I'm hoping she will begin to tolerate him a bit more soon, as he really is a delight. Right now, it's lots of warning growls and barks—shots across the bow, as it were—but Pix'll soon set this interloper straight. A part of me is regretting having done this to Pixie—she is such a gentle soul—but, fingers crossed, she will end up adoring him and there will be peace in the kingdom. JD is now on puppy duty at the cottage and I'm back minding the store for the long weekend.

I savoured every word of *The Madness of Crowds* (\$36.99) by **LOUISE PENNY**. There is a very different tone to this book; it's darker than any of the novels that have preceded it. It raises some very dark, disturbing questions which makes for a very powerful read. The setting is back in Three Pines and all the usual characters are there as well. The plot revolves around the issues that Covid has brought up in our society and how **Ms. Penny** has weaved her magic to include the Three Pines gang, Gamache and his troops, attempted murder, murder... well, I'm gobsmacked. It's a fabulous read. Here is the description of the story: While the residents of the Québec village of Three Pines take advantage of the deep snow to ski and toboggan, to drink hot chocolate in the bistro and share meals together, the Chief Inspector finds his holiday with his family interrupted by a simple request. He's asked to provide security for what promises to be a non-event. A visiting Professor of Statistics will be giving a lecture at the nearby university. While he is perplexed as to why the head of homicide for the Sûreté du Québec would be assigned this task, it sounds easy enough. That is until Gamache starts looking into Profes-

or Abigail Robinson and discovers an agenda so repulsive he begs the university to cancel the lecture.

They refuse, citing academic freedom, and accuse Gamache of censorship and intellectual cowardice... Discussions become debates, debates become arguments, which turn into fights. As sides are declared, a madness takes hold...

When a murder is committed it falls to Armand Gamache, his second-in-command Jean-Guy Beauvoir, and their team to investigate the crime as well as this extraordinary popular delusion.

*The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra (#1)* (\$22.99) by **VASEEM KHAN**, was a delightful read; how could you not be delighted reading about our hero, a not-as-hapless-as-he-seems policeman, living in an apartment in Mumbai, whose retirement gift is Ganesh, a baby elephant! There is also the question of the suspicious drowning death of a boy, which no one seems to want solved. There are five books in the Chopra/Ganesh series; best to start with the first!

I mention this because as I was unpacking *Midnight at Malabar House* (\$17.99) by **Mr. Khan**, I noticed the review on the front cover that said: "Historical crime fiction at its sharpest"—*Sunday Times*. Well, I'm thinking, a new series? Yup, you bet cha, it is the first featuring Inspector Persis Wadia. Set in India of 1949, the story recounts a lot of information about what happened during and after Partition where millions of people died in the orgy of communal bloodletting between Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs. The case revolves around solving the murder of a prominent English diplomat in Bombay on New Year's Eve, 1949. As India celebrates the arrival of a momentous new decade, Inspector Persis Wadia stands vigil in the basement of Malabar House, home to the city's most unwanted unit of police officers. (I love stories about misfits!) Six months after joining the force she remains India's first female police detective, mistrusted, sidelined and now consigned to the midnight shift.

And so, when the phone rings to report the murder of English diplomat Sir James Herriot, the country's most sensational case falls into her lap.

As 1950 dawns and India prepares to become the world's largest republic, Persis, accompanied by Scotland Yard criminalist Archie Blackfinch, finds herself investigating a case that is becoming more political by the second. Navigating a country and society in turmoil, Persis, smart, stubborn and untested in the crucible of male hostility that surrounds her, must find a way to solve the murder - whatever the cost.

As you know, I love historical novels, and this is set in a part of the world that I have some particular interest in, and it turned out to be an excellent read. Just enough complexities, just enough history and a heroine that you'll find yourself cheering for as she fights centuries of male prejudice and expectations. I'm hoping that there will be more of Insp. Wadia soon. (*Marian passed on the book to me and, expecting to find enough "errors" in the story to be annoyed, I figured I'd give it the first paragraph test and that would pretty much be that. But, that wasn't the case at all! Although, I had a suspicion as to where the story was going—turned out, I was mostly wrong—it still jived with the stories that I have often heard of those awful times, coming from the Partition Ground Zero as my family did.—jd*)

Remember a couple of newsletters ago I told you that my book club was going to read *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* (\$22.99) by **KIM MICHELE RICHARDSON**? We had previously read *The Giver of Stars* (\$23) by **JOJO MOYES** and learned that there were allegations of plagiarism levelled at **Ms. Moyes** and that she may have used some of **Ms. Richardson's** work. I am not going to dwell on the plagiarism issue as the two books are based on the theme of

(mostly) women hired under the auspices of Eleanor Roosevelt who wanted to bring library books to the rural areas of Kentucky during the depression, so a certain amount of sameness is to be expected. The initiative lasted from 1935-1943. Quite the project.

Here is the plot line of Book Woman: In 1936, Bluet is the last of the Kentucky Blues. In the dusty Appalachian hills of Troublesome Creek, nineteen and blue-skinned, Bluet has used up her last chance for “respectability” and a marriage bed. Instead, she joins the historical Pack Horse Library Project of Kentucky and becomes a librarian, riding up treacherous mountains on a mule to deliver books and other reading material to the poor hill communities of Eastern Kentucky.

Along her dangerous route, Bluet confronts many who are distrustful of her blue skin. Not everyone is so keen on Bluet’s family or the Library Project, and the impoverished Kentuckians are quick to blame a Blue for any trouble in their small town.

The story is inspired by the true and historical, blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse Library Project.

After reading both books we decided The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek was more enjoyable, mainly because of Bluet and her blue skin, which none of us had ever heard about before. You might have to read both books to see which you prefer.

## Hardbacks

**ANDREW, D0ONNA langslow** MURDER MOST FOWL (#29) (\$36.99) Meg Langslow’s in for a busy summer. Her husband is directing a production of Macbeth, and most of the cast and crew are occupying spare bedrooms in their house. She also has to keep an eye on Camp Birnam, where a group of medieval reenactors are commemorating the real-life Macbeth by setting up what they fondly believe is an authentic medieval Scottish military camp. And then there’s Damien Goodwin, a filmmaker who has been hanging around, trying to document the production. When Goodwin hosts a showing of some of the footage he’s taken, he manages to embarrass or offend just about everyone. The next morning Meg isn’t exactly surprised to find that someone has murdered him. But who?

**BARTZ, ANDREA** WE WERE NEVER HERE (\$36) Emily is having the time of her life—she’s in the mountains of Chile with her best friend, Kristen, on their annual reunion trip, and the women are feeling closer than ever. But on the last night of the trip, Emily enters their hotel suite to find blood and broken glass on the floor. Kristen says the cute backpacker she brought back to their room attacked her, and she had no choice but to kill him in self-defense. Even more shocking: The scene is horrifyingly similar to last year’s trip, when another backpacker wound up dead. Emily can’t believe it’s happened again—can lightning really strike twice?

**BOWEN, GAIL** IMAGE IN THE LAKE (#20) (\$34.95) It’s August 24 and Joanne Shreve and her husband, Zack, are savoring the last lazy days of summer and looking forward to the birth of a new grandchild; involvement in the campaign of Ali Janvier, a gifted politician with a solid chance of becoming the province’s next premier; and the debut of *Sisters and Strangers*, the six-part series Joanne co-wrote that focuses on her early life. The series is the flagship of a new slate of programming, and MediaNation is counting on a big return. Joanne and Zack’s stake in the series’ success is personal. Their daughter, Taylor, is in a relationship with one of the show’s stars, and Vale Frazier is already like family to them. It seems the “season of mist and mellow fruitfulness” will be a bountiful one for the Shreves. But when a charismatic young woman wearing a grief amulet that contains a lock of her dead brother’s hair and a dark secret becomes part of their lives, the success of *Sisters and Strangers* and the future of

Taylor and Vale’s relationship are jeopardized, and only Joanne and Zack can put an end to the threat.

**BUCHANAN, GREG** SIXTEEN HORSES (\$37.99) In Ilmarsh, England, local police detective Alec Nichols discovers sixteen horses’ heads on a farm, each buried with a single eye facing the low winter sun. After Veterinary Forensics expert Cooper Allen travels to the scene, a pathogen is discovered lurking within the soil, and many of those who have come into contact with the corpses grow critically ill. A series of crimes comes to light—disappearances, arson, and mutilations—and in the dark days that follow, the town slips into panic and paranoia. Everything is not as it seems. Anyone could be a suspect. And as Cooper finds herself unable to leave town, Alec is stalked by an unseen threat. The two investigators race to uncover the truth behind these frightened and insidious mysteries—no matter the cost.

**BURDETTE, LUCY** SCONE OF CONTENTION (#11) (\$35.99) Key Zest food critic Hayley Snow and her groom, police detective Nathan Bransford, chose Scotland for their long-delayed honeymoon, hoping to sightsee and enjoy some prize-winning scones. But their romantic duo swells to a crowd when they’re joined by Nathan’s family as well as octogenarian Miss Gloria. Worse, a murderer’s out to spoil Hayley’s honeymoon.

**BURKE, JAMES LEE holland** ANOTHER KIND OF EDEN (#4) (\$36) The American West in the early 1960s appears to be a pastoral paradise: golden wheat fields, mist-filled canyons, frolicking animals. Aspiring novelist Aaron Holland Broussard has observed it from the open door of a boxcar, riding the rails for both inspiration and odd jobs. Jumping off in Denver, he finds work on a farm and meets Joanne McDuffy, an articulate and fierce college student and gifted painter. Their soul connection is immediate, but their romance is complicated by Joanne’s involvement with a shady professor who is mixed up with a drug-addled cult. When a sinister businessman and his son who wield their influence through vicious cruelty set their sights on Aaron, drawing him into an investigation of grotesque murders, it is clear that this idyllic landscape harbors tremendous power—and evil. Followed by a mysterious shrouded figure who might not be human, Aaron will have to face down all these foes to save the life of the woman he loves and his own.

**DENNISON, HANNAH** SISTERS DANGER AT THE COVE (#2) (\$36.99) Renovations on Tregarrick Rock Hotel are coming along, and Evie Mead thinks they just might be done by opening day. Then one of her sister Margot’s old Hollywood friends, Louise, arrives unannounced—and expecting VIP treatment. Evie has half a mind to tell Louise to find other accommodations, but Margot pleads with Evie, saying that Louise—despite her upbeat and demanding attitude—is grieving her recently deceased husband. Evie pities her, and besides, the sisters need help. But when a member of the hotel staff is found dead, and then another murder follows, the sisters’ plans crumble before their eyes. Who would do such a thing—and why? In a rollicking adventure involving a shipwreck filled with buried treasure, a dashing and mysterious Australian named Randy, and old rivalries stretching back to far before Evie and Margot ever set foot on the island, it’s all hands on deck to find the killer—and save the hotel.

**FEITO, VIRGINIA MRS. MARCH** (\$35) “But ... the main character, it — isn’t she ...” Mrs. March leaned in and in almost a whisper said, ‘a whore?’” With these words, prompted by the suggestion that she was the unwitting muse for her husband’s latest novel, the eponymous protagonist of Virginia Feito’s debut book of fiction ushers us into her world and her ensuing descent into madness. It is the first of many such instances, both real and imagined, in which Mrs. March is confronted with her husband’s work, for everywhere she turns it seems that people are talking about his novel — and, by extension, about her and Johanna, the fictional character in question—*Christine Mangan*, *NYT*, Aug. 10, 2021.

**HELLER, MIRANDA** PAPER PALACE (\$36) It is a perfect July morning, and Elle, a fifty-year-old happily married mother of three, awakens at “The Paper Palace”—the family summer place which she has visited every summer of her life. But this morning is different: last night Elle and her oldest friend Jonas crept out the back door into the darkness and had sex with each other for the first time, all while

their spouses chatted away inside. Now, over the next twenty-four hours, Elle will have to decide between the life she has made with her genuinely beloved husband, Peter, and the life she always imagined she would have had with her childhood love, Jonas, if a tragic event hadn't forever changed the course of their lives...

**HELLER, PETER** GUIDE (\$36) The author of The River (\$22) returns with a thriller about a young man who is hired by an elite fishing lodge in Colorado, where he uncovers a plot of shocking menace amid the natural beauty of sun-drenched streams and forests. Kingfisher Lodge, nestled in a canyon on a mile and a half of the most pristine river water on the planet, is known by locals as "Billionaire's Mile" and is locked behind a heavy gate. Sandwiched between barbed wire and a meadow with a sign that reads "Don't Get Shot!" the resort boasts boutique fishing at its finest. Safe from viruses that have plagued America for years, Kingfisher offers a respite for wealthy clients. Now it also promises a second chance for Jack, a return to normalcy after a young life filled with loss. When he is assigned to guide a well-known singer, his only job is to rig her line, carry her gear, and steer her to the best trout he can find. But then a human scream pierces the night, and Jack soon realizes that this idyllic fishing lodge may be merely a cover for a far more sinister operation.

**HIRAHARA, NAOMI CLARK AND DIVISION** (\$35.95) Chicago, 1944: Twenty-year-old Aki Ito and her parents have just been released from Manzanar, where they have been detained by the US government since the aftermath of Pearl Harbor, together with thousands of other Japanese Americans. The life in California the Itos were forced to leave behind is gone; instead, they are being resettled two thousand miles away in Chicago, where Aki's older sister, Rose, was sent months earlier and moved to the new Japanese American neighborhood near Clark and Division streets. But on the eve of the Ito family's reunion, Rose is killed by a subway train. Aki, who worshipped her sister, is stunned. Officials are ruling Rose's death a suicide. Aki cannot believe her perfect, polished, and optimistic sister would end her life. Her instinct tells her there is much more to the story, and she knows she is the only person who could ever learn the truth.

**HOLLOW, MIKE** blitz detective DOCKLAND MURDER (#5) (\$32.95) November 1940. Darkness descends and another anxious night begins for those tasked with guarding the industrial heartland of London from enemy attack. As a policeman patrols the Royal Albert Dock, something catches his eye – a man is sprawled awkwardly across a nearby barge, a dagger lodged in his back. Detective Inspector John Jago of West Ham CID discovers the victim was a dock worker by day and a Home Guard volunteer by night – and there are things even his wife doesn't know about his past. As the investigation unfolds, Jago uncovers a widening circle of secrets ranging across family tensions, the last war and a far-flung corner of the British Empire.

**ISAKA, KOTARO** BULLET TRAIN (\$35) Nanao, nicknamed Lady Bird—the self-proclaimed “unluckiest assassin in the world”—boards a bullet train from Tokyo to Morioka with one simple task: grab a suitcase and get off at the next stop. Unbeknownst to him, the deadly duo Tangerine and Lemon are also after the very same suitcase—and they are not the only dangerous passengers onboard. Satoshi, “the Prince,” with the looks of an innocent schoolboy and the mind of a viciously cunning psychopath, is also in the mix and has history with some of the others. Risk fuels him as does a good philosophical debate . . . like, is killing really wrong? Chasing the Prince is another assassin with a score to settle for the time the Prince casually pushed a young boy off of a roof, leaving him comatose. When the five assassins discover they are all on the same train, they realize their missions are not as unrelated as they first appear. A massive bestseller in Japan, soon to be a film...

**KRUEGER, WILLIAM KENT** cork LIGHTNING STRIKE (#18) (\$36) Aurora is a small town nestled in the ancient forest alongside the shores of Minnesota's Iron Lake. In the summer of 1963, it is the whole world to twelve-year-old Cork O'Connor, its rhythms as familiar as his own heartbeat. But when Cork stumbles upon the body of a man he revered hanging from a tree in an abandoned logging camp, it

is the first in a series of events that will cause him to question everything he took for granted about his hometown, his family, and himself. Cork's father, Liam O'Connor, is Aurora's sheriff and it is his job to confirm that the man's death was the result of suicide, as all the evidence suggests. In the shadow of his father's official investigation, Cork begins to look for answers on his own. Together, father and son face the ultimate test of choosing between what their heads tell them is true and what their hearts know is right. A prequel.

**MACINTYRE, LINDEN** WINTER WIVES (\$34.95) Two old friends, who first met in university, get together for a weekend of golfing: Allan, a football hero, worldly and financially successful, and his quieter friend, nicknamed Byron, lame from a childhood injury, a smart fellow who became a lawyer but who has never left home, staying put so he could care for a mother with Alzheimer's. During a long night of drinking, the fault lines between them start to show. One of the biggest: the two men married sisters, though Allan was the one who walked down the aisle with Peggy, the sister both of them loved, and Byron had to settle for Annie. Out on the course the next morning, Allan suffers a stroke. In one traumatic moment, he loses control of his life, his wife and his business empire, which turns out to have been built on lies and the illegal drug trade. And Byron has to suddenly confront his own weaknesses and strengths, his tangled relationship with Allan and the Winter sisters—both the one he married and the one he thought was the love of his life. No one will anticipate the lengths to which Byron will go to make sense of his life.

**MORENO-GARCIA, SILVIA** VELVET WAS THE NIGHT (\$37) 1970s, Mexico City. Student protests and political unrest consume the city. When Leonora, a beautiful art student, disappears under suspicious circumstances, Maite, a daydreaming secretary who envied Leonora's lifestyle and lives for the latest issue of *Secret Romance*, and Elvis, an eccentric criminal who works for a shadowy figure who commands goon squads dedicated to squashing political activists, who longs to escape his life of violence, both end up looking for her. As Maite and Elvis come closer to discovering the truth behind Leonora's disappearance, they can no longer escape the danger that threatens to consume their lives, with hitmen, government agents, and Russian spies all aiming to protect Leonora's secrets.

**MULLEN, THOMAS** MIDNIGHT ATLANTA (\$32.99) 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.

**MULLER, MARCIA** mccone ICE AND STONE (#35) (\$35) When the bodies of two Indigenous women are found in the wilderness of northern California, it is only the latest horrific development in a string of similar crimes in the area. Despite all evidence to the contrary, officials rule the deaths isolated incidents, which soon join the ranks of countless other unsolved cases quickly dismissed by law enforcement. In a town where too many injustices are tolerated or brushed under the rug, only a few people remain who refuse to let a killer walk free. But Private Investigator Sharon McCone is one of those few. She is hired by an organization called Crimes against Indigenous Sisters to go undercover in Meruk County—a community rife with secrets, lies, and corruption—to expose the truth. In an isolated cabin in the freezing, treacherous woods, McCone must work quickly to unravel a mystery that is rooted in profound evil—before she becomes the killer's next target.

**NADEL, BARBARA** ikmen FORFEIT (#23) (\$36.99) In the early hours of the morning, Turkish TV star Erol Gencer is found dead at his home on the outskirts of Istanbul. But he is not alone. Beside him lies a Syrian refugee whose stomach has been split open with a cheese

knife. Did Gencer kill his guest before committing suicide, or are they victims of a sinister double murder? The dead Syrian is soon identified as Wael Al Hussain, whose wife, Samira, is in prison for attempting to kill Gencer a year ago. At the time, no one believed Samira's story that Gencer's wife had planned the attack, but now Samira's sister begs Çetin Ikmen to re-examine her claim. Entering a world of the Syrian diaspora, where tales of mythical storytellers abound, Ikmen and Süleyman uncover a tragic tale of dark secrets and double lives where nothing is at it seems...

**PEACE, DAVID japan TOKYO REDUX (#3)** (\$41.99) Tokyo, July 1949. The president of the National Railways of Japan vanishes. As American and Japanese investigators scrambled for answers, the case went cold—and it remains unsolved to this day. In this conclusion to the Tokyo trilogy, the author “channels drama, research, and intrigue into this strikingly intelligent fictionalization of Japan's most enduring and haunting mystery.”

**PENNY, LOUISE MADNESS OF CROWDS (#17)** (\$36.99) Chief Inspector Armand Gamache returns to Three Pines only to be repeatedly labeled a coward. It started innocently enough... While the residents of the Québec village of Three Pines take advantage of the deep snow to ski and toboggan, to drink hot chocolate in the bistro and share meals together, the Chief Inspector finds his holiday with his family interrupted by a simple request. He's asked to provide security for what promises to be a non-event. A visiting Professor of Statistics will be giving a lecture at the nearby university. While he is perplexed as to why the head of homicide for the Sûreté du Québec would be assigned this task, it sounds easy enough. That is until Gamache starts looking into Professor Abigail Robinson and discovers an agenda so repulsive he begs the university to cancel the lecture. They refuse, citing academic freedom, and accuse Gamache of censorship and intellectual cowardice. Before long, Professor Robinson's views start seeping into conversations. Spreading and infecting. So that truth and fact, reality and delusion are so confused it's near impossible to tell them apart. Discussions become debates, debates become arguments, which turn into fights. As sides are declared, a madness takes hold. Abigail Robinson promises that, if they follow her, ça va bien aller. All will be well. But not, Gamache and his team know, for everyone. When a murder is committed it falls to Armand Gamache, his second-in-command Jean-Guy Beauvoir, and their team to investigate the crime as well as this extraordinary popular delusion. And the madness of crowds.

**POE, EDGAR ALLAN TALES OF MYSTERY AND IMAGINATION** (\$16.99) This beautiful little book collects the author's most terrifying and otherworldly works. Included are the very first modern detective stories, The Murders in the Rue Morgue, The Mystery of Marie Roget and The Purloined Letter. Also included are The Pit and the Pendulum, The Fall of the House of Usher, The Premature Burial and The Tell-Tale Heart.

**TRINCHIERI, CAMILLA tuscan BITTER TASTE OF MURDER (#2)** (\$35.95) One year after moving to his late wife's Tuscan hometown of Gravigna, ex-NYPD detective Nico Doyle has fully settled into Italian country life, helping to serve and test recipes at his in-laws' restaurant. But the town is shaken by the arrival of wine critic Michele Mantelli in his flashy Jaguar. Mantelli holds his influential culinary magazine and blog over Gravigna's vintners and restaurateurs. Some of Gravigna's residents are impressed by his reputation, while others are enraged—especially Nico's landlord, whose vineyards Mantelli seems intent of ruining. Needless to say, Mantelli's lavish, larger-than-life, and often vindictive personality has made him many enemies, and when he is poisoned, the local maresciallo, Perillo, has a headache of a high-profile murder on his hands—and once again turns to Nico for help. The follow-up to Murder in Chianti (#1) (\$20.95).

**WOODS, STUART barrington CLASS ACT (#58)** (\$37) 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 re-emerged 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 mis-

sion 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...

## Paperbacks

**ALAGIAH, GEORGE BURNING LAND** (\$17.50) South Africa has become a powder keg. Its precious land is being sold off to the highest bidders while the country's corrupt elite pocket the profits. As the dreams and hopes of its people are threatened, frustration turns to violence. With the shocking murder of one of the country's bright young hopes, the fuse is well and truly lit. Conflict mediator Lindi and her childhood friend Kagiso find themselves in the heart of the chaos, fighting to save themselves and their country as events are set in motion that no one - least of all they - can control.

**ALEXANDER, ELLIE krause WITHOUT A BREW (#4)** (\$12.50) It's winter in the Bavarian village of Leavenworth, Washington, which for local brew-master Sloan Krause means lots of layers, pine and citrus-flavored craft beers, and getting the new guest rooms at Nitro into pristine condition before visitors flood in for IceFest—a local tradition filled with fireworks, ice carving, and winter games of all varieties. But Sloan and her boss Garrett quickly learn that being brew-keepers turned innkeepers may not be as idyllic as it sounded.

**ARCHER, JEFFREY warwick TURN A BLIND EYE (#3)** (\$12.99) Newly promoted to Detective Inspector, William Warwick is tasked with a dangerous new line of work, to go undercover and expose crime of another kind: corruption at the heart of the Metropolitan Police Force. Along with detectives Rebecca Pankhurst and Nicky Bailey, his team is focused on following Detective Jerry Summers, a young officer whose lifestyle exceeds his income. But the investigation risks being compromised when Nicky falls for Summers.

**BAKER, BREE seaside CLOSELY HARBORED SECRETS (#5)** (\$11.99) It's almost Halloween, and the small island of Charm, North Carolina is decked out for the festivities. When Everly Swan agrees to close her iced tea shop early to help her aunts host their annual haunted historic walking tour, she expects some good-natured spooks. But the night turns grave when one of the ghostly actors is found dead. To complicate matters, the victim scratched Everly's name into the ground before she died, making her a key suspect. The murder mystery heats up when Everly's potential boo, Detective Grady, takes the case—and he definitely doesn't want her getting involved. Will their seaside romance be threatened by all the ghostly drama? But when a phantom sailor straight out of local legend starts leaving Everly threatening messages, she has to get involved... With a local election under way, ghosts on the loose, and a search for long-lost buried treasure, Everly can't help but stir the pot!

**BAKER, BREE seaside PARTNERS IN LIME (#6)** (\$12.99) It all seems to be smooth sailing for Everly Swan. The island of Charm, North Carolina is hosting tons of fun summer events, her iced tea shop is a hit, and best of all, she's finally dating the handsome Detective Grady Hays. But their romantic bubble bursts when tragedy strikes: a surf-pro is found murdered on the beach, killed with a theater prop. Grady follows the evidence, all of which points to Matt, Everly's friend and one-time fling. As Grady does his job, so does Everly—her unofficial chef-turned-sleuth-job, that is. She's determined to clear her friend's name but the arrival of a fancy new teashop and The Town Charmer, a gossip blog determined to rock the boat, complicates things. As Everly tries to keep rumors at bay and investigate the murder (and her new tea rival), the killer leaves a message in the sand...

**BALDACCI, DAVID decker WALK THE WIRE (#6)** (\$12.99) When Amos Decker and his FBI colleague Alex Jamison are called to London, North Dakota, they instantly sense that the thriving fracking town is ripe for trouble. The promise of a second gold rush has attracted an onslaught of newcomers all hoping for a windfall, and the

community is growing faster than houses can be built. The sudden boom has also brought a slew of problems with it, including drugs, property crimes, prostitution—and now murder. Decker and Jamison are ordered to investigate the death of a young woman named Irene Cramer, whose body was expertly autopsied and then dumped in the open—which is only the beginning of the oddities surrounding the case.

**BALDACCI, DAVID shaw** DELIVER US FROM EVIL (#2)

(\$22.99) Evan Waller is a monster... He has built a fortune from his willingness to buy and sell anything... and anyone. In search of new opportunities, Waller has just begun a new business venture: one that could lead to millions of deaths all over the globe. On his trail is Shaw, the mysterious operative from The Whole Truth (#1) (\$22.49) who has tracked Waller to Provence and must prevent him from closing his latest deal. But someone else is pursuing Waller: Reggie Campion, an agent for a secret vigilante group headquartered in a musty old English estate—and she has an agenda of her own. Hunting the same man and unaware of each other's mission, Shaw and Reggie will be caught in a deadly duel of nerves and wits.

**BEATON, M C agatha** HOT TO TROT (#31) (\$10.99) When Private Detective Agatha Raisin learns that her friend and one-time lover Charles Fraith is to be married to a mysterious socialite, Miss Mary Brown-Field, she sees it as her duty to find out what she can about the woman. Coming up empty, Agatha—out of selfless concern for Charles, of course—does the only sensible thing she can think of: she crashes their wedding, which ends in a public altercation. Nursing a hangover the next morning, she gets a phone call from Charles, with even more disturbing news: Mary has been murdered. Agatha takes on the case, and quickly becomes entrenched in the competitive equestrian world, in which Mary had been enmeshed—as well as the victim's surprisingly violent past. No lack of enemies...

**BOND, VERONICA dinner** DEATH IN CASTLE DARK (#1)

(\$10.99) Maybe it was too good to be true, but when Nora Blake accepted the job from Derek Corby, proprietor of Castle Dark, she could not see any downsides. She would sink her acting chops into the troupe's intricately staged murder-mystery shows, earn free room and board in the fairy tale–like castle, and make friends with her new roommates, which include some seriously adorable kittens. But something sinister lurks behind the walls of Castle Dark. During Nora's second performance, one of her castmates plays the part of the victim a little too well. So well, in fact, that no one can revive him. He has been murdered. Not ready to give up her dream gig—or to be the next victim—Nora sets out to see which one of her fellow actors has taken the role of a murderous real-life villain.

**BOWEN, RHYS molly murphy** IN A GILDED CAGE (#8)

(\$23.50) It's Easter Sunday 1918, and Irish immigrant Molly Murphy has agreed to march down Fifth Avenue with the sign-wielding suffragettes from Vassar—a civil act of protest that lands her in jail. Molly's betrothed, Police Captain Daniel Sullivan, manages to spring her from the clink, though his hands are full dealing with Chinese opium gangs. But as soon as she's free, Molly marches straight into trouble again. Two of the Vassar alumni need Molly's help as a private investigator. One believes her uncle is cheating her out of an inheritance; the other suspects her husband is cheating with other women. And when one of the clients dies—presumably from influenza, which is sweeping the city—Molly takes to the streets once more. Not to win the right for women to vote, but to reveal the wrongs of some very evil men... Published 2009.

**BOWEN, RHYS royals** LAST MRS. SUMMERS (#14) (\$22) Lady Georgiana Rannoch is just back from her honeymoon with dashing Darcy O'Mara when a friend in need pulls her into a twisted Gothic tale of betrayal, deception and, most definitely, murder...

**BOX, C J pickett** DARK SKY (#21) (\$23) The governor of Wyoming gives Joe the thankless assignment of taking a tech baron on an elk-hunting trip. Unbeknownst to them, as they trek farther into the wilderness, a manhunter is hot on their heels. Finding himself without a weapon, a horse, or a way to communicate, Joe must rely on his wits and his knowledge of the outdoors to protect himself and his charge. Meanwhile, when Joe's closest friend, Nate Romanowski, and

his own daughter Sheridan learn of the threat to his life, they follow him into the woods to try and rescue him before it's too late.

**BRADBURY, RAY KILLER COME BACK TO ME** (\$22.95) Honoring the author's 100th birthday, this new, definitive collection of the master's less well-known crime fiction, 20 in total. Is it murder to destroy a robot if it looks and speaks and thinks and feels like a human being? Can a ventriloquist be incriminated by the testimony of his own dummy? Can a time traveler prevent his younger self from killing the woman they both loved? And can the survivor of a pair of Siamese twins investigate his own brother's murder?

**BRIGHT, VERITY lady swift** MURDER AT THE FAIR (#6)

(\$21.99) Summer, 1921. Lady Eleanor Swift, the best amateur sleuth in the country, is delighted to be in charge of the prize-giving at her village summer fair. But the traditional homemade raft race takes a tragic turn when the local undertaker, Solemn Jon, turns up dead amongst the ducks. Jon was the life of any party and loved by the entire village. Surely this was simply an awful accident?

**BURKE, JAMES LEE robicheaux** PRIVATE CATHEDRAL (#23)

(\$23) The Shondell and Balangie families are longtime enemies in the New Iberia criminal underworld and show each other no mercy. Yet their youngest heirs, Johnny Shondell and Isolde Balangie, rock and roll-musician teenagers with magical voices, have fallen in love and run away after Isolde was given as a sex slave to Johnny's uncle. As he seeks to uncover why, Detective Dave Robicheaux gets too close to both Isolde's mother and the mistress of her father, a venomous New Orleans mafioso whose jealousy has no bounds. In retribution, he hires a mysterious assassin to go after Robicheaux and his long-time partner, Clete Purcel. This hitman is unlike any the "Bobbsey Twins from Homicide" have ever faced. He has the ability to induce horrifying hallucinations and travels on a menacing ghost ship that materializes without warning. In order to defeat him and rescue Johnny and Isolde, Robicheaux will have to overcome the demons that have tormented him throughout his adult life—alcoholism, specters from combat in Vietnam, and painful memories of women to whom he opened his heart only to see killed.

**BUSSI, MICHEL** DOUBLE MOTHER (\$26.95) Four-year-old Malone Moulin is haunted by nightmares of being handed over to a complete stranger and begins claiming his mother is not his real mother. His teachers at school say that it is all in his imagination as his mother has a birth certificate, photos of him as a child and even the pediatrician confirms Malone is her son. The school psychologist, Vasily, believes otherwise as the child vividly describes an exchange between two women. Vasily begins recording their conversations and reinterprets the creatures Malone uses in the childish tales he recounts to his stuffed toy to piece together as much as he can. Convinced that Malone is telling the truth, Vasile approaches police commander Marianne Augresse with the case.

**COBEN, HARLAN GONE FOR GOOD** (\$16) As a boy, Will Klein had a hero: his older brother, Ken. Then, on a warm suburban night in the Kleins' affluent New Jersey neighborhood, a young woman—a girl Will had once loved—was found brutally murdered in her family's basement. The prime suspect: Ken Klein. With the evidence against him overwhelming, Ken simply vanished. And when his shattered family never heard from Ken again, they were sure he was gone for good. Now eleven years have passed. Will has found proof that Ken is alive. And this is just the first in a series of stunning revelations as Will is forced to confront startling truths about his brother—and himself. As a violent mystery unwinds around him, Will knows he must press his search all the way to the end. Because the most powerful surprises are yet to come. Published 2002.

**COHEN, OCTAVUS ROY** JIM HANVEY, DETECTIVE (\$21.99)

First published 1923. This is a collection of seven stories that originally appeared in *The Saturday Evening Post* and features private eye Jim Hanvey in classic whodunit style mysteries. Described as the "backwoods Nero Wolfe," the genial Hanvey befriends "good guys" and criminals alike to get the job done. Bank robberies, jewel heists, and all-purposes cons—none are a match for this waddling sleuth.

**COULTER, CATHERINE** SIXTH DAY (\$22.99) When several major political figures die mysteriously, officials blame their deaths

on natural causes. However, when a small drone is spotted at the scene of the most recent death, it quickly becomes clear to FBI agents Nicholas and Michaela that there's more to this mystery than meets the eye. Dr. Isabella Marin is a language expert, and she's dedicated her entire life to researching an ancient text that has long been considered indecipherable...that is, until now. When it becomes clear that there's an alarming pattern between the text and the recent deaths, she teams up with the FBI to find the link. It's clear that the manuscript is the key to catching the killer. But how? When Nicholas and Michaela uncover plans for a devastating attack on London, they must race against the clock to stop the killer before it's too late. Not only are they in danger of losing the manuscript—an object of extreme value—but they're also at risk of losing more innocent lives: including their own.

**DAY, MADDIE** country store NO GRATER CRIME (#9) (\$11.99) Ever since meeting the wary owners of an antique shop opening across the street, Robbie has been scrambling to manage weird incidences plaguing her café and country store. Pricey items vanish from shelves without explanation, a fully equipped breakfast food truck starts lingering around the area each morning, and loyal diners mysteriously fall ill. When an elderly man dies after devouring an omelet packed with poisonous mushrooms, Robbie must temporarily close down Pans 'N Pancakes and search for the killer with a real zest for running her out of business—or else.

**DE MARIAFFI, ELISABETH** RETREAT (\$23.99) Maeve Martin arrives at the High Water Center for the Arts determined to do one thing: launch her own dance company. Time is running out for the former principal dancer and mother of two to find her feet again after the collapse of a disastrous and violent marriage. At first, there's a thrill to being on her own for the first time in years, isolated in the beauty of a snowy mountain lodge. But when an avalanche traps the guests inside, tensions run high. Help is coming, so they just have to hold on, don't they? But as days pass, the other guests are struck down by mysterious deaths, one by one. Now, as she waits in fear, Maeve must admit how little she knows about anyone else . . . and how useless a locked door is if the darkness is already inside.

**DELANY, VICKI** tea by sea TEA AND TREACHERY (#1) (\$21.95) As the proud proprietor and head pastry chef of Tea-by-the-Sea, a traditional English tearoom on the picturesque bluffs of Cape Cod, Lily Roberts' hands are full, often literally. But nothing keeps her busier than steering her sassy grandmother, Rose, away from trouble. Rose operates the grand old Victorian B&B adjacent to Lily's shop...for now. An aggressive real estate developer, Jack Ford, is pushing hard to rezone nearby land, with an eye towards building a sprawling golf resort that would drive Rose and Lily out of business. Tempers are already steaming, but things really get sticky when Ford is found dead at the foot of Rose's property and the police think she had something to do with his dramatic demise. Lily can't let her grandmother get burned by a false murder charge. So she starts her own investigation and discovers Ford's been brewing bad blood all over town, from his jilted lover to his trophy wife to his shady business partners. Now, it's down to Lily to stir up some clues, sift through the suspects, and uncover the real killer before Rose is left holding the teabag.

**DOYLE/JAKUBOWSKI, MAXIM** RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$27) A collection of fifteen new stories featuring Holmes and Watson. Not to be confused with the original collection of stories with the same title. Tad cheeky?

**DURRELL, LAWRENCE** DARK LABYRINTH (\$19.50) A group of English tourists have come ashore from their cruise ship to explore the island of Crete. This motley crew—including a painter, spiritualist, spinster, soldier, convalescent, and elderly couple—are holidaying to seek respite from a broken post-war world. But their journey reaches a disastrous climax when they visit a cave reputed to be the legendary labyrinth of the minotaur, and become trapped within...Set in the glorious Mediterranean landscapes which the author so famously evoked in his travel writing and novels...

**EATON, J C** sophie RAILROADED 4 MURDER (#8) (\$11.99) Phee's marriage to Marshall Gregory promises to be the wedding of

the year in Arizona's Sun City West—that is, if you ask her mother Harriet. But before she can walk down the aisle, it looks like she has to solve one more murder. At a model train exhibit, Phee, Harriet, and their beloved Chiweenie, Streetman, discover the body of Sun City West's railroad club president, with an incriminating tap shoe near his lifeless corpse. Wilbur Maines may have loved model trains but apparently he was not a model husband. There are rumors of affairs with hot-to-trot hobbyists the Choo-Choo Chicks. The police suspect his wife—and Harriet's friend—Roxanne, who dances with the Rhythm Tappers, but Phee's mom is convinced they're on the wrong track.

**ELLIOTT, C M** sibanda SIBANDA AND THE RAINBIRD (#1) (\$17.99) When a gruesomely vulture-mutilated corpse is found in the Park near Thunduluka Lodge, DI Jabulani Sibanda - a hard-boiled, bush-loving, instinctive crime fighter - is on the case. With Sibanda are his sidekicks: Sergeant Ncube, an overweight, digestively challenged, severally married angler and mechanical genius, and Miss Daisy, an ancient, truculent and eccentric Land Rover that is the bane of Sibanda's life and the love of Ncube's. Sibanda and Ncube pursue the investigation in the African bush following the mysterious clues they found at the crime scene: tyre tracks, a knife inscribed with the letter 'B', and a sliver of blue metallic car paint...Published 2013.

**ERICKSON, ALEX** forever DIAL M FOR MAINE COON (#2) (\$11.99) Liz is thrilled to find a forever home for her latest rescue, Sheamus, a Maine Coon cat. But on adoption day, she discovers Sheamus's would-be owner, Joe Hitchcock, murdered in his study. Joe's shocking death reveals an even more startling secret: his real name was Joe Danvers...a man accused of killing his wife thirty years ago. Liz knows she should focus on finding Sheamus a new home, but this mystery already has its claws in her. So Liz begins vetting the clues from both investigations. But with a stalker sniffing at her heels and a rival swatting at her business, Liz's curiosity may come at a hefty price...especially since Joe's case has more lives than a cat.

**EVANOVICH, JANET** plum ONE FOR THE MONEY (\$12.99) Meet Stephanie Plum, a bounty hunter with attitude. In Stephanie's opinion, toxic waste, rabid drivers, armed schizophrenics, and August heat, humidity, and hydrocarbons are all part of the great adventure of living in Jersey. She's a product of the "burg," a blue-collar pocket of Trenton where houses are attached and narrow, cars are American, windows are clean, and (God forbid you should be late) dinner is served at six. Published 1994. Discover, or re-discover, where it all began.

**FIELDING, JOY** CUL-DE-SAC (\$23.95) A shooting lays bare the secrets harboured by five families in a sleepy suburban cul-de-sac...

**FLOWER, AMANDA** piper port DEAD END DETECTIVE (#1) (\$20.99) Darby Piper is in shock. A seasoned female detective, she worked with Samantha Porter at the Two Girls Detective Agency. Now, Samantha is dead, and it doesn't look like an accident. In fact, evidence is pointing toward Darby. Darby had expected to inherit Samantha's half of the agency, but Samantha had recently changed the will to leave it to Tate Porter, her nephew, who returns to town. Tate is no private eye. He's a world traveler and a veteran whose military past is also something of a mystery. But as he helps Darby delve into secret histories and real estate development plans, he proves to be a talented amateur sleuth. Will the agency have a future...even if Darby can solve this murder mystery in time?

**FLUKE, JOANNE** swensen PEACH COBBLER MURDER (#7) (\$17.50) As she sits in her nearly empty bakery on Groundhog Day, Hannah Swensen can only hope that spring is just around the corner—and that the popularity of the new Magnolia Blossom Bakery is just a passing fad. The southern hospitality of Lake Eden's two Georgia transplants, Shawna Lee and Vanessa Quinn, is grating on Hannah's nerves--and cutting into her profits—at The Cookie Jar. When Shawna Lee is found shot to death, guess who is at the top of the list of suspects. Published 2005.

**FLYNN, VINCE** mitch rapp ACT OF TREASON (#9) (\$23) In the final weeks of a fierce presidential campaign, a motorcade carrying candidate Josh Alexander is shattered by a car bomb. Soon after the attack, Alexander is carried to victory by a sympathy vote, but his as-

sailants have not been found. When CIA director Irene Kennedy and Special Agent Skip McMahon receive damaging intelligence on Washington's most powerful players, they call on Mitch Rapp—the one man reckless enough to unravel a global network of contract killers on an explosive mission that leads back to the heart of our nation's capital...and the inner sanctum of the Oval Office.

**FLYNN, VINCE mitch rapp** EXTREME MEASURES (#11) (\$23) Counterterrorism operative Mitch Rapp and his colleague Mike Nash may have finally met their match. The CIA has intercepted two terrorist cells, but a third—led by a dangerous mastermind determined to become al-Qaeda's new leader—is believed to be on the loose. With such a terrifyingly deadly enemy out there, Rapp needs the best of the best by his side and he believes he has that with Nash.

**FLYNN/MILLS, KYLE mitch rapp\*** SURVIVOR (#14) (\$23) When Joe "Rick" Rickman, former golden boy of the CIA, steals a massive amount of the Agency's most classified documents in an elaborate betrayal of his country, CIA director Irene Kennedy has no choice but to send her most dangerous weapon after him: elite covert operative Mitch Rapp. Rapp quickly dispatches with the traitor, but Rickman proves to be a deadly threat to America even from beyond the grave. In fact, mysterious tip-offs are appearing all over the world, linking to the potentially devastating data that Rickman managed to store somewhere only he knew.

**FLYNN/MILLS, KYLE mitch rapp\*** TOTAL POWER (#19) (\$12.99) When Mitch Rapp captures ISIS's top technology expert, he reveals that he was on his way to meet a man who claims to have the ability to bring down America's power grid. Rapp is determined to eliminate this shadowy figure, but the CIA's trap fails. The Agency is still trying to determine what went wrong when ISIS operatives help this cyber terrorist do what he said he could—plunge the country into darkness. With no concept of how this unprecedented act was accomplished, the task of getting the power back on could take months. Perhaps even years. Rapp and his team embark on a desperate search for the only people who know how to repair the damage—the ones responsible.

**FLYNN/MILLS, KYLE mitch rapp\*** ORDER TO KILL (#13) (\$23) Mitch Rapp is used to winning. But the CIA operative finds himself chasing false leads from continent to continent in an effort to keep Pakistani nukes from falling into the hands of terrorists. Together with friend and colleague Scott Coleman, Rapp struggles to prevent the loss of these lethal weapons, particularly because Russia is also interested in the nukes, though not for the same reason as Rapp and Coleman. Soon, it becomes alarmingly clear that the forces in Moscow are bent on fomenting even more chaos and turmoil in the Middle East, and Rapp must go deep into Russian territory, posing as an American ISIS recruit. There, he uncovers a plan much more dangerous and insidious than he ever expected, one that could have far-reaching and catastrophic consequences.

**GILBERT, VICTORIA b&b** BOOKED FOR DEATH (#1) (\$22.99) Nestled in the historic waterfront town of Beaufort, North Carolina, Chapters Bed-and-Breakfast is a reader's paradise. Built in 1770, the newly renovated inn hosts a roster of special events celebrating books, genres, and authors. It's the perfect literary retreat—until a rare book dealer turns up dead in the carriage house during a celebration of Golden Age mystery author Josephine Tey. The victim's daughter points the finger at forty-two-year-old widow and former schoolteacher Charlotte Reed, who inherited the B&B from her great-aunt Isabella. Charlotte is shocked to discover that the book dealer suspected Isabella of being a thief who founded Chapters on her ill-gotten gains. Charlotte has successfully learned the B&B business in a year, but nothing has prepared her to handle a death on the premises.

**GIORDANO, MARIO poldi** AUNTIE POLDI AND THE LOST MADONNA (#4) (\$17.99) Strange dealings are afoot in the Apostolic Palace—a nun leapt to her death shortly after participating in a seemingly routine exorcism. But when a priest clad in Gammarelli and a Vatican commissario with an almost unholy level of sex appeal turn up at her door, Poldi is shocked to hear that she's a suspect in their case. Who is the woman being exorcised, and where has she disap-

peared to? And why in the world does she claim, in perfect Bavarian, to be Poldi, Isolde Oberreiter, of Torre Archirafi? Poldi will need all the help she can get to clear her name.

**GLAVAC, COLLIN carpenter** GHOSTS OF GUATEMALA (#1) (\$20.50) Who can you trust when corruption and danger are a way of life? The CIA never left Latin America, and is facing catastrophic blackmail at the hands of an erratic Guatemalan drug lord: the infamous patrón of Antigua – Pablo Puentes. Desperate for a swift solution, the agency calls in their black operative fixer: John Carpenter. John is a cold-blooded professional ready for the job. But the mission doesn't have a simple fix. Pablo has a disastrous kill switch in place. John is still haunted by the mysterious death of his best friend who died on a far too similar mission, and now is uncertain about how much he can trust his handler. Back at the agency, tensions are running hot as the stench of corruption is growing to a boiling point. If things aren't put to rights – and soon – the entire mission will go up in flames and take the CIA down with it. Only John Carpenter can bring this drug lord to justice and get the answers he deserves. Because this mission is personal.

**GREANEY, MARK gray man** RELENTLESS (#10) (\$23) Intelligence operatives around the world are disappearing. When a missing American agent re-appears in Venezuela, Court Gentry, the Gray Man, is dispatched to bring him in, but a team of assassins has other ideas. Court escapes with his life and a vital piece of intelligence. Meanwhile, CIA agent Zoya Zakharova is in Berlin. Her mission: to infiltrate a private intelligence firm with some alarming connections. The closer she gets to answers, the less likely she is to get out alive. Court and Zoya are just two pieces on this international chessboard, and they're about to discover one undeniable truth—sometimes capturing a king requires sacrificing some pawns.

**HARROD-EAGLES, CYNTHIA** CRUEL AS THE GRAVE (\$26.99) Fitness trainer Erik Lingoss is found dead in his west London flat, his head smashed by one of his own dumbbells. His heartlessly-dumped girlfriend, blood on her clothes and hands, is the prime suspect. She had means, opportunity, and motive. But is the case as clear-cut as it seems? Handsome Erik Lingoss had clients in high places; and he seemed to engender powerful emotions. If it was a crime of passion, there was plenty of that to go round: love strong as death, jealousy cruel as the grave. The deeper Slider and his team dig, the clearer it becomes there's far more to this case than meets the eye.

**HAUSMANN, ROMY** DEAR CHILD (\$22.99) A windowless shack in the woods. A dash to safety. But when a woman finally escapes her captor, the end of the story is only the beginning of her nightmare. She says her name is Lena. Lena, who disappeared without a trace 14 years prior. She fits the profile. She has the distinctive scar. But her family swears that she isn't their Lena. Lena is desperate to begin again, but something tells her that her tormentor still wants to get back what belongs to him...and that she may not be able to truly escape until the whole truth about what happened in the woods finally emerges.

**HAWKINS, JENNIFER corgi** MURDER ALWAYS BARKS TWICE (#2) (\$10.99) For ex-accountant Emma Reed and her beloved corgi, Oliver, opening Reed's Classic Tea & Cakes in the idyllic village of Trevena in Cornwall has been the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. Then being asked to help cater the local Daphne DuMaurier literary festival is, truly, the icing on her cakes. But when the festival organizer is found dead and foul play is suspected, Emma, Oliver and their friends are plunged deep into a poisonous mix of village jealousy, family tension, money troubles, and secret love affairs. Emma quickly realizes it's up to her and her intrepid corgi to discover a canny killer whose bite is worse than their bark.

**HITCHENS, DOLORES sader** SLEEP WITH STRANGERS (#1) (\$15.95) "Are you trying to tell me you don't want the job, Mr. Sader?": It started as a missing persons case and grew more puzzling with the discovery of another strangely coincidental disappearance. Private eye Jim Sader finds himself deep in a multilayered intrigue revolving around oil and real estate and the sleazy underpinnings of Long Beach, California, in the 1950s. Published 1955, this classic noir nov-



el by one of America's pioneering women crime writers is finally back in print.

**HOURICAN, EMILY OUTSIDER** (\$17.99) On holidays in Portugal, a near-drowning brings the ten-year-old daughters of two very different families—one loud, eccentric, rich and confident, the other, less sure of their place in life—together. A strong friendship develops between the two girls, Jamie and Sarah, and between the two families. An unsettling closeness develops between two of the adults. Cracks begin to show...

**INDRIDASON, ARNALDUR THE DARKNESS KNOWS** (\$29.99) A frozen body is discovered in the icy depths of Langjökull glacier, apparently that of a businessman who disappeared thirty years before. At the time, an extensive search and police investigation yielded no results—one of the missing man's business associates was briefly held in custody, but there wasn't enough evidence to charge him. Now the associate is arrested again and Konrád, the retired policeman who originally investigated the disappearance, is called back to reopen the case that has weighed on his mind for decades. When a woman approaches him with new information that she obtained from her deceased brother, progress can finally be made in solving this long-cold case.

**JAMES, PETER WISH YOU WERE DEAD** (\$2.99) A Quick Read short story. Roy Grace and his family have left Sussex behind for a week's holiday in France. The website promised a grand house, but when they arrive the place is very different from the pictures. And it soon becomes clear that their holiday nightmare is only just beginning. An old enemy of Roy, a lowlife criminal he had put behind bars, is now out of jail - and out for revenge. He knows where Roy and his family have gone on holiday. Of course he does. He's been hacking their emails - and they are in the perfect spot for him to pay Roy back.

**JOHNSTONE, STUART colyear OUT IN THE COLD** (#1) (\$16.95) Intuition is everything in the police force, something that Sergeant Don Colyear knows better than most. When a superior officer's decision not to respond to a routine disturbance has fatal consequences, Colyear finds himself sent away from Glasgow to work in a remote Highlands town. Despite not wanting to be there, a feeling shared by his commander, Colyear soon settles into life investigating petty crimes. But it isn't long before he discovers something strange about the town. A string of teenage disappearances seems to have been ignored by the authorities. And when a groundsman from the local sporting estate is gruesomely murdered, Colyear suspects that long-held secrets could be coming to the surface. As he delves further into the town's history, it isn't long before his own life is at risk.

**KELLERMAN, FAYE decker LOST BOYS** (#26) (\$12.99) When Bertram Lanz goes missing from a local diner near Greenbury, the entire community of the small upstate New York town volunteers to search the surrounding woods. Bertram had been on a field trip with the staff and fellow residents of the Loving Care Home when he vanished. When no trace of the man is found, the disappearance quickly becomes an official missing persons case and is assigned to detectives Peter Decker and his partner Tyler McAdams. As their investigation deepens, the seasoned Decker becomes convinced that Bertram hadn't lost his way but must have left with someone he knew. Soon Decker discovers that Elsie Schulung, a recently fired nurse who had worked at the home, seemed to be especially interested in Bertram. But answers prove elusive when Elsie disappears and human blood is found in her kitchen. These complications prove to be only the beginning.

**KELLY, SOFIE magical cats CASE OF CAT AND MOUSE** (#12) (\$10.99) Spring has come to charming Mayville Heights, and with it, some Hollywood glamour. The little town is abuzz because the reboot of a popular baking TV show is filming there. Librarian Kathleen Paulson is working as an advisor on historical facts for the show, local restaurants are providing catering for the camera crews, and Kathleen's faithful felines, Hercules and Owen, are hoping there is a cat treat challenge. But then Kathleen finds one of the judges dead. She has solved many-a-murder with help from the supernaturally gifted Herc and Owen, and with the whole town on tenterhooks, the talented trio will have to have all paws on deck to chase down this killer.

**KHAN, VASEEM wadis MIDNIGHT AT MALABAR HOUSE** (#1) (\$17.99) Bombay, New Year's Eve, 1949. As India celebrates the arrival of a momentous new decade, Inspector Persis Wadia stands vigil in the basement of Malabar House, home to the city's most unwanted unit of police officers. Six months after joining the force she remains India's first female police detective, mistrusted, sidelined and now consigned to the midnight shift. And so, when the phone rings to report the murder of prominent English diplomat Sir James Herriot, the country's most sensational case falls into her lap. As 1950 dawns and India prepares to become the world's largest republic, Persis, accompanied by Scotland Yard criminalist Archie Blackfinch, finds herself investigating a case that is becoming more political by the second. Navigating a country and society in turmoil, Persis, smart, stubborn and untested in the crucible of male hostility that surrounds her, must find a way to solve the murder - whatever the cost.

**LA PLANTE, LYNDA tennison UNHOLY MURDER** (#7) (\$22) A coffin is dug up by builders in the grounds of an historic convent - inside is the body of a young nun. In a city as old as London, the discovery is hardly surprising. But when scratch marks are found on the inside of the coffin lid, Detective Jane Tennison believes she has unearthed a mystery far darker than any she's investigated before. However, not everyone agrees. Tennison's superiors dismiss it as an historic cold case, and the Church seems desperate to conceal the facts from the investigation. It's clear that someone is hiding the truth, and perhaps even the killer. Tennison must pray she can find both - before they are buried forever . . .

**MACGRATH/MCGRATH, CAROL MISTRESS CROMWELL** (\$17.99) Young widow Elizabeth Williams is determined to make a success of the business she inherited from her merchant father. But an independent woman draws the wrong kind of attention, and Elizabeth soon realises she has enemies - enemies who know the dark truth about her dead husband. Happiness arrives when Elizabeth meets rapidly rising lawyer, Thomas Cromwell. Their marriage begins in mutual love and respect - but it isn't easy being the wife of an ambitious courtier in Henry VIII's London. The city is both merciless and filled with temptation, and Elizabeth soon realises she must take care in the life she has chosen . . . or risk losing everything.

**MACLACHLIN/MCLACHLIN, BEVERLEY jilly FULL DISCLOSURE** (#1) (\$19.99) When the affluent and enigmatic Vincent Trussardi is accused of his wife Laura's murder, Jilly Truitt, a rising young defense attorney, agrees to defend him, despite predictions that the case is a sure loser and warnings from those close to her to stay away from the Trussardi family. Determined to prove everyone wrong, Jilly investigates Laura's death, hoping to discover a shred of evidence that might give the jury a reasonable doubt. Instead, she is confronted by damning evidence and uncooperative witnesses at every turn. Someone isn't telling the truth, but who? With her reputation and Vincent's life on the line, Jilly tries to unravel the web of secrets surrounding Laura's murder. As she digs deeper, she uncovers a startling revelation that will change not only the case, but her life forever.

**MACLEAN, SHONA seaton CRUCIBLE OF SECRETS** (#3) (\$17.99) Aberdeen, 1631. University librarian Robert Sim takes receipt of a gift of books recently arrived from overseas, mysterious works on alchemy and hermetics - the pursuit of ancient knowledge. By nightfall he has been brutally murdered. His colleague and good friend Alexander Seaton is left with the task of hunting for clues as to his killer's motive, as well as locating the missing books. What did Sim discover in the package, and what makes these books so dangerous?

**MACMAHON/MCMAHON, JENNIFER DROWNING KIND** (\$24.99) When social worker Jax receives nine missed calls from her older sister Lexie, she assumes that it's just another one of her sister's episodes. Manic and increasingly out of touch with reality, Lexie's mental state has pushed Jax away for over a year. But the next day, Lexie is dead: drowned in the pool at their grandmother's estate. When Jax returns to the house to go through her sister's things, she learns that Lexie was researching their family's and the house's history. And as Jax dives deeper into that research, she discovers that the land holds a far darker history than she could have ever imagined.

**MACMILLAN, GILLY** I KNOW YOU KNOW (\$24.99) Twenty years ago, eleven-year-olds Charlie Paige and Scott Ashby were murdered in the city of Bristol, their bodies dumped near a dog racing track. A man was convicted of the brutal crime, but decades later, questions still linger. For his whole life, filmmaker Cody Swift has been haunted by the deaths of his childhood best friends. The loose ends of the police investigation consume him so much that he decides to return to Bristol in search of answers. Hoping to uncover new evidence, and to encourage those who may be keeping long-buried secrets to speak up, Cody starts a podcast to record his findings. When a long-dead body is found in the same location the boys were left decades before, the disturbing discovery launches another murder investigation. Now Detective John Fletcher, the investigator on the original case, must reopen his dusty files and decide if the two murders are linked. With his career at risk, the clock is ticking and lives are in jeopardy...

**MALLINSON, ALLAN** hervey TIGRESS OF MYSORE (#14) (\$21.99) Following their successful invasion of Coorg in order to remove the state's deranged rajah, Lieutenant-Colonel Matthew Hervey is looking forward to a few months' respite for his regiment, the 6th Light Dragoons, and his family. Indeed, with his stock standing high throughout British India, he has rarely counted himself so content. But it is not to last.

**MINA, DENISE** LESS DEAD (\$22.99) Dr. Margo Dunlop is at a crossroads. Her adoptive mom just passed away, and Margo misses her so much she can't begin to empty the house—or, it seems, get her brother on the phone. Not to mention she's newly single, secretly pregnant, and worried about her best friend's dangerous relationship. In an effort to cheer herself up she goes in search of her birth mother. Instead she finds Nikki, her mother's sister. Aunt Nikki isn't what Margo expects, and she brings upsetting news: Margo's mother is dead. Worse, she was murdered years ago, and her killer is still at large—and sending Nikki threatening letters. Margo is torn. Should she stay out of this mess, or try to find justice? But then Margo receives a letter, too. Someone out there has been waiting and watching, and in Margo sees the spitting image of her mother...

**MIZUSHIMA, MARGARET** k9 HANGING FALLS (#6) (\$22.99) A deluge has flooded the high ground near Hanging Falls—but heavy rains aren't the only menace descending on Timber Creek. While on a scouting mission to pinpoint trail damage, officer Mattie Cobb and her K-9 partner Robo stumble upon a body floating at the edge of a lake. Robo catches human scent, which leads to an enigmatic forest-dweller who quickly becomes suspect number one. But the list of suspects grows, and an unexpected visit from members of Mattie's long-lost family sheds new light on her childhood as they help Mattie piece together details of the fateful night when she was abducted at age two. The tangled threads of the investigation and family dynamics begin to intertwine—but darkness threatens to claim a new victim before Mattie and Robo can track down the killers.

**MO, JOHANNA** NIGHT SINGER (\$23) Police detective Hannah Duncker didn't expect to return to her native Öland. She fled after her father's murder conviction and returns to make peace with her shame. She has a new job with the local police and a nosy new partner. A fifteen-year-old's death catapults her into a murder investigation that resurrects ghosts from her previous life. As she hunts for the truth, she must confront the people she abandoned. Not all are pleased to see her back home, and she soon learns that digging through the past comes with consequences.

**PARETSKY, SARA** warshawski BITTER MEDICINE (#4) (\$21) Young, diabetic, and pregnant, Consuelo Alvarado is lucky to have a mentor in V.I. Warshawski. But not even V.I. can help when Consuelo goes into premature labor in a remote suburb; mother and baby both die in the nearby hospital. When a young resident starts raising questions about Consuelo's treatment, what seemed like a tragic accident turns into something far more disturbing. What connection could the hospital have with Chicago's street gangs? What heavy secret is the hospital's neonatologist carrying? The questions the detective asks, cut to the heart of everything that is troubling about the practice

of medicine in America. Can V.I. sort out the answers before she herself ends up in the hospital morgue? Published 1987.

**PARKER, ROBERT B/MIKE** LUPICA stone FOOL'S PARADISE (#19) (\$12.99) When a body is discovered at the lake in Paradise, Police Chief Jesse Stone is surprised to find he recognizes the murder victim—the man had been at the same AA meeting as Jesse the evening before. But otherwise, Jesse has no clue as to the man's identity. He isn't a local, nor does he have ID on him, nor does any neighboring state have a reported missing person matching his description. Their single lead is from a taxi company that recalls dropping off the mysterious stranger outside the gate at the mansion of one of the wealthiest families in town. Meanwhile, after Jesse survives a hail of gunfire on his home, he wonders if it could be related to the murder. When both Molly Crane and Suitcase Simpson also become targets, it's clear someone has an ax to grind against the entire Paradise PD.

**POBI, ROBERT** BLOODMAN aka eye of the storm (\$21.95) FBI independent contractor Jake Cole deciphers the language of murderers by reconstructing three-dimensional crime scene models in his head—a grim gift that has left his nerves frayed and his psyche fragile. When his father, an important American painter, is almost killed in an Alzheimer's-fueled accident, Jake is forced to come home and confront a past he spent a quarter of a century trying to forget. Once there, a brutal double homicide teaches Jake that even though he has forgotten about the past, it has not yet forgotten about him. As Jake tries to make sense of his father's unhinged existence, he discovers thousands of seemingly meaningless canvases stacked in the studio—a bizarre trail of dust-covered breadcrumbs that Jake believes lead to a killer called the Bloodman. All of his work seems to come apart just as another malevolent beast descends on the town—a Category 5 hurricane that is as unstoppable as the murderer. Pinned between the two forces of nature, Jake realizes that old ghosts are on the move.

**PRESTON & CHILD** pendergast BLOODLESS (#20) (\$24.99) On the evening of November 24, 1971, D. B. Cooper hijacked Flight 305—Portland to Seattle—with a fake bomb, collected a ransom of \$200,000, and then parachuted from the rear of the plane, disappearing into the night... and into history. Fifty years later, Agent Pendergast takes on a bizarre and gruesome case: in the ghost-haunted city of Savannah, Georgia, bodies are found with no blood left in their veins—sowing panic and reviving whispered tales of the infamous Savannah Vampire. As the mystery rises along with the body count, Pendergast and his partner, Agent Coldmoon, race to understand how—or if—these murders are connected to the only unsolved sky-jacking in American history. Together, they uncover not just the answer... but an unearthly evil beyond all imagining.

**RAHMAN, KHURRUM** RIDE OR DIE (#3) (\$18.99) What if your most deadly enemy is your closest ally?

**RAMSAY, CARO** CURSED GIRLS (\$17.50) Megan Melvick has spent years avoiding her inheritance, the dark and disquieting family estate Benbrae, now home only to her distant, aristocratic father, and her sister Melissa, dying quietly in an upstairs bedroom. Trapped behind her unreliable hearing aids and vulnerable to what others want her to see, Megan is unable to find the answers she wants: why is there a new woman on her father's arm? And why has their absent mother not returned to say a final goodbye to Melissa? Benbrae has always been a place of loss and misfortune for Megan, but as the Melvick family diminishes still further, she must ask one final question. If there is a curse on the house, will she be its next victim?

**RICKE, CRAIG** malone EIGHT FACES AT THREE (#1) aka death at 3 (\$21.95) John J. Malone, defender of the guilty, is notorious for getting his culpable clients off. It's the innocent ones who are problems. Like Holly Inglehart, accused of piercing the black heart of her well-heeled and tyrannical aunt Alexandria with a lovely Florentine paper cutter. No one who knew the old battle-ax liked her, but Holly's prints were found on the murder weapon. Plus, she had a motive: She was about to be disinherited for marrying a common bandleader. With each new lurid headline, Holly's friends and supporters start to rally. But not one of them can explain the queerest bent to the crime: At the time of the murder, every clock in the Inglehart mansion

stopped dead. And that's only the first twist in a baffling case of "aunty-cide"—because Alexandria won't be the last to die. Published 1939.

**SANDERS, ANGELA josie way** SEVEN-YEAR WITCH (#2)

(\$11.99) Finding your feet in a new job isn't always easy. That goes double for Josie Way, who's settling in as Wilfred, Oregon's, new librarian—and has just discovered she's a witch. But will her fledgling powers be enough to save her from a spell of murder?

**SANTLOFER, JONATHAN** LAST MONA LISA (\$24.99) August, 1911: The Mona Lisa is stolen by Vincent Peruggia. Exactly what happens in the two years before its recovery is a mystery. Many replicas of the Mona Lisa exist, and more than one historian has wondered if the painting now returned to the Louvre is a fake, switched in 1911. Present day: Art professor Luke Perrone digs for the truth behind his most famous ancestor: Peruggia. His search attracts an Interpol detective with something to prove and an unfamiliar but curiously helpful woman. Soon, Luke tumbles deep into the world of art and forgery, a land of obsession and danger.

**SHINDLER, WILL alex finn** KILLING CHOICE (#2) (\$26.99) It felt like a normal Friday evening before Karl and his daughter Leah were ambushed by a figure in a blank mask. At knife point, Karl is forced to make an impossible choice. Stay and die, or walk away from Leah and take this thug's word that they both will live. Should Karl trust a villain and leave his daughter with a knife at her throat? Could he ever live with himself if he did? DI Alex Finn and DC Mattie Paulsen must hunt for a killer that appears to have no face, no motive and no conscience before more victims are forced to make their choice.

**SPOTSWOOD, STEPHEN** FORTUNE FAVORS THE DEAD

(\$22) It's the 1940s and Willowjean "Will" Parker, a scrappy circus runaway whose knife-throwing skill once saved the life of New York's best, and most unorthodox, private investigator, Lillian Pentecost, are now on the Collins case: Abigail Collins was found bludgeoned to death with a crystal ball following a big, boozy Halloween party at her home—her body slumped in the same chair where her steel magnate husband shot himself the year before. With rumors flying that Abigail was bumped off by the vengeful spirit of her husband (who else could have gotten inside the locked room?), the family has tasked the detectives with finding answers where the police have failed. But that's easier said than done...

**ST JAMES, DOROTHY bookroom** BROKEN SPINE (#1)

(\$10.99) Trudell Becket, known to her friends as Tru, finds herself in a bind when her library in lovely Cypress, South Carolina, is turned into a state-of-the-art bookless "technological center." A library with no books breaks Tru's book-loving heart so she decides to rescue hundreds of beloved tomes slated for the town dump. Under the cover of darkness, Tru, along with her best friends—coffee shop owner Tori Green and mysterious bestselling author Flossie Finnegan-Baker—set up a secret bookroom in the library's basement and prepare to open it to their most loyal, trustworthy patrons. When the town manager, who was behind the big push for the library's transformation, is crushed by an overturned shelf of DVDs, Tru's the prime suspect as she hadn't hid the fact that she hated having all of those wonderful books replaced by tablets and computers. Save her skin or keep the bookroom's secret?

**STEVENS, CHEVY** DARK ROADS (\$24.99) The Cold Creek Highway stretches close to five hundred miles through British Columbia's rugged wilderness to the west coast. Isolated and vast, it has become a prime hunting ground for predators. For decades, young women traveling the road have gone missing. Motorists and hitchhikers, those passing through or living in one of the small towns scattered along the region, have fallen prey time and again. And no killer or abductor who has stalked the highway has ever been brought to justice. And now, Hailey McBride has vanished into the mountainous terrain. Fleeing, or another victim?

**TEMPLE, PETER irish** DEAD POINT (#3) (\$22.50) It takes a lot to rattle Jack Irish but, as Melbourne descends into a cold, wet winter, his mood is on the same trajectory. The woman in Jack's life has reconnected with an old flame. He has gambled and lost massively and

seen a champion horse put down. It's not surprising that Jack's mind is not fully on the job he's being paid to do: find Robbie Colburne, occasional barman. But when Jack does get serious, he finds the free-lance drink-dispenser is of great interest to some powerful people, people with very bad habits and a distinct lack of respect for the criminal justice system. Any lapse in concentration could prove fatal. Published 2000.

**THOR, BRAD horvath** HIDDEN ORDER (#12) (\$23) The most secretive organization in America operates without accountability to the American people. Hiding in the shadows, pretending to be part of the United States Government, its power is beyond measure. Control of this organization has just been lost and the future of the nation has been thrust into peril. When the five candidates being considered to head this mysterious agency suddenly go missing, covert counter-terrorism operative, Scot Harvath is summoned to Washington and set loose on the most dangerous chase ever to play out on American soil. But as the candidates begin turning up murdered, the chase becomes an all-too-public spectacle with every indicator suggesting that the plot has its roots in a shadowy American cabal founded in the 1700s. With the United States on the verge of collapse, Harvath must untangle a web of conspiracy centuries in the making and head off the greatest threat America has ever seen. Published 2013.

**WHITFIELD, CLARE** PEOPLE OF ABANDONED CHARACTER (\$21.95) Marry in haste... Murder at leisure? London, 1888: Sussannah rushes into marriage to a young and wealthy surgeon. After a passionate honeymoon, she returns home with her new husband wrapped around her little finger. But then everything changes. Thomas's behaviour becomes increasingly volatile and violent. He stays out all night, returning home bloodied and full of secrets. The gentle carresses she enjoyed on her wedding night are now just a honeyed memory. When the first woman is murdered in Whitechapel, Sussannah's interest is piqued. But as she follows the reports of the ongoing hunt for the killer, her mind takes her down the darkest path imaginable. Every time Thomas stays out late, another victim is found dead. Is it coincidence? Or is her husband the man they call Jack the Ripper?

**WINSLOW, DON** BROKEN (\$22.99) Six intense short novels connected by the themes of crime, corruption, vengeance, justice, loss, betrayal, guilt and redemption...the author creates a world of high-level thieves and low-life crooks, obsessed cops struggling with life on and off the job, private detectives, dope dealers, bounty hunters and fugitives, the lost souls driving without headlights through the dark night on the American criminal highway.

**WINSTEAD, ASHLEY** IN MY DREAMS I HOLD A KNIFE

(\$24.99) Ten years after graduation, Jessica Miller has been invited back to her university for a reunion and she is obsessed with dazzling everyone with her beauty and success. This time when they see her, it has to be perfect because she is perfect. Not the girl she was when she left campus, back when Heather Shelby's murder fractured everything, including the tight bond linking the six friends she'd been closest to since freshman year. But there's more at stake than the delicious envy of her peers—not everyone is ready to move on. Not everyone can let Heather's murder go unsolved. In fact, someone has orchestrated the whole weekend to trap the real killer. As the weekend unfolds and they get closer to the truth, the group finds there was more than murder hidden amongst them on campus.

**WOOD, TREVOR MULLEN** MAN ON THE STREET (#1)

(\$17.99) It started with a splash. Jimmy, a homeless veteran grappling with PTSD, did his best to pretend he hadn't heard it - the sound of something heavy falling into the Tyne at the height of an argument between two men on the riverbank. Not his fight. Then he sees the headline: GIRL IN MISSING DAD PLEA. The girl, Carrie, reminds him of someone he lost, and this makes his mind up: it's time to stop hiding from his past. But telling Carrie, what he heard - or thought he heard - turns out to be just the beginning of the story. The police don't believe him, but Carrie is adamant that something awful has happened to her dad and Jimmy agrees to help her, putting himself at risk from enemies old and new. But Jimmy has one big advantage: when you've got nothing, you've got nothing to lose.